



St. Paul's Epistle

"To know Christ and to make Him known"



My brothers and sisters in Christ:

The 76th General Convention is now history, though it will likely take some time before we are all reasonably clear about what the results are.

We gathered in Anaheim, as guests of the Diocese of Los Angeles, for eleven full days of worship, learning, and policy-making. The worship was stunning visually, musically, and liturgically, with provocative preaching and lively singing.

Our learning included training in Public Narrative, as well as news about the emergent church, in the LA Night presentation.

We welcomed a number of visitors from other parts of the Anglican Communion, including 15 of the primates (archbishops or presiding bishops), other bishops, clergy, and laity.

The budget adopted represents a significant curtailment of church-wide ministry efforts, in recognition of the economic realities of many dioceses and church endowments, which will result in the loss of a number of Church Center staff who have given long and laudable service. Yet we will continue to serve God's mission, throughout The Episcopal Church and beyond. This budget expects that more mission work will continue or begin to take place at diocesan or congregational levels. Religious pilgrims, from the Israelites in the desert to Episcopalians in Alaska or Haiti, have always learned that times of leanness are opportunities for strengthened faith and creativity.

As a Church, we have deepened our commitments to mission and ministry with "the least of these" (Matthew 25). We included a budgetary commitment of 0.7% to the Millennium Development Goals, through the NetsforLife® program partnership of Episcopal Relief & Development. That is in addition to approximately 15% of the budget already committed to international development work.

We have committed to a domestic poverty initiative, meant to explore coherent and constructive responses to some of the worst poverty statistics in the Americas: Native American reservations and indigenous communities.

Justice is the goal, as we revised our canons (church rules) having to do with clergy discipline, both as an act of solidarity with those who may suffer at the hands of clergy and an act of pastoral concern for clergy charged with misconduct.

The General Convention adopted a health plan to serve all clergy and lay employees, which is expected to be a cost-savings across the whole of the United States portion of the Church. Work continues to ensure adequate health coverage in the non-U.S. parts of this Church. The Convention also mandated pension coverage for lay employees.

Liturgical additions were also included in the Convention's work, from more saints on the calendar to prayers around reproductive loss.

What captured the headlines across the secular media, however, had to do with two resolutions, the consequences of which were often misinterpreted or exaggerated. One, identified as D025, is titled "Anglican Communion: Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion." It



- reaffirms our commitment to and desire to pursue mission with the Anglican Communion;
- reiterates our commitment to Listening Process urged by Lambeth Conferences of 1978, 1988, and 1998;
- notes that our own participation in the listening process led General Convention in 2000 to "recognize that the baptized membership of The Episcopal Church includes same-sex couples living in lifelong committed relationships 'characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God'";
- recognizes that ministry, both lay and ordained is being exercised by such persons in response to God's call;
- notes that the call to ordained ministry is God's call, is a mystery, and that the Church participates in that mystery through the process of discernment;
- acknowledges that the members of The Episcopal Church, and of the Anglican Communion, are not of one mind, and that faithful Christians disagree about some of these matters.

The other resolution that received a lot of press is C056, titled "Liturgies for Blessings." The text adopted was a substitute for the original, yet the title remains unchanged. It

- acknowledges changing circumstances in the U.S. and elsewhere, in that civil jurisdictions in some places permit marriage, civil unions, and/or domestic partnerships involving same-sex couples, that call for a pastoral response from this Church;
- asks the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, and the House of Bishops, to collect and develop theological and liturgical resources for such pastoral response, and report to the next General Convention;
- asks those bodies to invite comment and participation from other parts of this Church and the Anglican Communion;
- notes that bishops may provide generous pastoral responses to the needs of members of this Church;
- asks the Convention to honor the theological diversity of this Church in regard to matters of human sexuality.

Continued on Page 2

FROM THE DEACON'S DEN...

Christian Formation

As I begin my role as manager of Christian Formation, we need to develop a database where all of the young students information is in one spot as we fill out routine documents or face an emergency situation.

So we ask every family who has a child or young adult in the parish to fill out the registration form that is included in this month's Epistle. That will begin the changes that we hope will benefit everyone involved in the program. Please fill this out whether your young people attend Sunday classes or not.

You might have noticed that there is a new name for what used to be called Sunday School or Christian Education. The name comes from the idea that formation lasts an entire lifetime from the time we are born until the day we die. Education and school were both designed with an end in mind called graduation. We never graduate from being a Christian, we spend our entire lives being formed in God's image.

