



# St. Paul's Epistle

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

## FROM THE RECTOR...

It was in my article for the September, 2008 *Epistle* that I quoted former President Bill Clinton. He said, "It is not the example of your power that is important, but the power of your example." President Clinton was referencing the United States involvement in the Iraq War. I was referencing how everyone who was involved with the First Annual Hot Dog Luncheon and Ice Cream Social to celebrate the youth of St. Paul's and the beginning of the new school year pulled together, came together and gave us a powerful example of what it meant to live together in a Christian Community!

We may not realize how much of a role we play in one another's lives. We may not realize the power we hold over people at different times in our lives. We may not realize the power, either intentionally or unintentionally, people hold over us at different times in our lives. These "relationships of power" are something of which we all need to be aware and something of which we all need to be wary. Power struggles are always self-centered and self-serving. They are always meant to place importance on people or material items that do not warrant the power.

As school begins, and I wander through the halls of Smithfield Middle School, I watch how some older eighth grade students may try to bully or scare some new sixth grade students. Or I see some tall students try to make the shorter students feel insecure or intimidated. I watch how these young pre-teens and teens who have seemingly found their confidence, roll around or over the seemingly shy or timid students, when in fact it is the seemingly confident students that are the most insecure. They are the ones hiding behind the facade of "power" and the seemingly timid student is secure enough about themselves to move over and let the "over-confident" walk on by.

When we seek and believe we are "powerful", stubbornness seems to be a close friend. As I quoted in my sermon last week, "The stubborn heart and mind are impervious to reason and may constitute one way to hide

insecurity." We get lost in our "power" struggles and become so consumed in our own stubbornness we can't hear the cries of those around us when we have caused hurt and pain to others and to our community.

You may be asking yourself why I am going down this road. If you are, keep asking. I want each one of us to examine our relationships with one another and see how our "power" relationships are doing. If they exist, remove them! In God's Church, the only "power" that should exist is between us and God, not between the members of the Church. Yes, we have a Vestry and Committee structure to maintain order and communication lines. Yes, the Rector of the parish and Bishop of the Diocese have the final say in most things. Those are the appropriate "responsible powers" of the institution. But relationships of power should not exist between the Church's members.

And the main reason I am going down this road is because this is where the lectionary is taking us during the month of September. We will be exploring the power of God and the relationships that God through Christ has with God's people. We will discuss where God's power comes from, Who Jesus is, and What it means to be a stumbling block. I hope everyone will attend all four Sundays in September. The lectionary readings will be very full of meaning and teachings. The sermons will be direct and to the point. There are many great events going on each Sunday to draw us into this community we call St. Paul's Episcopal Church and to draw us all together as equals.

See you Sunday!



# FROM THE DEACON'S DEN...

September bustles with activities in Christian Formation

Wasn't the Ice Cream Social fun? What a way to kick off the return to another of learning how we follow Christ's will on earth! A huge "Thank You" to Sarah Thompson, the Baum family and all of the members of the parish family who lent us tents, supplies or just came to enjoy the ice cream, hot dogs and games. Good conversation and fun marked the day. Thank you for being there to make the day a success. 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. The reason is that we have so many events planned and new materials to offer that you won't want to miss out on anything.

Your attendance is requested at our first annual "Back to Sunday Classes" evening at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 9. All parents, teachers, Christian Formation Committee members and anyone interested in the program are invited to attend.

We will present a calendar for the church year, an introduction to the new curriculum, an introduction to the CF staff and some intriguing new ideas for Children's Chapel.

Many of the ideas are not new to the Episcopal church, but, like the curriculum for grades K-5, Living the Good News, are rewritten every year reflecting our commitment to tradition, scripture and reason in an ever changing world.

Sunday Classes start on Sunday, September 13. Wednesday evening Adult Classes start on September 16.

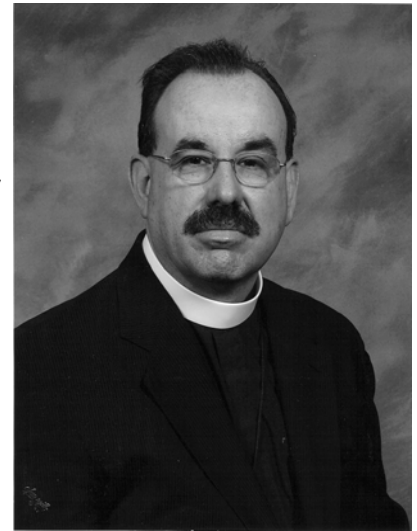
On Saturday, September 19, there will be an all day

rehearsal for the Youth Sunday service culminating in joining our brothers and sisters at San Jose mission for their Saturday Service.

Youth Sunday is 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.

