



St. Paul's Epistle

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

FROM THE RECTOR...

What?!? It is July already?? Where has 2009 gone? Where has the past two years gone? As of July 1, I have now been serving as the Rector of St. Paul's for 2 years. In many ways, it seems like only yesterday that I was unpacking boxes in my office, preparing my first sermon and trying desperately to learn your names.

A lot has changed over the past 2 years. We have celebrated three weddings, one renewal of vows, and sadly, said goodbye through the Burial Service to ten of our parishioners. As far as new members, we have transferred in, baptized and/or confirmed 45 new members over the past 2 years, while only about 10 have transferred out. Average Sunday attendance for 2009 is around 115, which is up from 84 for the same period in 2007, the time just before my arrival.

While these numbers may seem impressive, they aren't as impressive to me as what I have been witnessing the past two years. I have been witnessing a growing community dedicated to each other and the love of God. Regardless of the size of that community, without that dedication and commitment, the community will not exist, cannot grow, and will not share the Gospel of Christ.

For example, I have witnessed this community gather for Stop Hunger Now and package meals for people around the world. This is a selfless act of love and response to Jesus' call to "feed my children." I have witnessed this community come together, just this past weekend, and sort and inventory clothing, so that it may be given to those in need. This is yet another

selfless act of giving your time to those in need. In regard to both of these events, I am not talking about 5 or 10 people gathering. I am talking about 45 people or more gathering! Now those numbers are impressive! At both events, the age range was from 6 to 90+. Now that is impressive!



A couple more examples: In May we held the Spring picnic at the Rectory. There were over 70 people in attendance. In April, we held the Easter Party for the Youth (of all ages) of the parish and there were over 70 people in attendance. Just last week, the Men's group of the church sponsored a trip to see a Mudcat's baseball game, we had 45 people in attendance. The sense of community that this church shares is very impressive!

On July 5, the Gospel lesson is about Jesus' sending out his disciples. He sends them to a teaching and servant ministry that must take place in a community. I feel fortunate that God has sent this disciple to serve amongst the community of servant disciples at St. Paul's in Smithfield, NC. God has truly blessed us with an amazing two years. I look forward to the amazing future that God has in store for all of us.

Kenny



GENERAL CONVENTION JULY 8-17, 2009...

- During General Convention, there will be numerous news releases from Episcopal News Service (ENS) on Episcopal Life Online. It's easy to subscribe (or unsubscribe), and it's free. News releases come by e-mail. Go to www.episcopalchurch.org/ens.htm, and click on "Receive Episcopal Life news in your email" at the bottom of the home page, located on the line "ONLINE".
- The General Convention website is www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.htm.
- Information from the Episcopal News Service will also be posted on our diocesan website, www.episdionc.org, daily.

FROM THE DEACON'S DEN...

What is the History of the Diaconate?

From the very earliest days of the church, deacons were understood to occupy a special place in the Christian Community, set apart along with the bishops and, later, the presbyters or priests for a special role modeled on that of Christ himself.

Some believe that the very origin of the diaconate is recorded in the New Testament. But, like everything else in the Episcopal church, there is discussion about where. James Barnett, in *The Diaconate: a Full and Equal Order*, makes the case for Jesus himself calling disciples to act as deacons.

Deacon occurs frequently in the New Testament and is sometimes applied to Christ himself. In Chapters 9 and 10 of Luke, Jesus sends out the 70 with some of His duties from the Father that will become the model for the diaconate. A second scriptural origin is in the sixth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

A complaint was made that some widows were not receiving the food they needed. The apostles were concerned that they did not have enough time to attend to the ministry of the word of God as well as "wait on tables." They used the model Jesus did when he sent out the 70 to solve this problem.

These deacons were those who brought the bread of life to those who were socially isolated. This is why the seven were selected carefully as men "known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom." They were appointed, and "hands laid on them," as the early church's teachers and social workers where the need arose.

Among them was one Stephen, "a man filled with grace and power" who, for his courage in proclaiming the Good News of Christ, soon became the first Christian martyr. While these seven early Christians were not deacons in the developed sense, the account in Acts accords with the understanding of the diaconate as it emerged and evolved in the church. This was before the need for establishment of the presbyter arose.

Before the time of the Pastor who wrote 1 Timothy, women as well as men were being selected as deacons. Deacon Phoebe, mentioned in Romans 16:1, of Corinth and her sister deacons were essential in being able to visit women in their homes and also in the baptism of women to preserve their modesty.

