



## MY WORD, HOLES IN THE CHURCH

*This article originally ran in the **Evangel** two years ago. Although attendance on Easter Sunday was excellent, attendance for the year is down, somewhat.*



How would you like to have a car that starts only half the time you get in it to go somewhere? Or how about if you only get water out of the tap six out of ten times you turn it on, or electricity from wires about 40% of the time? Would you be pleased if the grocery store or bank was only open every other time you stopped to do business? We expect **dependability** and **regularity** from our machines, our utilities and our service people. Why then cannot God expect the same from us?

And yet there are folks who let the slightest excuse or temptation keep them away from the gathering of the faithful. It's too hot (or too cold), too wet (or too dry). We were up late last night. We have company. It's duck (turkey, football, soccer, tiddly-winks) season. Friends invited us out on their boat. You get the picture.

Not one of these holds the slightest bit of water. The only reason for missing the Eucharist is to be ill, dead or dying, or taking care of someone who is.

A very close friend of mine, a dedicated member of the laity, says that if you wake up on Sunday morning and have to decide on whether or not to go to worship, the battle is already lost. That decision was made to be present with the worshipping community at our baptism.

A vibrant congregation cannot build on spasmodic attendance. A vital faith cannot be nourished by a now and again feeding on the bread of life.

---

---

### Youth Sunday – May 6 And.....Attend the Youth Forum at Christian Ed. Hour

---

---

I am happy to note that there are many people in this parish who are always in their places on Sunday, and if they are not, they have valid reasons. Others are staying away at their own spiritual peril and to the impoverishment of the congregation. I look out on Sunday mornings and see holes where

May 2012

## My word, Holes.....

people ought to be, and it pains me. What does it take to get these good people, who are faithful in other obligations, to take as seriously their commitment to the community of faith? Will it take a calamity or crisis in their lives? Will they be caught up in their worship life if, God forbid, they shall be prevented by accident, illness or infirmity from attending?

No amount of nagging about this issue will affect a solution. What has to happen is for people to begin to take as seriously their church attendance as they do their work attendance, or sitting down for three square meals a day, or paying their bills, or starting their cars, or turning on their faucet. If not, I fear that someday, when they need spiritual refreshment the very most, they will open the tap and there will be nothing there. God forbid that should happen.

We look forward to seeing you EVERY Sunday!  
(And please wear your name tag!)

*Polk+*

## Fr. John Dear's Lecture: A Success!

Over forty peace and social justice advocates convened at Christ Church Cathedral on March 16 to hear an inspiring speech by Fr. John Dear. The theme of the lecture—and also his new book, *Lazarus, Come Forth!*—was that Christians must overcome the world's culture of violence, death, and oppression and turn to the radical Jesus' teachings of peace, non-violence, and love.

Using the raising of Lazarus from the dead outlined in The Gospel of John as a text, Fr. Dear maintains that the story is an allegory of today's world. Rather than following the life-giving message of Jesus, we caught up in a society that demands conformity, militarism, and consumerism.

Peer pressure, a desire to succeed, and dismissal of Christian philosophy, are part of a dying world symbolized by Lazarus. The only way to rid ourselves of today's spiritually depressed culture is to actively fight against the people and institutions that thwart fully living the new life outlined by Jesus.

The event was sponsored by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship.



EPF members Jane Smith (left) and Pidge Cash (right) had copies of *Lazarus, Come Forth!*, autographed by Fr. John Dear (center) at his lecture in Nashville.

## Newcomer's Wine and Cheese

Please keep an eye open for the announcement of our May Newcomer's Wine & Cheese event!

This is a wonderful time to casually get to know each other in a relaxed setting. Polk and Colin really look forward to getting to know each of us better.....and this is a prime time! Stay tuned.....

## Youth Sunday!

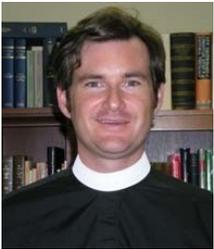
Youth Sunday is May 6.

What is Youth Sunday? Well, it is a Sunday dedicated to celebrating our Youth ministry program. Our youth will be running the services: We will have youth acolytes, ushers, readers, chalice bearers, music, and even preachers! Furthermore, we are encouraging everyone to participate in the celebration by bringing a can or a bag of cans or a shopping cart of cans as part of our ongoing FOOD DRIVE.

