



June 2008
GoodNewsLetter



**Ordination of
Marilyn
Robertson**

Saturday, June 21, 11:00 AM

St. Paul's invites you to join us at the Cathedral for Marilyn Robertson's ordination to the diaconate.

Formation

Effective Communication

Sunday, June 1, 10:10 AM Dean Willey Hall

Michael Vogt will talk about practices that help us better communicate the myriad activities and programs St. Paul's has to offer, and encourages organization leaders who want to break the Curse of Knowledge to attend this forum.

End of Life Issues

Sunday, June 29, 10:10 AM Dean Willey Hall

The Parish Nursing Team will sponsor a Forum on End of Life issues. The Rev. Margôt Nesbitt will present important information on this topic.

New Direction for Downtown

Sunday, June 8, 10:10 AM Dean Willey Hall

Miles Tolbert, Secretary of the Environment, will inform us about the new direction of downtown development and what it means for St. Paul's.

Ancient Irish Images of the Soul in Rock & Ink

Sunday, June 15, 10:10 AM Dean Willey Hall

Dean Back and Margaret have recently returned from Ireland. The Dean will share a number of images from our Celtic roots that have been, and that will be, integrated into our Cathedral life and structure.

Iraqi Children's Burn Clinic

Sunday, June 23, 10:10 AM Dean Willey Hall

St Catherine's Guild will sponsor a Forum on the Iraqi Children's Burn Clinic, presented by Ann Sherman.

When Ann Sherman's son was sent to Scania, Iraq, he sent his mother a letter about a children's burn center run by the 82nd Airborne Division. Matt has requested donations, especially medical supplies, toys and clothing, for the clinic. Come to the Forum and hear Ann's story about the clinic and learn how you can help the children of Iraq.

Youth

Evensong in June

This month we will feature three young musicians from St. Paul's. Steele Wilson, Jami Stetler and Cody Hightower will offer special music. Our guest organist will be Cherie Wescott, and our Cathedral Choir will sing. Please join us on Sunday, June 15th at 5 PM.

Safeguarding God's Children

*Saturday, June 14, 9:00 AM to noon,
Dean Willey Hall*

This educational program for preventing child sexual abuse is encouraged for all who set policy for our children, including Vestry and staff members, and for those who come in contact with our children. Rick Hill and Patti Morgan generously donated their time to become trainers, and would love to share their new skills. "It takes a village to raise a child" safely. Please call the office to sign-up.

Summer Sunday Mornings for our Children

While we do not have Sunday School classes for the children from June–August, we do like to provide a "light activity" for those here at the 10:10 time. Youth and adults interested in helping with summer "programming," please e-mail kjarvis@stpaulsokc.org. Any ideas and energy are welcome! Otherwise, stories in the garden or VeggieTales may prevail.

New Format for Camp Cathedral 2008 – Saints Of God

This summer we are trying something new! We will offer an intergenerational Camp Cathedral four consecutive Wednesday evenings in July. On the 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th, bring the whole family for supper in Dean Willey Hall and then join *The Saints Of God* or another adult activity. Details forthcoming soon.

Volunteers (youth and adults) are encouraged to contact Karen at 235-3436 or at kjarvis@stpaulsokc.org. Help is needed with both crafts and shepherding the campers among the activities.

Registration forms for both Volunteers and Campers (ages three through grade five) are available in the reception area. Many "hearts and hands and voices" are needed to build the kingdom of the Saints. Please consider offering yours!

Outreach



Oakerhater VBS in Watonga

Oakerhater VBS – Saints of God

*June 30–July 2 in Watonga &
Roman Nose State Park*

Come for the fun of teaching and playing with the children of Watonga, for the learning of Cheyenne and Arapaho traditions and culture, for intercultural spiritual adventure, horseback riding and more.

Youths and Adults interested in this year's Vacation Bible School should contact Canon Carol Hampton at champton@stpaulsokc.org or at 235-3436.

Memorials & Contributions

Memorial Fund

In memory: ***Fern Cooper***

Donors: Ms. Nira Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tolbert

In memory: ***Jim McGuinness***

Donors: Kiwi Club Oklahoma City

Fellowship

St. Nicholas Guild Meeting

Pot Luck Dinner, Election of Officers

Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 6:00 PM

St. Nicholas Guild will meet at the home of Sherry Sullivan, 1704 Coventry, Oklahoma City.

Important Information

Don't let your pledge go on vacation.

Please help us from falling behind in pledges this summer. At the beginning of 2008 the St. Paul's congregation pledged \$792,163. This is a 6.47 % increase from 2007 pledge of \$744,013. This was a very encouraging beginning for St. Paul's in 2008. June is here and we begin the summer which is historically a low revenue time for St. Paul's.

Through the first 4 months of 2008 we have received \$246,683 in pledges. This is only a 1.21% increase over 2007 receipts of \$243,733. One third of the year is over and we are falling behind on pledges.

The church staff has been working hard to keep costs low. For the first 4 months of 2008 total expense is \$18,143 below budget.

