

100 Years Ago

December 2014

The following excerpts are from the Parish Record, a newsletter of St. Paul's from 100 years ago. Of special note is Bishop Hall's sermon at the blessing of the new pulpit exactly 100 years ago, which has been located in storage at the Vermont Diocesan office:

"There are two chief functions of the Christian Church, the ministration of God's Word and of His Holy Sacraments. The sentence carved around the pulpit reads, 'The sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.' That sentence is part of St. Paul's description of the Christian armor in the 5th chapter of the letter to the Ephesians. The breastplate, boot, helmet and shield are all parts of defensive armor. The one offensive weapon is the sword which the Spirit gives, the Word of God.

"Persuasion is the method of the Church. By proclaiming and witnessing to the Word of God is the Church's appeal to men's reason and conscience. The preacher must be familiar with God's word, not only in its letter and as to its historical meaning, but with its spiritual force and its manifold moral application. He must have felt its power in his own mind and heart, have exposed his own conscience to its piercing thrusts. So will he be able to bring home its message to others. He is to teach with authority, with the authority not only of his office, nor even of his message,, but with the authority of personal experience and conviction.

"The object of the ministry is to make men think and feel as they think and act as they feel."

"This pulpit is intended for a memorial of one who was for many years a worshipper in this church, a devoted and trusted officer of this parish, for 26 years its senior warden."