
St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

Volume 11, Issue 9

October 2008

Last month I challenged you to come up with a title for my ponderings. I was surprised by the number of responses that were submitted to the church office. There were funny ones, tongue twisters, brain teasers, some that appealed to my narcissistic side, and some that confirmed my theory that a few of you need some serious therapy!!

I took all the suggestions and put together a panel of experts to help me select the perfect catch line for my future articles. Before the big unveiling of the "winner", I want to offer my sincere thanks to Lloyd Bess for coming up with a very close runner-up with *Senior Warden's Senior Moments*. Let me tell you, I have had a few of these during this interim.

So my fellow parishioners, it is without further ado I present to you, thanks to Guy Moseley, my new tag. I hope you like it, and I pray the sentiment rings true.

EnHancements

Recently Tim Lindblom and I were discussing the work that has been performed on the sanctuary to date. We recalled an incident where Cushman installed this big honking light to re-light St. Paul--in stained glass form of course. Tim had noticed the light had been placed on an electric photocell for activation. As a result, the thing would be running every night and every day the ambient light was dark enough to trigger the cell. The very thought of that scenario had Tim envisioning management at Entergy throwing a party in anticipation of what the bill would be! As a result, Tim got the thing fixed PDQ.

When it first came to our attention we had to institute a change in the light, Tim asked me what service we had where the light illuminating St. Paul was flicked on for dramatic effect. I told him we did that for the Easter Vigil. However, I didn't know if it was considered standard protocol for all Episcopal churches. I reminded him we only did it that way because that was the way Mid wanted to conduct the service. Who knows what the next priest will desire for the Vigil, or any other service for that matter.

Then I had my epiphany. As much as I hate to admit it, I initially figured the task Mid placed upon me as Senior Warden was to gather folks together to find his replacement while keeping the ship afloat. That was it! Sort of short sighted on my part. I have discovered my task is to also (and possibly more importantly) open minds to the idea that some things **will be done differently**.

I had this epiphany while dealing with the different ways our support clergy have been doing our services. I guess the "big guy upstairs" does work in mysterious ways because if we had a single interim priest as we had hoped, we would now be getting used to *the way they did things*. We would in essence be trading one single set of experiences for another single set of experiences. Now, we literally haven't a clue what each Sunday will bring us. I have come to believe this uncertainty is actually **healthy** for us. I guess that is the down side of a parish like ours that is in good health -- the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" mentality kicks in and you don't want anything to change because it might adversely affect your good health. Resistance to allowing such change to occur can and does set up the person who follows for unintentional failure. Just ask the coaches who had to immediately follow Bear Bryant at Alabama or John Wooden at UCLA.

The reality is--we will have to change. It is the all too "human" part of growth--both physically and spiritually. Change is healthy and the healthier you are, the more change you should be able to experience. So it is a good experience for us at St. Paul's to get a variety of styles and theologies for they will only ready us for the inevitable change that will come our way. If we just open our minds as eagerly as we open our hearts, we can continue to see our diverse interim period as a plus. For in the long run, that openness of thought will be appreciated by our new priest far more than we may ever know.

God Bless,
Paul Hance



KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Name - Alan Seagrave

Place of birth - Toledo, Ohio

Occupation/place of work - Social Security Administration (retired)

My favorite hymn is - "Lift High the Cross," "Amazing Grace," "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today," "The Church's One Foundation," and many more.

My favorite Biblical characters are - Other than Jesus, David, Solomon, and Paul.

The best season of the church year, as far as I am concerned, is - Advent through Epiphany followed by the Easter season.

The most meaningful church service that I've attended was - In recent times, my marriage to Amanda, 5 years ago this coming December.

A book that I would recommend is - Besides the Bible, *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471) and anything by C.S. Lewis.

My most enjoyable movie or TV show is - TV: almost anything on the SciFi Channel. Movie: Christian: "The Ten Commandments." Secular: "Somewhere in Time."

