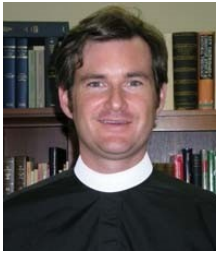




## Servants and Stewards



*Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. - 1 Corinthians 4:1-2*

How should we approach stewardship as Christian disciples? What does it mean to be a Christian steward? During our August meeting, the vestry and clergy of St. Paul's discussed these questions and published a 2011 stewardship statement for our church. What we said was this:

Stewardship is a gift from God, conveyed to the people of St. Paul's as time, talents and money, to equip us to worship Him and bring all into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Through our celebration of stewardship, we aspire to grow in our love of God, to receive God's grace through Jesus Christ, and to nurture God's kingdom in this time and place. We embrace a vision of stewardship grounded in a joyous response to God's extravagant gifts, empowering the mission of Christ through generous giving. The Vestry invites you to join us in embracing *and* acting on this vision.

I believe the last line is especially important. We are called to embrace and act on this vision. I am sure all of us can easily embrace the above idea -- acting on it can be more difficult. How often I find myself doing the former but failing in the latter. How

often I must remind myself that my spiritual life cannot be manufactured in the imagination; it must be proved by action.

We invite you over the next few weeks to discern how God is calling you act in regards to stewardship -- how God is calling you to give of your time, talents and money.

You have already heard, and will continue to hear, talks about stewardship from parishioners on Sunday mornings. In addition, you soon will be receiving pledge cards. We ask that you bring your completed pledge cards to Sunday services on October 16. On that Sunday, as we give thanks for the gifts of God, we will offer gifts to Him in return.

*God Bless – Colin+*

## Progressive Dinner Changed to Nov. 18

Plan on attending the Progressive Dinner on Friday, Nov. 18, 2011. The date has been changed from Oct. 15. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in hosting a course, please contact Mary Armour O'Reilly at 556-4913 or DeAnna Bartsch at 417-1981.

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# A Modern Parable

By Bishop John H. McNaughton

George and Mary Churchgoer were fine people, the kind anyone would want for friends. They were loyal members of their Episcopal parish.

It happened that one night, after a dinner party, full of good food, and fellowship, George and Mary retired for a good night's rest. But George began to dream. The parish was in the midst of its fall stewardship program and a caller from the church was standing with George in his living room

Now, George had always signed a pledge card, the amount depending on what he and Mary could afford to give. And when the parish was in need, they sometimes added a little, because they thought the church was a good thing.

But, in the dream, much to his amazement, George began to argue with the caller. And it was violent: "Now you tell me," George demanded, "why should we give anything at all back to the church?"

The violence of his question made George roll over in his bed.

"You give because you have been given to," was the almost kind reply.

"But, what have we been given?" George demanded to know. "Everything we have, we've earned by darn hard work," George insisted.

And then it happened, as it sometimes does in dreams, that right where his fireplace should have been, there appeared a huge sheet of white paper. And, as if by some unspoken command, a hand began to write. The first words were:  
THINK AND CONSIDER

George was so fascinated watching the hand continue to write.

A LIFE TO LIVE.....HEALTH TO LIVE BY....THE EARTH TO LIVE IN

"Well," George said, "those are gifts, but I didn't mean those"

And, again the hand wrote:

THEN THINK AND CONSIDER

THE RAW MATERIALS TO CREATE  
WITH.....A BRAIN TO THINK WITH....A  
BODY TO WORK WITH

"Well, all right, those are gifts, but I didn't mean...." George's words stopped in mid air as the hand went on:

WAIT: THE PERSONAL TALENTS AND  
SKILLS TO USE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO  
USE THEM

At this point in the dream George sat down. And as he was sitting, the hand had written:

ALL GIFTS, GEORGE. ALL GIFTS.

Then, everything disappeared from the sheet but one word: WHERE?

"Do you mean where do all those things come from? " Now, George was a good man. And he knew where. So he rose and went to the paper and he wrote one word:

GOD

And then the hand wrote again, AND WHAT ELSE GEORGE?

