

The Mars Hill Proclaimer - Fall 2008

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This issue is dedicated to St. Paul's as it both confronts its new conditions
and imagines the opportunity to begin again.

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Our Emerging Church

We are confronted with a new process to recreate ourselves. What will happen to us?

It is my hope and my faith that all of us will emerge renewed. Using the words of the lead article in the most recent Anglican Advance, we may perhaps be seen as an emergent church. Perhaps because of the turmoil in the church at large and at home, the notion of a new kind of church has emerged in our own time, while conflicting ideologies and current technologies have created, as the article says, a "life that is fluid, [its] anchors uncertain." For the emergent church, this cultural and institutional uncertainty has compelled certain key values to emerge. Out of the nine key values identified in the article, my eye was drawn to four in particular as relevant to St. Paul's in its current state. An emergent church, by choice or by necessity, [comes to] value participation by its members, who create their church, lead without control, and function together in spiritual activities. Is it possible to see St. Paul's in this condition? To be an emergent church?

These key values suggest for us at St. Paul's that we should not see ourselves as without leadership— we are not rudderless without a priest. We will, of course, participate in a search for a new priest, but I think we all would agree that the priest is not the church. As Christianity has long recognized, we -- you and I -- are the body of Christ, we are the Church. Our process, our emerging process, will perhaps require more engagement of us, now, but the process will be challenging and, I think, invigorating. A new St. Paul's will emerge. But it will require our energy and our commitment and our participation. What will sustain us and even give us strength during our emerging process is our Christian love for each other.

One of the hallmarks for identifying Christians in the 1st century CE, according to the historian Josephus, was how they love each other. I have experienced Christian *caritas* at St. Paul's very much through the years, through times good and bad for me and my family, through periods of drought in my faith and periods of renewal. With that commitment to each other, we should be ready to go down a new road, to start a new process: God is not finished with us yet.

Please see just below another way we may reinvent ourselves, identified in a report by Ellen Anderson. – Marilyn Cleland

The Magnetic Church

If you will recall, in a previous addition of the Proclaimer, I wrote about the conference Rhys Prall, Fr. Mark and I attended called the Magnetic Church, which focused on church growth. Since then we have invited a diverse group of St. Paul's members to be part of a committee to read the book "Welcome! Tools & Techniques for New Member Ministry", and begin discussion on strategies to welcome new members. We see this committee as a kind of "think tank" that will be spinning out ideas and strategies which will be picked up by task forces to implement. We are eager to get this committee together so they can start this important work. Look for upcoming news and phone calls asking if you can be part of a short-term task force to implement some of the ideas they generate.

--Ellen Anderson

Thank you for the Reverend Gwynne Wright. We welcomed a new priest, Mthr. Gwynne Wright, who will serve at St. Paul's throughout September and October. She is one of two priests available in the Diocese of Chicago who have been trained to serve as an interim rector. For the next month she will help us with our transition, and the Diocese will help us find a longer-term interim rector who will come to us in November. Rhys Prall asked her to tell us something about herself and here is her response:

Mthr. Gwynne Wright graduated from Seabury Western Theological Seminary and was ordained in 2004. She has served as the Assistant Rector at St. Simon's in Arlington Heights and the Priest-in-Charge at St. James in West Dundee. She is currently a doctoral candidate and spent some time this summer studying at Oxford, England.

Prior to seminary and ordination, Mthr. Gwynne held various management positions at Arthur Andersen and IBM. She holds an MBA as well as a Masters in Human Resource Management. Mthr. Gwynne has four stepchildren and six grandchildren who live in England. Her hobby includes showing champion Cairn Terriers.

Mthr. Wright also responded to a few specific questions:

What is the focus of your doctoral studies? Where are you studying?

My Doctor in Ministry will be in Anglican Spirituality from the Graduate Theological Foundations. I am able to do most of my studies in this program at Christ Church, Oxford University.

May we help you in any way?

Please keep me in your prayers... I'll let you know what help I need otherwise!

Are Cairn Terriers any easier to train than Yorkshire Terriers? Our Charlie was impossible!

They're quite independent. I think that's why we get along so well! I have successfully trained them for the showing and we have great fun. - [fyi: Charlie was the Cleland family dog.]

TRADITIONAL NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

As always at this time of year, we see needs and opportunities for participation. The following reports will show what various groups do and what their needs are now: needs are opportunities!