My favorite potluck dish is - Are you kidding? Do I really have to make a choice. Yum!

Guests at my fantasy dinner party would be - It wouldn't really be a great fantasy dinner party for me without Amanda and Christ, who is always present at our table; and Fr. James J. Gruetter, St. Paul, St. Francis of Assisi, Blaise Pascal, Thomas Becket, Teresa of Avila, C.S. Lewis, Mother Teresa and Billy Graham.

Other members of my family who attend St. Paul's - Amanda.

Activities, hobbies, or interests that I enjoy are - Music--listening, singing, and playing; travel and cooking.

If anything were possible, what would you like to be doing now or in the future? - Someone asked me the very same question 50 years ago and I still haven't decided. Life is too fascinating for me to pick just one or two things to do.

USHER SCHEDULE October 2008

5- Jim Cargill & David Wade
12- Amanda & Alan Seagrave
19- Allan McSpadden & Kirk Warden
26- Chris Okolo & Dave Allen

HAPPENING

Happening is a renewal weekend for the young people of the Episcopal Church. It is led by teenagers who give talks, and lead discussions, singing, and games. The next Happening weekend will be at St. Thomas', Springdale, November 14-16. There are applications in the parish office. Deadline for applications is October 23.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Average Cost Per Week
to Operate St. Paul's: \$4645.19

Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:
Aug 17-Aug 23 \$2297.76
Aug 24-Aug 30 \$4717.76
Aug 31-Sep 6 \$2972.76
Sep 7-Sep 13 \$4566.76

Average Giving Per Week: \$3638.76



DIRECTORY UPDATES & CORRECTIONS

Changes:

Martha Sue Smith

marthasuesmith@suddenlink.net

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

Again this year the Department of Human Services is preparing a data base of children in Independence County who need Christmas gifts. They are verifying the need and will supply detailed data about each child--name, sizes, and needs/wants. If you are willing to provide gifts (at least 2) for a child, please let Annette Castleberry know the number of children for whom you will buy gifts **by November 11th**. She will obtain the printed information for each child from Human Services and deliver it to you.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

An important part of St. Paul's All Saints' Sunday (November 2nd) celebration will be the remembrance of those from our families, our parish, and our community who have died. Please call (793-2203) or email the office (stpaulsbatesville@att.net) to give us the names of those you would like remembered at the altar on All Saints' Sunday.

OCTOBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH

On October 26, following the 10:30 service, we will have a catered lunch in the Parish Hall. During this lunch, we will share our thanks for all of God's blessings with the Ingathering of 2009 pledge cards. Please plan to join us for the fellowship and bounty of food.
(Submitted by Jim Johnson & Gary Perkey)

Bishop's Visit/Confirmation

Last month I posed some serious questions concerning what may or may not occur during this fall season when we generally have confirmation. I have received the Bishop's reply to my query and would like to share the information with you.

Bishop Benfield's calendar for every Sunday until the end of the year is full. Thus, he does not have a visit to Batesville currently planned. In that we do not know when there will be a call to Batesville, the Bishop can't say definitely whether he will be visiting before a new rector comes on board. Bishop Benfield was last present in our parish Nov. 18, 2007. He still has a couple of congregations to which he has not made visits, so he is trying to get them in before the next convention.

Bishop Benfield suggested that I contact Beth Matthews in the Diocesan office and get a date set in early 2009. It is important to note that all this does not mean that the Bishop might not come to Batesville some evening. He said he would make himself available, particularly as things develop and we need to talk about the choice of a new rector.

As far as confirmands are concerned, the Bishop suggested that if we have anyone who REALLY wants to be confirmed soon for some specific reason, we ask a nearby priest if he or she is willing to include this person in a confirmation class, and then find a place nearby where Bishop Benfield will be confirming. If that is impossible, he gave me the authority to conduct a class myself if I felt I wanted to take on that responsibility. Me? Yeah right!

