



Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The acclamation of the Easter season. The assertion by all Christians that the one we acknowledge as our Lord and Savior did, IN FACT, die and live again. A friend of mine says each Easter Day that if it were not true then our faith is a waste of time. As I have reflected on his somewhat shocking statement, I have come to appreciate not only what he is saying, but why he feels compelled to say it with such force.



Christianity, at its core, is about our relationship with the Divine. While that relationship plays itself out in an infinite number of ways, certain aspects never change. For one thing, God Almighty IS (Exodus 3:13-14). In terms of our relationship with the Divine, this assures us that God is always around when we need help. Since we can't see God, or smell or touch God, we have to accept the Divine presence on faith. If that presence were here today and gone tomorrow, where would that leave us? We might as well depend on Superman or the lottery!

Another unchanging aspect of our relationship with the Divine concerns God's willingness and ability to transform our lives. The sign of that willingness and ability were the life, ministry, death and Resurrection of Jesus (John 3:16). Without that sign we would be a community of helpless souls whose faith is based entirely on its needs, rather than the grace of God. Again, our faith is a key ingredient in the Divine reality we experience.

Holy Week Dates/Times

(More details inside)

April 1 – Palm Sunday – 7:30, 8:30, 11 a.m.

April 5 – Maundy Thursday – 6 p.m.

April 6 – Good Friday – Noon, 5:30, 6 p.m.

April 7 – Holy Saturday – 10 a.m.

April 8 – Easter Sunday – 7:30, 8:30, 11 a.m.

The Most Rev. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, has observed that Jesus' reunion with his disciples after his resurrection was the symbolic reunion and

April 2012

Alleluia! Christ is risen.....

reconciliation of God and those created in the image of the Divine (that is me and you).

Such an understanding forces us to step out into the unknown of our Divine relationship. Yet, if we aren't willing to take that step, how can we possibly benefit from that reconciliation?

In Christianity, faith and fact are both pieces of the same cloth. We can't accept one and ignore or disregard the other. They are inseparable. To deny those things we can't explain (or maybe even understand) is a decision that, in effect, blasphemes the Divine. It says, "My understanding is the key to God's grace." When, in fact, OUR FAITH is all we need to reap the benefits of that grace. My friend says what he says, in the shocking way he says it, because he understands how vital our faith is.

During the coming Easter Season, please give YOUR FAITH a chance to make a radical difference in your life. When you hear,

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Know that you can (and we must!) respond with every fiber in your being,

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A blessed Easter Season,

Polka

BAPTISMAL SUNDAY

Easter Sunday, April 8th is a Baptismal Sunday.

If you are interested in Baptism on Easter, please contact the Parish Office at 893-3780.

New "musical" member set to join St. Paul's this summer!

By Angela Tipps

This summer, St. Paul's will welcome a new member to our family – Opus 125 of the Letourneau Organ Company in Saint-Hyacinth, Quebec, Canada.

Letourneau has built organs all over the United States and Canada, in the United Kingdom (including the Tower of London), and as far away as New Zealand. This will be the first Letourneau in Tennessee, and I don't know who's more excited – us or them!

You can see and hear some of the Letourneau organs on their website. If you are an organ buff, you can even see what the organ will include at: <http://www.letourneauorgans.com/pages/upcomingProjects/st-pauls-episcopal-church.aspx>

The organ has two manuals (keyboards), just like our current organ, but it will have 26 ranks (sets of pipes), compared to the six we have now. While it's true that this will offer more (louder) sound to enhance congregational singing, I'm even more excited about the variety of sounds that will be available. The Letourneau organs I've played have lots of rich, warm colors, and I can't wait to experiment with the colors of our instrument.

You can see pictures of the new organ as it is being built on the St. Paul's website at <http://stpaulsmboro.org/the-organ>

April 2012

New “musical” member.....

May 6 will be the last Sunday with our current organ, whom we’ve affectionately called Ethel for a few years now. “She” has been a faithful servant, whose time to “depart in peace” has come. The Milnar Organ Company in Eagleville will oversee the removal, and Ethel may very well find a new home in another parish before long.

