



St. Paul's Epistle

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

FROM THE PRIEST IN CHARGE:

A Season of Transitions



November is a month of transitions celebrated by a parish that has been living in the midst of transition over the past year. The month begins with the Feast of All Saints' Day on November 1 and comes to a close only a couple of days after the First Sunday of Advent. Between those two dates we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King on November 20 with all its glory and its subversion of what the world under-

stands as kingly power. Between All Saints' Day and Advent we find time to spend with family and friends to give thanks – not an ancient feast day of the church, but a day that has come to remind us of God's good gifts. In the midst of this month we will celebrate the ingathering of our pledges made to support ministry at St. Paul's in the coming year, and we will nominate those who will stand for election on December 4 for the next Vestry class.

Our movement through time during this month is especially important to us as people who have been living in transition – as people who spend lifetimes of transitions. We know what hopes and dreams we bring with us to this precise time and place. All Saints' Day reminds us of the many losses we have experienced in our lives and the many blessings that have come our way. As a community of faith, we have spent eighteen months strengthening relationships old and new, and we have hopefully learned with some degree of certainty that it is the presence and promise of God and God's love that binds us together as the people of God – the holy household of God – in this place we call the family of St. Paul's.

In all likelihood, some form of the Feast of All Saints dates back to the year 270 of the Common Era and a service of remembrance of the martyrs of the church. By the early to mid ninth century Pope Gregory IV urged that an observance of All Saints take place throughout the Holy Roman Empire. What better way to observe the transitory reality of this life than to celebrate those, among both the living and the dead, who have been "knit together [as God's] elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of [God's] Son Christ our Lord" (BCP, page 245)? This, indeed, is what we know as the Communion of Saints.

What better way to celebrate the work of reconciliation than to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, whose kingship is not

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Sunday November 6 is Ingathering Sunday!

While we have received a goodly number of pledges already, we hope to receive and give thanks for all outstanding pledges on November 6.

Don't forget to change your clocks back an hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday morning, November 6!



Vestry Elections on December 4 Will take place during our Annual Meeting

St. Paul's Smithfield will hold our annual Vestry Election on Sunday, December 4, following the 11:00 am service. Guidelines for nominations follow. Nominations may only be made by qualifying Voting Members of the Parish.

To vote and/or hold office in Parish Elections, one must be an enrolled, confirmed, adult communicant in good standing in the Episcopal Church (i.e., One who is regular in attendance, and who works, prays, and gives for the spread of God's kingdom). One must also consent to be governed by the Constitution and Canons of the Church as are or may be adopted by the General Convention, and the Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina, and in accordance with our Parish By-Laws if adopted.

The process to be followed this year for receiving nominations for the Class of 2014 Vestry for St. Paul's Episcopal Church shall be:

On Sunday, November 6, the period for nominations to be received will begin and continue for a two-week period. Members who desire to submit nominations for election to the Vestry shall transmit the nomination on the official form addressed to the Elections Committee at the Parish Office (see form on page 8).

Additional forms will be available in the Church Narthex beginning Sunday, November 6. They will be available from the Parish Office or in or just outside Lawrence Hall throughout the week. Electronic copies will also be sent to the Parish email list.

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OUTREACH COMMITTEE... AND MORE...

**“Volunteers
are a work of
heart”**

November 2011



Keep the date: Stop Hunger Now 2012!

Saturday, 2/4/12 from 9:00 until noon 20,000 meals! We will again collect \$5000 to pay for the 20,000 meals. Why not send a contribution now for the 2012 Stop Hunger Now event and deduct it on your taxes for 2011? Just put a check in the offering plate with Stop Hunger Now on the memo line.

Food Pantry

Thank you for helping supply the Smithfield Area Ministry's Food Pantry. We continue to collect non-perishable foods each month PLUS we have collected \$465 in contributions which will be sent to SAM for them to buy bulk food to restock the pantry. So many people need help right now and thank you for your love and support.

Recycling

Thank you for your efforts to recycle. We have been able to recycle lots of items and we appreciate your efforts.

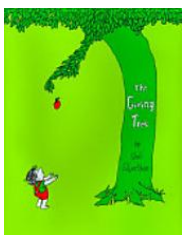


Outreach Soup/Dessert Fundraiser

Thank you for your support and response to our Outreach Fundraiser Luncheon. We raised \$407.50 to help the work of the Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry.

FOOD FOR SENIORS

From October 15 through November 15, we will collect non-perishable food which will be delivered to the Council on Aging. This food will help provide food for seniors who live too far out of town to be served by Meals on Wheels or who may not be able to get to soup kitchens or food pantries to get much-needed food. Please put this food in the boxes in front of The Giving Tree in Lawrence Hall.