Now besides being a good man, George was also a smart man. So he began to think and then almost hesitantly, he wrote:

COMFORT IN TIMES OF  
LOSS....FORGIVENESS WHEN I ERROR...  
STRENGTH IN TIMES OF WEAKNESS.

Now George really believed these things, had experienced these things, although he was not too

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comfortable talking about them. But even as these thoughts passed through his mind, George was writing:

### JESES CHRIST, A GIFT OF GOD

And that's when George woke up.

That week, nothing much happened to George, until the day he received an email from the church

It was about the October stewardship campaign. George didn't read it very carefully, but one paragraph caught his attention:

So why should anyone of give anything to God? We give because we have been given to. We give because we need to give out of thanksgiving for all the things we have been given. We believe that attitude is the difference in raising money for the church and practicing Christian stewardship with God.

And out loud, George said, "Yes."

"What did you say? " Mary asked.

"Oh, George replied. "I was just remembering a dream I had last week."

## Youth Ministry Needs Volunteers

*By Steven Lefebvre*

Youth ministry is the life force of every church. It's one of the most active communities at St. Paul's, gathering several times a week for prayer, fellowship, and worship. Everything we do in our gatherings, from games to songs to reading scripture, is practicing a way of Jesus.

I would love for you to join us. St. Paul's Youth is looking for volunteers interested in practicing the way of Jesus with us. We need leadership, and I can't do it all on my own. I'm looking for adult leaders who can connect with and lead students in the way of Jesus, by practicing it right along side them.

If you think you don't you have the gifts for youth ministry, you're probably wrong. No teenager remembers his or her youth

leader for being cool or even particularly good at anything. A good youth leaders are people who are committed to the spiritual growth of teenagers, can be present to their story, and can simply be themselves. If you believe this might be you, let's get coffee and talk about getting involved! Pray about it and email me at [youth@stpaulsmboro.org](mailto:youth@stpaulsmboro.org).

## It's Time for Vestry Nominations

*By Richard Detmer*

Each year St. Paul's elects new vestry members. This year, we will be electing five members at our December 4 annual meeting – four to serve three-years terms and one to fill a vacant one-year term. Serving on the vestry is an important ministry and the vestry needs representation from many groups at St. Paul's.

The election process will start with the nomination of candidates. Nomination forms will be available on Sunday, October 16 and must be returned by November 1. Any parish member in good standing who is at least 16 years old may nominate up to three candidates. The candidates themselves must be at least 18 years old and also members in good standing. You must ask a person you are nominating before submitting his or her name. A nomination form must be signed and dated by the person making the nominations.

Here is how the slate will be determined. The individuals receiving the most nominations will be "vetted" by our clergy to ensure that they meet canonical requirements (*e.g.*, age and standing). Each person will then be called by an outgoing vestry member to verify that she or he is willing to serve. That's it.

Please prayerfully consider who you would like to nominate for the 2012 vestry. Also prayerfully consider serving on the vestry if you are asked.

## Flower Guild Prepares for Advent

By Juanita Williams

This has been another busy year for the flower guild. Again, I would like to thank everyone who has given our teams support and words of encouragement. Your words of praise for our work and lovely notes of thanks are very meaningful for all who serve.

**Wreath and poinsetta dedications.** Fall is almost upon us and we are already ordering poinsettias and wreathes, and planning Advent arrangements. We will be accepting dedications of wreathes at the beginning of November, since these will be placed on the doors for Advent through the Christmas Season. These dedications are for four large wreathes on the front doors of the Narthex and St. Andrews and two smaller on the Academy Street hallway front and back doors.

**Looking for greenery to use during Advent.** Please keep in mind any greenery that could be used for Advent when you are ready to prune any of your evergreens. We can use cuttings from many of the plants that are plentiful in our area.

The flower guild will be assembling arrangements for Advent on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 26, so you may bring your cuttings to the church any time during that week. A reminder will be placed in the Sunday bulletin, in November.

**Changes on the flower guild.** It is with a mixture of regret and relief that I have reached the decision that at the end of this year I will give up my duties as chairman of the flower guild. Serving in this ministry, I have experienced the joy of working with the beauty of God's gifts of nature and the gifts of friendship, cooperation, and dedication of those who have served with me.

