

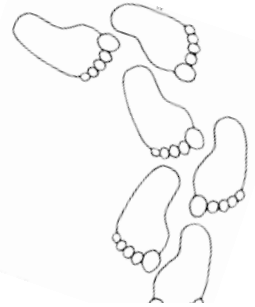
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
79 Cross St., Gardner, MA 01440



FOOTSTEPS

Newsletter

EASTER 2018



Life is full of mystery. Love is a mystery. Life itself is a tremendous mystery. How did we get here and what does it mean? Why do we exist? Personally, I have learned to live with mystery. There are just some things that we can never explain rationally and scientifically. So it is with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. What really happened two thousand years ago we may ask? Even the Gospel accounts of this momentous event differ in many details. What happened?

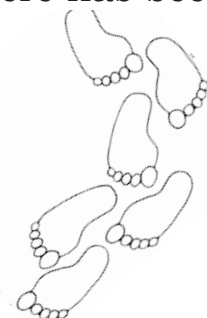
One thing is clear: SOMETHING happened. A band of terrified and defeated disciples became fearless and eloquently powerful. A new message of love and hope was unleashed upon a world that knew mainly oppression and fear. A small band of followers has grown into one of the most dynamic and enduring institutions in history. Incalculable good has been wrought in his name. Nearly 1/3 of all the people on this Earth call this carpenter from Galilee, Lord. Something happened.

To this very day, lives are changed because of this man who lived centuries ago. His influence can be seen in every corner of the world and every thinking person must deal with his teachings and his demands. Something happened. C.S. Lewis said it best when he wrote: "There must have been a Resurrection, because Christ is alive."

It is my prayer for all of you, that the ineffable mystery of Christ's Resurrection may touch your lives with the life-changing and healing power of his love. May you know to the depths of your soul that there has been a Resurrection, because Christ is alive.

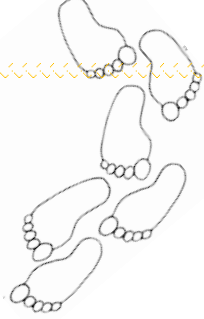
Happy Easter!

Fr. William Hobbs
Priest-In-Charge



HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Maundy Thursday, 3/29/18 7:30 pm
See additional info below

Good Friday, 3/30/18 7:30 pm

NO SATURDAY SERVICE at St. Paul's

Easter Vigil to be held at our
Sister church, St John's in Athol
Saturday, 3/31/18 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, 4/1/18 10:45 am
See additional info below

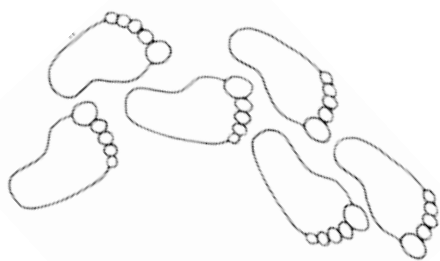
St. Paul's will be hosting a pot luck supper on March 29, 2018, Maundy Thursday at 6:00 PM.

In addition to dinner, participants will be seated at one long table replicating The Last Supper and there will be brief monologues from the "Apostle's". A sign-up sheet for various items will be in the narthex of the Church. This is a very important feast day in Christianity. This is the night Christ gave us the Eucharist, and, through His example of washing His disciples feet, taught us to serve one another. Please join us for a meaningful and fun gathering before attending the 7:30 service in the Church.

Easter Sunday, following the 10:45 A.M. Service

On Easter Sunday, on April 1, 2018, we will gather to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Right after the service, anyone who would enjoy sharing a festive Easter meal and some wonderful family fellowship is welcome to attend our Easter Feast. It will be a potluck; with ham and lamb provided. Dishes such as salads, casseroles, vegetables, and desserts are all welcome. Snacks, appetizers, beverages, rolls or butter are great choices for the non-cooks in the congregation. Anyone bringing a dish for the feast should bring it to the fellowship hall before the service starts, as kitchen space is limited. We will also have family videos for the kids to enjoy, and some Easter arts and crafts. We will need to have an idea of how many will attend, so leave your R.S.V.P. with the church secretary at [978-632-0925](tel:978-632-0925) and tell us what you will bring and how many will come. Family, friends and neighbors are welcome, too.

