



**May 2010
GoodNewsLetter**

Music

Organist Alison Luedecke In Concert

May 9 at 5:00 PM

Alison J. Luedecke is a native of Galveston. She is active across the US as a solo concert organist and has played in Canada and Germany. As an ensemble musician Dr. Luedecke has performed with the Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestra, San Diego Chamber Orchestra, and with other chamber ensembles. She received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance at the Eastman School of Music as a student of David Craighead. As a recording artist she is featured on numerous CDs and has been heard on the nationally syndicated radio show *Pipedreams*.

Choral Mass with the Cathedral Choir and Strings

May 30 at 11:00 AM

Missa Brevis in F by Franz Joseph Haydn

Choral Evensong with Musica Sacra

May 30 at 5:00 PM

The season concludes with the fascinating music of William Billings (1746-1800), a truly original American composer.

Fellowship

Plan Now to Celebrate and Honor the Backs

Saturday – Sunday, May 15–16

Make plans now to be part of the events celebrating the life and ministry of our retiring Dean George and Margaret Back. Everyone is invited to share in the spirit. Consider the following:

- Picnic at the Harn Homestead, 4–7 PM Saturday, May 15, including food, live music and activities for the children
- Receptions following the 9 and 11 AM services on Sunday, May 16
- A memory book is being assembled, allowing friends to contribute their memories and photos
- Also, non-tax-deductible contributions are being gathered to present the Backs with a financial gift.

To RSVP for the picnic, or for more information about the events or to share stories, please email retirement@stpaulsokc.org.

Formation

Special Forums in May

Sundays at 10:10 AM in Dean Willey Hall

Mourning or Melancholy

Part One of a Two Part Series

May 2

Sadness is something people experience on a continuum, from everyday short-lived disappointment, to long-term grief, to possibly protracted and debilitating depression. This will be the first of a two part series presented by Dr. Harrison Smith, and Part Two will be scheduled for another Sunday Forum. Dr. Smith will be addressing what normal grief looks like, how it differs from depression and how grief can turn into depression, depending on how people manage the inevitable losses in their lives.

Looking Back

History of St. Paul's, the George Back Years

May 9

Larry Joplin will present a brief but lively look at the history of St. Paul's Cathedral and the George Back years.

Dean Back's last sermon as Dean

May 9

Don't miss the Dean's final sermon as Dean of the Cathedral.

Receptions for Dean Back

May 16

Receptions celebrating the ministry of the Very Rev. George Back after the 9 & 11 AM Services.

Sounds of the Spirit

May 23

For Pentecost Sunday, Tim Sharp returns to our Forum to offer an interpretation of Colossians 3:16 "...teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs", focusing on American spirituals from the 19th century African-American (black) and Southern-Spiritual (white) traditions. Tim is Executive Director of the American Choral Directors Association, based here in OKC, and a member of St. Paul's. His presentation includes pictures and songs from two of his books *Memphis Music Before the Blues*, and *Nashville Music Before Country*, with a Pentecost focus on the "Sounds of the Spirit."

Bishop Ed – Moving Forward

May 30

Bishop Ed will be our preacher for the 8, 9 and 11 AM services on this day. The Forum will be presented by the Bishop, and will include a discussion on the process of moving forward following Dean Back's retirement.

Health News

CPR Class

*Wednesday, May 12 at 5:30 PM
in the Garden Gallery*

There will be a CPR class on May 12 from 5:30-8:00 PM in the Garden Gallery. Please sign up by calling the church office at 235-3436 before March 10 so we can be sure we have enough people signed up for the class to be offered.

Education for Ministry

Education for Ministry

Now Enrolling for the Fall

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year, adult continuing education program, building on the confirmation preparation experience, providing an opportunity for lay persons to become even better informed about the life of the Church through study of the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, Church history, and theological and philosophical issues arising in recent times that affect the life of the Church. This program endeavors 1) to give lay persons the information they need to process appropriately new developments in the life of our Church, controversial and other, 2) to help lay persons develop their own personal theologies and the specific paths they will follow in order to honor and fulfill their baptismal covenant, 3) to provide an opportunity for lay persons to begin to discern their own ministry within the Church, sometimes to the ordained ministry, but usually to specific ministries within the lay priesthood, 4) to develop the holy habit of theological thinking. William Stafford, Dean of the School of Theology at the University of the South, recently has said that the EfM program is the deepest and most transformative program of extension Christian education in the Episcopal Church. George Back, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, has said that EfM graduates have enriched the life of our parish in many and wonderful ways.

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, who will guide enrollees through a program of reading and seminar discussion. It is a four year program to which a person commits one year at a time All are invited to join.

If you are interested, contact John Dunn, 405 942-2172, jpadunn@earthlink.net.

Youth

Church School Teacher Recognition

And Last Day Of Class

As the school year draws to a close, it is time to acknowledge our church school teachers, and we invite you to join us in thanking them on Sunday, May 30 at both 9:00 and 11:00 services. We will serve special refreshments in the undercroft at 10:10, and enjoy our last class for the season. “Well done, good and faithful servants.”

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 10:10. Youth or 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.

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 “With Arms Wide Open”

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: For details, please email kjarvis@stpaulsokc.org

Family Camp at St. Crispin’s will run the evening of Sunday, July 4 through Wednesday; check out the Diocesan web-site for those details.

