



St. Paul's Epistle

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

FROM THE RECTOR...

As our program year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to pause, reflect and say thank you. Before I begin to say thank you, if I don't mention you personally by name, please do not be offended. Many people have worked very hard the past (almost) two years that I have been with you. However, there have been a few people that I have noticed that have gone above and beyond in their service to God and to St. Paul's that I feel should be mentioned.

Keep in mind the humility with which these people serve. They do not serve in order to be noticed by God, by me or by any of you. They do not seek notoriety. They serve out of love for God, out of selflessness to this church and out of desire to have St. Paul's be a hospitable place for all of God's children.

There are many people who help clean up our church following our services on Sunday. Every usher does a fantastic job collecting bulletins and rearranging the books. There are several people who come in and fold bulletins or newsletters or other materials that need to be mailed to the parishioners. However, Sherrill Weathers has been a Saint among saints. Week after week she has faithfully folded the bulletins and straightened up the nave. Sherrill, thank you for the gift of your time to all who worship at St. Paul's, the clergy of St. Paul's, and to God.

Almost every parishioner of St. Paul's makes use of the kitchen at sometime during the week or month. I commend everyone for the way in which they clean up after themselves, making sure that all the trash is put away and the dishes are clean. However, we have mice in our kitchen! Their names are Betty Smith and Jane Hawk! Betty and Jane come in every Tuesday and clean our kitchen from one end to the other. They make sure the refrigerators are clean. They restock the disposable plates, cups and utensils. They make sure that the kitchen is

equipped with everything we need to host all the events that happen here at St. Paul's. Without their quiet, behind the scenes talent of organization and staying on top of the needs of the kitchen, the social functions that we have would limp along more than any of us realize. Thank you, Jane and Betty, for your gift of Talent to all who socialize at St. Paul's and to God!



I also want to thank Rhonda Smith for her tireless efforts to lead the Youth Choir. She tirelessly gives of her time and talent to teach and lead this small, but growing group of youth. The youth could always count on Rhonda being present for Youth Choir. If she wasn't, you knew the reason was sincere and legitimate. Rhonda's dedication, consistent presence and love for the youth are foundations that the youth could and still can count on. Over the past 23 months, I have witnessed Rhonda provide for our youth, through our Youth Choir, a consistency not found in the ever-changing world around them. Thank you, Rhonda, for your gift of Time and Talent to the Youth and to all who worship at St. Paul's.

Now, in the liturgical year, we enter into the season after Pentecost. This season of the liturgical year focuses on the church's mission in the world. Sherrill, Betty, Jane, and Rhonda have given us examples of our individual missions within the church. This season after Pentecost, I hope that we can find our own individual missions within the church, and as a church, in the world around us. God has sent his Holy Spirit to guide us, to be with us, and to protect us. Now, go forth into the world, to love and serve the Lord.

Faithfully,

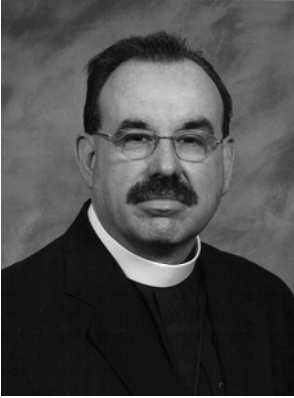
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SPECIAL REMINDERS...

- Please remember to keep up your pledges during the summer vacation months. Our bills do not take a vacation!
- A Cursillo Informational Meeting will be held on June 7th following the 11:00 service.
- Jr. Warden's Council Meeting will be held on June 10th at 7:30.
- The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will meet on June 11th at 7:00 - All men are welcome!

FROM THE DEACON'S DEN...



What Does a Deacon Do?

For the last 10 years, I have answered that question with a variety of servant ministries. Deacons often state that they live in a world of family, job and the line in their letter of agreement which says "and other duties assigned by the rector."

St. Paul's is the fourth parish I have served since my ordination and the first in North Carolina. My first assignment from Bishop Joe Doss was deacon at the Cathedral in the Diocese of New Jersey and I have served many bishops in that time including then Presiding Bishop Frank Griswald.

The word *deacon* comes from the Greek *diakonia*, which means servant. The New Testament use of the word was not to imply authority or leadership, but to convey service to the early church community. In one of the early translations of the Latin text of the New Testament, the Vulgate, St. Jerome translates the Greek *diakonia* generally as *ministerium*. Out of this comes the word ministry.

