

Epistle

April 26, 2006

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

Rector's notes:

Highlights

- Friday Guild
Spring Fling

Save the Dates

April 30
Haiti Sunday

May 6 & 7

Coming Home to St. Paul's celebrations:
Ladies Tea 2-4
Men's Breakfast

June 1st

Eight Grade
Baccalaureate &
Holy Eucharist, 7
p.m.

June 7th

Celebration of New
Ministry for Stan
Runnels.

June 20-23

VBS, By the Sea of
Galilee.

September 10

Bishop's Visit & St.
Paul's Centennial
Celebration.

I cannot adequately express to each of you what a joy it was to be a part of the worshipping community of St. Paul's Parish during Holy Week and Easter. It was a time of profound holiness for me as I once again heard and felt the stories of our faith. It was a time of abundant thanksgiving as I celebrated the gifts of God so generously offered in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Christ. It was a time of feeling deeply incorporated already into the family of St. Paul's Parish. In a word, it was for me a time of CELEBRATION!

There are so many I need to thank for making our Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Day journey so special. The Altar Guild did an incredible job of making sure everything was ready for every service even as they dealt with the peculiarities of the new rector. The servers continued in the fine tradition of this parish, serving the altar with dignity and commitment throughout Lent and especially during the busy days of Holy Week and Easter Day. The lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers did a fabulous job at every service. I want to note especially those who read at Tenebrae and the Way of the Cross. What wonderful times of prayer and reflection you each provided us. Our music and liturgy staff (the Dynamic Duo—Dittoman and TrebleClef) did an outstanding job of planning and implementing an amazing variety of services. Both the children's and the adult choirs rose to the occasion and provided moments of breathtaking beauty and holiness in their offerings of music.

The Office and Building Staff provided logistical, technical, and moral support (how many bulletins did they fold?) throughout this intense season of the church year, usually anticipating every need well before it was needed. Our Deacon did not flinch even once as I threw new things his way for almost every service. The ushers handled the crowds with great skill. John C. kept the building operating without fail. Mary kept us well fed even in Lent. Caryn et al provided a wonderful early, early Easter morning breakfast for the choir and others. Joan kept me on track despite my tendency to "wander" and Laura put together an amazing series of educational events and activities for all of us. Frankly, my most important job was to stay out of the way as this well oiled machine did its work.

Most importantly, I need to thank each of you. Your presence and support as a part of the worshipping, working, and growing Body of Christ that is St. Paul's, Westport during our Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter journey is what makes everything we do so worthwhile. Our journey together has only just begun. I promise to be in heart, soul, mind, and body the priest God has called to this place at this time. Together we will be a light of Christ, a beacon of God's love on the hill in MidTown. rsr+

p.s. Does anybody have a copy of Jim McClure's job description? I am trying to figure out what he does not do.

Food Pantry

Every Sunday is Food Pantry Sunday at St. Paul's!

Bring a can of food

Bring a box of food

Bring a sack of food

Or, bring a truckload of food.

Each Sunday, a basket of food, from the Sunday donations, is included with the alms of the parish at the offertory.

Don't forget—

Every Sunday is Food Pantry Sunday at St. Paul's!

ST. PAUL'S HOMECOMING TEA AND BREAKFAST

In appreciation of our members young and seasoned, we want to celebrate with them. That is what the women's tea and men's breakfast are all about on May 6th and 7th. We want you to have a good time and not have to bake, flip or decorate anything.

So, ladies call in your RSVP by May 1st and come be our guest at the women's tea from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 6th. Scones and tea sandwiches with all the goodies will be served. Hats and gloves are not required, but it might be fun to dig out those old hat boxes and dust off your hats. The nursery will be available for you younger mothers. We want you too.

Sunday morning, May 7th from 8 until 9:30a.m., we will celebrate the men in our church. Homemade cinnamon rolls and muffins served with eggs and bacon plus endless coffee and juice. Not to mention good visiting with your fellow members. Wives and others welcome, just call the church with your reservation by Monday, May 1st.

The West Missouri Academy for

Lay Education and Ministry presents
Reading Mark: A Study of Mark's Portrait of Jesus
May 13th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Here at St. Paul's!

J. Bradley Chance, Ph.D. Professor of Religion and Chair of the Department at William Jewell college, will be here at St. Paul's at the Regional Gathering on Saturday May 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is a \$10 fee which may be paid at check-in. Those who wish to participate in the Regional Gathering need only to email MotherMcCann@prodigy.net or snail mail her at Grace Church, 520 s. 291 Highway, Liberty, Mo. 64068 to reserve a place.