There is some work that needs to be done in the chancel to make way for the new organ, which should arrive June 12! Until that time, I’ll be playing the piano for our hymns and service music, and there will be a dust barrier in place to protect the furnishings. George Carlson has put together an impressive schedule of work to minimize the effect on our worship during the interim – thank you, George!

I expect to play the first notes of the new “baby” on Sunday, July 15! It’s like waiting for Christmas morning.

Two Heart-felt Thank-you's

Dear Church Members, We cannot begin to thank you for your ministry to our family during Ed's illness.

The wonderful meals, transportation and companions for mom were so helpful, when they needed it most. It is easy to see why they love St. Paul's so much.

God Bless you all!

Sincerely, Steve, Carol, and Michael McClung

And.....

We wish to thank our St. Paul's church family for your prayers and love during the loss of our son, Geoffrey Cox.

Thank you for the memorials and your many acts of kindness during this difficult time in our lives.

Love, Bill and Aerolene Cox

New Sunday Class:

The Hard Questions of Faith

All Sunday Morning Adult Classes to Meet Together (Sunday, April 15th – Sunday, May 20)



I want to let you know about an exciting class that will begin on April 15th (the Sunday after Easter). The six-week class is entitled “The Hard Questions of Faith” and will cover the

questions of:

- Religion and Science
- The God of the Old Testament
- Evangelism and Tolerance
- Jesus and Christianity
- The Resurrection
- Why Does God Permit Evil

Why am I excited about this class? Because I believe there is a great need for a “hard questions” course. As we know, certain questions come up again and again in our bible studies and classes, such as, “Why does God permit evil?” and “Are religion and science compatible?” Certain questions are always attacking our faith and trust in the Gospel. In this class we will seek to

April 2012

New Sunday Class.....

address these difficult questions head-on.

How will we do this? Each week we will watch a short video clip in which a renowned theologian speaks to one of the above issues. These speakers include N.T. Wright, John Polkinghorne and Amy-Jill Levine. Their perspectives are representative of the best of mainstream theological scholarship, and their insights are both important and enriching. Following the video clip we will explore their teaching as a class by way of discussion. This discussion will be led by Fr. Polk, Dr. David Rowe, and me.

While many people ask hard questions of faith, most do not have access to thinkers who spend their lives considering them. It is our goal to make that connection in this class. We hope you will join us for this exciting and enriching time together!

Colin+

Easter Egg Hunt

We are planning and preparing for St. Paul's Easter Egg Hunt, which will take place here at St. Paul's between the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on Easter morning.



If you have any questions, please contact Trisha Ambrose (trishaambrose@gmail.com) or Stacey Owen (staceysmoot@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

Dateline: Hong Kong

Hello St. Paul's!!

Greetings from Hong Kong! I am sliding into my eighth month of service here, and it's hard to believe I will be back home in just a few short months.

The new year has seen a few changes in what I am doing here; changes that allow my particular gifts to better serve the Mission for Migrant Workers and St. John's Cathedral. I am looking forward to the projects I have going on and have been humbled by the many acts of kindness and grace I have witnessed. I hope you have had a chance to read some of my blog:

servinghongkong.blogspot.com.

I had some very special visitors in February--the Presiding Bishop and some of her staff have been touring around Asia for a few weeks and stopped over in Hong Kong. She preached at the 9 a.m. service on February 26 and, as usual, it was amazing. I also met with the Mission Personnel Officer, David Copley, to talk about future opportunities for YASC in Hong Kong and about my return date.

As some of you may know, I will be returning from Hong Kong a little early, May 14. My brother is getting married on the 19th, and I will be attending General Convention in July as a YASC representative.

April 2012

Dateline: Hong Kong.....

We decided that it would be best for me to just come home in May rather than make several trips; a bittersweet decision, as I am sad to be leaving the wonderful friends I have made over the past eight months but excited to participate in two very big events!

So, dear friends, I will return in a little over two months and Polk has asked that I be prepared to share with you all in June. I am so looking forward to worshipping with you all again (I have to admit I am missing the BCP!), and you have my sincere gratitude for all of your support and encouragement during this time of service.

