

THE MARS HILL PROCLAIMER

A newsletter by, for and about the people of St. Paul's Church

**Lent & Easter
March 1, 2011**

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

900 Normal Road, DeKalb, IL 60115

Phone: 815 756 4888

General Email: parishoffice@stpaulsdekab.org

Website: www.stpaulsdekab.org

The Reverend Stacy Walker-Frontjes

Rector's Email: revstacy@stpaulsdekab.org

The Rector's Pages

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have a confession to make: I actually *like* Lent.

I think my affection for the season of Lent began when I was a young adult at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Milwaukie, Oregon. After spending most of my university years not going to church, I joined my new church with an enthusiasm to experience God and the Church in ways I never had as a child. I took seriously the invitation to observe a holy Lent as outlined in the Ash Wednesday service in the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 264-265). I think I even *fasted*, because I remember relishing a dinner at a local café that evening topped off with a strawberry shortcake dessert! I took advantage of every service and fellowship event offered during Lent. I chanted with the congregation in amazement each Sunday as the priest led us in the Great Litany. I thoroughly examined my soul and eagerly sought the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life. I was not disappointed. Through my whole hearted searching for God through the sacraments and the liturgies, I found God in the journey shared with my fellow pilgrims—

people I had never imagined a year before would be my friends turned out to be dear friends for years to come.

That first mystical Lenten experience happened thirteen years ago, and believe it or not at the time I had no idea that I would be standing before all of you on March 9th (Ash Wednesday) this year inviting us to observe a holy Lent together. And yet, here we are! *Liturgy* literally translated is the “work of the people.” Through our work together to worship God we experience God’s presence and abiding love. The great cycle of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter offers some of our most embodied “works of the people” that we have in the Episcopal Church. When we remember Jesus entering the desert for forty days after his baptism by John, we are actually entering into forty days of prayer with him (Lent is 40 days long). When we remember his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we wave palms and walk with Jesus to the Temple (aka: walking from the parish hall to the Nave!). On Maundy Thursday we live out the great commandment to love one another by washing each other’s feet as Jesus did for his friends. On Good Friday we sit vigil with the disciples at the cross. We weep with them at His death. The next evening we rejoice at the promise of salvation God has always extended to us throughout our sacred story and our baptism into the death and resurrection at the celebration of the Easter Vigil. Easter morning we will rejoice at the empty tomb, and give thanks for the appearance of the resurrected Christ.

We will also be blessed to hear a variety of voices in the pulpit at St. Paul’s as we enter Lent and journey onward toward Easter. February 27th, The Rev. Shelley Forrester, associate rector at St. Andrew’s, Downers Grove will be our guest preacher. The Rev. Rich Frontjes will preach on March 6th when the Episcopal Church celebrates World Mission Sunday. While I am on vacation the first Sunday of Lent, Fr. John Crist, retired priest in our diocese will preach and teach on God in the Environment. April 3rd Fr. Jim Steen, retired rector of St. Paul and the Redeemer, Hyde Park and current Bishop’s Deputy for Administration, will join us as our guest preacher. And on Saturday, April 16th, our Celebration of a New Ministry, Bishop Jeffrey Lee will be preaching—you will not want to miss this as our bishop is a particularly inspiring preacher and teacher!

We will end Lent and celebrate the eve of Holy Week with a Celebration of a New Ministry on Saturday, April 16 at noon. Bishop Lee will preside at the liturgy as we give thanks for the new ministry that is happening at St. Paul’s since you called me to be your rector. This service is often popularly referred to as the “installation of the rector.” But truly this is a celebration of what God is doing among all of us, not just me! You are not merely invited to attend, your presence is *necessary* as the honored guests. We will be hosting several guests from other congregations in our community and diocese who also share in our joy of renewed ministry and mission at St. Paul’s. Don’t miss it!

You will all be in my prayers as we enter into this most holy time of year with God while contemplating the great mystery of Easter and the resurrection. As your fellow pilgrim, my door is always open for listening, conversation and encouragement as you seek to draw near to God. Stop by and let me know how your journey is going!

In Christ,
Rev. Stacy+

Questions regarding Baptism, Confirmation, or other rites of passage? Please contact Rev. Stacy for further conversation. *The traditional dates for baptism* are: Baptism of our Lord (January 9th, 2011), Easter Vigil (Saturday, April 23rd, 2011), Pentecost (June 12, 2011), and All Saints Sunday (November 6th, 2011). However other dates for a celebration of Holy Baptism can be arranged.

As you may know, Bishop Lee will be at St. Paul's Church on June 29 when we celebrate the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul with the congregation of St. Peter's Church. If you have been thinking about the rites of confirmation or reception, this would be your next opportunity, and you should discuss the matter with Rev. Stacy as soon as possible.

Other events happening in your life that our Book of Common Prayer doesn't seem to address? Please don't hesitate to call Rev. Stacy for an appointment. Office: 815-756-4888, revstacy@stpaulsdekalb.org



Imagining Spring....On March 6th after the 1030 a.m. service there will be a meeting in the parish hall for anyone interested in imagining a community garden at St. Paul's. Contact Rev. Stacy for more information.



Mark your calendars....Save the Date.....

Lobster Boil 2011 is May 21 and we need everyone's help! See Ellen Anderson or Pat Brown with questions.



St. Paul's at the Art Institute of Chicago

Saturday March 26, 2011

Several people have suggested it would be fun to spend some time at the Art Institute now that I am officially a Docent. My training is geared toward K-12 so if you can act like a 5th grader we'll have lots of fun! I think a couple hours looking around, talking about your favorite art objects and mine, and having lunch will be a fine way to spend a Saturday!