Both Clergy and laity are warmly welcome.

The Next Healing Service is
May 14th
during the 10:30 Eucharist.

*Listen to advice and accept instructions,
that you may gain wisdom for the future.*

Proverbs 19:20 NRSV

May 9th and 23rd

Epistle Deadline for Publication.

The Epistle is mailed the 2nd and 4th

Friday of the month.

Children and Youth Ministries



Diocesan Events

Save the Dates

June 23-25
Sr. High Weekend

July 11-16
Missionpalooza

July 31-Aug 5
Mission Trip to Mississippi for grades 9-12

October 7
Nomadic Diner

October 27-29
Diocesan Youth Event

November 17-19
Happening

OUR ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY BOOK DRIVE for Family Literacy is just around the corner. Look for bookmarks inside the church bulletins or pick one up at the front desk. The bookmarks are for you to use to donate a book for the annual Honor Your Mother book drive.

Here's how it works: Pick a paperback copy of your favorite children's book. Fill out a bookmark, place it in your book and return everything to the Parish Office by May 8. A special insert in our Mother's Day worship bulletin will list all the moms who have been honored.

Living out our faith:

St. Paul's Breakfast is a "hands on" ministry to feed hungry people. Every Saturday, approximately 150 people eat a hearty, nutritious breakfast at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 18th and Washington, KCKS.

Volunteers from several congregations cook and serve on a rotating basis. Several of our youth have served breakfast on Saturday during Missionpalooza in July, and we would like to invite other youth and families to join us, (the youth here at St. Paul's KCMO), on Saturday May 20th. We will arrive to serve at 9:00 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the south bulletin board.

May 6th is Family Night at the Wizards!

7:30 p.m. Kick-Off!

KC vs Chicago Fire. Tickets are \$10. 5:30-7:30 pre-game activities include: Soccer Street inflatable games and music, watch teams warm-up and kids 15 and under can participate in the Human Tunnel player introductions on the field. Sign up on the South bulletin board. We need to know how many tickets to order by Sunday April 30th! We will contact you to get your tickets to you during the week.

Family Literacy Needs Your Books

For nearly ten years, St. Paul's has worked to foster the ability and desire to read by reaching out to the children and families of Kansas City. Our Family Literacy Program tries to achieve two complimentary goals: first, to assist children's reading abilities and to make reading less of a chore and more of a treat; and, second, to give the kids' families some tools and techniques to carry out the first goal in their homes throughout the year.

We will continue this tradition this fall. To do that, we need more books that the children will enjoy and, ultimately, be able to take home with them to make their own.

In honor of Mother's Day (and, for most of us, who *really* taught us to read?), we encourage you to donate books to the Family Literacy program. Which books? Well, any books suitable for grades 1 through 6 would be good. Your old favorites. Newer award-winning books. Books about other cultures and peoples. Books about Kansas City or the area. Interesting books. Ask your bookseller (Reading Reptile in Brookside is just about the best kids' bookstore in the nation, by the way).

Turn in your books at the church office or the front desk and fill out the donation slip that you will find in your bulletins beginning April 22. Your donation will be recognized as part of the Mother's Day service.

The kids, their families and our society thank you. Lindsay Woods-Coordinator

Adult Forum Schedule

9:15-10:15

Haiti Sunday

On Sunday, April 30, Dr. Don Doucette will be our speaker. He is President of “Haiti Episcopal Learning Programs” (HELP), a non-profit foundation and consortium organized by individuals from Episcopal churches in eastern Kansas and West Missouri to foster and support partnerships with congregations in southwestern Haiti. Dr. Doucette, Vice Chancellor, Education and Technology, at Metropolitan Community College, KCMO and a member of Church of the Redeemer, Platte Woods, Mo., is very familiar with our partner parish in Ravine-a-l’Anse. He has made four trips to Haiti since October 2001 on behalf of his parish and H.E.L.P.

Adult forum series Beginning May 7th.

This month promises to be a series you will not want to miss.

This series begins with Gnosticism on May 7th, led by Bill McInerny, and continues with Stan Rannels leading a two-part presentation on Dan Brown’s *The DaVinci Code*. On May 21st, all are invited go see the movie *The DaVinci Code* together. The details will be listed later.

Bill McInerny will lead a discussion on May 28 to summarize the month’s series.

