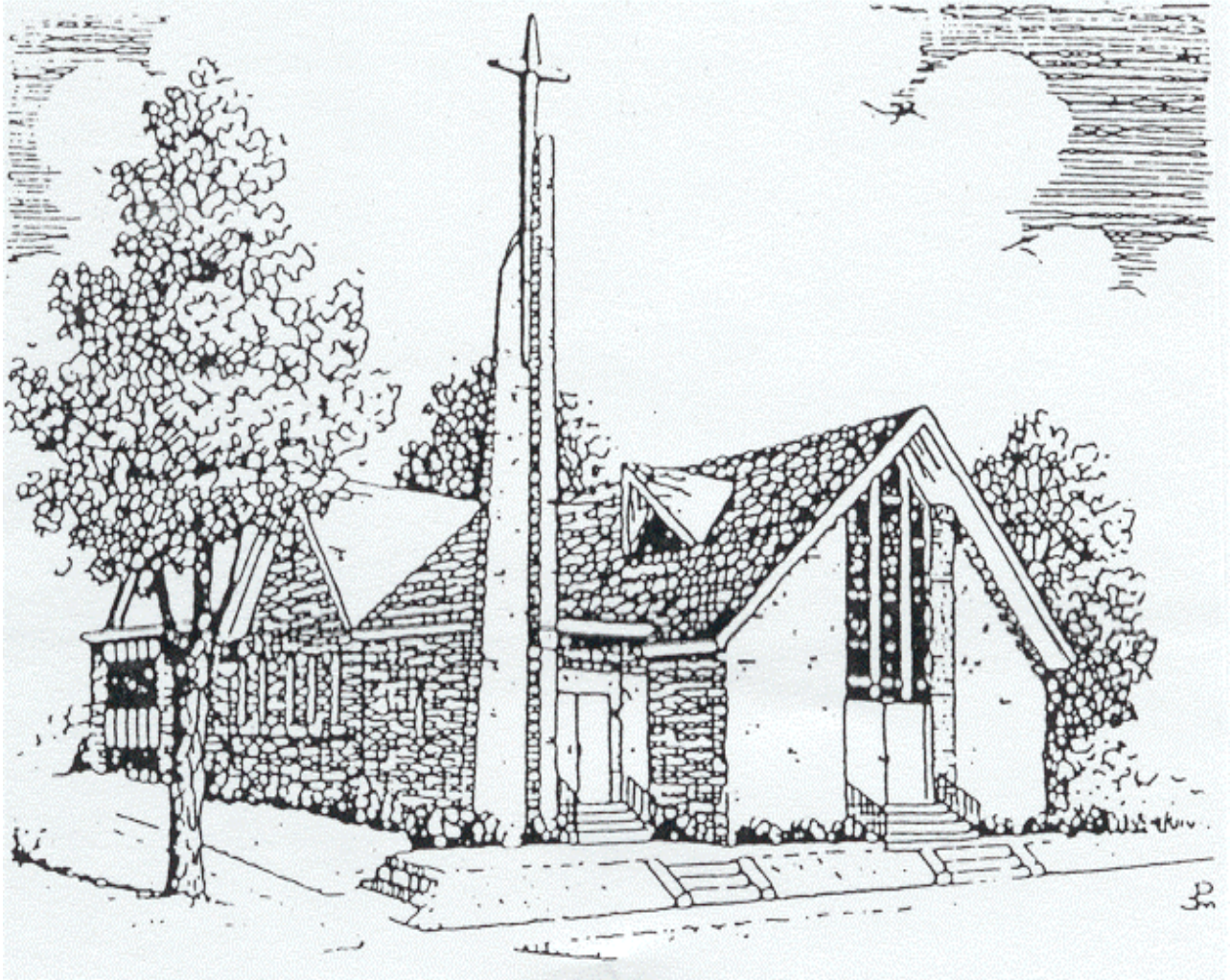




St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Good News



Nov. Dec. 2020

Jan 2021

Sunday:

9:00am

In church

Alternates

Sunday

10:30am

Zoom

Rite 1 and 2

Office Hours:
Tues., Wed., Thurs.
10:30 - 2:30

Good News Editor

Sandy McEwan

Office Manager

Sheri Hall

Priest in Charge

Rev. Kristen C. Foley

Office Manager Hours

Tue, Wed & Thur

10:30 - 2:30

Clergy's Corner

November 1, 2020

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Friends in Christ,

Although the retail world wants us to believe that Halloween immediately leads to Christmas, Christians know that the months around the turning of the year provide many opportunities to celebrate God's love and proclaim our belief in Jesus Christ.

