



St. Paul's Epistle

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

FROM THE PRIEST IN CHARGE

Diocesan Convention: the Galilee Initiative

Just a few short days ago I was privileged to represent St. Paul's at our 195th Annual Diocesan Convention. I was joined by David Baum, Sherrill and Mike Weathers as our parish delegates, Vickie White, who attended as an observer for San José, and Kate Worley, who served as a Youth Page. You will find their observations in the body of this newsletter.

During our two-day gathering I experienced the Episcopal Church of North Carolina being called to a renewed sense of ministry to the world around us. Bishop Michael Curry called it the *Galilee Initiative*. The Rev. Stephanie Spellers, our keynote speaker, called it *Radical Welcome*. Others at convention, sharing their concern for a world where malaria kills one child every 60 seconds, called this renewed sense of ministry *NetsforLife*.

We passed resolutions recognizing the importance diversity plays in the education of our children, our need for better understanding and compassion in resolving our nation's immigration crises, and a call for all congregations in the diocese to find ways of ministering to prisoners, their families, those returning from incarceration, and those who are victims of crime.

In his address to convention Bishop Curry noted the church's greatest Sunday morning competition. Have you ever passed local soccer fields on a Sunday morning, with hundreds of children in bright-colored uniforms dotting the fields and adoring parents gathered along the sidelines? Have you spotted the adults and youth standing in line at a Starbucks or other local coffee shop?

Bishop Curry reflected, "This trend has nothing to do with liberal church or conservative church. It's affecting main-line churches, mega-churches, all religious institutions. The cultural landscape of America is changing. This is not a passing moment, but a dramatic shift," declared the Bishop. "And the question we face is: Will we as the Episcopal Church in central North Carolina do everything we can – for the sake of the gospel of Jesus – to engage this missionary moment?"

Bishop Curry's Galilee Initiative will be "a group of clergy and lay people – a combination think tank, council of advice and planning strategy group – who understand this emerging mission context and who will engage the Diocese in exploring the missionary field we are now entering. Over the next three years [the Bishop] will ask the Galilee Initiative to work with the School of Ministry to provide education that will help us understand this mission context and all the possibilities it offers. [He will] also ask the Galilee Initiative to suggest practical ways that we as clergy, congregations, and ministries of the Diocese can effectively reach new populations with the gospel."

Our goal as the Episcopal Church in central North Carolina is to both strengthen our existing congregations and invite the un-churched community around us to join us in the saving work of Jesus Christ. Our hope is that each congregation will reflect the face of North Carolina in all its wonderful, God-given, diversity. Jesus has promised to teach us how to "fish for people." We at St. Paul's can decide if we're going to put our bucket on the planks at the end of the dock and just wait for the fish who want to be Episcopalians to jump in on their own accord, or if we're going to use a very select type of bait to catch only one particular species of fish, or if like the disciples in Jesus' stories, we're willing to put out into the water and cast a large net, pulling in fish of all kinds in overwhelming numbers. I think I know which option Jesus might suggest.

Jim Melnyk+

Welcome Michael Hugo

As we say good bye and offer our many thanks to Bobbi Hays for her brief tenure in the Church Office, we welcome Michael Hugo as our new Office Manager. An Episcopalian and native Floridian, he left the land of heat and steamy humidity for college in this state. His first look at North Carolina and our active, welcoming diocese convinced him to move up here—much to his parents' sorrow! Michael is an occasional supply organist for churches in the Triangle.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE...

FOOD PANTRY

St. Paul's sent a check for \$170.00 to the Food Pantry to buy bulk food and other needed supplies. This is in addition to the non-perishable food you contribute on the first Sunday of each month. Again, the members of St. Paul's show love to our brothers and sisters in so many ways. Thank you for your support.

You have two options for giving. Bring non-perishable foods to restock the Food Pantry, or write a check to St. Paul's, and list "Food Pantry" on the memo line.

Thompson Child and Family Focus

We are collecting Campbell's Soup labels to raise money for Thompson Child and Family Focus, located outside of Charlotte and supported by the Episcopal Church. Look for a complete product list on the board outside of Lawrence Hall, and save your labels to help with this effort. The Thompson Staff asks for WHOLE, UNTRIMMED labels since some soups are worth more points. Place labels in the marked bowl on the table outside of Lawrence Hall.

