



St. Paul's Epistle

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

FROM THE PRIEST IN CHARGE:

Celebrating God's Resurrection Grace

One aspect of our worship which will be noticeably absent during the season of Easter is the confession. Some may wonder why this meaningful part of our personal and corporate piety is left out of our Sunday Liturgy through Pentecost. The answer is really quite simple. What ever happened to the confession? Easter. Easter has happened for the people of God and for a while the confession is put aside and we celebrate the incredible joy and promise of God's Easter Love for us in the Risen Christ.

During the season of Lent we put away our "Alleluias" as we prepare for the events leading to the Passion of our Lord. We do not put aside our understanding of God as a loving and merciful God who calls us into relationship through Jesus the Christ. Yet we do change our focus during the season of Lent and approach our human nature as a sinful people in need of forgiveness during this time. Our service begins with the Decalogue and the confession right up front. No getting past that at all. We confess our sins against God, our neighbor, and as I add, against ourselves, for the Great Commandment calls us to love God with all our heart, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Truly when we sin against God or our neighbor we hurt ourselves - and too often we simply just harm ourselves, people created in the image and likeness of God.

Easter calls us to a change in focus as well. Just as we put away our "Alleluias" during Lent, they are resurrected during the Great Fifty Days of Easter which covers the period from the Great Vigil of Easter through the Day of Pentecost. Our focus changes from our need for forgiveness to the wonder of God's forgiving love. We do not deny our need for forgiveness, but we recognize it in a very special way; by concentrating on the reality of God's victory over sin in the person of Jesus. This change in focus was so strong for the early church that "the Council of Nicea forbade kneeling for prayer on Sundays or during the Great Fifty Days of Easter, when Eucharist would be celebrated" (*Commentary of the American Prayer Book*, Marion Hatchett, p. 364). In fact in the early church fasting was also outlawed during the Great Fifty Days (ibid, p. 38).

As the Easter season comes to an end and the season after Pentecost begins in June we will return the confession to its place in the Sunday Liturgy. Once again we will enter into the tension which exists within the human family; the tension of being a people in need of forgiveness, but who have already been graced by the forgiveness of God in Christ. What Luther called, "simil justus et peccator", being simultaneously justified and a sinner.

But for now, let us glory in the wonder and joy of Easter. Let us give thanks that "even while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8), and in Christ we have been given new life.

Blessed be the Lord who forgives all our sins, for God's mercy endures forever.



Many thanks to so many people who helped make our journey through Lent, Holy Week and Easter so meaningful at St. Paul's. From the many committee members who prepared Wednesday evening meals to the Sr. and Jr. Choirs and our supply organist; from Altar and Flower Guild members to Lectors, Acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers; from ushers and vergers to all who participated in the many services: Thank You!



8:00 a.m. Easter Day
11:00 gathering pictured on the back page
Photos by Dick Hawk

Ham and Yam Festival May 7 & 8

A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside Lawrence Hall to sign up for hospitality and baked goods during the festival. Youth will be selling donated baked goods and glow sticks to raise money for Nets-for-Life and Tornado Relief. Sign up to help!

NetsforLife Drive Continues

As of March 24, we have raised \$1,769.36 toward NetsforLife at St. Paul's. That's enough to buy **147 nets** toward our goal of at least 223 nets by the end of the year. In addition, the Diocese as a whole (not counting our number at this point) has the funds to purchase 5,215 nets toward its goal of 40,000 nets. St. Paul's is doing a fantastic job!



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. Click on 'NetsforLife' and then 'Donate here,' and **please** click on 'Parish information' and note that it's from a St. Paul's member.

Don't forget to put your "no mosquito" tag on the net at the back of the nave for each net you purchase! If you have purchased nets through the Diocese please let us know so we can update our tally.

World Malaria Day – April 25, 2011

April 25 is designated WORLD MALARIA DAY, a day to commemorate global efforts to control malaria. The theme of the fourth World Malaria Day – *Achieving Progress and Impact* – heralds the international community's renewed efforts to make progress towards zero malaria deaths by 2015.

