



**April 2010
GoodNewsLetter**

Letter from Bishop Ed



10 March 2010

To all at St. Paul's Cathedral:

Greetings and Peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I know many of you have questions and concerns following the announcement of the retirement of your Dean, The Very Reverend George Back. Please know that I am in regular conversation with your Senior Warden, Mr. Steve Parker, and other leaders of the Cathedral.

While I appreciate the desire by many of you to know what process may take place to identify the next Dean of the Cathedral, I want to encourage all of you to focus the next few months on celebrating the incredible season of ministry you have shared with Dean Back and Margaret. We have all been blessed by their presence among us and it is now a time to honor them!

When it is appropriate I will meet with your leadership and the whole congregation to discuss details of next steps. We are all blessed by a great staff at the Cathedral and I am confident they will continue to provide exceptional sacramental and pastoral leadership as we move through this time of transition.

Thank you for your faithful commitment and your support of Dean Back.

God bless you!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Konieczny".

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny

Bishop of Oklahoma

Formation

Forums in April

Sundays at 10:10 AM in Dean Willey Hall

Adult Forums are held in Dean Willey Hall beginning at 10:10 AM on Sundays. All are welcome to attend.

St. Nicholas Guild Easter Reception

Sunday, April 4

Iraq Searching for Hope with Canon Andrew White

Sunday, April 11

The Reverend Canon Andrew White, Vicar of St. George's Church in Baghdad, will discuss his experiences serving the only Anglican church in Iraq. Canon White, also President of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East and author of several books, is internationally recognized for his work. At the age of 33 years he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a condition which has affected his mobility and his speech but has not deterred him from his quest to serve the people of Iraq. You will not want to miss this opportunity to hear Canon White. His visit will include a book signing of *The Vicar of Baghdad*.

Reading Holy Scripture

The Lectionary as a Resource for Communal Spiritual Formation

Saturday, April 17, 9 AM – 3 PM, &

Sunday, April 18, 10:10 AM in Dean Willey Hall

We have a rich opportunity to learn more about how to read Holy Scripture. Dr. J. Ted Blakley (M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary, Ph.D. in Biblical Studies, University of St. Andrews in Scotland) will be with us on the weekend of April 17–18 to present a Sunday Forum on *The Lectionary as a Resource for Communal Spiritual*

Formation – how our personal devotions during the week can be a preparation for our corporate worship on Sunday. Dr. Blakley is the author of three books, one for each of the Lectionary Years, entitled *A Lector's Guide and Commentary to the Revised Common Lectionary*.

On Saturday he will present an all-day workshop, originally designed for our Lectors and Lay Readers but open to anyone who simply wants to learn more about how to enrich their reading of Scripture. See Registration Form at front desk in Education Building or the web site for more details. Because of the stature of our presenter, we have also extended a workshop invitation to other Oklahoma Episcopal Churches.

Reading Holy Scripture

Saturday, April 17, 9 AM – 3 PM

I want to attend!

(Registration due by April 13)

Please fill out this coupon and mail to:
St. Paul's Cathedral, 127 NW 7th St,
Oklahoma City, OK 73102 or turn in at
the reception desk.

Name _____

Congregation _____

Phone _____

Email _____

\$10 enclosed _____

Please make check payable to St. Paul's
Cathedral. For Program Questions
email Joyce Gibb at joycegibb@cox.net.

Youth

Youth Choir Beyond Easter

Shhhhhh! It's a secret!

Miss Mary is recruiting junior and senior high youth for a special musical offering for the 9:00 service on Sunday, May 16. Please let her know if you want to sing or play your instrument. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday evenings in April and May.

New Beginnings

April 10–11 at St. Crispin's

New Beginnings, a retreat week-end for junior high youth (grades 6–9), is led primarily by youth, and focuses on the relationships young teens have with their Friends, Family, Self and God. You can find registration materials at the Diocesan web-site: www.episcopaloklahoma.org.

Questions may be directed to Kate Carney Huston by e-mail at katehuston@att.net.

St. Crispin's Summer Camp 2010

St. Crispin's Summer Camp is for those who have finished grade 3 through high school. Registration information and forms are available on the Diocesan web-site:

www.episcopaloklahoma.org

With Arms Wide Open promises to be “transforming, nurturing, empowering, unforgettable and fun!” If you are uncertain about sending your child, talk to a former camper.

Safeguarding God's Children

Saturday, April 10 at 9:00 AM in the Undercroft

The child sex abuse prevention training required of those who work with our children/youth, will be offered from 9:00 AM to noon, Saturday, April 10 in the Undercroft. Discussion with trainers Rick and Jani Hill or Patti Morgan follows each of two video sections whose sensitive material is thoughtfully presented. We've heard it said, “it takes a village to raise a child,” and if you wish to learn more, please sign up by calling the church office at 235-3436.

The Diocesan Acolyte Festival

Saturday, April 24 at 9:00 AM at St. Paul's

The Diocesan Acolyte Festival is returning to St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, April 24!

