



The mission of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is to worship God and to bring all into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ

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The season of Advent begins with the end of the world and ends with the beginning of a new creation. At Christmas, we celebrate the coming of special light into the world—Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus. Since the first creation, God had been trying to tell us how to live in right relationship with Him that we might have the full blessing God is eager to give us. At Christmas, He stopped telling us and came to show us.

All this is reason for great joy and celebration. We invite you, your family, your relatives, your friends, your neighbors, and your co-workers to join us in worship of this God who loves us so much. The church, filled with poinsettias and candles, will embrace us in light and sound.

It begins on Christmas Eve with a 4:00 p.m. service. Instead of a sermon, the children will present the Christmas story as only they can do it. They will come as shepherds, sheep, and angels leading us in childlike wonder as we sing the glory of God.

At 10:30 p.m. the family gathers again. This evening we will sing beloved Christmas carols and revel in the glorious sounds of choir and musicians who lift up our hearts to the Lord. At the rail we will gather as God's children, giving thanks for His glorious work of salvation. And filled with his own food we will go forth to proclaim to a starving world the "good news of great joy" that we have heard and seen.

On Christmas Day we gather to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our service begins at 10:30 a.m. and is a wonderful chance to stay in touch with the real meaning of Christmas.

These are all opportunities for us to gather as God's children, giving thanks for His glorious work of salvation. And filled with His own food, we will go forth to proclaim to a starving world the "good news of great joy" that we have heard and seen. Please join us.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve 4:00 and 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day 10:30 a.m.

a monthly newsletter
published by
ST. PAUL'S
Episcopal Church,
Murfreesboro, TN

DECEMBER 2007

www.stpaulsmboro.org

SEARCH COMMITTEE



The season of Advent is a time of reflection and prayerful anticipation in our life together in Christ. The beginning of this particular

church year holds great promise for St. Paul's. As we focus on the gift of Jesus' incarnation this year, we also are preparing ourselves as a church for the plans God has for us and the rector we will call.

During this Advent season at St. Paul's, the search committee will continue working with the parish on defining who we are as a church community, our prayers for our future together, and how our new rector may assist us in living into this vision.

We thank everyone for their participation in the self-study questionnaire during the month of November, and we hope you will be able to attend one of the parish meetings on Saturday, December 1 from 9-10:30 a.m. in St. Andrews Chapel or Tuesday, December 4 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Childcare will be provided during the meetings. Please let us know how many children to expect by signing up on the appropriate sheet beside the nursery.

The information you provide during this phase of the search process will be critical to helping the search committee prayerfully discern God's will for our new rector. Before the end of January, the committee plans to provide a report to the parish summarizing the results of our self-study. We thank you all for your continued prayers for St. Paul's and the search committee.

The St. Paul's Rector Search Committee

*invites you to participate in a guided conversation
as we work to define who we are as a parish and
express your hopes and dreams for St. Paul's.*

*The meetings will be led by facilitators from the congregation.
Child care will be provided at both meetings. Please sign up
outside the nursery.*

When and Where

Saturday, December 1 from 9-10:30 a.m.

St. Andrews Chapel

Tuesday, December 4 from 6:30-8 p.m.

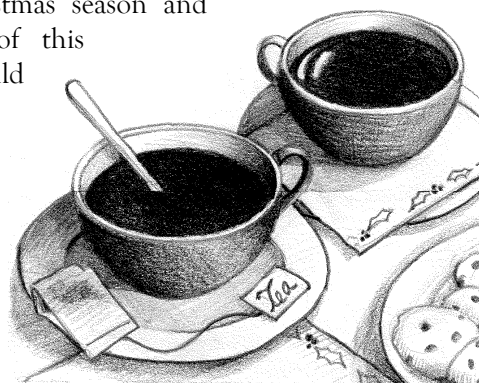
St. Paul's Parish Hall



A CUP OF CHRISTMAS TEA

December 3, 2007 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
in the Parish Hall

Honoring the Christmas season and the full meaning of this blessed time, we would like to invite all who have experienced the death of a loved one, either recently or a while ago to this special gathering. Over tea, we will reflect on the joys and blessed



memories of people we love and of holidays past. Please bring a picture, a memento, a poem or anything special to you, which you might be willing to share with those gathered. Several gathered last year and found it to be very meaningful.

We do not know where you are on your grief journey, but from our own experience of loss we do know that holidays can be difficult. Whether the loss was a spouse, parent, child, sibling, beloved aunt or uncle, or dear friend, memories of past holidays, longing for what once was and can no longer be, our loss can seem overwhelming. Often it is hard to even think about the holidays or parties or even having "fun," when everything has changed. Little energy, fear of being a "party pooper," or concern you might cry all make it the more difficult. At this tea, borrowing on the themes from the two books *A Cup of Christmas Tea* and *A Memory of a Cup of Christmas Tea*, we remember and celebrate those persons who have loved, encouraged, and been so much a part of our lives.

While a phone call to let us know you are coming would be helpful, it is not necessary. (Jerry Redditt at 615-867-4254 or e-mail jerryredditt@bellsouth.net)



DEADLINE

In order to increase the efficiency of your parish office, we are changing the cutoff time for announcements in the upcoming Sunday's bulletin. The new deadline for announcements for the next Sunday is WEDNESDAY at NOON. Announcement requests received by Wednesdays at noon will be included the following Sunday's bulletin. In your request, please include how many weeks you would like to have the announcement included. All announcement requests can be forwarded to Kathy Warlick at office@stpaulsmboro.org or by calling the office at 615.893.3780.

