

The Epistle of St. Paul's, Bristol Parish

Petersburg, Virginia

July 2011

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

As a lifelong Philadelphia Eagles football fan, I have seen "the best of times and the worst of times" as Charles Dickens has written. The early 1960's were championship years and the past eleven years under Head Coach Andy Reid have been gloriously exciting with several Divisional and NFC Championship titles. But those intervening thirty years between 1965 and 1995 - other than a Super Bowl run with Dick Vermeil in the early 80's - were very lean years at best. When Andy Reid came to Philadelphia after having been the quarterbacks coach for the Green Bay Packers, i. e. not even an Offensive or Defensive Coordinator let alone an Assistant Head Coach, he was asked, "How do you intend to turn this team into a winning organization?" In perfect "coach speak," Reid responded, "First of all, I can't do it alone. All of us are going to do things the right way together."

Since my coming to St. Paul's in early 2009, the Vestry and I have been steadily working together to build "a winning organization" that does things the right way. We believe that God has provided us with all the spiritual gifts necessary to accomplish the tasks to which he calls us to devote ourselves. The words of the Rite I post-communion prayer, "And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, *and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in...*" beautifully articulate this understanding.

A few examples will clarify this grateful understanding of God's generous providence. St. Paul's needs "to get the word out" about our beautiful worship space, extraordinary music program, and warm family fellowship. Billboards are too expensive and radio coverage in the Tri-City area is nearly non-existent. Through the "Bread Ministry" the name of St. Paul's Petersburg is getting out into the community with the message that we are a caring church. The Vestry has begun to develop a specific process for delivering timely news articles to local newspapers so that our neighbors will learn of our many outreach activities. A new Wednesday night Concert Series will bring people into our church building who may be inspired to return for worship on Sunday morning. We have been faithfully offering up our time, talents, and treasure to God and He has blessed us with new ministry opportunities and fresh enthusiasm.

The mindset of St. Paul's is definitely beginning to shift from an anxious "Oh, dear! What are we going to do?" to a more confident "Let's get this ball rolling!" In the fall, a small group of St. Paul's people will begin to work through a 12-week video seminar called *Grow my Church!* They will be meeting on Wednesday nights before and during dinner to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the various programs and practices at St. Paul's. This is not an exclusive group in any way! The core group needs to remain constant throughout the work, but anyone else is most welcome to sit in on the sessions and contribute. We are going to do things the right way together. We are going to get this ball rolling! Peace, Rick

Highlights of July Events

Tuesday, July 5th - Richmond Squirrels Baseball!!!

7:05 p.m. vs. Trenton Thunder (NY Yankees)
FIREWORKS following the game
\$7 per person - reserved seating

Friday, July 8th - Friday for the Arts! Concert

6:30 p.m. Featuring Paul Allen Lee, Pianist
From Brahms to the Battle Hymn of the Republic

Wednesday, July 13th - Wednesday Night Concert

Victoria I. Williams, Soprano
Dustin Faltz, Baritone
Charles Knight Lindsey, Jr., Organ & Piano

Wednesday, July 20th - Wednesday Night Concert

Melanie Autumn Libbey, Flute
Charles Knight Lindsey, Jr., Organ & Piano

Wednesday, July 27th ~ - Wednesday Night Concert

Appomattox Chamber Ensemble

Recent ECW Outreach Activities



The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St. Paul's asked members of the church to donate new or gently used children's books during the month of May and everyone responded with overwhelming generosity! More than five cartons of excellent books were collected for distribution through out the Tri-City area. Peachie Johnson delivered two of the cartons to Alice Wyche and Anita Crocker at Crisis Assistance Response Emergency Shelter (Cares). The books will be warmly welcomed by the children of homeless or low-income families who would not otherwise have books to call their own. The success of this outreach ministry is a true indicator of the kindness that overflows from the hearts of the people of St. Paul's!

"And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." - Matthew 25:40

Congratulations all around!

St. Paul's had two recent graduates from Virginia State University: Ernest Miles with a BA in History and Alex Maclin, Magna Cum Laude, with a BS in Physical Education and Recreation.

The Prince George County School Board recently recognized Coach John Maclin and his JV softball team for an undefeated (15-0) season and finishing in first place in the Central District.

John Tyler Community College welcomes Dr. James H. Ryan as the newest member to its College Board. Dr. Ryan will represent the City of Petersburg on the John Tyler Community College Board.

