

Epistle

February 14, 2007

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

Highlights

Feb. 19 President's Day
Church and School Closed.

Feb. 20 Pancake Breakfast
Parish Hall 7-8:30 a.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 21

Services at 7 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 6 p.m. Imposition of ashes at all services.

February 25

All in the Family Adult Ed Group begins in the Westport room.

Lenten Film Series begins

February 28th.

Weather Policy for Worship St. Paul's Parish

Absent a natural disaster of the Katrina magnitude, regularly scheduled worship at St. Paul's will be held regardless the weather. **HOWEVER**, the rector asks all parishioners and those assigned to be involved in worship to use their good judgment as to whether or not they should attempt to attend services when the weather is severe and/or the roads are dangerous.

Healing Service

March 11th during the
10:30 Eucharist

Rector's notes—As things currently stand, we will close on our new home on February 22. It seems this long journey may be coming finally to an end or, at least, the next phase. This closing date is 51 weeks to the date following my arrival at St. Paul's. I never imagined it would take this long. Recently, my whole family has been feeling the pressure of our compressed living arrangements and our housebound existence imposed by the cold, winter weather. We are glad it soon will end. The chaos of moving our possessions into our new home will be a difficult but happy relief. All those things we have been looking for, we finally may find. It will be chaotic, but chaos to which we happily look forward

Lent is just around the corner and with it an intensification of our schedule and offerings. On Sunday, February 25 (the Sunday before Ash Wednesday), we will start several new Christian education classes. "All in the Family" (described elsewhere in the newsletter) will be offered especially to the parents of young children. "Saving Jesus", offered especially to parents and teenagers (grades 9-12), is an exploration of the life of Jesus. This will be a unique approach to intergenerational adult/teenager education. Of course, our excellent Adult Forum will continue with a variety of wonderful presentations. Our regular offerings for children of all ages will continue. There are two pages of information about this elsewhere in the newsletter as well as information about other education and fellowship events during Lent.

On Sundays during Lent, we are going to try something a bit different during the "Prayers of the People" portion of the liturgy. While we will continue to maintain the parish prayer list, we are going to ask "the People" (i.e. the people in the pews) to offer up names during those portions of the Prayers of the People where intercessions are invited. The Lay Reader will make a clear statement inviting your intercessions. We want you to offer those intercessions aloud or silently. "Prayers of the People" are intended to be an interactive moment of broad participation in the liturgy. It is a moment when each of us is encouraged to exercise our Christian vocation as intercessory prayers. We are not the "audience" in this moment. Rather, we are collectively the voice of the Body of Christ praying on behalf of others. As a part of our corporate Lenten discipline, we want to encourage each of us to exercise this part of our baptismal vocation, praying for those for whom we feel called to pray.

Two other Lenten offerings are available to you this year. On Thursday mornings at 7 a.m., we will offer Holy Eucharist in the chancel of the church followed by breakfast in the Garden Room. There will be an "offering" of \$2 encouraged for breakfast. All are welcome. We will have you on your way in plenty of time for school and work.

Thursday afternoon at 5:15, again in the chancel, we will offer meditations on the Stations of the Cross. This will be a time of directed meditation and silent prayer as we consider the life of Jesus as he makes his final journey through Jerusalem. This prayer and meditation service will be completed by 6 p.m. It is especially intended for those on their way home from work who might want to add a prayer discipline to their Lenten preparation. Stan+

St. Paul's E-pistle

<http://stpaulsepistle.blogspot.com/> Your Parish Blog

Your rector will be putting essays on this site regularly. You will have an opportunity to share your comments. I only ask we refrain from name-calling, hair-pulling, kicking, cussing, or biting. I will be screening for rule violators. Check it out and let me know what you think.

The following collect was composed by the St. Paul's EfM Group in response to their theological reflection on the role of sports in American life today.

**O God who creates us to live in community,
Sustain us in keeping our values in perspective,
As we enjoy and share in the camaraderie of sports.**

Kansas City, Missouri

PERMIT No. 3863

PAID

U.S. Postage

ORG.