Additionally, the deadline for poinsettia dedications/memorials is 9 a.m. on Monday, December 17. Your dedications/memorials can be placed in the basket on the visitor's table or in the Flower Guild box in the parish hall.

There are a host of reasons why I'm not ready for Advent this year. Topping the list is the moderate temperatures that have theoretically graced November. "Unseasonably mild" is the phrase that meteorologists use. Having spent most of my life north of the Mason-Dixon Line, my anticipation of the coming season has everything to do with dropping temperatures, winter coats, and a cold nose. It's the psychology of it all. I am way behind on my Christmas shopping, and the aroma of baked cookies is but a figment of my imagination. So I'm not quite ready for Advent, at least by external measures.

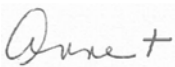
Yet in spite of the fact that my life isn't following the typical patterns of the season, God has found a way to blow past those external signposts without regard to my attachment to them. Triggered instead by the progression of the lessons in our lectionary that bring our liturgical year to a close, an internal anticipation for the coming of Christ fills my heart.

The last lines of the final Gospel read in this year's readings recount Jesus' final moments on the cross. The thief dying beside him implores Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom," to which Jesus replies, "Today you will be with me in paradise." It is the end and it is the beginning, a place of finality and blossoming opportunity. It is the reality and the paradox of the incarnation.

My readiness to enter the paradox is essentially moot. As one pithy phrase of the last several years claims, life is what happens to you when you are making other plans. We live in a paradoxical world, where in one moment we anticipate the coming of God's Kingdom, and in the next celebrate that we live in the midst of it. The coming of Christ is less an event in the future than a grasping of its powerful present reality.

The season of Advent focuses our attention on the tension of the paradox. If we allow ourselves to live in that tension, we might discover that between the now and the not yet Christ is already in our hearts, awaiting an audience with us. When we are busy wrapping gifts to put under the tree, we might also offer him the gift of our thanksgiving. When we extend our hospitality to Santa with a plate of cookies, we might also open the doors of our hearts and minds to what the Gospel proclaims, "to us is born this day a savior..." We are more than ready for that.

With anticipation, in Christ's love,



Anne+, Interim Rector



SENIOR WARDEN'S CORNER

This time of year is a great time to reflect on our blessings, and Consecration Sunday was just that. This particular day calls on us to thoughtfully and prayerfully respond to God's perpetual grace and daily blessings in our individual lives as well as the life of St. Paul's. Over the last month we have been blessed with talks from fellow parishioners telling their personal stories of response to God's love and blessings. Like God's individual love for us, each of the stories shared was unique and special and carried its own message for each of us.

Our mission is, like God's love, very straight forward and simple: To worship God and bring all in a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Being on your Vestry has afforded me the opportunity to see the constant pursuit of that mission in action. While our mission is simple, the execution of it and all that it implies is not necessarily simple or easy. It is however, one of the most REWARDING experiences of my life! I am truly thankful for the opportunity to serve and be a part of this wonderfully talented team.

The pursuit of St. Paul's mission relies heavily on each of us to respond to God's call for continuing and faithful stewardship. When most of us think about stewardship, quite probably the "mental bubble" over our heads would reveal dollar signs. To be sure, financial treasure is part of the overall response equation and is vital for many reasons. There are two other key components that complete the equation which call on each of us for an individual response—time and talent. Responding to God by giving freely of our time, talent and treasure allows the ongoing and vital pursuit of our mission.

We as a parish are blessed and have much to be thankful for and celebrate not only during this season of Thanksgiving, but year round. If we are to continue to pursue our mission with zeal and hopefulness, we need extraordinary responses in all of these areas. There must be a pool of talented people committing time to all of the lay ministry opportunities that our finances can bring to life.

In my 13 years at St. Paul's, I have watched in amazement as our collective responses to stewardship have moved our parish forward in God's work by leaps and bounds. The reality is God is completely responsible for these outcomes. We as parishioners are the tools that God utilizes in growing His kingdom on earth. When we respond in faith and love out of the bounty of time talent and treasure that he gives each of us, we are being good stewards in the pursuit of our mission.

I love our parish family. You are my family, and I am greatly blessed to be a part of it all. Please enter prayerfully into this season as you consider your stewardship response.

God's Peace,



Chuck Phillips, Senior Warden



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

"For unto us a child will be born, unto us a son shall be given. And his name shall be called... wonderful... the prince of Peace... and there shall be no end to his kingdom..."

We all look forward to Christmas Eve service at St. Paul's, where our children reenact the first Christmas during our family service. We beam at the glowing angelic faces, laugh as the animals make their first appearance, and melt when we hear beautiful voices speaking and singing the miraculous story of Jesus' birth.

It is pageant time again, and we would love for your children to be involved in this St. Paul's tradition. Children ages 3 and up are welcome as we begin rehearsals on Sunday afternoons in December. Speaking parts will be available for school-aged children. Look for the sign-up sheet in the parish hall. We also need volunteers to help with lighting, costumes, and scripts. Please see or email Laureen Greathouse (laureen.greathouse@gmail.com) for questions, to sign up, or to volunteer.

