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# St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

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## Meet John Drymon

St. Paul's Rector Search Committee & Vestry have the extreme pleasure to introduce you to John Drymon. John will assume the role of Deacon-in-charge of our Parish starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. John will graduate from The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, New York, NY with his Master of Divinity, late in May 2009. He did his undergraduate study at Colgate University, Hamilton, NY on a full academic scholarship. John was placed on the clergy fast track and received early ordination into the Arkansas Diaconate, on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2009. Most seminarians are not ordained into the diaconate until they have graduated. After completing the mandatory period as a deacon, John will be ordained into the priesthood in September 2009.

While attending Colgate, John graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, in May 2006. John chose to pursue a double major in Philosophy and Religion. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, and received Honors in Philosophy. John was awarded the Colgate Alumni Memorial Scholarship trip to Israel from May-August 2004. During this summer period he visited various churches and Christian institutions in Israel and the Palestinian Territories interviewing clergy and laypeople. He volunteered for one month at the Mar Elias Educational Institutions (Ibbilin) in various capacities, including being a construction worker on a new school. John is also very active in doing construction for Habitat for Humanity here in the USA.

While attending General Theological, John experienced many more wonderful opportunities for spiritual development and growth. As a small sampling, John was granted Seminary Consultation on a Mission trip to Pakistan, January 2009.

He visited various mission and ministry sites in the Northwest Frontier Province as a guest of the Diocese of Peshawar (Church of Pakistan), where he preached at the Sunday liturgy of St. John's Cathedral, Peshawar and gave several extemporaneous sermons at house churches and prayer groups.

John was also granted a Seminary Consultation on Mission trip to China, May-June 2008. While there he visited churches in Beijing and the Yunnan Province (ethnographic Tibet), interviewing clergy and laypeople about the state of the Church there.

John is a native Arkansan, having grown up in Ft. Smith. He is a graduate of Ft. Smith-Southside High School, and comes from an "education" family. His father is a school textbook salesman, his mother an elementary librarian, a sister who is a kindergarten teacher, and a brother majoring in music with hopes of being a school band director. John's family still lives in Ft. Smith. John's sister is 14 months younger than he and graduated from the U of A. John's younger brother currently attends Arkansas Tech.

Although only 25, John shows a maturity beyond his chronological years. John can literally trace back the moment in high school when he felt his calling to the priesthood while attending St. Bartholomew's. John also knew he wanted to return to his home state to practice his chosen vocation. While in seminary to prepare for that eventuality, John chose St. Paul's/Brooklyn as his field-study church because it had the closest demographic resemblance to what he would find in a parish in Arkansas. John interned in that parish for 2 years. While there he served as an usher, taught Sunday school classes from grade school to adult, and served on the Alter Guild.

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## KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

**Name -** *Mary Lou Kent*

**Place of birth -** *Dyess Colony, Mississippi  
County, Arkansas*

**Where did you grow up? -** *Jonesboro*

**Occupation/place of work -** *I worked for 20 years on the family farm, drove a truck for 17 years and closed out my working life at the Pine Bluff Arsenal. During my early years I joined the Air Force and took nurses' training.*

**When did you become an Episcopalian -** *At age 12, my father thought I was attending the Church of Christ every Sunday while actually I was going to the Episcopal Church down the street. He found this out on Easter Sunday morning when he decided to attend with me! The good news is that he wasn't terribly mad and started attending the Episcopal Church too!*

**My favorite hymn(s) are -** *"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" and "Jerusalem the Golden."*

**My favorite Biblical character(s) are -** *Joshua and Lot because of the obstacles they overcame.*

**The best season of the church year, as far as I'm concerned, is -** *The season of Pentecost because of the lessons taught on humility.*

**The most meaningful church service that I've attended was -** *Any time we have Holy Eucharist so we may go to the altar and have a feast with God.*

**The book that I'm reading now, or a book that I would recommend is -** *The Little World of Don Camillo, a book about a priest and The Scarlet Plume, a story about American Indians.*

**My most enjoyable movie or TV show is -** *"CSI Miami."*

**Guests at my fantasy dinner party would be -** *My 2 and a half sisters (now deceased), Carroll O'Connor and Charlton Heston.*

**My family consists of -** *My son, Ben, who lives in Oklahoma, daughters Mary June Davis of Newark and Nancy Moody of Sulphur Rock.*

**Activities, hobbies, or interests that I enjoy are -** *In my youth I loved to play baseball (I was a "roving short"). I also loved horseback riding and anything that could be driven. My current hobbies include crocheting, reading and watching TV.*

**If anything were possible, what would you like to be doing now or in the future? I would like to try ice skating.**

**What is the one thing you would like to see our parish accomplish or attain during the next 10 years? -** *I would like to see the church add a new chapel. The current one is okay but it would be nice to have one in a quieter area and furnish it with pews and kneelers.*

### A Huge "Thank You"

As chair of the Rector Search Committee, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the members of that committee who served each of you and their parish so well.

It was due to the tireless efforts and sound judgment of Alan Bufford, Carol Crosby, Susie Farris, Royce Haigwood, Jim Johnson, Susan Lindblom, Steve Massey, and Laura Parks that St. Paul's has been able to obtain its "right priestly fit". They spent countless hours going over CDO profiles, checking personal references, preparing questions for phone and site interviews, conducting the interviews, and showing off all that Batesville and St. Paul's has to offer when clergy candidates came to visit. Each of these fine folks put aside their own needs, wants, and desires and worked together to find an individual who could serve the needs of St. Paul's as a whole.

