

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

May 2010

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

In order to fulfill her Clinical Pastoral Education requirement, a young female Presbyterian seminarian once worked in a women's prison with Pentecostal and Baptist women in the congregation. Initially, she found it shocking when the prisoners would reply as she preached. She soon began, however, to like the dialogue with them. "Amen, Sister." Then she went into her Presbyterian field education church. She wondered to herself if anyone was out in the congregation. She was sorely tempted to ask them aloud. But she received her answer when the people filed out and an old woman said, "I sat by the fan and couldn't hear a word, but I am sure you were fine."

Most Episcopalians are as uncomfortable as the young seminarian was with the more highly charismatic manifestations of the Holy Spirit. We are often "put off" by speaking in tongues. We do not readily offer prophetic words during worship. We find it disquieting when others are "slain in the Spirit." We prefer our dialogue during sermons to be a gentle chuckle rather than a loud shout of encouragement. But Episcopalians are **not** completely void of any interest in the Holy Spirit. The Catechism at the back of the Book of Common Prayer defines the Holy Spirit as "*the Third Person of the Trinity, God at work in the world, and in the Church even now.*" But, as you can read in this carefully worded statement, there is no mention made of the work of the Holy Spirit in each of us as individuals. And yet in baptism we are "sealed by the Holy Spirit" and "marked as Christ's own forever."

How then are we Episcopalians supposed to relate to the Holy Spirit and understand its activity in our lives? Can we ever hope to be filled with the Holy Spirit and still not become raving lunatics? Is there only a stark choice between dull spiritless organic existence and zany, off-the-wall hysteria? Perhaps these kinds of questions are born of a fear of the wildness of the Spirit or at least unfamiliarity with the nature of the Spirit. I really do believe that the Holy Spirit cannot be tamed or domesticated, but neither do I believe that the Spirit operates apart from or outside the will of God who can be best known by looking upon the face of Jesus Christ. One way the Holy Spirit has been described to me is that the Spirit is the love that flows back and forth between the Father and the Son, thereby creating the bonds between the persons of the Trinity as well as the communication between them. In other words, the Holy Spirit can be the means by which we are drawn closer to the kingdom of heaven as it currently exists in the community of the Trinity. Without the Spirit, we cannot experience the life and the love that flows within the Trinity. We do not, however, have to jump about or shout at the top of our lungs to demonstrate that our spirits are attuned to the energy and the will of God.

The Catechism asks, "*How do we recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?*" The Catechism answers, "*We recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit when we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and are brought into love and harmony with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.*" We could all benefit by being more involved with the Holy Spirit. Please come and join us for worship every Sunday, but especially on the Day of Pentecost when Liam Chandler will be sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and we renew our baptismal covenant together. And maybe we can all be filled with Holy Spirit. "Amen, Sister!"

Peace, Rick

Highlights of May Events

Saturday, May 1st

9:00 a.m. Landscaping Work Day (9:00 - Noon)
5:30 p.m. Kentucky Derby Party at the Rectory
All are welcome!

Sunday, May 9th - Mother's Day

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Rite II
5:00 p.m. Celtic Communion

Friday, May 14th

6:30 p.m. Concert by Candlelight
Mike Goldberg Trio

Saturday, May 15th

9:00 a.m. Parish Work Day (9:00 - Noon)

Sunday, May 16th

12:10 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Sunday, May 23rd - The Day of Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 a.m. Baptism & Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Liam Chandler's baptism
12:00 p.m. ECW Meeting

Getting To Know Your Vestry

Mike Smith; Junior Warden

I am Mike Smith and I have been associated with St. Paul's ever since I can remember. My family has attended St. Paul's for five generations and my parents were married here. In the early 50's, my parents moved us to Petersburg and I spent Sundays between St. Paul's and Tabb Street Presbyterian. We moved to Charlottesville in 1954 where I finished grade school and college. Still, we often came to Petersburg to visit family and St. Paul's. After graduate school and living several years in upstate New York, I moved my family back to Chesterfield in 1981 and we started attending St. Paul's. About four years ago, we again started attending regularly. Over the years, I have been involved with the breakfast crew, ushering, lay reading, the search committee, and the Vestry.

