



# St. Paul's Epistle

*"To know Christ and to make Him known"*

## FROM THE RECTOR...

### WAIT!?!?! What? You want me to wait?

When I was young, I collected baseball cards. I actually still have them...all of them. Unfortunately for me, this was the early to mid-1980s so baseball cards were being mass-produced and today, the cards aren't worth a whole lot of money. However, as a child, the cards were priceless...to me.

As a child, I loved to go to Hills department store with my parents. I would run off to the "toy section" and look at the baseball cards for the entire time we were there. Hills carried Topps baseball cards in these cellophane wrappers so that you could see what cards were on the top and bottom of each of the three stacks of cards in the packs. Since I kept precise notes of exactly which cards I needed to complete my set, I would look through the packs until I found the cards to complete my set, cards that were worth the most money, or found the cards that were of my beloved Atlanta Braves. (Jim White would have been proud of me!)

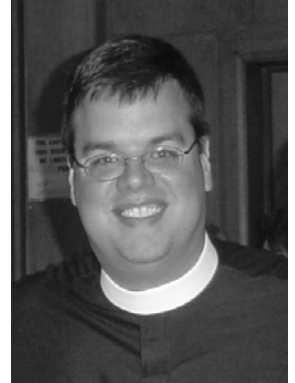
The "new" cards always came out in November, right after the end of the baseball season. I couldn't wait! I would save money all summer to buy these new baseball cards. As I got older, this obsession became worse. I even found a baseball card dealer where I could buy these cards by the box...and then, when I saved enough money, I could buy a case! However, buying baseball cards by the case was a temptation that I resisted.

It was the same about every year, when the new cards came out, I would buy one or two packs of cards, much of the time with my own money that I had saved from helping our neighbors or received for my birthday, every time I went to Hills with my parents. Often, my parents would buy me cards as well. They probably bought them for me more often than I remember. What I do remember, is that I got these wonderful cards! Then, around the first of December, Mom would start to say, "You know, Christmas is coming soon, you may

want to wait and see what Santa brings." And for years, Santa always seemed to bring those very same cards that I so desperately wanted in the Hills toy aisle, but somehow, couldn't convince my parents that I needed them right then. In the middle of the Hills toy aisle, it was as if it was the end of the world.

Now, as a parent, I relive these moments every time we visit Target or Wal-mart. Markus is still that age where he loves to visit the "toy section". A few of you have even had the "privilege" of seeing Markus' world ending as he knows it right there in the middle of Wal-mart. I realize more and more how caught up we are in the consumerism of the culture which surrounds us, even at an early age of seven or even 3 or 4. I was in Crabtree Mall in Raleigh before Halloween and they already had their Christmas decorations up with Santa's chair ready with a sign that said something to the affect of Santa will arrive after Thanksgiving. Not only have we skipped Advent, we have skipped Thanksgiving, All Saint's Day, and Halloween!

This Advent, wait. Wait as long as you can to begin to celebrate Christmas. Advent is a time to wait with great anticipation the coming of our Messiah, Jesus Christ. While we do live in a world where God is present every day and every where, the waiting on God to act, be, lead, guide and break into our lives and our world is the most blessed blessing one can experience instead of diving in head first into a world or situation that we believe we know best or we can control. Advent is a time to wait and then, when Christmas comes, when Christ comes, *that* will be the end of the world as we know it and it will be worth the wait!



*Kenny*

## A Youth's Perspective on Saving Our Planet



Our earth is getting filled up with trash. We need to recycle everything that can get recycled and try to put less things we can recycle in the trash. We all love our earth and we do not want to see trash everywhere we go. It will just ruin Mother Nature most of our land is filled with

trash. We all want to live, so what we can do to help our earth is to recycle our trash.

We can recycle bottles, cans, paper and more things. If we recycle all those items that will be good for the earth. We, as youth, would love that if everyone did that for our earth. Please **Stop** throwing things away that can be recycled.



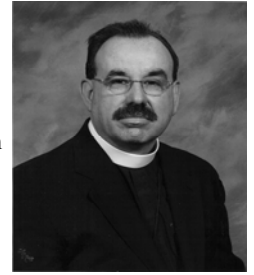
Thanks! So much for what you are doing to save our earth..