“Getting to Know You”

(Christian Gnosticism)

by Bill McInerny, Ph.D.

Imagine you are a member of an early and influential group of believers in the Jesus movement. You are a Gnostic (from the Greek word *gnosis* “to know”). You keep your identity hidden because you belong to a secretive group who claims possession of divine secrets. You see the world divided into two realms: one innately good and one innately corrupt and evil. All that you understand is seen through these two lenses. Accordingly, you believe in two ultimate powers, one in control of one realm and one in control of the other. These two powers are constantly at war with each other, each one seeking domination. To you, humanity is embattled. We have a good inner “soul”, a “spark” of the good divine power within us; however, our “sparks” are imprisoned in a corrupt physical body. To find salvation we must “educate” our souls with secret saving knowledge which comes from Christ. By the way, you believe Christ was totally a spiritual being and his humanity was only an appearance, an act, put on for our benefit. You further believe that Christ imparted his divine teachings to only a select few. You and your fellow believers carry on that selective mission by inviting only *some* people to join your groups and become initiated. You look forward to afterlife. At death your “educated” soul escapes mortal corruption and begins ascent to the “heavens”. There are multiple realms in these “heavens” and each one is guarded by an archangel. You look forward to the “testing” to take place between these heavenly guardians and yourself. The higher you ascend, the deeper your level of everlasting bliss becomes. If you are genuinely “in the know”, your “soul” will ascend to the highest realm of heaven, the seventh heaven, and there you will re-unite with the good power from whom your “soul” originally came. You will truly be home. All of this you know.

What you do not know is that your groups will influence the content of the eventual Christian Bible. Christian creeds will evolve and include statements to forever exclude some of your most deeply held beliefs. Controversies between Gnostic and non-Gnostic churches will give bishops a new role: guardians of “straight teachings” (orthodoxy). Institutionalizing Christian worship rituals will take place, in part, due to the influences of your groups. You do not know that your way of believing will not survive, it will be branded heresy ultimately, and over time, your ways of believing will vanish. And you do not know that when your beliefs are formally gone, others will remember you and them and be interested— even into the twenty-first century.

Imagine that.

OUTREACH

Lived Faith

St. Paul's Pantry

St. Paul's has supported a food pantry to serve those in need in our community for many, many years, and many parishioners of St. Paul's have served as volunteers in order to facilitate this very important ministry. The vestry has asked that I describe the Pantry's current operation and predicament so that all in the parish can understand the scope of our mission and the accompanying conundrum we face as members of the St. Paul's community.

Prior to last summer, the clients of the food pantry could only visit once each month and receive a bag of groceries that provided less than two complete meals. Additionally, the client would receive one "children's" bag whether they had one child or six children. The operating budget for the food pantry was \$20,000 for the full year. The Pantry also received gifts from friends of St. Paul's Pantry that funded special programs such as Thanksgiving turkeys, Christmas hams, and even new winter coats for our client's children. Last summer, however, the vestry approved some changes in the operation of the Pantry, which increased our service to our clients and dramatically increased our operating expenses. The clients are permitted to visit the Pantry twice each month, receive a bag of groceries that supplies three complete meals, and receive one "children's" bag for every two children. The groceries that St. Paul's distributes contain nothing lavish or expensive by normal standards. However, the number of clients being served has skyrocketed and the cost of food has increased modestly.

During the first three months of this year, the Pantry has distributed in excess of 1660 bags of groceries to over 2300 people; the Pantry has also provided much needed personal hygiene items to help improve the quality of our clients' lives. St. Paul's joined the Episcopal Anti-Hunger network in order to work with other ministries to discover optimal operating procedures, cost reductions, and ways to serve our clients even better. Several Episcopal parishes operate food pantries; however, St. Paul's distributes more food than all others, save one. Obviously, our expenses have soared, and we must now address a mounting deficit. Through the first three months of operation in 2006, the Pantry has spent slightly more than \$12,000 supplying food to our clients. We have and will continue to investigate different ways to purchase our food supplies for less money. We have acquired free food from the surplus stock of the Kansas City Community Kitchen. We have asked St. Paul's Pantry supporters for a larger financial commitment to help offset our increasing expenses. The fact is the Pantry needs the help of our entire congregation if we are to continue serving our community with this ministry.

We are providing a copy of both the children's menu and the adult menu so that those who wish to help can purchase a complete bag. For those who prefer to write a check and let St. Paul's do the shopping, the price of an adult bag of groceries is \$9.36, and the cost of the child's bag is \$6.50. The vestry asks that you bring a bag of groceries or a check when you come to St. Paul's whenever you can, so that we can continue to pursue the ministry of feeding the poor.

