



Observing Lent

Burying the *Alleluias*. It is the tradition of the Episcopal Church that we do not use *Alleluias* in our liturgy during the season of Lent. Symbolic of that tradition, we will be burying the *Alleluias* in the courtyard on Sunday, Feb. 19 after the 8:30 a.m. service. They will be dug up on Easter morning. The *Alleluias* we will be burying will include those made by our children during Children's Church on Feb. 12. Please join us as we continue this meaningful tradition!

Ash Wednesday Services. The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting (BCP 264). Thus begins the liturgy for Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday services will be held on Feb. 22 at 7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. You are encouraged to come for the Ash Wednesday liturgy, the imposition of ashes, and the beginning of the Lenten season.

ECW's White Elephant Sale

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Lenten Teaching Series and Soup Suppers. As is our custom, the Lenten teaching series will be held on Wednesday evenings during Lent (Feb. 29, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28). The evening will begin with a soup supper in the parish hall (the serving line will open at 5 p.m.), followed by a brief worship service and a teaching. The title of this year's series is "Finishing Well."

The apostle Paul wanted to finish his life well. Meeting with the Ephesian elders for the last time he said, "I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace (Acts 20:24)." Pondering Paul's words we must ask, "What does it mean to finish well?" "What steps must we take to prepare for our deaths?" These are important questions for both the young and the old.

From the theology of death, to living wills, to funeral arrangements, join us as we talk about the concrete things we need to do to finish our race well. Our leader for the first two sessions will be Dr. Cynthia Crysdale, professor of Christian ethics and theology at the School of Theology at The University of the South.

Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Stations of the Cross. As is mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, St. Paul's offers a variety of worship opportunities during Lent. Morning Prayer will be read every weekday morning at 8 a.m. Evening Prayer will be read every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 6 p.m. These services will be in St. Andrew's Chapel. The Stations of the Cross will be walked every Friday at 6 p.m. in the nave. You are encouraged to take advantage of these worship opportunities.

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ECW's White Elephant Sale Feb. 18 – Donate Now!

The Episcopal Church Women will host their second annual White Elephant Sale at St. Paul's on Feb. 18 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A Donors' Sale will be held the night before on Feb. 17 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Donation drop-off dates are Saturdays, Jan. 21, Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and Feb. 11. Please consider donating: books, music, photos, art, furniture, interior décor, office supplies, children's items, electronics, household equipment, kitchen items, linens, sewing, sports equipment, toys, luggage, pet supplies, women's items, jewelry, holiday items, and high-quality very gently used clothing.

Many volunteers are needed to help price and pick up donated items and to work during the sale. You can sign up at St. Paul's website at www.stpaulsmboro.org/elephant. A sign up sheet is also available in the parish hall. You can find a list of items to donate and more information on the sale at the church's website.

If you have questions, please email the sale coordinator, Claire Bradford, at claire.bradford@comcast.net.

Centering Prayer Workshop

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, First Baptist Church and Central Baptist Theological Seminary Tennessee will co-host an **Introduction To Centering Prayer** Workshop Saturday, Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 200 East Main Street.

The workshop will be conducted by The Reverend Tom Ward of Contemplative Outreach of Middle Tennessee.

The \$10 registration fee includes lunch. For workshop registration, contact Donna Loggins at 893-2514. For more information contact Ronny Clemmons at 867-6318.

An Invitation to Observe Lent



I wish for each of us a Holy Lent. Fully experiencing Lent helps us better understand what we celebrate at Easter.

The 40-day observance of Lent was established by the 4th century, apparently

following the precedent of the 24-hour fast immediately before the celebration of the Christian Passover (the Passover Fast). The 40-day time span clearly parallels the fast of Jesus after his baptism and the preparation for the Easter festival. In the early church, Lent formed the climax of the preparation of the catechumens (recent converts preparing and studying for baptism), to be culminated in their baptism at the Easter Vigil.

In our Sunday worship, we observe Lent by using the color purple, by using pottery instead of silver vessels, by replacing the brass candle sticks and cross with wooden ones. We hear readings that take us closer and closer to the passion of Christ we experience during Holy Week and we place greater emphasis on the penitential components of the liturgy.

As with many of our religious practices, we tend to incorporate the trends of society. One of the most distinguishing characteristics of our culture is the "quick fix." So, for many, Lent becomes simply a season in which one denies oneself of something for 40 days, for

An Invitation.....

example, “I’m giving up chocolate for Lent.” The richness and depth of Lent is lost in such a practice.