One of the most important initiatives in which the Episcopal Church has participated over the last five years is *NetsforLife*®, a program partnership for malaria prevention in 17 countries across sub-Saharan Africa. For the current triennium, *NetsforLife*® is the centerpiece of our Church's prophetic response to the Millennium Development Goals. Dioceses (including the Diocese of North Carolina), congregations and individuals throughout the Church have taken up the call of the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund and are working to distribute long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets throughout Africa.

In preparation for World Malaria Day, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bonnie Anderson, president of the House of Deputies, and Robert W. Radtke, president of Episcopal Relief & Development, called upon the Church to pray for those suffering from this deadly disease, and to take stock of those things done and those things left undone.

(See page 4 for a prayer based on an offering from World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization.)

"Volunteers are a work of heart"



The Outreach Committee has been hard at work deciding how to best spend the money you have entrusted to us for inreach and outreach projects. There are many needs in our community and in the world community. Thank you for allowing us to make a difference for the St. Paul's Family.

Thus far this year we have helped the Family Life Center, Harbor, Episcopal Relief and Development for Japan relief, Stop Hunger Now, Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry and the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

We will again have a soup/dessert lunch in October and the love offering collected will go to Episcopal Relief and Development for Haiti relief.

There are so many ways we can help people here in our local community. There are collections for clothes and toiletries for victims of the recent tornados as well as opportunities to help repair homes or remove trees from houses. Father Jim sent out an email requesting help of any kind. If you need information on how to help, please see Father Jim or Jane Hawk.

The food or money we give each month helps the needy right here in our community as well. We now have a box for items needed by our adopted family and a box to donate items to the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry. Lists of these items are listed in this column.

We received a Thank You note from Harbor for our contribution. Following is the text of the note:

**Dear Members,
Thank you very much for your recent donation to Harbor. We truly appreciate your generosity. Without caring community members like you, Harbor could not continue to do the work we do.
Sincerely, Keri Christensen, Executive Director**

Thank you again for all of your help and support. We are making a difference in the lives of others just as Jesus tells us to do. **Other ways to serve through St. Paul's:**

- ◇ **Food Pantry** the first of each month—no-perishable items or your cash donations
- ◇ **The Giving Tree**—help our adopted family with daily needs (Give us Lord, our daily bread)
- ◇ **The Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry**—a donation box outside Fr. Jim's office (rubber gloves, long-sleeved shirts S or M, toiletries). See Dick Hawk about getting involved in a more hands-on way with this ministry.

Help Write Your Church's History

Here's your chance – the opportunity of a lifetime – to go down in the History of St. Paul's! All you have to do is to write a small paragraph (a few sentences will do) about what your Church has meant to you and how it has impacted your life (hopefully for the better!). The goal is to show readers of the Church History how St. Paul's continues to change lives today.

So just send your brief story to David Stephens, and he'll put it in a special chapter of the Church History, together with the stories of other parishioners, where it will be memorialized for all time. Before you say "no" to this opportunity, just think: *100 years from now, when someone reads what you wrote, it might make a difference in their life!* So please send your story to David not later than Sunday May 8th.

May will be Centennial History Month in Adult Sunday School. St. Paul's is your Spiritual Home; its parishioners are Your Church Family. Come and you will learn about its past and what that portends for its future. Each Sunday morning in Lawrence Hall at 10:00. Bring stories or old photos to share as we learn to grow into the future!

Help Restore the Emergency Fund

St. Paul's needs your help to restore its Emergency Repair and Church Repair and Maintenance funds. As you all know, earlier this year, we had to replace a heating and air conditioning unit in the church. While we knew that the system was old, we did not know that it would stop working when it did and that it was beyond any additional repairs. The cost to replace this unit was about \$17,000 and the funds for this were taken out of the Emergency Repair and the Church Repair and Maintenance fund, essentially exhausting these accounts.

