

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

October 2009

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

The wonderful 1940's play, *I Remember Mama*, features a recurrent scene in which the entire family gathers around the kitchen table at the end of each week to learn how they have managed the household budget. The children pour out their earnings from various odd jobs. Father brings his paycheck and Mama adds up all the bills to see if there is enough to pay them. After much hemming and hawing, Mama finally announces, "Well, we don't have to go to the bank this week." Everyone lifts up a grateful cheer and goes on to enjoy a happy week-end. The children do not realize until much later in life that there really isn't any money in the bank, but they are nonetheless comforted by the thought that if they were ever to fall short of funds, Mama could always "go to the bank."

St. Paul's is truly blessed by the generosity of those former members of the parish who have provided endowment funds for the financial support of the church. "Yes, Mama," there is money in the bank, but no longer is there an endless supply of funds. During the small group meetings held early this past summer, the members of the Vestry shared their excitement with all the new ministry activity that is percolating at St. Paul's, but they also wanted to impart the urgency they felt to decrease the use of

endowment funds to supplement the operating budget of the church – particularly monies from the Robertson-Bernard Fund. The simple message was, "We need to cut our dependence on the Robertson-Bernard Fund by \$40,000." We have accomplished nearly \$24,000 of that hoped for decrease which is truly marvelous, but we still have a ways to go.

The Stewardship Meetings in the middle of October will give us all a chance to learn more about the challenges and opportunities that await us. We need to continue working towards lowering our expenses by turning lights off and managing our energy costs as efficiently as possible. We need to continue to invite friends and members of the community to join us in worship and in the many ministries of St. Paul's so that we can grow our way to financial independence from the endowment funds. Just like Mama's family, St. Paul's needs to strive towards "making ends meet" without having to go to the bank.

And, yet, it should never be forgotten that God is a generous giver. God has given us everything to do the work he has called us to do!

Peace,
Rick

Highlights of October Events

Sunday, October 4th – St. Francis Day

Blessing of the Animals at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 11th – Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer will be read at 10:30 a.m.

October 11th to 18th – Stewardship Meetings

A brief meeting will be held on these two Sundays and after dinner on Wednesday, October 14th.

Sunday, October 18th – "Beating of the Bounds"

A special liturgical procession will mark and celebrate the purchase of the Market Street parking area at the beginning of the 10:30 a.m. service.

Sunday, October 25th – Pumpkin Carving!

The Sunday School kids will carve pumpkins in Bristol Hall at 9:45 a.m. Bring a carving set if you have one. Pumpkins will be provided!

Concerts by Candlelight

Every second Friday of the month
as part of Petersburg's *Friday for the Arts*.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH ~ 6:30 P.M.

Roland Karnatz, *Clarinet*

Charles Lindsey, Jr., *Organ & Piano*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH ~ 6:30 P.M.

Cheryl Van Ornam, *Organ*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH ~ 6:30 P.M.

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

Evensong to Celebrate The Feast of All Saints'

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST AT 4:00 PM

Reception to follow.

Some of you have expressed that you have missed having Evensong services this year. They do require financial support, so please consider a gift to the Whittle Music and Arts Fund! Use the yellow envelopes in the pews, see Charles, or contact the Parish Office. These contributions fully support St. Paul's Music Ministry in downtown Petersburg.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Pumpkin Carving on October 25th

Join us in Bristol Hall at 9:45 am for pumpkin carving! Parents are invited to stay and help. Pumpkins will be provided. For those with carving kits, please feel free to bring them along.

Sunday School Supplies Needed

With the Sunday School newly reformed we are in need of arts & craft and cleaning supplies, as well as a TV & DVD/VCR player. Props and costumes will be needed for the Christmas play, too. Not sure what to contribute? Monetary donations are always helpful and appreciated!

Christmas Play

A Christmas Play is planned for the afternoon of December 13th prior to the Service of Lessons & Carols.

Dates to Remember

There will be no Sunday School on December 27th and January 3rd.

TOY DRIVE TO BENEFIT ST PAUL'S NURSERY

St Paul's Nursery is in need of **NEW** toys for the Nursery! The Nursery Committee is asking for donations of NEW toys age appropriate for infants and toddlers. Items with lights and sounds that are easy to clean would be wonderful. *No stuffed animals, please.* Sheets for the portable cribs and wipes are also needed. Donations may be dropped off in the Nursery.