By the late fourth century, women deacons were the norm at least as far west

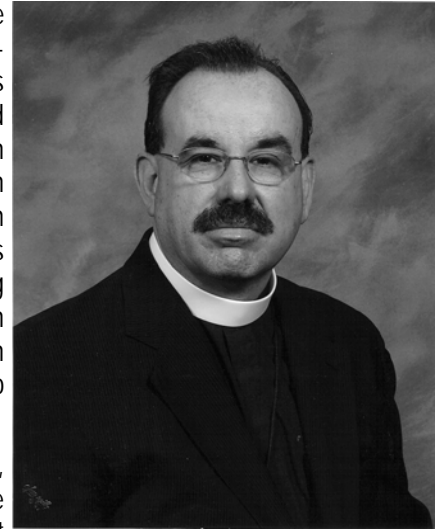
as Greece. Women were referred to as *Diakonos* in official documents as late as the 14th century.

In the early church, deacons worked more closely with their bishops than with the presbyters in order to serve the Church of God. Bishop Ignatius referred to a deacon as his co-slave in the service of God in Christ. The deacon was also responsible for most of the business of the church as he or she was dealing with the world outside the church doors.

And, then, the trouble began. *The history lesson continues next issue.*

Deacon Bob

with help from the Anglican Deacons Website <http://www.dace.org>



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN...

One of the best things about the summer season is that things seem to slow down. People go on vacations, many of our students are out of school for the season, and we have a lot of opportunities to get outdoors and enjoy fishing, hiking, and that all-important weekend picnic with the family.

I know that many times the temptation is to play hooky on Sundays and take that day-trip to the beach, play golf, or just spend time with the kids. I would less than truthful if I said that I never fell into that trap myself. I have good news - the church can help with this!

On those weekends where you don't leave town but want to get away on Sundays, you can go to the eight o'clock service. My family and I have had the opportunity to attend these services

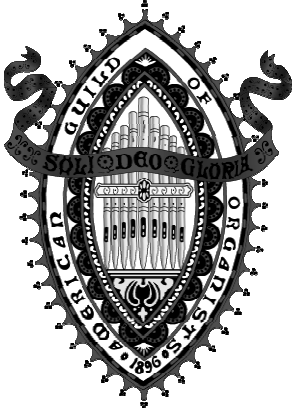
and they are great! Although there are differences between the more formal format of the eleven o'clock service, I find the services to be a wonderful way to worship Christ early in the day before the cares of life (not to mention the heat of the summer) begin to try to interfere with my concentration on Him.

Please keep the eight o'clock service in mind as you plan your personal schedule. The "eight o'clockers" are great and I come away from the service refreshed and ready for the new week. As we move into the summer season, please accept my wishes for a happy, safe, and blessed summer season.

Yours in Christ,

Barry Brown

SUMMER CHOIR...



As of June, the choir stopped midweek rehearsals for the summer, as we have been doing for the past 20 or more years. During June and July we practice on Sunday mornings from 10:00 to 10:45 am. Last summer and again this summer, we hung up our cassocks and surplices and began wearing black pants/skirts and white shirts/blouses the first Sunday in June. I will go to the annual Sewanee Church Music Conference at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee from July 13th through 19th. During August the choir will take the entire month off and special music will be sung by soloists, duets, and/or quartets. We will resume wearing vestments on Sunday, September 6th and midweek choir rehearsals will start again Wednesday, September 9th at 7:30 pm.

If anyone has an interest in a "trial run" singing in the choir during the summer, or in joining in the fall, please let me know. We are especially in need of a bass to fill the place of Ed Simpson who has recently moved to Arizona, but we can find a place for a soprano, alto or tenor as well.

The choir at St. Paul's is a fun-loving, friendly group. We have fun and relaxed rehearsals, but we take our singing seriously. Why we put forth so much time and commitment is really best summed up by the theme of the American Guild of Organists: "*Solely to the Glory of God.*"

Russell Wilcox

JR. WARDEN'S COUNCIL...

The Junior Warden's Council met on June 10th at 7:30 pm in Lawrence Hall. The purpose for the Council's existence was established, and agreement reached on several short-term goals. Considering the Vestry's current budget directives, we identified and prioritized several minor repairs for action. With God's Grace, we should see needed repairs take place around the church soon.

As the Junior Warden is also charged with being a "good steward" of God's gifts to the church, I want to personally thank Sonny Howard & Mike Weathers for their calling to serve our church in

this manner. They (the council) are invaluable "treasures" of knowledge and interest. As a result, this council will prove to be a very helpful resource for all future Junior Wardens, and truly, one of St Paul's most important treasures. Thanks again, Mike and Sonny!

Our next Council meeting will be held in Lawrence Hall on July 7, 2009 at 7:30pm. All interested persons are welcome to attend. For further information, please call me at 919-669-8465.

Bert Smith

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE...



Each of us are stewards for St. Paul's Episcopal Church. To that end, *time, talents and treasures* will be the focus of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Stewardship Committee. This church is very blessed with many gifts because of those who attend. Some of the gifts are known and some not. Unfortunately, we don't always have a good handle on how to tap into all of the great resources that fill the pews weekly.

In the near future, the Stewardship Committee will be

asking each of you to make us aware of those talents and times you have which will continue strengthening and building St. Paul's.