Rehearsal Dates:

Sunday, December 2nd—3:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 9th—4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 16th—2:00p.m

Sunday, December 23rd—3:00 p.m.

FOOD MINISTRY PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO ENTIRE PARISH



St. Paul's Food Ministry program is available to any individual or family within the church. The program provides three meals over a week's time in

the event of a serious illness, hospital stay, surgery, accident, baby's birth or any other urgent life event. This ministry is important to the entire church, as it provides our church members an opportunity to give when others are hurting or unable to prepare meals. Equally as important, it gives our church members a way to receive from the church family when times are tough or stressed. This ministry is working very well, and we have many, many volunteers who are eager to help by preparing and delivering food. Please let Matt Greathouse, Anne Fraley, or Ralph Smith know if you know of someone who might benefit from the Food Ministry. Or, call Terri Sterling at 848-6852 or email at terristerling@comcast.net. We will contact the family and inquire about their needs. As you are talking with your friends at St. Paul's, keep this ministry in mind. It's a wonderful way for our church to support one another all year long.

MUSIC NEWS

The Nashville Chamber Singers will perform a Christmas concert on Monday, December 3, at 7:30 p.m. Conducted by Angela Tipps, works will include Latin motets, English carols, and spirituals for the Christmas season. A nursery is provided, and admission is free.



The St. Paul's Choir and Choristers will present a Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 16, at 4:00 p.m. Patterned after the service at King's College, Cambridge, congregational carols and choral anthems are interspersed with lessons about the nativity. The Broad Street Brass Quintet will accompany. A reception follows in Parish Hall. A nursery is provided, and admission is free.

FLOWER GUILD

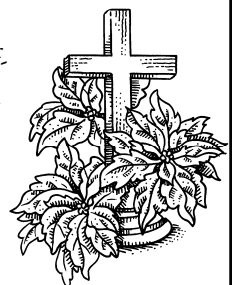
The Flower Guild would like to thank everyone for their faithful contributions to our funds throughout the year and for all of the very encouraging compliments that are received from members of our congregation. We strive to do our best to provide our church with the beauty of flowers, to the glory of God, and for the pleasure and serenity of those attending services at our church. In every way this is a rewarding ministry to all who volunteer their time and talent. It is important to us to make sure that your dedications are included in the bulletin at the time that you have requested and that they are correct. At times, for one reason or another, we fail to get things as they should be; for this we ask your forgiveness and indulgence.

We would also like to thank the Vestry for appropriating money from the Memorial Fund for the purchase of a set of lovely solid brass rectangular containers with liners. The old containers that we have been using were in poor condition and not suited for use on the altar as they were very top heavy when filled with flowers. These new ones should last for many years and we are very pleased to have them.

The new Flower Calendar for 2008 is in place in the parish hall for sign-up for any special dates for next year. Also we would like to remind everyone to that envelopes are available for Dedications of Poinsettias. These will be printed in the Christmas Bulletin. If you have any questions about dedications or the Flower Guild, please call Juanita Williams at 849-8612.

Thanks again for your support of the efforts of our Flower Guild. We look forward to this season of joy in our church and to a New Year of service to God and his people.

Juanita Williams, Flower Guild Chairman



CLUTTER, CLUTTER? IS IT YOURS?

After the holidays, we will take a look at some clutter in various nooks and crannies of the church property and begin the process of cleaning these areas up. We will not be simply moving the clutter to another spot to, then, be designated as "cluttered". We may give it away, throw it away or send it on a rocket to the moon, but it won't be staying with us.



So, please look around, identify what is yours, and help us clean up and free up our limited space on this cozy little campus.

Any questions? Feel free to speak to your Jr. Warden, Jeff James.

After 12 weeks the St. Paul's Weight Watchers group has lost over 160 pounds!! Our new 10 week series will begin Wednesday, November 28, 6:00 p.m. in the Wall Building. The fee is \$120.00 for new members & \$110 for renewing members, due at the 1st meeting (the payment can be split; call for more information). Please consider joining us! If you need more information, please contact the church office or Libby Willis, 545-0220.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH



Children's Church will meet throughout Advent and Christmas. There will be special activities going on through out...a Jesse Tree with the children making some of the ornaments, learning about the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah and how children and families celebrate this important time, making ornaments with their pictures in it to adorn the Jesse Tree after Christmas, as a reminder that they now point the way to Jesus. We will be asking each child to bring an unwrapped item to be placed under the tree as a gift for the baby Jesus. These items will then be taken to the Domestic Violence shelter after Epiphany. We will be needing extra hands to help out during this time. There is a sign up sheet on the door of the door of the new children's church room (old library). Various story books will be available for the children to check out for home reading during the holidays. Advent calendars are also available, one per family. Stop by and pick one up.

Dear Friends,
Our home was truly blessed on Saturday, November 10th. To everyone who shared that wonderful time with us, Greg and I wish to say thank you. It was an evening we'll never forget.

Love and prayers,
Joyce Adkins

THE LIVING GIFT MARKET IS BACK!