YOUNG ADULT GATHERINGS

Events will be held the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. October's event will be held on the 1st at the Chandlers' home. Everyone is asked to contribute \$5 and provide their own beverages. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to stpaulsya@gmail.com or the Parish Office, 733-3415.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Historic Walking Tours and a Presentation on Petersburg African American History

The Petersburg Museums will proudly sponsor two Historic Walking Tours and a presentation on African American History in Historic Old Towne Petersburg in conjunction with the *Fall Family Festival 2009* on Saturday, October 17.

Two walking tours of Historic Old Towne Petersburg are scheduled; the first to begin at 11:00 am followed by the second at 3:00 pm. Tours will start at the Farmers Market in Old Towne and will be limited to 15 participants so please make your reservations early by phoning Catherine Taylor at the Siege Museum at 804-733-2402. The tours will last approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. Bottled water will be provided.

The Petersburg African American History presentation will be held on the second floor at the Petersburg Area Art League located at 7 East Old Street from 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm. Although this event will not be limited, reservations must be made in order to reserve a seat - (804) 733-2402. Bottled water will be provided.

Reservations for the tours and the presentation must be made by October 14, 2009.

Petersburg Fall Family Festival

Petersburg traditionally celebrates the fall every year with the three-day festival, Nostalgiafest. This year the economy has limited the opportunity of such an extensive event; but, that presents a new opportunity, a one-day festival scheduled for Saturday, October 17th. Petersburg's Fall Family Festival—fun for the entire family with a fall, harvest theme. Beginning with the Farmers Market—a Saturday tradition which kicks-off at 7am —and continuing throughout the day, until 6:30, it will be a day packed with non-stop activities and excitement.

The Fall Family Festival will host a Kidz Zone with entertainment for children of all ages. In addition to traditional rides and games, there will be a petting zoo and stage performances by Bob & Judy, Puppeteers; Julian Pittman, Illusionist; and Signora Bella, Equilibrist. Music will fill the air throughout the day on the main stage with local talent represented by performances by Virginia State University, Petersburg High School and the Appomattox Regional Governor's School, Touch of Charm, in addition to Baby Huey & the Babysitters, The Top's Band, and The Indigenous Gourd Orchestra.

The Fall Family Festival all takes place in the heart of Old Towne Petersburg surrounding the Farmers Market building. Admittance is free and the event will be held rain or shine. For more information, contact Petersburg's Department of Tourism at 804-733-2402 or visit www.fallfestival.art.officelive.com.

Historic All Hallow's Eve Tours

The City of Petersburg's Museums' annual "Historic All Hallow's Eve Tours" will take place on Saturday, October 31st in Blandford Cemetery on Crater Road. The focus of the guided walking tours is the history of the cemetery and accounts of some of the permanent residents of Blandford Cemetery portrayed by costumed interpreters. Each tour features the stories of prominent businessmen, soldiers and civilians, as well as tales of an unrequited love and of a friendship with Edgar Allen Poe.

There is no vehicle parking allowed at the site. Event parking will be available at the gravel lot east of the Farmer's Market, next to the McIlwaine House (corner of Cockade Alley & Old Street). The tour begins when participants board the shuttle bus to the Reception Center at the cemetery. After participants' arrival and check-in, the tour guides will meet the groups and proceed to the cemetery for the sixty minute tour.

Participants are encouraged to bring a flashlight and wear walking shoes.

Tickets for the tour are \$7.00 per person for adults and \$5.00 for children under twelve. Reservations are required and can be made at the Blandford Church Reception Center, 111 Rochelle Lane. Space is limited. Reception Center hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 to 5:00, and Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00. For phone reservations and further information, please call (804) 733-2396.



Little Notes from You

Dear Friends,

Over the past three months, your notes, cards, flowers and most of all your prayers have meant the world to me. I thank you for all of your get well wishes as they were so special to me during my hospitalizations and rather long convalescence. Your thoughtfulness and support will long be remembered.

Fondly, *Lou Fothergill*

October Birthdays

- 1st Jenny Johnson, Blackwell Smith, Deneé Tuck
- 2nd Peachie Johnson
- 4th Blanche Gaitor
- 6th Robert Butler, Elizabeth Myers Lamb
- 11th Frances Johnson
- 12th Joe Kail
- 13th Rebecca Wynne
- 14th Rebecca Bryant, Bob Fothergill
- 15th Laura Cannon
- 19th Joshua Coover, Pam Haddon
- 27th Gary Rowlett
- 30th Pam Sheetz, Marti Tuck

October Anniversaries

- 13th Rick and April Greenwood

Happy Belated Birthday to Dorothy Mabry! Dot celebrated her birthday on September 22nd.

Happy Belated Birthday to Henry (6/23) and Ellen Alley (9/29). They also celebrated their anniversary on June 14th. Happy Anniversary Henry and Ellen!

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.