
St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

Volume 12, Issue 3

March 2009

Senior Warden's Report

The 137th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Arkansas was held on Friday and Saturday, February 20th and 21st at Trinity Cathedral in Little Rock. Your delegates were Dwight Ford and I, with Kevin Jackson serving as alternate. Since the Convention did not make the six o'clock evening news or the next morning's Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, you can be sure it was an interesting but non-controversial convention.

During a question and answer period with the Bishop Benfield, the subject of parishes without priests was raised through several direct questions from the floor. At the present time, there are eleven churches in Arkansas without a priest. This equates to roughly 19 percent of the parishes in Arkansas. According to Deployment Officer/Canon to the Ordinary Dennis Campbell, the "average" at any one time should be only 5 percent, or approximately three parishes within the state. Bishop Benfield's response to the barrage of questions was that the problem is rooted in the declining number of seminary students. During each of the next three years, the Bishop reported there is a successive and dramatic decline in the number of graduating seminarians. Thus the Bishop's ultimate answer to the deficit of Episcopal priests in Arkansas and across the U.S. is currently there is not an answer.

A budget was passed for The Episcopal Church in Arkansas. The 2009 budget reflects a deficit of \$132,469, echoing general economic conditions in Arkansas and across the nation. The 2009 tithes from all congregations across the Diocese are down by \$79,765 (following the Bishop's 10-10-10 plan, this \$79,765 decline in tithes averages to an 8 percent decline in overall congregational tithes).

The deficit will be funded by draws on cash reserves in order that essential Diocese programs will not be left unfunded.

Among the brighter parts of the convention:

A resolution was passed to honor the Rt. Rev. Edward T. Demby, elected by the Diocese of Arkansas as the country's first black Episcopal bishop in 1917. The story of Rev. Demby is a remarkable one as he was a man of distinguished reputation. He was given the task of overseeing all black bishops in the entire Province of the Southwest: Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, and New Mexico. Rev. Demby passed away in 1957. In addition to the resolution, a portrait of Rev. Demby, which will join those portraits of other Arkansas bishops at Trinity Cathedral, was dedicated.

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church of Little Rock became a parish church. By a resolution passed at the convention, St. Margaret's was recognized as a parish in its own right.

The 138th Annual Convention will be held at St. Paul's in Fayetteville on February 19th and 20th, 2010.

BOOK SALE

Lyon College Library will hold a book sale during the Scottish Festival in April. If you have books you would like to donate, you may drop them off on Saturday, March 21 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Lower Library across from the Gym. These can be hard cover, paperback and even videos. Volunteers will be there to assist you.

(Submitted by John & Susan Dempsey)



DIRECTORY UPDATES & CORRECTIONS

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.



DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 8TH

HOW ARE WE DOING?

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

Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:
Jan 25-31 \$2405.65
Feb 1-7 \$3137.15
Feb 8-14 \$3264.15
Feb 15-21 \$2465.15

Average Giving Per Week: \$2818.02

Rector Search Update

St. Paul's Rector Search Committee would like to take this opportunity to update you concerning the latest in our quest for finding our parish's right "priestly fit". As we begin this update, we would like to share some good news that has come to us from the Diocese. We have been notified Canon Dennis Campbell has returned to active duty and will be back at the helm guiding us through the remainder of our journey. We welcome Canon Campbell back into our fold after his well deserved time off, and look forward to again sharing in his wit and wisdom.

The Search Committee would like everyone to know we have been truly blessed by having Rev. Dan McKee serve us while Fr. Dennis was on sabbatical. In addition to his job as the Subdean at Trinity Cathedral School, Fr. Dan assumed the extra duties and responsibilities of the deployment office. This is not the first time Fr. Dan has been a valuable asset to our parish, and we appreciate all his efforts on our behalf. As we progress forward in our quest, we are thankful for the insight and guidance we have received from Dan.

As the committee discusses among themselves the candidates we have received from the Diocese, many questions have come to the surface. As you, our fellow parishioners talk to us, you have but one question coming to the surface. Many of you have asked the big "what if" question. What happens if, for whatever reason, we are unable to find our fit in what we have been given to consider?

First, you must know the search committee is tightly bound together in their dedication to finding the correct person for the job of providing spiritual leadership to St. Paul's. Do not expect the committee to waiver one iota in their duty to you and/or our parish. Second, we must tell you something that you should already know. We *are* doing very well. We have by far had clergy support on more Sunday's than we have not. We have heard many wonderful lessons from a variety of clergy, who are themselves amazing fountains of knowledge and love. We have pulled together and done every task that needed doing.

Regardless of what comes of the candidates we now have, the committee knows and trusts we will not fall apart if we don't have a priest selected by month's end. They know and trust you want and deserve more, much more, than just a warm body willing to stand in the pulpit each Sunday. The committee knows and trusts you do not want them to settle, just to get this "experience" over with.

We have progressed far in our search, but we do not know at this time who will be our next priest. We can say, if you stand behind us and each other, support us and each other, and show the faith we know you have, God's plan for St. Paul's will come to fruition. Continue being positive, and above all else -- continue to pray for us.

(Submitted by Paul Hance)

USHER SCHEDULE

March 2009

1- Lee Conditt & Anthony Milam
8- Martha Sue Smith & Scott Lien
15- Alan Bufford & Dwight Ford
22- Gary Perkey & Kirk Warden
29- Amanda & Alan Seagrave

LENTEN FOOD OFFERING

Our Lenten food collection continues. Please bring staple food items (especially canned fruit), paper products, and/or 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.

CAMP MITCHELL 2009 SCHEDULE

Applications for Camp Mitchell are available on the diocesan website and in the parish office. We have budgeted funds for Camp Scholarships.

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| May 31-June 4 | Staff Training |
| June 7-12 | Sr. High Camp (grades 9-12) |
| June 14-18 | Robert R. Brown Camp I* |
| June 21-26 | Primary (grades 1-3) |
| June 28-July 3 | Middler I (grades 3-5) |
| July 5-10 | Jr. High Camp (grades 6-9) |
| July 12-17 | Middler II (grades 3-5) |
| July 19-23 | Robert R. Brown Camp II* |

*Camps for people with mental and physical disabilities



Easter Memorials

The deadline for inclusion of memorials in the Easter Bulletin is Friday, **March 27**. Your help in returning the following form on time is greatly appreciated.

Persons memorialized:

Donor:

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

Thank offering for:

Donor:

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