



# Parish *Life*

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## January Food and Funds Drive to Benefit Food Bank

by Eric A. Aft  
Chief Executive Officer  
Second Harvest Food Bank of  
Northwest North Carolina

*Whatever you do, work at it with  
all your heart, as working for the  
Lord, not for human masters.*  
—Colossians 3:23

This was Clyde Fitzgerald's favorite Bible verse. It embodied his approach to life, but it also reflects the Second Harvest team's commitment to our mission of addressing both the immediate needs of our neighbors as well as the root causes of poverty.

As we look forward to the 10th annual Food and Funds Drive for Second Harvest Food Bank at St. Paul's in January, we know how members of the St. Paul's parish also embody this verse. Last year's drive was nothing short of amazing, generating the equivalent of 36,876 meals for the children and families of Forsyth County.

It is now my honor to lead the Food Bank's team in building on Clyde's legacy. We are more committed than ever to addressing hunger through our existing, highly effective programs and to identifying new, even more impactful strategies.



In Forsyth County and throughout Northwest North Carolina, food insecurity is pervasive. One in seven individuals and one in five children face hunger. These statistics are more than numbers; they reflect the stories of our neighbors, our children's classmates and our employees. And the challenge of hunger is more than an empty stomach.

Recently a teacher told me of working with a struggling student—encouraging the young man to apply his talent—but he seemed distant and just stared at her desk the entire time. It was only after he left that she turned and saw the granola bar that she'd brought for a snack on the corner of her desk. She told

me she realized then that he hadn't heard a word she said because he was hungry.

While we know that hungry children cannot focus in school, the long-term impact for this young man and others like him is immense. If hungry children don't receive access to regular, nutritious meals, it will negatively impact their success in school and in life. We often forget that as with children, adults without sufficient nutrition are also at risk of multiple negative consequences, including higher work absenteeism, poor health outcomes and challenges supporting and caring for their family members.

Second Harvest is responding to these challenges. We are

proud to serve a network of partner agency programs—more than 100 in Forsyth County alone. These include food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens and school-based programs such as the Kids' Café and Backpack programs here at St. Paul's. For these programs, Second Harvest provides, on average, 77 percent of the food distributed.

Through your gifts, you have the power to transform the future for the children and families of our community. While the individuals whose lives you touch may never have the chance to thank you, we extend our appreciation on their behalf for the impact your generous participation in St. Paul's Food and Funds drive will make in their lives.

# A Change in How We Select Vestry? Your Input Requested

by the Rev. D. Dixon Kinser, Rector

According to the Episcopal Church, a “Vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property.” It is a committee made up of lay people and works with the Rector to steward and administrate the resources and finances of the parish. The way a parish selects a Vestry varies from church to church, and members of the current Vestry at St. Paul’s have some serious concerns about how we select ours.

**How We Elect Vestry.** St. Paul’s has a 12-member Vestry made up of three four-person classes serving three-year terms. At each year’s Annual Meeting we publicly elect, by simple majority, these four new members from a slate of eight nominees who have been vetted and selected by a Nomination Committee made up of the four out-going Vestry members. It all happens in accordance with our parish by-laws, established in 2001.

**The Problem.** St. Paul’s current Vestry has asked to change the aforementioned process for electing new Vestry members for two reasons: First, the public election dynamic has proven to be hurtful to parishioners who are not selected and anxiety about this dissuades many from ever letting their name stand. Related to this is the second, more pressing concern: our way of electing does not allow the Vestry to “staff for its needs.”

What this means is that there are skills and knowledge any group charged to deal with the financial and legal matters of a church needs to have: business acumen, investment experience, accounting and legal skills, to name a few. So, what if, for example, the Vestry realizes that the only person in the room who has a finance background is rolling off at the end of the year? By our current process, they have no way to ensure that skill set will show back up in the new class. If this sounds hypothetical to you, it is not. The Vestry has operated without a lawyer ever since Bill Davis rolled off in January 2017. This was alarming to current Vestry members as our work with the nave repair and 875 building marched forward and led to their request for a change.