Grace and Peace,

Kathleen Clark

“Bonye kohn bay, men li pa kohn separe”

(God gives, but doesn't share)

-Haitian Proverb



It is the home of a people clothed in our half-hearted charity; boys wearing the uniforms of boy scout troops they were never in or women wearing the left-over youth group t-shirts for churches they will never visit. Broken down trucks line the streets, along with starving dogs, goats and skinny cows. Scores of vendors selling

water for a few Haitian Gourde, only to hand the money over to another vendor who is selling something that many wouldn't recognize as food, only to use that money to buy water from another vendor. We were all moved by the earthquake in 2010, but driving through the streets it's hard to decide the difference between the damage done by the earthquake and the crumbling infrastructure from centuries of poverty, governmental power struggle and corruption and the decades of meddling by the U.S. government. This

is the Haiti I experienced and it doesn't seem to be getting much better anytime soon.

When I was asked to join my fellow St. Paul's parishioner, Ted Cassidy, and a group from Huntsville, Alabama (Church of the Nativity) on a farming mission to the city of Thomazeau, I have to admit I was pretty cynical about the whole thing. The question that was swirling around in my head was, "does Haiti need anymore white people trying to 'save' it?" At one point on the trip I caught myself in a bit of a rant and uttered those words in the presence of Father Valmar (a Haitian priest, our host, known affectionately as Père Val), who gave a short chuckle.

On the plane ride down there, I was struck by the amount of white people headed to a country that is almost entirely filled with former French slaves brought over from Africa during the time of European colonialism. The only people going to and leaving Haiti are young evangelicals (like me), eager to have their Facebook profiles updated with pictures of grinning ethnic children (did I mention being cynical). This was the narrative I was hoping to avoid. But, as I sat in the back of our transport vehicle, an altered Land Cruiser set-up to cram ten people inside, and watched the devastating scenery of UN relief tents, piles of garbage, and the hoards of people going nowhere in a hurry, I got frustrated. I felt like I either had to actually save Haiti or be like the thousands of well-intentioned American Christians who filled the American Airlines jets headed for Port au Prince everyday.

I believe experiencing crippling levels of poverty is a lot like the stages of

April 2012

God gives.....

grief, there is no right or wrong way to experience it, but inevitably you find yourself on the journey. For me, I skipped the stages of shock, denial, and wailing and went straight for the anger stage. I think it's because God was showing me so much and I had nothing in my power to fix any of it. However, by the end of the week my anger turned to passion and in that profound feeling of love and shared suffering, I believe God had the space to begin setting things to right.

There is a Haitian proverb that says, 'there are mountains beyond mountains.' That is to say, when you climb one mountain there is another mountain waiting beyond it. I believe that our Christian charity divorced from relationships is meaningless. God doesn't call us to save the world: none of us have the super powers to refreeze the polar ice caps, or the energy to feed every mouth in Africa, or the money to fund all the TB vaccinations in Haiti. The hope of the Kingdom of God is found in relationships, in the way we serve one another, love one another, and remain faithful to each other. If you have ever experienced the power of forgiveness, or the peace of a loved one's sobriety, or the healing being in community can bring, you know that our love for one another and connection to each other matters on profound levels.

On Saturday, when I returned home from my travels, I got a call from a bizarre phone number, you know the one that is either a telemarketer or a political survey. I'm glad I answered it, because I heard the familiar sounds of horns honking, dogs barking, and people shouting. It was Juste, our group's translator and my new friend, "You should never have left, we miss you already." I can't save Haiti, and I couldn't imagine the burden on my ego if I did. There is no individual, charity, or government (the \$4 billion they've already received seems to have just made Haiti more dependent on foreign aid) that has the power to save. However, what we are called to do is to love our neighbor. Last week my definition of neighbor was

expanded and my experience of love has deepened. My heart now lies (among other things) in a ministry, led by Père Val, that brings education, nutrition, medicine, food, and the Gospel to scores of Haitians (his friends).

