



St. Paul's Epistle

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

FROM THE RECTOR...

We have entered what I call the "mad dash to Christmas!" Everywhere you turn around, someone is asking you to be somewhere, asking you to go somewhere, asking you to buy something or give to something, or asking for more of your time, talent or treasure than you may even realize you have. Did you know that there are 34 hours in a day, 9 days in a week and sometimes even 6 Sundays in a month? Even with all of that time, there still isn't enough time to do, or enough money to buy, everything that needs to be done or bought between now and Christmas. Hence, the mad dash has begun.

One of the things that I always notice during this time of year is that we tend to see life from a "glass is half empty" perspective. We don't have enough time. We don't have enough money. We don't have... Not only does this run rampant through our personal lives, but then this spills into our church life as well.

Please, take a step back and begin to say "Thank you!" Thank God for the many blessings we have. Thank God for the time and talent you have to be asked to participate in the many events of our lives. Thank God for your children and all that they require of us. Thank God for the financial blessings you have and see what you CAN do with what you DO have. The Ingathering season of the Church, the time of the year where you consider your financial commitment to the church, is a time to say "Thank You" to God.

We must remember that everything we have is a gift from God and we are merely stewards of what belongs to God. Are we being good stewards with what God has given to us? Hoarding is not being a good steward. A wise priest once said that when you begin to think about the bank account over the ministry of the church, the church is beginning to die if it hasn't already. The church is not about hoarding money. The church is about spreading the Gospel and doing ministry. The Church is about sharing the love of God, not about saying we can't because times are tough. The Church is about preparing for a future by caring for those around us now, not about ignoring those around us now in the hopes that the financial times turn around so we can do more later. If we do not care for those around us now, if we do not share the love of God with those around us now, if we do not spread the Gospel now, there will not be a later.

We all are blessed by God. Our cups are more than half full; our cups run over with blessing. As we enter the Ingathering season, think of the many blessings you have. Think of everything that God has given to you over which you are to be stewards. It is not "ours." It does not belong to the "church." It does not belong to those who give the gifts. It all belongs to God. If we understand that God gives us 100% of what we have, and then we return 10% back to God, then we still get to keep 90%. (This is called proportional giving.) If we return 20% back to God, we still keep 80% of what God has given to us to watch over as his Stewards. If we return 5%, we still keep 95%. In the proportional giving model, figure out what percentage of your treasure you give back to God. Is it 2%, 5%, 10%? Are you happy with that percentage? If God gives you 100% are you happy giving God 2 or 3% or even 10%? We should all set a goal of what we want to give back to God. What is your goal, the Biblical standard of 10%, the Biblical standard of 50%, or the Biblical standard of 100%?

The act of giving to God and the church is a spiritual endeavor as we travel on our spiritual journey. The act of giving to the church is a duty we have as Christians. As you pray and reflect on how much of the many blessings you have received you are willing to return to God through St. Paul's Church, please consider the abundance that God has given to you and give out of that abundance. Your cup runs over!

Thank you for all that you do give to St. Paul's. Without your gifts of time, talent and treasures, the church can not function and ministry does not happen. This year, as you consider your pledge to St. Paul's, consider it as part of your spiritual journey. Prayerfully consider what you are going to give to God. Give out of the abundance God has given to you. Let the ministry and mission of the church continue and may it live and grow as Christ lives within us.



Kenny

FROM THE DEACON'S DEN...

What is the History of the Diaconate? (Part 2)

The trouble began over questions of political power not ministry. But, it soon extended into every area inside the church and into church relations with the world. The result was that the church turned inward and lost some of its focus on ministering to the world outside the parish family.

In the Roman or western church, even as the diaconate flourished, the causes of its eventual decline began to appear. This began in the fourth century. But, the process itself was a complex one which extended over many centuries and centered largely on the changing roles and identities of presbyter and deacon.

Deacons, rather than presbyters, were generally consecrated as bishops. Deacons became bishops and even popes more often than priests. Deacon Gregory, who became Pope Gregory the Great in 590, was typical of the period. As the presbyterate became increasingly associated with Eucharistic presidency, presbyters demanded to know why deacons had so much power.

