



# St. Paul's Epistle

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

## FROM THE PRIEST IN CHARGE

### From Cradle to Cross and Beyond

The Third Sunday in Lent we sang hymn 673 as our Gospel Hymn. Linda Wilberger Egan wrote the words and music to this present day hymn, "The first on ever" in the latter part of the 20th century to celebrate the witness of women in the life of Jesus. Such a celebration goes beyond gender as it calls each of us to witness and embrace the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



"The first one ever, oh, ever to know of the birth of Jesus was the Maid Mary, was Mary the Maid of Galilee, and blessed is she, is she who believes." Our faith rests in an Incarnational God made known to us in the person of Jesus. Our Lenten journey makes us mindful of our own mortality, and of a God who loves us enough to share our human nature—even to the point of death.

"The first one ever, oh, ever to know of Messiah, Jesus, when he said, 'I am he,' was the Samaritan woman who drew from the well, and blessed is she, is she who perceives." Our faith is in a God who calls us each in the tradition of ancient Israel to be a "light to the nations," a people who proclaim the boundless love of God for all people for all time. Race, creed, class, gender, age... no one falls outside the love of the One who came among us and gave his life as a ransom for all.

"The first one ever, oh, ever to know of the rising of Jesus, his glory to be, were Mary, Joanna, and Magdalene, and blessed are they, are they who see." And finally, even in the midst of the brokenness of our lives—in the bleak mid-winter or the stormy days of early spring, our faith rests in a God whose ultimate "Yes!" outlasted the world's hatred and scorn. We celebrate and proclaim a God whom death could not contain—a God who lives. The Risen Christ may sometimes shake our lives like the thunder that sounded at his death and the rumble that shook the ground as the stone was rolled away, but in the end he is the God of Life who surrounds us, who uplifts us, and who in the power of the Holy Spirit fills us and makes us whole!



My prayer is that we will walk faithfully through the final days of Lent crying "Hosanna!" at his Triumphant entry into Jerusalem, recalling the times we proclaim by word and deed, "Crucify him!" That we may sit at table with our Lord on the last night of his earthly ministry, and stand courageously with the three Marys and John at the foot of the cross, realizing that without the violence of the cross there can be no Easter celebration. And may we have the grace to gather together on that first day of the week late in April with joyful and thankful hearts, proclaiming with deep faith and love that only God can give, the wonder and the hope of Resurrection Hope.

Lenten blessings and Easter joy, Jim+

## Jr. Warden's Spring Fling Workday!



Clockwise from top left: Joyce Gibson, Judy Eatman, Mike Weathers, Lloyd Strickland, Ralph Lavista, and Dick Hawk working inside and out!

## Jr. Warden's Spring Fling Work Day

I would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who partook in the annual Jr. Warden's work day! The day started off with a meeting on Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 in Lawrence Hall where it was kicked off with a full breakfast featuring Edie Pie's famous grits. Even one of our resident New Yorkers (Ralph) commented on how great they were! The group of 16 ranged in ages from pre-teen to 84 years young. All came with a love for St. Paul's and wanting to do what ever was needed. At the end of breakfast everyone was off to do the tasks that were best suited for them.

(Continued inside)

## NetsforLife Drive Continues

St. Paul's ambitious NetsforLife drive is on. Our parish has set a goal of sending 223 of the life-saving nets for Sub-Saharan Africa – that is one net for every communicant.



Consider that just one \$12, long-lasting, insecticide-treated net can save three lives from the suffering and death that comes from malaria transmitted by a mosquito's bite. That \$12 buys not only a treated net but the education and follow-up to combat the silent killer. By partnering with churches and faith-based groups in remote areas, NetsforLife, a program of Episcopal Relief & Development, trains agents to deliver the nets, educate about how to properly use and maintain the nets, and to monitor and evaluate net use. As of March 27, we have enough donations to purchase over 84 NetsforLife!

In the back of the Nave you'll find our mosquito netting with a basket filled with "No Mosquitoes" badges. For every \$12 you donate for NetsforLife please add a badge to the netting. Perhaps with the community's help we will even hit 300 nets!

