

June 2011



Summer Worship Schedule

Worship services. Starting June 5 we will change to our summer schedule with two services – 8:30 a.m. and 10:30a.m. The summer worship schedule runs through September 11. We will resume three services on September 18.

Sunday breakfasts. Starting June 19 and going through September 4, breakfast will be available at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in helping with or hosting one of the breakfasts please contact Joani Beckwith.

VBS 2011

Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid

June 13-17 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

For children ages 3-11 (must be potty trained)

\$10 per child, \$20 family maximum

Sign up at

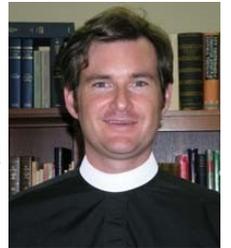
<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/StPaulsmboroVBS2011>

A Faith-Filled Family

This year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) is entitled "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid." The program teaches what life in Nazareth was like for young Jesus. Children will play

games of Bible times, become an apprentice in the village shops, and learn about first century Israel.

One of the things I like about this curriculum is its focus on Jesus' family. The first lesson the children learn is that Jesus, like us, had a family. Jesus had a family; a family that was very important in his upbringing and life.



This is a worthy truth for us parents to remember; to remember that our Lord was shaped and formed within a family; to remember the key roles that Mary and Joseph played in his life. We need to remember that, like Mary and Joseph, our homes are central to the faith of our children; that it is within the family that children learn to approach God and to foster a life of the Spirit. We need to remember this as we strive to make our homes safe, secure, happy places, filled with faith, praise, respect, and love.

In fact we should remember that fostering a Christian home is a responsibility placed on all Christian parents and we must be deliberate about fulfilling this responsibility. Remembering that God is love, we remember that our primary duty

is to love our children. We remember that because all children are wanted by God and are important to God, we need to be bringing our children into God's presence, and God's presence into their lives, through family prayer. We remember that because God is holy, we must model righteousness to their children. And lastly, because our children are the objects of God's grace through Christ, we must model humility and gratefulness to God, showing our gratitude by serving God before them.

Summer is a good time to become deliberate once again about fostering a faith-filled home – a home like Jesus' in which the spiritual life is fostered. Schedules might be a little less hectic allowing us to introduce new family disciplines such as nightly prayer, the reading of Scripture, or just the sharing of our day with one another and how God has blessed it. I invite you this summer, as our children learn more about Jesus' home, to think about your own home and how you can make it a faith-filled place.

Colin+

'Sing to the Lord a new song'

We at St. Paul's consecrated our beautiful new nave in 2002, but in a very real sense it has never been completed. It was the intention of the planners to have a new pipe organ as part of Phase I (construction of the new nave and nursery), but there simply wasn't enough money. The fallback alternative was to move the organ from St. Andrews chapel, which had been our worship space – as hard as that is to believe just a few years later.

That organ, originally installed in the chapel of St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, is more than 50 years old. It is a very basic instrument designed for use in a small space. At this point in its life, it needs major repairs just to keep it playable, but no amount of repairs can make the present organ suitable for our large worship space.

Organ music is a very important part of the Anglican worship tradition. About 12 years ago, a memorial fund for eventual purchase of a new organ was established. At the beginning of this year, the fund's balance had grown to almost \$38,000 thanks to the contributions of many individuals.

Recently, there have been three very generous additional donations, one for \$100,000, a second for \$120,000, and a third for \$148,000. St. Paul's has received from a well-known organ maker a \$547,000 bid for a new pipe organ that would tremendously enhance our worship. Doing the arithmetic, this means we need to raise only about \$141,000 to purchase the new organ, about 26% of the total cost.

The Vestry has had many lengthy discussions about the pros and cons of purchasing a new pipe organ. On May 17 we voted to proceed, passing the following resolution on a 10-0 vote (two members were unable to be present at the meeting):

The Vestry of St. Paul's acknowledges and gives thanks to God for generous gifts of faith-filled donation of \$405,000 toward a new organ, leaving a balance of only approximately \$141,000 needed to purchase the organ. Therefore, be it resolved that the people of St. Paul's proceed with the purchase of a new organ from Létourneau Pipe Organs, providing the remaining funds are contributed or promised prior to signing the contract. This decision will be conveyed to the congregation of St. Paul's, inviting those who wish to make contributions or pledges to do so.