On Sunday, September 27, the CF program will be participating in the Ministry Day Program after each service. Check out all of the ministries in the church and think about being part of the Christian Formation Staff for 2010-2011.

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 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*

**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](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsnc.org)

# STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE...

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## Time, Talents and Treasures

**TALENT!!! TIME!!! TREASURE!!! FAIR**  
**September 27, 2009**  
**IN LAWRENCE HALL**

The Stewardship Committee is having a Treasure Hunt! To find your talent and maybe a little of your time! Can you take time to listen, make curtains, bake a pie, teach a child, move a lawn, paint a wall or clip a bush?

### *What is your special talent?*

Everyone has a talent or two and we need yours!! Do you have a spare 30 minutes, one hour or more? We need your time!!

Please join us and bring your Talents and Spare time with you. Watch for more information throughout September. See you there!!

### *Stewardship Committee*

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We have learned about a volunteer opportunity to weatherize lower income homes. The good thing is that all they need is our help. We hope this will work out but will keep you informed if we can be involved. Do not forget about the Bishop's Blend coffee. It is really super and it is fair trade coffee and also supports Episcopal Relief and Development. Thanks as always for supporting the projects of the Outreach Committee.

## Congratulations Nancy!

Congratulations and welcome to Nancy Gibbs, the newest member of the St. Paul's Vestry. Nancy has been a member of St. Paul's since her family relocated to the Smithfield area in 1978. Growing up, St. Paul's has been a central part of her life and she has many connections with the Church and its parish. Some of her most important life events are tied to the Church. She was confirmed at St. Paul's, married at St. Paul's and her daughter was baptized at St. Paul's. Her Father and former St. Paul's Senior Warden, David Boyle, was laid to rest in the Church's Memorial Garden. Nancy's Mother, Sherry Boyle, is still a member of St. Paul's.

### **FINANCIAL POSITION** **AS OF JULY 31**

Year to date Total Income	\$105,034.36
Year to date Budget	\$111,445.90
Difference	-6,411.54

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

Nancy and her husband, Otis, are the proud parents of a pre-schooler named Anna. Nancy brings to the Vestry varied experiences of the Episcopal Church, as well as a vast experience of having served on several boards in the community. In addition, she brings a balanced interest in Christian Formation and activities for our youth, as well as young families and couples while maintaining an heightened awareness of our responsibilities and commitments to more mature parishioners.

Nancy's term on the Vestry will end in December, 2010.

# ST. PAUL'S BULLETIN BOARD...

## Youth Choir Rehearsals

We will begin on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> in Lawrence Hall at 5:30 PM.

We are open to any youth 5 to 18 years old who want to sing and have fun. We are going to be doing some new music this year that I think everyone will enjoy. Call me at 934-6203 if you have any questions.

Rhonda Smith

## 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.

## 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.



Parish Picnic!  
September 6th  
5:30  
at the Rectory!

Please bring a covered dish (with serving utensils). Drinks will be provided.

## Annual Seafood Feast

September 26th, 2009

6:00 p.m.

Billie & Tom Stevens Home

407 N. 3rd Street, Smithfield

Steamed Shrimp & Blue Crabs, new potatoes, bread & corn on the cob!

Attire: casual dress

\$25 per person

Adult Party

Name(s) attending \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Tom or Billie

# FELLOWSHIP . . .

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CAROLINA  
**MUDCATS**



## Baseball Fans

**Thursday September 3 is the date set by the Mudcats for the Group Appreciation Day game.**

The vouchers are here and each one is good for one general admission seat. (Grandstand).

The plan is to upgrade our seating to Box Seats as we had for the first game. This way we are guaranteed seating as a group.

The upgrade will cost \$3.00 per ticket. In other words the vouchers a good for \$5.00 off the regular price. While upgrading is offered, it is not required. First game attendees who plan to use their voucher, please let Dick Hawk know as soon as possible. Unused vouchers will be offered to others on a first come, first served basis. Anyone who wants to go to the game should let Dick know and he will add you to the reserved seat list. When the vouchers are gone you can be added to the list at the regular eight dollar ticket price.



The game starts at 7:00PM on Thursday, September 3rd.

## Look what fun we had at the Ice Cream Social!



## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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## Convocation Ultreya comes to St. Paul's on September 13

All members of the parish family or neighbors from any Christian denomination 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 to the September Ultreya for the Raleigh Convocation. It will be held from 6 pm to 8 pm on Sunday Evening, September 13 in St. Paul's parish hall.

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.

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.

Our own reunion group continues to meet on Sunday at 9 am after 8 am service. While we are exploring what life in the Fourth Day means, we are considering a time change to be able to add more of the parish family to our meetings.

If you can't make the Ultreya, stop by our booth at the Ministry Day on September 27 to find out more information about this amazing weekend renewal.

Deacon Bob

