
St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

Volume 13, Issue 5

May 2010

From the Priest-in-Charge:

I dream'd in a dream I saw a city invincible to the
attacks of the whole of the rest of the earth,
I dream'd that was the new city of Friends,
Nothing was greater there than the quality of robust
love, it led the rest,
It was seen every hour in the actions of the men of
that city,
And in all their looks and words.
-Walt Whitman

At our annual vestry retreat last week, we undertook an exercise in appreciative inquiry, asking each other about each vestry member's values and dreams for themselves and for the church. One of the questions posed to each of us was about what we believed to be the core value of Saint Paul's, and almost to a person the participants identified something about our common life being open and welcoming, like a happy family. I would concur with this estimation, though upon reflection I should probably use somewhat different language. I would say that one of Saint Paul's greatest strengths is that it is *friendly*.

Now, the word *friendly* may not strike us as particularly descriptive. It has come to suggest a genuine but measured warmth which goes little beyond pleasantries. True *friendliness*, however, amounts to something a great deal more meaningful than enjoyable banter. Take, for example, the poem quoted above. For Whitman, friendship is not just an agreement to be pleasant, but a force which animates the common life of a group of people. The *spirit* of friendship, which takes "the quality of robust love" as its chief characteristic, endows a community with both the impetus for action within and a shield from meanness and cynicism without.

Whitman's "new city of Friends" is a good model for the church (though I suspect the poet, being a religious skeptic, would not appreciate my appropriation of his work). I think it is a good model because Jesus himself used the language of friendship:

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15)

Jesus calls us *friends* because He desires a mature relationship with us— a relationship based on mutual love and honesty. To be a friend of Jesus, we must pursue friendship with the members of His body, striving for mature, honest, loving relationships with our fellow Christians, not permitting pettiness or pride to define our interactions with each other, but practicing forbearance and forgiveness.

As stated above, I believe that this is a strength of our parish. Even so, it will not always be a strength if we fail to nurture it, nor if we fail to extend that friendship beyond those already "in the fold". We must always remember that our pilgrim fellowship of faith is open to all who wish to experience the love and friendship of Christ with us, and that our own practice of extending that friendship is critical if we are to truly undertake the work of the Kingdom. Extending that friendship to the outsider may begin with a polite conversation at coffee hour, but the real work—the real hospitality—begins when we are permitted to share in somebody's life at ever deeper levels and to establish the kind of adult relationships with them that Christ has established with us. May the Lord give us the will to open ourselves up to such new relationships, both for our good and for the good of all His Church.

Yours in service to the Gospel,

John+



DIRECTORY UPDATES & CORRECTIONS

Changes:

Susan Dempsey 307-4200

John Dempsey 307-2984

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR 2010/2011

As you know, our interests are quite varied. On Sunday, May 16, we will plan our "curriculum" for the 2010/2011 year. Come and be a part of our discussion. If there is something you have always wanted to learn (or teach) about, bring your ideas on May . The class is always lively, and your ideas will help it continue to be so.

BATESVILLE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND CONCERT

The Band concert will be May 2nd, at 2:00pm on the campus of the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville. All are invited to attend. Several of our youth are in the band and will be playing. Please come out to support them!

HOW ARE WE DOING?

**Average Cost Per Week
to Operate St. Paul's: \$3747.03**

Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:

Mar 21-27\$1563.22
Mar 28-Apr 3.....\$3910.22
Apr 4-Apr 10\$6659.22
Apr 11-17\$3094.22
Apr 18-24\$2272.22

Average Giving Per Week: \$3499.82

Our Graduates

Cory Emerson
Josh Looney
Tad Dunlap
Molly Magouyrk
Caitlin McSpadden

Lyon College
Lyon College
University of Arkansas
Batesville High School
Batesville High School



BIBLE SCHOOL MEETING

There will be a Vacation Bible School planning meeting on Sunday, May 23rd at 12:30pm in Anglican Hall. Please bring both your calendars and your ideas.



USHER SCHEDULE

May 2010

2- Tim Dunlap & Paul Hance
9- Pat Mulick & Tim Lindblom
16- Jim Cargill & David Wade
23- Gary & Alex Perkey
30- Alan Bufford & Dwight Ford

U.T.O. INGATHERING
Sunday, May 9, 2010

Is your U.T.O blue box getting heavy? If “yes”, that’s a sure indication that many prayers of thanksgiving have been sent to God as we add coins to our boxes.

Perhaps you have never had a blue box. If not, there are bright blue boxes in the Narthex of the church. Who is eligible to use one? Anyone- man, woman or child. Take as many as you need. They’re free! Then begin using your box by dropping a coin into it each time you feel thankful for anything. It’s amazing how rapidly the box gains weight!

What happens to the money? Twice a year, there will be an in-gathering of all the coins (currency and checks are welcome, too) that will be sent to the Diocese of Arkansas along with in-gatherings from other parishes. In turn, the collected money will be sent to the national U.T.O. headquarters where a committee will decide which mission and ministry causes will be funded. ALL of the money collected will be used in this way.

Please mark Sunday, May 9, (Mother’s Day) on your calendar, empty your blue box into the U.T.O. envelope and bring it to church.

(Submitted by Laura Parks, U.T.O. Chairman)



PARISH WORK DAY

Sunday, May 16, will be St. Paul’s annual *Parish Work Day*. Come to church in your work clothes if you wish. Bring your tools. There will be inside and outside jobs to do. A pizza lunch will be provided. Fun and work with the Parish family!



Sunday School Celebration Sunday

Sunday School Celebration

Watch for it!

Please join us on Sunday, May 16th, at the 10:30 service for our Sunday School celebration. The music, sermon, readings—all will be presented by Sunday School kids, and it is always a lot of fun. We will be preparing for this service each Sunday until then, so...

Parents, please bring your children to Sunday school so they will be prepared for this joyful event!