

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

February 2009

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Deadline for March issue:
Noon, February 17th

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

The feast day of the Conversion of St. Paul falls on January 26th this year, which just so happens to be my first day at St. Paul's. Coincidence? Perhaps, but my family and I prefer to think of it as additional confirmation of the call to St. Paul's. I have always liked Paul, even though some believe incorrectly that he didn't think highly of women. Paul was a man of very strong passions. At first, he was most vehemently against the Christians who would cause disruptions within the Jewish community and the synagogues. And then, after his dramatic conversion on the Damascus road, Paul was so zealous for the Lord that he considered no torment to be too hard to bear. Our Scriptures would be so much less elegantly stated and our host of witnesses would be so greatly diminished, if not for the life and ministry of St. Paul.

I am deeply honored and quite humbled to join your faith community as your new Rector. I understand that there have been some tough times in the past, but I am looking forward to the great opportunities for love and service to which our Lord Jesus Christ is calling us. Each of us has been given the necessary spiritual gifts for the accomplishing of God's vision for St. Paul's. Together, we can offer new life in Old Towne.

April and our two daughters, Christian and Elisabeth, share my joy and enthusiasm for this new adventure. I can't wait to get started.

Peace, Rick Greenwood

Summary of the January 11th Vestry Meeting

The meeting was opened with prayer by the interim rector at 12:30 p.m.

Three new Vestry members were welcomed-Justin Keeler, Jason Chandler, and Deneé Tuck. Vestry member Jackie Blake had hip replacement surgery Thursday and will likely be coming home today.

Vanessa Keeler will distribute the December minutes by e-mail for review before they need to be approved at the February meeting. Anne Rowlett has agreed to serve as Register starting in February.

The new rector, interim rector, delegates and alternates have been registered to attend Diocesan Council the weekend of February 13th - 15th.

Rick Greenwood will be in the office starting January 26th and preach his first sermon on February 1st.

The senior warden has signed documents for St. Paul's to purchase the lot to the rear of the church from Mr. Larry Tucker. Mr. Tucker will finance a portion of the purchase price.

The reception to welcome the new rector on February 1st will be a catered event. We expect 120 people to attend. Funds were approved for this approximate number.

The vestry retreat will be held at Cheatham Annex on February 6th - 7th. Stewardship and the 2009 Budget will be a major focus for the retreat, as well as bringing on board the new vestry members and answering their questions about vestry service. Liaison assignments will also need to be revisited. Outreach and Christian Formation are currently unassigned due to Elizabeth Chandler and Barbara Reynolds rotating off the Vestry at the end of the year.

Concerts by Candlelight

Every second Friday of the month
as part of Petersburg's *Friday for the Arts*.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH AT 6:30 P.M.

Serenade

A Valentine's Day tribute to
Mario Lanza and Luciano Pavarotti

Jeffrey Prillaman, *Tenor* Dr. Charles Hulin, *Piano*

Donations to the Whittle Music & Arts Fund are gratefully accepted. Please look for the yellow envelopes and place them in the plate near the door.

These contributions fully support St. Paul's Music Ministry in downtown Petersburg.

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**Thanks Be to God for  
St. Paul's Discernment Committee  
and Vestry for calling the**

**Rev. Rick Greenwood to be our new rector.**

For their prayers, dedication, hard work, patience, and hundreds of hours of their precious time, for George Blake, Jackie Blake, Elizabeth Chandler, Chris Johnson, Peachie Johnson, Vanessa Keeler, John Maclin, Barbara Reynolds, Joe Riddick, Mike Smith, Wayne Thompson, Mike Tuck, Steve Tuck, Jim Wynne, Linda Wynne, and for Search Consultants Steve Berry and Steve Van Vorhees, we all say "Thanks be to God!"

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Little Notes from You

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

Thank you all so much for your good wishes and staff gift at Christmas. My family and I do so appreciate your generosity.

Peace to all,
Susan Wells

To the Congregation of St. Paul's,

We want to thank you for your prayers, notes, cards, and caring during the last three months. All have helped. We also thank Rick for his help and caring – including meeting us at VCU Hospital at 5:20 a.m. on the day of Skip's second surgery! We will be back among you very soon. Skip is doing very well.