Mark your calendar: the Living Gift Market returns Saturday, December 8, and it's bigger and better than ever! This year, the Living Gift Market will be a festival of fun and activity, as well as an opportunity to support one of the most respected charitable organizations in the world, Heifer International. In addition to selling "shares" of various animals, this year's market will feature activities for the whole family, as well as all kinds of delectable treats to eat and drink!

Living Gift Market will offer an opportunity to "purchase" animals like pigs, chickens and goats as an alternative to commercial gifts. The sponsored animals help hungry families around the world through Heifer International, and sponsors receive gift cards to note their purchases. The Market will provide information on food- and income-producing animals. St. Paul's Heifer Project Committee seeks to provide an alternative to the commercial nature of Christmas and has set a goal of raising \$8,000 in animal sponsorships.



Your Purchase:

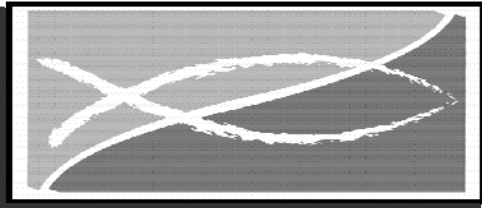
Heifer Share	\$500 \$50	Pig Share	\$120 \$10
Water buffalo Share	\$250 \$25	Tree Seedlings Share	\$60 \$10
Llama Share	\$150 \$20	Trio of rabbits Share	\$60 \$10
Goat Share	\$120 \$10	Honeybees	\$30
Sheep Share	\$120 \$10	Starter Flock of Chicks, Ducks, or Geese	\$30

You'll get attractive gift cards for those you have chosen to honor. They include the story of Heifer International's work through food and income producing animals.

The Living Gift Market will be open from 2 until 6. Volunteers are needed to help with this important effort to help families around the world. It isn't too late to get involved! For more information, contact Zanie Mullins or Susan Greenall.

Heifer International is a nonprofit organization that, since 1944, has provided food- and income-producing animals to impoverished families around the world.

Please consider how you and your family might be involved.



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL YOUTH

Worshiping God and bringing youth into a loving relationship with Christ.

“For nothing is impossible with God.” -Luke 1:37

Something for everyone to think about this Christmas:

When the angel Gabriel told the virgin Mary that She was going to give birth to a child, she questioned the angel. Which is exactly what you and I would do, because logically we know that that is impossible! And we understand that we can do only what is possible because what is impossible is...well...impossible. Or is it?

The angel replied to Mary's questioning by saying, "...nothing is impossible with God." And a short time later Mary experienced the impossible, the miracle birth of Jesus. God performed a miracle. But does He still perform miracles today? Do we believe that He does? Oh ,sure we do.

We say all the time that we believe that God still performs miracles, but then we end up throwing in a safety clause: "But He just doesn't do them in the same way," or "But I just don't think God will do that for me." We say we believe that nothing is impossible with God, but do we really believe that?



It was critical that Mary not only ended up believing that God could perform miracles, but that she adjusted her life to the "impossible" work he planned to do through her. You know, the difference between a Christian and a moral person is the miraculous. And the difference between a church and a social club is the miraculous. This Christmas, may we be reminded that God still performs miracles! Do you believe that nothing is impossible with God?



JOSH



Christmas Party

Friday, December 14th
6 to 9 P.M.

St. Paul's Episcopal Youth Student Center



Join us Friday, December 14th at 6:00 in the youth room for the best Christmas party ever! (Ok, maybe the best Christmas party of 2007.) We'll eat snacks, play games, and then have a "Dirty Santa" gift exchange!!! **Everyone needs to bring a gift for the gift exchange. All gifts should be wrapped and should be under \$10.** See you there!

FOR AULD LANG SYNE

The Holidays are a time to connect with old friends and share the joys and challenges of life since last you met.

All former Youth Group members and current Senior High Youth Group members are invited to a special reunion Christmas celebration in the Student Ministry Center on Friday, December 21st, from 6:30 til whenever. Pizza, cookies, sodas, and dogs barking Jingle Bells provided; just bring 5 cans of food for the food baskets. As always, feel free to bring friends.



Xperience

Come check out Xperience, Sunday nights from 5 to 7 p.m. in the newly renovated student center! Get there at 5 to enjoy something from the café or play Guitar Hero, DDR, or the Wii! Then join us from 6 to 7 for an exciting, uplifting worship service. Xperience is the perfect night to invite your friends who don't regularly attend another youth group or church. In fact, in December, for every friend you bring that does not already attend another church or youth group, your name and your friend's name will be entered in a drawing for an iPod! The drawing will be held during the Xperience service on December the 9th.

COMPASS FINDS THE WAY TO BROADER FELLOWSHIP

In October, members of Compass and of St. Augustine's Canterbury/Wesley Fellowship traveled to Camp McDowell for the annual Fall College Conference sponsored jointly by Province IV and the Diocese of Alabama. Camp McDowell is a beautiful corner of creation, and the weather was autumnal perfection for our gathering. College students from several Southern universities and their chaplains spent the weekend worshipping, playing, and reflecting on life after graduation in this idyllic setting.

The program was very simple: three young graduates shared their stories of life after college. Their stories included the surprises and challenges of life in the "real world," including the realization that they've been living in the real world all their lives; the main difference as college graduates is that they are responsible for their own finances, relationships, and spiritual lives. The generosity and the humility of their sharing provided material for some very thoughtful and meaningful reflection from all the students there.



