

The Epistle of St. Paul's, Bristol Parish Petersburg, Virginia

April 2010

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

One of my most treasured privileges as Rector of St. Paul's is the opportunity I have every fourth Tuesday of the month to preach and celebrate the Holy Eucharist with the wonderful residents of the Petersburg Ladies Home. The March service came just after the Fifth Sunday in Lent, so I was to preach on a gospel lesson for which I had not prepared a sermon the Sunday before as I was on vacation that weekend.

I enjoyed the sermon that I heard preached at St. Andrew's by-the-Sea in Nags Head because of the one sentence or two given to the fact that Lazarus was present at the dinner party hosted by his sisters Mary and Martha for their dear friend Jesus. Lazarus had just been raised from the dead and this may have been the first meal that Lazarus and Jesus shared together since that mind-boggling event in Lazarus' life.

Can you even imagine what it must have been like for Lazarus? We do not know what caused Lazarus' death, but we might be safe in assuming that it was an illness of some sort. Lazarus must have gone through all the emotional trauma of sensing that his life was "winding down" and that he was coming to the "end of his journey." And yet, at this dinner party, he was fully alive and well. He had not merely "dodged a bullet" or "had a brush with death." He had really died. The King James Version uses the words "he stinketh" to describe just how dead he was after four days in the tomb. But now he was enjoying a good meal with his family and closest friends!

Lazarus is living proof that there is no circumstance in our lives that is so dead and gone that God cannot raise it to new life. There is no relationship that is so damaged that God cannot breathe new life and vitality into it. There is no situation so hopeless that God cannot bring new light to it. There is no moment so desperate that God cannot restore it to sanity and sanctity. Whenever you feel that your life is too miserable to bear, look at Lazarus sitting at the table with his sisters and Jesus. Look at the gleam in his eyes. Look at the smile on his face. Listen to the confidence in his voice. And realize that our God has the power to raise the dead to life. We are an Easter people who will be raised up when we are bowed down in death. And we will – even now in this life – be enabled to live with the firm hope in the resurrection power of our God. Happy Easter everyone!

Peace, Rick

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 1st

6:45 p.m. Nursery, *1st Floor*
7:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist, *Rite I*
and The Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 2nd

6:45 p.m. Nursery
7:00 p.m. The Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Sunday, April 4th

8:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist, *Rite I*
9:00 a.m. Breakfast, *Bristol Hall*
9:30 a.m. Bristol Ringers Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
10:20 a.m. Flowering of the Cross
10:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist, *Rite II*

Highlights of April Events

Thursday, April 8th

6:00 p.m. Social Gathering at the Finney's
All are welcome!

Friday, April 9th

6:30 p.m. Concert by Candlelight

Sunday, April 11th

5:00 p.m. Celtic Communion

Saturday, April 17th

9:00 a.m. Parish Work Day (*working until noon*)

Sunday, April 18th

12:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Sunday, April 25th

12:00 p.m. ECW Meeting

Getting To Know Your Vestry

Jim Wynne, Senior Warden

I am Jim Wynne, your Senior Warden. I have been a member of St. Paul's for over 30 years, first attending when I and my wife, Linda began the restoration of our townhouse at 230 High Street. During those early years on High Street, Linda and I raised three girls, Elizabeth, Rebecca, and Lauren. Sundays, when the weather permitted, we would make the short walk to St. Paul's, starting with breakfast, dispersing for Christian education, and then back together for the 10:30 service. Those were busy times. We moved to Chester around 1991, where we currently live. The girls needed more room than the townhouse provided, and the postage-size back yard was just not big enough for all the running, jumping and climbing that the girls needed. Since then, I have actively served on Vestry, helped with the adult and children's Christian Education, Rector's Search Committee, Breakfast Crew, and most recently as one of the Trustees for St. Paul's Endowment Committee.

I have been teaching information systems in the School of Business at Virginia Commonwealth University for the past 35 years, except for a short stint in the Peoples Republic of China in 1989, teaching at Nanjing University. No, I don't speak Chinese; the students were required to be reasonably proficient in English.

I have a multitude of hobbies including antique automobiles, old clocks, antique light fixtures, old toasters, art work, and antique furniture. For those who remember early automobiles, my antique automobiles include a 1928 Willys-Knight rumble seat roadster, 1928 Willys-Knight sedan, 1927 Studebaker, and the youngest 'antique', a 1976 BMW for Sunday driving. I have made the antique automobile hobby a family oriented experience with each October making the annual trek to Hershey, Pennsylvania for the world's largest antique car show and flea market; taking summer vacations wherever the annual meeting of the Willys-Knight club was scheduled—Nevada, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Virginia, and well, all over. Of course, clock collecting has filled many of the walls, table tops, and corners in our house and when they all get together to 'sing' in unison, it is quite the acoustic experience.

As your Senior Warden I will work with the Vestry and our Rector, Rick Greenwood, to enhance the vision, mission and goals of St. Paul's. As we work together in planning the future of St. Paul's, I look to your suggestions and help in this effort!

Parish Work Day Report

Saturday, March 20th turned into a beautiful warm and sunny day and a great day for the first of several planned St. Paul's "work parties". Thirteen people rallied to tackle indoor and outdoor projects ranging from 1) relocating the nursery from the second floor back to the former location on the third floor (we have outgrown the second floor room!), 2) vacating the old Rectory (we may have a new tenant!) and 3) relocating the parking lot fence for better access to Market Street.