God Bless You All,
Gracelyn & Skip Parks

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

FEBRUARY 24TH

6:00 PM

Please join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 6:00 pm on the 24th. St Paul's Vestry will be preparing and serving the pancakes, sausage, and baked apples.

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## Ash Wednesday Services

### *Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes*

**FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**12:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

*No Dinner or Programs on Ash Wednesday*

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2009 Lenten Series begins March 4th

"The Bible Basics for Lent"

- March 4: The Great Flood; "And it rained for forty days and forty night..."
- March 11: The Desert Wanderings; Forty years in the Sinai
- March 18: The Babylonian Exile; More than forty years away from Jerusalem
- March 25: From Easter to Ascension Day; Jesus' last forty days on earth
- April 1: The Season of Lent; Jesus' forty days in the Wilderness – No foolin'!

The roots of our traditional "observance of a holy Lent by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" are deep and vital. The purpose of this year's Lenten Program is to enrich everyone's awareness and understanding of the currents that run throughout the entire Bible which can nourish our thirsty spiritual souls. Come and join us in this enlightening endeavor to appreciate "The Bible Basics for Lent" on the five Wednesday evenings after Ash Wednesday: Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; Compline at 7:00 p.m.; and Lenten Program at 7:15 p.m.

“As you have done it for the least of these, you have done it for me” – Outreach News and Opportunities

We continue to collect food for St. Joseph’s Food Pantry on fourth Sundays each month. We give thanks to John Van Landingham for carrying the food over for our neighbors to distribute each month. Many of us are aware of an increased need for the simple things, such as food, by many families who are not normally dependent on others. Please continue to remember the unemployed and those who cannot help themselves.

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**New Wednesday Evening Schedule**

- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Compline
- \* 7:15 p.m. Bible Study
- 7:15 p.m. St Paul’s Choir Rehearsal

\* Denotes a change

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February Lectionary

Sunday, February 1st

The Presentation of Our Lord

Malachi 3.1-4

Psalms 84.1-6

Hebrews 2.14-18

Luke 2.22-40

Sunday, February 8th

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40.21-31

Psalms 147.1-12, 21c

I Corinthians 9.16-23

Mark 1.29-39

Sunday, February 15th

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

II Kings 5.1-14

Psalms 30

I Corinthians 9.24-27

Mark 1.40-45

Sunday, February 22nd

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

II Kings 2.1-12

Psalms 50.1-6

II Corinthians 4.3-6

Mark 9.2-9

Is God calling you?

We have great need for a *Visual Historian!* This is someone who knows how to use a digital camera and submit photos on a regular basis to the webmaster. We are fortunate to have a photo gallery on our website. Every time we have a special service, meal or we have parishioners involved in outreach ministries, or other parish ministries, we would like to have pictures to put in our photo gallery. *Taking* photos can be fun! In this day and age if a website does not have recent photos on it, it begins to look aged—and none of us wants to look too aged!

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**February Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Wert Smith
- 13<sup>th</sup> Brennan Joiner
- 15<sup>th</sup> Andy Cuthbert
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mike Lytle
- 16<sup>th</sup> Wayne Tuck
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mike Smith
- 20<sup>th</sup> Kitty Hatcher
- 21<sup>st</sup> Sharon Wilmot
- 28<sup>th</sup> Ellen Smith

*(No anniversaries this month)*

**Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?**

Please forgive us! If we did, let us know. We may not have had the information. As a parish family, we really do want to remember each person’s birthday and anniversary.

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St. Paul’s Mission

“As an historic, downtown parish, we seek Christ through traditional Rite I Anglican liturgy and music. We strive to make disciples of Christ and to serve the needy in His name.”

St. Paul’s Vision

“To support our mission statement, our vision is to fill St. Paul’s with vibrant families who will engage in Christian formation and outreach; expand our music ministry; establish a Christian day school; and maintain an appreciation for our historic, Anglican heritage.”