NON-PROFIT

ON THE WEB: www.stpauls-kcmo.org

CHURCH: 816-931-2850 SCHOOL 816-931-8614

11 East 40th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64111

St. Paul's Episcopal Church & Day School

Christian Education and Formation Opportunities

Sunday Mornings 9:30-10:20

- ◆ **Children's Choir practice 9:00-9:30 Third Floor**
- ◆ **Gathering Time 9:10 Third Floor**
- ◆ **Sunday School 9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. - Third Floor**
- ◆ **Kids On Mission- For children in grades 1-4; 10:20-11:00 Third Floor**

- **Adult Forum:** Join this diverse group of adults of all ages to explore faith, spirituality and church traditions through literature, scripture and discussion around a variety of topics presented each week in the Garden Room.
- **All In The Family:** This group of parents and other interested adults meet each Sunday in the Westport room. This group shares in the common desire to actively pursue Christ's example in daily life and apply this example to today's challenges. Our goal is to broaden Christian knowledge and to develop better skills as parents, spouses, and followers of Christ. The Westport room is located on the third floor. Join us for coffee, fellowship, discussion and study.
- **Rector's First Sunday:** The first Sunday of each month our rector, Stan Runnels, offers opportunity for all parishioners and those interested in the church to gather together for an informative session of topics around St. Paul's, the Episcopal Church and traditions and issues within the Anglican communion.
- **Saving Jesus:** For Youth in grades 9-12, their parents and other interested adults. This series begins February 25th in the Parish Hall. *Saving Jesus* is an innovative dvd-based small group exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. Featuring leading religious voices of our day, the 12-week program, led by Stan Runnels, includes conversation around readings, a 20-minute video segment and discussion.
- **Unfolding the Mystery of Christ:** Grades 6-8 in the youth room, third floor. Using the lectionary based curriculum *Living the Good News* infused with the messages of the scriptures for Spring C, we too labor through Lent in hope, declaring to all the world that we see new life ahead. Our mission? To shape and transform lives and communities through shared experiences of the Sunday readings.
- **Living the Good News:** Grades 1-5, beginning at 9:30 a.m. until 10:20a.m, children join together to build a community in which they hear the stories of our faith tradition, pray for one another and others, and to apply our faith in God and the teachings of Jesus to our daily lives as we attend school, play sports and engage in relationships with others. Learning to be good stewards of our earth (acting as a trusteeship of caring for God's creation) and caring for those who are tired, sick, lonely, hungry and homeless are an important part of our faith development.
- **Preschool and Kindergarten aged** children experience and understand God's love through the well acclaimed Godly Play curriculum using sacred and liturgical stories, parables, manipulatives, and a sense of wonder. Godly Play is concerned with the spiritual development of each child as an individual and with modeling the appropriate behaviors of patience, kindness, consideration and respect, expected if people are living within a Christian community.

Parish Life

Coffee Hour-Building community

I am contacting you in hopes that you will chose to sign up to host one or two coffee hours this year.

It is an easy task!

Mary Merola in the kitchen has a table set up in the undercroft.

You *may* chose to provide a tablecloth, centerpiece and napkins.

All are lovely additions but not required.

The coffee and the punch are provided by the church (Mary, again!).

All you need to do is provide food. It can be sweets (cookies, brownies, quick breads, etc..).

It can be savory items (veggies and dip, fruit, nuts, etc...).

Or a combination of the two.

Some hosts go all out and have egg casseroles...love that too!

It can even be store bought (Costco goodies, Lamar's doughnuts, etc...).

The most important thing is that we have food out so parishioners - longtime, new and in-between-can pause, have a bite to eat and visit with one another.

I want to thank all of you who have taken the time to host in the past. It's a great way to contribute to St. Paul's.

You may be interested in hosting but fearful of going it alone. Call me and I can pair you up with another willing volunteer. The more the merrier!

Call the church front desk (816 931 2850) to sign up. Or sign up next time you are at church - the sign up sheets are in the south lobby on the bulletin board.

The dates that are available are as follows:

February 25, March 4, 11, 25, April 1, 15....May, June, July and August are wide open.

Thanks for reading this far. Thanks for helping to make St. Paul's such a terrific place.

-Carrie Larson

816 523 8320

clarson1@kc.rr.com

Adult Education Schedules

9:30-10:15

Coffee and Fellowship before the adult series.