Also, All parents of youth are strongly encouraged (make that required) to come to the Youth Forum during Christian Ed (9:45 a.m.). We will spend an hour talking about youth, culture, and the Kingdom of God. In other words, what does it mean to be partners in raising teenagers!

## Connecting Church Members

*Joyce Adkins New Ministry at St. Paul's*



When you move to a new neighborhood, begin a new job, or enter a new grade in school you want to establish relationships that make you feel like you belong—that make you feel that you are a member of that group. It's the same with the Church. When you join a new church you want to get involved and become connected – you want to feel like a member of the church.

In March, Joyce Adkins was appointed “Assistant to the Rector for Congregational Formation.” What this means is that Joyce is going to facilitate connections within our church family. How will she do this? In two ways:

- First, Joyce will help newcomers become connected to our church. This will involve making connections with fellow members, organizing newcomer gatherings with the leadership of the church, and

encouraging newcomers to attend Pilgrimage (Pilgrimage, our faith exploration class, is another one of Joyce's ministries!)

- Second, Joyce will be reaching out to those members who have become disconnected from our church family. This task is really all of our responsibility. Whenever a brother or sister drifts from the church we need to reach out to them in love. Joyce will be encouraging us to do just that.

Joyce's new ministry position emerged from a period of discernment during which Joyce and St. Paul's staff explored the needs of our church, seeking how God wished to use Joyce's unique gifts and talents within our community. We are excited about where God has led us and we are excited for Joyce to begin this important ministry within the church.

Thank you Joyce for your service to St. Paul's and for your love of God's Church.

**Colin+**

## Seminarian Update/Call

Our seminarian, Suzanne Cate, is graduating from Sewanee's School of Theology on Friday, May 11 at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to the ceremony down on “the mountain.”

Lunch is also available.

But, more importantly, please pray for Suzanne as she and husband Will head off to her first call – to St. James Episcopal Church in Ormond Beach, FL.

May 2012

## Visit Italy – 2013

Travel with the Rev. Gene Wise and Janelee Wise, and Dr. David Rowe, on a pilgrimage to Italy.

We will visit Rome, Vatican City, Siena, San Gimignano, Pias, Venice, Florence and Assisi.

Ten days filled with remarkable history which adds an indelible stamp for the Christian faith. We will depart Nashville on June 4, 2013 and return on June 13.

We will be traveling with Educational Opportunities who have done a wonderful job on seven previous journeys we've experienced. Brochures will be on the back bulletin board in our parish hall.

You can email me at [wisegene@bellsouth.net](mailto:wisegene@bellsouth.net) or call me at 631-7000. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience religious history and faith and enjoy a spectacular country.

**Rev. Gene Wise**

## HELP US FEED THE FOLK DANCERS!

Folk dancers from Austria, the Czech Republic, Belgium, and Puerto Rico, as well as Cripple Creek Cloggers and the Nashville Old Time String Band Association will once again be entertaining us during Murfreesboro's International Folkfest, June 10-17. This is a fun way for us, as a downtown church, to take part in the life of Downtown Murfreesboro!

Throughout the week these organizations will be performing for area schools, youth and senior citizens organizations and civic clubs. For the weeks performance schedule go to:

<http://www.mboro-international-folkfest.org/>.

St. Paul's will be providing breakfast for all 100+ of them on Saturday morning, June 16, from 7:15 – 9 a.m. before they begin their performances on the Square. We will be serving egg casseroles, fruit and nut breads, grits, fruit, juice, tea and coffee.

Cheryl Beasley has graciously offered to provide recipes for large, tasty pre-prepared casseroles and breads (with ingredients and amounts needed) that will make a delightful buffet for the dancers.

Will you help us in the following ways?

- 1.) prepare a casserole
- 2.) prepare a bread
- 3.) prepare grits
- 4.) provide fresh fruit
- 5.) provide fruit juice
- 6.) help set up the dining tables in the Parish Hall on Friday afternoon, June 15th
- 7.) help set up the buffet tables on Sat. morning, June 16th
- 8.) help in the kitchen on Sat. morning, June 16th
- 9.) help with clean up and break down on Sat. morning, June 16th
- 10.) make a \$\$ donation toward food expenses

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall or you can email or phone Pidge Cash at 615-542-2162 or [bpcash@comcast.net](mailto:bpcash@comcast.net). Thank you for whatever help you can give us!