Rather, if we choose to give up something, the selection is best determined by giving up something that we find is a deterrent to our spiritual growth or something we feel is gaining control of us. If we choose to fast or to deny ourselves of something, we enhance the spiritual awareness if we also set aside money we would have spent on this item and give the money to the church or target it to serve the hungry.

Yet, Lenten discipline involves deepening our faith and not merely a matter of giving up something. It involves taking on new things. This may be to take on a new service we have not done before or in some way reach out to others. It involves more conscious involvement in worship and prayer – either corporate or private. And it involves study.

With these goals in mind, we have available to us numerous opportunities during Lent. A daily meditation will be delivered to your e-mail every morning. Morning Prayer will be read every week day at 8 a.m. The weekly Lenten program “Finishing Well” will be preceded by a soup supper every Wednesday during Lent. And so, I invite you, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a Holy Lent (BCP 265).

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Thank You

Thank you to the people of St. Paul’s for your thoughts, prayers, and concern during the recent illness and passing of our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother Clara Lois Fitch.

Emily & Paul Kelly, John Dayton and Family

Using Our New Space



Phase 1 of our remodeling work is completed! In this article, I want to talk about some of our new spaces and how we hope to use them.

New coffee and visiting area: One of the problems we faced in the past was that there was no defined walkway from the main sanctuary to the parish hall. It resulted in people gathering in the narthex before services to visit and get coffee -- disrupting those in the church preparing for worship. With the renovation, however, we have created a new room off the chapel where we can gather before the services. We now can also walk from the parish hall to the new sanctuary without being a distraction to adult Sunday school classes. The coffee and name tags have been moved to the new location. We ask that if you want to visit with others before a service that you do this in the new space, decreasing the disruption to those in the sanctuary.

Creation of multipurpose room: St. Paul’s Long Range Planning Document ranked “hospitality and fellowship” as the church’s first development priority. To this end, we have converted one of the catechesis classrooms adjoining the parish hall into a multipurpose space. (A new classroom was created for the catechesis program by converting the old sacristy and vesting area to compensate for the loss of this classroom.) This space will be available for our large gatherings in the parish hall, increasing our

Using Our.....

seating capacity by 30 percent. The space also will be available on Sundays as an adult classroom and during the week for various organizations. If you would like to use this space during the week, please contact the church office.

Reclaiming basement storage: One of the accomplishments of the recent remodeling work is that we were able to recapture a large amount of space that was being used inefficiently. Large amounts of “prime real estate” were being used for storing seldom used materials. These materials have now been moved to our basement storage space. Only a small portion of the storage space in the basement is currently being used and it is our hope to use this storage space more efficiently in the future. If you want to use the basement storage space, please contact the church office. Please do not store items in the basement without asking for approval.

Phase 2 – Kitchen: The next project on our list is renovating our kitchen. As many of you know, before being ordained a priest I owned a kitchen remodeling company – so I am especially excited about this project! With the blessing of the vestry, a kitchen renovation committee has been created and we have begun to meet. You will be hearing more about this project in the months ahead.

Colin+

Mardi Gras Youth Fundraiser

Come one, come all for Jambalaya, jazz, and fellowship. One last celebration before Lent! As a fundraiser, the youth will be serving and entertaining us during the Cajun supper on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 21 in the parish hall (5-7 p.m.) Tickets are \$5 per person (\$15 maximum per family). Proceeds benefit youth missions and programming. If you are interested in donating food, entertainment, or help for this event please contact Steven Lefebvre at youth@stpaulsmboro.org.

Basking in the SONshine

Please make plans to join the women of St. Paul’s for a spring break weekend. No, we’re not heading to Florida – we will be basking in the SONshine at Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill, Apr. 20-22. We will also offer an option to attend the main program, only, on Saturday, Apr. 21.

Our leader this year will be Rev. Monna Mayhall, a priest at St. Paul’s Franklin and chaplain to Daughters of the King.

Expect comfortable accommodations surrounded by the beauty of the greening of middle Tennessee, great food, fellowship, and fun (St. Paul’s style), and a program designed to warm your spirit.