Professionally, before I retired, I worked as a Professional Engineer for Virginia Power, The Nestle Company, Philip Morris and Industrial TurnAround. When I am not working on the heating system or traveling to see family, I participate in paddle sports: rafting, canoeing, whitewater kayaking (up to class 3-4), and flying small airplanes. I belong to a flying club called Wingnuts and we own 4 single-engine four- passenger airplanes. I also fly with the Civil Air Patrol as a Mission Pilot, Flight Instructor, and Check Pilot. We do search and rescue for the Air Force and give Cadets airplane rides as part of their aerospace education program. My wife Ellen and I have occasionally used the small airplanes to travel and have flown as far south as Florida, north to Maine and Wisconsin, and even camped out under a wing. In spite of that, Ellen and I have been married 42+ years and have three married children and now five grand-children all located in Virginia.

My hope for St. Paul's is to see it prosper and grow with downtown Petersburg serving and recruiting the faithful for the service of our Lord.

EGODS Dinner

Saturday, June 5th

Everyone is invited to this wonderful event, so mark you calendars for this date! Please call the church office, 733-3415, and make your reservations. Those attending are asked to bring an appetizer or a dessert. (Please let the office know what you plan to bring.) If you don't drive at night, transportation can be arranged. The cost is \$15 per person.

Menu

Beef Tenderloin or Chicken (upon request), Fresh vegetables, Potato, Soup, Rolls and butter, Wine and Lemonade

Cocktails: 6:30 pm ~ location to be announced

Dinner: 7:30 pm ~ Jim and Pat Ryan's

The ECW Holds its April Meeting

The St. Paul's ECW has really built up a head of steam! Under the very able leadership of Linda Maclin and her two assistants, Kitty Hatcher and Linda Wynne, the ECW has successfully managed a fund-raising campaign for the efforts of Episcopal Relief and Development in Haiti - the Hope Chests were filled with more than \$480! - and children's books will be collected through out the month of May. New and "gently used" children's books may be placed on the pew in the hallway of the Parish House until they are gathered up on May 30th to be distributed through out the City of Petersburg. The ECW is also seeing to it that the Spring UTO In-Gathering will be a great success as well. Blue Mite boxes are available in both the Narthex and the Middle Foyer of the Parish House. Please remember to indicate your name on your box or drop it inside so you can be given proper credit for your contributions. Finally, don't forget to keep up your offerings to the food baskets for both people and pets. Thank you!

Short-term Mission Trip set for June!

Five members of St. Paul's will be traveling to Bario Las Flores in San Pedro de Macoris in the Dominican Republic from June 12 to June 18. Dr. Ted Ruhnke, Kitty Hatcher, Mike & Ellen Smith, and the Rector will be working together at Centro Buen Pastor on several different projects according to their abilities. Dr. Ruhnke will be seeing patients in the medical clinic which is still sorting out the challenges of the new government health initiative in the DR. Mike and Rick will be tackling the electrical and plumbing issues that remain to complete the new primary school classrooms. Kitty and Ellen will add their painting efforts to the walls of that same new primary school building. There will be plenty of time for interacting with the children during and after school hours and we may be able to do some home visits as well. Sister Jean Gabriel may also have some last-minute tasks for the team to accomplish, so there may be a few surprises along the way! The Spring newsletter from Centro Buen Pastor includes a photograph of the pre-school children whose faces all say, "Won't you come and be with us?" In June 2010, St. Paul's will be there!

Little Notes from You

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

What's not to love about a St. Paul's hug?

Frances Johnson

Concerts by Candlelight

Every second Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
as part of Petersburg's *Friday for the Arts*.

Friday, May 14th

Mike Goldberg Trio

Evensong

Sunday, June 6th

5:00 p.m.

St Paul's Choir

Charles Lindsey, Jr., Organist & Choirmaster

Cheryl Van Ornam, Assisting Organist

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis of Bryan Kelly

Anthems of Herbert Howells and others

May Birthdays

1 st	Irving Lunsford
2 nd	Louise Fothergill
2 nd	Mary Stewart Ruhnke
3 rd	Lauren Wynne
4 th	Jason Chandler
4 th	Susan Smith McKain
4 th	Anne Shaffer Randall
5 th	Martin Johnson
7 th	Matthew Parrish
8 th	Skip Parks
8 th	Pat Smith
9 th	Riley Chandler
12 th	Cole Cannon
14 th	Blake Nelson
17 th	Mickey Little
18 th	Elisabeth Greenwood
20 th	Pat Aldrich
22 nd	Nan Jones
30 th	Addison Guthrie

May Anniversaries

14 th	Bob and Louise Fothergill
18 th	Steve and Deneé Tuck
20 th	Gary and Anne Rowlett

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.