The Vestry realizes that a new pipe organ is not everyone's top priority. Two other financial priorities are often mentioned: reducing the debt from Phase I and building a new parish hall. We encourage you to give to the glory of God in whatever way you think best. If your priority is Phase I debt reduction, please note that part of your regular pledge already does this, but extra donations designated for debt reduction would always be appreciated. Please note again that we are not incurring any additional debt for purchase of the organ.

We desperately need a new parish hall and, God willing, we should be able to build one in a very few years. If a new parish hall is your priority, you may want to put your possible gift in savings and keep it for Phase II.

With the many opportunities to give to the glory of God, the Vestry wants to emphasize how vital your annual pledge is to the ministries of St. Paul's. We ask that other contributions not impact the regular pledges on which St. Paul's depends.

If you would like to take this opportunity to enhance our worship of God with a new pipe organ and you are able to make a contribution, please talk to me or Polk about how to donate. You will have the opportunity to designate a memorial.

Here are a few verses from Psalm 98 that speak to me:

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

If pipe organs had existed then, I'm sure the psalmist would have included them in his list of instruments used to praise God!

– Richard Detmer, St. Paul's Senior Warden

On Pentecost and the Holy Spirit



Pentecost is the 50th day after Easter Day. It is not the beginning of a new season, but is the last day of Easter – the great conclusion to the greatest season of the liturgical year. It celebrates that dramatic day when, following Jesus' ascension into heaven, the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles, empowering the Church's ministry with the very presence of God – as is vividly described in Acts 2:1-11. Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the birthday of the

Church, since that was the moment when the Church was commissioned to begin its mission, and was specifically empowered by God. The Day of Pentecost is the assurance that the Church is what it claims to be: the continuing Body of Christ and the way toward living in relationship with the fullness of God. In fact, in our mission and ministry we are *part of* that fullness.

People often find themselves confused about "the Holy Spirit." I'm regularly asked about various issues regarding the spirit's "person" and activity.

One problem seems to stem from the very unfortunate modern day connotations of the old English translation "Holy Ghost" (used from 1380 to 1979). That can lead us to think of the Spirit as something eerie and spectral -- essentially "Jesus' ghost." Scripture clearly refutes this notion.

The Spirit is not "ghostly" at all, but rather is God's creative, dynamic, unpredictable and personal presence in Creation. Far from being some sort of replacement for the physically absent person of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is fully God no less than the Son is. We see that Spirit at work in the creation of the world and in the history of the Hebrews as God's chosen people. We experience the reality of the Spirit most fully in the life and ministry of Jesus, as well as in the Church throughout history as it witnesses to the Kingdom of God. It is through the Spirit's presence actually in us (not just invisibly "around" us!) that we are able to know God personally and to continue in God's will.

It is essential that we continue to resist the strong temptation to equate the work of the Spirit with our emotions! The Spirit has nothing to do with what makes us feel good, or comfortable, or correct. The Holy Spirit has everything to do with what makes us experience and grow toward the God whom we see revealed in Jesus Christ. Often

June 2011

that is uncomfortable, disorienting, and challenging, but in the end it is always strengthening and affirming.

Scripture speaks of the Holy Spirit in imagery which is just as mysterious as it is evocative of the Spirit's nature: "like the rush of a mighty wind," and as "tongues of fire." We cannot harness wind or fire, and yet we know how real and powerful each is! So, the Holy Spirit is not vague ghostliness, but rather defining and definitive. For all our shortsightedness, the Holy Spirit is **present in the Church and burns brightly in the faithful!**

Polk +

Pentecost in the Park

June 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Wear red and bring your lawn chairs. We will be using pavilions 1 and 2 again this year. T-shirts will be available. You must pre-order by contacting the church office.

Sign up in the Parish Hall to let us know how many people will be attending

* The 8:30 a.m. service on Pentecost will be in the nave at St. Paul's

The Jesus Story

The following sermon was delivered by Wesley Arning and Allie Clayton on Youth Sunday

Wesley: After reading our story from Acts this morning I can't help but wonder what has gotten into Peter? Isn't this the same person who proclaimed, "I do not know the man!" outside the courtyard?

Allie: And now he's saying things like, "know with certainty that God made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." When reading this I feel a little threatened, it's personal: whom I crucified?

