



**January 2009
GoodNewsLetter**

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25 at 3:00 PM in Dean Willey Hall

- Reports on the Life and Ministry of St. Paul's in 2008
- Budget for 2009 & our Life to Come
- Election of Parish Officers
- Information on St. Paul's New Columbarium



We ask those who would like their organization's report included in the Annual Report to please turn the report in by January 15.

Music



Rose Mansell

Evensong with the Cathedral Choir

Sunday, January 18 at 5:00 PM

Rose Mansell, Guest Soprano will sing J.S. Bach's Cantata 84 "Ich bin vergnügt mit meinem Glücke" for Soprano, Oboe, Strings and Continuo.



Sylvia Wang

Brightmusic – Auf dem Strom

Tuesday, January 27 at 7:30 PM

Concert with guest pianist Sylvia Wang. Pieces include *Auf dem Strom* by Franz Schubert, *Alpenlied for Tenor, Horn and Piano* by Richard Strauss, *Quintet for Piano and*

Winds by Ludwig van Beethoven, and *Quintet for Piano and String Quartet* by Dmitri Shostakovich

Fellowship

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, January 11

You're invited to join in the celebration of fifty years of marriage of Hank and Joan Bowen. Their marriage will be blessed at the conclusion of the 9:00 AM service, followed by cake and fellowship in the Reception Area.

Youth

Youth Confirmation

Starting Sunday, January 11 at 10:10 AM in Dean Willey Hall

Confirmation Class for senior high youth begins Sunday, January 11, 2009 at the 10:10 time. Please join the adults in Dean Willey Hall for this orientation and introduction. In succeeding weeks, meet in the Youth Room, unless otherwise instructed.

Youth "Fun & Games Night"

Wednesday, January 21

All junior and senior high youth are invited to Supper & Fun & Games Night from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Wednesday, January 21. Please RSVP to Katie Huskerson at thebirdietoldme@gmail.com, so we'll have enough "Frito Chili Pie." Bring a friend and your favorite game.

Plan Ahead For Junior – Senior High Conference

February 20-22, St. Crispin's

First Gathering is the new Junior-Senior High Conference, being held the week-end of Friday, 2/20 through Sunday, 2/22, at St. Crispin's Camp and Conference Center. For more information, check out the Youth section of the Diocesan web-site, www.episcopaloklahoma.org, or go directly to www.okepiscopalyouth.org.

Formation

Reflections of St. Paul's

Sunday, January 4, 10:10 AM, Dean Willey Hall
Special Christmas music performed by Cathedral youth and a slide show of great happenings of 2008. Join us for great food, reflections, and fellowship.

Pilgrimage at St. Paul's in 2009

Confirmation Class

Begins Sunday, January 11, 10:10 AM
in Dean Willey Hall

We invite everyone who wishes to deepen their faith life, broaden their Christian education and share in goodly fellowship to join Fr. Luke & Canon Hampton on January 11 at 10:10 AM when we introduce our Confirmation Course. Those new to St. Paul's are particularly encouraged to join this merry band of pilgrims.

Anatomy of the Episcopal Church

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

Join Dean Back as we look at the structures and frameworks of the Episcopal Church. We think of the church in terms of the body of Christ, and we'll see how the church body fits together.

Memorials & Contributions

Endowment Fund

In memory: **Patty Lutz**
Donors: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mahaffey

In memory: **Mike Stewart**
Donors: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mahaffey

Memorial

In memory: **Tom Colley**
Donors: Mrs. Margaret W. Colley

In memory: **Madeline Lamb Holland**
Donors: Mr. John David Macey, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Richardson

A Vestry Review

by Gypsy Hogan

Vestry approved up to \$2,000 for new database software to access parish information in different ways, such as allowing everyone in the office to retrieve the latest in names, addresses and phone numbers in a read-only mode, while financial information would be only for finance, other information would be much more accessible. And the information will be cross-referenced as opposed to our separate lists of members, newcomers, donors, etc. Oh, the joys of technology!

