

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

September 2010

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

Last month's letter about the demise of our beloved Kit Kat prompted several very thoughtful and complimentary responses. I am very grateful to those who were engaged by the story. This month I will venture a second time to start this article with another animal tale.

Nearly six years ago, April and I rescued Lily from a race track in Melbourne, Florida. Lily was not yet two years of age and most racing greyhounds are not retired until they are four or five years old. Lily was twenty to twenty-five pounds lighter than her competitors and not at all aggressive. Lily was far more interested in listening to the news about the rabbit's family than in catching the rabbit in her teeth. We thoroughly enjoyed watching her run, however, when we let her off the leash in a large enough field. She was a beautifully elegant sight as she stretched out in fourth gear at forty-five miles per hour. But lately, she had begun to limp on her daily walks. When I checked her feet, I found a sore spot on her left front paw. Dr. Cline said it was a corn and would need to be removed surgically under anesthesia. Lily came home from the vet's with a camouflage colored bandage wrapped securely around her foot.

On one of her post-operative walks, I began to think about Lily's normal four-legged prancing and how much she was disturbed by the limited use of her one foreleg. Like a three-legged stool with one of its legs missing, four-legged Lily with a bum paw was pretty wobbly. The image of a three-legged stool is often used to illustrate the importance of "*Scripture, tradition, and reason*" for the three most important core values of the Anglican Church. When I wondered about what might be best illustrated by Lily's four legs – church-geek that I am – I couldn't help but think of the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral (BCP, p. 876). "Oh, really! Now what the heck is that?" you might ask. As esoteric as the name sounds, the significance of the document is rather simple to explain.

In 1886, the bishops of the Episcopal Church met in Chicago to discuss the fragmentation of the Body of Christ into more and more separate denominations. After explaining their desire for greater unity amongst the different Communion, the bishops enumerated the four doctrines which they believed were "essential to the restoration of unity among the divided branches of Christendom:"

- 1) *The Holy Scriptures* of the Old and New Testament as the revealed Word of God.
- 2) *The Nicene Creed* as the sufficient statement of the Christian Faith.
- 3) *The two Sacraments*, – Baptism and the Supper of the Lord, – ministered with unfailing use of Christ's words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.
- 4) *The Historic Episcopate*, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the unity of His Church.

In 1888, the bishops of the Anglican Communion gathered at Lambeth Palace to affirm the work of the American bishops only adding a few words to the first point and acknowledging the importance of the Apostles' Creed in the second point.

The four points of the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral boiled down to the four italicized phrases shown above form the four cornerstones of the very solid foundation for the Christian Church. If any one of them is shaken or loosened, then the whole structure becomes unstable – just like poor "limpin' Lily." If we keep a watchful eye on each one of these four supports of our faith, then we stand in very good stead able to resist the wounds that would impede our walking on a daily basis with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peace, Rick

Highlights of Fall Events

Friday, Sunday, Sept. 3rd – Sunday, September 5th
Choir Retreat at Sandbridge

Sunday, September 12th – Kick-Off Sunday
Sunday Morning Breakfast resumes at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School Opens at 9:30 a.m.
Thomas Paul Tuck will be baptized at 10:30 a.m.

Friday, September 17th – Stewardship Small Group
At Petersburg Home for Ladies – All are welcome!

Saturday, September 18th – Parish Work Day
Yard Work and Fence Repair
plus several inside tasks to be accomplished

Saturday, September 25th – Parish Picnic
All are invited to come to the Greenwoods'
at 12 Noon for the Fall Parish Picnic

Sunday, October 3rd – St. Francis Day
Blessing of the Animals at 10:30 a.m.

The Fall Stewardship Campaign

In an effort to build upon the success of last year's Stewardship Campaign, the Vestry will once again offer a series of small group get-togethers featuring brief presentations on the various ministry areas of the Vestry members, an overview of the budget process with particular emphasis on the necessity of eliminating our dependence upon the Endowment Funds, and an exciting look at the future-oriented work of the Strategic Planning Committee. The first of these small group meetings will take place at the Petersburg Home for Ladies on Friday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. The next two will take place at the homes of Ted & Mary Stewart Ruhnke in Walnut Hill and Bob & Lou Fothergill in Colonial Heights. The date and time for these middle two meetings are still being finalized. The fourth and last meeting will take place at the church after Wednesday Night Dinner on November 10th. To live more within our means, i.e. to no longer withdraw over \$100,000 per year from the Endowment Funds, we need to increase the number of pledging households. A 25% increase would raise the number of pledging units to 75. Stewardship Sunday will coincide with the St. Paul's Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 14th after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Sunday School Program

The Sunday School Program will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 12th with Elizabeth Chandler and Vanessa Keeler leading the program. This year's classes will continue to offer an opportunity for the children to sing together as Elise Steenburgh will once again be with the students for fifteen minutes every Sunday.

