

# St. Paul's Epistle

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

## FROM THE PRIEST IN CHARGE:

### We're Number One!



Ah, it's that time of the year again. Associated Press Polls...Oklahoma and LSU (sorry local ACC fans) scrambling for the top spot... hours spent tailgating (in the best sense of the word), armchair quarterbacking, and arguing around the coffee machine or the water cooler (I think there's still a few of those around).

It's football time around the country; and after "Hi Mom," the next most mouthed expression we'll see on TV during the games (even more than John 3:16) is "We're Number One!"

Isn't it interesting to see where our priorities lie – and how we spend our time, energy, and resources throughout the year? I'll sit bleary-eyed before the TV set until 1:00 in the morning watching the Yankees play on the West Coast and maybe find myself a *little* less tired if they happen to win. I'll roll my eyes about that extra meeting on a Thursday night or a Saturday morning, yet not bat an eyelash if my team goes into extra innings or overtime. I'll sit in a downpour at the stadium to watch a football game, but roll over and pull up the covers if it's a chilly, rainy Sunday morning (actually not an option for me). Somewhere along the way, God taps me on the shoulder and I regain a bit of perspective and I get back on track for a while.

Aside from football (and pennant races), fall is also a time we're asked to begin reconsidering our commitment to our call to follow Jesus as a part of Christ's Body, the Church. It's a time when we're all asked to consider who is truly "Number One" in our lives and in this world. And it's a chance for us to decide what we're willing to do about our confession of faith, if we believe the answer to our question truly is God.

For the longest time in my life I treated God as part of my "Nickel Defense" (football language for an extra defensive back) – someone I brought into my life when I really needed some extra help – or maybe even as someone who would be there for me as long as I threw a few nickels in the offering plate (if you'll pardon a really bad pun). For a long time, God and the church sat well down on my list of people or things to be involved with, or ways to spend my hard-earned cash. I did stuff for and in the church when I had some time left over, and I put a few dollars in the plate after all my expenses were met and I'd had my fun for the month, though I never filled out a pledge card.

**(Continued on page four)**

## Stewardship Dinner October 12

### Bishop Michael Curry is our Keynote Speaker



Photo by Sonia Katchian

Mark your calendar today for Wednesday, **October 12 at 6:30 pm** when The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry joins us to help kick off our fall Stewardship Campaign. We promise food, fun, and an exciting talk from Bishop Curry.

Watch for the exciting reunion of the legendary comedy team, Abbott and Costello, who will help us get a jump start on ministry for 2012.

**Look for the sign-up sheets near Lawrence Hall or in the Narthex to let us know what dish you'll be bringing, if you need childcare, and if you can help with set-up and clean-up on October 12!**



## Centennial Celebration a Big Hit!



More than 180 folks, both former and current members of St. Paul's, joined us on September 11 to celebrate the centennial of St. Paul's consecration. The Rt. Rev. William Gregg, Assisting Bishop for the Diocese of North Carolina joined us as preacher and celebrant at both services. Patricia

and Tim Wright, Parker Collins, Ethan Faulconer, and Waverly Jones were confirmed and Kimberly Jones reaffirmed her Baptismal Vows.

A wonderful luncheon followed the services and included music by Jake Melnyk.



# OUTREACH COMMITTEE... AND MORE...

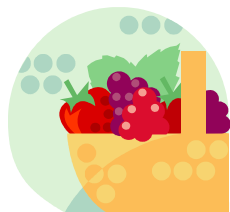
**“Volunteers  
are a work of  
heart”**



**Keep the date: Stop  
Hunger Now 2012!**

**Saturday, 2/4/12 from  
9 til noon**

**20,000 meals!**



## **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 for SAM to buy bulk food to restock the Pantry. So many people need help right now, and thank you for your love and support.

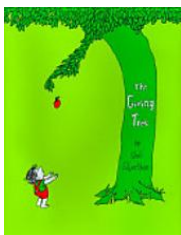
## **Recycling**

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**

Put 10/16/11 on your calendar. We will again have a fundraiser LUNCH after the 11:00 service. Come enjoy a delicious meal and support the work of the Outreach Committee. The Love Offering collection this year will go to Episcopal Relief and Development for their work in Haiti and Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry.



Watch the **Giving Tree** for information on a food drive for needy families in November, AND in December, we will purchase gifts for a needy family for Christmas. Watch the **Giving Tree** bloom.