Donations for nets can be sent to the parish (write check to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and please note NetsforLife on checks in the memo section), placed in the collection plate, or given to Kate Worley, Sarah Thompson or Jane Hawk. You may also donate at the web-site [www.episdionc.org](http://www.episdionc.org). Click on 'NetsforLife' and then 'Donate here,' and **please** click on 'Parish information' and note that it's from a St. Paul's member.

---

"We must love our neighbor with the same sweeping movement with which we love God. After all, there is really only one commandment: the commandment of love. Love of God is 'very-fied' - 'made true' - in love of neighbor. Any celebration pretending to center of God, to the exclusion of mending broken relationships, will fail in its quest for God."

**Leonardo Boff, *When Theology Listens to the Poor***

## "Volunteers are a work of heart"



*I have been thinking about Father Jim's sermon on 3/20 when he was talking about standing at the crossroads. He quoted Yogi Berra as saying "when you get to a fork in the road take it". Well we all need to take Yogi's advice and TAKE IT.*

*You at St. Paul's are the most giving group of people I have ever met. Thank you for loving others and showing that love in such visible and hands-on ways. Thank you for your wonderful support for the work of the Outreach Committee.*

*When **you** get to that fork, which way will you go? Here are some of your choices OR take all of the forks in the road.*

### Food Pantry

\* Each month, bring non-perishable food and place it in the back of the church

OR

\* Write a check each month (Food Pantry in memo line) to help purchase food in bulk

### The Giving Tree

\* Each month, take a card off of the Giving Tree in Lawrence Hall and place what you buy in the green box outside of Father Jim's office for our adopted family.

### NetsforLife

\* Purchase a net (\$ 12) for each member of your family. We have a year to buy all of our nets so buy one every month or two. Maybe you can buy extra nets for someone in our church family who cannot afford to buy nets themselves.

### Stop Hunger Now

\* Support this major effort by St. Paul's each February when we package food. The rest of the year, pray for this organization and their wonderful work.

### Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry

\* Place items in the marked box outside of Father Jim's office. Items needed:

Long sleeve shirts in **Small or Medium**

Toiletry items for use in the camps

Leather or rubber gloves (protection from pesticides) in **Small or Medium**

## Time to Sign Up!

There are several St. Paul's signup sheets just waiting for your name! Take a look and add your John or Jane Hancock on the line:

- There are still many dates available to sign up for altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one (**bulletin board outside Lawrence Hall**).
- There are open dates to sign up to host Coffee Hour (**bulletin board**).
- Save a life – give blood! We're hoping to have a Red Cross blood drive at St. Paul's. Whether and when we can host such an event depends on how many of us sign up. The blood you donate today may save a friend's or loved one's life tomorrow (**bulletin board**).

### A Word of Thanks:

Although our Jr. Warden, Mike Weathers, has already given thanks elsewhere in this issue for the hard work by so many at the recent workday, I feel it only right for me to add my thanksgiving and praise for the hard work of those involved in the Spring Fling Workday and in the many ministries taking place at St. Paul's. This is an exciting place to be living out our Baptismal Calling as the Body of Christ in Community.

But I would be remiss if I didn't also thank both Mike and Lagratta Mitchell, our Sr. Warden, for their most capable and self-sacrificing leadership! Indeed, along with the whole community, their care and commitment to all of us at St. Paul's is a gift of incredible grace!

Blessings, Jim+

## Friends of St. Paul's Episcopal Church Lawn Service

Due to ongoing budget restrictions and the possibility of renting the rectory, I turn to the **Friends of St. Paul's Episcopal Church Lawn Service** to provide lawn cutting and sidewalk cleaning this year. This volunteer service will save us \$400.00 per month for the two locations. These funds can be used to help with other much-needed maintenance. To join the Lawn Service, please sign up on the bulletin board outside Lawrence Hall or contact Mike Weathers at [H] 553-5738 or [C] 931-2477. Thanks to all of you for your assistance with this cost-cutting task!