Maureen Gerrity Reports:

Sunday School Invite: All children and youth ages 4 through 18 are invited to join St. Paul's Sunday School Classes. Sue Ouellette will lead the Jr. High /High School Class. Jocelyn Prall (currently substituting for Cynthia Dorband) will lead the Middle School Class (grades 4, 5 & 6). Maureen Gerrity will lead the Preschool/Primary Class (age 4 through grade 3). All classes will continue to use the Episcopal Children's Curriculum. Classes meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 until 10:15 in the undercroft.

Youth Group News: Sue Ouellette and Maureen Gerrity have agreed to serve as youth group leaders this year. All youth grades 7 - 12 are invited to join. There will be a change of format this year. Instead of a separate meeting time, planning for youth group activities will be incorporated into the weekly junior high/high school Sunday School Class.

St. Paul's Fall Outreach Activities. St. Paul's is involved in a number of community service projects. Fall activities include:

- Hope Haven supper night: October 31st. Contact person - Maureen Gerrity
- Crop Walk: October 5 Contact person - Henry Leonard
- Salvation Army Thanksgiving meal baskets: Due @ Nov. 22nd.
Contact person - Maureen Gerrity
- Baking for Hospice: December Contact person - Sharon Downen
- Christmas Gifts for Safe Passage youth and young parents: December
Contact person - Janie Torma
- Food Pantry and Habitat for Humanity. There are two bins at the rear of the nave all year round. One is for non-perishable food donations to the Food Pantry. The other is for used ink jet cartridges for Habitat for Humanity. There is a specially marked receptacle in the kitchen to collect aluminum cans for Habitat for Humanity.

Adult Sunday School. Adult Sunday School has scheduled speakers for the first six weeks or so of the new season. These speakers are representatives of the groups supported, in part, by funds from St. Paul's. The group meets on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15 in the conference room.

Adult Forum. This is a new way, if you like, for us to think about Adult Sunday School. If we are to have any ongoing discussions about our experience of the faith at St. Paul's, then we – you and I – have to do it. At this new church year, we should think about these questions:

- Do you want to meet together to talk about the faith in some way?
- What do you want to do? Do you want to read a book? Respond to the Sunday readings? Respond to the sermons? Identify a theme or question and then read up on it in preparation for a discussion? Rotate among a variety of strategies?

What say you? Marilyn Cleland

Episcopal Church Women have a monthly luncheon, open to all women of the parish. We meet in a restaurant or a member's home on the third Saturday of the month, usually at 12:30. Our next luncheon will be on October 18. The coordinator is Sharon Downen and the group will meet at Baker's Square. A sign up sheet will be on the big table very soon.

Men's Breakfast Meeting: On the third Saturday of each month the men of St. Paul's are welcome to join an informal gathering over breakfast at Lincoln Inn in DeKalb at 8 a.m. The next meeting will be on October 18. No sign up is required.

The Music Program : Our choir sang for the first time this fall on September 7. On Kick-Off Sunday they offered two anthems and were joined by Michael Duffy playing the trumpet, as well as Kathleen Johnson our substitute organist and our pianist, Andreea Zaharia. Michael's contribution was glorious, and we look forward to his music at various times throughout the year. We are happy to have Kathleen and Andreea with us this fall. Our choir rehearses each Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Anyone twelve years of age or older is welcome to sing with us! Contact the Director of Music, Lorraine Langer for more information. You can phone Lorraine at 847 328 4104 or email her at lorrainelanger@comcast.net.

Vestry Meeting Notes

- Peggy Newby is the Grounds Chair and Bob Prouty is the Building Chair. If you notice problems with our physical plant, please let one of them know.
- Sue Ouellette agreed to work on nursery improvements.
- The vestry approved the expenditure of funds to install an intercom so the church can remain locked all day. The intercom had been installed and provides security to Anna Dee Lastick, our parish administrator and others in the church.
- Each month we review the budget and so far this year our expenditures and income are in line with the 2008 approved budget.
- The vestry is assembling a nominating committee to identify new vestry members, 2009 Diocesan Convention representatives and a new treasurer to be approved at the January 2009 Annual Meeting
- The vestry has spent a considerable amount of time developing new guidelines and procedures for the discretionary fund. The new procedures include completing an application for emergency assistance and providing a copy of the bill or lease the applicant needs help with. This information is given to one of the wardens for approval. If approved the treasurer writes a check out to a specific vendor, such as NICOR, ComEd, a landlord, etc., instead of giving money directly to individuals. We also have the option of offering Wal-mart or gas station gift card. A copy of the application is on the

bulletin board. Individuals may apply for assistance not oftener than every 90 days. We are making every effort to keep petitioners' information confidential while providing adequate checks and balances.