Early November will mark the beginning of a new decade of my life and as many of you may have noticed, I'm not as mobile as I was a few years ago. During the last few months Sudi Lub-oneicki has been serving with me as co-chair of the flower guild. At the beginning of 2012 she will assume the duties of chairman of St. Paul's Flower Guild. Sudi has boundless energy, is very creative, and will provide fresh new ideas for our group in the future.

At this time, my plan is to continue to work with a flower guild team, in any way that might be useful. I love working with flowers and with those who contribute their time and talent to the flower guild. I'm grateful for the privilege of having been asked to serve, to be able to share in the special seasons of the church, in the joyful events, and hopefully in some way to bring comfort to those who mourn, through the quiet wonder and beauty of flowers.

I would like to share with you a prayer that is very meaningful to me. It is former Dean Francis B. Sayre's prayer for the Altar Guild of Washington National Cathedral, and is included in an old out of print book, *Homage through Flowers*.

"We thank thee Lord for sacred places burnished by silent wings of holiness; for shrines consecrated by prayer, and lives suffused with thy quiet peace. Bless all who tend these sanctuaries, cleaning and adorning, that the offering of each one may reflect thy love and purity, and thy people rejoice in Christ Jesus lively in our midst. Amen"

## St. Paul's Angels

The parish, once again, has the joy of giving to the children (ages 3-5) at the Franklin Heights, Oakland, and Mercury Court preschools served by Murfreesboro Family Services.

Your generosity in 2010 provided gifts for 116 children and included articles of clothing, toys and games. The gifts will again be collected here at St. Paul's and distributed by the teachers to the parents of the children attending each school. We expect about the same number of children to participate in 2011.

For those who were not with us last year for this program, it goes like this:

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- Beginning the fourth Sunday of October (October 23), a Christmas tree with the angels names and a corresponding number will be placed in the narthex.
- The committee is suggesting a minimum spending guideline of \$50 per angel. More than one family can share an angel if that enables your participation.
- Every Sunday until November 20, the committee will be set up in the narthex to assist you in selecting an angel from the tree and providing you with the form with the angel's name on it.
- Also, on these same Sundays the committee will receive your wrapped and tagged gifts at the table in the narthex. Final date to return your gifts is November 20.
- Continuing studies include: Bible study, the sacraments, and salvation history - especially, each person's place in the Plan of God.

**What do we do in the atrium?** We pray – silently, out loud, as a group, alone. We explore prayer through silence, scripture, service, music, art, dance. We respect that this is a personal choice, especially for the child.

We read the Bible. We light a candle to remember Jesus as the Light of the world (John 8:12) and read the Bible. Children are encouraged to read aloud.

We sing. Many of the songs have been written to accompany this material and include hand movements based on American Sign Language.

We work. The children's work is their joyful response to God's love for us. Each level offers 40 to 50 activities to engage the children in sensory rich, age appropriate, Montessori-style work. They can work with a miniature altar using the articles of the Eucharist, explore a model of Jerusalem, trace a finger labyrinth, enact a parable with figurines, copy scripture, draw, complete maps, charts and timelines, and engage in acts of service including caring for the plants in the atrium and planning prayer services for the group.

**Catechesis training.** Catechesis training is provided through nationally approved formation courses. Two courses are offered this year for Level I, which focuses on children aged 3 - 6. The lessons for this age group form the core of all future CGS lessons for older children. For information on training contact: Rebecca Potts.

Volunteers are valuable additions in the atrium. They assist the catechists and children during class or work on materials during the week so we are prepared on Sunday. For information on volunteering, contact Susan Gaither, Jennifer Kropog, Cindy Guevart, or Rebecca Potts.

Times are tough and it can be a struggle to balance all the needs and desires that surround the Christmas season. We hope you'll consider, prayerfully, including these children in your plans for joyful giving.