This year is the first time that St. Paul's Campus Ministry has attended this event. One of the most striking things about this conference was the sense of connection and commitment that these young people have for their Church, and it became increasingly obvious that the connections have been formed through the community they find in their Youth and Campus Ministry experiences, both at the local and at the diocesan level. We saw how bonds of affection draw these students into that experience of community and sustain it across geographic and temporal distances.

This realization just serves to strengthen the conviction that, in providing those opportunities to establish bonds with our parish, the St. Paul's family is acting in good stewardship for the future. In light of that thought, I'd like to extend my personal thanks to all the individuals who have shared their gifts with Compass this year and in the past. As we engage in the process of self-reflection in discovering who we are as a parish, I hope that Campus Ministry will be seen as an integral part of that identity.

COMPASS NEWS



Finals are upon us! That means that we're close to wrapping up for this semester, but we'll be back in action in January! We only have a couple more Sunday afternoons for lunches and reflection before everyone heads home for the holidays—be sure to come by the Wall Building after

the 11:00 service on 12/2 & 12/9. We will celebrate Christmas together at the home of the Greathouses on Tuesday, December 11, from 7:00 to 9:00. Bring an inexpensive gift to exchange; everything else is provided. After that, we'll see you in January! Compass will start right back up on January 15.

CUB SCOUTS

With the abundance of youthful, energetic boys at St. Paul's, plans are underway for a Cub Scout troop. We are looking for guidance from former Scouts. If you were a Scout or have been involved in any way with Scouting, please email Fr. Matt at mlgreat@bellsouth.net.



ST. PAUL'S BIRTHDAY CLUB

The St. Paul's Birthday Club has been a huge success this year, averaging over thirty attendees at each luncheon. It is a wonderful time to get together with old friends, or make new ones, while enjoying the delicious food prepared by gifted volunteers of the parish. On Thursday, December 6 at 11:30 AM, the group will meet to celebrate birthdays for October, November and December. Anyone over the age of seventy is invited to join the group. There is no obligation or requirement for attending, except that you must like good food and enjoy celebrating life with other delightful members of the parish. This is the fourth and last luncheon for the year. Celebrations will resume in 2008.

A very special thank you to the talented team of Laney Golden, BJ Huggins, Estelle Herring, Marilyn Kugel, Jo Wintker, Melinda Caudle, and Peggy Seneker for their dedication of planning, cooking and decorating for the birthday luncheons, which made each event a fun time for all. If you enjoy great food and love to laugh, this is the team that can make it happen. If you would like to be part of the celebrations, you may notify Kathy Warlick at the church office or call Peggy Seneker at 893-8033.

ALL WOMEN ARE DAUGHTERS



We came together from across the diocese, mothers and daughters, some with our mothers, some with our daughters, but all of us daughters of God. We shared our stories, and our lives were deepened and made richer by the many voices of women sharing our joys and sorrows, meditating on Scripture, and imagining our journeys with God as we sat in circles around the chapel at DuBose.

I was so excited when I realized that I could be a part of a diocesan gathering of women. I've wanted that experience for a long time, the extension of the boundaries of my Episcopal community to include women from the varied churches of the diocese. We began Friday night with a time of creativity, making journals in which to record the weekend. Saturday morning, we began to focus on our theme of listening through spiritual friendship. Canon Pamela Snare led us all in a *lectio divina* exercise, in which we listened, first to Scripture, and then to each other, in response to the story of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Canon Snare shared with us an icon of the Visitation that had been written for her by one of her spiritual friends before she left Louisiana to come to us in Tennessee. We adopted that image of two friends embracing in mutual support and celebration as our model for spiritual friendship.

Caroline Bauerschmidt and Jean Hastings led the catechists' response to the *lectio divina* by presenting the lesson of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Those simple, but powerful, presentations led us even deeper into a mood of receptivity, and many of us later found that our hearts and minds had been opened wonderfully to the

subsequent experiences of sharing meals, playing games, exploring nature and *listening* to each other and to God. The Scriptural framework of the morning's activities created a marvelous container for our time together in the afternoon, and prepared us for the amazing evening program.

The Rev. Donna Scott focused our attention on the unique characteristics of feminine spirituality. Our exploration of the "depth dimension of our relationship to God, self and others" as sisters in Christ took the form of a guided meditation designed to mirror the Spiritual Journey as a process of connecting to our depth dimension, our connectedness to God in Christ through the Holy Spirit. It was a profoundly moving exercise that left us prepared for the final treat-Story Time with Shelley Gotterer! Shelley held us all spell-bound with her poetry readings and folk stories. Her telling of her own version of the Persephone myth had us all on the edge of our seats, and the universal sigh at the end of the story could have been breathed by a single creature-it was just that wonderful!

We all agreed that this retreat *must* become an annual event. The opportunity to hear so many diverse voices from so many different congregations is just too dear to pass up! I encourage all the women of St. Paul's to consider attending the next Diocesan Women's Retreat and experience this sisterhood of God's daughters. We have some amazing women in our diocese, and you deserve to get to know them and to be counted among them yourselves.

