

The Messenger

St. Paul's Long History of Children's Choirs from the Priest-in-Charge

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Dear Friends,

St Paul's has a long history of children singing in church. In the Choir Room, there are photographs from various eras depicting different configurations—boy's choir, men and boys, children with men and women choristers. In one picture, there are 35 kids. In another there are only six. As with any other children's program, the choirs have had their ups and downs. In all the photos, the kids are wearing black cassocks, white cottas, and very large bows, looking rather like Christmas presents!

St Paul's is continuing that tradition (without the bows) with Small Voices. They were a delight at the Great Vigil of Easter, when almost 100 people showed up to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and to enjoy the kids. They also lead the singing once a month at the 10:30 am Eucharist when St Paul's Choir has a Sunday off.

What is remarkable to me is what the kids dedicate to their rehearsals. They meet weekly with Kelli Estes, their Director, for two hours after the 10:30 am Eucharist and Coffee Hour to practice their music. Because they attend Church School before Church at 10:15 am, this means they meet together and work almost four hours on Sunday mornings to make their presentations accomplished. Indeed, the Church School reports that their attendance has improved since Small Voices began.

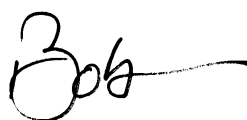
One would suppose that it would be a terrific strain to get the kids to Church School / Church / Rehearsal. But one mother reports that her very young daughter rushes her on Sunday mornings, saying, "Mommy, we'll be late!"

This is a marvelous tribute to the kids. It is a tribute to the mothers who feed, clothe, and transport the kids so that the rehearsals can happen.

It is also a tribute to Kelli. She is, indeed, a piper whose energy is infectious and inventiveness endless. Keeping the attention of kids whose ages range from six to sixteen is no small feat. When they are all there, she leads twenty kids; often only two-thirds of them are present at a given rehearsal, so Kelli is faced with a varying population from week to week, all of whom need to know the same music. By the time she is finished with them, they do know it.

Thanks to kids, parents, those in the congregation who support Small Voices, and to Kelli! We are all grateful for this powerful addition to the life of the parish.

Warmly,



*Questions for Issie Cherevko, Warden
by Peg Slaven*



Peg Slaven (PS): Issie, briefly, what's your "Episcopalian history?"

I am a "Cradle Episcopalian." My mother was the Episcopalian and my father was Russian Orthodox. I was baptized in Brooklyn and we moved to Ramsey and I was a member of St. John's Memorial Episcopal Church and even confirmed at St. John's, where my father was received from the Russian Orthodox Church.

PS: When did you come to St. Paul's? And is there a why, or was it a matter of being the closest Episcopal church?

I attended my first service at St. Paul's on Ash Wednesday of 1991. I was living in Cresskill but still going to church in Ramsey. Working in Englewood I drove by St. Paul's and thought I should attend a service there. Once I walked into the church, I knew I found my "home" after having attended many other Episcopal Churches in the area. After deciding to become a member of St. Paul's I reaffirmed by Confirmation Vows here, truly affirming my commitment to St. Paul's and the parishioners. I now live some distance from St. Paul's, but still find it to be my spiritual home.

PS: You've been Warden for how long? And before that I believe you served on the vestry.

I became a warden in March of 2009, filling the office for the remaining term of Ina Samuels Martinez. I served on the Vestry for five years, having completed a term for someone who left the Vestry and then serving one complete term being elected by the parishioners. I was asked to return to the Vestry in January 2009 to fill the term of a Vestry member who was being transferred. I was then asked if I would complete the term of Ina Samuels Martinez as Warden, which will end December 31, 2010.

PS: How does the job description of warden differ from that of vestry person?

The position of Warden carries many more responsibilities. You are held accountable for the parish, especially when you don't have a Rector and the Parish is in transition. During this time of transition at St. Paul's, being Warden can be difficult and demanding. Dealing with the issues and concerns of the parishioners, having the "heartbeat" of the Parishioners, and being able to accomplish many tasks at the same time along with having a full-time job, family, etc. can be cumbersome and sometimes overwhelming. While a Vestry person has responsibilities, once a situation has risen to the Warden level, the "buck stops here" and the Wardens need to act quickly to handle the situation swiftly, remembering that the outcome might not please everyone.

(Continued on Page 3)

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PS: Could you talk a little about what you enjoy about being warden, and what you find difficult?

When everything is going smoothly in a "Team" environment, it makes being one of the Wardens a rewarding experience. However, when someone or something happens and the "I am in control" situation appears, the "Team" environment is destroyed. We need to remember that there is NO "I" in "TEAM," and that we as a Parish are all in this together. Our Vestry does act as a TEAM. We need to be open to new ideas and keep an open ear to the heartbeat of the Parish, remembering that we are all on the same TEAM!! We also need to keep our rich traditions, which might be considered new to some parishioners; however, they are still traditions, certainly to those who have only been associated with the parish less time. I am sure new traditions will be created, which in five to ten years will become part of our rich heritage.

PS: You've been a hands-on leader, a presence in worship and at church functions. That calls for a big time commitment, doesn't it?

