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# St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

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Volume 13, Issue 2

February 2010

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Report to the Annual Meeting – 31 January 2010  
The Rev'd John Drymon, Priest-in-Charge

It gives me great pleasure to deliver what I hope to be the first of many reports to the annual meeting of Saint Paul's parish. I must begin by expressing my gratitude to all those who have made my transition here to Batesville remarkably easy. By the time I began my ministry here officially on the first of June, I already felt very much a part of this community, and the love and warmth I have experienced from countless parishioners over these eight months has been astounding. I have been fortunate to have a patient and gracious vestry and a hardworking, dedicated staff, neither of which can be taken as a given, so I should like to thank all of them. I should especially like to thank all who made the day of my ordination, which I count as the best day of my life to date, truly special.

I am pleased to inform you all that the state of this parish is sound. Attendance is on the rise, and we now claim the largest worshipping community on any given Sunday in the northeast convocation of the diocese. Despite a sluggish economy, we saw a slight increase in pledges for the coming year after a marked decline in 2008-2009, and thanks to the fiscal responsibility of the current vestry, our decrease in income in 2009 has not negatively affected the mission and ministry of the parish.

But it is not the numbers which excite me about Saint Paul's. There is a spirit in this place which is as compelling as I've seen in any congregation. There is, at least by my lights, a great sense of joy on Sunday mornings. I've had more than one parishioner say that one almost invariably leaves church here on a Sunday morning feeling better than when one arrived (and this despite the occasionally gloomy sermons).

A choir whose quality is beyond the norm for a church this size; a reliable altar guild; and a host of committed acolytes, lectors, ushers, and lay ministers have helped to "perfect our praises" as one collect puts it; but all of them could not do it without a congregation who shows up week by week and takes seriously its part in worshipping God.

And then there are all of those who put in countless hours throughout the week, volunteering their time and talents to keep the church looking good, to ensure gracious hospitality to members and visitors alike at potlucks and special events, to provide excellent Christian education for people of all ages, and to assist in a myriad of other ways.

I'm also especially excited about the youth group here at Saint Paul's. Every Sunday night we have a group of young men and women who seem to truly enjoy being together, learning about the Church, and growing in their lives in Christ. People often say that youth and children are the *future* of the Church, but I disagree. They are the *present* of the Church, and my intention is, with your help, to nurture and encourage these young people such that they become an even more visible integral part of this parish.

Speaking of the future, I would be remiss if I failed to give some sort of vision for Saint Paul's in 2010 and beyond. I recently did some "visioning work" (forgive the unfortunate phraseology) with the vestry, and much of what they would like to see in Saint Paul's future are some of our strengths made stronger or taken in different directions. The choir, the youth group, and our Christian Education are all, by my lights, strengths of this congregation. They should continue to grow and develop as the Spirit leads them, and we should all be attentive to what that same Spirit might be telling us as individuals are our strengths which can be used to support these ministries.

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We also talked about attendance, outreach, and community presence; and I think that these three are of a piece. We should be thankful that the interim period was inwardly focused to a degree, as this parish discerned its own identity and evaluated its own life to the end of maintaining its particular charisms and calling the right rector at the right time. Now, however, is the time to move toward turning that focus ever outward. Now is the time to look to what God might be calling us to do and be in this community of Batesville and how Saint Paul's can be a compelling place for those who are searching for God or for a deeper knowledge of and relationship with Him. This will take work. An often overlooked reality about the distinction between clergy and laity as I see it, is that the priest spends much of his time caring for the flock, working in-house, as it were, while it is the laypeople who go out as the front-line missionaries. It is the unique vocation of the laity to share with those outside the fold the love of Christ and the grace of His Gospel and the welcome which his Church extends to all who would come. So, I urge each one of you to consider what God might be calling you to do in this regard, how He might be pushing you to work in His vineyard, in Batesville and beyond, as heralds of the Gospel to all who hunger and thirst for the Good News. Nothing I can do myself will be as effective in assuring that Saint Paul's is an even more exciting place in January 2011 and January 2020 and on into the future.

Yours in service to the Gospel,  
John+



## DIRECTORY UPDATES & CORRECTIONS

### Changes:

**Sally Fitts**

339 Denison Hts

Batesville, AR 72501

307-0695

### MARDI GRAS CAJUN DINNER

Join us on Shrove Tuesday, February 16, at 6:00 p.m., for a Cajun dinner and beverages. Cost: \$5.00 per person. Children under 3 free. Child care provided. Reservations deadline: February 12.

### Ash Wednesday Services February 17

**Holy Eucharist  
With Imposition of Ashes  
7:00am, 12noon & 5:30 p.m.**

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

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

**Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:**

Dec 27-Jan 2 .....	\$10546.15
Jan 3-Jan 9.....	\$4868.08
Jan 10-16.....	\$6288.92
Jan 17-23.....	\$8159.92
Jan 24-30.....	\$2478.92

**Average Giving Per Week: \$**

### USHER SCHEDULE February 2010

7-Alan Bufford & Dwight Ford  
14-Kirk Warden & Allan McSpadden  
21-Elmer & Carol Heringer  
28-Pat Mulick & Tim Lindblom

## **LENTEN FOOD OFFERING**

During Lent we will have our Annual Lenten Food Offering. Each Sunday in Lent, please bring staple food items (especially canned fruit) and paper products, including disposable diapers, and place them at the front of the church. After Palm Sunday, we will take these to Help and Hope. Our contributions to Help and Hope are greatly appreciated.

Those in need are often remembered during holidays and forgotten the rest of the year. Help and Hope assures that there is always "someone" there to help feed the hungry. Please be a part of this ministry by contributing generously to our Lenten Collection for Help and Hope.

### **OUTREACH PROGRAM**

After a Sunday School study about needy and homeless people, the adult class decided to place containers at the front of the Parish Hall. These containers are intended to collect items, both food and clothing, for the needs of the poor. This project will be part of an outreach program of the St. Paul's Adult Sunday School class.

In no way is this project meant to take away from our annual Lenten food offerings, but rather a project that will go on all year long. If you have good, clean clothing that you no longer need, and/or non-perishable food and baby items, we would appreciate your donation to help us make this project a success. These items will be delivered to Help & Hope. When folks come to the church looking for assistance, we can then direct them to Help & Hope. Thank you so much for your help with this ongoing project.

(Submitted by Lou Ann Hance)

### **LECTOR SCHEDULE**

February 2010

2/7 8:00am - Ann Rhodes  
10:30am - Jim Johnson

2/14 8:00am - Cindy Allen  
10:30am - Susie Farris

2/21 8:00am - Jim Johnson  
10:30am - Jo Blatti

2/28 8:00am - Dave Allen  
10:30am - Robin King

