

The Vine

Helping Grow
St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
WRJ, VT

MAY
2010



Blessings, and Thanks

UTO Offers Chance To Reflect and Contribute

*Thou hast given me so much...
Give me one thing more, a grateful heart.*
George Herbert 1595-1633

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church. The blue UTO giving box is meant as a spiritual practice, a reminder to take time each day to thank God for the blessings in our life. By putting coins in the box, we also pass that blessing along to others.

UTO has a long history in the Episcopal Church, since its founding in 1889 by two women leaders, Ida Soule and Julia Emery. They wanted to unite praying and sharing. It's been effective. Since then, the United Thank Offering has grown to over three million dollars each year.

Suzie Harding is St. Paul's UTO organizer this year. If you have questions, she's available. She has lots of boxes available. Try this out as a family, as a couple, or as part of your individual practice. Experiment with including scripture, prayers, or journaling. Will paying attention to the blessings in our lives change us? We're interested in your experiences. At the same time, your change can change the world.

On June 6 we will gather our St. Paul's boxes, joining our few coins with those of other Episcopalians to become the United Thank Offering. It is the sum of our daily thanks for the blessing in our everyday lives. It is a powerful force for good work. Since 1988, every cent offered is granted throughout the world for mission and in response to compelling human need.

Some scripture references that highlight blessings and thankfulness.

Leviticus 7:12, 19:5, 23:19; Nehemiah 11:17
Psalm 9:1-2; 24, 26:7, 34:1-10, 22; 56:11; 69:30; 92:1-2;
100; 117:1-2; 138:1-8; 146:1-2
Matthew 26:27; Mark 8:6; Luke 22:19; John 11:14
II Corinthians 4:15; 9:12;
Philippians 4:6
Colossians 2:7; 4:2; 3:15-17
I Thessalonians 5:18



HELPING THE HAVEN

Pentecost, Haven Sunday

May 23rd is the Feast of Pentecost and at the 10 a.m. service we will be having a "Haven Sunday."

We will bless all Haven staff, volunteers, and guests who would like to be blessed, we'll encourage LOTS of food to be brought in that day, and immediately after the service, we will process to the new shelter to bless it!

We will also have a chance to show our kids (and anyone else who is interested) where the food goes that we donate.

We are also hoping that the new reusable shopping bags will be ready. Jeff Wilcox designed them! This service is just one more way we want to show our support and prayers for the Haven's mission.



RECTOR'S CORNER

Calculating the Value Of Our Church Building

Saturday, May 22, is the last of four workshops that a handful of St. Paul's parishioners have attended put on by Sacred Spaces and sponsored by our diocese.

We have learned so much and still have much to do and learn. But we're getting there. Basically Sacred Spaces' "New Dollars/New Partners" program offers a congregation tools and know-how in order to "discover and tell its own story — who the congregation is, what it has to offer, and what it does: a Web-based tool that quantifies the public value of community-serving programs; a tool to measure and describe a congregation's history in relation to national, architectural, and American religious history; a checklist to determine building conditions; and a space use exercise. Two additional tools — a media kit and sample capital

Celebrating



**AT THE INTERSECTION
OF HERITAGE, FAITH,
& COMMUNITY**

Partners for Sacred Places

campaign documents — help identify potential new partners and tell the congregation's story to potential partners."

Our Heritage: Accepting Change

Leslie Black and Jane Carroll have been working on our heritage and, with the help of Judy Barwood and Kathy Detzer, are putting together a display for the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. We have learned that, although we have never been a parish to be on the cutting edge of cultural change, we have not fought it. We embraced women's ordination; social outreach; gay, lesbian, and transgender inclusion; and other power shifts (like more lay ministry empowerment).

As the concept of the "Upper Valley" came into being in the '60s, we, too, expanded our outlook. When a new church was needed in the early '60s, we designed something radically different from what we were used to in order to embrace new liturgical design and worship.

Assessing our Space

Dick Davis and Chris Kelly assessed our building space usage as well as the overall condition of our buildings. We are fortunate that, unlike some churches, our building is not falling apart. Dick also took information I gave him on groups that use our space and inputed it into a web-based

program to calculate the "public value" to these groups and therefore to the community.

Did you know that the public value of the Bargain Bin to the community is over \$68,000!? And the public value of our Holiday Bazaar is \$34,000! The public value to the diocese is almost \$39,000. For LISTEN and their Community Dinners, it's \$30,700. Lastly, our public value for the Upper Valley Haven (due to our weekly food drives and other support) is over \$7,500. And they don't even use our space. **We are a huge asset to our community.**

Todd McKee, Jill Devins, and I are beginning to look at all this information as well as the work the Building Discernment Group has done on our mission and vision statements in order to start thinking about potential community partners who just might want to help us with a building expansion.

The Purpose of Our Church

I want to thank all these parishioners as well as the members of the Building Discernment Committee for all their hard work. It has been a LOT of work and it is taking a LOT longer than any of us imagined, but we are learning a LOT.

It seems like we are peeling back the layers of an onion and are finally getting at the core of this work which is the very deep question of the purpose of the Church and, specifically, the purpose of OUR church and what kind of building we need to carry out our purpose.

Peace, Nancy



The Bargain Bin always opens with a rush.

SAVE FOR THE BIN!

Donations for the Bargain Bin have been slow so far this year. We need to get the word out that WE PICK UP DONATIONS. See Jeff about donation flyers.

We are going to need more volunteers in a variety of roles before and during the Bargain Bin. Anyone willing to put up DONATION FLYERS please see Jeff and Jill.