The first season we celebrate is Thanksgiving, a time to share our gratitude with God. We have much to be grateful for, indeed. In a world filled with uncertainty and violence, we are grateful for the peace we find at the feet of Christ. We celebrate our gratitude to God through prayer and worship.

While Thanksgiving leftovers are still in the refrigerator, the Christian calendar jumps immediately into the Advent season on Sunday, December 1. Advent is a season for patient waiting - an uncommon virtue in much of today's culture, especially with the temptations of Christmas music on the radio and gifts in the stores. We spend four Sundays in holy anticipation for the birth of the Christ child, the love of God in human form.

On the feast of Christmas, we celebrate Jesus Christ's birth. The familiar stories take on new life as we experience them anew in the eyes of our congregation's children. The stories many of us have heard since birth are heard anew in the context of a Christian community. We are compelled to consider how the birth of Jesus continues to change our lives and indeed the lives of all people.

Epiphany continues our celebrations as we give thanks for Christ's revelation to the nations through the shining of a star. The original star drew wise men from far away and continues to draw people today, always encouraging people to encounter salvation in Jesus.

The Feast of Christ's Baptism rounds out our season of celebrations. As he walks into the Jordan River, Jesus is revealed to his community as God's Beloved in whom God is well pleased. We pray that we, too, would hear God's voice from heaven, proclaiming each of us as God's Beloved.

The world around us needs to hear about our Savior and we can proclaim Christ's message in word and deed, especially through the celebrations we observe at the turning of the year. How will we proclaim the great Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ?

In Christian Hope,

The Reverend Kristen C. Foley, Priest-in-Charge
priest.spbb@gmail.com
732-356-0247 (Office)
908-967-8683 (Pastoral Emergencies)

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Senior Warden's Report

At this time of year we should all be looking forward to the many celebrations and Christian feasts that are always associated with the Autumn & Winter seasons. Unfortunately, this year most of those celebrations will be either cancelled or go forth on a smaller version than prior years. I look forward to a calmer, happier 2021as I'm sure all of you do.

The business of your Vestry still moves ahead. Right now we are looking for parishioners willing to serve as a Vestry Member or Junior Warden. These positions are important for future management of our Parish. Please consider offering your time and talents in this area. Anyone interested should contact me or Rev. Foley for information.

Along with the Vestry, all of our other ministries are in need of volunteers. Should you have a preference, please speak with either the chair person or Rev. Foley.

Please stay healthy and know that as we go forward we are surrounded by God's love.

Irene Parker

Gifting Made Easy --- Scrip Program Fundraiser - 2020

The St. Paul's Vestry is again embarking on a fundraiser using the Scrip program. It will run through November 30th (deadline). The program turns everyday shopping into earnings for St. Paul's. Parishioners, their family, friends, neighbors, etc. can buy gift cards (also known as Scrip) at face value. The church collects the order forms and payment and puts in the order to Scrip. St. Paul's receives a rebate on each card purchased.

It's easy to participate. Fill out the attached order form, put it in an envelope with your check payable to St. Paul's and drop it in the Offering plate at church. You may also mail it to my home address at 9 Saratoga Court, Somerset, NJ 08873.

If you have any questions, please contact me at glmssgrands@gmail.com, call the church office or call my cell phone. Thank you to those that participated for making this a successful fundraiser.

Thanks,
Irene Parker
732-715-3810

Outreach – Warm clothing drive

St. Paul's is sponsoring a "warm winter clothing" drive for the benefit of those less fortunate in the Bound Brook community. Last year we provided coats, hats, etc. to some of our guests at Lunch On Us. We would like to continue that tradition. If you have any new or gently used coats, jackets, warm sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves or socks, please consider donating them to St. Paul's. There will be a collection bin in the Narthex for all contributions. Thank you for your help and consideration.

If you wish to purchase gift cards contact Irene or Sheri and a order form will be sent to you.

Sandy

UPCOMING DATES

Celebrations of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will not be scheduled until the dates approach. Please keep your eyes open for communications from the church office with dates and times.

The 2021 Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 17, 2021, but final decisions about a date, time, and location will be made by the end of the calendar year. Communications are forthcoming. Thank you for your patience!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Although we will not meet in person for the foreseeable future, please remain faithful in your financial commitment to Saint Paul's by mailing your regular offering to the church office:

214 Church Street, Bound Brook, NJ 08805

There will be an online giving option soon through Vanco.

The new playground equipment has been installed

Art Hoffman