We began this year with a financially balanced budget. However, the cost of the unit created a major deficit in the two funds and of course our total budget. Because it is still early in the year, we need to be prepared for any other contingency, and certainly the recent storms and tornadoes heightened the need to be prepared for the unexpected. We need your special help to restore these funds and put them back on solid financial footing. Some of you have already made important contributions to help us restore these funds, and for that we are grateful. On behalf of St. Paul's, the Finance Committee appeals to you to make a special contribution to help restore these funds between now and the end of July. When you make your additional contribution, please identify that the purpose of your contribution is to restore these funds.

The Finance Committee

You don't need a green thumb to help keep the lawn in shape! Please sign up for a turn with the lawn mower and help keep our grounds looking trim!

April Vestry Highlights

The St. Paul's Vestry met on April 27 at which time we:

- Approved the Finance Committee's Finance Manual
- Heard a report that the Centennial Dinner will be hosted by Cissie and Allen Wellons on the evening of June 4 with details to follow.
- Received an update on the ongoing reconciliation process, reminding us that Stage Three with a focus on healing will take place on Saturday morning, May 21 and Sunday morning June 19. All members of the parish are encouraged to participate in both events.
- Heard an update from the Priest-in-Charge on the Organist/Choirmaster Search.
- Heard a report from the Jr. Warden that based on the low sign-up for lawn mowing we may need to renew our lawn service contract. Sign up sheet located on the bulletin board outside Lawrence Hall.



Thursday morning near miss at the church! High winds snapped a branch off a tree across church street. It missed Lagratta's car by two car lengths!

Inquirers' Classes in Planning Stage

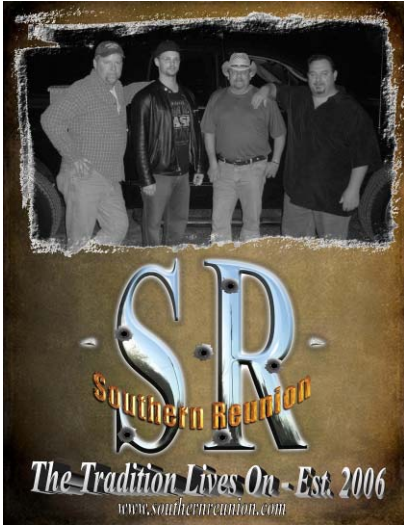
Jim Melnyk, our Priest-in-Charge, is in the process of planning a day-long Inquirers' Retreat on Saturday, June 4 (from about 9 am—4 pm) for those interested in Confirmation/Reception or Renewal of Baptismal Vows. We would finish the day in time for participants to get ready for a parish-wide dinner that evening. We would follow up the day-long event with some Sunday morning classes during the summer (to be announced). **Please contact Fr. Jim if you are interested in participating in the class.** The class is open to youth and adults.

ECW Salad Sunday

On May 22, please come and enjoy salad with us after the 11:00 service. The price is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, no family charged over \$20. Proceeds will go into the ECW fund which is used locally for charitable needs. ECW meeting will be Saturday May 21 at 9:30 at which time plans for Salad Sunday will be finalized.

Thanks much, Patsy Gale, Chair.

St. Paul's Episcopal will have a representative in the 'spotlight' at The Ham & Yam Festival



Dave Baum (pictured on the left side of the accompanying photo) is a parishioner of St. Paul's for nearly 4 years now and member of the Vestry. As many of you know – but just as many may not – Dave is also a musician; playing the drums for over 30 years. He has been in a local band known as Southern Reunion for the past 4 years. Southern Reunion (or SR as they are commonly known) performs in and around Johnston County at many private establishments and

has performed several public events such as The Wilson's Mills Pumpkin Festival and the Micro FD Carnival. You can learn all about Southern Reunion, see pictures, watch videos and even buy a t-shirt at their website www.southernreunion.com.