Since becoming a member of St. Paul's I have served as a Sunday School Teacher, Youth Group Chaperone, Lay Pastoral Visitor, Lay Eucharistic Minister, as well as served on the Vestry, and am currently one of the Wardens of the Parish. All of these functions call for commitment, and in serving God and the Parish, I believe the commitment comes from your heart. One of the reasons I served as a Youth Group Chaperone was that when I was growing up in the Church, there was no Youth Group and no chaperones. I missed out on quite a few events that could have happened had there been a Youth Group Chaperone. I decided that the youth of St. Paul's (or whatever church I was a member of at that time) would not miss out on events due to lack of chaperones. I currently serve on the Diocesan level as part of the Arrangements Committee (for Diocesan Convention), the Nominating Committee (for Diocesan Convention), and the Committee on Laity (part of the Commission on Ministry—I was appointed by the Bishop to this committee.) I participate in as many workshops offered by the Diocese as I possibly can. I am one of St. Paul's delegates to Diocesan Convention. I also serve as St. Paul's lay representative to District 9. Beverly Baker, our other Warden, and I have participated in the Warden's Workshops, allowing us to get to know other Wardens in the Diocese and that has opened up a networking system.

Feast of the Pentecost by Paris Simms, Music Director

CHOIR NOTES: The **Feast of the Pentecost**, the third major festival of the liturgical year, will feature the exciting anthem *Holy Fire* by Jane Marshall.

WORLD OF WOMEN by Peg Slaven

THE DIOCESE OF NEWARK'S WORLD OF WOMEN program was held on Saturday, April 17th at the Church of the Savior in Denville. The program is one the diocese created to pay homage to women who work tirelessly for the continued fulfillment of the word of God in their churches.

This year St. Paul's was represented by *Florence Lokko* and *Kathie Dwight*. Florence is someone who doesn't say "no" to the many volunteer opportunities the church provides. For many years Kathie has served as head of the Altar Guild, a job that is a year-round responsibility. St. Paul's is fortunate to be home to both of them.

May Birthdays

5/01 Austin Herbert	5/08 Yvonne Inniss	5/15 Gheer Dhont	5/23 Jessica Jackson
5/01 Vicki Wood	5/09 Azim Mayadas	5/15 Robin Jackson	5/28 Amelia Anderson
5/03 Rosemary Burr	5/09 Rafael Martinez	5/15 Samantha Martinez	5/28 Florence Lokko
5/07 Stanley Lokko	5/12 James Webster III	5/17 Chelsea Seoane	5/30 Caroline Hales
5/07 Rudolph Thomas	5/14 Onii Ibeabuchi	5/17 Helen Yeisley	
5/08 Marion Green	5/15 Meta Barrow	5/21 Collin Wolfe	

Where We Are by Bill Payne

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

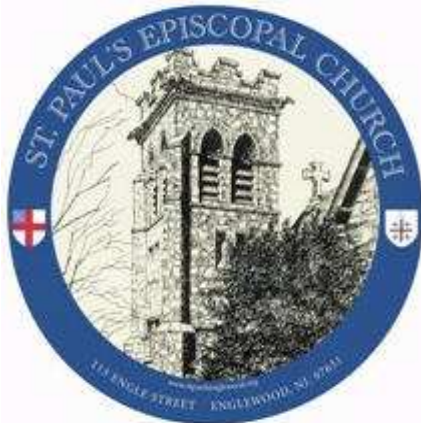
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We're on the Web!

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As of March 31, 2010, year-to-date income was \$122,352, over \$19,000 above the budgeted \$103,120.

This is less than the overage as of February 28 by about \$16,500 mostly due to the following: a slightly late rent payment from the Montessori (payment was made in early April rather than late March and thus is not reflected in these calculations as of March 31) [\$7,000]; rentals for the Top Stone Church for March–June already being credited in January [ca. \$3,200]; March rental for the Kol Haneshemah congregation having already been credited in December [ca. \$2,500]; late payments for March rental from the Ethiopian Orthodox congregation [\$300]; a slightly below budget March income for pledge payments due to some one-time annual payments being made in January [ca. \$1,830]; Christmas and Easter offerings budgeted on a 12-month average, and not yet received as of March 31, being below that average [ca. \$860]; as-yet-unrealized fundraising [\$417 average for the month]; other [non-pledge] donations below the average monthly expectations [\$143].

The expenses as of March 31 were also above budget year to date: \$145,164, about \$27,000 above the budgeted \$118,275, an increase of ca. \$19,000 in expense overage since February 28. This increase is due to the following extra costs: snow removal costs paid in March for the February blizzard [contributing to the monthly excess maintenance cost of ca. \$4,200]; extra staff expenses for labor help for the Sexton, office overtime, and vacation temporary help in the office [contributing to the staff overage of ca. \$4,500]; one-time Easter service music costs paid in March over the averaged monthly cost [ca. \$1,430]; an additional payment for diocesan 2009 dues, reconciling the amount actually owed for 2009 based on actual income calculated for 2009 year-end this year [ca. \$3,000]; normal seasonal overage in monthly utility costs [ca. \$5,200]; and an annual auditing charge paid in March [ca. \$3850 over the monthly averaged amount].

The Endowment Fund value as of April 15, 2010 is \$1,086,000.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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