PHOTOS from Outreach Events

Check out the black Outreach board on the table outside of Lawrence Hall. The Outreach Committee will try to keep current and past photos of all of our events and your wonderful work to show God's love. Thank you so much for your support and participation in the projects sponsored by the Committee. If you would like to join the Outreach Committee, please e-mail janehawk2@gmail.com.

2011 Diocesan Calendars

We now have new diocesan wall calendars for sale—\$4.00 each. They list Scripture lessons for Sundays and major feast days: a big help for our home prayers and devotions. They also list contact information for the Diocesan Office and Sacred Garden Bookstore, the new bookstore ministry to congregations in our diocese. See Lagratta Mitchell or Patsy Gale to buy your calendars!



ECW Scholarships Available Now

The Lex Mathews Scholarship Fund, sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women and the Diocese of North Carolina has funds available for women who are 23 years of age or older seeking specialized training in vocational or technical skills, a degree or certification below the master's level in a college or university, or continuing

THE GIVING TREE



Our adopted family celebrates Christmas with their gifts that you generously provided. See the bulletin board outside Lawrence Hall for more of our family's Christmas photos.

Thank you so much for your generosity to this family. There are current items on the Giving Tree in Lawrence Hall. These may be placed in the green box outside of Father Jim's office. The current list of needs includes:

Pull-Ups 4T, Pull-Ups 5T, non-perishable food and gasoline cards for doctor visits to Chapel Hill and Duke.

Thank you for supporting this family. This effort has been a wonderful hands-on experience for the whole congregation. Thank you for showing God's love to our family.

education courses for upgrading job skills. Applications are available through the Parish Office or online at www.ecw-nc.org. Depending on the funds available, if accepted, the recipient will be awarded \$500.00 or up to \$2,000.00 for one academic year. Deadline for applications is March 15, 2011.

Kate Worley: St. Paul's *NetsforLife* Representative

At our 195th Annual Convention the Diocese of North Carolina resolved to participate in the Episcopal Relief & Development *NetsforLife* Inspiration Fund. The Diocesan-wide campaign will run from now up to the 196th Annual Convention in January, 2012. The campaign includes: 1) Education about the impacts of malaria on our brothers and sisters around the globe, and how malaria can be prevented; 2) active support for provision of at least one net for each communicant in good standing in each parish (\$12.00 each), so that 40,000 nets that will protect up to 120,000 children for three years can be provided by the Diocese; and 3) the use of the *NetsforLife* project to reach out to other churches and the community at large, to demonstrate how the love of Christ can make a difference in the world.

We are thankful that Kate Worley, who served as a Youth Page at convention offered to take on the leadership role as our *NetsforLife* parish representative. Please watch for news from Kate in the weeks and months ahead and help make the *NetsforLife* campaign a success for St. Paul's, our Diocese, and the people of Sub-Saharan Africa who will receive these life-saving nets and the training necessary to help eradicate malaria in their communities.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

(Book of Common Prayer)



Members of St. Paul's working hard during the 2010 Stop Hunger Now event. Join us Saturday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m. as we prepare 20,000 meals to help eradicate hunger! Remember to wear a baseball cap if you do NOT want to wear a hairnet.

Thanks to everyone at St. Paul's who raised \$5,000 toward this important program.

Vestry Update

Your Vestry met in retreat at Salter Path over the last weekend of the month. The January Vestry meeting was a part of the agenda. During the weekend we focused on how we can better be the Servant Leaders we are called to be at St. Paul's. We explored some of the more meaningful images for God in our lives as well as the things we value most. We looked at what it is like when we make decisions based on our images of God and in the spirit of those things we value the most as opposed to the things we value the least. We spoke of compassion, family, empathy, integrity, honor, hope, love and passion over and against dominance, perfection, control, status, and power among other things.

We adopted a revised set of norms for our 2011 meetings: Start on time, stay on task, and end in a timely manner; Active listening; Respect opinions and individuals; Clarify & restate for understanding and/or forgiveness; All ideas are heard; All meetings are open; If you can't name names, do not bring it; When the Vestry makes a decision that differs from my point of view, I will support the decision and move on; Have fun? (the balloon volley ball match prior to the Vestry meeting proved we can certainly have fun!)

