



**November 2009
GoodNewsLetter**

Music

Brightmusic: Poetry and Passion

November 3 at 7:30 PM

Trio in B-Flat by Beethoven, *Cello Sonata* by Chopin, *Quartet in G Minor* by Brahms. See *Dedication* to the right of the page for more on this concert.

Choral Evensong with the Cathedral Choir

November 15 at 5:00 PM

Choral Music by St. Paul's Composers (and Friends), including Tim Sharp, Doug Rogez, David Beatty, Bruce Young and Gerald Near

The Cathedral Choir sings anthems composed by members of our own parish family and music composed especially for us.

Choral Mass with the Cathedral Choir

November 29 at 11:00 AM

Mass Setting: Herbert Howells's *Collegium Regale*
This music was originally composed for the choir of King's College, Cambridge.

Choral Evensong with Musica Sacra

November 29 at 5:00 PM

Baroque Music for Advent (with strings)

Rejoice in the Lord Alway by Purcell, *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* by Telemann, *Befiehl dem Engel, dass er kommt* by Buxtehude

Dedication

Brightmusic Concert Dedicated to St. Paul's

Brightmusic sent us this lovely letter:

I am very pleased to inform you that the Board unanimously voted to dedicate our November 3rd concert to the clergy, vestry, and congregation of St. Paul's in appreciation for all the support and encouragement we have received from St. Paul's over the years.

Our November concert was selected to honor St. Paul's because it is very special. In addition to the Brightmusic Chamber Ensemble, we will have as our guest the world-renowned concert pianist Daniel Blumenthal from Brussels, Belgium. Dan was warmly received when he performed with Brightmusic two years ago and we are lucky to get him back here so soon as his schedule is extremely full.

We hope the clergy and parishioners can attend our 7:30 concert on November 3rd so we can publicly show our deepest gratitude for your support. But be early. Our August concert practically packed the house. You would have thought it was Christmas Eve or Easter.

With kindest regards,

John Williams
President, Board of Directors

Anticipating Advent

Christmas Gift Bag Project at the Advent Event

Sunday, Nov. 29, 10:10 AM in Dean Willey Hall

We will again be doing gift bags as they were such a success last year. All our children enjoyed “shopping” at the age group tables and sorting the filled bags by age group as much as the children enjoyed receiving the bags at Watonga and Santa Maria.

Shoppers, now is the time to pick up items for our annual Christmas gift project. We'll need lots of items, and shopping lists should be available in the Reception area if you need some ideas, as well as a list of places that have these items to save you trips across town.

If you prefer, monetary donations are appreciated, and someone else will shop. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's, with “Xmas gift bags” on the memo line.

Crafters, come to the Advent Event to decorate 200 gift bags.

Everyone, come to the Advent Event to fill the bags with the items the shoppers have provided!

Enjoy hot cider and other seasonal treats; fellowship; and Christmas music.

Then, everyone is invited to help distribute the gift bags to our neighbors.

Share the spirit, Put a smile on a kid's face! Join in the fun today!

Contact Cherie Tompkins at 789-7431 with any questions regarding this project.

Christmas at Santa Maria

*December 6, 5:00 PM, at Santa Maria
2141 SW 25th Street, Oklahoma City*

This joyous occasion is an annual advent outreach program. There is a reception, singing and expressions of love (giftbags) given to the children of Santa Maria. Please save the date and join us for this festive evening of fellowship.

The Christmas At Santa Maria Committee is also looking for volunteers to serve during the reception and remove the serving dishes and tidy the area at the close of the reception.

Thank you in advance, your generosity is greatly appreciated. Look to see you there!

Advent Wednesday Evenings

December 2, 9 and 16

Supper - 6:00 PM, Dean Willey Hall

Programs - 6:45 PM, Youth Pageant Choir Rehearsal, Undercroft

Adult program - 6:45 PM, Dean Willey Hall

Christmas in Watonga

Date to be announced in Bulletins

Christmas Pageant Musicians Sought

Instrumentalists and junior and senior high singers are needed to supplement the youth choir in the Christmas Pageant, to be performed at 9:00 and 11:00, December 20. Mary Reynolds is choosing music now, and would like to include all interested youth. Rehearsal schedule will be tailored for participants. Please e-mail her at shartelavenue@cox.net.