Wesley: You see this Jewish crowd that Peter was talking to was not a bunch of innocent bystanders; this is a group "with blood

on their hands." Peter is helping them realize they are a part of the story, and the story doesn't end at Calvary.

Allie: As much as his message sounds threatening, it's exactly the opposite; it's a message of hope. "The things concerning Jesus have concerned and will concern them (also)."

Wesley: Peter proclaims this message from personal experience. The story doesn't end at Calvary for Peter, because a few days after the crucifixion he has a personal encounter with the risen Lord. Even after deserting him, Jesus still has a place for Peter in the story, and the openly line is "Peace be with you."

Peter Invests

Wesley: So what has gotten into Peter? It's a re-birth, a second chance to play a key role in Jesus' story. It all starts with forgiveness. And now Peter is telling the crowd they have that same opportunity.

Allie: We see a Peter here who is not backing down like the one in the courtyard. We see a Peter who isn't ashamed of the story he's telling. He jumps right into this ministry.

Maybe the best way to put it is that he has invested himself. Seeing the transformation, it's a Peter that is unrecognizable from a few days earlier.

And now he's calling the crowd to do the same. He says to seek forgiveness, and that can only come through denial of one's self, and then invest. He's telling the crowd if you want to be a part of the story, you must first set aside your own agenda because it will only get you so far.

Wesley: Now we are being called to do the same; to be a part of the greatest story ever told. Why do we invest, because it transforms and transcends everything we are and everything we

June 2011

could be, and yet we still have a major supporting role in the restoring of all creation. We are part of a grand story that doesn't stop at Calvary.

Allie: Through one's own denial, to then seeking forgiveness, we then have the chance to invest ourselves, souls, and bodies fully to the work of God.

Personal Investment

Wesley: Allie and I have had the blessing to invest some of our time with the children of the church. I have worked with Vacation Bible School for the past few years and I'm so taken back by the pure faith of those children.

The songs they sing and the prayers they raise up remind me how much I've been blessed. Your children have left an impression on my heart that I will not forget.

Allie: I remember one week when we did the prayer net two brothers were waiting in line. One brother came up and prayed that his brother would leave him alone, even though he knew his brother could hear him. But when the next brother walked up, he whispered, where his brother couldn't hear him, "Dear god, I hope you help my brother feel better, because he's a good brother and I love him."

Wesley: Through the years I've had so many people invest in me. I never thought I'd look up in the stands my senior year on the pitching mound and see some 15 people from St. Paul's cheering me on. And there's nothing like walking into church on Sunday mornings and having five different people say hi to me. As much as I feel I've invested in this parish, its members have invested ten times that much in me.

Invitation

Allie: From personal experience we invite you to invest in this community in Christ. Being a part of Jesus' story here at St. Paul's is an experience we will take from this place and into the communities we go.

Peter gives us a great example of how we can be transformed. The promise of a part in the Jesus story as Peter proclaims, "is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away."

Wesley: When we finally set aside our personal wants and desires, and decide to invest in Jesus' story, people might start to wonder what has gotten into us. But this can only happen if we invest in God and those around us.

Once we invest in those things, then a transformation begins, and our story and God's story start sounding a lot alike.

Memories

Allie: I have seen all of the different ministers come and add to what we have. Wesley and I have both experienced over six ministers, and at least 3 youth ministers. Every one of them was different. They each helped us by investing in us. It is through the investment of everyone, especially our church leaders, that we manage to thrive and continue to grow.

Wesley: I have only called one church home and it's this one. I remember being baptized as a 6 year old and Briana Phillips asking me, "Aren't you a little old for this?" And growing up my Superman was Gene Wise.

Allie: I remember my first experience at telling stories of my experiences. I made a joke about my parents that, after 5 years or so, I still haven't lived down.

Wesley: I've seen this place grow into what it is now, and have been blessed with the friendships of Polk and Colin and have watched Josh Courtney build our youth group into a thriving community.

You are my friends and my family and I owe all I have to you. In times like these, God's Church might be the only good investment, so may we continue to invest in each other.

June 2011

Allie: Thank you for investing in us. We pray that you will continue to invest in each other.

Fellowship Events

Men's Club & Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out. Please join us for Ladies Night Out, Thursday, June 2 at 6:00 p.m. We gather in a very casual atmosphere to chat and get to know each other just a bit better. Feel free to bring along your favorite beverage. If your day permits, you can bring a snack as well.