After three years of campaigning, Dave and Southern Reunion will be performing at this year's Ham & Yam Festival. More over, SR will rock the 2nd Street stage on Saturday May the 7th at 10 am. You read that right; that is directly in front of St. Paul's. It sure would be great to have a large number of the St. Paul's community out there on Saturday morning to cheer Dave and SR on! I'm sure you'll hear some 'plugs' for and about St. Paul's in return!

To see more about the entertainment schedule at this year's Ham & Yam Festival visit www.hamandyam.com/festival-info/entertainment

SAVE THE DATE

CELEBRATION DINNER

IN RECOGNITION OF

ST PAUL'S CENTENNIAL

JUNE 4, 2010

6:30 PM

609 HANCOCK STREET

SMITHFIELD, NC

HOME OF

CISSIE AND ALLEN WELLONS

**MORE INFORMATION ON THIS GRAND EVENT
WILL FOLLOW.**

East Regional Priest with us May 1

On May 1 we welcome The Rev. Cathie Caimano, East Regional Priest as our supply priest while Jim and Lorraine are away. As East Regional Priest, Cathie works with congregations in the Rocky Mount, Raleigh and Durham Convocations. She will serve as celebrant and preacher.

Next Step in the Reconciliation Process: May 21 and June 19

Concerning the step in our reconciliation process Canon Hunn writes: "The next step in our work together is called the Healing Phase. It immediately proceeds the Problem Solving Phase and is perhaps the most important part of the entire process. We human beings cannot effectively solve problems until some healing has been accomplished, and that healing comes from the Holy Spirit. Healing also comes when we have the courage to gather in community seeking that healing together. The East Regional Priest, The Rev. Catherine Caimano and I are looking forward to gathering with the entire congregation as we continue our work together. We are deeply impressed with the commitment each of you continue to show for St. Paul's.

Prayer for those living with Malaria

Pray for health and fullness of life for those most vulnerable to malaria.



Pray for the tens of millions of children whose lives have been affected by malaria.

Pray for mothers who have to make difficult decisions: "Do I buy food for my children, or a bed net to protect them from malaria?"

Pray for the families of the 2,000 children who will die today from malaria.

Pray for wisdom for government, community and faith-based leaders, who have the power to increase resources to fight malaria.

Pray for people around the world to speak out on behalf of those at risk for malaria and advocate for resources to end this deadly disease.

Pray for the collective will to eradicate malaria, once and for all.

In the name of God, the Giver of all life – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

Congratulations to New Grandparents Susan and David!

Congratulations to Susan and David Paulson, the proud new grandparents of Lucas William Harding, born on April 25. Lucas, son of Sara and Bill Harding, weighed in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces and 20 1/2 inches. Congratulations to the proud new parents as well!

“O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that whoever receives a little child in the name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give you thanks for the blessing you have bestowed upon Sara and Bill in giving them a child, Lucas William. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of your presence with them, and give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring this child to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable, following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.” (BCP, p. 443)

Baptism Dates

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

From the Stewardship Committee

As St. Paul's heads through spring, please prayerfully consider opportunities to support the Parish's wonderful ministries. St. Paul's is a busy Parish, and there are many ways to contribute to our mission "To know Christ and to make Him known."

If you have some extra time, please consider volunteering for service on Sundays. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew and The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) are always looking for help with their many activities, and we always need coffee hour volunteers. The possibilities are endless, and no contribution is too small. Perhaps there is even an idea for a ministry not yet happening at St. Paul's germinating in your heart. Let us know if that's the case!

Please contact Fr. Jim Melnyk or the Stewardship Committee if you have ideas or wish to volunteer. Stewardship is all that we say and do after we say, "We believe...."

Mitchell Moments May 2011

Isn't it funny how quickly it seems that spring arrives for a moment in time and suddenly it feels like summer is here and it is only May!

