

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

June 2010

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

Several years ago, I remember reading a church's June newsletter. There were the usual articles about the Young People's Fellowship Group, the ECW, the Parish Picnic, and an Acolyte trip. And, of course, there was the obligatory letter from the Rector. It was cheery enough at the outset as the Rector reviewed some of the highlights from the previous "program year," i.e. September to May. Once I read that phrase "program year," I started to feel a little nervous about what might be coming next. And then the Rector said it, "So, I wish you all a good summer. Try to attend a church on Sunday morning wherever you go and I'll look forward to seeing you again in September." Yikes! The Rector didn't explicitly say, "Good-bye," but he might as well have. He was giving everyone in the church permission to disappear for the months of June, July, and August. "Go play golf! Sit at the beach! Hike a mountain trail! Sleep in. Read the newspaper," he could just as well have said. I understand, of course, that summer is the time that many folks take vacation, but I would like to note my gentle objection to the notion of regarding all the months of summer as one long continuous vacation from church.

St. Paul's is "cooler by a mile" than most churches in the summer. We will continue to feature a light continental breakfast – thanks to Panera Bread – after the 8:00 a.m. service and we will resume the enjoyable custom of "Lemonade on the Lawn" after the 10:30 a.m. service. The sermons will have a Vacation Bible School feel to them as we will be listening afresh to the stories that Jesus told. We will continue to have some Rite II Eucharists at the 10:30 a.m. service. And several baptisms have been scheduled for the summer months. The Short-term Mission Trip Team to the Dominican Republic will make a Sunday-morning presentation of its work at Centro Buen Pastor in July. In other words, there will still be plenty of reasons to keep coming to church as the weather gets warmer. In fact, please invite your friends and acquaintances to give St. Paul's a try during the summer, so that they might be all the more likely to return with you in the fall.

This spring, we have continued to see more and more people coming to St. Paul's for the first time. The Vestry through a sub-committee has been working to develop a well-thought out Greeters ministry to help us all see the larger picture of attracting new members to St. Paul's from an initial invitation, through a warm welcome on Sunday morning, to timely follow-up after a first, second, or third visit. We will begin implementing some of these new hospitality practices over the summer and launch the entire endeavor at our Kick-Off Sunday on September 12th.

If you do happen to be away from St. Paul's on a Sunday morning this summer, visit the local Episcopal church and learn what other people are doing to make visitors and newcomers feel welcome. Pick up bulletins, inserts, flyers, and brochures. Watch what people do. Listen to the announcements. Enjoy the worship. And bring back some ideas to share. And, of course, don't stay way too long!

Peace, Rick

Highlights of June Events

Sunday, June 6th

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Rite I
Recognition Sunday
5:00 p.m. Evensong celebrating Corpus Christi

Sunday, June 20th – Father’s Day

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Rite I
12:15 p.m. Parish Picnic at the Blake’s
All are welcome!

June 12th to June 18th – DR Mission Trip

Sunday, June 13th

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Rite I
No Afternoon Celtic Communion

Sunday, June 27th

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 a.m. Holy Baptism and Eucharist – Rite II
Katie Dowling’s baptism

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Getting To Know Your Vestry

John Maclin

Hello, I am John Maclin. I am serving the last of a three year term on vestry. I am a lifelong member of St. Paul’s. I was baptized, confirmed and married at St. Paul’s. My family has attended St. Paul’s for over four generations. Our five daughters were raised and confirmed at St. Paul’s.

I have participated in all facets of church life at St. Paul’s. As a youth, I sang in the choir, was an acolyte, participated in Sunday school and Bible school, and was a member of EYC. I also played on the church league basketball and softball teams.

As an adult, I am still an acolyte, a member of the Bristol Ringers, and a chair of the Fellowship Committee, which includes organizing EGODS, the breakfast and dinner meals. I have taught both the adult and children’s Sunday school. I have served on numerous other committees in my life at St. Paul’s.

Many of my fondest memories as a youngster originated at St. Paul’s. I was confirmed at Christmas Eve service. The Friday night Lent program where we attended services, ate dinner and then walked to the armory for roller skating. After football games sock hops were held in what is now known as Bristol Hall. The St. Paul’s youth basketball teams were coached by Mr. Van and Mr. Rosser. These gentleman coaches taught sportsmanship and fair play. The games played at the old YMCA. I will always be indebted to Mrs. Cuthbert, my confirmation class teacher and good friend, for her patience and the values that she instilled.