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

## **NetsforLife Drive Continues**

The wonderful news is that as of September 21 we are only 43 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.



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.

Donations for nets can be sent to the parish (write checks to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and please note "NetsforLife" on the memo line of checks), placed in the collection plate, or given to Kate Worley, Sarah Thompson or Jane Hawk. You may also donate at the website [www.episdionc.org](http://www.episdionc.org). Click on 'NetsforLife' and then 'Donate here,' and **please** click on 'Parish information' and note that your donation is 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.



## **Youth Choir Ready to Go!**

Our youth choir meets for rehearsal on Wednesday afternoons at 4:15 p.m. We would love to add additional voices this fall. Our hope is to have the Youth Choir singing regularly throughout the year. Please see Rhonda Smith for more information.

## **Christmas in October?**

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 7 pm in Lawrence Hall. See Organist/Choir Director John Drymon for more information.



Thanks to each of you who made the first ECW meeting Fall Kick-off!

Sorry I was not there, but I am sure that our VP. Kay did a fine job. I am asking that we change our October meeting from October 15th to October 8th. I am having some difficulty with my eyes. I hope to get that taken care of and go on a planned trip to Williamsburg Va. on the 15th. Happy Fall to everyone.

Patsy Gale, Chair



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## Spring Ahead, but Don't Fall Back on Your Pledge

It is now officially fall; summer is over. While we are moving into the fall season, and we soon will be turning our clocks back, please review your pledge to St. Paul's. Please do not fall back on your pledge. During the month of August, pledges fell \$6,000 shorter than budgeted to meet our obligations.

In His service,  
David Lockett  
Chair, Finance Committee

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## Financial Update

Through September 25, 2011

<b>Attendance for September 25:</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Pledges:</b>	<b>\$2074.00</b>
<b>Total Offerings:</b>	<b>\$2694.00</b>

**Year to Date: Jan. 1, 2011-Sept. 25, 2011**

<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$142,617.33</b>
<b>Pledges:</b>	<b>\$118,808.97</b>
<b>Budget:</b>	<b>\$148,513.50</b>

## August Vestry Highlights

Due to the September Vestry meeting's taking place on the 29th, we are unable to post highlights in this issue. Below are the August highlights which appeared in the Sunday bulletin following that meeting. We should be back on schedule for our next meeting.

During its August 30 meeting, the Vestry:

- Received an update on the upcoming Centennial Celebration
- Received a favorable July Treasurer's report and approved a revised budget for the year
- Gave approval for church ad in a regional 2011 Church Directory
- Approved proposed Parish By-laws and a plan to present them to the parish for approval
- Discussed its upcoming meeting with Bishop Gregg following his visitation
- Received and approved the 2010 Audit report
- Elected David Lockett to serve a three-year term as delegate to the Diocesan Convention (he joins returning delegates Mike and Sherrill Weathers), and elected David Baum, Vicki White and Kate Worley to serve one year as convention alternates.

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## Celebrations Keep on Coming!

In September, we celebrated the centennial of St. Paul's consecration. On October 18 at 7:00 p.m., we will have a chance to gather and celebrate the completion of over a year's work in the area of mediation and reconciliation. We have worked hard over the past year and a half learning how to listen, love and live into our future as a vital congregation in Smithfield.



Now we get to celebrate that work! Canons Michael Hunn, Cathie Caimano, and Marlene Weigert will join us for our celebration. Whether you participated in all the sessions throughout the process or not—everyone is welcome!



Plans are still being made, but join us at 7:00 pm in the Nave for evening worship, then on to Lawrence Hall for the big party! Watch your bulletin for more details!

(Number One! Continued from page one)

And in my heart of hearts, I knew whom I *treated* as Number One (*C'est moi!*).

It took having to teach something about Stewardship for there to be a revolution of the heart in my world. God and the church – which is the Body of Christ – moved to the top, but it really did take a revolution of sorts. I still roll my eyes at the extra meetings – though I do get to them. My pledge is the first check I write each month – right off the top – and somehow everything else I need is taken care of along with some of the things I just want. I fill out a pledge card every year because I know it helps the Church – St. Paul's for us – build its vision for ministry when the Vestry knows what to expect. And for me, it's one more way of feeling connected to the life and ministry of a place that has come to mean so much to me in such a short time.

