

Transcript of “Telling Our Story” Notes
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
June 1, 2008

Attendees:

Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens
Rev. Erik Larsen
Rev. Joseph Krasinski
Robert Osborne

Rev. Peggy Sullivan
Rev. Fred Kuhlman
Approx. 46 parishioners

[Note: minor spelling errors have been corrected.]

Sheet 1

- 1837 - Rectory built
- 1947 - St. Paul’s Fair #1
- Net profit \$1,012.00
- To build a new bldg.
- 1950’s - Small congregation
- Elderly
- Communion once a month
- Nelson Pearson – Rector
- Sat on the roof to visit parishioner
- Mr. Pearson designed parish hall used today
- Retired from this parish
- Leroy Anderson was a parishioner

Sheet 2

- 1960’s - Peter Paul president’s family donated money to finish parish hall which prior to that was too far away.
- Builder was from this parish
- New Yorkers on the weekend
- Earl Estabrook – Rector
- Parish developed higher profile in the community.
- Boy Scout troop formed
- Youth minister – Chip Stevens, shared ministry with Southbury

Sheet 3

- 1970’s - Zoning brought in antique business
- Population up to 7000 again
- Active ECW, evening guild
- Brotherhood of St. Andrew
- First electronic organ
- Mr. Estabrook was a gentle pastoral type rector for 16 years retired in 1976 (’61 – ’76)

Sheet 4

- 1977 - Doug Wigner became rector
- Liturgical change started to take place.
- 8:00 – Rite I
- 9:00 – Rite I
- 11:00 – 1928 BCP
- Some discontent with changes
- Rectory was very dynamic and handled the changes well; very ecumenical
- Heritage Village brought influx to the parish with generous support all around.
- Cursillo movement began '79 – early '90's

Sheet 5

- Growing strong parish
- Town was growing, too
- Lots of activity for youth
- '73-'73 woman elected warden causing some discontent
- Early communion handled very well with youngsters
- SCANDAL – very trying time for the parish (closure) – was a problem for many in the parish

Sheet 6

- The parish did not talk about scandal for very long time. Very emotional for the parish
- 1986 - Tom Kilbourn came in as interim for about 16 months – very part-time
- Laity carried much of the load during that time, pastured each other
- Renovation of upstairs
- Good pastoral care during the interim

Sheet 7

- 1986-87 - Search for new rector was very routine
- Jim Wheeler had to pay price for Doug – met with some resistance, first years were difficult
- Grew to 3 services due to increase in size – Sat. eve. [N.B. actually occurred circa 1998]
- Brown bag suppers to improve preaching
- Very spirit-filled
- Continued to grow and learn a lot through the years
- Parish changed – exciting – wonderful – painful

Sheet 8

- '90's - Great music program
- Large church school
- Last years were not so great for many
- 2 sides to Jim
- Organist problems caused some to leave
- Jim's spirituality drew people in
- Paris is moving ahead while still festering from past problems
- Jim didn't like to confront negative issues – did not like to “rock the boat”

Sheet 9

Good Leader

1. Listens on different levels
2. Listens to everyone
3. Has vision but is flexible
4. Encouraging
5. Able to act or validate
6. Deal with conflict resolution
7. Listen to all sides
8. Excellent interpersonal skills
9. Imparts the Word of God
10. One who is comfortable with themselves
11. Healer
12. Establish community with town

Sheet 10

Good Leader

13. Walks with Jesus
14. Spiritual revival

Challenges

1. Housekeeping issues – property maintenance
2. Finances – stewardship
3. Dynamic leadership with adults & kids
4. Nurturing environment for kids & youth
5. Enhance music program
6. Deciding what we want

Sheet 11

'90's – 2000's Patterns Observed

1. Grief has gone underground
2. Conflicts fester
3. Transition processes have been difficult to carry out
4. Parish responds well to good leadership