



May 2009
GoodNewsLetter

Music

Evensong with the Cathedral Choir

May 17 at 5:00 PM

Twentieth Century Anthems in the English Cathedral tradition. Composers include Vaughan Williams, Howells, Harris and others.

Brightmusic – Sounds of 1896

May 19 at 7:30 PM

Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano, Op. 3 by Alexander Zemlensky, *Quartet for Violin, Clarinet, Cello and Piano, Op. 1* by Walter Rabl, *Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano, Op. 8* by Johannes Brahms.

Choral Eucharist with the Cathedral Choir

May 31 at 11:00 AM

A jazz combo in St. Paul's Cathedral? Yes!! Don't miss *A Little Jazz Mass* composed by Bob Chilcott, a founding member of the world famous men's ensemble *The King Singers*.

Choral Evensong for Pentecost with Musica Sacra

May 31 at 5:00 PM

An evening of Renaissance Motets and Anthems for the feast of Pentecost. Music by Palestrina, Talis, Mundy, Gibbons and others. The following Reception will be hosted by the Newcomers' Commission and St. Paul's Music Society.

Blessed Days

- May 1 Given by Michael & Linda Reed In Celebration of their Thirty-sixth Wedding Anniversary
- May 10 Given by David Holt In Thanksgiving for the Sixth Wedding Anniversary of David & Rachel Holt
- May 15 Given by George & Cristina McQuiston In Celebration of the Seventh Birthday of their son Matthew McQuiston
- May 26 Given by Scott Raab In Celebration of the Birthday of John Turman

Youth

St. Crispin's Summer Camp Registration

Information and forms are available online at: www.episcopaloklahoma.org.

- Who: those who have finished third grade through senior high school.
- What: theme of *One Body-One Spirit, Unity in Diversity*
- When: age-specific sessions that begin Sunday afternoon and run through Saturday morning
- Where: St. Crispin's, operated by the Diocese of OK, 7.6 miles east of Seminole on HWY 9
- Why: described as "an important part of my Church youth group's formation"
- How: check out web-site, or bulletin board next to St. Paul's nursery

Scholarships Available:

Email kjarvis@stpaulsokc.org

Special Communion for 1st and 2nd Graders

Lea Eldridge and David Sapper have been working with the 1st and 2nd graders to prepare for their "Special Communion." They have been studying "why we do what we do" in our Christian family, the Church, and more specifically, the Rite II Holy Eucharist. At the 9:00 service, May 10, they will be recognized with a Bible from Dean Back, and invited to remain at the communion rail to observe the Great Thanksgiving. Join us in the undercroft at 10:10 to celebrate with punch and cookies.

Church School Teacher Recognition & Last Day of Class

As the school year draws to a close, it is time to acknowledge our faithful church school teachers,

and we invite you to join us in thanking them on May 24 at both 9:00 and 11:00 services. We will serve special refreshments in the Undercroft at the 10:10 time, and enjoy our last class for the season. May 31 is set aside for cleaning out the classrooms. Everyone is welcome then, too.

Camp Cathedral 2009

The Earth is the Lord's - July 27 - 31 **Campers & Help Wanted!**

Mark your calendars for the mornings of the last week of July, and e-mail kjarvis@stpaulsokc.org to volunteer your time and talent for one or more mornings.

Storyteller; rotation shepherds; and craft assistants sought.

Assemblies

Do you know a 4th, 5th or 6th grader to invite to join The Assemblies in its 61st year? Members of St. Paul's St. Nicholas Guild and the Episcopal Church Women of All Souls are looking for children – or a list of children – to invite to the The Assemblies.

Those attending need to be in the 5th, 6th or 7th grade when the program starts in October. They do not need to be Episcopalians. The program is being updated, but still will focus on dance lessons in disco, country and western, hip hop, 50s and ballroom, as well as manners and enjoyable fellowship – life skills that help us live in community with others as Christ calls us to do.

Cost of the 2009–10 program will be \$150–\$175 after June 15. Included will be monthly evening events in October, November and January through May. Contact Lisa Elder for more information, or to submit names and addresses, at 405-848-7890 or Meeldest@aol.com.

Formation

EfM Now Enrolling for the Fall

Have you ever wished you understood more about the Old Testament? When and where its various books were written? Who decided which ancient books were to be included and which excluded? What significance pre-Christian Judah gave them? What the Dead Sea Scrolls are? And the even more ancient silver scrolls of Jerusalem? How the American Episcopal Church cherishes and understands the Hebrew Bible? What it really tells us about God? What it really tells us about ourselves and our relationship to God? To one another?

You can find answers to these and other questions in the Education for (Lay) Ministry program now enrolling persons for the 2009–2010 academic year. This is an at-distance practical theology program administered by the School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee TN. In our parish it is mentored by John Dunn, OU professor emeritus, who will guide enrollees through a program of reading and seminar discussion. All are invited to join us. If you are ready to pursue a more sophisticated and fruitful understanding of the Old Testament through this program, contact John Dunn, 405-942-2172, jpadunn@earthlink.net.