Seeking Silent Auction Help

Do any parishioners have an interest in getting donations for the Bargain Bin Silent Auction? Perhaps from the place they work or do business? If so, they should contact me so we don't double up: (802-295-3646 or email me at jdevinsvt@gmail.com). I have a list of possibilities also.

Thank you, Jill Devins

SHARING OUR STORIES

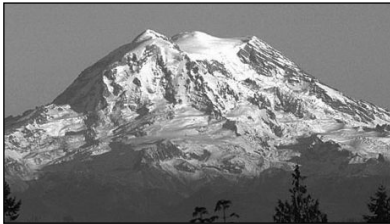
Life-Changing Things

Dear St. Paul's parishioners:

This is a quote, "I now understand that I do have ministry in my daily activities, that everything I do reflects ministry." This came from the April Vine. Keep it in mind.

I was a member of the first EFM class to graduate in 1984 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Newton, CT. I had been a member of the church for 10 years and had done everything from making coffee to serving at the Eucharist. My Rector Frank Dunn asked if I'd serve on the vestry. I said I would after I had completed EFM.

The spring following graduation my youngest daughter graduated from high school. I hung around after her graduation then took off on a personal camping trip cross-country to the Pacific Ocean. I had never seen it and somehow it was necessary for me to see it. I crossed the snow-covered Bear Tooth mountains in June, stayed in the national parks whenever possible, hiked



them, meditated upon them, saw the face of God at Mt. Rainier, and as subtly as possible, spread the Word among the wonderful people I encountered along the way.

Let me tell you, my friends, our whole life is our ministry. One may be an artist, a scientist, a plumber, whatever. To do that to the very best of our ability and to the glory of God is our ministry. But watch carefully that you maintain your integrity during the difficult times. When you put your life on the line, that is when the only answer you can give to your God is Yes, you anger the evil one. There are martyrs among us that we may not see and are not necessarily fed to lions or nailed to crosses. This is the chance you take when you are "sealed as Christ's own forever."

Be vigilant. Ministry is easy when the world is bright. When darkness descends things may change. Be vigilant that you may not be overcome by adversity and that God's purpose may be fulfilled by the ministry of your life.

Sincerely, **Harriet Chamberlain**

May 9: Mother's Day Reflections



Mother's Day reflections will be offered at both services on May 9. This has become an annual tradition and this year guest preachers will be reflecting on how their mothers have influenced their faith. Three people from youth to adult will share their thoughts.

First Sunday, May 2:
It's All About Love

May 2nd is another "1st Sunday" at the 10 a.m. service. These child-friendly services each have a theme, encourage



more participation, and are less than an hour. May's theme (based on the Gospel passage for that day from John 13) is "Love." Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Love is a wonderful theme for all ages. So bring the kids (and the "kid" in you) and let's give God deep thanks for love.

Welcome Guest Dan Weiser

Dan Weiser will be our guest musician on several occasions this Spring: May 2 and 9, and June 13 and 20. For most of these Sundays, Dan will also be accompanied by Classicopia musicians. What a treat!

UVIP Reports Progress

Greetings from the United Valley Interfaith Project! We hope you are doing well and enjoying the springtime.

The Transportation Issue Team is happy to report that the consultant's study for public transportation to Alice Peck Day will recommend a new "flex route" be added connecting the hospital campus to the Lebanon Green and, eventually, Centerra Center. The report also recommends creating a pedestrian-safe walkway connecting Mechanic Street to Mascoma Street at the dangerous underpass.

The Housing Issue team is happy to report that our work on establishing an emergency overnight cold weather shelter in Claremont made significance progress recently. UVIP Leaders organized a series of meetings and discussions with Claremont church and lay leaders that resulted in these leaders — representing six churches — forming the Greater Claremont Churches' Initiative for an Emergency Cold Weather Shelter.

This group's goal is to work with city officials to ensure that a shelter is in place by next winter.

Help the Vine Grow

Send your Vine contributions to
dan.mackie@yahoo.com.

A PERSONAL NOTE

To my St. Paul's Family: Many thanks for all the cards, phone calls and kind words upon the loss of my brother, Dr. Donald Adams.

— **Linda Boehm**

Green Thumbs, Brown Thumbs

The Gardening Committee would like to extend an invitation to you.

Green Thumbers, as you prepare your spring gardens, think of what plant materials you could donate to the Bargain Bin.

Brown Thumbers, consider purchasing some flats of annuals or perennials and donating them to sell the day of the Bargain Bin.

Either approach works. Two thumbs up to everyone who has helped in the past.

Any questions? Talk with Anne Jenisch.

SAINTS OF OLD ...

RIP, Dr. Iris Cully

Word has been received of the death of Dr. Iris V. Cully, a distinguished writer and teacher in the field of religious education whose late husband, the Rev. Kendig B. Cully, was pastor at St. Paul's in the early 1970s.

Iris Cully died Feb. 24 in Pomona, Calif., at age 95. She was a woman of many achievements: first in her family to graduate from college; first woman to earn the Ph.D degree in Religious Education at Northwestern; the first woman on the faculty of the Yale Divinity School; and the first woman on the faculty of a Disciples of Christ Seminary, Lexington Theological.

According to her obituary, "Dr. Iris Cully declared that the purpose of Christian Education was to proclaim the good news of Christ, with the Bible being at the center." She and her husband founded the Review of Books and Religion.

They retired to California in 1985. Sadly, Kendig Cully died just two years later. Iris Cully continued to write and travel for many years.



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The Rev. Nancy A.G. Vogele
Rector

And on the web:

<http://www.stpauls-wrj.org>

<http://www.dioceseofvermont.org>

**It's never too early
to think Bargain Bin**

please save items for our annual sale