Sincerely, Mike Weathers, Jr. Warden

## March Vestry Highlights

The St. Paul's Vestry met on March 22 at which time we

- Approved the 2010 Parochial Report
- Received the 2010 year-end financial report from the Treasurer
- Received an update on the ongoing reconciliation process and discussed the timing for the next step which has to do with healing
- Approved the language of a lease agreement which allows the realty company to show the property
- Received the Jr. Warden's report focusing on the March 26 Spring Fling Work Day and a list of quotes on maintenance needs. Options will be offered for parishioners who would like to do some of the work themselves or pay for the work based on the bids. The second option would be to contract the work.
- Heard an update on the organist/choirmaster search
- Discussed the need to consider the hours and pay for the Office Manager.
- Discussed the need for a fireproof file cabinet for office records
- Heard a plan for a May 21 progressive dinner to be part of our centennial celebration

## Inquirers' Classes in Planning Stage

**For those interested in Confirmation/Reception or Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

Jim Melnyk, our Priest-in-Charge, is in the process of planning an Inquirers' Class for those who wish to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church when Bishop William Gregg (Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina) visits with us on September 11. The classes will be open to those who want a refresher course in Episcopal Church 101 and to those who desire to reaffirm their Baptismal Vows as well.

If you are interested in confirmation/reception/reaffirmation please contact Jim as soon as possible (jmelnyk.stpauls@nc.rr.com).

We are looking at a couple of options for the classes. **Option 1** would begin with a day-long retreat on Saturday, May 14 (beginning with a light breakfast, breaking for lunch and finishing up around 4:00 p.m.), followed up by about six more Sunday classes through the summer. **Option 2** would be a series of 12 Sunday morning classes interspersed throughout the summer, but with a couple of breaks for vacation time. Option 2 may entail needing to meet during Sunday School hour and an occasion hour after the 11:00 service. Please contact Jim if you are interested.

# CROSS AND EASTER DAY ATTEST!

## Share in Christ's journey

Holy Week brings into focus our relationship with God. Seven days which change the shape of the world and the destinies of each one of us. The events in the final days of the life of Jesus leading up to the resurrection bring into sharp focus our relationship with God. It is a long-standing tradition of the Church to witness these events day-by-day. It is the experience of the Church that participating in this drama creates a deepened sense of the renewed life on Easter Day.

### Holy Week at St. Paul's

#### Sunday, April 17 – Palm Sunday

**8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** – The Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist. We begin in Lawrence Hall and process outside to the church, weather permitting.



#### Thursday, April 21 – Maundy Thursday

**7:00 p.m.** Holy Eucharist and foot washing.



The name Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means, "to command." It was on this day that Jesus shared his last meal with the Disciples. In the course of the meal, Jesus physically embodied the call to Servant Leadership by washing the feet of his Disciples, Judas included. This act was offered as an outward sign of his command to love one another.

#### Friday, April 22 – Good Friday

**12 noon** – The Proper Liturgy - Our observance of Good Friday revolves around readings from Scripture, particularly the Passion of Jesus, prayers and a homily.



#### Saturday, April 23 – Holy Saturday

**9:30 a.m.** – Proper Liturgy for Holy Saturday. This is a day marked by silence and waiting. It is the day we commemorate the reality that our Savior's body lies in a rock-hewn tomb, awaiting God's saving grace in the Resurrection of Easter.

#### Sunday, April 24 – Easter Day

**8:00 and 11:00 a.m.** – The Feast of Easter is the central moment of our life together in Christ Jesus. Join us on Easter Day for a Festival Eucharist celebrating the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.' Matthew 28:1-6b

## Easter Lily Remembrances

### Remember Your Loved Ones and Add Beauty to Your Church This Easter!

If you would like to remember someone this Easter, please submit this form, with your donation, to the church office by Sunday, April 10, 2011. If you contribute by check, please write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line. We will print the names in our Easter service bulletin. Forms can be mailed or dropped by the church office (218 S. Second Street, Smithfield, NC 27577) or placed in the collection plate on Sundays.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

## Welcome to New Members at St. Paul's!

We are happy to officially welcome among us new members who began worshipping with us in the second half of 2010. All three regularly attend the 8:00 Sunday service.

**Clara Stark** 919-550-2753  
952 Pony Farm Road  
Clayton, NC 27520  
claras63@nc.rr.com

**Patricia and Tim Wright** 910-990-2956  
81 Spring Branch Drive  
Four Oaks, NC 27524  
rtwo518@gmail.com

Welcome Clara, Patricia and Tim! We look forward to continuing the journey of faith with each of you!