Ladies Night Out is usually the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Libby's house (730 E. Burton St., 898-0317/the corner of Hale & Burton) – in the block nestled between MTMC & Campus School.

Men's Club. Bring a friend and join the men of St. Paul's Thursday, June 2 for fellowship and dinner. Fellowship begins at 6:00 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Please see the sign-up sheet in Parish Hall.

This month the cooks are Paul Long, Jason Baird and Rick Walsh. Cooks are needed for Thursday, October 6, November 3 and December. Please let us know if you would be interested in cooking in 2011. If you have questions contact Jim Calder, Fred Koechlein, or Tom Collins.



Education Offerings

Technology Instruction Classes

Free technology instruction is offered in the Wall Building Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Sessions include demonstrations, Q&A, and discussions. If you have questions, please call Greg Adkins at 663-9519. It isn't necessary to have an iPad or other mobile device, but if you have one feel free to bring it along.

June 18: Business Budgets

Using online tools to create and maintain a business budget.

June 25: Getting the most out of email

Tips and tricks for using email to its full potential. How to use email safely and avoid spam.

July 23: Web 2.0

What in the world is Web 2.0? What is new on the Internet and where is it going?

July 30: iPad/Tablet Computing

Getting the most out of your iPad or tablet computer.

August 20: Databases

Using databases in a business environment (*e.g.*, data mining, queries)

August 27: Firefox

How to use the world's most popular web browser.

Thank You

My family and I want to extend our love and thanks for all the cards, hugs, phone calls, visits and other expressions of sympathy recently upon the sudden passing of my father, John Richmond. Dad had a wonderful life and we will always miss him, but we are deeply thankful for the love and friendship of so many people who have been with us through this difficult time.

God bless you all!

Marcie Richmond

June 2011

Birthdays

06/01 Carl Schneider
06/02 MarthaAnn Cantrel
06/04 Rachel Kirk
06/04 Scout Turner
06/05 Ken Sloan
06/05 Laney Golden
06/05 Mikki Carlson
06/06 Marcie Richmond
06/06 Gary McGuire
06/06 Karl Luboniecki
06/07 Jo Wintker
06/08 June McCash
06/08 David Flasher
06/08 Carrol Trusty
06/08 Michael Tallent
06/10 Kris McCusker
06/10 Michelle Stewart
06/11 Carol Detmer
06/13 Shirley Brackin
06/13 Barbara Sutton
06/13 Derek Moffett
06/14 Ramona Camara
06/14 Caroline Sullivan
06/15 Jeff Davis
06/16 Todd Huber
06/18 Roy Sundling

06/18 George Carlson
06/18 Jacob Black
06/18 Mason McConnell
06/19 Betty Kirksey
06/19 James Gibson
06/20 Beth McCarthy
06/21 Duncan Chew
06/22 Mike Hurst
06/22 Robert Willis
06/23 Ed McClung
06/23 Anne Taylor
06/23 Patricia Petty
06/23 Kailyn Gleaves
06/23 Adam Blum
06/24 Sudi Luboniecki
06/25 Debby James
06/27 Martha Worley
06/27 Donna Long
06/27 Gerald Oravetz
06/28 Melissa Warren
06/29 Susan Greenall
06/29 Regan James
06/29 Spencer Burritt
06/29 Ruby Gaither
06/30 Ireland O'Neil

June 2011

***Our Mission is to worship God and to bring all
into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ***

St. Paul's Staff

The Rev. James K. Polk Van Zandt, Rector
The Rev. Colin M. Ambrose, Associate Rector
The Rev. Gene Wise, Rector Emeritus
Joshua Courtney, Youth Minister
Angela Tipps, Organist, Choir Director and RSCM
Susan Greenall, Office Administrator
Kathy Warlick, Administrative Assistant
Annie Gracia, Nursery Director
Morris Hamby, 7:30 a.m. Musician
Joyce Adkins, Assistant to the Rector
Kathleen Herzog, Assistant to the Rector
Dr. David L. Rowe, Assistant to the Rector

Contact Us

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Website: <http://stpaulsmboro.org>

You can listen to Father Colin Ambrose's sermons online at <http://colinambrose.wordpress.com/>. Click on older posts at the bottom left to access archived sermons.)

To obtain a copy of Father Polk Van Zandt's sermons please contact the Parish Office at 893-3780.