

The Epistle of St. Paul's, Bristol Parish

Petersburg, Virginia

October 2011

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

Over the years, I have grown accustomed to the Southern practice of inquiring about one's grandmothers when introductions are being given. Although I was born a few miles north of the Mason-Dixon Line in Philadelphia, PA, I quickly and proudly let folks know that my maternal grandmother was born in New Orleans, LA and my paternal grandmother was born in Sumter, SC. And, as a matter of historical fact, the small town in which I grew up - Gladwyne, PA, then known as Merion Square, PA - seceded from the Union at the outbreak of the Civil War. When playing "Civil War" as a young schoolboy, I always fought on the Rebel side as "the Rebs" were so much cooler than "the Yanks." And everyone knew that there was no better TV hero than Johnny Yuma!

As we begin observing the sesquicentennial years of the Civil War, St. Paul's is looking to learn more about its place in the history of this conflict. Visitors are often attracted by the informal identification of St. Paul's as "The Civil War Church." It was indeed at St. Paul's that General Robert E. Lee and so many other confederate soldiers found peace and spiritual comfort within our walls during the long siege of Petersburg. I am honored to be serving as the Rector of such a proud and historic parish. I want it to be clearly understood, however, that despite my genuine romance with all things Southern: hospitality, cooking, accents, and good times, St. Paul's is no longer "still fighting the Civil War." St. Paul's is not "choosing sides" in a conflict long since ended. If I were to be expected to do so, I would choose the side of peace, of justice, and of spiritual comfort. My hope is that the events of our "October is Civil War History Month" Event at St. Paul's is that we will all gain a better understanding of how difficult war is for everyone involved. As we listen to and learn about the stories associated with the war years from 1861 to 1865, I pray that we gain an appreciation for the gallantry of the human spirit as well as a greater awareness of God's continuous efforts to bring peace and comfort out of chaos.

We study history not so much to glory in or glorify the past, but to be reassured that God is always present, always loving, and always reaching out to us in love. In other words, "If God has been with us in the past, he may be in fact with us today and be still with us in the future." Since hindsight is 20/20, we may be able to train our eyes to see more clearly in the present by spending some of our time together looking backward. But the real challenge is always to look ahead and to discover the many varied ways that God is seeking to support us in the future. God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. God is the same loving Father that he has always been. God is always offering us his very best. God is always providing us with all that we need to engage the future in new and exciting ways.

Please come and enjoy the lectures being offered by the staff of the Museum of the Confederacy on each Wednesday night in October. Come and sing along with Dr. Stephen Rockenbach as he plays the popular tunes of the Civil War Era. Come and sit in the Civil War church and feel the presence of God saying, "Be still and know that I am God." Peace, *Rick*

Highlights of Fall Events

Wednesday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Oddities & Curiosities

Sunday, October 9th – St. Francis Day

Blessing of the Animals: Inside at 8:00 a.m. and outside at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Infernal Machines

Friday, October 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Stephen Rockenbach plays Civil War Music

Wednesday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m.

First Ladies of the Civil War

Wednesday, October 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Why Rhett wasn't with Scarlet when Atlanta was Burning

St. Francis Day Celebration

Sunday, October 9th – 10:30 a.m.

The “expanded” congregation of St. Paul’s will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with barking, meowing and loud amens. The “expanded” parish membership on October 9th will include our beloved pets for what is becoming a treasured tradition of the blessing of the animals. The service will be held on the front lawn of the church. The service offers an opportunity for parishioners to introduce St Paul’s to neighbors and friends who are lovers of animals and of nature. Ask them to bring a gift of pet food to place in the basket for pets less fortunate than ours.

October is Civil War History Month

Wednesday, October 5th at 7 p.m.

Lecturer: Catherine Wright,
Collections Manager, Museum of the Confederacy
Topic: *Oddities and Curiosities*

Wednesday, October 12th at 7 p.m.

Lecturer: Sam Craghead
Public Relations Specialist,
Museum of the Confederacy
Topic: *Infernal Machines*

Friday, October 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Presenter: Dr. Stephen Rockenbach
Asst. Professor of History
Virginia State University
Presentation: *Civil War Music*

Wednesday, October 19th at 7 p.m.

Lecturer: Kelly Hancock
Manager of Ed. & Programs
Museum of the Confederacy
Topic: *First Ladies of the Civil War*

Wednesday, October 26th at 7 p.m.

Lecturer: Sam Craghead
Public Relations Specialist,
Museum of the Confederacy
Topic:

Why Rhett wasn't with Scarlet when Atlanta was burning

** \$5 donation appreciated*

A Fall Program of Music and Worship

Friday, Oct. 14th at 6:30 p.m.

The Civil War in Music and Lyrics
Dr. Stephen Rockenbach
Asst. Prof. of History at VSU

Wednesday, Nov. 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

All Souls Evensong
St. Paul's Choir
Charles K. Lindsey, Jr., Organist

Friday, Nov. 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Veterans Day Concert
Appomattox Chamber Ensemble

Wednesday, Nov. 30th at 7:00 p.m.

Virginia Benefit Chorale
Steve Davis, Artistic Director

Friday, Dec. 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Concert
Rebecca Perlstein, Soprano
Edward Schutt, Organ

Sunday, Dec. 18th at 4:00 p.m.