Suzanne Cate

DREAM WORK BOOK STUDY OFFERED IN JANUARY



If you are interested in learning about finding God's conversation with us through the images in our dreams, you are invited to participate in a book study starting in January. We will read *Dreams: God's Forgotten Language*, written by John Sanford, an Episcopal priest, as a starting point for learning about how paying attention to

dreams and sharing them in a community of Christians can be healing and formational. The book study group will meet on Wednesday nights, following the 5:30 Eucharist through the month of January. The study will be led by Suzanne Cate, with assistance from others in the Dream Group. A sign up sheet will be posted on the Spiritual Formation Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall until December 23rd, and we will order books for those who sign up ahead of time. Each book will cost \$10. In the meantime, questions may be directed to Pidge Cash, Suzanne Cate, Patty Evanietz, Ellen Gassler, Jane Smith or Tina Whitfield.



ST. PAUL'S WHOLE FOODS MINISTRY

There is no ordering in December. Barb and Jim take a well-earned month off in December of every year from supplying us with our wonderful foods.

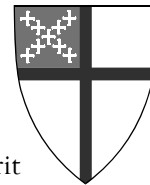
Our last 2007 order date is November 24th with delivery in the Parish Hall on December 11th. Then we order again on Saturday, January 19th, 2008.

If you haven't given this ministry a try, come join us in the Wall Building on Jan. 19th! We've found this to be a delightful way to be good stewards of God's bountiful creation. Why not make delicious, healthy eating a New Year's resolution? We hope you'll join us!



EPISCOPAL STUFF

or, “Why do Episcopalians *do that?*”



Non-Episcopalians know they’re in a different kind of church as soon as they walk through the doors from the narthex (porch/hall) into the nave (what a lot of churches call “the sanctuary”). What tips them off is the silence. In many churches the time before a service is spent in gathering—greeting old friends, welcoming new comers, sharing news. It’s like a family reunion. Anyone who is used to that finds our silence a bit strange. They’re not sure if it means we’re unfriendly or just spiritually “frozen.”

Actually, the silence before service is part of who we are as Anglican/Episcopalians. For us, worshiping God is at the heart of our church experience, so we spend time gathering our *selves*, saying hello to God, praying, reflecting, “getting ready” for the service. That’s why we have the invitation to silence printed on the front of our bulletin, to let guests know why it’s so quiet and to remind ourselves that as *our* family reunion takes place in the narthex, we need to be respectful of the prayer needs of people already sitting in the pews.

There’s also a theology that calls for our silence and for personal preparation. We share with our Roman Catholic and Lutheran brothers and sisters the centrality of Eucharist in our worship, but we have a different way of understanding what happens to the bread and the wine. Catholics teach that the bread actually becomes the body of Christ and the wine actually becomes the blood of Christ (transubstantiation; if you want to know more there are libraries of books about that). Lutherans teach that bread and body, wine and blood, live together in the material substance (consubstantiation). We believe that once they are consecrated the bread and wine convey the real presence of God to all those who partake of either or both in faith. In other words, we become co-consecrators with the celebrant and contribute to the process of communion by bringing our faith to the rail and saying “Yes” to God.

The two questions this belief always raises are: How does that happen? And, when does that happen? The answer is simple. We don’t know. Since consecration and communion is something we do, not something that is done to us, both become a process, not an event. During the prayer of consecration we ask the Holy Spirit to come down and make these elements of bread and wine Christ’s body and blood, so we could say that the Church’s role in the process is clear and precise in time (that moment is called the *epiclesis*, and it takes place using different words in each of our eucharistic prayers). But we also ask the Holy Spirit to come upon us, to “sanctify us” (prayer A), “being sanctified by the Holy Spirit” (prayer B), “sanctify [these gifts we

bring before you (meaning not just the bread and wine but ourselves, too)]” prayer C, “your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts” (prayer D).

So when does our part in consecrating begin? Some say it’s when we take the bread and wine in the faith that God is present in it. Some say it’s earlier than that, when we walk through the doors of the church, sit down in the pews, and begin intentionally to prepare ourselves for communion. Or perhaps it’s when we wake up in the morning and make the conscious decision to go to church. It doesn’t matter. All we know is—it happens. So silence is, in part, tied to the role we play in the act of Eucharist—giving thanks to God for all we have and all we are. In the face of that enormous gift of grace, sometimes the only response we can make is our silence.

David Rowe

A WORD FROM THE WISE, OR OTHERWISE

About a month ago I went in for an M.R.I. (Magnetic Resonance Imaging). An M.R.I. is a visual, skeletal exam/photo of a designated area. You are rolled into a long, narrow tube with perhaps one end open. It is a very close area for those of us who have enjoyed too much the fruits of the earth, and you must lie perfectly still for the thirty to sixty minutes depending upon the exam. You are given ear plugs or ear phones with music of choice (I chose classical music) and you are subjected to a lot of noise. Anyway, the exam was a lower spinal exam and it is very difficult to endure. So, when I was rolled into the tube I tried to focus on something redemptive. In this case, and for my other recent M.R.I.s, I focused on Jesus, the Word, the Purpose. I repeat over and over—Jesus. It sounds simple or even simplistic, but I am convinced the reality of His presence is the way I endure long periods of cramped stillness and personal silence. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

The M.R.I. revealed the urgent need for back surgery. The day of the surgery during the preparation period before I was sent off to “la, la land” I did the same thing – I knew that Jesus’ presence was key for me in the difficult period.