In our Vestry meeting we elected Sheila Stafford as our new clerk, approved a 2011 budget which will allow us to replace our failing copier, heard about building maintenance needs, received the 2009 audit, received a very welcomed and positive stewardship report for 2011, and agreed to explore renting the Rectory on a short-term basis. We also agreed to a rotating 2 person ministry of Vestry Prayer Partners for 2011. Please continue to hold your Vestry in your prayers.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION ...

FROM Sherrill Weathers

Dear Friends,

On January 21-22, 2011, I attended the 195th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina in Winston-Salem. It was an honor and a privilege to be selected to represent St. Paul's as a Lay Delegate. I also have to tell you that, until the convention opened on Friday morning, I kept saying to Mike, "What in the world am I doing here?" I'm quite happy and comfortable folding bulletins, trimming bushes, helping the Kitchen Guild, etc. as my contribution to the St. Paul's Family. However, that's a far cry from understanding and voting on resolutions and resolution amendments and understanding how the convention works overall. While I am definitely not an expert on any of the above, I do feel that I have a better comprehension of convention workings now.

What I gained from being a delegate is an understanding of how important it is to help people from all walks of life find their way to the doors of St. Paul's. Fr. Jim gave the perfect example in a recent sermon. We can't wait for the fish to jump into our nets and baskets! We have to work as a family at St. Paul's to be a welcoming church in the community and a haven for those in need of a spiritual family.

It was also a pleasure to work with my fellow delegates at the convention, including Monica Lopez from the San José Misson and Kate Worley from the St. Paul's Youth Group. Kate was a relentless salesperson for *NetsforLife*, hawking fleece jackets for the campaign as part of her duties as a page.

All in all it was a wonderful experience and a real eye-opener to what it means to be a part of the St. Paul's family.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

What is a Prayer Shawl Ministry? For some stitchers, the term "prayer shawl" brings one image to mind: A shawl that is lovingly crocheted or hand-knit out of a soft, comforting yarn, blessed by the one who has made it, and wrapped around the shoulders of someone who needs the sort of comfort only the love and generosity of a caring friend can provide. Originally designed, it was a long rectangle entirely worked in a knit 3 purl 3 variation of the seed stitch—the shawls created through the Prayer Shawl Ministry are as diverse as the people who make them.

The story of the Prayer Shawl Ministry has been a journey; it began in May 1997 when two women (Janet Bristow & Victoria A. Cole-Galo) graduated from the Women's Leadership Institute at the Hartford Seminary in Hartford, CT. The nine month certificate program explored women's spirituality, leadership, and feminist perspective in religion and society. They connected with a broader, more inclusive, less

FROM Vicki White

Summary of Resolutions Hearing: National and International Concerns

Monica Lopez, a delegate from San José Episcopal Mission, attended the National and International Concerns hearing. I attended as a guest of the mission. The room was packed with standing room only for the discussion on three resolutions.

195.1 On support of the Millennium Development Goals: Support was reaffirmed with the recommendation that congregations allocate at least 0.7% of their income to support the listed goals. A major thrust will be the *NetsforLife* campaign.

195.10 On the appointment of a Task Force on the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem/Palestine: This resolution calls on the Bishop to appoint a task force to review how the Episcopal Church and our Diocese in particular can support fellow Christians in this region. The task force is to report back to the 196th convention.

195.12 On Coming together as a nation to resolve the immigration crisis: The Winter 2010 issue of *The North Carolina Disciple* contained Bishop Curry's opinion that there is general agreement that the current immigration system in the U.S. is not working. Everyone in the room agreed, but he "how," "when," and "by whom" led to earnest discussion with various opinions offered by a majority of those attending. The committee took suggestions under advisement and presented an amended version that was accepted by the general session. A draft of the new resolution, along with other resolutions, is now available on the Diocesan Website at: http://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc_attachments/public/documents/103/2011resolutions_drafts.pdf.

gender-specific image of the Divine, and with women who minister to everyone. For them it was a life changing experience that left them open and eager to see what God had in store for them. A member of their class asked them to pray with her and her husband who was ill. The woman wrapped herself in a brightly colored shawl she was wearing, they laid hands on her and joined their prayers to hers, knowing that every time she wore her mantle—newly blessed by their prayers for the two of them—she would feel their love and support. The next time they saw the shawl it was the altar cloth at her husband's funeral service. Its presence was power to them knowing what it symbolized and that it would continue to be her source of solace and prayer. Without her example, this ministry might not have happened.

