



**MAY 2008**  
**GOODNEWSLETTER**

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# ON THE VERGE OF HEAVEN

## **Ascension Day Service and Music**

*Thursday, May 1, 7:30 PM*

The Ascension of Jesus into heaven is one of the great celebrations in the life of the church. Join us for Ascension Day as we celebrate a Holy Eucharist Rite I service with special harpist Gaye LeBlanc. on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM. As the Ascension challenges us to expand our understanding of Christ's presence, we are called to extend our service and ministry in new ways.

## **Vickie Norick**

Vickie Norick has participated in the planning of this service as part of her certification as a Verger. The ministry of Verger has its roots in the maintenance of ancient cathedrals and is expressed today in terms of processional leadership & management, as well as coordinating certain elements of hospitality.

Vickie will be commissioned as Verger on May 11, the Day of Pentecost. The Cathedral Community will gather for a Ministry Celebration at 10:10 AM, where we will honor the many ministries at St. Paul's, including the many contributions Vickie has made.

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## MUSIC

### **Evensong – Cathedral Choir and Special Guests**

*May 18 at 5:00 PM*

John L. Edwards and Natalie Syring, Baroque Flutes with harpsichord, cello and guest sopranos Rose Mansell and Anne Roberts

### **Brightmusic “Wind Song”**

*May 20 at 7:30 PM*

Works by Poulenc, Brahms, and Mozart

## WORSHIP

### **Pentecost**

*Sunday, May 11, All Services*

Pentecost is also called “Whitsunday” and the “Birthday Of The Church”.

Everyone celebrates at all services with a Birthday party at 10:10 in Dean Willey Hall. In the Acts of the Apostles we hear the story of the Holy Spirit touching all the people, so wear **Red**, the color associated with the Holy Spirit.

## FELLOWSHIP

### **St. Paul’s Softball Season**

Softball season is starting. The schedule is coming soon, and the relaxed atmosphere is a great for all—including newcomers.

Contact Casey Richards at 405-919-6500 or [casey.richards@sbcglobal.net](mailto:casey.richards@sbcglobal.net) for details.

### **St. Catherine’s Guild Quiet Day**

*Tuesday, May 13, 9:30 AM*

Canon Susan Joplin will be giving the presentation. Registration begins at 9:30 AM, and the program, lunch, and Holy Eucharist follow.

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# FORMATION

## **Christian Leadership**

*Wednesday, May 7, 6:00 PM Light Supper*  
Luke Back presents this forum as we look at ways to see leadership in the workplace, the home and at church in terms of sacrament, cost and privilege.

## **Congregational Development**

*Wednesday, May 14, 6:00 PM Light Supper*  
Robert Dennis and Dian Everett present this forum. Coming together as the Body of Christ is what Congregational Development is all about. How do we love God and neighbor, and develop that love together? If you want a deeper experience of being an integral part of the St. Paul's community, then perhaps this program is for you.

## **Securing our Financial Future**

*Sunday, May 18 Forum, 10:10 AM*  
Dian Everett and Luke Back present this forum. We'll look at the evolution and meaning of support for the mission of the church and how that mission is funded.

## **Hearts and Hands and Voices**

*Sunday, May 25 Forum*  
John Koons and Rick Hill present this forum. Do you need help understanding how you fit into the ministry of the cathedral? Join us for a presentation on the impact you can make in our common life.



## **Education for Ministry**

### **Now Enrolling Fall Semester 2008**

We are now taking enrollments for the 2008-2009 academic year. There are two EfM groups at Saint Paul's. One meets Saturday mornings 9:30–noon. The other meets Sunday evenings 6:30–9:00. There are a limited number of places open in each group. Education for Ministry is an at-distance learning program in practical and applied theology administered by the School of Theology at the University of the South, Sewanee TN. This program is designed for laity. Its goals are to help us each understand how the lives we are already living might be brought ever more fully into the community of the Body of Christ.