CPR Class

Wednesday, May 20, 5:30–8:00 PM

There will be a CPR/AED class on Wed. May 20, 2009, from 5:30–8:00 in the Undercroft. The cost is \$10.00. You need to sign up for the class by calling the St. Paul's office at 235-3436 or Marilyn Robertson at 755-2582. If there are not enough people signed up to make a class by May 17, we will reschedule for a later date. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to be proactive in your health and a loved one's health.

Prison Ministry Conference

Saturday, May 16, Check in: 8:45 AM at St. Paul's

The Commission on Prison Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma announces a one day conference: *"But let justice roll down like waters"*—Amos 5:24

Keynote Presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Stan Basler, Director, Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, United Methodist Church, Oklahoma Conference. Special Guest Speaker will be Mr. Bud Welch.

To register online, go to:
www.episcopaloklahoma.org/events

Outreach

Mission to Mission

The annual mission trip to Mexico will be Wed. June 10 – Sunday, 14, 2009. We will be working in Mission, TX with a local Episcopal Church, St. Peter's/St. Paul's. We will work 2 ½ days in Mission and then take a ½ day trip to Progreso, Mexico to shop and take in some local flavor. On Sunday we will worship at St. Peter's/St. Paul's with our new family. You will need a passport for our trip to Progreso. If you are interested, please contact Marilyn Robertson at 755-2582. Look for more information at a later date.

Come be a part of this life changing ministry and participate in the "Mission to Mission."

Important Info

Graduate Recognition

If you know someone 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 to let us know. We will be recognizing graduates on Sunday, May 3 at the 9:00 and 11:00 services. Thank you for helping us share the celebration.

Update your Directory Info

We're planning a new directory, and want your information to be correct. Please call the office at 235-3436 to make sure we have your correct home address, phone number, and email address. We'll also put a proofing copy of the directory out in the reception area so you can see if our records are up-to-date, and write in necessary changes on that proofing copy if needed.

Fellowship

ECW Election Results

President, Sarita Redd; Vice President, Ann Baer; Secretary, Joann Speers; Treasurer, Diane Dooley.

Delegates to 2009 Annual Meeting and Bishop's Day: Ann Baer, Lillian Benefee, Glenda Edwards, Patricia Lester, Madeline Lewelling, Carole Owen, Betsy Morgan, Sarita Redd, Joann Speers, Norma Taggart.

Greening Commission

Kent Eldridge, chair of St. Paul's newly revived Greening Commission, reported that initial efforts will be to look at ways St. Paul's itself can reduce its environmental impact. Also, look for future suggestions on what St. Paul's members can do in their homes.

Suggestion for this month: Don't forget to recycle your paper in the recycling bin in the St. Paul's south parking lot. Newspapers, magazines, office and school papers, shopping catalogs and bagged shredded paper are all welcomed, and the church gets a small payment for our participation.

Memorials & Contributions

Altar Guild

In memory: **Peter Hoffman**
Donors: Mrs. Elaine Buck Honnold

Endowment

In memory: **Ruby Bailey**
Donors: Mrs. Marilyn J. Hale

Memorial

In memory: **James W. "Bill" Berry**
Donors: Mr. & Mrs. James C. Quillian

In memory: **Laverne Lawley**
Donors: Mr. & Mrs. Don Little

In memory: **Emily Shurley**
Donors: Ron Jackson
Mrs. James Huston
Philip Shurley
Guy Shurley
Tom Shurley
John Shurley

St. George's Guild

In memory: **Martha Beveridge**
Donors: Ms. Jeanne Hoffman Smith

In memory: **Nancy Berry**
Donors: Ms. Jeanne Hoffman Smith

In memory: **Ed Cook**
Donors: Ms. Jeanne Hoffman Smith

In memory: **William J. Holloway, III**
Donors: Ms. Jeanne Hoffman Smith

In memory: **Ray Hudak**
Donors: Mrs. John H. Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Fyalka
Bob Willis and Dennis Hepner
Mr. & Mrs. Richard R. Hudak
Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Parker
Ms. Janan Peetoom & Family

In memory: **Emily Shurley**
Donors: Mr. & Mrs. Frank Dennis
The Rev. & Mrs. Robert J. Gates, Jr.
Mrs. Marilyn J. Hale
Ms. Jeanne Hoffman Smith

A Vestry Review by Gypsy Hogan

St. Paul's was honored to have a total of 43 people, including 13 teenagers, confirmed or reaffirmed at this year's Easter Vigil service. Their commitment to their faith is a wonderful testament to the vibrancy of the St. Paul's community, Fr. Luke reported.

In celebration, a reception will be held in honor of the new confirmands and reaffirmed after the 5 PM service on May 31, Pentecost Sunday. (Remember to wear red!) We invite all to celebrate!