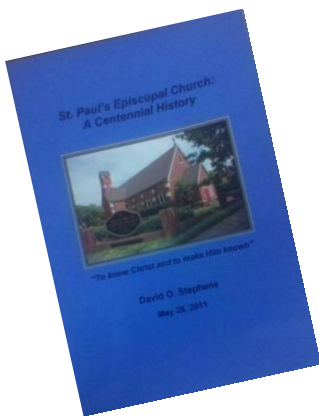
So here's the challenge. Ask yourself, "Who's Number One right now?" If God isn't right up there at or near the top, what would it take to change that reality? I suppose that brings us back to the question, "Who is Number One?"

Blessings and Peace, Jim+

Even though I can't afford much, it all adds up to help pay the bills of the church. The Bible says we should share our bounty. It makes me feel like a part of the family of St. Paul's.

— Sheila Stafford

## Centennial History Book Still Available



David Stephens' book, **St. Paul's Episcopal Church: A Centennial History**, is still available for those members of St. Paul's who did not pick up a copy at the Centennial celebration. We are willing to bet that David will even sign a copy for you!



Pictured to the right, David receives a Copy of the Vestry's resolution thanking him for his faithful work in compiling the history.

## Alternative Youth Worship

### October 30th at 1:00 p.m.



Join us at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 30 for an alternative All Hallows' Eve Eucharist at St. Paul's. Fr. Jim and the St. Paul's Youth are in the process of putting together a worship service

that will be reminiscent of celebrations of Holy Eucharist at Diocesan Youth events. This will mean some different language and music from our more traditional fare on Sunday mornings.

Although designed with our young people in mind, **the service is for any who would like a taste of worship like our youth enjoy at their conferences.** We are hoping our youth will bring their friends along for the ride.

Following the service, our youth will head out for an afternoon of bowling and fun in Clayton. If successful, we're hoping to have quarterly events along the same lines.

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## Register now for Diocesan youth events

St. Paul's Youth in grades 6 through 12 who are interested in attending Diocesan youth events need to register now to ensure space and low conference rates (there's an early bird discount). Visit the Diocesan web site at: <http://www.dionc.org/Youth/current-registrations-and-application-forms.html>.

Bishop's Ball, a fun weekend, fills quickly. Scholarships are available for those who need assistance. Contact Jim Melnyk or Sarah Thompson if you would like some assistance.

St. Paul's needs our time, our talent, and our treasure, and for what I receive from St. Paul's I will try to give these back.

— Barry Long

## Mitchell Moments: October 2011

It seems like October is finally bringing some cooler winds. However, if someone asks me, "how do you like the weather," the response is wait a minute and I will tell you. Although I like all the seasons of the year, fall brings the anticipation of nature changing its wardrobe while we begin preparing for many special days to come at our homes and here at St. Paul's

St. Paul's had a wonderful Centennial Celebration which included a visit and sermon from Bishop Gregg, confirmations, opening of the time capsule, Sunday school kick-off, a return of former parishioners, putting new items in the time capsule, a new book on the history of St. Paul's and a wonderful catered meal. What a great day!! All of the persons who worked to prepare for such a fabulous day deserve many thanks and appreciation for a job well done!

This October, St. Paul's is full of activities as well, including:

- October 12<sup>th</sup>** – Special guest: Bishop Curry for the Stewardship "Kick-off" Potluck Dinner at 6:30pm
- October 16<sup>th</sup>** – Outreach Luncheon following Sunday service
- October 18<sup>th</sup>** – Reconciliation Celebration with Canons Hunn, Weigert and Caimano at 7:00 pm
- October 21<sup>st</sup>** – Movie Night: *Lilies of the Field*
- October 30<sup>th</sup>** – Special Youth Service at 1:00 pm

There are church committees working at full capacity, meeting on a regular basis. Please check your October calendar and find a ministry that interests you and join in, because there is plenty to do. Anyone giving of their time, talents and treasures only helps to make St. Paul's all that it can be.

We come to the end of the Reconciliation Process with a celebration of all the hard work St. Paul's has completed thus far. We will continue to evolve as we collaborate on what we do that needs to be tweaked to make better, or on what we do that may need to end, or on what we do that needs celebrating.

### Thoughts:

The knowledge of Christ's love for us should cause us to love Him in such a way that it is demonstrated in our attitude, conduct, and commitment to serve God. Spiritual maturity is marked by spiritual knowledge being put into action.