As you consider this opportunity, realizing that retreats are designed for people with busy lives who find it difficult to make time for a break, keep a few benefits in mind:

Much needed physical rest: peace and quiet; A vision of life as God sees it, helping us see what’s really important and what’s not – finding new avenues for growth, seeing God’s hand in our lives and His will for the present and future;

Closeness with Jesus through prayer, reflection, and worship;

Awareness of the grace and peace offered by God, empowering us to return to our daily lives;

Opportunity for a sacrificial offering of time and attention to our Lord; and

The good example to our children, the witness to our families as we show our commitment to our faith and return with renewed optimism, energy, and joy

More details and registration forms will be available soon. For more information, contact Patricia Petty at 931-389-6757.

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Altar Flowers and Dedications

by Sudi Luboniecki

Thanks to everyone who commented on the Advent/Christmas floral decorations around the church. It's a team effort and we really like knowing that the congregation enjoys our offerings. If you are ever wondering which Flower Guild team members prepared the arrangements for a particular Sunday just check the announcement insert in the Sunday bulletin under the Service Participants listing.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, is fast approaching and there will not be flowers from that date until Palm Sunday, Apr. 1, and Easter, Apr. 8. The envelopes for Palm Sunday and Easter dedications will appear in early March with a reminder in the Sunday bulletin and the weekly email blast of the deadlines for submitting those.

Here, I have just a few reminders about filling out those dedication envelopes:

Always print the information on the envelope clearly so we don't have to hunt you down to clarify the dedication.

If you have specific flowers or colors you would like to request, we will endeavor to fulfill that request if possible, just note that information on the back of the envelope.

Enclose your check, seal the envelope, and place it either in the Flower Guild mail slot in the Parish Hall or in the box on the Welcome table in the narthex.

If you put your envelope in the collection plate we may not receive it in time.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Way of St. Margaret's: Reforming Confirmation

By Steven Lefebvre



Last fall, when the clergy asked me to teach confirmation in 2012, all I could think about was all the complaints of other youth pastors in the diocese.

In a nutshell, my fellow youth ministers said, "teaching confirmation is a boring, lifeless ritual." Why does it have to be that way?

Shouldn't the rite of confirmation be an enlightening and sanctifying moment in our youths' lives? Shouldn't it be something we celebrate and seek with vigor rather than endure out of a sense of duty? Yes, it should.

In our tradition, confirmation is the first real promise our teenagers make to the faith. They will promise to be active participants in the church for the rest of their lives. Why do we think they'll be excited about or even fully equipped to make that decision by simply giving them information about church history and Christian doctrine?

Enter *The Way of St. Margaret's*, our newest youth program. The idea spawned from an author friend of mine, Mark Scandrette. He recently wrote a book called *Practicing The Way of Jesus*. In his book, Mark points out one of the biggest inconsistencies in most Christians today: We always talk about God but never do anything. In this book, Mark goes on to suggest that we simply start trying "experiments" in the way of Jesus. Do something. Anything. And see how it goes.

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The Way.....

This got me thinking about our rite of confirmation. Instead of just talking about being an Episcopalian, why don't we practice it?

From Epiphany through Lent, our youth will be "experimenting" in the way of Jesus. Instead of just teaching about church history, why don't we practice the liturgies, prayers, and contemplative practices of our ancestors in faith? Instead of talking about liturgical colors and the different seasons of the church calendar, why don't we all practice a Lenten discipline together? Instead of talking about the teachings of Jesus, why don't we hit the streets and spend time among the poor and outcast? See what happens. See what conversations percolate. And then try again.

At the end of the course, our youth should have a pretty good concept of what it means to be a Jesus follower, as well as an Episcopalian. The invitation is then open for them to take a big step in their Christian journey and kneel at the feet of the bishop for confirmation.

Who knows, this could be a complete failure, but the good news is we can always try something different next time. May the grace and will of Jesus Christ be our guide.

Men's Retreat Coming Feb. 17-18

The 2012 St. Paul's Men's Retreat is set for Friday-Saturday, Feb. 17-18, at St. Mary's Retreat Center in Sewanee.

The retreat will get underway at 6 p.m. on Friday night and conclude at 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

Each year the men of St. Paul's and their guests gather for fellowship and to reflect on a movie and its implications for their spiritual lives. It's a relaxing opportunity to unwind, talk about essential questions of men's lives, and to make friends doing it. This year we will be watching a

Men's Retreat.....

classic – *The Big Kahuna*. Cost is \$55 (includes dinner on Friday / breakfast and lunch on Saturday).

Most rooms lodge four individuals, however, a few single rooms are available.

If you are interested in attending, a sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall or contact the church office.