## Baptism Dates

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be available on April 24 (Easter Day) and June 12 (Pentecost). If you or a member of your household desires to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism on one of these dates please contact Jim Melnyk as soon as possible.



Jr. Warden's Spring Fling Workday included the diligent work of our Sr. Warden, Lagratta Mitchell, Joyce Gibson, and some well-deserved rest by Judy Eatman and Edie Pie Wilkins.

(Spring Fling, continued)

These tasks were moving of classroom furniture, cleaning of the Narthex, Nave cleaning including widow sills and globes, organ pipe cleaning, library cleaning, window washing inside and out, air filters changed, outside walkways cleaned of cobwebs and insect nests, shrubbery trimmed, grass cutting, weed pulling, power washing, furniture repair, Jr. Warden's office organizing and much, much more!

**Thanks again to all the volunteers!**

Lloyd Strickland, Dick and Jane Hawk, Jim and Joyce Gibson, Sally Grunau, Edie Pie, Edie Lane and Mary Hannah, Ralph Lavista, Rhonda Smith, Lagratta Mitchell, Betty Smith, Judy Eatman, Fr. Jim Melnyk, and Sherrill Weathers. - Mike Weathers

## Mitchell Moments April 2011

Well, here we are on our way to April showers because as some of us learned in elementary school; "April showers bring May flowers." I still question whether that little ditty is really true or was "flowers" the only word the poet thought to use to rhyme with "showers?" I also wondered, as a person who grew up on Lake Michigan, if the showers were a metaphor for a cleaner washing away the snow and ice, in preparation for the bright colors of spring and summer.

We are nearing the end of the Lenten Season in April. How has your journey of reflection progressed for you? I will share with you that each day my time with God has increased which can be a struggle. Here at St. Paul's we continue to discern our direction as a church community through our work with Canons Wiegert and Hunn in the reconciliation process and attending the Lenten series, in which we have been focusing on "Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts" led by our Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Jim Melnyk. Both of these activities not only provide the attendees with opportunities to learn something as an individual, but also opportunities to build a stronger community of faith by talking together, learning together and sharing meals together. In the spirit of April showers, we continue to wash away any impediments blocking God's gifts of time, talents, and treasures here at St. Paul's while moving forward.

Food for thought: Gift, by Roberta Porter

It is no small gift to be a faith community,  
to worship, to witness, to walk the way of love  
in the name and strength of Jesus.  
And in community, when brokenness and sorrow come,  
those in need are surrounded with prayer and compassion.  
Our caring goes beyond ourselves, and the stranger, in many places,  
is touched by the healing love and grace of God.

In our failures, in our busy forgetting,  
we are forgiven, renewed to continue to be the hands and feet of  
Christ—no small task, no small gift.

As we work together, I pray that we continue to plan and work the plan for a bright future here at St. Paul's Episcopal Church! Should you have any questions/concerns, please contact me at lag-mitchell@bellsouth.net or 919-840-8650.

Faithfully,  
Lagratta Mitchell, Senior Warden

## TIME, TALENT AND TREASURES

Time goes too fast, goes to slow, sneaks up on us and slips away from us. Lent gives us time to take time. Take a Sabbath minute and watch the birds at the feeder, see the hesitant, tiny green leaves that have appeared over night, visit a neighbor, speak more gently and pray often.

God has given us the gift of time, may we use it well: a work day at church, teach a class, bake a pie and attend that special meeting. Use your talents whatever they may be. Lord, help us to use your gift of time wisely and with love.

## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

### Holy Week and Easter

**April 17: Palm Sunday:** Services at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. beginning in Lawrence Hall with the blessing of the palms.

**April 21: Maundy Thursday:** Service at 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Footwashing (all may participate, some should, none must!) and the stripping of the altar at the close of the service.

**April 21-22: Holy Vigil:** quiet prayer throughout the night.

**April 22: Good Friday:** Service at 12:00 noon. The Proper Liturgy for Good Friday.

**April 23: Holy Saturday:** Brief service of prayers at 9:30 a.m.

**April 24: Easter Day:** Services at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.



## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

### Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist	8:00 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am
Christian Formation	10:00 am
Choral Eucharist	11:00 am