The church's mission is "to know Him and to make Him known". The more each of us can share our time and talents here at St. Paul's Church, the more the church will flourish within its walls and beyond which puts our mission statement into action.

Look for future announcements in the bulletins, newsletters and church announcements from the St. Paul's Stewardship Committee.

We look forward to working with you as you share your time, talents and treasure for the Glory of God here at St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

Stewardship Committee

NEW SUNDAY CLASSES REGISTRATION FORM...

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 and will be included in next 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 invite 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 looked at where you might help and spoke to Deacon Bob before he taps 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

FINANCIAL POSITION...

Year to date Total Income	\$73,247.69
Year to date Budget	\$79,604.26
Difference	-\$6,356.57

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

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.

The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord."

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL...

On June 14, David Baum and I headed out to our first Chartered Committee of Youth, or CCY retreat. The CCY is a committee that has members appointed by the Bishop to help govern the youth based activities of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

This retreat was both a leadership training session and a planning meeting for the design teams of the three main youth events of the year. We learned skills such as how to speak to a large group and into a microphone, how to break up a large group into smaller groups, how to lead activities such as games, how to listen, and how to plan worship services.

The three youth events this year are Fall Youth Event, from October 9th to October 11th for middle school students, Bishops' Ball, from December 11th to December 13th for both middle school students and high school students, and Spring Youth event, from April 23rd to April 25th, also for both middle school and high school students.

Currently, we are looking for adult chaperones to take St. Paul's youth to these events and partake in

the spiritual movement that takes place from seeing young people do so much spiritually. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Bob or myself for more information.

David Baum and I both felt called to be on the Design Team for Spring Youth, which is the group of individuals that lays out the outline for the entire weekend. There will be no Winter Seniors' this year, but that is because the CCY voted to turn it into a local outreach weekend, this year taking place in Charlotte, but next year there is a possibility of being three different regional events in our diocese.

Also, our youth Sunday is on September 20th, so be sure to mark it on your calendars, and notify Deacon Bob if you have any youth that want to participate. Thank you!

Kate Worley

ST. PAUL'S BULLETIN BOARD...

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!

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.



Save The Date!

*Annual
Seafood Feast*

*September
26th, 2009*

Gifts for the month of June

- Gifts to the Memorial Fund in Memory of Melvin Wilkins were given by Dr. and Mrs. John Booker, Jean Jones, Jean Andreus, Mary George Narron, and Patrick and Colleen Jordan.
- A gift to the Memorial Fund in Memory of Chuck Brewer was given by Thelma and Al Hoyle.
- A gift in honor of Jan Branch's birthday was given by Billy and Clara Wellons.
- A gift to the Rector's Discretionary Fund was given by Robert and Susan Shelton.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

218 South Second Street
Smithfield, NC 27577
Phone: 919-934-2675
E-mail: stpaulsnc@nc.rr.com



New Cursillo Group Reunion works on Fourth Day



In Deacon Bob's Trinity Sunday sermon, we heard what Cursillo was and that those who have gone on a weekend now live on in the Fourth Day.

For some, the mountain top experience is enough to get their personal ministry jump started. For others, the weekend was not that mountain top experience. Regardless of the experience, all are now living in the Fourth Day.

The Fourth Day begins on the Sunday night of the weekend and it represents the rest of the person's life. The Cursillo movement began with the Fourth Day only. Small groups met regularly in support of one another living as Christians in a predominantly non-Christian world.

The weekend came later. The weekend experience provides the foundation but the Fourth Day is the real point. After the weekend, those who attended join a Reunion Group and an Ultreya in their area.

The Fourth Day involves establishing a rule of life in which individuals are encouraged and stimulated to continue to deepen their spiritual life by means of the sacraments, prayer, individual study, spiritual direction and intentional action

Some of this intentional action includes Group Reunions, where committed individuals meet with others in small groups on a regular basis to review their spiritual progress in prayer, study, and action. The groups also plan ways to bring their Lord to other people. The group can also attend Ultreyas where Group Reunions get together with other Group

Reunions to share ideas and successes and disappointments in ministry to the world.

The point of the Fourth Day is to underscore and support apostolic action. The emphasis is on meeting in order to engage each other in a vital ministry, to share the grace of God with one another, to plan ways to share that grace and to hold each other accountable for carrying out our plans.

St. Paul's reunion group is meeting in the Deacon's Den/Youth Room every Sunday after the 8 am liturgy. Our first meeting of 4 Fourth Dayers and two interested people was on Sunday, June 14. We are planning for future activities.

Three members of the group also attended the Ultreya at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Garner that Sunday evening. The picnic with a purpose shared experiences from Cursillo members from the Raleigh Convocation.

There are a number of other parish family members who have been through Cursillo in different states and dioceses. All are welcome to join the meeting. Those who are curious about the weekend are welcome, too.

Deacon Bob

with help from The Fourth Day First, NEC Library