Fellowship

ECW – Upcoming Meetings

The ECW Meeting will be Sunday, November 1, 2009, 10:10 AM.

Advent Quiet Day will be Saturday, December 5, 2009, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Christmas At Santa Maria will be Sunday, December 6, 2009, 5:00 PM.

Young Adult Fellowship Events

Adobe Grill

Friday, November 13, 6:30 PM

5120 N. Shartel Ave

(Young adults only - no children)

Young adults will be meeting up at Adobe grill for great food and company. If you're interested in Young Adult Fellowship and don't receive email invitations, please email mvogt@stpaulsokc.org so we can make sure you receive our notices.

Phone for Adobe Grill: 848-7250,

Price range \$8.00 - \$20.00

Save the Date for future YAF events:

Caroling

Friday, December 11, 6:00 PM

Expect more details on this event in the future.

Books & Gifts

Yes, indeed, the store has beautiful Thanksgiving and fall items for sale. Come in and browse and select special items for your self or as a gift.

Indian Tribes of Oklahoma: A Guide

St. Paul's own, Blue Clark, Professor of History and Law at Oklahoma City University is once again a writer extraordinaire, with the recent release of his new book, Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, A Guide, published by the University of Oklahoma Press. An enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Blue has rendered a completely new guide that reflects the drastic transformation of Indian Country in recent years.

Blue holds the David Pendleton Chair in American Studies. *Indian Tribes of Oklahoma: A Guide*, is now available in the Bookstore!

Vestry Nominations & Delegates Sought

Nominations

Nominations are being sought for Vestry and Convention Delegates to be elected at the Annual Meeting in January, 2010.

Each adult communicant of the Cathedral is encouraged to participate in the nominating process: to prayerfully and carefully consider potential nominees. Is there someone you would like to represent your interests? Ask if he or she would be willing to stand for election and if so to fill out a nomination form. Perhaps you want to serve on the Vestry or as a Delegate. You too, should feel free to submit a nomination form.

Forms will be available in the church office. Take them or mail them to the Cathedral, attention: Nomination Gathering Committee. Listed below are the offices for which nominations are sought.

Qualifications for these offices

Confirmed communicants in good standing of age eighteen years or more.

Communicant in good standing: All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving* for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing. (National Church Canons, I.17.3)

**a giver of record*

Offices up for Election

4 Vestry Persons

3 year terms (2010–2012)

Duties

The vestry has three primary responsibilities; to take care of the parish finances and parish building; to choose individuals to fill various positions of parish leadership and representation. As representatives of the interests of all parish members, they play a liaison role between them, the clergy and staff. Members are expected to serve on a committee or commission of the Cathedral.

Meetings

Monthly meetings are on the second Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM.

9 Delegates to Diocesan Convention

1 year term (2010)

Duties

As representatives of the Cathedral to the Convention, elected delegates are responsible for attending the regional meetings (dates to be announced), and the Diocesan Convention, which will take place November 4–6, 2010, in Midwest City.

Statements will be printed in the Sunday bulletin prior to the Annual Meeting.

Blessed Days

- November 1 Given by Ralph & Marinell Guild In Thanksgiving for the Pastoral Support & Loving Care of T.V.R. George Back, T.R.C. Susan Joplin & T.R.C. Luke Back
- November 9 Given by the McQuiston Family in Loving Remembrance on the First Anniversary of the Passing of George McQuiston
- November 14 Given by Larry and Sheryl Young
in Celebration of their Ninth Wedding Anniversary
- November 19 Given by The Suiters Family in Thanksgiving for His Love of Humankind
Dean George Back
- November 24 Given by John R. Koons in Thanksgiving & Memory of
Rollin & Harriet Koons
- November 26 Given by The Suiters Family In Thanksgiving for their
Godson Andy Gamez's Smile
- November 29 Given by Ann & Gary Baer in Celebration of the Baptisms of their Grand-children Tyler, Morgan, Adison & Ella

Worship

Pet Memorial

*Sunday, November 29 at 12:30 PM
St. Nicholas Chapel*

Each year, St. Paul's offers a time for us to remember our pet companions who have died in the current year. You are invited to come to the chapel on Sunday, November 29, at the 12:30 PM time to be part of a beautiful and poignant time of prayer in which we remember each pet by name. Bulbs will be provided by the St. Francis Garden Guild and available for \$1. It is our tradition to place a bulb on the altar for each pet. The bulbs will be planted in the East Garden in the dark cold of winter and will spring to new life when the sunshine and warmth returns in Eastertide.