Who: Acolytes, Acolyte Masters, or anyone thinking about becoming an acolyte

What: A day for acolytes from all over the Diocese of Oklahoma to gather for worship, learning and play. Canon Musician Scott Raab is featured in the morning crowd pleaser “REX, the King of Instruments,” narrated by the Rev. Canon Luke Back.

When: 9:00 AM, registration through Festival Eucharist beginning at 2:00 PM

Where: St. Paul's Cathedral

How: Go to the Diocesan web site at <http://www.episcopaloklahoma.org/>, tell your Acolyte Master, or e-mail kjarvis@stpaulsokc.org. Christian Education at St. Paul's will pay your fee.

Thanks to our staff and Acolyte Masters who are helping in this special day.

Holy Week Schedule 2010

Palm Sunday – March 28

*10:10 AM Bishop Ed meets with Pilgrimage Class



Maundy Thursday – April 1

*6:00 PM Agape Meal
*7:00 PM Foot-washing Service
*7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service (Confirmand Rehearsal following service)



Good Friday – April 2

7:30 AM Good Friday Service
Noon Good Friday Service
6:00 PM Children's Service
7:30 PM Good Friday Service



Holy Saturday – April 3

*7:30 PM The Great Vigil of Easter with Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation



Easter Sunday – April 4

8:00 AM Easter Sunday Service, Rite I
* 9:00 AM Easter Sunday Service, Rite II, with Children's Flowering of the Cross, Trumpets and Timpani
* 10:10 AM St. Nicholas Guild Reception
* 11:00 AM Easter Sunday Service, Rite I, , with Children's Flowering of the Cross, Trumpets and Timpani
5:00 PM Taizé Service



He is Risen!

** childcare will be provided*

Fellowship

Plan Now to Celebrate and Honor the Backs

Saturday – Sunday, May 15–16

Make plans now to be part of the events celebrating the life and ministry of our retiring Dean George and Margaret Back. Everyone is invited to share in the spirit. Consider the following:

- Picnic at the Harn Homestead, 4–7 PM Saturday, May 15, including food, live music and activities for the children
- Receptions following the 9 and 11 AM services on Sunday, May 16
- A memory book is being assembled, allowing friends to contribute their memories and photos
- Also, non-tax-deductible contributions are being gathered to present the Backs with a financial gift.

To RSVP for the picnic, or for more information about the events or to share stories, please email retirement@stpaulsokc.org.

Second Century Eucharist

Sunday, April 25 at 5:00 PM, at Hampton's, 1414 N. Hudson, Oklahoma City

St. Genesis Guild will again this year celebrate a 2nd Century Eucharist in the home of Jim and Carol Hampton, 1414 N. Hudson at 5:00 PM on Sunday, April 25. This is an incredible experience where one sees what the early century Christians had to go through to celebrate a Eucharist. Following the Eucharist is a meal of breads and wines brought to the Eucharist. Please call John Koons at 528-0327 if you have any questions.

Music

Choral Evensong with Special Guests

April 18 at 5:00 PM

Canterbury Youth Choruses, Dr. Judith Wiloughby, Conductor

Brightmusic – Season Finale

April 20 at 7:30 PM

Caprice by Saint-Saens, Songs by Hoiby, Concert Piece by Mendelssohn, Antique Dances by Farkas, Sextet by Poulenc

Health News

Mourning or Melancholy

Two Part Series

Sundays at 10:10 AM, May 2, 30

Sadness is something people experience on a continuum, from everyday disappointment (which is short lived), to grief (which will be longer depending on the nature of the loss and how we cope), to depression (which can be protracted and debilitating). There will be a two part series presented by Dr. Harrison Smith. Part One will be Sunday, May 2 at the 10:10 Forum. Part Two will be Sunday, May 30 at the 10:10 Forum. Dr. Smith will be addressing what normal grief looks like, and how it differs from depression. He will also talk about how grief can turn into depression, depending on how people manage the losses which are inevitable.

Memorials & Contributions

Altar Guild

In memory: **The Rev. Robert Shaw**

Donor: Mr. J. Marshall Binns

Endowment Fund

In memory: **Joe Hill**

Donor: Ms. Nira Smith

Memorial Fund

In memory: **Patricia Carry**

Donor: Ms. Cecelia Bacon Rakestraw

In memory: **George Massad**

Donor: Mr. & Mrs. David L. Raizk

St. Francis Guild

In memory: **Dorthlynn Gaddis**

Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Mills

Leadership and Staff

The Episcopal Church, U.S.A.