I write this to you, my friends, family, and church community, because you know me and I am asking from you a favor for a friend. I am writing to personally testify to the goodness and beauty that the work my church (St. Paul's), The Diocese of Alabama, The Diocese of South Carolina, The Diocese of Haiti and countless others, who are all relationally connected in the name of Jesus, have done for the people of Haiti. We are currently working to raise \$120,000 to finish a nutrition clinic, we have been working on for the greater part of a decade. It will be run by Père Val, his wife Carmel, and their people who I came to know and love last week. It will be a place that wholly belongs to them (the place they are currently in has a lease that will run out in October), that they will use to serve the people of Croix de Bouquets (a suburb of Port au Prince).

Much of the money has been raised or promised already, but we are urgently in need of the remaining funds. This Easter we are making a major effort to get this nutrition clinic up and running.

If you would like to contribute to our efforts, please send a tax-deductible donation to "St. Paul's" to the church office. Your check memo should be: "*Hearts for Haiti*"

I am also planning on taking many more trips in the future (for the purpose of continuing relationships, financial accountability, lending a hand with the labor,

April 2012

God gives.....

leading trips, etc.) and will need financial assistance for those trips. You can send tax-deductible donations to "St. Paul's" to the church office with the memo line: "*Steve Lefebvre Missions*".

Steven Lefebvre
stevenbl@me.com
615-522-4182

Murfree Birth Announcement!

Kitty and Matt Murfree are proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter Blakley Neal Murfree, born to Davis and Blaire Murfree. She was born Feb. 28 at 2:32 a.m. in Washington, D.C. She weighed in at 6 lbs., 12oz.

Basking in the SONshine

A Spring Break for Women: Basking in the SONshine! Women of St. Paul's, please take moment to consider your needs: for time away from the dailyness of your important and pressing tasks, for time with others who understand the dailyness of your tasks. Consider the opportunity to be away from all of that and be in a place where you will more easily feel the presence of God. Join others at the women's retreat where you will feel the love of the Father, the fellowship of our brother, Jesus, and the empowerment of the Spirit.

Retreat set for April 20-22 at Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill. We will also offer an option to attend the main program, only, on Saturday, Apr. 21.

You can register online at <http://stpaulsmboro.org/womens-retreat>. To make this

possible for all, there will be financial aid available, and we are making efforts to match those interested in carpooling.

For more information, contact: Patricia Petty at 931-389-6757.

Men's Club (New date!)

Saint Paul's Men's Club

“Bring A Friend”

Come join the Men of Saint Paul's Thursday, **April 12** for fellowship and dinner. Please NOTE date change due to Holy Week . Fellowship 6 p.m. and dinner 6:30 p.m.; sign-up sheet in Parish Hall . Let us know if you would be interested in cooking in 2012 . Questions contact Jim Calder jecalder@mtsu.edu or Fred Koechlein fkoe91936@bellsouth.net.

Merit Badge Counselors/Gear

As our St. Paul's Boy Scout Troop (#1108) continues to grow, our troop will be in need of merit badge counselors from time to time. If you think you can help, please contact our troop's leader, David Kirkham, at bsatrop1108@gmail.com or speak to Ian Hay.

Our Scouts are also working to build an inventory of camping gear for their expeditions. If you have any camping gear you would like to donate, please do so! It will be greatly appreciated. Contact David, Ian or Ed Arning (cell 268-9339).

April 2012

Downtown Churches:

Holy Week Services

Each weekday during Holy Week (April 2-6) except Thursday, worship services and lunch will be sponsored by downtown churches.

Monday, April 2	First Baptist	Noon
Tuesday, April 3	First Presbyterian	Noon
Wednesday, April 4	Central Christian	Noon
Thursday, April 5	Maundy Thursday (<i>service times vary at area churches; St. Paul's – 6 p.m.</i>)	
Friday, April 6	St. Paul's Episcopal	11:30 a.m. (<i>See notes below on meal and services</i>)
Easter Sunday	Courthouse Square (East)	6:30 a.m. (<i>This is a Sunrise Service; bring a chair</i>)

Dates to Remember at St. Paul's

Holy Week Schedule at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

April 1 – Palm Sunday

Worship services at 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m.*, 11 a.m.*
No Catechesis classes.

April 5 – Maundy Thursday

Worship service at 6 p.m.* (Nave)

April 6 – Good Friday Lunch/Service here at St. Paul's.