Personally, I can not envision any reason "our" youth who are old enough to be ready for confirmation (one of them is mine) would be willing to be confirmed anywhere else but their home church. I told the Bishop not to worry. The early spring is not too late for us. Who knows? We may be confirming the first batch by our new priest by then! Yes, I am an eternal optimist!!!! Instead of Paul, you can call me Pollyanna!!!!

(Submitted by Paul Hance)

October Clergy Schedule

October 5, 2008	We are hoping Rev. Anne Carriere can come back.
October 12, 2008	Morning Prayer
October 19, 2008	Rev. Vickie Smith-Gatlin
October 26, 2008	Rev. Dan McKee



**Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 2nd @ 2:00 am.
Remember to change the batteries in
home smoke detectors.**

DECORATE YOUR HOME CHRISTMAS GREENERY ORDER FORM

**ALL orders for greenery must be placed on this form
and be accompanied by a check in full payment.**

Description	Price per Item	Quantity	Total
Small Wreath-mixed evergreen (22")	\$20.00		
Small Wreath-noble fir (22")	\$20.00		
Large Wreath-noble fir only (28")	\$25.00		
Garland (10 ft)	\$20.00		

Total Owed \$

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

**Order forms should be brought to the parish office
NO LATER THAN November 2.**

Greenery will be received around December 1st-8th.

**Robin King will deliver to your home.
All proceeds will be used for outreach.**

ANGELS AMONG US

This segment is rapidly becoming my favorite piece to explore and create. I am in awe of the tasks that are accomplished by our parishioners and the strides taken to ensure that our spiritual well being is regularly fed.

With the latter thought in mind, I would first like to touch on an experience we behold every Sunday. A “religious” event performed by those truly befitting the title of angels, or as the Book of Common Prayer so aptly puts it – angels and archangels who sing our hymns to the glory of Jesus’ name.

St. Paul’s Choir has to be full of angels. Surely only angels could emit such sounds. Russell’s direction is top notch and the hours of practice spent working to make our worship experience better are evident. You can easily tell by observing the expressions on the faces of both veterans and newcomers alike, they all share a love for singing songs of praise and thanksgiving. When Russell decided to augment Morning Prayer by debuting what I believe is called the *Benenedictus es Domine* (S-236) in the place of the Gloria, well, it literally made the hair on the back of my neck stand up, it was so beautiful. It is by special acts like the one just cited and going the extra mile to make it all work, I have to salute and thank our choir. You angels are simply amazing.

Next I would like to dip into the choir loft and single out one of the members for being an angel in their own right. I know, you are thinking I had better be careful here. Don’t want to start something by singling someone out. But it is not because this individual has been helping us by singing the Psalm during our celebration of Holy Eucharist, or because he has done those funky chant versions of the Jubilate and such for Morning Prayer that I see him as an angel.

I would like to tout the angel skills of Kevin Jackson as illustrated by his diligence to duty as our parish secretary. We all know the void left when JoAnn and Mid retired. JoAnn was a whirlwind of energy that kept the ship sailing true to course. I am so happy Kevin realized his work load was going to increase exponentially and stepped up to the plate to meet the challenge. I have the dubious task of making sure everything gets done on schedule. In essence, the buck stops here! By the time I call in my reminders, I find that the tasks have already been done by Kevin. From preparing the regular mail outs, to filing wage and tax statements, to researching proper protocols, or dealing with all of us and our craziness, Kevin has bridged a very large gap. Because he has taken a lot of stress and worry off of my shoulders, Kevin Jackson is an angel in my book.

(Submitted by Paul Hance)



CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Mid & JoAnn on the birth of their newest grandson, Nelson Lane Ong. They will be making a trip to Key West soon to meet and welcome their newest grandchild.

UTO

Have you been using your blue UTO box? Ingathering will be in November. More details in the November newsletter.