As early as the patristic age, the very meaning and purpose of the three orders came to be organized in a new way. One's role in the Eucharist came to be the factor which governed one's place within the church. To illustrate this politician position, the church began a series of steps to place consecrating the elements at Eucharist and determining when a church member could receive communion as the supreme power in the church.

We still have a remnant of this in the veil and burse that covers the chalice on the altar. The veil was used to hide the sacrament, consecration and reception by the priest from the congregation whom he had deemed not worthy to receive the sacrament.

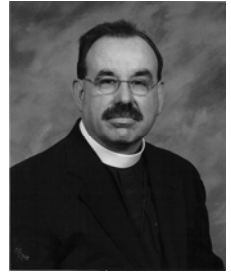
Only the priest could touch the chalice veil. No longer a full and equal order, deacons came to be assistants of priests, as they were to bishops, and, primarily, like the priest servers of our acolytes, at the altar to both.

By the fifth century the diaconate was becoming no more than an introductory stage in minor orders, a step on the way toward ordination as a priest. Its value as an integral part of the three fold nature of orders: deacons, priests, and bishops; was obscured.

In the Eastern Church, the diaconate did not face this decline. The practice of a distinctive diaconate continued to today's church but with a predominantly liturgical and much reduced function in the ministries to people outside the congregation. The Greek Orthodox Church has recently agreed to admit women back into the diaconate totally restoring their earliest practices.

At the Reformation, the English Church continued the historic three fold ordained ministry and the diaconate remained a transitional step to priesthood. After the Uniformity Act of 1662, it was common for men to be ordained deacon then priest on the same day, or within a few days, in order to license them to the sole charge of a parish.

In the 1800's, with the emergence of a new sense of professionalism among the clergy and growing awareness of huge pastoral needs in large urban parishes and newly populated areas, the diaconate was taken more seriously.



As a consequence, the diaconate was developed as a probationary year during which the priest learned his priestly duties under supervision. In one sense, this strengthened the diaconate giving it a professional identity. On the other hand, the move affirmed the transitional model.

In the past 150 years there have been four major changes, or waves, in the diaconate in North America. First, from the 1840s through the 1930s, came men ordained deacon to serve as missionaries to ethnic groups and in isolated communities.

Second, from 1885 through 1970, came deaconesses. These women were set apart by prayer and the laying on of a bishop's hands for care of the poor, sick, and needy. Third, from 1952 through 1970, came men ordained as perpetual deacons to serve in parishes. Most were older men, locally trained as sacramental and pastoral assistants.

In the fourth wave, beginning in 1971, men and women were ordained as deacons with a liturgical base in a parish and social care outside the church. The current emphasis is on deacons, serving directly under the bishop, who act as agents of the church in many ways.

Chief among these ways, they enlist, train, and support baptized persons in ministries of care. This includes the training of all people who serve in the liturgies of the parish. The deacon is second only to the priest in the parish as minister of the liturgy.

The modern deacon is a highly trained and skilled professional working as a colleague with the priest in the parish setting. Some deacons have been trained in seminary. Some deacons serve the church in a fulltime capacity such as parish administrator, archdeacon, other diocesan executive, or Christian Formation specialist.

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 do God's will in the world.

Today there are some 2,600 deacons in the Episcopal Church and about 270 in the Anglican Church of Canada, and the number is growing. In the Episcopal Church, at least three quarters of the dioceses have a diaconate program, and several have programs in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Deacon Bob with help from the Anglican Deacons Website www.dace.org and the North American Association for the Diaconate www.diakonoi.org.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE...

Mark these dates on your calendar and join us

November 4, Wednesday at 6 pm

A soup supper in support of the Smithfield Food Pantry sponsored by Outreach Committee, Episcopal Church Women and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. We will put out a basket to take contributions for the Food Pantry. Checks should be made payable to St. Paul's with Outreach in memo line.

After supper we will have a presentation on outreach opportunities presented by Meg Scovil and Dick Hawk. Please come support this effort.