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

*By Becky Potts*

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CoGS) is a program of religious education for children, ages 3-12. It's much more than a Sunday School curriculum. It's first a philosophy about what is important to teach, recognizing that how we teach also conveys an important message. CoGS strives to be a partner in the early step's of a young Christian's lifelong spiritual journey.

**What do we learn in the atrium?** The covenant is the central theme of the curriculum. With scripture and liturgy, the children learn to be in relationship with God and with their brothers and sisters. Centering first on the person of Jesus, we explore:

- The historical events of the life of Jesus. These events tell us much about who He is and for whom and why He came.
- The preaching of Jesus, particularly the images of Christ, the Good Shepherd; Christ, the Light; Christ the True Vine. These portray His love for us and the nature of His kingdom.
- Liturgical traditions, including baptism, prayer and the Eucharist.

## St. Paul's Pilgrimage: There's an App for That

Our new session of the Pilgrimage program has a new way to keep participants informed: we have a Pilgrimage app that can be viewed on cell phones and other computer devices. It contains the schedule, book reviews, an overview, and it's expandable so we'll be able to add individuals' contact information and updates during the course of the nine-week program.

### For the cell phone app go to

<http://www.mborotech.com/pilgrimage/pilgrimage.htm>

### For the laptop, tablet, or iPad app go to

<http://www.mborotech.com/pilgrimage/pilgrimagetab.htm>

Then, let David Rowe or Joyce Adkins know what you think (their contact information in on the app).

## Fellowship Events

### Thanksgiving Service and Lunch

You are cordially invited to share in St. Paul's traditional Thanksgiving lunch following the Thanksgiving service. The lunch will be held Thursday, November 24 following the 10:30 am service. All are welcome. Sign up sheets will be in the parish hall in October. Bring a dish and enjoy lunch with your church family. For more information, please contact Gene & Janelee Wise 849-9869.

### Men's Club & Ladies Night Out

**Men's Club.** Join the men of St. Paul's Thursday October 6 for fellowship and dinner. Fellowship starts at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sign-up sheet in Parish Hall. This month's cooks are Jimmy Beasley, Bill Bucher, Jason Anderson, and Mitch Gallagher. Let us know if you would be interested in cooking in 2012. If you have questions contact Jim Calder, Fred Koehlein, or Tom Collins.

**Ladies Night Out.** Please join us for Ladies Night Out, Thursday, October 6 at 6:00 p.m. We gather in a very casual at-

mosphere 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.

## Military Personnel Ministry

The Military Personnel Ministry will be assembling "Care Packages" Saturday, Oct. 8. Monetary contributions are welcome as well as donations of the following items: Chap-stick, wipes and eye drops. There's a receptacle in the parish hall for these items. We're also sending home-baked cookies and brownies if you'd like to bake something to send. If you know of anyone serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and have their APO mailing address, we'd like to send them one of our care packages. Please contact Sandy Gleaves at 428-0280.

## St. Paul's 12th Annual Golf Scramble

Golfers of all shapes, sizes, gender, and handicaps are invited to join your friends at Champions Run Golf Club, Rockvale Saturday October 8th for fellowship and fun! Registration at 11:30am with a Shotgun Start at 1pm. Cost is \$55 per player and includes appetizers and prizes after the outing. Sign up sheet in the Parish Hall beginning September 4th. Contact Mike Becker at 294-8147 or 217-2100 for details.

## Serving Hong Kong

By Kathleen Clark



*Psalm 103:6 The Lord works righteousness and justice for the oppressed.*

The Old Testament tells us the story of Hebrews, the Israelites, God's chosen people. The nation through whom the world will be redeemed and reconciled.

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Yet, despite being the chosen ones, they had many struggles: constantly wrestling with their collective faith, rising up, fighting many battles, conquering, only to eventually be conquered and oppressed. They cried out from their oppression and exile for justice, righteousness, and mercy. As we read the story of the Israelites and their relationship with God it finds resonance with us, here, today.

Daily, I hear stories of oppression, violence, injustice, extortion, and the dehumanization of one group of people by another. The people I have come here to serve echo the cries of the Israelites, calling out for justice and mercy. They are in exile from their homeland, forced to seek a way for their families to survive in a place that does not always welcome with open arms. But together they rise up. They form organizations and alliances to help each other in the struggle for justice and their basic human rights. The mission is one of these organizations and I hope to serve them well in my time here. One year pales in comparison to the three, five or 10 that some have spent so far from home and loved ones.