*Danielle Baranoski*

*Peace on Earth!*

# FROM THE DEACON'S DEN...

## Fourth Wave Comes to St. Paul's



I am the latest in a series of the fourth wave of deacons to be sent by the bishop to St. Paul's beginning in the 1990's. I am one of the men and women who were ordained as deacons with a social care outside the church and a liturgical base in a parish. I serve directly under the bishop, with my tenure based on the bishop's needs in the diocese and the consent of the rector.

Normally, a deacon serves the full term of the rector who requested the deacon and through the interim that follows. Any longer term depends on the bishop's needs and the desire of the newly elected rector to keep the deacon.

Outside the liturgy is the place where the deacon functions most clearly. It is the job of the deacon to bring the needs and cares of the outside world to the church and guard against the church becoming so focused on mortgages and buildings that the role of Christian outreach is lost or becomes secondary to maintaining things within the parish.

Deacons are charged to be the voice of those who have no political power in both the church and the world. They are charged with bringing the needs and cares of the world into the worship of the parish family and sending the parish family out to celebrate doing God's will in the world.

Sharing the cares of the world with all Baptized Christians, he is the person who activates the church's resources to respond to the problem. As the deacon does with all of his ministries, he is careful to respect the role of all of those involved in the world oriented ministries. The deacon is never to take the ministry of another parishioner but always to foster the involvement of others in the church's quest to make God's work known in the world.

The deacon is charged with maintaining his job outside the church so that he maintains his split focus. When I retired from public education in 2005 after 34 years in Speech, Theatre, Journalism and English class-

rooms, I worried about whether I could maintain that split focus but have found no problem in drawing on the experiences I had in teaching and administration in all grade levels over those many years. My memories of a longer career in all phases of theatre help, also.

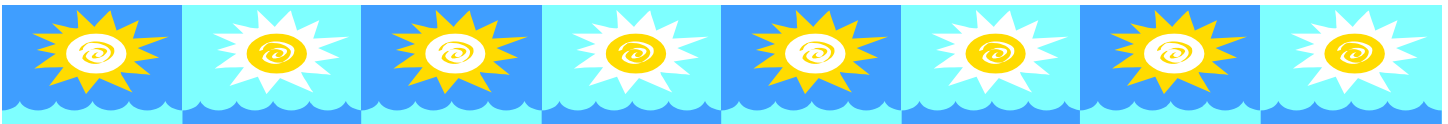
In addition to assisting other members to find their place in the ministries of the church, the deacon maintains one special ministry which he performs on a regular basis. Since I am no longer working at a job outside the church, I have two: volunteering at the Smithfield Ministerium Food Pantry; and coordinator of Christian Formation for the parish family.

At the Food Pantry, located at the Centenary United Methodist Church, I serve those in need who are identified by Community Services by giving out the food bags. Restocking the shelves, filling stock bags and, occasionally, counselling the clients keeps me busy on the third Thursday of the month.

As part of the Christian Formation team, I do everything that a principal or superintendent should do for a school system including teaching a class to prepare our young people for Confirmation. Like those school administrators, there is so much to the job that is done so that all find a way to Jesus that is hard to put into words. I do whatever God's love requires.

Wherever there is a need to give a portion of God's creation a voice in the life of the church so that they are recognized when they would not have been in the normal course of business or liturgy, there the deacon stands to assist their cry for help in being heard by the Christian community. Next time, we'll examine the deacon's liturgical role in the parish family.

Deacon Bob



## Sunday Morning Choices Abound

Now that our staff is nearly complete, we have our full offering on any Sunday morning. All the choices offer something different.

With the hiring of Brittney Stafford, the Nursery class comes on line fully. Not only can parents know that the same person will be available to be with their child every week, but they can feel secure with Brittney's medical service background that she will be able to care for their child and bring a little of God's love into their time with her.

We thank all of the volunteers who covered in the weeks in between to keep a safe place for our youngest. You were wonderful to keep the program going.