Elizabeth Chandler organized six people to help in cleaning and painting the "new" nursery with bright colors, which will be finished off this Wednesday. We still have to steam clean the carpets, fix a few ceiling tiles, lay down a donated area rug and move toys and furniture! The rest of us, seven, worked on the Rectory and the parking lot fence. While we did a lot of work on the north parking lot fence last year, the fence is still in bad shape and too tall for the existing posts. We planned to cut the north fence down to five feet and fix up the existing posts as well as remove most of the west fence facing Market Street. If we cut the west fence in five-foot tall sections, we will have more than enough material to install a five-foot fence on the south side of our new lower parking lot fronting on Market Street. On Saturday, we were able to cut loose and remove almost all of the brush and briars from the north section and cut the fence on the north and west sides in five-foot tall sections in preparation for re-hanging them on the south side. Our next step is to put posts on the south side of the lot, re-hang the cut fence fabric and remove the rest of the fence on the west.

After a welcomed break and a hot dog lunch prepared by Chef John Maclin, we finished moving the balance of the furniture and contents of the Rectory out and into storage on the third floor of the Parish Hall. We have a group interested in renting the Rectory possibly by May and needed to empty out and clean it.

We finished around 2 PM and plan now to have the next work party Saturday, April 17th at 9 AM. Our plan is to continue work on relocating the parking lot fence and opening the lower lot to Market Street and the church. The front yard also needs to be spruced up with grass seed, fertilizer, weeding flowerbeds, trimming hedges, and mulching. We also have several smaller projects to tackle, too. We are looking for someone with carpentry skills! In the meantime, we will finish moving the nursery (painting, carpeting and furniture). Come to the party, donate some time, and have a hotdog! ~ Mike Smith, Junior Warden

A Virginia Giant Comes Alive!

Book Signing and Impersonation

The City of Petersburg Department of Tourism and the Historic Petersburg Foundation will host author and actor Travis Bowman performing the impersonation of Peter Francisco on Friday, April 16th, 2010 at 7:00 pm followed by the sale and signing of his book *Hercules of the Revolution* at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Siege Museum, 15 West Bank St, or at the door. Adults: \$10.00, Children 12 & Under: Free. Contact information: 733-2402.

The ECW Holds a Second Meeting

The ECW (Episcopal Church Women) met Sunday March 21, 2010 in Bristol Hall for a light lunch and to discuss what needed to be done to activate the ECW at St. Paul's. In planning the year's activities, it was decided to have the Mitten Tree (October-December) for socks, scarves and gloves for the needy, Shoe Box Ministry (November-December) for the needy and homeless people of Petersburg, collecting food for the Animals in area shelters on October 3rd at the Blessing of the Animals service, Bake Sale in May, Children's Book Drive (April-June) used and new books for children to be donated to the Women's and Children shelter and the Police Department and the UTO (United Thank offering) to be collected in May and October. Also discussed was making our own boxwood wreaths during the Advent season for the church doors. A telephone tree will be developed, consisting of women of the church, to help alert them, if food is needed for a reception, etc. The next meeting will be at noon on the 4th Sunday of April. We will meet September-May on the 4th Sunday for a meeting, a light lunch, and possibly a speaker.

Short-term Mission Trip is in the Works!

We have finally been able to set the dates for the short-term mission trip to El Centro Buen Pastor in San Pedro de Macoris in the Dominican Republic! We will fly down on Saturday, June 12th and return on Friday, June 18th. We will be staying in the guest quarters at the Kellogg Center which is no more than a mile from the work site. Lodging and three meals a day will be provided for \$45 per night for a total room and board cost of \$270. Each member of the team is asked to contribute \$250 to provide work materials for our project and the cost of future projects. Round-trip airfare on Delta from Richmond through Atlanta to Santo Domingo is now costing about \$450. The entire cost of the trip comes in at just under \$1,000 not

counting any incidentals, gifts, or mementos that one might purchase. We do need to purchase our airline tickets soon! We will continue to meet at "the Dominican Republic table" during Wednesday Night dinner in order to hear the latest news and answer any questions. The next gathering will be on Wednesday, 7th. See you there!

Concerts by Candlelight

Every second Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
as part of Petersburg's *Friday for the Arts*.

Friday, April 9th ~ Eastern Virginia Brass Ensemble

Friday, May 14th ~ Mike Goldberg Trio

Little Notes from You

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the attractive Valentine socks. They were a big hit.

My best, *Margaret Whittle*

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

One of the strongest links of communication I have had with you has been receiving the past Sunday's program, all the music, lessons, news and events. I have been there in thoughts and prayers. My sincere gratitude for helping me feel connected. I hope to be there soon (fair weather Christian my Grandma Cuthbert called it).

Best wishes to all, *Nan S. Brown Jones*

St. Paul's,

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers sent to our home in memory of my father. My mother has truly enjoyed them.

George Zehmer

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

I want to thank everyone for thinking of me on my birthday. I can't think of a more wonderful present than to be in the thoughts and prayers of those at St. Paul's. I very much appreciate your thoughtfulness. I'm sorry I am not able to get there, so it means even more to me that you are thinking of me and keeping me in your prayers.

God Bless, *Dollie Rogers*

***Birthdays and Anniversaries
are listed on the next page.***

April Birthdays

- 4th Jeff Nelson
- 10th Richard Cuthbert
- 13th Morgan Parrish
- 14th Brenda Orlando
- 22nd Linda Wynne
- 24th Beth Cuthbert
- 30th George Blake
- 30th Anne Carree Smith

April Anniversaries

- 4th Jeff & Kelly Nelson
- 8th George & Jackie Blake
- 27th Chris & Peachie Johnson

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?

Please forgive us! If we did, let us know. We may not have had the information. As a parish family, we really do want to remember each person's birthday and anniversary.

