

**August 2009
Good News Letter**

Formation

Mexico Mission Forum

Sunday, August 9, 10:10 AM, Dean Willey Hall

Learn more about the wonderful adventures of the Mexico mission and the *Mission to Mission, TX* trip of June 2009. There will be Mexican goodies and pictures from this most recent trip to our family in the south. Hasta Luego, Amigos!

Pilgrimage to Subiaco

Monday, Sept. 14 – Thursday, Sept. 17

Mark your calendar for the St. Paul's fall pilgrimage to Subiaco Benedictine Monastery, in Subiaco, Arkansas.

Your experience: Abbey grounds and fields, forests and rolling hills of the beautiful Arkansas River Valley offer a quiet, serene and spiritual atmosphere for prayer, meditation and solitude.

Contact Carole Owen, 330-0673 or Janice Eberhard 341-4115 for more information.

Youth

Rally Day

Registration for Fall Activities and Picnic in September

September 13, 2009 – Register at 10:10 AM, Picnic at Harn Homestead starts at 5:00 PM

Summer is winding down and activities at St. Paul's will be winding up. We mark the renewed energy of this time of year with Rally Day. New and returning children can register for Sunday School at 10:10 in the Reception Area.

At 5:00 we will gather at The Harn Homestead at 313 N.E. 16th Street for a great picnic, music, and games. We will be providing fried chicken and beverages. You will need to bring your family, friends, and a dish to share.

Come join in the fun and festivities!

Outreach

Christmas in August

Advent Event Early Christmas Shopping

Advent is just a season away! It is not too early to start your Advent Event Christmas shopping. Many of the small gifts we put in the Christmas bags that go to Watonga and Santa Maria were school supplies. Please consider purchasing crayons, colored pencils and markers during this sale season. Summer toys such as hacky sacks, small frisbees and small games (no larger than 5 x 7 inch) that fit into our Christmas bags are also great gift ideas and may be found on clearance.

Cherie Tompkins will have age appropriate shopping lists available in October for additional gift ideas. If you have any questions please call Cherie at 789-7431.

Guild of St. George Recognition

In 1994, a special award was created by the Inasmuch Foundation. This award was established in recognition of excellence for the dedicated work of a director, staff members, or of an organization as a whole. The recipients are selected according to the following criteria:

- The agency or organization has worked consistently over a long period of time to achieve the purposes for which it was founded.
- The agency or organization has made excellent use of sometimes limited resources.
- The agency or organization has shown leadership and sensitivity in developing new programs that meet new needs of the community.
- The agency or organization is not duplicating services or programs of others.

Whenever possible, the Inasmuch foundation Special Recognition Award is given to an agency or organization that all too frequently is not rec-

ognized by others, the sometimes *unsung hero* in the world of philanthropy. No proposals are solicited or accepted, but are recommended by the Inasmuch Advisory Committee for consideration at the annual Board of Directors meeting of the Foundation. The Special Recognition Award is presented at an appropriate time in consideration of the agency's or organization's schedule.

Letter to Mexico Mission Group

Dear Marilyn, Betsy, Jenna, Sharon, Sally, and Felix,

I am looking at your photo as you stand proudly in front of the Flores home which you painted. I don't know which is beaming more strongly, your smiles or the 111° sun!

Thank you so very much for the joy you brought to our colonia by painting this home and by distributing food bags to 200 families! Thank you also for your generous donation of \$100 to help us continue this colonia ministry. Your presence was brief but very powerful. Whenever our colonia people pass by that strikingly blue house, they will be reminded that a group of dedicated folks from Oklahoma came, touched our lives, and captured our hearts!

We hope that you had a safe trip back home and that you will not let the miles between us separate our collaboration in making Christ's loving presence known in our world. May God bless and reward each of you abundantly! Please come back!