Our next staff addition is a joy for me as Jennifer Nasipak will be helping me with the Confirmation class. Providing another point of view as we learn what is needed to make the adult choice necessary at the January 6 ceremony, she will also help out with the Youth Group. She has jumped right in to add to our sometimes lively discussions and plans for an active young people's participation in parish family life. Jennifer is volunteering her time with us until she leaves for college in St. Augustine, Florida in early January.

Fully staffed are our Grades K-2 and Grades 3-5 classes. [Living the Good News](#) keeps the students excited as our teams of teachers share the curriculum based on the lectionary readings each week.

Another different choice is the Children's Chapel program. Based on the idea of figuring out what it means to be an Episcopalian, the Service of the Word for the youngest adds a different dynamic to the Sunday class program.

Adults are offered conversations on the Holy Land and the issues surrounding life there as they effect us here. During Advent, adults are offered conversations on the meaning of Advent and the liturgy of St. Paul's. Have questions about our liturgy? Come ask Father Kenny.

Each choice provides for a different way of learning what God is calling us to do through the Sunday Liturgy. The action starts at 10 am each Sunday. Come and find some choices that will suit your journey with Christ to find God's Way.

Deacon Bob

# OUTREACH COMMITTEE...



We thought you might like to know what St. Paul's has been involved in this year with Inreach and Outreach. These projects were accomplished by members of the St. Paul's Family, The Episcopal Church Women, The Brotherhood of St. Andrew and the Outreach Committee. Working together we have done much more than even the committees realized.

In addition to all of this work accomplished, we have, as a group, contributed almost \$ 7000 to outreach and inreach projects. This work was accomplished at a local and global level.

Even with the bad economic times, St. Paul's has done an amazing job helping others in all kinds of ways. We should all be very proud about the way we have worked to help our fellow man. Thank you for a job well done.

We have financially supported the Episcopal Farm Workers Ministry in Newton Grove, The Family Life Center in Smithfield, Heifer International through our Lenten Fast Collection, our Missionary the Rev. Lauren Stanley assigned first to Sudan and now to Haiti and the Smithfield Area Ministries Food Pantry. We have also financially supported children through the Secret Pals program at South Smithfield Elementary and West Johnson Elementary, as well as purchasing Fair trade Coffee which helps reduce the middle-man and gets more money into the hands of the native coffee growers. And finally, we collected money for the United Thank Offering, Penick Village, and Thompson's Children Home.

In addition to the financial support that we have given, we have given numerous in-kind donations to the Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry in Newton Grove, the Smithfield Area Ministries Food Pantry through our monthly collection of non-perishable foods, collecting of school supplies for the Salvation Army, donations of small toys for Operation Christmas Child, processing and giving clothes to military families at Ft. Bragg, and the sending of the Christmas cards to the Military troops on our prayer list.

And as if that was a lot already, we packaged and paid for over 15,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and many individual members faithfully deliver "Meals on Wheels", the Rector has distributed, thanks to the generosity of the members of St. Paul's, over \$2,000 to people in need in the community.

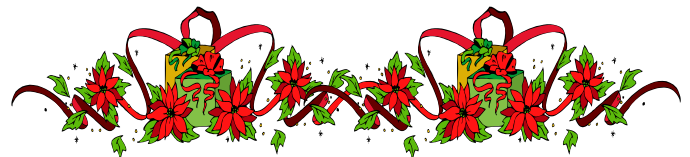
What is still being planned and/or just beginning? Check out the Missionary Board just outside of Lawrence Hall to find out about Mother Lauren's escapades in Haiti. Keep your eyes and ears open for a project through NC Interfaith Power and Light where members of St. Paul's will be asked to help weatherize homes for low income families. The ECW is currently working on a crochet project to send Dedunza dolls to Africa, and there is a group of women that is working with First Presbyterian and making prayer shawls. If there is enough interest, we will start our own Prayer Shawl group at St. Paul's!

Still haven't found what you're looking for? Check out the Volunteer Brochure or Opportunities to Serve Brochure that is available at the church with even more volunteer and service opportunities to find something that may fit your spiritual calling.