I am very proud to have been given the privilege of working with this group, and delighted to have gotten to better know them. We all owe them a very huge "thank you" and a pat on the back. They have certainly earned it.

(Submitted by Paul Hance)

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Rev. Peter Cullen, rector of St. Paul's/Brooklyn, shared some wonderful comments about John. In reply to the questions, Fr. Cullen said he absolutely would not worry **at all** about John's age. He said John is very stable. He was obviously raised well by his parents. He stated John is very bright, but has not let his impressive intelligence draw him away from common sense. He likes people and they like him. He has a good, kind humor. John exercises a natural and good sense of appropriate social boundaries, while not getting lost or bent out of shape when others cross them.

He said John's sermons are very sound in the Word, and are steeped in the Gospel. From the ones we have read and the one we heard, this is an absolute truth.

John is single, likes to hike, camp, and loves to fly fish. John enjoyed scouting in his youth, and is very proud of attaining the status of being an Eagle Scout. He enjoys reading, all styles of good food, and lively conversation. Like our own Dave Allen, John is also fond of sporting a bow tie! John said he is extremely excited about meeting St. Paul's parishioners, and is looking forward to starting his career with us.

As an added bonus, we have one other fact to consider. To the best of anyone's knowledge, when John receives his ordination as a priest in our very own sanctuary, it will be the first time this ostentatious event has occurred in the grand history of St. Paul's. What a joyous and wonderful occasion to celebrate with John and his family. (Submitted by the Rector Search Committee)



## 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](mailto:stpaulsbatesville@att.net).

### Opportunity for Christian Stewardship

On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, The Stewardship Committee has scheduled a trash pick up day for our stretch of East Main St., between Hope Lutheran Church and the North Complex ball field and park.

We will meet at 8:30am at Hardee's restaurant for breakfast before getting to work. Orange trash bags and safety vests will be provided by the Highway Department. You will need to provide your own gloves, etc.

We hope to see you there!  
(Submitted by the Stewardship Committee)

#### HOW ARE WE DOING?

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

**Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:**  
Feb 22-28.....\$2465.15  
Mar 1-7.....\$5128.15  
Mar 8-14.....\$1855.15  
Mar 15-21.....\$3034.15

**Average Giving Per Week: \$3120.65**

#### USHER SCHEDULE

April 2009

- 5- Jim Cargille & David Wade
- 9- Deborah & Jim Johnson
- 11- Laura & Paul Hance
- 12- Allan McSpadden & Chris Okolo
- 19- Pat Mulick & Tim Lindblom
- 26- Pam Skinner & Bill Olson

## Senior Warden's Report

### The Rector's Discretionary Fund

The Rector's Discretionary Fund is monies set aside to assist those who are faced with personal financial crises. Those in crisis come from within our church family or within our community at large. The distribution of these funds are solely at the discretion of the rector based upon his or her evaluation of the situation at hand. Certainly there are a wide range of needs – some small and some quite large. Medicine, medical bills, and utility assistance are just a few examples of the requests made of the rector's fund. As a matter of practice, when a request for financial assistance was large in dollar amount or of an unusual situation, Fr. Mid would bring those requests to the Vestry. More often than not, those requests were from within our own church family.

During these difficult economic times, the needs of our community in general and our church family in particular are expected to increase. Currently there is approximately \$1,000.00 in the Discretionary Fund. Please consider making a donation to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. To make a donation, place your check in an envelope marked "Rector's Discretionary Fund" and deposit it the alms basin on any Sunday. If you prefer, you may mail or deliver your donation to the church office. Again, please clearly mark your donation to be allocated to the Discretionary Fund.

### Parish Administrator

I am very pleased to announce that Kevin Jackson has been promoted to "Parish Administrator." This new title is reflective of Kevin's increased job duties and growth in responsibilities over the past nine months. As noted by the Vestry, Kevin has brought stability, demonstrated strong decision making skills, and shown sound judgment in the day to day operation of the church office. He is an asset to the parish, an asset to the Vestry, and will most certainly be an asset as we bring John Drymon on board as our new Priest-In-Charge.

I have certainly enjoyed working with Kevin these past three months. He definitely makes the Sr. Warden's life much easier! Kevin, thank you for all you do to make our parish run smoothly.

(Submitted by Alan Bufford)

## **PALM CROSSES**

We will gather on Saturday morning, **April 4th** at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall to make palm crosses. **Mark your calendars, because we need YOU** to help us make 150 crosses for Palm Sunday. **All ages, male and female, are invited and welcome.** We guarantee you will have a lot of good laughs as well as contributing to the beauty of the Palm Sunday services.

## An Invitation

Lim will observe the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood April 14, 2009.

Please join our celebration between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 14 at our home, 229 Westwood Drive.

Dress- casual  
No gifts, please

## HOLY WEEK and EASTER at St. Paul's

### **Palm/Passion Sunday April 5**

8:00 am Liturgy of Palms and Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Liturgy of Palms and Holy Eucharist

### **Maundy Thursday April 9**

7:30pm Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

### **Good Friday April 10**

Noon Liturgy and Sermon

### **Easter Eve April 11**

7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter

### **Easter April 12**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist