
St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

Volume 13, Issue 8

September 2010

From the Priest-in-Charge:

"I will give you rest."—Amazing! Then those words "Come here to *me*" presumably must be understood in this way: Remain with me, I am that rest, or to remain with me is that rest. It is not as it usually is—that the helper who says "Come here" thereupon must say "Now leave" as he explains to each individual where the particular help he needs is found, where the analgesic herb grows that can heal him, or where there is that quiet place where he can relax from his labor, or where there is that happier part of the world where people are not burdened. No, he who opens his arms invites all—ah, if all, all you who labor and are burdened, were to come to him, he would embrace them all and say: Now remain with me, for to remain with me is rest. The helper is the help. Amazing!

—Soren Kierkegaard,
Practice in Christianity, XII, 10.

It has become a cliché to talk about how busy we all are. As the brief respite some of us might have experienced during the summer comes to an end, things are starting to "ramp up" all around us this autumn. The kids are back in school; our schedules are getting increasingly full; *vacation* seems more-and-more like a vague concept relegated to some mythic time to which we have less-and-less connection. "We're all busy!" Certainly things will be getting busier in our common life at Saint Paul's over the next couple of months. Sunday School for all ages resumes on 12 September, as does our Sunday evening youth group, which will be having a kick-off barbecue that evening.

Choir rehearsal resumes even sooner, and our choral scholars from Lyon College will be making their return. October will once again be "Stewardship Month", when we'll be asked to consider our commitment to the work of the parish in concrete terms (more on that next month). The church office will spend the next several months working in earnest on a few projects meant to ensure the long term health and growth of this parish and the larger church— particularly in regards to our work with college students and our continued work on establishing a columbarium for the parish. "We're all busy here at Saint Paul's!"

In the midst of such busyness we can sometimes feel overwhelmed. We sometimes wish for more hours in the day, or at least we wish we had the ability to set aside a few of the twenty-four hours we already have every day in which we can be a little less harried. Perhaps some of us would benefit from having fewer commitments, but I wonder if approaching those commitments we already have in a different way might be the best strategy for some of us.

Saint Matthew recorded the "comfortable words" Jesus constantly speaks to us in the midst of our busyness: "Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you." The truth is that we can schedule all sorts of "down time" and still not experience the rest we need if we fail to find the source of our rest. Conversely, we may find refreshment in the midst of our travails (such a wonderful, old word!) if we make every effort to abide in Christ. The great thing about our "abiding" is that it is not simply a fleeting instant in the midst of the storm, but that the rest we have in Christ is a constant. We do not merely fly to Jesus for a moment's respite; we remain in the peace of his presence perpetually.

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The trick is setting our minds and hearts to embrace this truth unwaveringly rather than occasionally. This is easier said than done. It takes a lifetime of prayer, sometimes, to “get it”, but when we do we’ll find peace in situations that would once have overwhelmed us. The more we truly accept that, as Kierkegaard put it, “the helper is the help,” the less energy we’ll spend trying to effect our own refreshment, for we’ll experience it as a constant stream from a Source outside ourselves.

Yours in service to the Gospel,
John+

USHER SCHEDULE
September 2010

5– Gary Perkey & Alex Perkey
12– Pam Skinner & Bill Olson
19– Jim Cargill & David Wade
26– Martha Sue Smith & Scott Lien

SEPTEMBER 2010
LECTOR SCHEDULE

<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Sept 5: Jim Johnson	Kevin Jackson
Sept. 12: Mike Schmidt	Dwight Ford
Sept. 19: Byron Skinner	Jim Johnson
Sept. 26: Jim Johnson	Robin King



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
SEPTEMBER 2010 (10:30am)

Sept 5: Mike Schmidt
Sept 12: Page Sevier
Sept 19: Paul Hance
Sept 26: Laura Hance

HOW ARE WE DOING?

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

Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:
July 25-July 31 \$1682.22
Aug 1-Aug. 7 \$5597.22
Aug. 8-Aug. 14 \$3064.97
Aug 15-Aug 21 \$2322.42

Average Giving Per Week: \$3166.71