Stewardship at St. Paul's

What does it mean to be a Christian Steward?

A steward provides the necessities of Christian community. Your money pays for the gas that cooks the food, feeding members, shut-ins and guests. Your money maintains the pipe organ, an 'instrumental' part of our transcendent music. Your financial stewardship repairs our buildings, provides staff and enables a positive response to those in need. The good steward gives education for children and a place of comfort for the bereaved. The good steward proclaims God's reality, as in real food, real help and real love.

Why should I pledge?

We like to have an estimate of giving for next year for the same reason you like to know your income and mortgage payments for next year. A pledge program provides an estimate of how much our parish might receive, enabling wise choices and plans, and providing the information needed to prepare a budget. A budget then provides a democratic process whereby our financial decisions are shared among parish members through vestry meetings and the annual parish meeting.

How can I make a pledge in uncertain times?

Recent economic volatility has made us especially aware that financial estimates are subject to change. A pledge is an act of faith in God who has provided a lifetime of daily bread. Commit a real portion of today's income. As the pledge card says, you can call the church office at any time to adjust your pledge. Let us live not in fear, but in faith.

What amount should I give?

The larger your financial resources, the larger your pledge should be. The only way that St. Paul's can flourish is for people to give *in proportion to their income/assets*. When everyone gives in proportion to what they have, people of modest means enjoy the fullness of beautiful worship, and those completely bereft of resources receive bread for their children. Generous givers make a generous church that witnesses in truth to a generous God.

How do I present my pledge?

Ingathering Sunday is November 15th. You, along with any members of your household, are invited to present your pledge card at the 8, 9, or 11 o'clock service. The 'soul-action' of offering your life, your work and your treasure at the altar is older than written history. We encourage you to continue this ancient tradition. You may also mail your pledge card to the Church office in the self-enclosed envelope provided in your packet. However you make your pledge, you should be aware that it is an act of faithfulness to the Creator of all you possess.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing



**Stewardship Ingathering
November 15, 2009**

Tim Parrish Recounts His Blessings



In just two short years, Tim has become a part of the St. Paul's community, blessing many with his million-dollar

smile, up-lifting attitude and willingness to do whatever asked.

Like many, he grew up in the Episcopal Church, but drifted away in his teenage years as he started working on weekends. At age 18, he had an accident on the Illinois River that broke his neck and forced him to use a wheelchair.

About seven years ago, now in his early 30s, he began looking for a church to call his own. After trying a few other churches, he came to St. Paul's two years after a co-worker invited him to the Cathedral, which is near his work.

The Cathedral's liturgy and structure reminded him of Trinity Episcopal in Tulsa where he attended in his earlier years, and he realized he wanted the same thing in Oklahoma City. After years away from the church, he was pleasantly surprised to find women now serving as priests. The old and the new were a good fit for him, and

so the blessings started flowing back and forth between him and his new Cathedral home.

Tim is a vehicle fleet admin for TEPPCO, a truck and pipeline transportation carrier located just seven blocks from the Cathedral. The proximity makes it easy for to Tim to enjoy so many of the weekly "blessings" at the Cathedral – and to help when needed. During Lent and Advent, he looks forward to the dinners and services. Those are long days, he said, but the praise and fellowship make a rich life with rich rewards.

Some of his favorite parts of St. Paul's are the music, including the Rite I Psalm, Evensong, closing hymns and Brightmusic series. He also enjoys the beauty of the altar and its flowers, the stained glass windows, and the friendliness, warmth and compassion of the clergy and members.

Tim finds the many blessings of St. Paul's an integral part of his life, which he so willingly shares with others.

When you think of the blessings you have received, think also of the blessings you give to others.

How do we bless the space between us?

Thoughts from the congregation

"There is love in this space – an invisible vessel."

"Friendship within church family – generosity of hospitality."

"Guild of St George – authenticates within our midst."

"Garden Guild – stretching the beauty from within to the world."