New enrollees this year will read major parts of the Old Testament and a course of lectures about the Old Testament. The weekly seminar-meetings include discussion of the Old and New Testaments, Church history, contemporary theology, and how all these influence and impact our lives in practical ways. The groups meet from mid September to mid May. Learn more at:

<http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm>  
If you think you might like to join one of the groups at St. Paul's, contact The Reverend Canon Susan Joplin at 405-235-3436, [canonjoplin@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:canonjoplin@stpaulsokc.org) or John Dunn 405-942-2172, [jpadunn@earthlink.net](mailto:jpadunn@earthlink.net).



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# OUTREACH

## **United Thank Offering Daily Thanks Improves Daily Life**

*Sunday, May 4 Services*

What could be better than counting your blessings? Sharing them. Every penny given to UTO is given away in grants.

Your contributions provide kitchen equipment for homeless shelters, playgrounds for child-care centers, handicap access in church and service buildings, vehicles, a library for a seminary in Africa, half-way houses, dental clinics for the poor, a new school in the Dominican Republic, after-school programs and hundreds of other projects here in Oklahoma and around the world.

Contributing is simple. Take home a UTO box, and when you think about something you're grateful for, give a prayer of thanks and drop a coin or bill. Then bring your thanksgiving offering to be collected at a UTO Ingathering like the one on May 4. The blue UTO boxes are available in the Narthex as you enter the Cathedral.

## **Oakerhater VBS**

### **Save the Date**

*June 30–July 2*

Oakerhater VBS will be held at the new Oakerhater Center in Watonga from June 30–July 2 this year. Watch the Announcements for more details.

# IMPORTANT INFO

## **Submitting Info for our Newsletter**

If you send in information for newsletters or announcements on Sunday, please email Michael at [mvogt@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:mvogt@stpaulsokc.org) so he can regularly remind you of upcoming publications and deadlines.

# MEMORIALS & CONTRIBUTIONS

## **MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory: *Fern Cooper*

Donors: Ms. Carolyn Clifford  
Mr. Frank Dennis

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# YOUTH

## **A Summer Camp Sneak Preview!**

11:00 AM–4:00 PM, Saturday, May 10 at St. Crispin's

Hot Dog Lunch, Camp Style Eucharist, Freeze-N-Burn & Crafts. Meet old friends and make new ones as you enjoy being at Camp for the day.

RSVP to [bmoseman@trinitytulsa.org](mailto:bmoseman@trinitytulsa.org) or call Becky at 918-582-4128. St. Crispin's Summer Camp begins June 1. Brochures are available in the reception area.

## **Calling All Grads!**

If you or a family member is graduating from high school, college, or graduate school this spring, please call the church office at 235-3436 or email us at [spcoffice@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:spcoffice@stpaulsokc.org) and let us know. We will be recognizing graduates on Sunday, May 18 at the 9:00 and 11:00 services. Thank you for helping us share the celebration.

## **Thank You Church School Teachers And Snack Team!**

The Church School year is drawing to a close and we wish to thank the members of our faithful children's ministry team. Join us in recognizing them at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services on Sunday, May 25. We will celebrate with special refreshments in the undercroft at the 10:10 time.

## **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 or adults interested in helping with summer "programming," please e-mail [kjarvis@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:kjarvis@stpaulsokc.org). Any ideas and energy are welcome! Otherwise, stories in the garden or VegieTales may prevail.

## **Camp Cathedral 2008—Saints of God**

- ♦ Evening session: Sunday, July 27 – Tuesday, July 29
- ♦ Morning session: Wednesday, July 30 – Friday, August 1

*Campers* (ages three through fifth grade) and *Volunteers* (youth and adults) are encouraged to register with [kjarvis@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:kjarvis@stpaulsokc.org). Registration forms are also available in the reception area. Many "hearts and hands and voices" are needed to build the kingdom of the Saints.

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# LIVE. LOCAL. BREAD-BREAKING.

A VESTRY REVIEW BY GYPSY HOGAN

## **Eloquent Words, Sad News**

Dean Back read at the March meeting the resignation letter of Vestry member Kimberly Suiters, whose family is relocating to the Washington, D.C., area. "In some ways, as Tyler, Sloane and I are extricated from this community that we have embraced, and has embraced us in return, my heart breaks like the cross I now wear around my neck. But because of the people of St. Paul's, their collective past, their daily gifts, and their hopeful future, I know more than ever that our Great Healer and Prince of Peace will make us whole once more," Kimberly wrote. Their move is our loss, but we send them off with prayers of love and support and the hope that our ties remain strong.