In our Baptismal Covenant, we promise to **“seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves”** (BCP p. 305)

NetsforLife Drive Thrives!

The wonderful news is that as of October 25 we are only 4 nets shy of our parish goal of 223 nets! Of course, there is no rule that says we have to stop at 223, or that we cannot approach folks in the wider community about participating in the goal to help eradicate malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa.



St. Paul's has raised \$2,633—enough to purchase 219 nests. There is still time to purchase a net (\$12 each) for each member of your family.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THOSE WHO WILL HAVE NO GIFTS

From November 15 through December 15, we will collect gifts for those who would otherwise have no Christmas gifts. These gifts will be wrapped and distributed through the Mental Health Association. The gifts must be new, and the list and individual items will be placed on The Giving Tree in mid-November. See a list of gift ideas on Page 3 and watch for November bulletin inserts.

Stewardship 2012

As we head into the beautiful fall season, the Stewardship Committee asks everyone to prayerfully consider pledging to St. Paul's for the next year as Ingathering Sunday approaches. The Parish has many wonderful ministries, and no gift is too small. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call Father Jim or any member of the Stewardship Committee.

Choir Preparing for Christmas

Can you believe it? The adult choir has just started working on their music for Christmas Eve! It's not too late to jump on board and join the happy throng! Choir practices are on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in Lawrence Hall. See Organist/Choir Director John Drymon for more information.



NEWS AND NOTES...

Our past two fall meetings have been filled with people, ideas and plain old fun! We have made some plans to share with you. We hope you will share your ideas back to all of the ECW.



We believe there is a need to spruce up our church grounds. The ECW-sponsored garbage-can fence looks great, thanks to the Jr. Warden and crew. There is a dead, or nearly dead, tree on the side next to the street. We believe it needs to be replaced. We have heard several suggestions - do you have one? We plan to sponsor this project with the Vestry's permission. One of our members is measuring and checking hours of sun, shade, etc to draw up a plan for future plantings. Nothing is set in stone until the ECW (all the women of the Church) and the Vestry OK a plan. If you have any thoughts about plantings, please e-mail me at pjgale54@yahoo.com. Snail-mail is fine as well as the telephone: 585-6885.

We propose a Garage Sale in the spring, tentatively on April 21. Along with the garage sale, we could have a baked-goods sale, car wash, hot dogs and drinks. Watch the Newsletter for more information.

The thoughts behind the landscaping and tree planting are not only to beautify the church outside to reflect some of the beauty inside, but also to serve another purpose: honoring the St. Paul's Episcopal Church women, past, present and future, for their dedication. Perhaps you have a mother, grandmother, aunt or a near and dear one whom you would like to honor in some way. Please come to our next meeting to talk, plan and pray about these plans.

Our next meeting will be at the Golden Corral (the new one) on November 19th at 9:30 a.m. Father Jim will join us. Won't you be there, too?

Financial Update

Through October 23, 2011

Attendance for October 23:	82
Pledges:	\$2047.00
Total Offerings:	\$2291.00

Year to Date: Jan. 1, 2011-Oct. 23, 2011

Pledges:	\$128,599.97
Income:	\$156,060.50
Budget:	\$163,745.65

September/October Vestry Highlights

During its September 29 meeting, the Vestry:

- Received the monthly Finance report and a preliminary report on committee requests for the 2012 budget
- Agreed to contract with Olan Mills for a Parish Pictorial Directory
- Heard final plans for the Every Member Canvass and approved a Vestry Stewardship Resolution
- Heard a report on needed brick courtyard repairs

During its October 25 meeting, the Vestry:

- Heard an update on the Reconciliation Program and set a subcommittee to review data collected at the Problem Solving Sessions and report back in November
- Heard an update on the Pictorial Directory
- Received the monthly Finance report—pledges are still running slightly behind projections
- Heard an update on the proposed 2012 budget process
- Heard an update on the 2012 Every Member Canvass
- Discussed the process for Vestry Nominations
- Heard a report on the need for building repairs and set a committee to look at cost and priorities
- We are waiting to hear from the Diocesan Chancellor before presenting the Parish By-Laws for approval.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

(these low-cost items often can be found for under \$10 each)