**Advent Fellowship and Discussion**  
Wednesdays during Advent  
December 9 and 16  
Soup Supper 6:00 (Lawrence Hall)  
Advent "Who Are We" Discussion 6:40 (Nave)  
\*Nursery care will be provided

*Please feel free to pick up  
Advent devotions, meditations  
and family activity pamphlets  
in the back of church.  
They will help you focus on  
the real reason for the season.*



## ECW

Invites and welcomes all Episcopal Women to our annual Christmas Brunch. It will be held at Billie Stevens' home (407 N. 3rd St.) on Saturday, December 12th at 10:00 am. Please bring a canned or boxed food item for donation to the Food Pantry and a wrapped Christmas tree ornament to trade. Please RSVP by December 9th at 934-9263.

**Officers will be elected at this meeting.**  
Come and enjoy visiting with each other.  
See you there!!



## THE ST. PAUL'S YOUTH GROUP CAR WASH FUNDRAISER!



*Was a huge success...the youth raised*

**\$263.97**

*Thanks to all who attended.*

# CHURCH FORMATION

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## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

### Candidates for St. Paul's Vestry

#### Joe Austin



The good people of St. Paul's were called our "Church Family" when I was growing up. That sense of being part of one body in Christ has stayed with me ever since and keeps me coming back. I was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's and served as President of the EYC from 1967 -1969. I taught Sunday School for a year between college and law school in '73 - '74. After raising our two daughters, Laura and Meg, and enjoying 27 great years in New Bern, my wife Gail and I moved our residence and my law practice to Raleigh, but we came home to Smithfield and St. Paul's, grateful for the loving reception from those who had known me man and boy, as well as the warm acceptance of new friends who had joined the St. Paul's Family in the meantime. I was elected to the Vestry in the 2005 - 2008 cycle, serving two and a half of those years as Clerk. I sincerely want to serve St. Paul's again. My vision for the future is one of a parish that shelters the steadfast members who are here every Sunday, offers solace to more new friends who come to us on the road of spiritual journey, and keeps the lights on and doors unlocked for family members, like yours truly, who will find their way home too.



#### Linda R. Beckett

I consider the Episcopal Church my spiritual home, and have for approximately twenty four years. I was married to my husband, Donald at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Wilmington NC. Don and I have been members' of St Paul's in Smithfield for 15 years. Since embracing the Episcopal Church I have continually found myself desiring more and more knowledge of Christ and the Episcopal Church.

My roles at St. Paul's of Smithfield have been, currently and actively serving on the Alter Guild for several years, serving on the Columbarium Committee, the Education Committee, and serving as a Chalice Bearer and as Lay Eucharist Minister. Additional church activities include attending and completing the Cursillo program at Trinity Center in the Eastern Diocese in April, serving with the Episcopal Church Women, and now attending weekly Cursillo reunion meetings at St. Paul's I am also continuing my Christian education through the Education For Ministry course of study program being conducted at St. Paul's and will soon complete my third year of study. I have been teaching Christian Education to the children on Sundays since February of this year. I would be honored to serve on the Vestry at St. Paul's because I have come to love the church and its members. I want to see the church body grow in spirit and in the community as well as embrace it's members who need and desire for Christian fulfillment. I feel that being on Vestry would allow me to be a part of this endeavor.



#### Sally Grunau

You may not see me every Sunday, but that is because I work as a nurse and am obligated to work every other weekend. I have been a member of St. Paul's Church for almost 20 years now. In this time, I have had the pleasure of serving on the Alter Guild, been on varous committees and have been a Vestry member. St. Paul's is a very important part of my life and, as a cradle Episcopalian, I value and cherish the rites and traditions of the Episcopal Church. It would be my pleasure and honor to once again be part of the Vestry.



#### Bob Harned

What an honor it is even to be considered for a position on the vestry at St. Paul's. I learned early on from examples within my family that service to the church was expected, not optional. As a "cradle Episcopalian" I began young: choirboy, acolyte, member of the YPF, during my college years teaching at an inner-city parish and a member of the college vestry, for eleven of my adult years as part of an outreach ministry to AIDS patients and their families. As for ushering, the truth is I do that simply because I enjoy it.

