
St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

Volume 13, Issue 6

June/July 2010

From the Priest-in-Charge

I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as the live; also that it is God's gift to man that every one should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil.
(Ecclesiastes 3:12-13)

Those who observe the daily office of morning and evening prayer will have noticed that we've begun working our way through the Old Testament book of *Ecclesiastes*, also named *Qoheleth* (or "the preacher"). I used to consider this work of "wisdom literature" one of my least favorite books of the Bible, and our readings from the book in Morning Prayer over the last couple of weeks have reminded me why.

Ecclesiastes seemed from my youthful (read: "naïve") perspective to be cynical and depressing. I had been told over and over again as a youngster "put your mind to it, and you can do and become whatever you wish! Work hard and make a big difference!" The message of Ecclesiastes is quite different. The preacher suggests that what we do in this life is merely passing, and we should strive for a simple life of relative comfort, knowing that death will come to us all and our labors will be lost.

As disheartening as these sentiments may at first seem, the older I get the more I appreciate their wisdom. While we are called to work hard for the Kingdom, we must always remember that whatever we can do pales in comparison to what God can do. All our desires for things like *wealth* and *fame* and *a legacy* turn out to be very small in the grand sweep of history, and God's plan may well differ from our own. We are finite creatures, and sooner or later what we have managed to build up will fade.

Far from being depressing, however, this reality can be quite consoling to those of us who may not have been entirely successful in accomplishing all the goals we have set for ourselves over the years. The message of Ecclesiastes might be boiled down to one remarkably comforting word: *RELAX*. God's plan will unfold in His time, and all our efforts, as important as they might be, are not the end-all and be-all of existence. This frees us to relax, to "eat and drink and take pleasure in [our] toil," to simply enjoy the presence of God throughout the span of our lives. The wisdom of Ecclesiastes saves us from the traumatic presumption of seeing our own successes and failures as being the most important thing in the universe.

The words of the preacher free us to live our lives in peace, enjoy the simple pleasures God has given us, and regard our limited lifetimes as a tremendous gift. May we all come to see ourselves a little less seriously, and may we learn to relax and enjoy the presence of God.

Yours in service to the Gospel,
John+

HOW ARE WE DOING?

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

Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:
Apr 25-May 1\$3424.22
May 2-8\$4433.22
May 9-15\$4174.22
May 16-22\$1860.00
May 23-29\$2710.22

Average Giving Per Week: \$3320.37

BIBLE SCHOOL 2010

WHO'S A SURVIVOR?!?
August 1-4 5:30 – 8:30
at St. Paul's

First Presbyterian and St. Paul's are joining forces once again for a whale of a Bible school – for all ages.

Volunteers are needed for all areas:

Skit – performance and preparation

Food – preparation, serving, etc...

Group Leaders and Crafts

If you're interested in volunteering, please call **Suzanne Magouyrk, 613-3836**

Make plans to join in the fun
Aug 1-4 5:30pm – 8:30pm

KEEP US INFORMED

So that we can keep our records up to date, please continue to notify us of errors or changes. Don't forget, email address changes as well as all others can be sent to us at stpaulsbatesville@att.net.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Can Vacation Bible School be more than cookies, fruit punch, and glue? YES!

Adults, please join us for VBS August 1-4. You can help teach kids about Christian faith and ministry that works beyond the walls of the church! Worship, teaching, music, dramas, activities and very special carpentry crafts all need adult supervision and assistance. Please see Suzanne Magouyrk for more information, and plan to join us at VBS.

My name is **Sam Halfacre**. My mom, Janie Starnes, also attends St. Paul's and sings in the choir. Highlights of high school for me include four years of football and band. I was also voted "Most School Spirit." I've attended St. Paul's for four years. My best memories of a St. Paul's service or activity is playing the drums at VBS and Camp Mitchell. In my time at St. Paul's, I was most helped and influence by Mid Wootten. My future college plan is to attend Arkansas State University. I plan to major sports journalism.



USHER SCHEDULE June 2010

6– Pam Skinner & Bill Olson
13– Kirk Warden & Allan McSpadden
20– Deborah & Jim Johnson
27– Lee Conditt & Anthony Milam

July 2010

7– Martha Sue Smith & Scott Lien
11– Kirk Warden & Allan McSpadden
18– Jim Cargill & David Wade
25– Pat Mulick & Tim Lindblom