T-shirts (M-XXL)	Flannel shirts (M-XXL)
Sweatshirts (M-XXL)	Hat & Gloves sets
Nightgowns/PJs/Nightshirts	White socks, women & men
Wallet (for men & women)	Pocketbooks/totes
Cologne (women & men)	Misc. toiletries (no razors)
Snack items/candy	Costume jewelry
Bedroom slippers (M-L)	Ties
Ball caps	Room décor/desk lamp
Men's lounge pants (M-XXL)	Jewelry box (small)
Watches	Women's briefs (M-XXL)
Men's boxers/briefs (M-XXL)	Stuffed animals
Doll—Barbie or Baby doll	Plastic car/truck
Matchbox style cars	Puzzles (under 500 pc)
Books (teens and below level)	Crayons & Coloring books
Stationery	Legos (ages 6+)
Balls (playground, etc.)	Toys in general
CDs (Christian Rock is big)	Radio with headphones
CD player with headphones	Crafts
Clock radio	Throws/lap robes
Children's undergarments: girl/boy, include themes such as Spiderman, Hanna, etc.	

PARISH LIFE...

A Season of Transitions (Continued from page one)

of this world, and who came among us to serve rather than to be served? What better way to prepare for the coming season of Advent than to recall how Christ came among us to participate in our humanity? And so, by God's grace, in Advent we learn to participate more fully in the dream of God made new through the in-breaking of God's reign – what we most often call the kingdom of heaven.

Our month comes to a close as we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. How glorious it is that we can together, as the people of God gathered in this place, enter a season of expectation and anticipation? Dating back to the latter half of the sixth century, Advent was originally less penitential than Lent (Oxford Dict. of the Christian Church). Initially focused on preparation for the Feast of the Nativity, Advent has also come to be a season of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. And while Lent is meant to be a season of introspection and our being asked to share the sufferings of the Lord, Advent asks us to prepare our hearts in awe and quiet wonder as we await the in-breaking of God's reign, which is made known to us through the Incarnation of the Word of God.

November opens for us as a reminder that as a part of the Communion of Saints, the whole of our lives are experiences of transition in the presence of God. The month ends with our entering into the first days of a season of expectation and hope – where the promise of God's coming among us far outweighs any penitential aspects, and makes us of mindful of being ready for the coming of Emmanuel – God with us. St. Paul's between times are not over, but we stand on the threshold of a new beginning. Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, we look forward with anticipation as the Dream of God continues to unfold before us.

Blessings, Jim+

(Vestry Nominations, continued)

All nomination forms must be completed and received in the Parish Office no later than 1:00 pm on Sunday, November 20. No one may submit more than three names for nomination, although one may submit fewer than three names. Verbal nominations will not be received.

Autobiographical materials must be submitted to the Parish Office by the nominees no later than Tuesday, November 22 so that information on all candidates may be made available to the Parish by Sunday, November 27 at the usual church services and via email. Hard copies will also be available in the Parish Office and in or just outside Lawrence Hall.

Elections will be held during the Annual Meeting following the 11:00 am service on Sunday, December 4, 2011. There will be no allowances for nominations from the floor or absentee ballots. For questions, comments or concerns, please contact one of the members of this year's Elections Committee: David Baum (938-0989), Ken Ferguson (934-3038), or Lagratta Mitchell (840-8650).

Financially Helping Shape the Future

Proposed 2012 budget seeks to strengthen Ministry at St. Paul's

So far this year, we have been a part of some significant changes at St. Paul's, all I believe for the better for our individual and corporate spiritual growth. I believe we have grown even closer as a community of believers and servants. We now have a new choir director, a very competent and efficient office manager, and a priest-in-charge whom I pray will continue to provide spiritual leadership, teaching, and guidance for years to come. We also just celebrated the completion of 18 months of faithful and challenging reconciliation work and growth as a church.

We are living out the commandment to be good neighbors by opening our hearts and our facility to the Presbyterian Pre-school as a needed temporary location. Our outreach program is proclaiming our faith and evangelism through words and actions that represents each of us locally, nationally, and internationally.

As we prepare for the fast approaching New Year, the Finance Committee believes it is important for you to know that while we do not have an approved budget yet for 2012, we do know what has been presented to us to fully operate. The chairs have told us through their draft budget submissions what they need to carry out the level of activities, programs, and ministries that will allow us to continue to be a church that can fulfill our mission: "To know Christ and make Christ known."

With these budget requests added to our fixed and administrative costs and salaries, we project that St. Paul's will require \$222,000 for 2012. This represents approximately a nine percent increase over this year's approved budget. I believe that, this year, we have already gained so much more and expect to grow and gain even more than a nine percent increase in programs, service, and leadership in the New Year.

Therefore, on behalf of the activity, program, ministry, and committee chairs, I ask that you continue to be a vital part in shaping our future through prayerful and considerate giving to achieve our financial target. The Vestry will ultimately approve a final budget for 2012, and the Finance Committee will continue to assist the Vestry in being the best stewards of your gifts.

