
St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

Volume 10, Issue 11

December 2008

EnHancements

It is hard to believe we have entered Advent and are firmly entrenched in the Holiday Season. Once we welcome Santa Claus and receive the goodies made by his delightful band of elves, it is but a short jog to New Years Day. By the end of the College Bowl Series, many people will have already taken down their Yuletide tree. The decorations, that took days, if not weeks, to put into place will be back in their boxes to await next year's use. Yes, before we know it this year will be in the books and we will be full of wonder considering what 2009 may have in store. But before we vault into the next year, it would be nice to stop and consider the thread that ties the two events and us together.

Perhaps it is the childhood excitement and anticipation that surrounds this time of year or perhaps it is the nostalgia of the Christmas joys of my past, but as of late I long for the days when the Twelve Days of Christmas actually meant something to most households. A time when the period beginning the evening of Christmas Day (December 25) through the morning of Epiphany (January 6) was spent eating plum pudding and perhaps a roasted goose, or sharing a few cups of wassail. The Yule Log was lit in the fireplace and allowed to burn a little each night until Epiphany. Stories were told, and gifts were exchanged. Finally, on Twelfth Night, the homemade decorations were customarily taken down to avoid bad luck in the coming year. It was a time when every event was centered on family, friends, and worship.

Although I don't know where to find a Yule Log or how to make a plum pudding, I can make time to enjoy my family and friends. I most certainly can afford the time spent taking advantage of the opportunity to worship the One who the season is all about.

So rather than focusing on "After-Christmas Sales" and the relentless "noise" of the Season, let us return to the heritage of our past. Let us focus on ourselves as children of God, as people who have taken our baptismal vows before God and one another, a people who take our faith seriously.

Let us not waste our time in the pursuit of meaningless things that are easily forgotten. Let us with grateful hearts worship together, and just like in the days of old, pay honor to the birth of our savior.

God Bless,
Paul Hance

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS EVE at St Paul's:

5:00 PM – The "family" celebration for young and old, who like an informal celebration and carols.

11:00 PM – The full choir will lead us in the festal celebration.

Either of our Christmas Eve celebrations will bless us by the beauty of the decorated church and the carols of the season, mixed with the people who touch us with Christian faith.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

11:30 AM

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 21

Bring your family to church, then join us for this fun time.



KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Name - *Jim Johnson*

Place of birth - *Paragould*

Occupation/place of work - *Business instructor at UACCB, a second career for me. My first career was as a clinical/psychiatric social worker.*

My favorite hymn is - *"Lift High the Cross," my all time favorite.*

My favorite Biblical character(s) - *Paul...reading about his Damascus Road experience always startles me. Also, Noah: He must have been a saint to put up with all those animals!*

The best season of the church year, as far as I am concerned, is - *Christmas and Easter because of the quiet, joy and solemnity of the services and seasons.*

The most meaningful church services that I've attended was - *When our daughter, Kathryn, was baptized.*

The book that I recently enjoyed is - *At the Center of the Storm by George Tenet. I'm also a great fan of anything written by John Steinbeck.*

My most enjoyable movies and TV shows are - *Movies: "Bull Durham," "Blazing Saddles," "The Sting," and "Casablanca." TV Shows: Northern Shore and M.A.S.H.*

My favorite potluck dish is - *Any veggies, except for lima beans.*

Guests at my fantasy dinner party would be - *My wife, Deb, my Great Aunt Donney, Margaret Thatcher, and Ben Franklin. I would just want to sit in the corner and listen and watch.*

Other members of my family who attend St. Paul's - *My wonderful wife, Deb, and our wonderful daughter, Kathryn.*

Activities, hobbies, or interests that I enjoy are - *Travel, photography, reading, Notre Dame and ASU football, the symphony, the opera, and plays.*

If anything were possible, what would you like to be doing now or in the future? - *I would like to be able to have a long teaching career and then be a disaster volunteer for the American Red Cross.*

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS AND GREENERY

The **deadline** for inclusion of memorials and thanksgivings in the Christmas Bulletin is **Friday, December 12th**. Please complete the form found in this newsletter or in the weekly bulletin and return to the office by the deadline.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

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

Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:

Oct 26-Nov 1.....	\$2981.76
Nov 2-Nov 8.....	\$4266.26
Nov 9-Nov 15.....	\$1541.26
Nov 16-Nov 22.....	\$3201.76

Average Giving Per Week: \$2997.76

USHER SCHEDULE December 2008

7- Deborah Johnson & Bill Olson
 14- Alan Bufford & Dwight Ford
 21- Allan McSpadden & Kirk Warden
 24- Chris Okolo & Anthony Milam
 24- Jim Cargill & Amanda Seagrave
 28- Jim Johnson & Tim Lindblom



DIRECTORY UPDATES & CORRECTIONS

Changes:

Alan Seagrave

alanseagrave@gmail.com

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Three new members of the St. Paul's Vestry will be elected at the Annual Meeting on January 27th. The Nominating Committee is composed of persons rotating off the Vestry in January: Hayes Olson, Jessica Fagan, and Robin King. Thanks to all three for their service. Now is the time to make your nominations. Submit your nominations to any of the three members of the Nominating Committee.

Vestry members are elected leaders of the Parish who support the congregation and clergy in our mission: "To love God and to love our neighbor, sharing with gratitude and reverence the Light of Christ."

The canons require a Vestry member be a confirmed communicant (people who receive communion each year), attend church regularly, be at least 18 years old, and be a regular contributor or a member of a family who contributes regularly.

Beyond the canons, these are other desirable qualities for Vestry members:

They rarely miss Sunday worship.

They are stewards, returning a portion of their income to God's church, along with commitments of time and talent.

They are aware and involved in the Parish's Christian Education.

They believe prayer helps them discern God's leading.

They invite, welcome, and greet newcomers to St. Paul's.

They will work with the Rector, staff, and other members of the Parish to create an environment of mutual trust and loyalty.

They are not afraid to take a stand nor fearful of conflict.

They understand they are called to a ministry, not merely to offer advice.

They realize their ministry continues even when their term on the Vestry ends.

If you are interested in being nominated for Vestry, please tell one of the outgoing Vestry members. If you want to nominate someone else, please get his or her permission before submitting the name. The next three years promise to be spiritually stimulating. Serving on St. Paul's Vestry could be one of the most rewarding things you could ever do.

THANKS

We received \$1449.50 for the United Thank Offering. Thanks so much for your generosity.

ALTAR GUILD LINENS

The Altar Guild has received new altar linens. These linens consist of purificators, lavabo towels, and corporals. These were purchased with memorial funds for Helen Holmes Browning. We are very grateful for these linens and donations to our altar linen supply in memory of a great lady.

DEADLINE FOR 2008 DONATIONS: NOON ON DECEMBER 31

Checks must be received by noon on December 31, in order for them to be recorded as donations for 2008. Checks received in the office or through the postal service after December 31 will be recorded as donations for 2009.



Christmas Memorial



Flowers & Greenery

The deadline for inclusion of memorials in the Christmas Bulletin is Friday, December 12. Your help in returning the following form on time is greatly appreciated.

Persons memorialized:

Donor:

Some prefer their gift to be designated as a thank offering; include those here.

Thank offering for:

Donor:

Please mail these to the church office at P.O. Box 2255 or you may place them in the alms basin. Please denote on your check "Christmas Memorial."