Camp Cathedral 2010

Walking With Jesus

July 26 – 30

Campers & Help Wanted!

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

Storyteller; rotation shepherds; and craft assistants sought.

* childcare will be provided

Blessed Days

May 3 Given by Dr. James and the Reverend Canon Carol Hampton
In Celebration of the Birthday of their Granddaughter Carolina Hampton Pardo

May 9 Given by John Sidney Williams In Loving Remembrance of Dovie Moorhead Williams

Memorials & Contributions

Endowment Fund

In memory: **John D. Cheek**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mahaffey
In memory: **Ed de Cordova**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mahaffey
In memory: **Margaret C. Krone**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mahaffey

Memorial Fund

In memory: **Patricia Carry**
Donors: Ms. Jeanette Ross
Mr. John R. Ross
In memory: **Dorthlynn Gaddis**
Donors: The Reverends Michael &
Heather Blewett

Memorial Fund *(continued)*

In memory: **Joe Johnson**
Donors: Ms. Sharon Cornell
Mr. Paul Cornell
Ms. Julie Cornell
Mr. Mark Cornell
Ms. Karrie Freeman
In memory: **Mary Welsh**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Carl Stover

St. George's Guild

In memory: **Virginia Edwards**
Donor: Ms. Patricia Lester
In memory: **George Massad**
Donor: Ms. Patricia Lester

A Vestry Review by Gypsy Hogan

Community Growing

St. Paul's had 34 people confirmed, received or baptized at the Easter Vigil. On Easter Sunday, there were 27 young in the childcare room for the 9 o'clock service and 14 at 11 o'clock. Possibly more mind-boggling, the St. Paul's Facebook page is getting 400 visits a week!

Columbarium Report

Dean Back said numbers are on target. Two of the mosaics have been completed and are "fantastic." A contract should be ready next month. A construction committee will be formed with Todd Olberding heading it. A \$30,000 fund in honor of Carl Hocker has been established to help with garden internment costs for those families needing assistance.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

St Paul's commissioned a new ministry on Sunday, April 11. Deacon Marilyn Robertson reports that members to date are Jean Pickens, Regena Johnson, Sally Alworth, Adrian Thompson, Jeanie and Gil Haas, Edie Schneeberger and Cherie Tompkins. The group's making shawls to be given to those who are sick or in other need of a loving wrap, that they can pass on when appropriate.

Building Repairs

St. Paul's had to replace an air conditioning compressor April 2 at a cost of \$13,400. Roof leaks continue to be studied for solutions, and the source of water in the basement continues to be a mystery.

Safeguarding God's Children

Vestry member Buzz McDonald expressed thanks to Rick and Jani Hill and Patti Morgan for again presenting this half-day look at what everyone can do to keep children safe from harm. The workshop will be presented again in August or September.

2009 Diocesan Report

The required annual report has been filed, showing St. Paul's with 1,003 baptized members in 2009, up from 933 the year before. Twenty-one baptisms and 30 confirmations were listed. Total revenues of \$1,203,553 were shown with total expenses at \$1,164,148. Interest paid totaled \$14,809.24 with no principal payments made.

2010 Budget to Date

Budget numbers are in line with Treasurer Rick Hill's deficit forecast. The through-March numbers, however, did not reflect the new AC expense, so April is expected to be especially "ugly."

Back Talk

Dear Friends,

I was in a Washington DC taxi on the way to the airport at 4 AM. The cab drove one block, stopped and waited for a red light, one more short block stopped and waited again, and again, and again, and again. As I sat through the wasted waiting on the vacant streets I thought how these delays would increase the crowds I must wait through at airport security.

There is a chronically frustrating, and occasionally torturous, political waiting that takes place daily in Washington. Millions of people compete with one another for the roads that will take them to their personally ideal destinations. The government can set the traffic control system to respond to the first car that approaches, great for one person on vacant streets, but disastrous grid lock in heavy traffic. Or it can control traffic as if the streets were one giant organism of artery flows, a real annoyance to the lone traveler on lonely streets.

In the political realm there are lots of disgruntled people, stuck in their high-powered ideologies, railing against the conditions that keep them from getting their own way. How can we live amidst such devastating want, where too much is never enough? American politics is a constant renegotiation of how a shared democracy accommodates personal liberties. How can all of us have both free choice and a graceful life together?

The taxi made up for some of the lost time by speeding past the memorials to great leaders who had placed their lives and fortunes at high risk to build a robust democracy. It efficiently passed by the war memorials that tell in cold stone the cost in warm blood, pain and tears of our salvation from numerous perils of history.

As one zooms through life, the state of our union with God encounters occasional lights in the pre-dawn darkness. Moments of insight pass through us. We are given pause to think about heaven and earth, where our life is moving. Are we heading into a nearer presence or a larger absence?

Is your daily life being driven by the presence of what you love or by the absence of what you want? Do you wait daily upon the presence of God or is religion the most inefficient way of getting what you really want? Is heaven the site of personal victory or a community of shared presence? Is the light of the TV or the light of great souls that guides your affections?

Washington is full of political logjams, but unless we remove the specks from our own eyes we will join the crowds of nasty complainers, and leave the choirs of gratitude yearning to hear our voices.

Faithfully,

Gene H. Back