February 6, Saturday - 9am till noon

Stop Hunger Now food packaging event. Our goal this year is 20,000 meals!!!! Plan to come. Ages 4 to 104 are invited to join the fun

Bishop's Blend Coffee

Try this coffee. It is wonderful and is fair trade coffee. \$ 7 per bag. Make checks payable to St. Pauls and write coffee in memo line and leave your check or money in the basket. Located in the basket in the hall outside of Lawrence Hall.

Missionary Board

This board is located outside of Lawrence Hall. Lauren Stanley is our missionary in Haiti. Read her letters and enjoy her pictures. We will keep this board updated as we receive pictures and emails from Lauren.

Her email is MereLaurenS@gmail.com.



ECW NEWS LETTER...

Our September meeting was filled with news and plans for the fall and beyond. Hope to see many of you at each meeting so that we can plan together. Our next meeting is October 17th at 9:30 at the Golden Corral in Smithfield.

In concert with the Outreach Committee, Jane Hawk asked the women of the ECW to help with a soup supper in November. The proceeds will go to the Smithfield Food Pantry.

Jane also discussed the "Duduza Dolls." Duduza Dolls are either knitted or crocheted by ECW members for children in Botswana affected by HIV/AIDS. They also go to Rwanda, Namibia, and South Africa. The doll's name means "comfort doll". A special prayer is said before they are mailed out. We have instructions on how to knit the dolls or you can go on-line. For more information on this special project go to <http://www.ecw-nc.org/blessed-and-botswana-bound/>.

We will be accepting nominations for offices for ECW at our next meeting. Officers for ECW will be elected at our December meeting.

We are still collecting labels A flyer has been placed on the bulletin board describing the type name etc to be collected. Please check it out. Also, Julia Elsee has suggested writing letter to our congressman about "Bread for the world." More about this at our October meeting.

See you there!!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER...

Stewardship is All about Relationship

What do relationships have to do with stewardship you might ask? Our relationship with one another as members of a faith community is a big part of stewardship. What we have to share and what others share with us is based on gifts and talents given to each of us by God. This sharing of ourselves shows God that we are striving to live in community as Jesus Christ has taught us.

Stewardship is most of all about our relationship with God. We may be tempted to consider what our stewardship accomplishes for others, because we think of ourselves as the "givers" of our time and talent and treasure. Yet anything and everything we have has already come from God. The effort we make to be good stewards comes back to us many times over as our relationships are strengthened with each other and with God. Could we learn a lot about our stewardship by looking at those relationships? Could we also learn a lot about our relationships by looking at our stewardship?

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone for their participation in the Time, Talent and Treasure Fair on September 27th. It was good fellowship and people took the opportunity to learn about the different ministries and signed up to help out with the ones that interested them. We have a great summary of the different activities going on at St. Paul's in a booklet titled "Opportunities to Serve". They were available at the Fair and if you did not get one, there will be some extras by the front door of the church.

CHURCH FORMATION

Young people show they are the church now

As DJ Baum began the 11 am service on Sunday September 20, there was a new atmosphere in the air. Yes, the words were those we hear every Sunday from the BCP and the music was the same wonderful sounds we're used to. Yet something was different.



As each young person came up to do their part in helping to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with the congregation, the mood in the congregation was light, yet prayerful. When the children gathered for DJ's and Katie's sermon, we delighted in the novel interpretation of the Gospel.

Jeffrey Smith gave us a look into a high schooler's activities and transition to college to go where God leads him in his homily. Like the *March of the Siamese Children* in **The King and I**, each young person came forward to offer a part of the Prayers of the People. The teachers past were honored. The teachers present and Christian Formation Committee were commissioned during the service.



The smiles of Tamara Brown and Lindsey Smith reflected the joy of God as they offered the chalice to each member of the parish family at the rail.

After the service with the coffee hour, the results of the Saturday practice where the young people baked an allergy safe cake and brownies along with other goodies and set up provided by Judy LaVista helped the parish family to complete the celebration of Youth Sunday. Thanks to all who made this a wonderful day.



On other CF matters, the new database is up and running. If you haven't filled in a registration form, and have young people in the church, we need you to please do it now.