We'll make sure the coffee and tea will be on, the tables will be ready, the hall will be cheerfully decorated, and the conversation will be great!



**BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND
KNOCK. IF ANYONE HEARS MY VOICE
AND OPENS THE DOOR, I WILL COME
IN TO HIM AND EAT WITH HIM, AND
HE WITH ME**

REVELATION 3:20

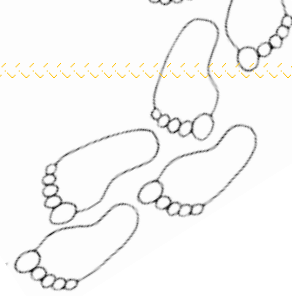


Altar Guild Notes

Many thanks to Mary Chipman; ☺ she recently retired after many years of service on the Altar Guild. Kudos to Sue Cringan for the utmost care in the maintaining our supply of the altar linens. Presently there are 4 teams serving the Altar Guild. Thank you all. We have new members and always room for anyone who would like to learn. If you would like to consider joining please ask Father Bill.



WARDENS WANDERINGS



It is my sincere hope and prayer that this issue of "Footsteps" finds you all in good health, looking forward to some, much needed, warm weather and rejoicing in the celebration of "new life" that the feast of Easter promises to all the world.

As we celebrate the Resurrection we are reminded that as a believer in God and as a follower of Christ we are promised everlasting life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That belief in the saving grace of God gives our life meaning. Our belief in God and the "Good News of Jesus Christ" allows us to start to make sense of this world through good times and bad. What a joy it is to have this loving relationship with God. We know that billions of people around the world share our belief and find meaning and salvation as a member of the "Body of Christ". We also know that billions more are seeking out this relationship and as Christians we are called upon to spread the word of God by word and example. In recognition of this call, to share God's love in the world, Bishop Fisher has dedicated 2018 to a spirit of Evangelism in our Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

The theme of this Evangelism Initiative is:

***Rekindling Hope
Sharing Light
Loving Jesus***



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry recently offered these words on the subject of Evangelism - **"Evangelism is about sharing the journey into a deeper relationship with God and with each other."**

Bishop Fisher is encouraging every Parish in the Diocese to pray and discern ways that we all can be more intentional about sharing our faith stories with each other and with those in our community that are seeking a way to a loving relationship with God.

The 2018 Evangelism Initiative will culminate on the Weekend of October 20/21 with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry officiating at three events spread across the Diocese from the Berkshires to Holyoke to Worcester. The Diocese of Western MA was one of only two dioceses in the Country that the Presiding Bishop will come to this year to focus on the issue of Evangelism.

More information on this subject and on the events scheduled in October is available at www.wmarevival.org

I am looking forward to praying and working on this matter with all of you at St. Paul's.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Denis



CARING!

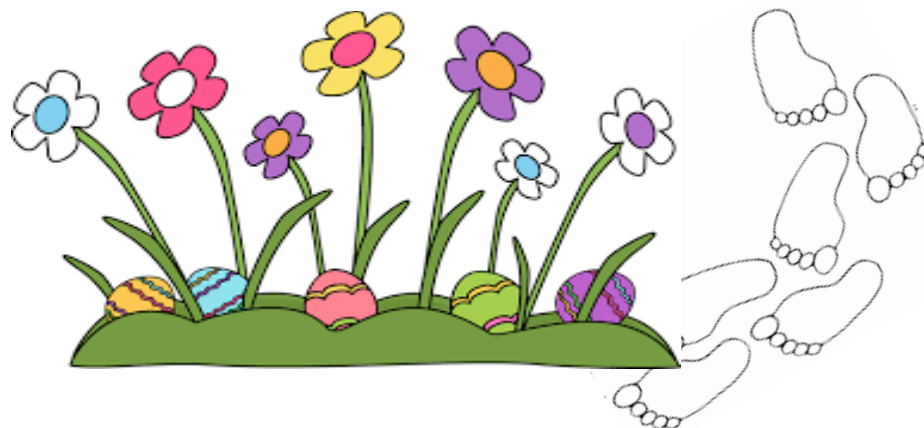
CAN YOU SPARE A PAIR?

175 pairs of socks have been donated SO FAR!

Julie Meehan at the CAC says that people are so very grateful.
Let's continue.

During the first 3 months of 2018, 98 bags of food were brought
by Sue Carlson to the CAC Food Pantry.