In April, there was a flurry of activities including: Wednesday evening meetings during Lent focusing on Spiritual Gifts, interviewing candidates for the organist of St. Paul's, church committee meetings, committee chairs meeting, Seder Meal, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, decorating the church for Easter, Easter with pictures capturing the attendees with expressions of "He Lives, Christ Jesus Lives Today", and the second wine-tasting event sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. What a wonderful time of celebration and being a part of church community!

May continues with preparations for the Pentecost/Consecration on St. Paul's Celebration! Pentecost Sunday is June 12, 2011. If you don't have it on your calendar, please add this date and don't forget to wear red.

There is so much to be thankful for here at St. Paul's. We have approximately five persons who are going out to give communion to the sick and shut-in on a regular basis. We were able to replace a very old heating and air-conditioned unit, however, funds are needed to replace what was used in case of other emergencies. The chairs are meeting and working together keeping the communication lines open and transparent. The Sunday-School children and adults continue to enjoy the learning of each Sunday. We continue to make significant progress in the reconciliation process. Look for the upcoming dates for the Healing process of the reconciliation. Mike Hugo has been a tremendous asset as the Office Manager of St. Paul's.

Although Rev. Melnyk has only been here since December 9, 2010, his transition with us here at St. Paul's has been smooth as silk. He has visited the sick, he has been available to meet with people, he has supported various activities/meetings, he has suggested ideas which have been incorporated and his wonderful sermons have provided much food for thought. Someone asked how is a "Priest-in-Charge" different than an Interim Priest. Well, a Priest-in-Charge is initially called for a determined length of time by the Vestry. At the end of that time, the Vestry can decide to do one of the following: extend the current contract for a determined length of time, decide not to offer any contract or call as the Rector. An Interim Priest cannot be hired by the parish at the end of the contracted time.

As the church continues to progress through the reconciliation and transitional process, let us reflect, think, listen and pray in preparation for whatever the Lord has planned for us.

Thoughts:

"God enters by a private door into every individual." - Ralph Waldo

"Let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven." - Matthew 5:16

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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Smithfield, NC

Skills Survey

Date: _____

Name of volunteer: _____

Personal contact information will be not be released to 3rd parties without prior consent:

Address of volunteer (Street, City, State, Zip):

Street: _____

City: _____ State: NC Zip: _____

Telephones: () _____ Email Addresses: _____

() _____ () _____

Contact may be difficult in time of disaster. Please provide all phone numbers and email addresses.

Gender: [M] [F] Date of Birth [mm/dd/yyyy]: _____

Understanding your skills will help our congregation ensure that resources are directed to where they are most needed in disaster recovery efforts. The more we know about you, the more effectively your talents can be used in meeting present needs and future rebuilding efforts.

In reviewing the skills below, please use the terms below to describe your level of experience. Please circle A, B, C, D, or E by skills to indicate your skill level or interest or leave blank if no interest.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| A Willing Helper | D Worked trade/profession previously |
| B Do-It-Yourselfer | E Working trade/profession currently |
| C Extensive handy person/practitioner (no trade/profession experience) | |

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| ⚡ General Helper | A B C D E | ⚡ Provide Transportation | A B C D E |
| ⚡ General Construction
(Specify below) | A B C D E | ⚡ Food Preparation | A B C D E |
| ⚡ Window Installer | A B C D E | ⚡ Equipment | A B C D E |
| ⚡ Electrician | A B C D E | o Chainsaws | A B C D E |
| ⚡ Painter | A B C D E | o Other (Specify below) | A B C D E |
| ⚡ Roofer | A B C D E | ⚡ Case Management | A B C D E |
| ⚡ Plumber | A B C D E | ⚡ Counselor | A B C D E |
| ⚡ Drywall (hang, finish) | A B C D E | ⚡ Telephone Skills | A B C D E |
| ⚡ Carpenter (int., framing) | A B C D E | ⚡ Interpreter - Spanish | A B C D E |
| ⚡ Carpenter (exterior) | A B C D E | ⚡ Interpreter - other | A B C D E |
| ⚡ Mason (tile, block, brick, plaster) | A B C D E | Language _____ | |
| | | ⚡ Interviewer | A B C D E |
| | | ⚡ Computer Skills | A B C D E |
| | | ⚡ Other (Be Specific Below) | |

