

The Epistle of St. Paul's, Bristol Parish Petersburg, Virginia

August 2009

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

This past June, the Vestry pursued its plan to communicate with all members of the parish about the wonderful things going on at St. Paul's. At the conclusion of the fifth and final small group meeting, it was known that more than half the congregation had been able to attend one meeting or another, which is a very encouraging turn out. But nearly half the people of St. Paul's did not get to hear the presentations made by the Vestry nor did they get the opportunity to offer their thoughts or ask any questions. A summary of the entire small group process is now being drawn up and will be delivered for everyone to consider. We hope that this will help us move forward together.

During two of the five meetings, a desire for a service of Morning Prayer on Sunday morning was expressed. While I am a firm believer in the Holy Eucharist being the principal form of celebration appropriate for the Lord's Day, I am not unsympathetic towards those who remember fondly "the good ol' days" when we used to have Morning Prayer and a sermon nearly every Sunday of the month. In order to determine the magnitude of the interest in Morning Prayer, I think it might be best for St. Paul's to read Morning Prayer together on the second Sunday of each month at the 10:30 a.m. service beginning in October. We will follow this schedule for the period of one year and review the

attendance at the service to see whether or not we will continue beyond the trial year.

Another "hot topic" during the small group discussions was the marketing of St. Paul's. Everyone seemed pleased with the new bumper stickers and I have been seeing more and more of them around town. Ideas for a fall event to which we can invite the local community were reviewed. Efforts to reach out more effectively to the new arrivals at Fort Lee were also presented. Chris Johnson, our Senior Warden, has begun to gather together several folks to serve on a Marketing Committee and we are very excited to learn from them about their thinking.

As you read through this month's newsletter, I hope you get a sense of the excitement that is building over this summer for the upcoming Fall Program. The Sunday School, the Young Adults, the Confirmation Classes, the new Annual Meeting schedule, the new Library, the purchase of the back lot between the church and Market Street, and the Fall Concert Series are all amongst the highlights of "the wonderful things going on at St. Paul's." Come and be a part of the new life that is being offered at St. Paul's.

Peace,
Rick

Highlights of Fall Events

Sunday, September 13th – Kick-Off Sunday

Sunday School Opens
Ministries Fair and Sign-Up Day
Picnic on the Lawn

Sunday, September 20th – Baptisms

Cade and Cole Cannon will be baptized

Sunday, September 27th – Bishop's Visitation

Bishop Hollerith will arrive for breakfast
Meeting with confirmands at 10:00 a.m.
Celebration of New Ministry & Confirmation at 10:30

Sunday, October 4th – St. Francis Day

Blessing of the Animals at 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

On Sunday, August 16th, registration forms will be made available in the Narthex in the front of the church and in the foyer at the back entrance. Please help us to prepare materials for the students who will be participating in this year's Sunday School curriculum by registering your child(ren). Elizabeth Chandler and Vanessa Keeler are looking forward to learning with your children this year. The Sunday School Program will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 13th. A wonderful new feature of this year's classes will be the opportunity for the children to sing together as Claire Tozzi will be with the students for fifteen minutes every Sunday.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

In preparation for Bishop Hollerith's visit on Sunday, September 27th, classes for both adults and youth will be offered through out September. Those adults who have not yet been confirmed in the Episcopal Church or those who would like to be received into the Episcopal Church from another denomination or even those who would like to reaffirm their baptismal vows may meet with the Rector on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. September 9th, 16th, and 23rd. These classes will provide an overview of the history of the Episcopal Church, a look at traditional Anglican theology and Scriptural interpretation, and a review of the service of Confirmation itself. Those children who would like to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church are invited to meet with the Rector on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. September 6th, 13th, and 20th to prepare.

Please contact the Rector if you would like to stand before the Bishop and be confirmed.

NEW ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

During its July meeting, the Vestry outlined a new schedule for holding the Annual Meeting of the Parish. Rather than wait until late January or early February to review the Budget and elect new Vestry members, the Vestry believes that it behooves all of us to hold the Annual Meeting in mid-November. This earlier date for the Annual Meeting causes at least two good things to happen. The Budgeting process for the next calendar year will begin earlier and the new budget will then be able to go into effect on January 1 of the new year. The Stewardship Campaign will take place in October and most likely will feature a format similar to the Small Group meetings held in June, but will all take place at

the church. There will be more detailed information on this event in the next *Epistle*. New Vestry members will also be elected in time to hold elections for new officers in December and thereby have the Wardens begin serving right away in the new year. The date for the next Annual Meeting is therefore November 15, 2009. Please make every effort to attend this important event in the life of St. Paul's immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service on that Sunday.

Announcements

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH AT 7:00 P.M.

Bishop Hollerith and the Delegation from the Diocese of Southern Virginia will be at Christ & Grace Episcopal Church on Sycamore Street to present their views of what took place at the General Convention in Anaheim, CA this July. Both the Bishop and the members of the delegation will then answer any questions from the floor.