Author: Edward Bedore

(continued next column)

## Friday Night at the Movies October 21st, Lawrence Hall

### *Lilies of the Field*

7:00 pm: Popcorn and Sodas Provided

*"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin. And yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."*

From the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 28-29)

This month we have a true Hollywood Classic for you – *Lilies of the Field*, a 1963 film starring Sidney Poitier and Lilia Skala. In an Oscar-winning performance, the incomparable Poitier plays a Black American itinerant worker who encounters a group of East German nuns in the Arizona desert. The nuns believe he has been sent by God to help them build a new chapel. The original film poster touts the movie as "perhaps the most extraordinary story of courage, conflict and devotion ever filmed." You won't want to miss it!

Yes, we know it's a little difficult to sit through a long film on the chairs of Lawrence Hall, so we've chosen a movie of modest length – the runtime is only 94 minutes. So bring your own chairs if you wish; Ralph and Judy Lavista did just that last time! Also, please note the start time of 7:00 pm; we want to get started a little earlier so we can get home not so late!

Coming in November, just in time for our Advent reflection: Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Ah, but which version?

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### (Mitchell Moments, continued)

Sometimes when I pray, it feels like God is all around me - so close, that when I'm done, I almost hate to say amen. Saying amen - in a way, that's almost like ending a call...like hanging up, you know? It feels like God just evaporates out of the room. So that made me think...wouldn't it be great if we could leave a prayer off the hook? Just leave it off the hook forever. Then whenever we stopped to listen, God would be right there breathing.

Author: Laura Peyton Roberts

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 [lag-mitchell@bellsouth.net](mailto:lag-mitchell@bellsouth.net) or 919 840-8650.

Faithfully, Lagratta Mitchell, Senior Warden

## Parish By-Laws in the works

### Parish will vote at our Annual Meeting

In the late spring of 2010, the Vestry approved a committee composed of Donald Beckett, Barry Brown, Laurie Burch McLeod, Sarah Thompson and Vicki White (Chair) and charged them to develop By-Laws for St. Paul's. This committee met weekly for three months and presented the 2011 Vestry and The Rev. Jim Melnyk, Priest-in-Charge, with the first draft in January.

Committee members were familiar with St. Paul's history, and we took our combined experiences, talents and training into account. Copies of existing By-Laws from Church of the Holy Innocents (Henderson), Chapel of the Cross (Chapel Hill) and St. Mark's (Raleigh) were used as resources. Each section was carefully referenced with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of North Carolina and the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs.



The Vestry reviewed the proposed By-Laws document at their June 2011 meeting. Suggestions, concerns and recommended changes were made by Vestry members. In August, the Vestry approved the revised version for presentation to the congregation for vote at the 2011 Annual Parish Meeting of St. Paul's.

The Vestry and committee members believe that adoption of By-Laws, which combine both Canon Law and practical, clear, fair and consistent procedures, will benefit our congregation as we continue our Christian journey in this our second century as members of St. Paul's.

According to procedures in the By-Laws, copies (print and electronic) of this document will be made available to all members of the congregation at least eight weeks prior to the Annual Parish Meeting. Proposed changes, additions, deletions or concerns must be submitted in writing to the Senior Warden at least six weeks prior to the proposed date of the Annual Meeting. The Vestry reserves the right to accept, deny or amend any such proposals. If the substance of any proposal is approved by two-thirds of the Vestry, copies of the proposal shall be available for distribution to the Parish no later than four weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

I will be happy to talk with anyone about the process or content of the document. Vicki White (934-5821)

"I pledge so that the work/worship of the church can progress in an orderly manner. We budget in home and business, we need to budget our time and treasures and talents to the work of God and his faithful followers. Without our individual commitments, goals cannot be set or met. By pledging, one 'buys' into this work. Look at it as an investment in greater things.

— Tom Stevens

## Centennial Scenes



Clockwise from top left: Children at play, opening the time capsule, entertainment, still playing, recognition of the Centennial Committee parts 1 and 2 (Kay Long not pictured), lunch under the tent, a copy of our church history as part of the new material in the time capsule.

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

[jmelnyk.stpauls@nc.rr.com](mailto:jmelnyk.stpauls@nc.rr.com)

## Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Join folks throughout Johnston County on Saturday, October 15 to participate in a major fundraiser for Harbor, Inc., Johnston County's agency assisting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and women in transition. Proceeds from the event will be used to continue Harbor's services (emergency shelter, transportation, clothing, court advocacy, children's programs, sexual assault support, housing assistance, new choices, employment assistance) to over 3,000 women and children annually.