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori,
Presiding Bishop

The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma

The Right Reverend Edward J. Konieczny

St. Paul's Cathedral

The Very Reverend George H. Back
The Reverend Canon Susan Colley Joplin
The Reverend Canon Carol M. Hampton
The Reverend Canon Nathaniel Luke Back
The Reverend Canon Margôt L. Nesbitt
The Reverend Marilyn Robertson

The Cathedral Officers

Stephen H. Parker, *Senior Warden*
Robert Dennis, *Junior Warden*
Rick Hill, *Treasurer*
Rachel Pringle, *Clerk*

The Cathedral Staff

H. Scott Raab, *Canon Musician*
Allen Christ, *Parish Administrator*
Michael Vogt, *Information Technology Coordinator*
Jack Wise, *Communications Coordinator*
Marilyn Robertson, *Parish Nurse*
Ann Bonsteel, *Bookkeeper*
Anne Kueteman, *Cathedral Ministries Coordinator*
Karen Jarvis, *Christian Education*
Marilyn Rogez, *Childcare*
Tommy Shoemake, *Sexton*
Eric Ashong, *Assistant Sexton*
Gail Dyer, *Kitchen Staff*

Vestry 2010

Kent Eldridge, Bart Wells, Gypsy Hogan,
Todd Olberding

2011

Molly Tolbert, Marshall Binns, Sharon Stewart,
Joann Speers

2012

John Koons, Jane Magrath, Buzz McDonald,
Amy Fischer

A Vestry Review by Gypsy Hogan

Bishop Ed Visits

Bishop Ed made a scheduled vestry visit in March, answering questions about news around the diocese as well as an update on Uruguay becoming our new companion diocese and Santa Maria's new church home at 5500 S Western.

Most importantly, he assured vestry that he is aware of the Dean's retirement and that plans will be made to fill that position when appropriate. For now, he stressed, the focus should be on our Dean. "You've had an incredible journey together. It's time to celebrate. ...We need to send them off with our love and thanks. Now is not the time to cloud that with worry about the next steps."

Columbarium Update

Dean Back said the Columbarium committee is about a month away from signing final contracts. Planners are hopeful that existing funds plus donations will allow work to proceed with a small loan, or maybe none at all, the senior warden said.

Vestry approved a civil engineering contract for drainage design and a contract with artist Brooks Tower to complete mosaic art for the Columbarium.

Lenten Activities

The Lenten dinners are having outstanding attendance, Mother Susan said. About 100 people are attending Pilgrimage Classes at 10:10 a.m. Sundays with about half of those scheduled for confirmation at Easter Vigil.

Memorial Run

Organizers of the event are asking for volunteers from St. Paul's to help work the intersections surrounding the Cathedral. Contact Amy

Fischer at 840-9609 or amyfischer@oklahoma-counsel.com if interested.

Classes Rescheduled

Sunday 10:10 classes on *Depression/Dealing with Loss* with Dr. Harrison Smith are now scheduled for May 2 and May 30.

Guttering Replaced

Because of repeated thefts of pieces of the Cathedral's copper guttering, Junior Warden Robert Dennis said the latest missing pieces will be replaced with a material that's "aesthetically pleasing" but not as desirable to would-be thieves looking for scrap metal sales.

Budget Report

February revenues exceeded expectations and expenses were less. As a result, for January and February, the Cathedral is about \$30,500 in the red, better than the anticipated, Treasurer Rick Hill reported. Now is the time to remember your Blessed Days!

Back Talk

Dear Friends,

A friend recently described his experience in Haiti. The road from the Dominican Republic toward Port-au-Prince was crowded with desperate people. There were numerous maimed and orphaned children with open quiet eyes waiting to die. The bodies of all ages, in all stages of decomposition, made it hard to take a breath.

When Jesus was a small child, two thousand rebels from the city of Sepphoris, four miles north of Nazareth, were crucified and left on the crosses to rot. Set on the way to Jerusalem, these crosses were roadside bill boards advertising the message 'Don't mess with Rome'. Such horror stories filled the air and a child's imagination.

History shows that in natural disasters only about 5% to 10% of the casualties are caused directly by the event. Most of the human loss comes from the inability of the religious, political, economic, health and social structures to adjust to the immense and complex challenges that follow such disruptions. Humanity continues to be humanity's greatest obstacle.

Realization threatens to become depression. How can we cope with such grief without seeking illusions, distractions and drugs? Anyone by himself, or by herself, is vulnerable to being overwhelmed. We are not alone! "If I make the grave my bed, you are there also", says the Psalmist. Planted in the deepest pit of hell is the Cross of Christ.

A reporter interviewing Mother Teresa, as she was ministering to the repulsive body of a dying vagrant, commented, "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars." Mother Teresa said, "Neither would I". There are things one can only endure for love. It is the endurance of love, even through hell, that becomes the narrow, intimate, soul gate to heaven.

Huge earthly catastrophes and intense personal tragedies may come with an impact greater than our earthly resources. Only God's presence reduces the worst of worldly situations into a bearable pilgrimage. It is with the Lover of our souls, the One that goes through hell for us, that we dare to engage the worst manifestations of sin and death. With the risen Christ as Lord and Leader, God's love breaks through and forth into the Easter of our soul's joy.

Faithfully,

Joseph H. Back