Finally, we need more volunteer assistance. As we identify sources of food stocks that require pickup, the Pantry will need some volunteers who can lift and carry them without hurting themselves. We operate the Pantry twice each week on Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 AM until Noon and need additional help to pack and distribute the food. If you wish to join in the work of this ministry, contact Rich Ellison at 816-931-6903 or Joan Watt at the parish office. With all of the resources that we possess at St. Paul's, the Pantry can and should continue to fulfill its mission.

Rich Ellison

***"If you are generous with the hungry
and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,
Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness,
Your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight."***

Isaiah 58:10, The Message

St. Paul's Ministries

Friday Guild

Women coming together for fellowship, devotion and outreach serving the church and community.

The Friday Guild Annual Spring Fling May 19th at 12:00 in the Parish Hall.

Guest Speaker - Dee Matteson.

Dee Matteson had the unique opportunity to experience the inner circle of Saudi Arabia's royal family. Using the pen name T.L. McCown, she wrote her memoirs in her book *Shifting Sands: Life in Arabia with a Saudi Princess*. In her book she shares insights into the Saudi Arabian cultures, which were previously hidden to the western world. She chronicles her experiences and offers unique insight gained from sharing 10 years of life with a princess in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. (tlmccown.com.) Join us to hear this intriguing speaker. For your lunch reservations call Virginia Rickel at 913-649-1869. The cost is \$15.00.

Junior Guild

Do you have questions about stem cells and the Missouri Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative?

Join us on Monday, May 8th, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's in the Garden Room. A representative from Stowers Institute will speak on the matter of stem cell research and the Missouri Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative. This presentation is open to the entire St. Pauls congregations and other friends and family who may wish to attend and will last approximately one hour. If you plan to attend, please call the church at 816.931.2850.

Recent scientific breakthroughs, celebrity patient advocates, and conflicting religious beliefs have come together to bring the state of stem cell research, specifically embryonic research, into the political crosshairs. President Bush's watershed policy statement allows federal funding for embryonic stem cell research but only in a limited number of stem cell lines. Millions of Americans could be affected by the continuing political debate among policy makers and the public. Come and learn more about this field of research!

MissionPalooza Volunteers Needed

Adult volunteers are still needed for this year's MissionPalooza in Kansas City. There are many ways to participate in this unique event that engages teens in urban mission in the K.C. metro area. We are in particular need for folks that are available to go to work sites during the day Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday any day or days that fits your schedule. Worksites include Habitat for Humanity, the Free Health Clinic, Bishop Spencer, and Bridging The Gap, to name a few of the 17 sights. Volunteer forms are available on the south bulletin board.

Visiting with the Rector

I am busy trying to get out and about meeting members of the parish. If you have not heard from me yet, please don't hesitate to call me and see if we can't find a good time to meet and get to know each other. In addition to more conventional settings for visiting (home, office, etc), I also enjoy children's sporting events, bike rides, or other less conventional venues for visiting. I'll even meet you at your favorite coffee shop for a cup of espresso. Give me a call and let's find a good time to visit.

WWW.STPAULS-KCMO.ORG

Our web site is in the process of receiving up-dates and revisions. Please take some time to review our web sight. You can now view the Epistle on-line! If you have news, schedules, pictures that you would like to include pertinent to your area of ministry please send this information to the church office or contact Nancy Day at 816-235-2333 or by email at Dayn@umkc.edu.

Ex Libris by Joe Arganbright B.A.MRE Church Librarian

New books!

√ For those who studied God's Politics, this is a great read in the theological implication of today's political scene. *The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millenium* by Walter Wink, Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Aubur Theological Seminary in New York City.

√ For those who find inspiration in biographical books, *Reflected Glory: The life of Pamela Churchill* by Sally Bedell Smith, is quite a read. Charlotte Hays of the Washington Post says about it: "Marvelous...Smith has managed to come up with a wealth of delicious new material...reads like a racy history book."

√ For those who love Italian Cooking but worry about fat intake, this book, *Cucima Di Magro: Cooking Lean the Traditional Way* by G. Franco Romagnoli, is the answer for healthy yet tasty Italian Meals.

√ If you are fasinated by Angels then check out *Where Angels Walk: True Stories of Heavenly Visitors* by Joan Wester Anderson should titillate your soul-a New York Bestseller.