**Changing the By-Laws.** But how do you fix it? Putting nothing but lawyers on the slate this year? Well, no, because we need lots of other skills on the Vestry too. The answer this Vestry is asking for is a change in our election process, and that is where you come in.

To change the way St. Paul’s selects the Vestry means we have to change our parish by-laws, requiring a majority vote of the congregation at the Annual Meeting. That bring me to the purpose of this article. The Vestry has been researching how other churches choose their Vestry and they have found a way they are confident fits our needs at St. Paul’s. The Wardens asked me to describe the process so

that when it comes up for a vote at the Annual Meeting, everyone understands what we are voting on.

**The New Method.** The new method for Vestry selection would begin by expanding the Nominating Committee, currently made up of only the four out-going Vestry members. The new committee would expand to include four more members, chosen from the parish at large. These new members would be nominated by open call to the parish, which is the same way we currently call for Vestry nominations. The hope is that more folks on the Nominating Committee will magnify the committee’s knowledge of what is happening in the parish and therefore expand the network of relationships they have to find good candidates.

The at-large members of the Nominating Committee would be selected from at least six potential candidates, four of whom would be chosen by drawing lots. The Vestry finds this to be not only fair, but also a more theological way of making the choice (Proverbs 16:33, Acts 1:22).

This Nominating Committee of eight would begin its work in the fall, preparing a slate of only four qualified Vestry candidates based on the needs of the Vestry for the coming year. That slate of four will be presented at the Annual Meeting where the congregation simply votes up-or-down on the slate as a whole.

The Vestry and wardens propose this solution because it solves the two aforementioned problems while expanding the parish’s involvement, participation in, and transparency of our Vestry selection process. Win, win.

**What Do You Think?** If we make this change it would require a vote at the February 3, 2019, Annual Meeting to change the by-laws so we could implement the new procedure in 2020. The Vestry is keen for everyone to understand what is being proposed so that they can answer questions or even reconsider if a better solution is proposed.

The Vestry feels confident in this path because many other churches of a comparable size select Vestry in a similar manner (Christ Church Charlotte, Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati). So now they want to hear from you. Please send any questions or concerns to any current Vestry member or email our Senior Warden, Allan Burrows, at [aburrows@capdev.com](mailto:aburrows@capdev.com). The Vestry will also host a town hall meeting to go over this process and answer any questions on Sunday, January 27 during the formation hour in Colhoun B and C.

Thank you for taking time to read this and keep this process in your prayers. The Vestry’s desire is that our process make us a better people who love God and live God’s mission more faithfully in Winston-Salem. That sounds pretty good to me, too.

# Thank You for Sharing Joy!



by Marshall and Liza Smith

As 2018 draws to a close, we feel so much gratitude for having had the opportunity to chair the *Share Joy* campaign.

For the Stewardship Committee and St. Paul's clergy and staff who so faithfully encouraged and supported us in our efforts to lead the campaign, and for those parishioners who shared their heartfelt testimonials, we are deeply grateful.

Share Joy stewardship campaign  
Chairs Marshall and Liza Smith

To those who helped organize the Parish Ministry Fair and who staffed the tables on

behalf of their ministries, and to all who volunteered that day, we give thanks.

To the Vestry, who made countless phone calls to encourage additional pledges, we so appreciate your help.

Most important of all, to the 551 individuals and families whose pledges totaled \$2,143,536.44, we give thanks for your generosity, foresight and commitment to support St. Paul's throughout 2019.

Because of you, God's work can and will go on at our church.

## Transitions

### New Members

**Joe and Denise Clark**

**Barbara and Scott Sexton**

### Deaths

**Edna Freemon Helms**

November 30, 2018

*Mother of Tricia Keiser,  
mother-in-law of Kris Keiser,  
grandmother of Sarah Keiser*

**Dick Van Orden**

December 9, 2018

*Father of Anne Butler,  
father-in-law of Chris Butler*

**Richard Grey Weaver**

December 18, 2018

*Husband of Mary Weaver*

**Dalton Dillard Ruffin**

December 21, 2018

*Father of Jim Ruffin,  
father-in-law of Lorre Ruffin*

### Liaisons' Reports

Janice Bennett reported the Vestry Nomination Committee has selected eight candidates and eight alternates.