Musings from the Senior Warden

Summer is here and things slow down at church... WRONG! Life at St. Paul's is as busy as a hummingbird. In the month of June, we have had beautiful music at our Sunday services. Boxes of books for disadvantaged children have been delivered. The "Bread Ministry" and collections of canned goods are feeding the hungry. Charles Lindsey arranged for a wonderful concert on the 22nd of June and he has more in the works for July. Preparations for the Paul Lee piano concert on July 8th are underway. Downpours of rain did not dampen the spirit of a successful E.G.O.D.S. dinner. A record number have signed up for a Squirrels' baseball game on July 5th. Turnout remains high for our Wednesday night dinners and Compline. A table has been created where we can find a book to read while at the beach or curled up in front of an air-conditioner... and all for a dollar which will go to an ECW outreach project.

The day-to-day work at church continues. I have said before that I am in awe of the dedication of so many members at St. Paul's. We must have the best cooks of any church in the Tri-City area. On Sundays, the candles have been filled with oil, flowers placed on the altar, linens pressed, silver polished, bread packaged, doors unlocked and relocked, air-conditioning turned on, ushers in place, lay readers ready, the collections taken and counted, the nursery is open and offering a clean and attractive place for our youngest.

The needs of our church and our world do not take a summer vacation. The season offers us an opportunity to help with one of the above activities... even if only for a couple of weeks. We can give a vacation to those who so dutifully perform these acts that make our worship more meaningful.

On a recent Wednesday evening, a member mentioned the possibility of a new outreach project, but then asked, "Are we doing too much?" Driving home that evening, I thought to myself, "Would Jesus say we are doing too much for the church or to help others?" Each of us can find a new way to contribute this summer. In the vernacular of a generation younger than mine, that would be "AWESome!"

Wednesday Night Concerts in July

July 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Victoria I. Williams, Soprano

Dustin Faltz, Baritone

Charles Knight Lindsey, Jr., Organ & Piano

VICTORIA WILLIAMS, soprano, sang for us last month. Those who came were inspired by her voice, artistry, and stage presence. We are pleased to announce that she has offered to return to do another program before she departs for Europe. Her biography was in last month's Epistle.



DUSTIN FALTZ, baritone, is a classically trained vocalist, audio engineer, and voice actor who performs and coaches styles ranging from Classical and Musical Theatre to Contemporary A Cappella and R&B. As an actor, Dustin has portrayed characters on stage, film, TV, and the airwaves. As an engineer, he has worked with a number of commercially released artists including Virginia's very own GRAMMY nominated Chris Brown. Dustin is a member of the Music Educators' National Conference, and the Virginia Music Educators' Association. The private voice students of Dustin Faltz have been accepted to some of the top performance high schools and collegiate programs in the country. Dustin Faltz received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Virginia Commonwealth University.

July 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Melanie Autumn Libbey, Flute

Charles Knight Lindsey, Jr., Organ & Piano



MELANIE AUTUMN LIBBEY, flautist, just received her Bachelors of Music in flute Performance from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she was principal flautist of the VCU Symphony Orchestra. An exceptionally gifted and skilled musician, she has won as well as placed in several music competitions. In the fall, she will further her studies as Graduate Assistant in Flute Performance at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

July 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Appomattox Chamber Ensemble
A Program of Varied Instrumental Music

Concert by Candlelight Returns!

On Friday, July 8th, Paul Allen Lee will give a piano recital at St. Paul's featuring music from Brahms to *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Paul is a recent graduate of Virginia Tech and the University of Tennessee. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m.

A very special "Thank you!" to the Ryans

St. Paul's wishes to thank Dr. Jim & Pat Ryan for their most generous donation of a Kohler & Campbell baby grand piano to St. Paul's. The piano will be of great benefit to our concerts. We cannot thank them enough for their kind bestowal of this marvelous gift!

Victoria Williams Wows her Audience!



With our very own Charles K. Lindsey, Jr. accompanying her on the organ, Soprano Victoria Williams sang a wonderful program ranging from classical to opera to sacred to Broadway music on Wednesday evening, June 22nd. Though she may not have been aware of it as she began her program, Ms. Williams was performing before an audience that was not entirely enamored of operatic singing. Her delightful stage presence, charming personality, and warm heart very quickly won over everyone present. Through an engaging repertoire of varying musical styles, Ms. Williams enthralled her captivated listeners with some of her very favorite pieces of music. She indeed has a singing voice that is obviously a gift from God!

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
- 19th Martin and Elizabeth Johnson
Heath and Mary Ann Myers
- 21st John and Shirley Van Lanningham
- 28th Jason and Elizabeth Chandler

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.

