
St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

Volume 12, Issue 10

November 2009

From the Priest-in-Charge

Since nearly the beginning of Christianity, the Church has observed the feast days of saints. This began with local commemorations on the anniversaries of the deaths of martyrs and was eventually expanded to include days associated with other saints. In the nineteenth century the Roman Catholic Church expanded this practice by assigning whole months to various saints and theological concepts. May, for example became the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, March became the month of St. Joseph, and so forth. November, the month in which we currently find ourselves, became known as the month of the Faithful Departed, in which both the known, canonized saints were celebrated, but also *all* those people, known and unknown, who had died in Christ. Thus, the Solemnity of All Saints on November 1st came to followed by its companion feast All Souls Day (or as our prayer book calls it “the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed”) on November 2nd.

It is terribly important to remember the dead, not just those who were close to us, but “all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.” The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews entreats us to run the race set before us “since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses.” We know that the dead in Christ continue to provide support to the living. G.K. Chesterton claimed that the doctrine of the Communion of Saints is most important in that it saves us from the “tyranny of the living”, whereby we might come to think that we are the sole owners of the Church (and, indeed, of the world) simply due to the fortunate coincidence that you and I happen to be alive at this moment.

All this said, there is a proper balance to strike, and our concern with the souls of the departed should not unduly distract us from concern with the souls of the living and of those still to come.

It is most appropriate that on All Saints Day we will not only remember the departed, but many of us will be witnesses to a Baptism, thus celebrating the joyful mystery of *new life*. Likewise, on Sunday, November 22nd (the Solemnity of Christ the King), we will have a guest preacher, diocesan youth director Randall Curtis, who will no doubt say something about young people bringing *new life* to the Church now and in the future.

So, let us celebrate November not just as the month of the Faithful Departed, but also as the month of the living and of the yet-to-be-born. Let us recognize that the great mystery of the Church Catholic neither began nor will end with any of us. We have a “great cloud of witnesses” which have gone on to their eternal reward, and, by the grace of God, we have the hope of many more generations of Christians to come. Our task is to be good stewards, or caretakers, of the Church and of the Good News while we still have breath in us. We must be good stewards for the sake of God, but also for the sake of those who happen *not* to be alive at the moment. It takes a tremendous amount of humility to truly live into this realization. It might also be a bit frightening, because it means that our actions have eternal consequences. But thanks be to God that the saints are still keeping watch over the Church, making intercessions to the Father for Her sake. In this there is tremendous consolation.

Yours in service to the Gospel,
John+

USHER SCHEDULE November 2009

1– Gary Perkey & Kirk Warden
8– Pat Mulick & Tim Lindblom
15– Alan Bufford & Dwight Ford
22– Martha Sue Smith & Scott Lien
29– Lee Conditt & Anthony Milam



KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Name - Kara Lenfestey

Place of birth - Minnesota

Where did you grow up? - Apple Valley, Minnesota

When did you become an Episcopalian? - I'm not officially an Episcopalian but hope to become one this year.

Occupation/place of work - Math Teacher at Batesville Junior High School.

My favorite hymns are - "This is the Feast of Victory," because it celebrates the Lord's life, death, and resurrection, and I simply love the beautiful arrangements I've heard.

My favorite Biblical characters are - Until the past few years I have not spent a lot of time in the church. Through teaching Sunday School to the pre-schoolers I've had the opportunity to learn about and teach many different stories from the Bible. However, I'm still looking for my favorite character. I tend to favor strong women, so if anyone has a suggestion, let me know and I'd love to read about her.

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

The most meaningful church service that I've attended was - This may be a surprise and it certainly wasn't something that I was expecting to experience, but Father John's ordination was very meaningful to me. In addition, to being able to observe and participate in an ordination, I felt like it strengthened my relationship with the Episcopal Church and, in particular, St. Paul's.

A book that I would recommend is - For all the young women out there I highly recommend *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith, a book that I hadn't read until a few years ago but one that I wish I'd read as a young girl.

My most enjoyable movie or TV show is - "Chocolate".

Guests at my fantasy dinner party would be - Ned Rosenheim, a father figure who tells the most wonderfully entertaining stories, Joan-Benoit Samuelson, the winner of the first woman's Olympic marathon, Annie Leibovitz, because someone needs to capture this party on camera, Patty Griffin for some great music, Julie Child to cook a delicious meal and of course Scott and my family & friends.

My family consists of - My best friend and husband, Scott Lien, and my three wonderful children, Owen, Anna, and Jorie.

Activities, hobbies, or interests that I enjoy are - I love listening to all kinds of music, especially by the fireside, taking a stroll (or run) in the park or simply spending time outdoors with my family.

If anything were possible, what would you like to be doing now or in the future - Traveling around the country experiencing different cultures with my family and friends.

What is one thing you would like to see our parish accomplish or attain during the next 10 years? - I would love to see some of our older youth group kids give children's sermons during the service.