From the earliest time to the present, deacons work closely with bishops and are under the bishop's authority for direction. In the early church, deacons were sent out by bishops to care for widows and hungry of their community. Much of the work they did at that time resembles the ministry of our modern day rectors. This is because deacons were responsible not only for the care of others, but also for the administrative duties pertaining to the work of those in the church. Presbyters or priests were primarily responsible for the sacramental concerns of ministry.

In the church today, there are two types of deacons, transitional and vocational. Vocational deacons are those who feel that they are called by God to be servants. You will very often find vocational deacons working in soup kitchens or visiting the sick and shut-in members of the parish. They participate in servant role determined by the bishop or priest for a particular parish.

A vocational deacon is reimbursed for expenses but draws his main pay from a job in the world outside the church. My pension allows me to spend a few more hours at St. Paul's than most deacons spend at their parish. A deacon is paid if he takes on a job the church normally pays for. I have been previously paid as parish administrator and head of Christian formation.

Transitional deacons are those called to become priests. However, one is ordained first as a deacon. The practice in the modern church is that one cannot serve God in the church as a priest until first experiencing the servant ministry of a deacon. Transitional deacons are not any higher up than vocational Deacons. Both serve God in the church according to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

Deacons have specific roles in the liturgy which we'll discuss in another issue. Deacons wear their stoles over the left shoulder hanging straight down, or diagonally across the body. Deacons always stand at the priest's right side at the altar, and walk just ahead of the celebrant. The person who is celebrating in the liturgy, either Priest or Bishop, is always the last in line.

Over the next few issues, I will be writing about the history, the role of the deacon in the church, and my ministry here at St. Paul's.

Deacon Bob

OUTREACH NEWS...



The Lenten Fast collected \$ 225 which will go to *Heifer Projects International*. I hope we can do this as an annual event and that next year you will consider giving to this outreach project as part of your Lenten season. Thank you for your support. *Jane Hawk*



COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE NEWS...

The Columbarium Committee was most recently formed to complete the task of researching, building & implementing a formal columbarium at St Paul's Episcopal Church. To date, the members of the committee have completed the research phase, are now developing the needed procedures, and will soon be making final decisions on the project prior to beginning construction. Our goal is to complete this project in 2009.

John Scovil

ST. PAUL'S BULLETIN BOARD...

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.



Jr. Warden's

Council Members!

We will have a (1 hour) meeting in Lawrence Hall on Wednesday, June 10th at 7:30 pm

Contact Bert Smith with any questions

Cursillo Organizational Meeting

Anyone who has been to Cursillo or would like to learn about it, is invited to an organizational meeting on **Sunday, June 7th, following the 11:00 service, in church.** We will use this meeting to form a Group Reunion Membership that will meet weekly to discuss Piety, Study, and Action as directed in our Cursillo weekend. Deacon Bob will be in charge, and if you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact him at the church.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kate Worley and D. J. Baum for being appointed to the Diocesan Youth Council!

GIFTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

- A gift was given in *Memory of Charles Tolley* by Lyn and Beverly Jordan.
- A gift to the Music Fund in *Memory of Melvin Wilkins* was given by Darius and Theresa Rose.
- A gift to the Organ Fund in *Memory of Melvin Wilkins* was given by Russell Wilcox.
- A gift to the Rector's Discretionary Fund was given by Oliver and Allison Tolksdorf.
- Gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in *Memory of Melvin Wilkins* by Lloyd & Ruth Strickland, Frank & Betty O'Brien, David & Mary Stephens, Jim & Vicki White, Michael & Heather Gibbons, Kay & Terry Carroll, Mr. & Mrs. Billy Morris, Ross & Angela Lane, Susan & John Cashwell, Donna King, Peggy White Levinson, Steve & Betty Ramos, Jim & Joyce Gibson, Kenneth & Eva Baker, PPWHA of NC, Erma Fetzer, James & Michelle Collins, Plasma Inventory Control Group at Talecris, Elvin & Christine Johnson, Jr., Beverly & Lyndon Jordan, Betty Smith, Ken & Sue Ferguson, Lucy Burke Powell, Gabrielle P. Moretz, Norman & Glenda Johnson, Lidah Johnson, LaVee Holt Bailey, Julia & Earl McCullers, David & Jenny Batten-Wiley and Cathryn Zevenhuizen.

St. Paul's Booth at the Ham and Yam Festival



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2009 Memorial Day Picnic



Fun was had by all at the St. Paul's
Memorial Day Picnic before the rain came!