Those who attended our first annual "Back to Sunday Classes" evening at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 9 heard all about the exciting changes in the Sunday Classes, team teaching and got a schedule for the year. We would ask one member from every church family to come on out next year.

We are still looking for help in both the chapel and the nursery. If interested, please talk to Deacon Bob.

All of this would not be possible without parents and grandparents who get up early on Saturday and 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 on the CF Committee, 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. Come and join in the fun of living God's Word.

Deacon Bob



FELLOWSHIP . . .

Thanks to all the St. Paul's faithful who attended.

Mudcats pushed the go ahead run across in the bottom of the ninth inning to beat the Mississippi Braves 6 to 5.



Georgia Will, Jay Will and Michael Miller watching the Make-a-burger race.

St. Paul's Mugs & Magnets...



We have St. Paul's Coffee Mugs and Magnets for sale! Show your support of St. Paul's by purchasing a pair of Mugs and a couple of Magnets!

Mugs are \$5 a piece and the Magnets are \$1 a piece.

They make great gifts! Proceeds are used to help purchase advertising for the church. Help spread make St. Paul's known to the community by purchasing your mug and magnet.

They are located on the table outside of Lawrence Hall.



Blessing of the Animals

On Oct 4, at 4 p.m. we will have a service for the Blessing of the Animals. Oct 4 is St. Francis' feast day. There have been many requests for this service and it is very fortuitous that this year that St. Francis' feast day happens to fall on a Sunday.



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.

Attention All Liturgy Servers:

As we update our terminology and make several small tweaks in the weekly liturgy, all 11 am service vergers (formerly minister of ceremonies), Eucharistic ministers, lay readers, current acolytes (crucifers, torch bearers, thurifers, banner bearers), ushers, and greeters must attend one of the **two training sessions on Saturday, October 10 from 10 am to Noon or Saturday, October 17 from 10 am to 12 Noon.**

Greeters will not need to stay the entire time, but the rest of the Liturgy Servers will need to plan on staying for the entire session.

All 8 am servers, lay readers, crucifers, current and new acolytes, ushers, and greeters should plan to attend the Sunday, October 18 training session immediately after the service.

These sessions will also be used as training for anyone who would like to volunteer in an area where he or she has not served before.

All new 11 am acolytes must attend both sessions.

Anyone who does not attend one of these sessions will not be scheduled beginning November 1. Please see Deacon Bob to arrange a special training class if this presents a scheduling problem and you would like to continue serving in these ministries.

Please note that the training sessions are offered as a means of help and communication to the servers. Those who serve in the liturgy on Sunday morning are of the utmost importance as we are there to assist the worship of those in the congregation. Thank you to all who are willing to serve and for taking the extra time out of your schedule to make sure that we are up to date on the liturgy of the Episcopal Church as it has been provided to us by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of North Carolina.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Convocation Ulteya listens, prays for Weekend 10



They came from Prince of Peace in Apex, Christ Church in Raleigh, St. Paul's and other convocation parishes. They got the fifty cent tour of St. Paul's and stumped the deacon tour guide with historical and hysterical questions. They prayed together. They laughed and shared their stories.

They shared a sumptuous pot luck meal crowned with a chocolate ring cake, pastries and fortune cookies. They heard about a new project in Kairos, the prison ministry. They were reminded that there's still time to go on the next Cursillo weekend from October 29 to November 1 at Camp Walter Johnson in Denton, NC.

They listened to Donna Ryder witness to her struggle to live out the Cursillo ideals while living in the real world of the Fourth Day. They responded with both touching and thought provoking insights to Donna's prayerful witness. Deacon Bob challenged them to find new ways to follow God's will and

"Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ."

They were some of those who had gone through Cursillo weekends anywhere in the country united by seeking God's love as part of a commitment to devoting their time, treasure and talent to parish ministry in our convocation.

A huge thanks to the members of our own reunion group, Sheila, Linda, Donna, Karen and Cyn, who set up, provided some of the meal, hosted the event and cleaned up afterward. Great job!

Our group meeting time changes to 6 pm on Sunday evening beginning September 20. Come out and join the group. For more information about this amazing weekend renewal, stop by our booth at the Ministry Day on September 27.

Deacon Bob

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