The image of the shawl having experienced first hand the comfort a shawl can bring during times of difficulty and stress, it seems the perfect metaphor for what these two women experienced at the Women's Leadership Institute and is symbolic of the comforting, motherly, unconditionally loving God we have come to know.

If you would like to enter into a process through intention, meditation, and prayer as you do your handiwork, recognizing that a gift of love from the heart blesses not only the recipient of the shawl, but

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ECW SOUPER SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20TH

ECW celebrates February with SOUPER SUNDAY, February 20, after the 11:00 service in Lawrence Hall. The menu includes Brunswick Stew, a vegetarian dish and perhaps another main dish, plus bread, crackers, dessert and beverage. Cost is only \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 for children under age 12, with a maximum \$20.00 charge per large family. There will be take-out as well: \$8.00 for large size and \$4.00 for small. There will be hot dogs for kids of all ages and chili for anyone who wants Sherrill's chili!

ECW has two fundraisers per year—Souper Sunday in February and Salad Sunday in May. With these funds, we help support several needs in the community and within our parish family.

On Saturday, February 19, we will meet at the church at 9:30 am to prepare ingredients for our famous stew until we are done. Please be sure to bring or to have brought the ingredients that you promised.

If you can clean up after lunch, or if you have not donated for Souper Sunday and would like to, please see Patsy Gale to donate or to add your name to the clean-up crew.

A sincere thank-you to each and every one of you: those of you who donate time, talent, ingredients and those who come to eat!! —Patsy Gale, Chair

Stewardship Corner

Being stewards of our time, talent and treasure encompasses all that we are. But we do not act as stewards in a vacuum that is all about ourselves. As a community of faith, our stewardship impacts one another. Our relationships and interactions with one another are also measures of our commitment to good stewardship.

We have a great opportunity now that Jim, our new Priest-in-Charge, is here with us. Can we commit ourselves to be good stewards of his ministry among us? There are many ways to do this. We can help him get to know us and make the effort to really get to know him, not just as our priest, but as a fellow traveler living out his journey of faith. We can step up and be active in the ministry of the parish so that he can count on us to make the commitment "To know Christ and to make Him known." We can be honest and straightforward in our communication with him so that we can avoid the hurt feelings that often come with poor communication.

Let us rejoice that God has brought Jim's ministry to us and partner with him to do the work that God is calling us to do.

The Stewardship Committee

MITCHELL MOMENTS FEBRUARY 2011

Here we are in February 2011! January zoomed by like a bright comet filled with a flurry of activities which included the Vestry Retreat. This year's retreat was very enjoyable at the Trinity Center in Atlantic Beach. It encompassed thoughtful conversations, reflections, fun and Holy Eucharist; it was a great time for all!

St. Paul's Church continues to build on its strong foundation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Ø Participation by parishioners in church activities
- Ø Contacts with persons who have been absent
- Ø Increases in church attendance
- Ø Active church committees/groups
- Ø Prayers and support for any and all

I continue to thank you for all that you do as stewards of St. Paul's. Yet, there is more to do. As you discern your actions as an individual remembering the Rev. Melnyk's first two sermons, "How do you want to live your life?" and "What are you going to do to live it?" and the reconciliation process, I hope that some of those thoughts will include your actions for St. Paul's. There are many opportunities to serve here with grace and faith as our key words of strength. All are invited to be a part.

As we all 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 questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at lagmitchell@bellsouth.net or 919-840-8650.

Faithfully,

Lagratta Mitchell, Senior Warden

(Prayer Shawl Ministry, con't.)

the maker as well, please join us. We will meet on Wednesday February 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Donna Ryder's home to explore what we at St. Paul's might accomplish through this ministry. Please join us if you knit, crochet, sew, or whatever gift you would be willing to share. Contact Donna Ryder at 919-763-0786.

Dear Lord, Take away all my negative thoughts and feelings as I work on this shawl for *NN*. Guide my hands as they work and keep my thoughts positive and center around *N*. I make each stitch with love and a prayer in my heart for comfort, hope, and healing. May *N* feel your loving arms around *her* as *he* wears this shawl, and may it represent your power to heal any hurt. Comfort, bless and heal *her* I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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