11:30 a.m. – Lunch - \$5 per person (St. Paul's Parish Hall)
12 p.m.* – Good Friday Liturgy (Nave)
5:30/6 p.m. – Stations of the Cross/Good Friday Liturgy (Nave)
(*Church office closed today.*)

April 7 – Holy Saturday Service

Worship at 10 a.m.

Dates to Remember.....

April 8 – Easter Sunday

Worship services at 7:30, 8:30 a.m.*, 11:00 a.m.*
Easter Egg Hunt @ Christian Ed. Hour!!!
No Catechesis classes.
No Children's Church.

**Nursery provided*

And, after Easter.....

After Easter we are back to our regular schedule, with a few exceptions. The church office is closed Monday, April 9, after Easter.

There are **no** Eucharistic or Healing Services Wednesday, April 11, after Easter.

There **is** Morning Prayer every day, Monday through Friday, at 8 a.m., after Easter.

There is **no** Evening Prayer, after Easter.

Batter up!

Practice for our men's softball team is underway. League play begins the week of April 16th. Interested?

Call Coach Tom Washer at 519-3306.

April 2012

February Vestry Notes

At its February meeting the vestry prayed for the parish and for specific prayer request, as well as the mission and ministry of St. Paul's.

The disposition of the current organ was discussed in detail. The vestry unanimously approved giving the current organ to the Milnor Company in exchange for its removal. A proposal to move forward with the necessary modifications to the Nave to accommodate the new organ was also approved.

A proposal to purchase a new computer for Susan Greenall's office passed unanimously.

The firm of Edmonson, Betzler, and Montgomery was engaged as financial auditors.

Permission was granted for the Sr. Warden to appoint a committee to study the feasibility and appropriateness of a state-sanctioned raffle to raise money for outreach and youth.

There was discussion about further minor renovations to the parish hall.

Reports were received on plans for a new directory to be produced in-house, replacement of the hail damaged roof (covered by insurance!), and kitchen renovation plans. Ministry liaison group reports were also distributed and reviewed.

Birthdays

04/01 Dan Scott
04/01 Sarah Smith
04/02 Alex Lowe
04/02 Andrew Ennamorato
04/03 Victoria Sullivan
04/04 Jo Morris
04/04 Brendan Martin
04/04 Jennifer Crowell
04/05 Clara Ambrose
04/06 Kim Tormey
04/08 Robert Taylor
04/08 Ellie Michaelson
04/10 Megan Molloy
04/10 Michael Gleaves
04/10 Reid Halliburton
04/12 Stan Golden
04/12 Lynn Wilson
04/13 Carrie Wiechman
04/14 Adriana Bawol
04/14 Aryn Watson
04/15 Carol Deken
04/15 Ellen Garrison
04/16 Jimmie Beasley
04/16 Carole Felciano
04/16 Lisa Halliburton
04/16 George Chew Jr.
04/16 Don Long
04/17 Aaron Schneider
04/17 Virginia Anne Fuller
04/18 Reza Ordoubadian
04/18 Cheryl Beasley
04/18 Kim Burritt
04/18 Tyler Jones
04/19 Kane Dayton
04/20 Ron Clemmons
04/20 Kathleen Herzog
04/21 Madeline Roberts
04/23 Carrie Barham

April 2012

04/23 Jennifer Dillon
04/24 Bob Parker
04/24 Don Dunlap
04/24 Emily Messier
04/25 Bill Kimball
04/25 April Nobles
04/26 Woody Piggott
04/27 Chloe Donegan
04/28 Ann Miller
04/28 Jordan Raines
04/28 Grace Puzzo
04/29 Robert Becker
04/29 Penelope Sutton
04/30 Sadye Snead

04/30 Kendall Morton
04/30 Faith Bennett
04/30 Carrie Clemmons

Medical Mission Heading to Haiti!!

Leaving April 28th

We will be collecting supply donations April 8th – 22nd.

Specifically need GI meds & vitamins. Please pull tabs of items you can donate from information board in Parsh Hall and leave items in available box.

Questions? Contact Kristi Hay: 216-5666 or ianandkristihay@yahoo.com

April 2012

***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

Location: 315 East Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Mailing Address: 116 North Academy Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Phone: (615) 893-3780

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.