Advent/Christmas Lessons & Carols
St. Paul's Choir
Charles K. Lindsey, Jr., Organist

** \$5 donation appreciated*

OCW Group to Begin in October

The Old Coots and Wanna-Be's (OCW) will meet for the first time in the back room of King's BBQ on the corner of Crater and Flank roads on the first Wednesday of the month. Please note the change of day from Tuesday to Wednesday as King's is no longer open on Tuesdays. This first meeting on the first Wednesday of the month will be at Noon on October 5th. There will be no pre-established agenda - only plenty of good food and good conversation. If the group were to desire a more formal order of business then that format would be voted upon by those gathered at the meeting. The purpose of the OCW is to offer a male alternative to the ECW in which the men of the parish can find fellowship and fun, please be encouraged to bring friends who are not members of St. Paul's!

A "Thank you!" to St. Paul's

The Rector and the Vestry would like to say a very grateful and hearty, "Thank you!" to all those members of St. Paul's who made the extra effort to bring a friend to church on Kick-Off Sunday. Please check back in with those you brought with you to church and thank them (again) for coming. We have many more opportunities in October to re-invite them to St. Paul's: Friday for the Arts!, the October Lecture Series, the Wednesday Night Dinners, and, for sure, Sunday morning worship. Keep on inviting and making St. Paul's a welcoming place!

Children's Chapel

Since Kick-Off Sunday on September 11th, there has been the wonderful sound of laughter emanating from the St. Paul's sanctuary at the foot of the Chancel steps. The Sunday School children and their families have been gathering after breakfast at 9:45 a.m. for a brief service in "big church." Caitlin Costello has begun to teach the children a simple Christian song that will be sung on October 16th at Van Johnson's baptism. The parents have been performing Bible skits to illustrate the day's lesson for the children. The Children's Creed is recited. Prayers are gathered up and lifted up to God. And a closing hymn is sung. Families seem to be delighted with the opportunity to enjoy a full home-cooked breakfast and to share some kid-friendly worship. Please join us and bring your children at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday!

Usher Training

During the month of October, members of the Vestry will be offering Usher Training just before the 10:30 a.m. service. If you feel called to participate in worship in this meaningful way, please arrive fifteen minutes before the service to begin your training. Simple instructions will be given as to how and when to count the congregation, to escort people to their seats, to take up the offering, to guide people to and from the communion rail, and generally to see to it that things run smoothly during the service. We would love to be able to resume a regular schedule of ushering teams, so that everyone has a chance to participate.

Annual Meeting on November 13th

The 2011 Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be held immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, November 13th. Every effort will be made to complete the morning's second Eucharist in time to start the meeting promptly at 11:30 a.m. Because the Vestry would like to have as many of the members of the parish in attendance as possible, a new wrinkle will be added to the program. Several budding thespians have been honing their nascent acting skills by performing brief comedic skits for the Sunday School during Children's Chapel. This acting troupe will perform for the entire congregation's pleasure during the Annual Meeting! Of course, there will be the usual round of reports and a review of the 2012 Annual Budget, but one would not want to miss your friends having a bit of theatrical fun.

The Nominating Committee made up of those off-going Vestry members, Denee Tuck, Jason Chandler, and Justin Keeler, would like to ask for the names of eligible parishioners who would be willing and able to serve on the Vestry. Those members of St. Paul's who are 16 years of age or older, regular in attendance at the Eucharist - meaning that they receive communion at least three times per year! - are confirmed Episcopalians, and "are known to the Treasurer" - meaning that they contribute to the financial support of the church - are eligible to be placed on the ballot. Nominating forms are available in the Narthex and in the Foyer. Please ask for the permission of your nominee before submitting their name to the Committee.

An Episcopal Moment

"Things every Episcopalian ought to know..."

When guests come to St. Paul's, they can be daunted by our bulletin, prayerbook, and hymnal. And then there are those "Episc-aerobics!" No one wants to be left standing while everyone else is seated. What to do? How can one possibly avoid committing an embarrassing liturgical faux pax? A little mnemonic device is helpful in resolving this dilemma: "Stand to sing, kneel to pray, and sit to listen." There are, of course, the exceptions that prove this little rule, but the liturgical leader should make these changes in a customary stance well known by giving clear and timely directions.

Elegant Living Cookbooks for Sale

The Petersburg Home for Ladies is rich in history both from the ladies who call it "home" and its humble beginnings. Now eighty five years later it's truly a place of wonderful care in lovely surroundings.

Several years ago, one of the residents started a fund to assist any lady who needed financial help. This "fellowship fund" is sustained by donations, memorials and the role of cookbooks. Their latest is entitled "Elegant Living" and is a book of menus from home and abroad with recipes unusual and distinctive.

They are offered for sale in Bristol Hall and the cost is \$12.00 each, so do pick one up!

October Birthdays

- 1st Jenny Johnson, Blackwell Smith, Deneé Tuck
- 2nd Katie Dowling, Peachie Johnson
- 4th Blanche Gaitor
- 6th Robert Butler, Elizabeth Myers Lamb
- 11th Frances Johnson
- 13th Tom Raines, Rebecca Wynne
- 14th Rebecca Bryant, Bob Fothergill
- 15th Laura Cannon
- 19th Joshua Coover, Pam Haddon
- 25th Wesley Brando
- 27th Gary Rowlett
- 30th Pam Sheetz, Marti Tuck

October Anniversaries

- 13th Rick and April Greenwood

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.