- The vestry met with The Reverend Canon Scott Hayashi, Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Chicago on September 7th to discuss the search process. If you are interested in how this works in the Episcopal Church, details can be found on the Diocesan webpage, (epischicago.org) under Clergy Resources, select Deployment.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

The Search Committee. Canon Hyashi presided at both services on Sunday, September 7 and addressed the congregation about starting our search for a new rector. This is both a challenge and an opportunity. I urge each of us to think about serving in some capacity in the search. While the committee itself will be only a small group from among our larger body, we all can think and imagine and pray for our church.

May I be so bold as to suggest that it is precisely because of the challenges that we need to be aware of the events and ideas and processes going on in the faith outside of our church. We need to be informed. For that purpose, we should be reading about our church at the diocesan, national, and international levels, in part so that we can ask intelligent questions of those applying as priests at St. Paul's. Which point brings us, again, to the need for reporters for the church, those willing to read articles about the church in various forums and report on what they read.

I am not asking for long articles; a short paragraph suffices. You choose the focus. Those who would take on "a beat" would be serving all of us at St. Paul's. Please think about it. If more than one person volunteers for a beat, I'll inform all and perhaps you can take turns or you can collaborate. Waal, whaddaya think? (I hope you're hearing John Wayne in that.) Marilyn Cleland

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The Duffy Family. Most of you know the Duffys – Kristin, Michael, and young Nora. They are not new to St. Paul's, but they are among the newer members. They moved to DeKalb from Chicago, where they were members of the Church of the Atonement (as Michael said recently, they have been Episcopalians for some time) and went to St. Peter's, Sycamore, before coming to us. Kristin is the Director of Sponsored Projects of the Graduate School at Northern Illinois University, and Michael is the Music Librarian and Director of Branch Libraries at NIU; Nora, who will be three in November, is a full-time member of a pre-school community. Michael & Kristin share a love of music; Michael plays the trumpet and Kristin plays the oboe.

We have appreciated their gifts to us: Michael's eloquent trumpet performances and accompaniments, most recently on September 14, the solemn presence of Michael and Kristin at the altar: their sweet daughter, who gently receives the priest's blessings. How happy we are to witness their quiet confidence in our church. Michael and Kristin both told me they were happy at St. Paul's, enjoying the welcome and, as Michael observed, the "sense of stability" the church offers. Michael spoke especially about the long tenures of priests here.

Recently, Kristin underwent surgery for cancer. We offer our prayers for her recovery, and we gladly offer the family our assistance. And we hope there is a possibility that she may one day contribute to the music program with her oboe.

Say Hello to Michael Ouellette. All of you who attend the later service have seen Michael Ouellette as he serves as acolyte and crucifer during the processions and at the altar. Michael, 14, is, at the moment, the only person under the age of 40 who serves at the altar. As another acolyte and occasional crucifer, I have received his kind, generous and accurate instructions for the service we offer at the altar. He has enthusiastically helped me; I always feel more confident when he is there.

Michael is entered high school this year. As I said in our Mid-summer issue, the young people of our church need to be able to count on our support and our friendship. And we welcome and indeed need their lively presence among us. Let us be sure to thank Michael for his service to St. Paul's. – Marilyn Cleland

NEWS FROM ST. PAUL'S

As many of you know, Norma Fitzgerald was hospitalized for a broken hip and then had a mild stroke. She now undergoes rehabilitation at the DeKalb County Nursing Home. Visits from us at St. Paul's are important to her; we have both said how important our church family is to us. Let us not only pray for her but, when we can, be with her. –Marilyn Cleland

CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, October 5. The CROP Hunger Walk of North DeKalb County is dedicated to the memory of Sondra King, a tireless worker for relief of hunger and for adequate nutrition throughout the world. St. Paul's has participated in CROP Walk for many years. The routes to be followed will be the same as last year, starting at First United Methodist Church at 321 Oak Street, DeKalb. There is a choice of the 4 mile walk or the Golden Mile. Walkers raising over \$100 will receive a free T-shirt (sizes and supply are limited).

Twenty-five percent of the funds raised will be divided among Meals on Wheels, the DeKalb Food Pantry, the Sycamore Food Pantry, Hope Haven, and Safe Passage to combat hunger in our area. 75% of the funds will be used by Church World Service (CWS) and other international agencies for disaster relief and self-help development projects throughout the world.