Adult Forum Series

February 25-The Gospel of Judas-Bill McInerny

After some 1500-1600 years, another gospel has been discovered, recovered, and put in print for the first time in the twenty-first century. Here we have a gnostic gospel which presents Judas as Jesus' most intimate and "informed" disciple-the thirteenth disciple who surpasses all the others. In this gospel, Judas' betrayal is what Jesus wanted and his most faithful disciple complies with what the Master asks of him. You do not need to have read the book to enjoy our session.

March 4th- Rector's Sunday-Join Stan Runnels in the Garden Room.

March 11,18,& 25-Tom Brous returns to do a series on T.S. Eliot's poetry: *Ash Wednesday and the Ariel Poem-1927-1931*: Eliot Begins His Spiritual Journey. In the previous class we examined the finale of Eliot's poetry (and, most likely, his spiritual journey). Now, we'll examine the beginning of his journey with the poems he wrote immediately after his conversion to Anglicanism in 1927.

All In The Family-Adult Education

February 25-Dr. John Larsen and Diane: Join us in the Westport room to hear guest speakers Dr. John Larsen and Diane Larsen present an intriguing presentation titled "*Nurturing Your Child's God Given Blueprint.*" Dr. Larsen is a pastoral counselor at Midwest Christian. He has a Masters in Divinity from Duke and a Ph.D. from Boston University. Diane has an MSW and adds many interesting points to this session. Be sure to join us for this first session on family matters.

March 4-25 and April 1 and 15-Curing Affluenza: Many of us are ready to simplify our lives but who has the time to do it! Or the will! Or the know-how! But what is it doing to us and all we love? Come explore this topic as Tony Campolo tells us in his wonderful and engaging way about a cure that's actually documented in the Bible. This is a six-week video series. We hear the questions and responses from other people just like ourselves on the video, and when the program is over, you take up the discussion.

April 1st- Rector's Sunday

April 8-Easter Sunday-No Class

Children

- ◆ **Children's Choir practice 9:00-9:30 Third Floor**
- ◆ **Gathering Time 9:10 Third Floor**
- ◆ **Sunday School 9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. - Third Floor**
- ◆ **Kids On Mission- For children in grades 1-4; 10:20-11:00 Third Floor**

Youth

Youth meet each Sunday in the Youth Room on the Third Floor. Grades 6-12

Join us for study and discussion focused around the Gospel reading for the day.

Youth Events

Planned for St. Paul's Parish

St. Paul's, GKC area and Diocesan Dates to Calendar: Grades 6-12

These events are for all youth in the Greater KC area and Diocese of West Missouri. St. Paul's Parish Youth Leaders participate in all of these events, and we invite all youth to join us in these events! Laura, Kevin and Meredith

March 9-11

√ **Happening #55: (grades 9-12)**

Carthage

March 30/31

√ **30 Hour Famine Lock-in.** This Event is at Church of the Redeemer. St. Paul's, Redeemer and Church of the Good Shepherd are joining together for this event. Grades 6-12

April 5th

√ **Maundy Thursday Lock-in (following the worship service.) Grades 6-12 (Theme-Images of God & a midnight agape feast.)**

April 28th

√ **Walk for Aids Lock-in at HJ's at St. Andrew's (grades 6-12)**

June 8-10

√ **Junior High Retreat (grades 6-9)**

June 15-17

√ **Senior High Retreat (grades 9-12)**

July 10-15

√ **Missionpalooza(grades 9-12)**

August 4

√ **GKC area Backpack project Lock-in at St. Paul's**

July 28-August 3 (Change in dates)

√ **Pilgrimage (grades 10-12)**

August 25 2007

√ **YAC Retreat for members on the Youth Action Council**

The Great Fifty Days

Each Sunday from noon-1:30 during the Great Fifty Days of Easter, April 15-May 20, the youth in grades 6-12 will engage in the study and reading of the Book of Acts. Part of this study will use the Visual Bible on the book of Acts. This is a dramatization using the actual scriptures...word for word using the New International Version of the Bible. As a sturdy merchant ship plunges through ancient seas, journey with the author, Luke, as he tells the story of danger, struggle and triumph that marks the birth of the Christian Church.

Worship and Liturgy

No Flowers In Lent. In keeping with the penitential season, we do not use flowers in Lent. If you would like to remember a loved one, we suggest you consider a contribution to our Easter altar. To make a contribution please call Susan Williams at 913-341-6801.