May 2012

## Youth Sunday.....A Reflection



As I reflect on the upcoming Youth Sunday, I can't help but mark this as a time to stop and reflect on my first school year at St. Paul's. It's odd to think I have only been apart of this community for 9 short months as I feel that I have been accepted and welcomed in with open arms.

When I first arrived at this group I declared that for our church to be holistically formed in the way of Jesus our youth ministry must be a group fully integrated into the church whole. What this meant pragmatically is that this group would need more than just me to operate it. We would need is a village of wise people, leaders, servants, and tender-loving souls to join me in shepherding our young people into learning the Way of Jesus.

Last Sunday night, as we wrapped up our spring programming, I sat around the table with the handful of volunteers that have faithfully committed themselves to our humble group, and I could see clearly the Spirit's presence among us. I believe this is only the beginning.

Many people ask me on a regular basis, 'how many people are in your youth group these days?' And to be perfectly honest with you, I need you all to stop asking me that question. Not because I'm insecure or ashamed of the answer, but because no matter what answer I give you, it won't accurately describe what God is doing in the lives of our young people. This Youth Sunday I humbly declare that after nine months we are headed in a wonderful direction. I urge the entire congregation of St. Paul's to continue this pilgrimage with our young people. I am not certain where following Jesus will lead us in the days to come, but I guarantee if the whole community continues to grow alongside our young people formation in the name of Jesus will come to everyone.

I hope you don't read this and think that our youth group has it 'covered.' Rather, I hope you read this, pray, and discover your role in St. Paul's Youth Ministry!

### **And to my seniors:**

Congratulations to the Class of 2012! We have only known each other for a short while but do know that St. Paul's will always be your home and we will always be your people. We love you and will always be praying for you. May the Lord bless you and keep you on the next part of your journey. Shalom. God is near.

**Steven Lefebvre**  
**Youth Minister**

## OUR GRADUATES

### High School Senior Graduates

**Thur., May 17th, Sarah Growden**

will graduate from Blackman High School.

**Fri., May 18th, Reid Halliburton**

will graduate from Oakland High School.

**Thur., May 17th, Brianna Phillips**

will graduate from Blackman High School.

**Sat., May 19th, Alex Potts**

will graduate from Oakland High School.

**Scout Johnson Turner**

will graduate from Webb School.

**More.....**

May 2012

## College and Other Graduates

**Phillip Black** will graduate from The University of Tennessee with a BS in Accounting.

**Robert Bray** will graduate from Tulane University with a BA in Economics.

**Friday, May 11th, Suzanne Cate** will graduate from the School of Theology at the University of the South.

**Friday, May 11th, Matthew Stirling Clayton** will graduate from Clemson University College of Business and Behavioral Science with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing.

**Saturday, May 5th, Carrie Elizabeth Lee Clemmons** will graduate from MTSU with a Degree in Education.

**Jeff Davis** will graduate from University of Alabama with a BA in Math and English.

**Friday, May 25th, Carolyn Goodman** will graduate from The University of Tennessee-Health Science Unit in Memphis, Tennessee with a Masters of Science in Nursing.

**Saturday., May 20th, Andrew Joseph Loucky** will graduate from Case Western Reserve University with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Minor in Japanese.

**Saturday., May 5th at 2 p.m., Alex Lowe** will graduate from Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.

**Anna Smith** will graduate from Davidson College with a BS in Physics.

**Saturday, May 5th, 2 p.m., Christopher Kent Sterling** will graduate from East Tennessee State University with the degree of Master of Science in Mathematics.

**Saturday, May 11th, Libby Willis** graduate from The School of Theology at the University of the South with a Certificate of Theological Studies.

## **Pentecost in the Park – May 27**

Mark your calendars as we join fellow Episcopalians in the area for our annual Pentecost in the Park service and lunch. Remember: Wear red!

---

---

### **Got Questions?**

by Art Growden

Why are there two Creation stories in Genesis? Does the narrative of the Flood have earlier roots? How did Paul really feel about women? Why do bad things happen to good people?

I came to Education for Ministry (EfM) with a lot of questions. After two years in the program, I have some answers but also, new and different questions. I'm now comfortable with the idea that there are no answers to some of my queries. EfM is one place where no question is out of bounds. It's a safe place where you can explore your faith and yourself.