I have no wish to bring to the vestry any agenda of my own. The goals are already established: to glorify God, to work to strengthen God's church, to be alert to opportunities to serve God's people. I suppose I am at an age where I can claim a certain amount of wisdom and the benefit of experience, but I hope I will always be young enough to have some fresh ideas and insights to offer.

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## Harriett Lassiter

My name is Harriett Blanks Lassiter. I have been attending St. Paul's since I moved to Smithfield in 1985. Prior to moving to St. Paul's, I attended Holy Innocents in Henderson. As a young child, my parents brought me up as a Methodist until I converted them to Holy Innocents. Since setting foot in an Episcopal parish during my early childhood, I felt at home. At St. Paul's, I have been involved with Bible School, greeting the social committee and as a collection counter. I am also a member of the Columbarium committee.

I graduated Meredith College. I am employed with the Johnston County School System as a teacher assistant. I am a member of my school's SIT Team (School Improvement Team) who's workings is similar to the Vestry. My two children, Chase (age 23) and Charli (age 21) have both benefited from their time at St. Paul's.

We are entering a difficult financial year. However, we can survive. As a church family, we need to take care of our own, both young and old, while welcoming in newcomers. I am honored to have been nominated to serve on the vestry.



## Mike Weathers

I grew up in Jacksonville, NC and married my childhood sweetheart Sherrill and we will celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this coming January. I have a daughter Michelle who is married to a Special Forces Soldier, Adam Shaver with two children John Micheal who is ten and Caleb who is eight.

I was drafted into the Army in 1972 and after my enlistment then went into the North Carolina National Guard where I spent 26 years and retired as First Sergeant. I have been in the Point of Sale, Inventory Management for retailers for over 30 years.

I was raised as a Baptist and started attending the Episcopal Church with my wife. We started attending St Paul's regularly four years ago, I was confirmed in 2008 and I am a recent member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrews.

I have enjoyed my time with the family of St Paul's and am honored that I have earned the confidence of those who have nominated me for the vestry. If elected I will do my best to live up to that trust.

## Cursillo Looks to be a Place for All

In the past, Cursillo had been a place where ideas from the most conservative side of the church were fostered. Then, it was led by those from the liberal side of church politics. Taking the Via Media, Cursillo now looks to be a home for all who are seeking a closer walk with Christ.

Allowing space for all to share their views and seek their way to leadership in Christ's church to work out God's will in the world outside, Cursillo has become a place where all can share their views in a place of confidentiality.

Cursillo's goal of "Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ" is very close to our own parish mission statement. It calls on all to help their leaders to unite and bring the gospel to the world.

Cursillo's wish of "De Colores," the colors, refers to bringing all of creatures of God's world to praise him in celebration, song and prayer.

Cursillo has recently opened up group reunions to those who haven't made their weekends as well as those who have made weekends anywhere. For those who haven't, Weekend #100 has been moved to the springtime and is looking for you. See Deacon Bob, any member of the Group Reunion or come out to a meeting.



All are welcome to attend the Reunion Group which currently has of 3 to 7 attendees at 6 pm on the Sunday evenings other than the second one and share in this Episcopal renewal movement. On the second Sunday of the month, we travel to another church in the convocation and share in a Ultreya, a meeting to keep us moving onward in Christ's name, with members of other parishes in the convocation.

There are also Grand Ultreyas for the entire diocese like the one held at Camp Walter Johnson in Denton, NC on Halloween.

Deacon Bob

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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## St. Paul's Episcopal Church



December 24th

Christmas Eve

Feast of the Nativity

5:00 pm Festive Eucharist

10:30 pm Celebration of Music

11:00 pm Festive Eucharist w/service

December 25th

Merry Christmas

Office is Closed

December 27th

8:00 am Morning Prayer

10:00 am No Sunday School

11:00 am Service of Lessons and Carols

December 28th – January 1st

Office Closed

January 3rd

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Christian Formation for  
All ages

11:00 am Holy Eucharist

January 6th

7:00 pm Convocation

Conformation Service

with Bishop Curry