For me this is a great time of year to focus anew on Jesus. This is the season of Advent and we are moving rapidly toward The Incarnation, where I can encounter again the truth of Christmas—**Emmanuel, God with us**. This is the same Jesus who came to be with us in Bethlehem and the same Jesus who was with me during the M.R.I. and the operation. **Emmanuel, God with us**. The same Jesus who is with us every day. We call upon his name.

Merry Christmas,
Gene & Janelee Wise
Rector Emeritus

FORWARD DAY BY DAY

St. Paul’s is resuming its subscription to the daily devotion guide, “Forward Day by Day.” Copies will be available in the narthex beginning in Advent.

DECEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>Advent</h1>						
2 ADVENT I ADVENT CRAFT & BAKE SALE 7.30, 8.45 & 11.00a.m. HE 8.45a.m. Children's Church 9.55 Christian Ed 12.30 p.m. Compass Lunch 3 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5-7 p.m. Jr. High & Sr. High	3 4 p.m. "A Cup of Christmas Tea" 5.30 p.m. Alanon 7 p.m. AA 7 p.m. EIM 7.30 p.m. Nashville Chamber Singers	4 4.30 p.m. RSCM Rehearsal 6.30 p.m. Search Committee "Open Invitation" Forum 7 p.m. COMPASS	5 7a.m. & 5.30 p.m. HE 9a.m. Bible Study 11.15a.m. Staff Meeting 6.30-7.30 p.m. Jars of Clay 7.15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. AA	6 11.30a.m. Senior Birthday Luncheon 6 p.m. Ladies' Night Out 6 p.m. Men's Club 7 p.m. AA	7 6-8 p.m. Lighting of the Christmas Tree on the Square 7 p.m. AA 8 p.m. Parent Group Hot Chocolate and Games	8 9a.m. Heifer Project "Living Gift Market" 7 p.m. AA
9 ADVENT II 7.30, 8.45 & 11a.m. HE 8.45a.m. Children's Church 9.55 Christian Ed 12.30 p.m. Compass Lunch 4.30 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5-7 p.m. Jr. High & Sr. High	10 5.30 p.m. Alanon 6 p.m. Girl Scouts 7 p.m. AA 7 p.m. EIM	11 4.30 p.m. RSCM Rehearsal 6 p.m. Vestry Meeting 6.15 p.m. Dream Group 7 p.m. COMPASS Christmas Party	12 7a.m. & 5.30 p.m. HE 9a.m. Bible Study 11.15a.m. Staff Meeting 6.30-7.30 p.m. Jars of Clay 7.15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. AA	13 6 p.m. Artist's Way 7 p.m. AA	14 6-9 p.m. Youth Christmas Party 7 p.m. AA	15 6.30 p.m. Choir Christmas Party 7 p.m. AA
16 ADVENT III 7.30, 8.45 & 11a.m. HE 8.45a.m. Children's Church 9.55 Christian Ed 2 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 4 p.m. Lessons and Carols	17 5.30 p.m. Alanon 7 p.m. AA 7 p.m. EIM	18 4.30 p.m. RSCM Rehearsal 6.45 p.m. Search Committee	19 7a.m. & 5.30 p.m. HE 9a.m. Bible Study 11.15a.m. Staff Meeting 7.15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. AA	20 6.30 p.m. Daughters of the King 6.30 p.m. Rutherford County Heritage Association 7 p.m. AA	21 6.30 p.m. Vestry Christmas Party 7 p.m. AA	22 7 p.m. AA
23 ADVENT IV 7.30, 8.45 & 11a.m. HE 8.45a.m. Children's Church 9.55 Christian Ed 3 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 7 p.m. AA	24 CHRISTMAS EVE OFFICE CLOSED 4 p.m. Christmas Pageant 5.30 p.m. Alanon 7 p.m. AA 10.30 p.m. Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS EVE OFFICE CLOSED 10.30a.m. Holy Eucharist	26 OFFICE CLOSED No Wednesday Eucharist 7 p.m. AA	27 6 p.m. Artist's Way 7 p.m. AA	28 7 p.m. AA	29 7 p.m. AA
30 CHRISTMAS I 7.30, 8.45 & 11a.m. HE 8.45a.m. Children's Church 9.55 Christian Ed 12.30 p.m. Compass Lunch 5-7 p.m. Jr. High & Sr. High 7 p.m. AA	31 CHRISTMAS EVE OFFICE CLOSED 7 p.m. AA	CHRISTMAS SERVICES CHRISTMAS EVE: 4.30 & 10.30 P.M.; CHRISTMAS DAY: 10.30 A.M.				