THE NEW LIBRARY

Frances Johnson and the faithful members of her Library Committee have been toiling away on painting, carpeting, and furnishing the new Library. Books are being placed on the shelves. New arrivals are being catalogued and shelved. A computer providing Internet access is being made available. A de-humidifier has been keeping everything dry and warm. It is a very pleasant space to find a book and settle in for a comfortable read. Please come and pay the Library a visit soon!

CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 27TH WITH THE BISHOP'S VISIT

The installation of the new Rector will finally (!!!) take place on Sunday morning, September 27th at the 10:30 a.m. service. This liturgy is the opportunity for St. Paul's to welcome ceremonially the new Rector in our midst. In addition to the Bishop's reading of the Letter of Institution, prayers are offered on behalf of the new Rector and the congregation as they begin their new ministry together. Various organizations within the parish offer up symbols of the work that they share with the Rector. There are many, many opportunities for the members of the congregation to participate in this service. If you would like to contribute your ideas to the development of this special liturgy, please make your interest known to the Rector.

PURCHASE OF BACK LOT FINALIZED

The Trustees of St. Paul's have signed off on a financial agreement with Mr. Larry Tucker to purchase the back lot that runs west from the back of the church out to Market Street. The addition of this piece of land to the campus of St. Paul's will give everyone much greater access to easy parking. In the near future, we hope to make some simple and cost-effective changes to the Market Street entrance to the church: fencing along the sidewalk, an Episcopal sign at the entrance, directional striping to route cars safely through the larger parking lot, and designated parking spaces. In the long run, we may be able to make some architectural changes to the back of the Parish House to make the church more attractive and visible to the community.

The \$150,000 cost of the land will be paid with an initial \$30,000 down payment from The Endowment Fund and 20 semi-annual payments of \$7,697.66 to amortize the remaining \$120,000 at 5% interest. The first of the semi-annual payments will be made from The Endowment Fund on January 9th, 2010. The Vestry and the Trustees are both agreed that this is a very significant purchase for the church and a wise use of the funds from The Endowment Fund.

NEXT YOUNG ADULT EVENT

The Young Adults Group has continued to meet over the summer and would love to see more people join them at Battlefield Park Swim Club for an evening of swimming, games, great food, and fine fellowship. On the third Saturday of August, the 22nd, activities will begin at 3:00 p.m. and conclude at 7:00 p.m. Everyone who considers himself to be "young at heart" is welcome to join the crowd! Bring a bathing suit, a towel, a comfortable chair, something refreshing to drink, and something edible to share with 6 to 8 people or \$5 to contribute towards the cost of the food provided.

HYMN SING TO RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

The Hymn Sing will resume on Wednesday evening, September 9 at 6:50 p.m. after the choir returns from its Summer Retreat at the beach. Those in attendance at the Compline or Evening Prayer service are offered the chance to pick four favorite hymns that may not always be sung on Sunday morning. Please come join in the songs and the fun!

Concerts by Candlelight

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH ~ 6:30 P.M.

Appomattox Chamber Ensemble

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH ~ 6:30 P.M.

Roland Karnatz, *Clarinet*

Charles Lindsey, Jr., *Organ & Piano*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH ~ 6:30 P.M.

Cheryl Van Ornam, *Organ*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH ~ 6:30 P.M.

Annual Christmas Gala and Sing-A-Long
This Year Featuring Charles Lindsey, Jr., *Organ*



*July birthdays and anniversaries are included
as there was no newsletter last month.*

July Birthdays

- 2nd Susie Parrish, Elizabeth Zehmer
- 3rd Sonja Reiss
- 8th Adelaide Butler, Brennan McCarney
- 14th Mandie Brando
- 16th Robert Lytle
- 17th John Maclin
- 22nd Anya Magazine, Sasha Magazine
- 23rd Marti Manson, Bob Odom, Susan Wells
- 28th Randy Manson
- 30th Craig Parrish
- 31st Linda Maclin

July Anniversaries

- 10th Charlie and Beth Cuthbert
Bruce and Marti Manson
- 11th Chris and Andrea McCarney
- 14th Justin and Vanessa Keeler
- 19th Martin and Elizabeth Johnson
Heath and Mary Ann Myers
- 21st John and Shirley Van Landingham
- 28th Jason and Elizabeth Chandler

August Birthdays

- 4th Carla Odom
- 6th Virginia Maclin
- 8th Heath Myers, Stephen Tuck
- 20th Anne Finney, Jim Wynne
- 27th Bryan Sheetz
- 29th Stephanie Little

August Anniversaries

- 6th John and Linda Maclin
- 12th Wert and Pat Smith
- 17th Ted and Mary Stewart Ruhnke
- 22nd Sam and Rebecca Bryant