Each week allows you to see Scripture, Christianity and the world in a new light. Old assumptions will be challenged and fresh insights revealed in individual study and group reflection.

One of the most gratifying and unexpected benefits of participating in EfM is the close bond that develops between members of the group. Through our sharing and joint exploration, a family emerges that evolves each year as people come and go. The fact that all four levels, or "years," meet together allows you to supplement your study with the lessons that others have completed.

May 2012

## Got Questions?.....

By looking at our own beliefs, our culture and the tradition of the Church, we learn to be better ministers in our worlds. In realizing that everything we do can manifest the love of Christ, we discover that our ministry is at hand wherever we go.

EfM is preparation for the mission we request at the end of every Eucharist: "And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

Think on it. Pray about it. If deepening your roots in our faith interests you, contact [Nancy Carter](mailto:nancy.w.carter@gmail.com) [nancy.w.carter@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.w.carter@gmail.com) or 615-554-5371 or [Ron Messier](mailto:ron.messier@gmail.com) [messier.ron@gmail.com](mailto:ron.messier@gmail.com) or 615-542-5148.

Education for Ministry, is a program of theological education of the School of Theology of the University of the South.

It covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology.

## St. Paul's and Scouting

With the start-up of a new Troop comes the need for camping equipment. When doing your "spring cleaning," please look around your garage or attic and see if you have any items that would be helpful in equipping Troop 1108.

We are particularly looking for 4 x 4 camp tables, propane lanterns, five-gallon water tanks (plastic), an ax, camp saw and hatchet.

We are also looking for folks who might be interested in helping the boys build patrol boxes. Monetary donations are always accepted, of course!

Keep up with Troop 1108 at <http://bsatrop1108.weebly.com/blog.html>.

Many thanks to all of you who are volunteering your time to this ministry. Frank Drowota is Cub Master of Pack 108. David Kirkham is Scout Master of Troop 1108.

Please contact the parish office for more information.

Blessings,

*Polk*

P.S. - Polk's passion for scouting is rooted in his own personal Scouting experiences in his youth.

## Youth Sunday Canned Food Drive

Sunday, May 6 is Youth Sunday and the youth are asking that everyone join in the celebration by remembering the 'least of these.' Bring in a can or a bag of cans or a shopping cart full and participate with us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Our Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will help count and load the food for delivery in the community.

## Volunteers Needed!

Be sure to check your Sunday bulletin for a flyer that highlights the need for volunteers with various stages of our organ project, beginning Sunday, May 6 as we clear out our choir area to make way for our new organ.

We need volunteers in May and June for a wide variety of projects. Please contact George Carlson at 931-307-9094 for more information.

## May 2012

### Birthdays

#### Date Of Birth

05/01/1950

05/01/2007

05/02/2002

05/03/1949

05/05/1927

05/05/1947

05/05/1964

05/05/1981

05/05/2003

05/06/1996

05/07/1980

05/07/1987

05/07/1989

05/08/1947

05/08/1990

05/10/1963

05/10/1989

05/11/1951

05/11/1960

05/11/1969

05/12/1958

05/15/1967

05/16/1962

05/16/1967

05/17/1988

05/19/1993

#### Name

John Walrath

Henry Ambrose

Weston (Fant) Smith

Charlotte Molloy

Doris Simpson

David Rowe

Krista Phillips

Joshua Courtney

Cole Curtze

Michael Curtis

Benjamin Wiechman

Sarah (Katie) Rogers

Elizabeth Gassler

Joani Beckwith

Anna Smith

Chuck Brackin

Benjamin Smith

Sloan Perry

Kathy Dillon

Warren Tormey

Kim Williams

Lisa Walsh

Guna Curtis

Paul Adams

Mary Hollis

Allie Clayton

05/20/1998

05/20/2009

05/21/1975

05/22/1926

05/23/0000

05/24/1956

05/24/1991

05/24/2002

05/25/1941

05/25/1953

05/25/1971

05/26/1954

05/28/1995

05/28/1996

05/29/1964

05/30/1947

05/30/2008

Maggie Newell

Ben Bartsch

Melissa Hamby

Hank Haines

Christine Merchant

Steve Luboniecki

Eric Martin

Lucas Raffo

Blake Tidwell

Kirby Jeffreys

Julie Hutchens

Jack Whitmore

Ryan McLaurine

Taylor Halliburton

Junior Nelson

Delia Goodman

Peyton Owen

May 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.