Midwest Flood Response! Spring storms ravaged the Midwest creating flood devastation not seen in the region since 1993. CROP Hunger Walk funds help to provide long-term support in the form of training and grants for recovery groups, special projects and material resources. Church World Service focused recovery efforts on the hardest-hit states including Illinois and Missouri.

Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information! Recruiters for St. Paul's are Henry and Eva Leonard. Ask either for an envelope so you can begin collecting funds! Ask us how to Walk on the Web (WOW)!—Henry Leonard

The 2007 Audit of St. Paul's Church

Sharon Downen conducted an extensive audit of the St. Paul's financial position for the 2007 church year. In addition to the church's activities and cash flow, she also reviewed the Rector's Discretionary Fund and the ECW cash flow, which were not done in the 2006 audit. The audit report is available to parishioners for review. Vestry encourages parishioners to review this document, which will be available for review in the conference room during normal business hours and on Sundays. No copies can be made due the nature of the document. Please direct any questions to Rhys Prall, Sr. Warden or Ellen Anderson, Junior Warden

The Vestry has reviewed the document and has all ready implemented some of the recommendations made and will continue to make the necessary changes so we are compliant with the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and principles adopted by the Episcopal Church. Sharon did an incredible job so be sure to thank her! --Ellen Anderson

St. Paul's Connection to the University Community

St. Paul's and the UCM sponsored a very successful kick-off picnic on Sunday August 24. It was wonderful to be able to use some of our expansive front yard to host this event which was attended by about 10 members of St. Paul's, about 20 students and Lutheran Campus Ministry staff. We had great food, played games and had time to talk with the returning students. Included in the event was a short presentation by several members of the October 5 Crop Walk Coordinating Committee. There are a few photos on the bulletin board. We hope this is just the beginning of our collaboration with UCM. Many thanks to organizers Peggy Newby and Dawn Jones.

September 14 --Kick-Off Sunday Report

The St. Paul's Annual Kick-Off celebration was held on Sunday September 14. This day marked the start of our new program year, with Christian Education for all ages at 9:30 and a picnic following the 10:30 service. Our dedicated grillmeisters – Rhys Prall, David Anderson, assisted by Dick Downen, did not let the rain stop them from cooking the hamburgers and hotdogs. Thanks to everyone who provided delicious side dishes. The meal was topped off by Ollie's frozen custard...yum!!!

Nursery Fix-Up Thanks to Sue Ouellette for her work on improvements to the nursery. We now have some new toys and a shelf with bins so toys can be separated by age appropriateness. Soon we will be installing a diaper changing station like in the restrooms.

The ECW Church "Basement Ladies" Outing

Thirteen lucky individuals had a fun filled Saturday attending this play on September 13. Bill Cummings, Peggy Russell and Rita Anderson graciously agreed to drive and then had to maneuver around many streets flooded by the Des Plaines River to get to the theater. We had a delicious lunch at the Cheesecake Factory before the performance – but had to hurry so no cheese cake! Many thanks to our skillful drivers!

NOTES AND RESPONSES: I hope that our next issue (see below) will prompt some interested reader to write in response to an interesting article, sermon, book, online program, etc, perhaps in connection to the season of Advent. (Please see below.)

NEXT ISSUE ! The next issue will be out in November in connection with Advent, a season of waiting, quiet anticipation, and wonder.

Transitions

Birthdays in September and October

Bill Cummings Sept. 7	Elizabeth George Sept. 24
Margaret Russell Sept.7	Pat Brown Sept. 25
Jo Abbott Sept. 8	Peggy Newby Sept 26
Brenda Leonard Sept. 15	Jamie Stubblefield Sept 27
Robert Russell Sept.15	Jennie Cummings Sept 29
Kristin Duffy Sept.17	Dick Downen Oct. 3
Vince McMahon Sept 28	Henry Leonard Oct.12
Lorraine Langer Sept.18	Rhys Prall Oct. 21
David Anderson Sept. 19	Audrey Brown Oct. 26

Marriage Anniversaries in September and October

Cummings, Bill & Jennie	Sept. 4	2004
Leonard, Henry & Eva	Sept. 4	1954
McAlister, Donald & Regina	Sept. 5	1964
Beard, Richard Dorathea	Sept. 6	1952
Stubblefield, Jamie & Julie	Sept. 11	2004
Prouty, Bob & Lana	Sept. 16	
Anderson, David & Ellen	Oct. 21	1978

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