You can help by staying current with your pledges. Even though summer is a time for vacation, please continue your contribution during these months. If you didn't pledge, please consider pledging and contributing to the operation and service of your church community.

Bookstore Summer Hours

On June 1 the Cathedral Book and Gifts store starts summer hours, and will be open Monday through Friday, 10 AM – 2 PM, and on Sundays after morning services.

Cathedral Books & Gifts will also be closed from June 30 to July 14.

A Vestry Review by Gypsy Hogan

Getting Plugged In

Canon Joplin introduced Vestry to the work of one of St. Paul's newest commissions—Congregational Development. While newcomers at St. Paul's seem to be getting healthy doses of attention, there seems to be more work needed at the next level—finding ways to help those who want to be connected in a deeper way than just coming on Sundays, she said. So, the commission is exploring some new tools for the St. Paul's tool kit.

New Green Team Gets Boost

Kent Eldridge and Meredith Cunningham are finding good support for their newly formed St. Paul's environmental commission, including parishioners who have volunteered. Plus, St. Catherine's Guild recently made "Care for the Environment" the focus of its recent Quiet Day. A logo from an Episcopal group in Austin is being shared, and commission members will be exploring efforts of other Episcopal churches. Go Green!

Grandchild Withdrawal

The Dean and wife Margaret were enjoying their sabbatical to Ireland, so Steve Parker chaired the May Vestry meeting, while Canon Luke Back gave an update on his parents' trip. According to a recent phone conversation, "they're having a great time, a great trip, but they're missing their grandchildren terribly," he said. No one was surprised by the report.

Outreach Funds Spread Near, Far

Our Outreach Committee received vestry approval to once again contribute \$200 to Camp New Hope, a summer camp at St. Crispin's for children who have parents in prison. And the committee is sending \$100 to the Episcopal Relief Development Fund for relief work in Myanmar. Because of the presence of an Episcopal community within Myan-

mar, outside funds are able to get in the country and be distributed by the church to those in need, committee representative Rick Hill said.

Leaky Roof Gets Infrared Treatment

Senior Warden Tom Steiner said that mechanical engineer Mike Leonard of Norman had pinpointed the source of leaks in the church's flat roof areas by using thermal imaging. Leonard owns Crystal Clear Thermal Imaging, a company that uses infrared technology to detect water leaks, energy loss and other structural problems. "The technology is interesting, and the information helpful," Tom said, especially since the church repairs may be less than originally thought. So, if a leaking roof can be good news, this was it. Thanks to Mike Leonard!

Using Dollars and Sense

St. Paul's Treasurer Rick Hill said his good sense tells him that the St. Paul's budget through April is missing some major cents—down \$34,000 in income when compared to last year's year-to-date numbers! So, everyone is urged to please keep their pledges current and to be generous in their offerings, as the leadership of St. Paul's keeps a watchful eye on income and expenses.

Kudos to Gail Dyer

The vestry voted to give special recognition and thanks to Gail Dyer, who runs the St. Paul's kitchen. Vestry Clerk Rachel Pringle called attention to the extra work Gail has assumed as St. Paul's transitions from the volunteer commitment of Charles and Sarah Foster, who recently retired, and the volunteer effort now being coordinated by Casey Richards. Which brings up a St. Paul's irony—too many chefs do not spoil this kitchen! More volunteers are always needed. Just call Casey to share your talents, have a good time and enjoy a great group at St. Paul's!

Back Talk

Dear Friends,

For many years I have been intrigued by this poem of Emily Dickinson.

The Brain – is wider than the Sky—
For – put them side by side –
The one the other will contain
With ease – and You – beside –

The Brain is deeper than the sea –
For – hold them – Blue to Blue –
The one the other will absorb –
As Sponges – Buckets – do—

The Brain is just the weight of God –
For – Heft them – Pound for Pound –
And they will differ – if they do –
As Syllable from Sound –

Although over a century old, this poem celebrates the prominence of the contemporary mind. It infers that the weight of my own individual thinking is indistinguishable from the weight of divine authority.

Religion in western society has largely fallen into knowledge. It is the knowledge of good and evil. It becomes the knowledge that my bucket of ideas is superior to your bucket of ideas. The human brain, “wider than the Sky”, contains heaven, earth “and You —beside”.

Most people, in most places, for most of human existence, regarded the ‘soul’ as the center of ‘human-beingness’. The mind as servant of the soul has had the humble task of helping you survive in a dangerous world and helping you arrive at your soul’s heavenly destination.

Walking through Trinity College in Dublin, the guide pointed out the elaborate bell tower that dominates the center of the campus. He said that

the bell rings only for final exams and for funerals. The first to see whether you have paid attention to your studies, the final time to see whether you have learned anything from God.

When you kick the bucket all your superior ideas pour out upon the dust, what is left? God knows! In fact in it is not what you know, but Who you know that makes the heavenly difference.

Faithfully yours,

George H. Back