√ For those who are searching for the Christ in true faith, Marcus J. Borg, Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University, offers *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*.

These books and many more are available in the church library for your use. Please stop in to browse and make a selection of your choice. **Our next Library workday will be Friday May 12th. Join us for a rewarding time of service, food and fellowship.**

"Study to Show Yourselves Approved"

Save the date of June 29th for a St. Paul's Daytrip to Strawberry Hill

A tour of St. John The Baptist Church will begin our day. This beautiful church is home to many beautiful icons of our faith. A tour of the museum ,which has an elaborate collection of Croatian items and a host of religious icons from churches in the area that no longer exist or have moved, will be of interest to us all. The tour begins at 10:00. We will gather at the church to carpool at 9:15. The cost is \$5.00. We will enjoy lunch at Filltas for a wonderful feast of Italian Cuisine! For more information contact Bobbie Kaiser 913.236.6463.

**June 1st
2006 Eighth Grade Baccalaureate
and Holy Eucharist
7:00 p.m. in the Nave.
A reception will follow.**

TGIFF

Join us for food, fellowship and lively conversation as we gather at The Kissicks!

Friday May 12th at 6:30 P.M.

Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre

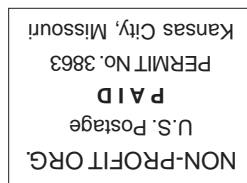
RSVP to the church office.

Hospital Visitation

In order for the parish to maintain proper ministry to parishioners who are hospitalized, it is necessary for the office to be notified of hospitalizations. This is necessitated because of Federal regulations that prevent hospitals from allowing open access to patient information. Please contact the parish office and notify us if you or someone in your family is or will be hospitalized.

Furthermore, it is our goal to provide continued pastoral care for all parishioners who are dealing with either acute or chronic illnesses, whether in the hospital, in residential facilities, or at home. If you have need of a visit by the rector or deacon at anytime, do not hesitate to call the parish office (816-931-2850)

If you have friends in the hospital we will be glad to go by and visit them also.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church & Day School
11 East 40th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64111
CHURCH: 816-931-2850 SCHOOL 816-931-8614
ON THE WEB: www.stpauls-kcmo.org

Transitions in Life and Celebrations

Births

Benton Wandfluh

was born on April 10, 2006.

He is the son of

Brett Wandfluh and Jennifer Wandfluh
(nee Taggart)

Charla Harriett Preston

was born on April 24, 2006.

She is the daughter of

Larthrop and Sally Preston and
granddaughter of Hap and Piper Perston

Baptisms

April 16, 2006

Noah Matthew Blanc

Alissa Eileen Fischer

Billie Elizabeth Lydia Fischer

Todd Peyton Fischer

Gustavus Franklin Moseley

Harper Christine Pack

Samuel Michael Powell

Confirmation

Deaths

Marriage

Baptism

For those interested in baptism on Pentecost, June 4, please contact the Rector to schedule an appointment.

St. Paul's bikers of all ages "Spring Wheelie"

Sunday, May 7, 3:45 p.m. Leewood City Park (Lee Blvd)

We will gather at the parking lot behind the swimming complex. Bring your bike, helmet,

and training wheels if needed. Ellen Embry,

Wade Kerrigan, and

Stan Runnels will be our bike wranglers.

We are planning a cookout afterwards (about 5:00 or so).

Grill Meister Shad Rockstad will provide our post-biking repast.

PLEASE call the Parish Office
—816.931.2850—

to let us know you are coming.

“We are a community of friends with shared vision and values, driven by friendship rather than function.”

reference to the scriptures from: John 15: 14-15; Luke 10:1-22; 1 Peter 4:7-11 and 1 John 4:7-12.

“The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. There is no law against such things as these” Galatians 5:22-23

St. Paul's Day School Summer Program.

We are very excited about the abbreviated program that Christina Lenon has been able to pull together for this summer. We are marketing this to our St. Paul's families only, but you are welcome to tell your neighbors or friends and include them in the registration. For a brochure contact Liz Barnes at ebarnes@speds.org

To share your information with the parish in **Transitions in Life and Celebrations** here is what we need for you to do:

- *Call or email the church office with your announcement.
- *Tell us that you would like this information in the Epistle.

We will not be able to list any announcements without your call or email to let us know your wish on these matters.

Call Joan Watt at 816-931-2850

or

send an email to jwatt@stpauls-kcmo.org

Information for the next Epistle needs to be to us by May 9 & 23