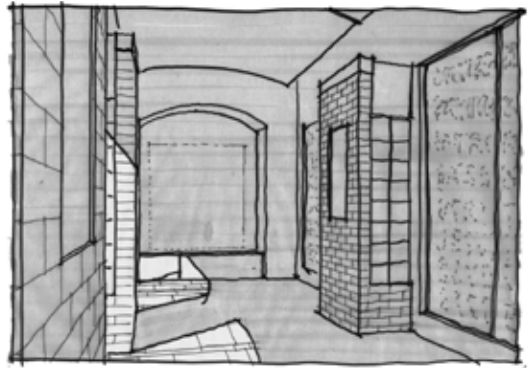
With our love and prayers,
Sister Carolyn Kosub, icm
Proyecto Desarrollo Humano

Columbarium

Columbarium Plans Progress

Vestry approved the initial plans for the St. Paul's Columbarium being planned for the northeast corner of the East Garden area. The vote came after an extensive presentation by designing architect Hans Butzer who has done an incredible job of making the garden area meet a number of needs, while retaining much of the current landscaping.

Plans include financing the project with proceeds from funds already donated, from advance sales of niches and from lead gifts for art and special features.



Blessed Days

- August 2 Given by Elaine Honnold in Celebration of the Birthday of Carol Morrison.
- August 2 Given in Grateful Thanksgiving for the Ministry of the Altar Guild.
- August 3 Given by William & Meredith Cunningham in Celebration of their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary.
- August 7 Given by Mary Schneeberger in Thanksgiving for the First Birthday of Charlotte Grace Ozan.
- August 9 Given by Susan Joplin in Honor of the Birthday of Larry Joplin.
- August 10 Given by Miles & Molly Tolbert in Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.
- August 12 Given by Stephen Ministers in Loving Remembrance of Natalie Drownicky.
- August 12 Given Anonymously in Thanksgiving for the Ministry and Leadership of The Very Reverend George H. Back.
- August 22 Given by Elaine Honnold in Celebration of the Birthday of Clark Honnold.

Memorials & Contributions

Memorial Fund

In memory: **Lowry Morgan**
Donor: Mr. Robert P. White

In memory: **Zelma Thigpen**
Donors: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Comstock
Ms. Jamie Davis Culinary

Music Society

In memory: **Joe Johnson**
Donor: Mrs. Carrol Branham
Ms. Barbara Patterson
Mrs. Jean Pickens
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Williams

Special Thanks

To Everyone at St. Paul's,

My family and I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every person who was involved in the planning and execution of the funeral service for my husband, Joe Johnson. The music and all the wonderful words spoken about Joe were absolutely perfect. I would also like to especially thank all the people who brought food and who arranged the beautiful reception in Dean Willey Hall. When I walked into the room I was humbled by the tremendous effort put forth on my family's behalf. The amount of love and caring through that time was overwhelming.

With thanks and love to all,
Regena Johnson

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

2009

Dian Everett, Hank Bowen, Patti Morgan,
Sherry Sullivan

2010

Kent Eldridge, Bart Wells, Gypsy Hogan,
Todd Olberding

2011

Molly Tolbert, Marshall Binns, Sharon Stewart,
Joann Speers

A Vestry Review

by Gypsy Hogan

Opening Doors

Perhaps by the time you read this, work already will have started on making FOUR Cathedral doors handicap accessible, including the west Tower door and the door into the reception area. While donations covered a good part of the work, vestry authorized up to \$3,100 to be used from St. Paul's Memorial Fund to ensure adequate funding for the \$6,300 project. Completion will make life at St. Paul's easier for many, while we all can remember those in the past who would have benefited.

National Convention

St. Paul's Canon Carol Hampton was chaplain to the National Altar Guild Association gathering in Anaheim, Calif., in mid-July. The group met in conjunction with the Episcopal General Convention. During the event, a banquet was held in honor of St. Paul's Mary Lu Jarvis, president of the National Altar Guild from 2006–09. Bishop Ed and wife Debbie, Dean Back, Canon Hampton and Canon Back attended, reporting a very happy Mary Lu was in their midst. Look for deputies to give a full report on the General Convention sometime this fall.