Memorials & Contributions

Columbarium Fund

In memory: **Dorthlynn Gaddis**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. George Massad

Endowment Fund

In memory: **Dorthlynn Gaddis**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Bob Bright
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mahaffey

In memory: **Henry Bellmon**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mahaffey

In memory: **Ruth Bozalis**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mahaffey

Memorial Fund

In memory: **Dorthlynn Gaddis**
Donor: Mr. Thomas Adler
Ms. Marilyn Balyeat
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Bozalis
Mr. Charles W. Britton
Mr. & Mrs. Roy W. Chandler
Ms. Carolyn Clifford
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Coates
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Comstock
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Conaway
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Cox
Mr. & Mrs. George Craig
Mr. & Mrs. John Crittenden
Ms. Jacquelyn A. Croft
Ms. Jamie Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Rowland Denman
Mr. & Mrs. Roderick Durrell
Ms. Patricia Bowers Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore M. Elam
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Elkins
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Everest
Dr. & Mrs. David Flesher
Ms. Sarah Jane Gillett

Memorial Fund (continued)

In memory: **Dorthlynn Gaddis**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Goodman
Mr. Warren B. Greene
Ms. Jane B. Harlow
Dr. & Mrs. Don W. Haskins
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Henry, III
Ms. Janet S. Hicklin
Mr. & Mrs. Frank D. Hill
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Holloway, Jr.
Mrs. Elaine Buck Honnold
Mrs. G. James Huston
Mr. & Mrs. Kent G. "Gib" James
Mr. & Mrs. O.B. Johnston, III
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Des Lauriers
Mr. Tim Leonard
Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. McClendon
Mr. & Mrs. George E. McDonald
Mr. Kenneth N. McKinney
Ms. Barbara Mee
Ms. Margaret M. Monsour
Ms. Sandra A. Moriarty
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Moyer
Mr. & Mrs. Michael A. Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Musser
R.Z. Naifeh
Mr. & Mrs. Mayo Noerdlinger
Mrs. Dave Raupe
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Reeves
Mrs. Melba Rhinehart
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Riven
Mr. & Mrs. William Shdeed
Ms. Jeanne Hoffman Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Stover
Ms. Donna Kennedy Vogel
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. West
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald H. White
Mr. & Mrs. Don Zachritz

Memorials (continued)

Memorial Fund (continued)

In memory: **Florence Sutton**
Donor: Ms. Jeanne Hoffman Smith

Mobile Meals

In memory: **Dorthlynn Gaddis**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jones
Ms. Nira Smith
Ms. Sally Alworth

Music Society

In memory: **Dorthlynn Gaddis**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Wiley B. Walker

St. George's Guild

In memory: **Dorthlynn Gaddis**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Steven Surbeck
Ms. Patricia Lester

Important Info

E-Newsletter Only Signup

Many have asked us to stop mailing them the paper version of the newsletter because they prefer to download the electronic version online. If you would prefer this arrangement, please email us at spcoffice@stpaulsokc.org and let us know.

Outreach

St. Nicholas' Guild Meeting

November 17 at 6:30 PM at Tolberts' Home

Who: All who wish to enjoy fellowship and plan activities benefiting children, both those of St. Paul's Cathedral and our neighbors, as we will discuss grants to Santa Maria de Virgen and the Whirlwind Mission in Watonga

What: St. Nicholas' Guild Meeting, with guest speaker to be announced

When: 6:30 PM, Tuesday, November 17

Where: Home of Molly and Miles Tolbert
520 NW 15th Street, OKC

Bring: Yourself, a guest or two, and a dish to share

A Vestry Review by Gypsy Hogan

St. Paul's 'Energizer Bunnies'

Canon Susan Joplin gave thanks for the Older Adult and Christian Education group, which since forming last year have organized a book study for Advent 2008; a Lenten Study on Forgiveness, featuring author Bo Cox; Subiaco retreats in both March and September; an art project and Bible study on the Song of Songs; a Bible study on the Book of Ruth; and a book study on My Stroke of Insight.

Members of this energetic group are Jerry Balentine; Gale & Lucy Smith; Meredith Cunningham; Carole Owen; Janice Eberhard; Elizabeth McGuinness; Larry Patton; and Marilyn Hale.

Columbarium Plans Coming Together

Vestry had a lengthy presentation and discussion of the St. Paul's Columbarium project. Dean Back gave project history, along with a report on how the Columbarium committee is analyzing costs and establishing pricing. There's still much to be decided, but look for the project to come together and move quickly in the near future.