Not only will the name change, but the way everything is handled will change. As manager, I will head a committee which will make decisions on curricula and calendar and other issues. The committee members will be able to take parents' or students' questions and get them answered. If you are interested in being a member of the Christian Formation committee, please contact the parish office or my home phone number.

We also need volunteers for Sunday class teachers. I will be contacting the current teachers to see if they will be returning next year. I would hope that we can develop a team teaching approach that will allow teachers to have

time off during the year so that they can attend conferences and have family time away from their Sunday duties.

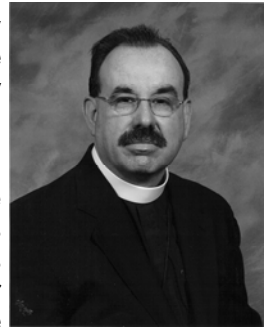
With new curricula and a rotating commitment, we hope to have classes going with regular members of the team every Sunday classes are in session. We are looking for volunteers here, too. Again, please contact the parish office or my home phone number.

The Confirmation class is planning **Youth Sunday on September 20**. As part of their study of the liturgy, they will be designing the 11:00 am liturgy for that Sunday. The young adults of the parish will fill all of the roles that the BCP allows on that day. The children's choir will have a special role. We encourage everyone to come and enjoy.

All of these plans can only be a success if we have many volunteers, both young and old. We would ask you to pray about this and act. It might be easier if you look at where you might help and speak to me *before* I tap you on the shoulder.

All of this would not be possible without parents and grandparents who get up early on Sunday to see that everyone is here and on time. To those parents and parent figures, to the teachers who work so hard, to those volunteers who are filling in over the summer, thank you for your efforts. To the children and young adults, we are trying to get you involved, for you are the church now and in the future.

Deacon Bob



Continued from Page 1. Presiding Bishop's letter to the church on General Convention

The full text of both resolutions is available at: <http://gc2009.org/ViewLegislation>. I urge you to read them for yourself. Some have insisted that these resolutions repudiate our relationships with other members of the Anglican Communion. My sense is that we have been very clear that we value our relationships within and around the Communion, and seek to deepen them. My sense as well is that we cannot do that without being honest about who and where we are. We are obviously not of one mind, and likely will not be until Jesus returns in all his glory. We are called by God to continue to wrestle with the circumstances in which we live and move and have our being, and to do it as carefully and faithfully as we are able, in companionship with those who disagree vehemently and agree wholeheartedly. It is only in that wrestling that we, like Jacob, will begin to discern the leading of the Spirit and the blessing of relationship with God.

Above all else, this Convention claimed God's mission as the heartbeat of The Episcopal Church. I encourage every member of this Church to enter into conversation in your own congregation or diocese about God's mission, and where you and your faith community are being invited to enter more deeply into caring for your neighbors, the "least of these" whom Jesus befriends.

*The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church*

Time, Talents and Treasures

Our church is blessed with many Parishioners who possess a wide range of talents and skills. There are many individuals throughout the history of St. Paul's who have eagerly contributed their talents so that the church can fulfill its call to know Christ and make Him known.

As everyone in St. Paul's enjoys the slower pace of the summer season, please take a little bit of time to prayerfully consider what you can do as we move toward the fall. We have many opportunities open for service and there is always room for another set of hands and eyes to help with our numerous activities related to our mission.

The Stewardship Committee extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone in the Parish for its ongoing support of St. Paul's.

FINANCIAL POSITION...

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Year to date Total Income | \$104,258.58 |
| Year to date Budgeted Income | \$111,445.90 |
| Difference | -\$7,187.32 |

Please review your pledge giving to date. We would appreciate anything you can do to help us reduce the current deficit.



Gifts for the month of July



- **King Jesus**, a Novel by Robert Graves, was donated to our church library by Ginny and Dick Kurth.
- A gift to the Rector's Discretionary Fund was given by Susan Strickland.

Get St. Paul's Epistle by EMAIL: If you would like to receive our newsletter, St Paul's Epistle, via email in place of the traditional paper copy, simply provide your email address in the space provided, and return this form to the church office.

Yes! Please send me the church newsletter via email. **My name:** _____

My email: (please PRINT clearly) _____

You may also email your request to: stpauls@stpaulsnc.org

OUTREACH NEWS . . .



10YEARANNIVERSARY

Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief organization that coordinates the distribution of food and other life-saving aid around the world. The organization is driven by a vision to end world hunger in our lifetime and a mission to provide food and life-saving aid to the world's most destitute and hungry in the most sustainable, efficient and effective manner.

Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program is a volunteer-based effort through which participants package high protein, dehydrated meals for use in crisis situations and which provides a highly nutritious meal to support school feeding programs in schools and orphanages around the world.

In its efforts to respond to emergency needs around the world Stop Hunger Now receives and distributes significant donations of in-kind aid. These donations are large quantities of food, medicines, medical supplies and other such items as may be of use in fighting hunger and providing relief in a crisis.

Mark your calendars now, the next Stop Hunger Now event at St. Paul's will be February 6, 2010. For more information contact Jane Hawk.



Clothes to Military Families

Thank you to those who volunteered their time on June 28th by cutting labels out of donated clothes. The clothes were donated to needy military families at Ft. Bragg.

Equal Exchange Coffee

Remember to buy your *Equal Exchange Coffee* from the Outreach Committee! The price is \$7 per bag. Checks can be made payable to St. Paul's with 'Outreach-coffee' written on the memo line.

(The coffee is available in the basket in Lawrence Hall.)

When you purchase this product, you join a network that enables farmers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia to stay on their land, support their families, plan for the future, and care for the environment. Through Fair Trade we can create a more equitable world.



Ten Things You Never Hear in Church - mikeysfunnies.com

1. "Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew!"
2. "I was so enthralled, I never even noticed your sermon went 25 minutes overtime."
3. "Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf."
4. "I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I've been sending to TV Evangelists."
5. "I'll volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class."
6. "Forget the denominational minimum salary. Let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do!"
7. "I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before."
8. "Since we're all here, let's start the service early!"
9. "Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas."
10. "Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment to the Lord like our annual stewardship campaign."

FELLOWSHIP . . .

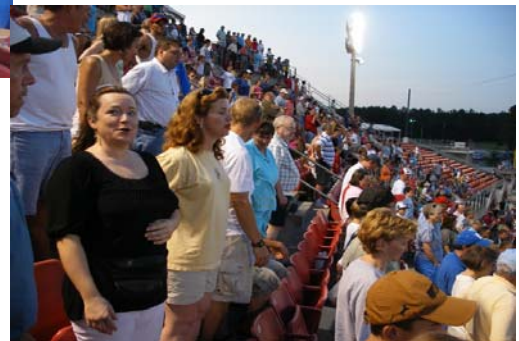


Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Parishioners of St. Paul's came out to support the Carolina Mud Cats for fun and fellowship Saturday, June 27th. Look for more information about our next trip to see the Mud Cats play during August!



Group Lottery Winner
Tess Shepherd



ST. PAUL'S BULLETIN BOARD...



2nd Annual Old Fashioned

Ice Cream Social

Hot Dogs and Homemade Ice Cream

August 23rd

after the 11:00 service (12:30)

Fun and Games for

Everyone!

(bring a change of clothes if you are concerned about getting dirty)



Parish Picnic!

September 6th

5:00

at the Rectory!

Look for additional information in the week's to come!!



The ECW will not meet during the summer months, but will start up again in September.

We'd like to remind all the women of St. Paul's that you are members of ECW are welcome to all our meetings!

See you in September and have a wonderful summer!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Ultreya comes to St. Paul's in September



The September Ultreya for the Raleigh Convocation will be held from 6 pm to 8 pm on Sunday Evening, September 13. All people who have been through a Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, or Kairos weekend anywhere or who

might be interested in going on a Cursillo weekend are invited.

This builds on the success of the Group Reunion who have been meeting every Sunday at 9 am and sharing our spiritual life and growth, study and apostolic action. Ultreyas are a coming together of permanent Reunion Groups where ideas, plans, successes and failures are shared by the Fourth Day community.

The simple purpose of an Ultreya is to support and encourage this witnessing apostolic community. Only two things are necessary for an Ultreya meeting: 1. a witness talk that shares an experience of apostolic work, and 2. floating group reunions that share the collective lives in grace and apostolic works between all the permanent Group Reunions.

In the Raleigh Convocation, the meeting begins with a shared pot luck meal. Those with names ending in vowels bring drinks. People with names ending in consonants bring food of their choosing. Following the witness talk,

there is a lay response. The third response is given by clergy or a member of the Servant Council. The witness talks inspire others with courage and new ideas for apostolic action.

The floating group reunions will pass ideas and experiences of the work of evangelism across Ultreya community. The Group Reunion and the Ultreya provide the means of sustaining and renewing apostolic leadership by linking Christians together in small groups, and in community. Both of these are unique to the Cursillo Fourth Day.

Deacon Bob