Currently, I am employed by Prince George County Schools as the coordinator of Exceptional Education at Riverside Regional Jail. I teach GED and adult basic education to youthful offenders. In my spare time, I coach girl’s basketball and softball teams at Prince George High School. During the summer months, I also assist Battlefield Park Swim Team as a starter and referee.

As you can guess, I love to coach or participate in sports. If you say, “Sports!” I say, “I’m in!” Just recently, I returned to Blue Ridge School and played in an alumni lacrosse game. Whether coaching or participating, I remain active. Linda and I, both, enjoy summers at Nags Head and winters at Snowshoe.

I will work with Rev. Rick, the Vestry, and the congregation to help St. Paul’s grow by meeting the spiritual needs of our church and the community.

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St Paul’s Parish Picnic

This year’s parish picnic will be hosted by George & Jackie Blake at their home on June 20th after the 10:30 service. Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and ice will be provided. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex (or call the Parish Office) indicating the number attending and the side dish or dessert you will be bringing. If you would like to attend but are unable to drive, please let us know. *Please remember to bring a lawn chair or blanket!*

Last Names A – L bring a dessert

Last Names M – Z bring a side dish

The ECW Holds its May Meeting

On Sunday, May 23rd, the ECW held their last meeting until September 2010. The initial discussion focused on the two projects concluding at the end of May: the United Thank Offering and the Book Drive. The old-fashioned blue Mite Boxes were collected on Sunday, May 30th. The new and “gently used” children’s books have been collected throughout the month of May and will be distributed by Kitty Hatcher and Peachie Johnson to various places, e.g. the police department, CARES, and the shelters serving children in the Petersburg metropolitan area. Some of the books will be taken to the Dominican Republic. Please mark your calendars for the 3rd Sunday of September when the ECW will be holding its next meeting.

Some of the ideas being proposed for the fall season:

- Bake Sale; Food Drive for the Animals;
- UTO Offering; Children's Book Drive;
- Mitten, Sock and Scarf Tree (for the local needy);
- Shoe Box Ministry (for the needy around the world);
- Make boxwood wreaths for the church doors.

The DR Mission Trip Needs Your Prayers

Dr. Ted Ruhnke, Kitty Hatcher, Mike & Ellen Smith, and the Rector will be working together at Centro Buen Pastor in Barrio Las Flores in San Pedro de Macorix in the Dominican Republic from Saturday, June 12th to Friday, June 18th. Since the members of the team may very well be called upon to demonstrate building skills for which they have had precious little training, they are asking for all the members of St. Paul’s to pray for them during the entire time of their trip. Please pray for safe travel, maintenance of good health, avoidance of well-documented travel-related illnesses, and sufficient energy to complete the tasks and assignments the team is given. When you are going about your daily routines, please stop for a moment and ask, “What do you think they are doing now?” And then say a little prayer for them. Just knowing that the folks back at St. Paul’s are praying each and every day will mean everything to the team. If you have any children’s books, children’s clothing, or first-aid supplies that the team could deliver to the center, please bring them to church by Wednesday, June 10th, so that they can be packed in the give-away suitcase. Simple antibiotic creams, antiseptic lotions, band-aids, aspirin, and Ace bandages can always be put to good use. Thank you for your help in gathering needed donations.

An Evensong Celebrating The Feast of Corpus Christi

Sunday, June 6th at 5:00 pm

Magnificat & Nunc dimittis – Bryan Kelly
O sacrum convivium – Tomàs Luis de Victoria
Like as the Hart – Herbert Howells

Charles Lindsey, Jr., *Organist & Choirmaster*
Cheryl van Ornam, *Assisting Organist & Choirmaster*

Wine & Cheese Reception Follows

EGODS Dinner Rescheduled

Due to the many events planned for the month of June, the EGODS Dinner has been rescheduled for the fall

Concerts by Candlelight

will return in September

Little Notes from You

Dear Friends at St. Paul’s,

Thank you for remembering my birthday and the lovely card. I appreciate it so much and have it proudly displayed on the mantle.

In Christ,
Mickey Little

June Birthdays

- 1st Elizabeth McKain
- 2nd Ben Parks
- 5th Wayne Thompson
- 19th Kelly Nelson
- 23rd Margee Whittle
- 27th William Hatcher
- 28th Dollie Belangia
- 30th Chris McCarney

June Anniversaries

- 4th Bob and Carla Odom
- 7th Jim and Pat Ryan
- 8th Craig and Susie Parrish
- 29th Joe and Pat Aldrich
- 29th Scott and Karen Guthrie

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.