Thank you, dear St. Paul's family, for your continued support and prayers. Without you, I could not have come here to hear their stories. As the stories of the Israelites resonate and inspire you, I pray these will as well. I hope you will read about these women and pray for them, that we may be reconciled to God and to one another

Grace and Peace, Kathleen  
<http://servinghongkong.blogspot.com>

## Many Thanks

It is difficult to find words to thank the many people who responded so unselfishly to my needs after my heart attack in June. My recent sermon allowed me to express my gratitude for the many prayers that ascended on my behalf, creating an envelope of love in which God's own grace could work so well.

But there are so many others to thank: for tons of food (salt-free, of course), the many mowings my lawn received, cards and letters, rides when it was necessary, watch-dogging at the food tables to help me stick to the diet, loans of DVDs for the long days of quiet and rest, books on health and salt-free living, recipes that could make even bark and twigs taste good, visits and phone calls, welcoming my sister and brother-in-law and showing them what a Christian community looks like, on and on.

I started writing cards but simply could not keep up with it. So please take this as my best effort to tell you how much all this has

meant to me. Most of all, thank you for your faithfulness, for turning in trust to the God who loves us, and for leaving the outcome in God's hands. I look forward to walking forward with all of you, sharing the grace we have received with those who are desperate for good news. God continue to bless you all.

*David Rowe*

## Thank You

Mike and I want to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers and cards that were given to us upon the death of my father, Richard Dimmock and my aunt in Chattanooga. Thanks, again for your care and concern. We are blessed to have such a caring church family. May God richly bless all of you.

*Janice and Mike Stewart*

## Birthdays

10/01 David Hatfield  
10/02 Gene Wise Jr  
10/03 Beverly Carlton  
10/03 Jessica Callow  
10/04 Newt Molloy III  
10/04 Claire Bradford  
10/04 Evan Willis III  
10/05 Steve Petty  
10/06 Janet Mahaffey  
10/06 Stephanie Hickerson  
10/06 Shelby Sue Jacobs  
10/07 Ruth Anna Thomason  
10/08 Margaret Huffman  
10/09 Jennifer McGuire  
10/09 Alice Gibson  
10/10 Joyce Adkins  
10/10 Stephanie Smith  
10/11 Christopher Curtis  
10/12 Jessica Beckwith  
10/13 John Worley Jr  
10/13 Connie Moffett  
10/13 Jake Arning

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10/14 Ellen Donovan  
10/14 Andie Owen  
10/15 David Turner  
10/17 Mamie Scott  
10/17 Sue Koechlein  
10/17 Jeannie Roberts  
10/17 Molly Bartsch  
10/18 Melanie Clayton  
10/18 Erin Wilson  
10/18 Virginia Tipps  
10/20 Joe Garrison  
10/20 Laurette Hughes  
10/20 Cathrine Gordon  
10/21 Helene Colvin  
10/21 Janice Stewart  
10/21 John Morris  
10/21 Daisy Gannon

10/21 Brianna Phillips  
10/22 Dale Tipps  
10/23 Tim Seneker  
10/24 Paul Kelly  
10/25 Drew Fedak  
10/25 Andrew Schneider  
10/26 John Callow  
10/26 Ed Arning II  
10/26 Wendi Watts  
10/28 Jim Calder  
10/29 Martha Tolbert  
10/29 Elizabeth Bray  
10/29 Libby Jones  
10/30 Eva Hartman  
10/31 Sandy Gleaves

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

## St. Paul's Staff

James K. Polk Van Zandt, Rector  
The Rev. Colin M. Ambrose, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Gene Wise, Rector Emeritus  
Steven Lefebvre, Youth Minister  
Angela Tipps, Organist, Choir Director and RSCM  
Susan Greenall, Office Administrator  
Kathy Warlick, Administrative Assistant  
Nikki Butler, 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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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.