Colin+

Diocese Convention News: Van Zandt & Ambrose Elected to Key Posts

The Rev. James K. Polk Van Zandt was elected to serve on the Diocese of Tennessee's Standing Committee and The Rev. Colin Ambrose was elected to serve on Bishop and Council at the 180th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee, held at St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, Sewanee on Jan. 20-21.

Other key posts held by members of St. Paul's are: Sally Palmer, Commission on Environmental Stewardship; Steven LeFevbre, Youth Steering Committee; Don Whitfield, Will Cate and Van Zandt, Cursillo Commission; Mike Becker and Van Zandt, Commission on Stewardship; Ed Arning, Commission on Ministry; Don Clayton, Commission on Christian Formation; Van Zandt, Health Care and Hospitalization Committee; Arning, Finance and Property Committee and Rev. Gene Wise, Chaplain to Retired Clergy. Van Zandt will also serve as a Trustee to the University of the South.

Bishop Bauerschmidt's theme this year was *One Bread, One Body*.

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Diocese Convention.....

Once again, a balanced-budget was approved. This year's budget stands at \$1,536,191.

Delegates to the convention from St. Paul's, in addition to the clergy, included Laney Golden, Tracey Huddleston, Rebecca Potts, and Jimmie Beasley. Alternate delegates were David Rowe and Kent Sterling.

Men's Club & Ladies Night Out

Men's Club. Join the men of St. Paul's Thursday, Feb. 2, for fellowship and dinner. Fellowship starts at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sign-up sheet in Parish Hall.

February will bring forth another evening of wonderful food prepared by some of your friends here at St. Paul's. If you have questions, contact Jim Calder or Fred Koechlein.

Ladies Night Out. Feb. 2, 6 p.m. at the home of Libby Willis. Come and fellowship with us.

If you have questions please contact Libby at 545-0220.

Dates to Remember at St. Paul's

February 5. SOUPer Bowl Sunday Food Drive

February 8. Second Wednesday Supper

February 12. Make Alleluias

February 17-18. White Elephant Donor's Sale (17th)/Public Sale (18th)

February 17-18. Men's Retreat

February 19. Burying the Alleluias

February 21. Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Supper

February 22. Ash Wednesday Services

February 29 – March 28. Wednesday Night Lenten Series/Suppers

First Quarter Food Drive

We are once again competing with our Operation InAsMuch partner churches to see which congregation can collect the most non-perishable food items.

Benefiting this friendly competition will be Greenhouse Ministries, The Journey Home, The Rutherford County Food Bank, the Murfreesboro City and Rutherford County Schools backpack program, and the Journey of Hope in the Midland community.

The drive will culminate on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5, for us that will be *SOUPer Bowl* Sunday.

This year, you are invited to bring food items to church any Sunday between now and Feb. 5, or drop them off at the church office. In an effort to be "greener" we ask that you recycle one of your grocery bags, however, there will be bags available in the narthex for your convenience, as well.

Last year, St Paul's collected 2,437 food items to win the competition. This year, our goal is 3,000. Let's fill those bags and everyone WINS: St Paul's retains its "title" and the hungry are a bit more nourished by your generosity.

Birthdays

02/01 JeanMarie Martin

02/01 Matthew Warren

02/01 Sally Gaither

02/02 Will Mary Pratt

02/02 Bob Shoemaker

02/02 Emma Tuset

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Birthdays.....

02/02 Hailey Gleaves
02/03 Enid Wiborg
02/03 Allen Clark
02/03 Joe Ennamorato
02/03 Maegan Stewart
02/04 Tenille McVetty
02/04 Alison Jones
02/07 Sidney Roberts
02/08 Anne Curtze
02/08 Mark Nobles
02/11 Ca'Tricia Robinson
02/11 David Palmer
02/12 Julia Harris
02/13 Don Henre
02/13 Ralph Smith
02/14 Gabriel Martin
02/16 George Williams
02/16 Arlene Shoemaker
02/16 Janelee Wise
02/16 Angela O'Neil
02/17 Jack Merchant

02/18 Bill Cox
02/18 Jeff James
02/19 Rick Walsh
02/20 Betsy Slaney
02/20 Chuck Phillips
02/20 Matt Clayton
02/20 Zachary Ring
02/20 Jay Hendrickson Jr.
02/21 Jakson Courtney
02/22 Liz Huber
02/23 Paul Long
02/24 William Tocco
02/24 Kent Sterling
02/24 Maura Gordon
02/24 Samson McClain
02/26 Nora Smith
02/28 Katie Lou McCusker

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***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

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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.