## **Welcome New Vestry Member**

Meredith Cunningham was elected by the Vestry to fill the position left open by Kimberly's resignation. She will serve until the next Vestry elections at the Annual Meeting in January of 2009. Welcome Meredith!

## **Think Green Team**

The vestry approved formation of a new standing committee to explore ways to make St. Paul's and her members more responsive to our call to care for "this fragile earth, our island home". Vestry members Kent Eldridge and Meredith Cunningham made the request. Get in touch with either of them if you want to join the St. Paul's Green Team and explore ways to get us all moving in a more environmentally caring way!

## **Moving On Up**

Canon Luke Back has been named to the national Planning Committee for the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes. The position will be a great learning opportunity for him—and St. Paul's. However, the committee is also looking to learn from St. Paul's. Members were most impressed with the St. Paul's website, which they called "fantastic." Dean Back noted, "Even though we see so much we need to do, it's nice to be reminded that we're ahead in many ways." Canon Back's new position will take him to a national meeting of the group this month in New Orleans, and the next Consortium Conference, March 4-7, 2009.

## **Celebration Date Set**

St. Paul's will celebrate Canon Musician Scott Raab's 30 years at the Cathedral with a special presentation on Sunday, Oct. 5. This will be the début of the piece that St. Paul's has had commissioned in honor of Scott's longtime service. So mark your calendars!

## **Reaching Out**

The Vestry approved sending \$2,000 to a scholarship fund for the local parish in Reynosa, Mexico, which a number of St. Paul's parishioners support each year with an annual mission trip. The St. Paul's Outreach Committee made the request. Committee and Vestry member Rick Hill noted that the committee hopes to make its quarterly requests further the national Episcopal Church's Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Last quarter, the Vestry approved the committee's request to appropriate \$2,000 to VOOM. These funds come from the .7% MDG funds.

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# BACK TALK

Dear Friends,

How does a 'Christian' differ from a 'human being'? I wish that this was a trick question, but it is profoundly real. One sees many Christians imposing rationalistic distinctions of the brain upon divinely created humanity.

We are taught in 'Genesis' that 'generic humanity' is made in the image of God. Jesus referred to himself most often as the 'Son of Anthrope', the Son of Man. Although the term 'Son of Man' is used twice as much in the Bible as the 'Son of God', and mostly by Jesus himself, Christians largely avoid using it. The term 'Son of Man' has a complex history with mythological and apocalyptic associations. One suspects that it is primarily avoided because it might imply a reduction, or even a denial, of the divinity of Christ.

The opposition between 'humanity' and 'divinity' is a popular, but not a Biblical, presumption. The classic orthodox identification of Jesus Christ as 'fully God and fully man' challenges the popular attitude of opposing humanity to divinity. To see the likeness of humanity and divinity, would take away the "I'm only human" defense from the rationalizing sinner.

Jesus was the only person to fulfill a potential created for all humanity. Jesus is the fulfilled image of God in earthly form. Each Christian must ponder how he or she differs from Christ, for this is the sinful difference between ourselves and the potential God has created in us. This sin against the divine image precedes and exceeds all our sins against our neighbors. It also explains why we

tempt, abuse and act destructively toward the health of our own bodies. We continually reenact the betrayal, trial, violence, suffering and burial of God's image within us. God graciously responds to the crucifixion of our divine likeness by healing, forgiving, restoring, and resurrecting our humanity to the divine potential of the children of God.

Our brain always comes up with great ideas, laws, beliefs, rules and reasons why we need not respond to basic human needs. Jesus tried his best to cut through the illusions of self-serving common sense by teaching that in as much as we serve the least of humanity, we serve the Son of Man. We sinners have continued to show amazing ingenuity in thinking our way around a simplistic likeness to the life of Christ.

It is not Christian ideals in the head, but Christ-like humanity from the heart, that re-presents to the world the presence of Christ. Loving our own humanity, serving generic human beings, loving the Son of Man and worshipping the Son of God, are all of One likeness and from the One source of all love.

Faithfully yours,

*Gene H. Back*