Healthy Living

Deacon Robertson is planning the annual **St. Paul's Health Fair** for Oct. 18, complete with available flu shots. In addition, she's planning a 10:10 Forum on Sept. 20 on **Flu Precautions**, in addition to a Sept. 6 forum on **Living Wills and Advanced Directives**. In addition, she'll share stories about the recent **Reynosa Mission trip** at the forum on Aug. 9.

More for Your Calendar

The annual **Harn Homestead Picnic** will be from 5-7 PM Sunday, Sept. 13. A 10:10 Sunday

Bible study of the **Book of Ruth** will kick-off Sept. 6. Canon Joplin is organizing a group for an annual **Subiaco Retreat**, Sept. 14-17. **Stewardship in-gathering** will be Nov. 15.

Finances

While revenues are typically slow in the summer months, the church financials are better than Treasurer Rick Hill anticipated – “I think we'll survive.” Nonetheless, all are asked to keep St. Paul's in their prayers and checkbooks as we work toward ending the year, hopefully without a deficit!

On a Lighter Note

If you miss the black grand piano in Dean Willey Hall, don't worry. Bright Music and the St. Paul's Music Society are paying to have the instrument rebuilt. Sweeter sounds to come!

Back Talk

Dear Friends,

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori “threw a grenade” at the opening of General Convention wrote the USA Today. This is the bombshell they quote:

...the great Western heresy – that we can be saved as individuals, that any of us alone can be in right relationship with God... that salvation depends on reciting a specific verbal formula about Jesus. That individualist focus is a form of idolatry, for it puts me and my words in the place that only God can occupy, at the center of existence, as the ground of being.

She challenges the ‘Myth of the Individual’; the presumption that I am a whole unified and integrated entity. Do I think, feel and act seamlessly without separation, interruption or contradiction? St. Paul was no Individual! “I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ...For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do...” —Rom. 7:15,17

Many look at the Episcopal Church and see divisions. As a sovereign, independent individual I could gloat that the Church is painfully pulled between fidelity to gay/lesbian members and fidelity to the larger Anglican Communion. I need not notice that the *I* in my *Individual* is more myth than fact.

Unfortunately the English Christian creedal structures have reinforced the *I* myth by translating the creed beginning with an *I*, as ‘*I* believe in...’ The Greek word for *I* is *ego*. Early Greek and Latin creeds contained no *I*, no *Ego* statement. In the Latin ‘*Credo*’, as the Greek verb that preceded it, the person is only identified

from the form of the verb. Religionists who put their *I* before God move dangerously near to atheists who believe their *I* is more real than God.

Jesus lived amid the divisive sins of the real world. He was pinned to the cross both on the right hand and on the left. He emerged as the Christ, the only One whose love abided unbroken, the one true Individual. In Christ, as far as the east is from the west, so far did God remove human sin and division. In wholeness of love for all humanity Christ makes peace accessible to the scattered pieces of humanity at conflict within and among themselves.

Instead of pretending to be ‘Individuals’ we should name ourselves for what we really are, that is ‘dividuals’. A church of ‘dividuals’ would not be surprised that we had divisive issues, we would be awe struck at our merely being together – truly a miracle of Biblical proportions. Let us give priority to our Lord’s command to ‘first remove the logjam in my own *I* and I will be free to see God’s love in my neighbors’ *I*’s.

Salvation is not being saved as an isolated soul into your own separate safe deposit vault. The Good News is that you are included in Heaven like a wedding guest. You need only the truth, that is, the humility to wear the garment of God’s loving grace over your own divided, ‘grenaded’ and fractious self. Eternal life is not like a perpetual ego achievement, but like sharing, singing, feasting and worshipping with the Communion of Saints.

Faithfully,

Gene H. Back