Welcome Committee liaison Henri Brown reported that Elizabeth Meyers is the new Chair.

Youth Ministry liaison Brian Patterson reported that the Youth Ministry is very active, and 130 people attended our recent Evensong service.

### New Business

Dixon reported that 2019 clergy housing expenses have been received, and the Vestry approved them as submitted.

## Vestry Meeting Highlights

*The following are highlights of the November 28, 2018, Vestry meeting minutes.*

### Financial Report

Steve Ashworth, Chairman of the ReNEWal Capital Campaign, explained the line of credit St. Paul's has obtained from First Citizens Bank to fund the campaign expenses until campaign gifts are received.

The Vestry approved a motion that the Senior and Junior Wardens will sign all campaign-related checks.

The Vestry approved a motion that all campaign loan agreements will be signed by the Senior and Junior Wardens.

The Vestry approved a \$7 million line of credit with First Citizens Bank.

The Rev. D. Dixon Kinser, Rector, reported that \$2,125,000 (97%) has been raised to date for the Stewardship Campaign.

Parish Administrator Tom McDowell reported that year-to-date, the parish is ahead on pledged income and is doing well on core expenses.

### Rector's Report

Dixon reported that three finalists for the communications position are being interviewed, and the position will be filled in January.

The Vestry retreat will be February 8 through 10 at Valle Crucis.

### Clergy Report

The Rev. Sara Ardrey-Graves, Associate Rector, reported that she is now chairing the Diocesan Commission on Ministry.

The fall adult formation classes were well received.

The Young Adults' group continues to grow.

### Senior Warden's Report

Allan Burrows reported that the meetings being held on the capital campaign are being well received.

### Junior Warden's Report

Tom Connors reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has approved the final plans for the Dalton Garden renovation.

## Faith and Justice Program



# ParishLife

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The Faith & Justice Committee's 2018-19 Lunch and Speaker Series will continue on Thursday, January 24, at 12:00 noon in Colhoun A. The program, "Income Disparities through the Lens of Gender and Race," will be presented by Sabrina Slade, Director of Strategic Initiatives for The Winston-Salem Foundation.

Slade, who directs both the Women's Fund of Winston-Salem and The Black Philanthropy Initiative, will share the history and current state of income disparities in our community based on factors highlighted in two reports produced by The Winston-Salem Foundation. She will also offer recommendations for addressing gender and racial disparities in an effort to create a more equitable, vital community for all.

Bring your own lunch. Beverages will be provided. All are welcome.

## Unsung Heroes: Feast of Lights Volunteers

St. Paul's Feast of Lights celebration will be on Sunday, January 6 at 5:00 p.m. in the nave. An annual parish tradition since 1928, this pageant depicts the Magi's visit to the Christ child and the spreading of his light throughout the world. This year, a chili cook-off to benefit outreach ministries will follow.

"The Feast of Lights is a much-loved event in our church community," said Emily Shute, who is chairing for the third consecutive year. "It takes many hands to make this event happen, with Darby Everhard leading the way and connecting with John Cummins about the music as well as a cast and crew of more than 40 parishioners."



Emily started planning for the 2019 event last summer, when she, Darby and parishioner Carolyn Fay inventoried costumes. Carolyn, who recently retired as Director of Dance Costumes at UNC School of the Arts, has since then been hand-making new shields for the apostles. "At last year's Feast of Lights, from where I was sitting in the choir, I could see the shields needed redoing," said Carolyn. "I love doing hand work, so I decided to do them myself. I'm having a blast!"

Before Thanksgiving, Emily began recruiting the cast and crew. "I start by asking people who volunteered in the past, and so many of them—individuals and whole families—tell me this is their event and they would love to participate again," she said.

One such "regular" is Jonathan Blanco, who has portrayed Judas for most of the past decade. "I started off as a normal apostle, and then the Judas role opened up and I've done it ever since," he said. "It's fun to run out of the church and throw the money down, and a lot less lonely since I started taking off the beard and wig and coming back inside to light a candle with the rest of the congregation."