12/01 Steve Sachs	12/16 Gilda Hurst
12/01 Ana Kirkham	12/17 Mike Becker
12/01 Nicholas Sargent	12/18 Jonathan Bartsch
12/03 Nancy Sandvig	12/18 Jonathan Wilson
12/03 Alexia Luchtefeld	12/20 Mark Wakefield
12/05 Buddy Boyd	12/20 Michael Elrod-
12/05 Mike Stewart	Erickson
12/06 Forrest Clemmons	12/21 Nicole Vendur
12/07 Fred Kinney	12/22 Ally Davis
12/07 Dawn Baker	12/23 Aerolene Cox
12/07 Mitchell Mann	12/24 Dee Cole
12/08 Ron Messier	12/24 Barry Huber
12/08 Pamela Brown	12/24 Sarah Carr
12/08 John Warlick	12/26 Bob Lynch
12/09 Glenda Webb	12/26 Bill Williams
12/09 Angela Tipps	12/26 Carol Hanna
12/10 Thomas Washer	12/27 Olivia Carpenter
12/11 Dan Erickson	12/28 Brian Burritt
12/11 Eric Blum	12/28 Curtis Hanna
12/12 Nicholas McGuire	12/28 Robert Bray
12/13 Billie Freitag	12/30 Carole Carroll
12/13 Loretta Kimball	12/31 Denise Nunley
12/13 Sarah Ordoubadian	12/31 Melinda Haines
12/14 Kermit Davis	12/31 Charlotte Young

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS UPDATE

If you have moved, changed your home or cell phone numbers, or have had a change in your e-mail address, please contact the church office to update your records.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

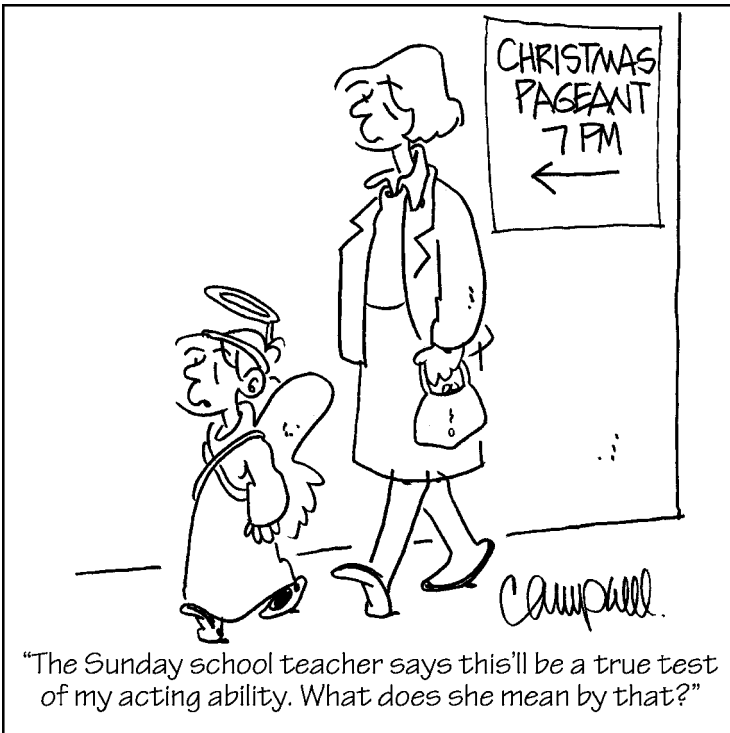
The deadline for announcements in the Sunday bulletin are due in the church office by Wednesday, 12:00 noon, each week. Articles for the monthly *Evangel* newsletter are due in the church office by the 15th of each month. The deadline for the January *Evangel* is Friday, December 14, 2007. Please e-mail all information to evangel@stpaulsmboro.org.

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Anne Fraley, *Interim Rector*
 The Rev. Matt Greathouse, *Associate Rector*
 Chuck Phillips, *Senior Warden*
 Joshua Courtney, *Minister to Youth*
 Susan Greenall, *Office Administrator*
 Dr. David L. Rowe, *Assistant to the Rector*
 Ralph Smith, *Assistant to the Rector*
 Angela Tipps, *Minister of Music*
 Jacob Courtney, *Assistant Minister to Youth*
 Aimee Spurlock, *Choirmaster RSCM*
 Shannon Turner, *Nursery Coordinator*
 Kathy Warlick, *Administrative Assistant*
 Kathy & Bill Jones, *Co-Treasurers*
 Joyce Adkins, *Junior Warden*
 Jeff James, *Junior Warden*
 Bill Williams, *Facilities Manager*

VESTRY

Rodney George, Kathleen Herzog, Alex Hollis,
 Barry Huber, Fran Lovell, Robin Newell,
 Marcie Richmond, Tim Seneker, Fant Smith



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CHRISTMAS SERVICES: CHRISTMAS EVE @ 4.30 & 10.30, CHRISTMAS DAY @ 10.30



December 2007

*by
Hank Haines*

A doctor of the law came up and said, "Master, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have their holes, the birds, their roosts, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

--Matthew 8:19

From time to time it occurs to some that we've let Christmas go a bit far, especially when we consider that the holy day is to honor a divine personage who was so poor he was not believable to many as King of the Jews and Prince of Peace. They expected a sword wielding man atop a white steed.

Herewith a reminder by one X. J. Kennedy, from his book *In a Prominent Bar in Secaucus* (Johns Hopkins University Press):

A Scandal in the Suburbs

We had to have him put away,
For what if he'd grown vicious?
To play faith healer, give away
Stale bread and stinking fishes!
His soapbox preaching set the tongues
Of all the neighbors going.

Odd stuff: how lilies never spin
And birds don't bother sowing.
Why, bums were coming to the door,
His pockets had no bottom,
And then-the foot-wash from that (woman)!
We signed. They came and got him.