Have you received formal training regarding disaster response, Red Cross first aid training, or other classes related to the skills indicated above? [] Yes [] No Specify: _____

Would you be interested in available classes/training? [] Yes [] No Specify: _____

Notes/Comments: _____

Diocesan Information on Disaster Relief

On April 26, several clergy and lay members of Episcopal Churches gathered at St. Michael's, Raleigh, to hear the Rev. Canon Michael Buerkel Hunn give an overview of the Diocesan response to storm and tornado damage that occurred Saturday, April 16, 2011, along with resources and plans going forward. "The strange thing about tornadoes, which is very different from hurricanes we have learned, is that you can be on one street and it looks perfectly fine. You wouldn't even be aware a tornado came through. Then you travel a block over, and it's complete devastation. It's easy for people not in the areas hit by tornadoes to be unaware of the extent of the damage," said Canon Hunn.. "And a picture on the news is nothing compared to experiencing the situation in person."

Diocesan Response

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael B. Curry began contacting clergy throughout the diocese to determine if church buildings were damaged/destroyed, if clergy and church staff were safe, to gather status reports of church members/lay leaders who may have been impacted, and to garner general ideas about which communities were most severely impacted. He was able to report that all clergy were fine and, for the most part, most church structures were in good shape as well. St. Augustine's College, Raleigh, did sustain damage from the storm.

Contact continued over the next few days, and Canon Hunn took over as the Diocesan point of contact for the disaster response. He visited shelters in Wake Forest and Garner and began participating in conference calls held by the Governor's office, FEMA, and multiple relief agencies.

Going Forward

Canon Hunn and the group discussed several organizations that were well-equipped at immediate response to meet basic needs (such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Baptist Men's, Samaritan's Purse). Some Episcopalians joined in to assist these organizations. "Meeting those needs is tremendous and there is continued opportunity to assist in providing food, transportation, and cleaning/clearing debris," explained Canon Hunn. "However, there is a longer role that the Episcopal Church can be part of, because this is not a sprint, this is a marathon. We have hundreds of displaced people in temporary housing who have nowhere to go. There are people who have insurance, but have high deductibles that they can't possibly afford to pay, or maybe your insurance covers the materials and you can't afford to pay for the labor. There are people who are going to need pastoral care and someone to talk to as they deal with the shock of losing everything. There are going to be many gaps between what relief organizations and the government can do, and I think the Episcopal Church can play a vital role in assisting in those areas.

Don Finkbeiner, a member of Christ Church, Raleigh, and a participant in the Wake Interfaith Disaster Team (WIDT), which often performs as a long-term, interfaith relief organization in times of disaster. He and Canon Hunn advised that now was the time, if it was not already in place, to assess the skills of congregations so that organized teams and efforts could be made as the disaster response. A form is forthcoming.

After doing an initial assessment, Canon Hunn advised congregations to assemble a designated team and contact the Diocese to let them know of specific projects the congregation is working on or would like to work on so that the Diocese might facilitate additional resources. "Imagine if each congregation put together a team of 10 people to assist - that would be huge. Just think of what we could do," said Canon Hunn.

At St. Paul's we are asking everyone to fill out the skills survey in this issue and turn it in so that we have a record of who is willing to assist with recovery work in our area and what their skill levels are. As Priest-in-Charge, Jim Melnyk will be asking for volunteers to be a part of, and take leadership roles, in a Disaster Response Team for St. Paul's. This group will first and foremost assist members of the parish in need following a disaster, but will also be asked to help coordinate a parish-wide response in conjunction with other groups in the area for the wider community. We thank Sharron Stewart who attended the Diocesan meeting on behalf of the parish.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

