
St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

Volume 12, Issue 9

October 2009

From the Priest-in-Charge:

I was told by an older priest and friend of mine that there were two aspects of priestly ministry which he found to be most difficult and that he had hoped to avoid: performing an exorcism and asking for money. I've not had occasion to do the former yet (and I pray it won't come up), but, alas, the pledge drive seems to come up every year without fail. It would be all-too-easy to ask others to give the "hard sell" whilst ignoring the church's need for "filthy lucre", claiming that my consecrated hands ought not to touch such things, literally or metaphorically. Yet, it is not only my job to say at least something about giving; it is, in fact, my canonical obligation to teach *tithing* as a biblical principle. So, here goes...

The very word "tithing" can frighten people. For many, "tithing" implies a sort of legalism or rigidity. I know of one church which requires its members to submit their W2 forms to the church office! For others, the word "tithing" holds associations with practices which seem spiritually manipulative. Watch some of the televangelists on TBN sometime, and note the underlying theology: give money to the church and you'll get more money back. Often the agricultural imagery of the bible is employed. "Plant your seed," they'll say, "and you will reap the harvest seven- or ten- or a hundred-fold". This is called the "prosperity gospel", and it fails to recognize the reality of the biblical view. In John's Gospel (4:37), Jesus said, "And herein is that saying true, 'One soweth, and *another* reapeth.'" In other words, there is not a neat correlation between monetary support for the church and some providential monetary reward.

Yet, tithing *is* a biblical principle which goes back as far as Genesis, when Abraham gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek (14:18-20). Abraham did not give because Melchizedek demanded a "stole fee" (a fee for sacramental services), nor because he had some expectation of receiving just as much and more back from the hand of God. He gave, rather, out of thanksgiving to God for the victory he had won in battle and for the safe return of his brother Lot (See Gen. 14).

One could go on giving examples from Holy Scripture about tithing, and in another medium such an investigation might be most fruitful. However, the most important thing for our purposes is found in this very early story about giving. We give, not because we have to, not because there is some rule and if we break it we might get excommunicated. Rather, we give with joyful thanksgiving. We give because all things come from God, and it is of His own that we give back. We give as a spiritual discipline, just like our prayer and our work should be spiritual disciplines.

Thus, tithing is not a rule which, if broken, will reap dire consequences upon us as individuals. However, it is a very good model. Some give well over ten per cent of their income to the church, and others struggle to give a token. Many have found it useful to *work toward* tithing. If you cannot see possibly giving ten per cent this year, think about pledging five per cent or even one per cent. This can lead to tithing over time, but at the very least it can help us approach giving as a spiritual discipline, as something in which to engage with regularity and intentionality. The most important thing is that we come to see the pledge, whatever any individual's pledge might be, not as dues like one pays to the country club or to the Rep, but as an expression of Christian commitment, joyfully given as a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Yours in service to the Gospel,
Fr. John +

UTO

**Have you been using your blue UTO box?
Ingathering will be in November. More details in the November newsletter.**



KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Name - Patrick Sean Mulick

Place of birth - Boise, ID

Where did you grow up? - Boise, ID

When did you become an Episcopalian? -

I grew up Catholic. The first time I ever attended an Episcopal service was the first day I came to St. Paul's in August of 2007. I attended the confirmation classes in the Fall of 2007, but was not able to attend the confirmation ceremony. The plan is to officially become Episcopalian during the Bishop's next visit.

Occupation/place of work - *My primary job is as a professor in the Department of Psychology at Lyon College. I see clients part-time at White River Medical Center.*

My favorite hymns are - *Since my daughter started attending Sunday School it is "Pharaoh, Pharaoh."*

My favorite Biblical characters are - *Noah, because my daughter has me tell a modified version of the story of Noah's Ark every night before bed. If she doesn't mix up the routine soon Noah may become my least favorite Bible character.*

The best season of the church year, as far as I am concerned, is - *Advent.*

The most meaningful church service that I've attended was - *My wedding ceremony, Ryan's baptism, and, most recently, John's ordination.*

A book that I would recommend is - *Let Your Life Speak by Parker Palmer; Marley and Me by John Grogan; Into Thin Air by John Krakauer.*

My most enjoyable movie or TV show is - *"The Office"; Any Gonzaga University basketball game.*