In His service,

David Lockett, Chair, Finance Committee

Mitchell Moments: November 2011

The one thing that is constant in life is change. The season is changing again from fall to winter with the coming of Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and a New Year. There is the changing of our wardrobes to match the changing weather. There will be changes on the altar representing the seasonal worship services. There will be continued changes here at the church as the St. Paul's moves forward from the Reconciliation Process, including electing three new Vestry members at the Annual Church Meeting on December 4, 2011.

This is an exciting time at St. Paul's! There have been several positive activities happening here, including: providing a home for the Presbyterian Church Pre-school, a successful Nets for Life fundraiser (four nets left to be purchased to reach our goal), a renter for the Rectory, a successful Stewardship "Kick-off" dinner with Bishop Curry, confirmations, baptisms, weddings, increased church attendance, increased giving of time/talent/treasures and a celebration of hard work completed in the Reconciliation Process. Each of these things has brought with it some type of change helping to enrich St. Paul's future.

As Canon Hunn said to us during the last part of the Reconciliation Process, the Vestry will take the final information gathered from parishioners to look at the future direction of St. Paul's. Canon Hunn will facilitate a conversational process with the Vestry and Rev. Jim Melnyk. The conversation will focus on the possibility of entering a future together if what the members' data says, and Rev. Melnyk's sense of call, are congruent. If the conversation goes in a different direction, it will cause adjustments to actions by the Vestry and Rev. Melnyk. This will be a prayerful process, but whatever the outcome of the conversation, there will be change.

There is a change for me in the near future as I end my term as a Vestry member and as your Senior Warden. The work I have done here at St. Paul's has never been about me, but rather about St. Paul's as a whole. If members at St. Paul's had not been willing to make adjustments/changes along the way, we would not be where we are today. Thank you!

Thoughts by Zig Ziglar:

- Motivation gets you started and habit gets you there.
- Positive thinking will let you do everything better than negative thinking will.
- Success and happiness are not matters of chance but choice.

(continued next column)

Friday Night at the Movies

November 18th, Lawrence Hall

A Christmas Carol

7:00 pm: Popcorn and Sodas Provided

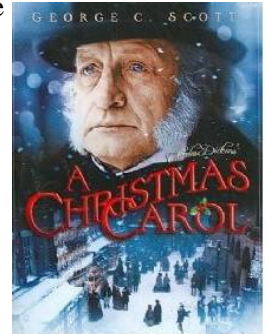
"Darkness was cheap, and Scrooge liked it."

~ from Charles Dickens, **A Christmas Carol**

There have been many movie versions of Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol** -from Mickey Mouse and Mr. Magoo, to classics starring Alastair Sim or Leo G. Carroll, to comic edges with the Muppets or Jim Carey, to musicals with Albert Finney.

This November, we take an early leap into the seasons of Advent and Christmas, for surely the classic tale is about preparing ourselves to receive the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ.

Academy Award® Winner George C. Scott gives a powerful performance as Ebenezer Scrooge in this truly heartwarming telling of Charles Dickens' beloved drama. At first, miserable, greedy old Scrooge can't tolerate the revelry of Christmas, much less comprehend its meaning. But visits from his former business partner's ghost and three cautionary specters from the past, present and future force the man to soul-search. Grappling with his own losses, Scrooge recognizes the repercussions of heartlessness in this classic, timeless story that also stars Susannah York and David Warner.



(Mitchell Moments, continued)

Thank you, people of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, for your many talents, time and treasures which continues to strengthen, build and move this church forward into its bright future! No one can accomplish everything as an individual; **it takes a community.**

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 contact me at

lagmitchell@bellsouth.net or (919) 840-8650.

Faithfully,

Lagratta Mitchell, Senior Warden

SAINT  PAUL'S
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE

Freshly Cut Fraser Fir Trees

4-5 ft	5-6 ft	6-7 ft	7-8 ft	8-9 ft	9-10 ft	10-11 ft	11-12 ft
\$28.00	\$37.00	\$48.00	\$58.00	\$84.00	\$90.00	\$115.00	\$125.00

Wreaths (White Pine Fraser Fir mixed)

Ring size	10 in	14 in	18 in	24 in	36 in	48 in
Wreath Diameter	16to20"	20to24"	24to28"	30to36"	42to48"	54to60"
	\$14.00	\$16.00	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$75.00
Double Face	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$22.00	\$32.00	\$62.00	\$77.00

Garland (White Pine)