Please mark
November 22 on your calendar.
This will be the date for the **Fall
Ingathering of UTO.**



DIRECTORY UPDATES & CORRECTIONS

Annette & Casey Castleberry
910 E. Main St.
Batesville, AR 72501

Tammy Morea
406 Johnson St.
Cave City, AR 72521

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

We pray daily at Morning Prayer for those serving in the military, and specifically by name for our friends and family serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and for peace in those places. If you would like to add a name or make changes to our list of names, please let us know by calling the office (793-2203), sending us an email to stpaulsbatesville@att.net, or by placing the name in the alms basin on Wednesday evening or Sunday morning.

CHRISTMAS PARADE HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The street in front of St. Paul's is a popular place to watch Batesville's Christmas parade. Each year we extend our hospitality by offering hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies. We need someone to purchase the cookies and hot chocolate mix (reimbursement available), to set up a small table in the front of Anglican Hall, heat the water, act as host, clean up, etc. Please call the office if you would like to volunteer for this ministry. A bonus is that you get to stay inside where it is warm and to receive the thanks from all those who come in to warm up!

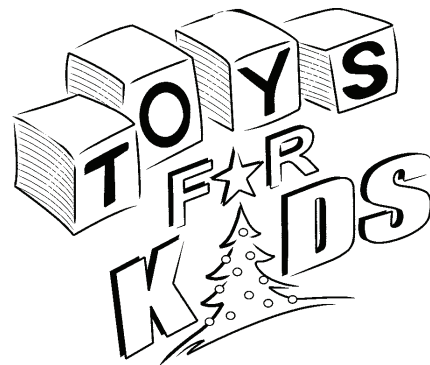
CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN 2009

Once again the Department of Human Services is preparing a database of children in Independence County who need Christmas Gifts. However, this year DHS will partner with the United Way, which has offered to take over the event once DHS has processed families' applications for eligibility and need.

If you are willing to provide gifts (at least 2 gifts per child), let Julie Dozier know the number of children for whom you will buy gifts by **November 16th**. You may also leave this information with Kevin in the church office, and he will make sure it gets to Julie. She will obtain the printed information for each child from DHS and deliver it to you – name (s), sizes, needs, and wants. When purchasing gifts, please remember that they are most likely the only ones that the child will receive.

This year we would like for you to bring the gifts to the Parish Hall on **Sunday, December 13th**. We will have the Parish Hall set up with tables for receiving the gifts, and Julie will be there to assist you in finding the correct table for the children for whom you have bought gifts. Hopefully, this will prove a convenient system for all of you; however, should you need to do so, you may arrange with Julie an alternate time to bring your gifts. The deadline is **Monday, December 14th, at 5pm.**

Finally, volunteers are needed on Wednesday, December 16th, to help distribute the gifts to the families at the Fair Grounds. If this sounds like something you would like to help with, please contact Julie at 307-1596.



NOVEMBER: U.T.O. IN-GATHERING MONTH

Sunday, **November 22** will be the fall in-gathering for the United Thank Offering. Please mark your calendars.

We have much for which to be thankful since the spring in-gathering, chiefly for the Rev. Mr. John Drymon's presence among us as Priest-in-Charge. There are new faces in the congregation and attendance is up. Lay leadership is strong as are the youth programs. A goodly number of Lyon College students, with their beautiful voices, augment the choir. This is just the beginning of a list of people at St Paul's for whom I'm thankful.

Then there are family members, nature, recoveries from illnesses...and the list goes on and on. What would you add?

Please empty your Blue Box into to the attached envelope and bring it to church on Sunday, **November 22**. If you are unable to attend that day, please bring your envelope to the church office.

The U.T.O. is an example of how much can be accomplished with folks like you and I putting coins into the Blue Boxes as we thank God for the blessings he has bestowed upon us. Those coins and currency, when added to those of fellow parishioners, to the collections of the churches in the diocese, and eventually being added to the offerings of people nation-wide, total into the millions of dollars and are used world-wide to help agencies and churches better serve people in need. (Submitted by Laura Parks)

United Thank Offering Prayer

Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy, accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

**Average Cost Per Week
to Operate St. Paul's: \$4,645.19**

Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:
Sep 20-Sep 26\$1935.15
Sep 27-Oct 3.....\$1362.15
Oct 4-Oct 10.....\$4388.40
Oct 11-Oct 17.....\$3084.65
Oct 18-Oct 24.....\$2940.15

Average Giving Per Week: \$2742.10

GUEST PREACHER

On Sunday, November 22, we will have a special guest preacher at St. Paul's. Mr. Randall Curtis, the Young Adult & Ministries Developer for the Diocese of Arkansas, will give the sermon for both the 8am and 10:30 services. After church, he will meet with the Youth Council to discuss our youth program here at St. Paul's.

VESTRY MINUTES

This month's edition of the Red Door will be missing last month's Vestry minutes. We apologize for this and will include both last month's and this month's in the December edition of the newsletter.