The altar in St. Nicholas Chapel was officially dedicated Easter Sunday in memory of Fr. Stanley Donham, whose wife, Ethel, was able to attend. If you haven't seen the altar, do stop by and see the incredible woodwork, which Fr. Stan certainly would have appreciated. The chapel's cross was given in memory of Archie Brown and Daniel Brown by Faith and Douglas Brown. The celtic cross is handmade of colored and iridescent glass.

Six stained-glass windows are now being completed for the chapel. One of those was given in honor of Bishop Gerald McAllister when he retired. The other five are now available for memorials for \$5,000 each. Proceeds from these will be used to pay down the church's construction loan, which included costs for reconstructing the chapel area after the OKC blast. Additional lighting and the creation of an appropriate backdrop for the Our Lady statue also are planned.

Holy Week and Easter services provided excellent use of St. Paul's new wheelchair spaces. In one service, three motorized chairs were present, something that couldn't have happened before church pews were reconfigured earlier this year. Ethel Donham's chair was easily accommodated at Easter Service, and Fran Derrick used the open space to park a baby stroller for her napping grandbaby, visiting from Chicago. One of our parishioners who uses a wheelchair expressed thanks for the new areas,

noting that he enjoys feeling a part of the congregation as opposed to being in an outside aisle.

The church budget, although still in a deficit-forecast mode, is looking better thanks to an increase in pledges and continuing support for St. Paul's new Blessed Days. Please continue to keep St. Paul's in your prayers and keep your pledges current, especially during the upcoming summer months when many go on vacation.

Karen Jarvis is organizing St. Paul's Vacation Bible School, planned for 8:30 AM to noon July 27-31. Volunteers are needed and can sign up for the whole week, or just one day. She's especially looking for someone to be a storyteller, as well as volunteers to help with crafts and music.

The Episcopal Church requires that those who work with Episcopal children participate in the half-day *Safeguarding God's Children* program, which will be offered in May. Watch for the exact date and please sign up if you have not had this training and are planning to work or volunteer in any of our children's programs, including St. Crispin's, Camp Oakerhater or Vacation Bible School.

Vestry approved several appropriations as recommended by the St. Paul's Outreach Committee and its fund. These include \$1,812.50 to Bushenyi Area Rural Health & Development (BARHD), which is continuing to support the orphans once helped by VOOM; \$200 to the Floyd Fund for theological work in the Dominican Republic; and \$250 to Mother Janie Kirt Morris, Houston's Emmanuel Church, for its work with the Galveston hurricane recovery effort.

Oklahoma City's downtown churches, including St. Paul's, will come together for the second National Prayer Day at 5:15 PM May 7 at the Survivor Tree. Please join our St. Paul's clergy and their participation in this event.

Back Talk

Dear Friends,

We are enjoying in our own special baby boom at St. Paul's. There were two births in the last two weeks and at least a dozen more arrivals expected this year. Human birth requires moving from a total water environment into a mostly air environment – the newborn faces an immense change of context, larger than an adult moving from the southwest desert to the arctic ice.

Joshua, one of my two year old twin grandchildren, occasionally looks at me with an expression on his face that seems to say, 'Where did you come from, how did you get here?' I pop up at different times and places in his life and he has no way of predicting my appearances. As he gets older he will begin to see all sorts of patterns and reasons for my presence and my absence.

Early childhood is filled with surprising experiences, what have been called 'ego-alien events'. The small child's mind must continually grapple with the mostly unknown reality of daily living. As we mature, adults labor to get into an ego stable environment. We want to know what is going on around us. We want people, places and functions to be predictable and allow us some control over our lives. Many learn to belittle, or even ignore, ego alien surprises that might contradict the stability our own comprehension.

Most religious experience comes to us as a gracious surprise. We have no rational way of predicting where or how God chooses to move. As you read through the resurrection accounts you find an intriguing amount of ambiguity, inconsistency and confusion about Jesus popping up in various times and places. The risen Lord,

like the Holy Spirit, from 'whence he cometh to whither he goeth' is not reducible to fit our own mental space-time.

The ways, whys and hows of Heaven are not obvious to the children of God on earth. This is not because they are inaccessible, but because they are larger, higher and deeper than our present cognitive development can fathom. This mortal must put on immortality, because it will take us forever to appreciate the glory of God.

The Book of Acts gives three accounts of the appearance of the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus. These accounts differ in details but profoundly present how the spiritual presence of Christ engages the aggressive, hostile, controlling, ego of Saul. The experience shatters Saul into blindness and so destabilizes him that he must spend three years in recovery before he can begin his apostleship.

In the primal light of a baby's vision, see how God births you out the context of your own knowledge of good and evil. See how God sets you free from the presumptions of this world, frees you from bondage to the law of sin and death. May the risen Christ open your eyes to surprise yourself and others with God's grace and forgiveness.

Gene H. Back