Fall Parish Picnic

The Vestry would like to invite everyone to the Greenwoods' house on Saturday, September 25th at 12 Noon to enjoy the Fall Parish Picnic. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages. Those attending the picnic with last names from A to L are asked to bring a side dish to share and those attending with a last name from M to Z are asked to bring a dessert for ten. There is plenty of room inside the house if the weather is inclement, but we will all hope for a day pleasant enough for everyone to enjoy the grounds of the new Rectory.

Directions from Petersburg are pretty simple:

- 1) Drive north on 95 to Exit 67B on right.
- 2) Take Chippenham Pkwy north (VA-150 N) to first traffic light at Custis Rd (@ 11.5 miles from 95).
- 3) Go through first traffic light at Custis to first left on to Stratford Rd (Left turn lane in median strip).
- 4) Turn left onto Stratford Rd.
- 5) Turn right into gravel driveway at 2910 Stratford Rd (@ .3 miles from Chippenham Parkway).

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are planning to attend picnic so appropriate amounts of food and supplies can be purchased

Hymn Sing to resume in September

The Hymn Sing will resume on Wednesday evening, September 8 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 opportunity 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

Return in October

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

Friday, October 8th

Friday, November 12th

Friday, December 10th

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

*Donations to the Whittle Music & Arts Fund
are gratefully accepted as they fully support
St. Paul's Music Ministry in downtown Petersburg.*

Little Notes from You

Dear Friends,

We both thank you for all the visits, cards, and prayers in the past summer ordeal. I feel it urged me on. Transportation was a major problem. We give many thanks to George Zehmer, Steve Tuck, Rick Greenwood, and Mike & Ellen Smith. I also thank God for our son Richard, his girlfriend Katy, and our daughter Helen and her husband Dean for all they did.

Sincerely,
Heath & Wayne Thompson

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your thoughtful gift of \$200.00. We especially appreciate your support at a time when everyone at Boys' Home is in the process of getting back into the academic swing of things. Our boys are working hard in the classrooms at our on-campus school. Our school helps new residents achieve their proper grade level. Depending on their academic needs, they will enter public school or continue on at the Boys' Home school. Either way, they are succeeding both academically and behaviorally. It was quite a busy summer during which our boys attended church, scout and athletic camps in addition to home visits and special trips. They should be ready to get down to the business of studying. Again, thank you for your support and encouragement. Our campus is beautiful during the late summer and fall months and we invite you to stop by the Boys' Home campus for a visit when you have the opportunity.

Yours in child care,
Donnie E. Wheatley,
Executive Director

Fall Camp 2010 at Shrine Mont

This year's Fall Camp features keynote speaker Bishop Carol Gallagher, Bible Stories from Bishop Neff Powell, music and stories from Ed Kilbourne, along with many workshops being offered. During free time on Tuesday and Wednesday, the camp will be participating in an outreach project packaging 20,000 meals to be sent to where they are needed most in the world. Camp runs from Monday, October 25th through Thursday, October 28th. The cost is \$245 per person for a single room and \$215 per person for a double room. Please see Rick Greenwood for a registration form.

Parishioners Receiving Recognition

Alex Maclin was one of twelve Virginia State University student-athletes recognized as the recipient of the 2009-10 Division II ADA Academic Achievement Award. Alex was the only softball player to be honored. Her picture is on the VSU web site. Her GPA is over 3.5. Congratulations, Alex!

A Rotary Award for Johnny Vanlandingham. Johnny became a Rotary Foundation Bequest Society member. This announcement was made by District 7600 Governor Jayne Sullivan during presentations made to the three Petersburg area Rotary Clubs on August 10, 2010. Rotary is an organization of business and professional men and women united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Well done, Johnny!

September Birthdays

1st Ernest Miles
2nd Andrea McCarney
5th Drew Nelson
7th Christian Greenwood
10th Scott Guthrie
11th Grace Coover, Frank Myers
16th Karen Guthrie
17th Allyson Guthrie
21st Ginny Long
22nd Dot Mabry
24th John Van Landingham
25th Anne Rowlett
28th Jessie Vargo

September Anniversaries

6th Jim and Linda Wynne
21st Robert and Adelaide Butler
25th Skippy and Gracelyn Parks