St. Nicholas Chapel continues to come together with the new altar, completed in honor of the late Fr. Stanley Donham, with more improvements to follow. In January, design work will begin on stain glass windows, expected to take about six months. And a hanging glass cross is being completed for over the altar, given in honor of Archie and Daniel Brown. Meanwhile, the Altar Guild has made the chapel very warm and inviting, perfect for week day Holy Eucharists and evening prayer services.

The number of weddings at St. Paul's continues to grow, with Cathedral staff now working to include future brides and grooms in current wedding events. Two couples who are planning to wed next year assisted with a wedding over Thanksgiving, helping usher, set up, perform last-minute needs, etc., in what is believed to be a great learning and preparation experience for their own big days.

Deacon Marilyn Robertson, St. Paul's own nurse-in-resident, reported that the Cathedral's "Health Room" is now set up in the Parish House, in the alcove area where the wheelchair is kept. A first aid kit, oxygen tank and an automated external defibrillator are all in that one place, making us better prepared to handle possible emergencies.

St. Paul's members are continually looking to expand on what it means to live in communion with others. Two of the most recent ways include work to shorten several Cathedral pews to accommodate more people in wheelchairs or electric scooters. The work allows for them to move down the center aisle for Holy Communion for more complete participation in services. For those with an intolerance for gluten, please remember gluten-free wafers are available for communion, in addition to a reserved gluten-free wine chalice at the side station.

Vestry approved a recommendation by the St. Paul's Outreach Committee for its fourth quarter donation to go to the medical clinic at El Mariachi Supermercado at 415 SW 59, providing services to an area with a high level of uninsured and indigent health needs.

St. Genesius Guild reported raising \$900 for St. George's Guild. The money came from the November evening of dinner and theater, with the condensed theatrical reading of an original musical, "Our Good Angel," by St. Paul's member Doug Rogez.

Confirmation classes will start in January with a 2009 theme of Pilgrimages with St. Paul's for deeper faith, broader minds and making new friends. These classes, open to those who want to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church, and for Episcopalians who would like to renew their faith commitment. The class leads up to the traditional Easter Eve confirmation service. Last year, St. Paul's had about 25 in this group. May 2009 bring the best for all of us!

Back Talk

Dear Friends,

A newspaper correspondent in the Mideast was stopped at a militia checkpoint. The soldier asked whether he was a Moslem, a Jew or a Christian. He replied I am an atheist!

The soldier continued, “Are you a Moslem atheist, a Jewish atheist or a Christian atheist?” Which God do you not believe in? The ‘a-theist’ is stuck with not believing in some theist’s ‘phony god’. An atheist cannot say, “It is the real God that I don’t believe in”.

The NY Times bestseller list in 2008 contained a large number of anti-religious books. They represent updated versions of old atheisms that have been re-energized by the terrorism of religious fanatics. As bad as they are, religious terrorists have yet to compete in destructive scale with secular Nazism under Hitler and atheistic Communism under Stalin, Mao and the Pol Pot regimes.

A more subtle denial of religion is more popular. “I’m not religious, but I am spiritual!” It usually means, “I have my own personal spirituality and I do not need any organizational or institutional religious entanglement.”

Religion, like economics and politics, involves and entangles everyone whether or not we chose to participate. Hiding your money in a mattress does not protect you from a bad economy, and not voting will not protect you from bad politics. By spending time, attention, energy and money every human being expresses the worth-ship of someone or something.

Spending one’s time, attention, energy and money on oneself expresses a religious belief. Not spending time, attention, energy and money on God expresses a religious belief. Such behavior

is a more realistic measure of truth than are intense religious ideas or profound spiritual feelings.

January is a time when parishes go about organizational labors. Such a process can be as natural and organic as the way a human body functions through various organs like the heart, lung, stomach, liver, eye, etc. Some organ functions are more attractive than others, but all must cooperate together in order for a human being to be present and alive in the reality of this world.

A ghostly, isolated, self-centered spirituality is a form of religion, but not of Christianity. Christian religion is the incarnation of the Body of Christ in the world. The love of God and love of humanity must become our flesh and blood. Voices worshipping God in love and hands serving humanity in love, become Christ’s. Money offered, time spent, effort expended, affection expressed, provide the real presence of Christ in a really tough world. Will you help St. Paul’s to be really here this year?

Faithfully yours,

Gene H. Back