25 ft \$12.00 75 ft \$18.75

All orders must be in by November 14th. Trees will be cut on Friday November 25th and available for pickup at the church Sunday November 27th at 2:30 PM. We will drill and deliver upon request. Make checks payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and marked "Holiday Tree and Wreath Project"

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 218 S. Church St. Smithfield, NC 27577 919-934-2675

SAINT  PAUL'S
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE

ORDER FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____

Fraser Fir Tree _____ Price _____
 Wreath: # _____ Ring size _____ Dble sided Y N Price _____
 Wreath: # _____ Ring size _____ Dble sided Y N Price _____
 Garland _____ Price _____

Total _____

Deliver _____ Drill _____ Because of a difference in post size please bring your stand so we can accurately drill the tree.

Welcome to our Spiritual Care, which includes taking care of our bodies as well as our souls. Send me your thoughts for future editions:

jmelnyk.stpauls@nc.rr.com

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Harbor Shelter's October walk raised over \$32,000 and more is coming in!! We are so excited! It was a great event.

While the walk did well, we need continued support from the community. It cost \$10,600 to house a women and three children for 90 days. Our shelter was at capacity for 11 out of 12 months last year. We currently have 13 women and children in a 14-bed shelter. This time of year is very busy. The needs are great. Last year, we assisted over

50 families with Christmas and Thanksgiving, and we anticipate more requests this year.

Donations can be made through our website at www.harborshelter.org or a check can be mailed to Harbor, Inc. PO Box 1903, Smithfield, NC 27577. In addition to monetary donations, we have other needs that are listed on the website.

~Keri Christensen, Executive Director

Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes

Thank you to everyone who supported me in my walk to help stop Diabetes. \$640 was donated to the ADA by family and friends in support of my walk, part of the

\$127,300 raised by folks around the Triangle. It's never to late to make a donation to help fight this terrible disease. Donations may be sent to :

American Diabetes Association
ATTN: Step Out
2418 Blue Ridge Road, Suite 206, Raleigh, NC 27607

~ Fr. Jim



The Simple Way

A Christian Social Justice Community

Fr. Jim spoke of Shane Claiborne's community in his October 30 sermon. Here are the Community's Commitments in part:

Scripture We recognize the Bible, composed of the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament, as inspired of God, the supreme and final authority in faith and life....

The Church We affirm that the Church is a unit with many parts, forming one body (1 Cor. 12:12). The Church is the body of the followers of Jesus, inclusive of persons of all cultures, races and nationalities. We value and unite with local congregations in establishing the Kingdom of God and carrying out the work of Jesus.

The Trinity We echo the Nicene Creed in our belief in one God.

Humanity We believe that people are created in the image of God. We believe people are created to love and to be loved. We also believe that humanity is fallen, and Jesus died and rose in order to save humanity....

Evangelism We affirm the importance of calling all persons to personal faith and faithful discipleship in following Jesus Christ. We recognize that this is done both with words and without them.

Justice We acknowledge with sorrow the brokenness of the world at personal, national, and international levels, and we seek justice, reconciliation and transformation in all arenas of life. In these politically, economically, socially, and religiously decaying times, justice is needed to bring hope, wisdom, and grace....

Need We believe that there is enough. Those with plenty can meet the needs of the poor, if s/he who can gather much will not gather too much (2 Cor. 8:13-15). We believe that the Kingdom of God is free of poverty and oppression. We echo and attempt to live out Christ's prayer that the "Kingdom come and will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Community We believe that humanity is created for community. God is a community, a Trinity, a plurality of oneness. And we are created in that image. Jesus modeled this community with His disciples, as He lived and as He sent them out and taught them to live. We wish to return to the community like that of the early church in Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 4:32-35. We believe that in this type of community, reconciliation happens.

Love We recognize the mystery of love. Ultimately, our mission is to love—to love God and to love people. This is the greatest commandment, embodying God's law. All sin stems from not loving God or not loving people. Loving God and loving people are intricately connected and utterly inseparable....

<http://www.thesimpleway.org/about/our-commitments/>

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

2012 Vestry Nomination Form

I nominate _____, who is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, to stand for election at the December 4, 2011 Annual Meeting to serve on the St. Paul's Vestry for a 3-year term expiring December, 2014.

I have spoken with the nominee and they are willing to accept this nomination at this time and are aware that they may withdraw their nomination up to the time of the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature of person making the nomination)

(Printed name of person making the nomination)

The Vestry has chosen that nominations are due in the Parish Office no later than Sunday, November 20, 2011 at 1:00 pm and biographical paragraphs by November 22. No late nominations will be accepted. There will be no nominations from the floor of the Annual Meeting.