A thanks to the home delivery folks – a smiling face delivering a
much needed box of food – Wow!



Community Mission Backpack Project

Coming up in August of 2018, St. Paul's will once again participate in the Community Mission Backpack Project. Denis Meunier will be St. Paul's liaison with the area churches this year.

Distribution will be on Sat, 8/11. The backpacks are given to children from preschool through high school and filled with grade level supplies to families who preregister at the Gardner CAC.



2018 Vestry

Sr. Warden - Denis Meunier

Jr. Warden - Conrad Brown

Treasurer - Nancy Belliveau

Clerk - Denise Lavoie Whitney

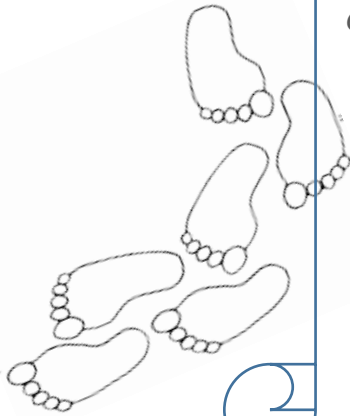
Stephanie O'Brien

Brian Chipman

Cynthia Flanagan

Corinne Melanson

Ron Lewis

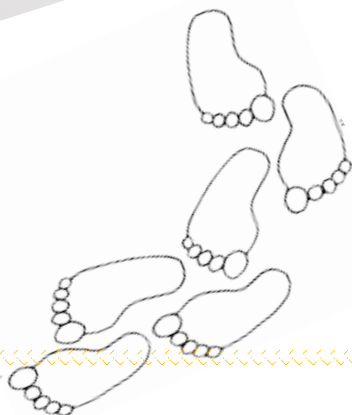


The Lector/ Lay Ministry has openings to fill at both the Saturday evening/Sunday morning services.

If you feel called to support this ministry, please speak to Fr Bill.



Birthday/Anniversary dates. Do you have a graduate or news? Let Belinda know. Belinda is looking for updates. Send her an email at secretary@stpaulsgardner.org or call 978-632-0925.



*Let the morning bring me word of Your
unfailing love, for I have put my trust in
You*

Psalm 143:8



*Our Father who art in
heaven, we pray for ---*

This beautiful planet that You created and have given us to live with and care for. We pray for its well-being and renewal. We also pray for each other. We especially remember Judy Greenlees, Terry Jaillet, Maureen Owens, Peter Wolenty, Eveline Beauregard, Cherrie Gauthier, Bob Melanson, Alexis Monette, Tabitha, Millie Williams, Sandra & Paul Gagnon, Sharon Kiosses, Gina Monette-Smith, Fred Monette, Jim, Debbie, James, Jay Hipkins, Judie Davis, John Szyzsko, Craig Hjelm, Penny Bourque, Marsha Roy, Jason Garcia, Pat Lewis, Sherry Hunter, Joseph E.L., Florence Blake, Tracy, Dianne & David Murphy, Jacob Decarolis, Dawn Daluca, Pamela Conti, Clara and all those whose names are not mentioned here.

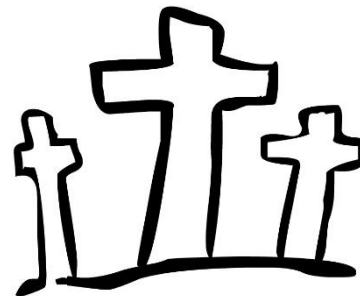
Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen

HE IS RISEN
Forgiven
For God so Loved the World

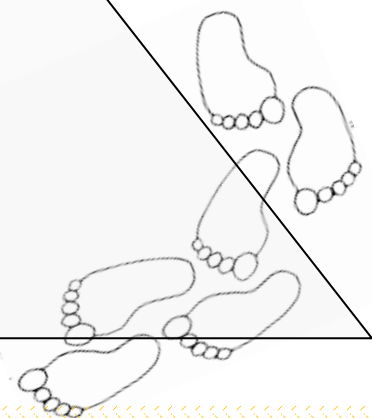
LAMB ^{of God}
love

He is Risen Indeed
CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

HALLELUJAH
Eternal Life
Redeemer
my savior



Trusting In
Jesus



Community Happenings

GREATER GARDNER ARTIST ASSOCIATION SPRING ART SHOW

April 13-15, 2018

Heywood Place – Boland Room, Lake St. Gardner, MA

Friday, April 13th 7-9 pm

Sat, April 14th 12-5 pm

Sun, April 15th 12-4 pm

GALA SPRING ART SHOW

May 4-6, 2018

Winchendon American Legion – Winchendon, MA

Friday, May 4th 6-9 pm

Sat, May 5th 11-5 pm

Sun, May 6th 12-4 pm

UPCOMING POSSIBILITY AT ST. PAULS

Craft and Vendor Fair

Saturday, April 28th to be hosted by an outside vendor in the Parish Hall

Hot Dogs, Burgers, Chili provided by our own Kitchen Krew

ST PAUL'S APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1, Easter Sunday

April 15, Vestry Meeting

April 22, Bingo! Light refreshments

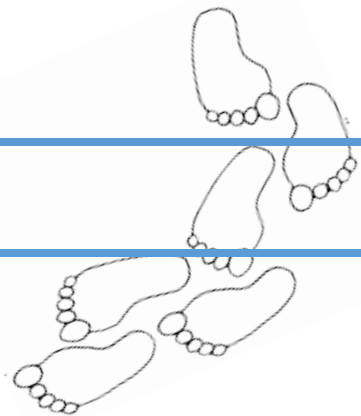
April 29, Fair, Re-cap of 2017 / Plan for 2018

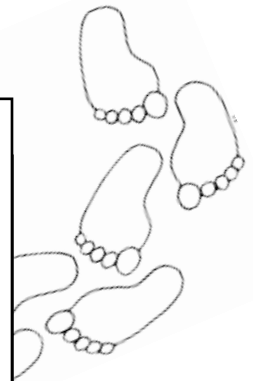
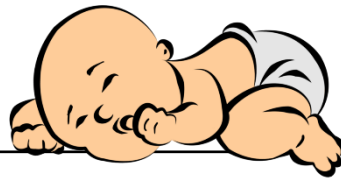
SENIOR CITIZEN'S PROM – 12th ANNUAL

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 – 5:30-8:30 pm

Gardner High School Cafeteria

Sponsored by the Gardner High School Staff

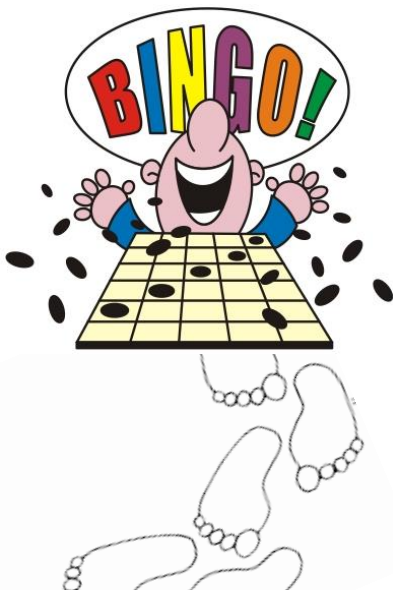




Diaper Pantry Update

We started this fundraiser for the Diaper Pantry at the Gardner Visiting Nurses Association in January of 2016. We have donated \$1,392.76 to this project!! That is a lot of spare change! That is awesome!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!



Looking for something to do on a Sunday afternoon?

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Join us for a friendly Bingo game!

Where: The Boland Room at Heywood Place

Fun, Fellowship, Food



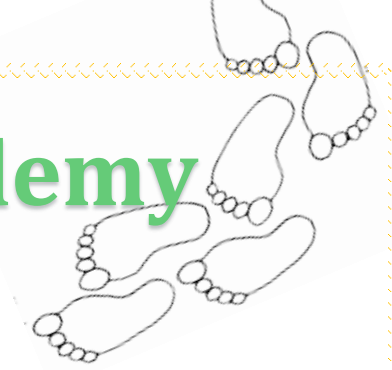
DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR IS ALWAYS
LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

WE MEET FOR PRACTICE ON
THURSDAY NIGHTS AT 6:30 PM

Singing has such a unique way of bringing your heart, soul, mind, and strength together to focus entirely and completely on God. In an age of distraction, singing grabs the attention of all our senses and focuses us on God.

St. Paul's Music Academy



Open to all 2nd to 8th graders in Gardner and surrounding towns.