Guests at my fantasy dinner party would be - *Jesus, Mohammed, the Dalai Lama, and Tiger Woods.*

My family consists of - *Most importantly, my wife Kristi and daughters (Ryan and Charley). I am the youngest of 6 children. I also have 5 brothers/sisters-in-laws, 14 nieces and nephews, and my Mom and Dad. Oh since a lot of you them, I had better not leave out my mother- and father-in-law, Butch and Virginia Ketz.*

Activities, hobbies, or interests that I enjoy are - *Spending time with my family and playing golf.*

If anything were possible, what would you like to be doing now or in the future? - *I am pretty happy with what I am now, but I wouldn't mind playing on the professional golf tour? Maybe I can try the senior professional golf tour in a few years?*

What is one thing you would like to see our parish accomplish or attain during the next 10 years? - *A leading institution in addressing social justice issues in our community.*

USHER SCHEDULE October 2009

4- Pam Skinner & Bill Olson
11- Tim Dunlap & Alan McSpadden
18- Jim Cargill & David Wade
25- Paul Hance & Kirk Warden

HOW ARE WE DOING?

**Average Cost Per Week
to Operate St. Paul's: \$4645.19**

Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:
Aug 23-Aug 29 \$3613.15
Aug 30-Sept 5 \$2172.15
Sep 6-Sep 12 \$5657.15
Sep 13-Sep 19 \$3411.15

Average Giving Per Week: \$3713.40



DIRECTORY UPDATES & CORRECTIONS

Changes:

Bill & Nancy Estes
ncestes@suddenlink.net

ALL SAINTS' DAY

An important part of St. Paul's All Saints' Sunday (November 1st) celebration will be the remembrance of those from our families, our parish, and our community who have died. Please call (793-2203) or email the office (stpaulsbatesville@att.net) to give us the names of those you would like remembered at the altar on All Saints' Sunday.



OCTOBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH

On October 25, between the 8:00am and 10:30 service, breakfast will be served in the Parish Hall. During this time, we will share our thanks for all of God's blessings with the Ingathering of 2010 pledge cards. Please plan to join us for the fellowship and bounty of food.
(Submitted by the Stewardship Committee)

WEDDING ANNOUCEMENT

Donald and Deann Coleman invited you to the wedding of their daughter

Whitney Dodd Coleman to Joshua Alan Massey
October 17, 2009
6:30p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
Batesville, Arkansas

THANKS

We have been truly blessed with a wonderful Parish of many talents. The Schmidts would like to thank the entire congregation for making Father John's ordination reception a special event. St. Paul's should be proud of the large turnout for Father John's ordination. God Bless You All!
(Submitted by Lynne & Mike Schmidt)

ALTAR GUILD MEETING

All members of St. Paul's Altar Guild are asked to attend an instructional meeting after church on Sunday, October 11 in the Sanctuary. Father Drymon will lead the session, which is to be a refresher/update on practices and procedures involved in performing our duties. Anyone interested in joining the Altar Guild is invited to attend the meeting, or you can contact Father Drymon or Jo Cargill for details.

*Together they have found a friendship,
Raised a family, and built a beautiful marriage.*

*You are most warmly invited by the children of
Burt and Diane Power
to participate in the joyous celebration of their parents'
50th Wedding Anniversary
at a Reception on
Saturday, October 10, 2009
at two o'clock in the afternoon
Timber Ridge Lodge
Charlotte, Arkansas
RSVP (870) 307-4798*



**Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 1st @ 2:00 am.
Remember to change the batteries in
home smoke detectors.**

**DECORATE YOUR HOME
CHRISTMAS GREENERY
ORDER FORM**

**ALL orders for greenery must be placed on this form
and be accompanied by a check in full payment.**

| Description | Price per Item | Quantity | Total |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Small Wreath-mixed evergreen (22") | \$20.00 | | |
| Small Wreath-noble fir (22") | \$20.00 | | |
| Large Wreath-noble fir only (28") | \$25.00 | | |
| Garland (10 ft) | \$20.00 | | |
| | | Total Owed \$ | |

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

**Order forms should be brought to the parish office
NO LATER THAN November 1.**

**Greenery will be received around November 30 - December 7th.
You can pick up your greenery in the church office.**

All proceeds will be used for the Youth Program.