Reservation are being accepted for the next

Regional Gathering of the Lay Academy

Saturday, March 10, 2007 at All Saints', Nevada

Topic: Church History

This session: Heresy Now! – Back to the Future

Presenters:

Dr. Ann Marie Shannon

The Rev. Cathy Cox

The Rev. Steve Wilson

The Ven. John McCann

Cost: \$10 to paid at check in which begins at 8:30

The session will run from 9:00 – 3:00.

To reserve your spot please email MotherMcCann@prodigy.net

Please bring your lunch.

A collect arising from theological reflection on the three scripture readings from Sunday Feb. 4, 2006: Judges 6:11-24, I Corinthians 15:1-11 and Luke 5: 1-11.

O Holy Spirit who comes to us unexpectedly

Open our minds and hearts that we may

Listen without judging and be present

with those in need.

From the EfM group 1/9/2007 derived from a reflection on respecting other religions.

O God who loves all your creation and all your peoples

Lead us through the intolerances of others and those in our own hearts

To live your love with patience and courage.

Meet Dr. Herb Davis!

By Ruth Shipley

Even if you have not met Dr. Herb Davis, you probably know of him. He is that dedicated physician who, although he retired three years ago from his Pediatric practice of 56 ½ years, still makes mission trips to Haiti.

He made his first trip to Haiti in 1988 with Stan Shaffer. Dr. Davis credits Mr. Shaffer and Don Downing with beginning our ministry in Haiti. Father Lozamo of Haiti, who has worn many hats toward bettering his country, told Dr. Davis and Mr. Shaffer during their first visit that, although Haitians needed medical care, they needed educational assistance even more. Father Lozamo had about 15 students at that time and no books.

After that first trip, St. Paul's vestry adopted a covenant pursuant to which we would pray for the mission at Ravine-a-l'Anse, Dr. Davis said. And, one year later, we started a school there. Ravine-a-l'Anse had no students at that time; now 250 students attend school there. Employed at the school are ten teachers, a health worker, and a nurse who visits once a month to assist the health worker.

Dr. Davis recently made his seventeenth trip to Haiti. He noted the progress made – today, fourteen Episcopal churches in our region support 10 missions in Haiti. Nine of them have schools and the tenth is in the process of building a school. In addition to help organizing the missions, Stan Shaffer, along with Saint Luke's Hospital, organized the birthing clinic Maison de Naissance with which our Diocese also has a relationship.

Dr. Davis said the Haitian people are, “the poorest people” and “the most appreciative”. “They have nothing, but they think God will take care of them – that it will get better,” he said.

Dr. Davis was married to Nettie Davis, “a wonderful person,” for 62 ½ years. He met Nettie in Oregon just before she went into the service during World War II. (Dr. Davis attended the University of Oregon Medical School. He came to Kansas as an Exchange Intern with the University of Kansas. He went back to Albany, Oregon afterwards. After seeing the sun only once in six weeks, he said, “I'm going back to Kansas!”) Nettie worked as a nurse in California where she received casualties coming back from the South Pacific. During the war, Dr. Davis was sent to the Philippines. He was scheduled to go to Japan to work in a hospital at the front lines but the atomic bomb ended the need for such. Nettie passed away in 2006.

The Davis' had four children together – three daughters and a son. The Davis' children basically brought them to St. Paul's. Although both were raised in Christian homes - Nettie in a Roman Catholic home and Dr. Davis in a Methodist one – they were not attending church until after the birth of their second child. They then decided they needed to rectify the situation. So they came to St. Paul's. That was in 1947. Dr. Davis said, “(Former Rector) Murray Trelease took over - he put me on the vestry right off. Trelease made us feel at home. I would never go anywhere else. It was my home, and it was Nettie's home – our Christian home.” All four of the Davis' children have been members of St. Paul's. The girls sang in the choir and their boy was an acolyte (girls were not acolytes at that time). Dr. Davis has been active at St. Paul's as well. He has taken many courses here, for example, he studied Alpha and Cursillo. And he taught the Bethel series.

Dr. Davis said the book *A Purpose Driven Life*, which he read about five years ago, was a major source of inspiration and transformation for him. Although his parents had both been good Christian people, and he never questioned the existence of God, the book really “put things together” for him. The book, Dr. Davis said, tells us what God put us on Earth to do. It tells its readers how important love is, the kind of love we should have for others. “Love isn't part of life,” Dr. Davis explained, “It is life.”