St. Paul's Music Academy is a program of music instruction and choir singing open to all children who are in the 2nd through 8th grades. Attendance at St. Paul's Episcopal Church is not required. This is a community children's music program. Membership is not restricted to members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

St. Paul's Music Academy uses a music education approach, teaching children how to read and write music and to sing in choir groupings. The goal is to provide children with an understanding of music which they can enjoy for a lifetime, and musical skills they can use to sing in any choir. Instruction is structured and tailored to each child's heart and voice.

Sessions will be held on Thursdays in the Choir Room from 4:30 to 6:00 pm.

There is NO COST for materials, and Semester One and Two of 2018 are FREE.

St. Paul's Music Academy uses the Royal School of Church Music in America curriculum, *Voice for Life*. Voice for Life teaches students to use their voices properly, gives them music reading skills, teaches understanding of choir music, and offers the opportunity to perform short programs of music. Singers study several levels of music, with a goal of graduating successfully into the next level. Awards are given for successful completion of levels. The program is ideal for children who would like to have the best musical training possible.

This year marks a new chapter in the musical life at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. This new program of music instruction for Elementary School students will begin on Thursday, February 1, 2018. The program will include 16 lessons divided into two Semesters of Study. All lessons will be on Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:00. Lessons will be held in the choir room. Parents are welcome to stay and learn with their children. There will be a Mid-Program Open House and a Concluding Performance at St. Paul's.

There is no charge for lessons or materials, but students **MUST** register in advance to have materials ready for them to use. Please register online at St. Paul's website using the Contact form, or sign up by phone with the church secretary at 978-632-0925.

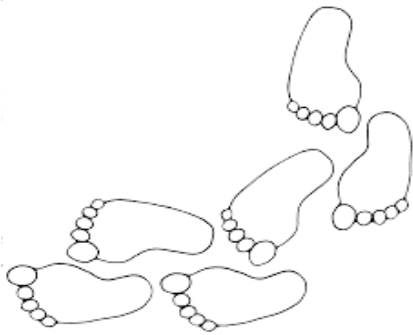
Ms. Judy Greenlees is the music instructor for St. Paul's Music Academy. She has more than 34 years of teaching experience. She has a B.A. in Music from California State University Fullerton and an M.B.A. from New York Institute of Technology. She has passed initial CBEST and MTEL tests. She is a published author, commissioned artist, and educator.



Joy
is not in
things ...
it is in us.
Richard Wagner



The coffee hour is going strong and smelling great! It is such a pleasure seeing all the smiling faces each week. Do you have a special dessert you could make and share with us? Do you like to bake or shop? Any and all “goodie” donations are welcome, if you'd like to donate a dessert or dish. Please sign up. Thank you



EARTH DAY – END PLASTIC POLLUTION – THIS YEARS THEME

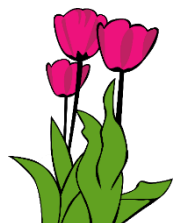
SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018

From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now threatening the survival of our planet.

In response, Earth Day 2018 will focus on fundamentally changing human attitude and behavior about plastics and catalyzing a significant reduction in plastic pollution.

Further information can be found at:

www.earthday.org



As Denis mentioned in his Warden's Wanderings, the Presiding Bishop,
The Most Reverend Michael Curry will be coming to our Diocese this October!

Bishop Curry is spearheading an initiative called "An Episcopal Revival"

What does he mean Revival?



"A revival is a dedicated series of gatherings that combine inspiring worship, compelling teaching, honest faith-sharing, intensified prayer, and some form of engagement with the mission of God – all for the sake of the spiritual renewal and transformation of people and of society."



Stay tuned for upcoming information about the Revival. As always the St. Paul's website is updated regularly with new information.

Check us out at:

St. Paul's Web Address: www.stpaulsgardner.org OR www.stpaulsgardner.com

We also have a Facebook page – search for St. Paul's Episcopal Church Gardner



This newsletter is created to keep you informed, up to date, and "in the know" to the happenings here at St. Paul's. If you have anything you would like included in future newsletters, please contact Stephanie O'Brien or Denise Whitney.

*If you have any ideas about how St. Paul's could communicate more effectively **with** its' people, **to** its' people and **for** its' people, please talk to someone on Vestry, we would love to hear from you*



Happy Easter