You can get involved several ways—Harbor is asking for corporate sponsorships, walkers who can get donations, and volunteers for the event as well as donors in general. For more information check <http://www.harborshelter.org/walk-a-mile.html>.

## Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes

Also on October 15, Raleigh will host an American Diabetes Association Walk to stop Diabetes.



Anyone interested in walking to raise money to find a cure for diabetes can go to the Step Out website to register.

As most of you know, Fr. Jim was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes earlier this year and will be one of the "Red Striders" (walker living with Diabetes) at the Walk. Donations to help find a cure can be made through his link on the Step Out site. Fr. Jim will carry the names of his supporters with him as part of a personal Prayer Walk that day. To make a donation or to register to walk go to: [http://main.diabetes.org/site/TR/StepOut/RaleighArea?px=7065790&pg=personal&fr\\_id=7821](http://main.diabetes.org/site/TR/StepOut/RaleighArea?px=7065790&pg=personal&fr_id=7821)

## Developing a Rule of Life, part Two

Insights from The Society of St. John the Evangelist

"A rule of life allows us to clarify our deepest values, our most important relationships, our most authentic hopes and dreams, our most meaningful work, our highest priorities. It allows us to live with intention and purpose in the present moment." Below are some questions Brother David Vryhof (SSJE) suggests one consider in creating a rule of life:

To begin, first invite God into the process. Take time to dwell with each question. Be gentle with yourself if you're not yet doing all that you want to be doing. Be realistic. Write your goals down.

### My Relationship with God and with the Church

- How would I describe the relationship with God I desire?
- What spiritual practices or disciplines do I already know feed this relationship?
- What spiritual practices or disciplines might I adopt that would help me grow in this relationship?
- What pattern or rhythm of prayer would fit for me now?
- How will I incorporate times for regular worship, alone and with others in my life?

Synthesize your thoughts for how you will shape your relationship with God and the Church in two or three realistic goals.

### My Relationship with others

- To what relationships in my life should I be giving special attention?
- What guidelines can I identify that would help me grow in love for my family, friends, colleagues and others?
- How will I seek and serve God in others, especially in those who are different from me?

Again, synthesize your thoughts into a couple achievable goals.

### Relationship with Self

- Where in my relationship with myself do I recognize the need for change or balance?
- How will I care for myself (e.g., by eating healthy foods and by getting regular exercise and adequate sleep)?
- How will I preserve a "balance" in my life?
- How will I express my creativity and develop my mind?
- How will I incorporate rest and recreation?

Again, synthesize into a couple of achievable goals.

### My Stewardship of Resources

- How can I be a good steward of what God has entrusted to me (money, possessions, talent, time, etc.)?
- How can I best employ my gifts in the service of God and to the benefit of others?

Synthesize into a couple of achievable goals.

**List your goals and prayerfully live them in a spirit of forgiveness and hope. Revisit them from time to time and adjust as needed.**

Taken from *Living Intentionally* by Brother David Vryhof, SSJE

## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

### Ways to Keep In Touch with the Church:

**Because we can't have too many reminders—  
here are some upcoming dates to remember:**

**October 12<sup>th</sup>** – Special guest: Bishop Curry for  
the Stewardship “Kick-off” Potluck Dinner at  
6:30 pm (please sign up!)

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** – Outreach Luncheon following  
Sunday service

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** – Reconciliation Celebration with  
Canons Hunn, Weigert and Caimano at 7 pm

**October 21<sup>st</sup>** – Movie Night: *Lilies of the Field*

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** – Special Youth Service at 1 pm  
(all are welcome) followed by a bowling out-  
ing for the Youth.

- ◆ **If you are receiving The Epistle by snail mail** and would like to receive it via email along with other parish updates, please contact Mike Hugo our Office Manager (934-2675).
- ◆ **To receive Please Note from the Diocese:** <http://www.episdionc.org/> and click on the link for the Bishop's Weekly Newsletter.
- ◆ **For National News on line** go to the Episcopal News Service—Episcopal Life: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ens/>
- ◆ **The Episcopal Café**—up-to-date news and commentary about the church and the world: <http://www.episcopalcafe.com/lead/>