Donated Artwork Thankfully Received

Cathedral staff are looking for the best place to hang four etchings of Old European cathedrals, recently donated to St. Paul's by retired Bishop Gerald McAllister and his wife, Helen.

Vestry voted to send thanks to the McAllisters as well as reiterate thanks to America Meredith for the donation of her painting of Saint David Pendleton Oakerhater.

Hank Bowen Nominated

Vestry voted to nominate parish member Hank Bowen for Lay Member of the Diocesan Council for the Diocesan Convention Nov. 19–21 in Bartlesville.

St. Paul's Baby Report

Recently, the St. Paul's nursery had 24 children for the 9 o'clock Sunday service. Children are our future – and we as a congregation are their support. Growing numbers couldn't be better news.

St. Paul's Moves onto YouTube

Check out St. Paul's on YouTube. Visit the St. Paul's Web site at www.stpaulsokc.org for a link to view the two videos "Camp Cathedral 2009" and "Blessed and Restored."

Juggling the Flu Shots

Deacon Marilyn Robertson scrambled when told there would be no flu shots available for the annual St. Paul's health fair. Within the week, she had 130 flu shots for free distribution!

St. Paul's Audit Ready for Convention

Robert K. Zaring with the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Central Oklahoma has completed an audit of St. Paul's financials using the Oklahoma Diocesan guidelines implemented by Bishop Ed.

The RSVP program does not charge, but accepts donations. Vestry voted to donate \$500.

Stopping the Leaks

Vestry approved \$1,875 in repairs on the Cathedral roof, work started in early October to stop the leaks. Damage caused by the leaks will not be repaired until adequate time proves the work effective.

Balancing the Financials

Treasurer's report showed lower income for St. Paul's in September, but the results were mitigated by lower expenses and continued support from the Blessed Days. While still in the red, St. Paul's financials continue to amaze and please treasurer Rick Hill.

Back Talk

Dear Friends,

Jesus says to a young inquirer, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.” Mark 10:18 These words have troubled many souls.

The word ‘alone’ is not in the original text. A more accurate translation would be ‘No one is good, but One, God.’ The invention of the word ‘alone’ reflects our common cultural attitude. Our English language has mutated all sorts of descendents from the original ‘one’. We have given birth to ‘lone’, ‘lonely’ ‘only’ and ‘alone’ from out of ‘one’.

‘Alone’ came from shortening the phrase ‘all one’ into ‘alone’. But ‘alone’ alone has not been lonely enough for isolated souls heading into the endless cold darkness of an exploded universe. Soon the phrase ‘all alone’ emerged to strengthen the sense of separation and distance. Sentimental old tunes, like ‘Only the lonely’ and ‘All alone by the telephone’, help us to dwell in our inner spiritual ‘outer-spaciness’.

It is clear from the Gospel discourses that when Jesus went off by himself to pray that he was not heading toward private loneliness, but toward ‘all oneness’ with God. The highest reality is sacred interpersonal communion, not a narcissistic self-contemplation.

Jesus encountered spiritual enthusiasts who wanted to be special stars, leading lights in a dark world. When the rich young man asks what he must do to inherit the kingdom of heaven, Jesus gives him an easy assignment, ‘just be one of the many who keep the rules and you will do fine’. But he is not satisfied with off-the-rack religion.

He wants a unique, special, spiritual outfitting that is personally suited specifically for him.

Jesus looks at him, loves him and sees that he is a special, perfect, whole and beautiful creation of God. “You are only missing ‘one’ thing,’ he tells him, ‘go sell all you have and follow me!” Oops, that it is the ‘one’ thing I was avoiding. But not sharing ‘one’ thing is precisely the one thing that makes me like every other sinner.

God cannot be added to our stuff. God is never one more thing, one better idea, one more possession, that I alone can own. In a life filled with multiplicities and quantities, God cannot be another morsel of my own superiority. God will not fit into my filled-up life. A mustard seed faith, a tiny participation in God’s greatness, overflows in humble souls. The wealth of God’s presence is the center of reality, the shared oneness for all humanity.

What is your spiritual direction? How do you spend your time, your affection and your money? Are you heading out toward the all aloneness of self? Or are you heading homeward, toward the divine center and the all oneness of God?

Faithfully,

Gene H. Back