We have a couple of transportation options – we could drive and share parking expenses or take the train. There is a sign up sheet in the usual place! Call me if you have questions. Ellen Anderson

The Episcopal Church Women's Luncheon

is scheduled for March 19 at 12:30 in the Parish Hall. Marilyn Cleland is coordinating this gathering which is a brownbag lunch and discussion. Watch for more details.

New Outreach and Mission Committee Requests Information and Participation.

Although St. Paul's does organize Outreach projects, we do not have an organized, directional committee to discuss and plan Outreach Projects presented to the church.

The new Outreach Committee requests volunteers for an exchange of ideas. We would like to meet 2-3 times per year to reflect on projects that our church may *be called* upon to

embrace. Information & ideas could be shared per email between meetings to reduce the time needed to meet in person. The first meeting will be in March between the two services at 9:15/9:30 in the Parish Hall. Due to Jennie's work schedule a date cannot be set yet. Please contact Jennie if you would like to be kept up-to-date. The hope is to adopt some hands-on projects this year.

To clarify, St. Paul's does have numerous separate projects that are *Outreach in nature* but they are not all connected in one committee. Here is a list: Salvation Army food pantry collection and Thanksgiving Basket Drive, Safe Passage Christmas Gift Project; Bowl for Kids' Sake; the Hope Haven Necessities Drive Spring/Fall; Habitat for Humanity Aluminum Can Drive and Ink Cartridge Collections; the 5th Sunday Hospice B.U.N.S. (Baking up Nice Surprises); CROP Walk (Hunger); and the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Lobster Boil, which donates money to a long list of charitable organizations in our area. We have done Meals on Wheels and various other projects over our long history. Please contact Jennie Cummings if you would be willing to serve on the new Outreach and Mission Committee. MarshallJenniel@aol.com, 815.758.6873 Jennie/home.

Music Program Notes

The Music Program [St. Paul's Adult/Youth and Impromptu Children's Choirs, and Instrumentalists] **at St. Paul's has many gifted people!** We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and talented volunteers in the music program that continues to grow musically & spiritually. A special thank you, to all the musicians that share their time, talent and spirit with enhancing our worship services.

St. Paul's **Impromptu Children's Choir** will be singing for Easter [04-24] and Recognition [05-15] Sundays. "Impromptu" is the operative word. Because of the varied ages [2-13] of our children, and our busy work and family schedules, we are creatively looking for ways to develop this children's choir. Beginning Sunday, March 3rd, we will have 10-15 minute children's choir rehearsals at 11:30 A.M. in the sanctuary, after the 10:30 A.M. service. Additionally, we are preparing a CD & copies of music for the children to keep, so that they may work on the music at home with their parents.

St. Paul's parishioners reaching out to create music in the community: Check for concerts in the community on our church website. We often have several links to music organizations websites that are giving concerts. One of these is the Northern Illinois University music departments live webcast page. You can watch selected concerts on your computer, in the comfort of your home. Watch for our link to the DeKalb Festival Chorus as **Rick and Freyja Johns** are members, and will be performing in two concerts this spring. *Beethoven's 9th*, with the NIU Concert Choir and Philharmonic on Wednesday, April 27, 8 P.M., and then *Animato!* Saturday, May 14, 7 P.M.

Music for the end of winter & beginning of spring at St. Paul's: In addition to our work for the remainder of Epiphany, The St. Paul's Adult/Youth and Impromptu Children's Choirs, and Instrumentalists, are currently preparing for Lent, The Celebration of A New Ministry, Holy Week, Easter, and Recognition Sunday services.

Thank you for your support with the music program.

Lorraine Langer, Director of Music

TRANSITIONS

In memoriam

Roger Lewis Larson
November 1, 1932 - Feb. 23, 2011

March Birthdays

6 Norma Fitzgerald
6 Jimmy Russell
8 Emily Russell
9 Jane Nenonen
10 Danny Russell
10 George Anderson
11 Julie Stubblefield
15 Miles Guiborat

Marriage Anniversaries

3/17/62 George & Rita Anderson

23 Stephen Roberts
24 Jim Torma
27 Jackie Dickow
27 Mary Lincoln
28 Gail Piper

April Birthdays

2 Maggie Russell
4 Jeffrey Roberts
17 Rick Johns
17 Torrie Newport
18 Alan Leonard
22 Scott Newport
23 Doug Roberts
26 Rochelle Cripe

May Birthdays

8 Anna Dee Lastick
9 Glen Ouellette
11 Terry Dickow
12 Nan Mason
13 Max Guiborat
13 Morgan Newport
20 Marguerite Harkness
21 Janie Torma
25 Bev Smith
27 John Krusbe

Brief news items.....

Roger Larson passed away on Wednesday morning, February 23. Visitation and service were at Anderson Funeral Home on Friday and Saturday. No memorial information is available right now.

Our midweek celebration of the Holy Eucharist is on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. During the winter months we are meeting in the parish hall. This service is quiet, contemplative, and includes a liturgy of healing.

Ash Wednesday is Nigh. On March 9 St. Paul's will offer services at 8 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper Following the 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday service we will have a soup supper in the parish hall. There is a sign-up sheet on the table if you want to contribute to the supper. Freyja Rasmussen-Johns is coordinating this year.

Please wear your name tags and also remember to leave them at church! They can be placed in the basket on the table in the parish hall following each service.

Recycling In the kitchen there is a tall container clearly marked for recycling. Please use it only for things that we can recycle! The list is on the bulletin board.

Sunday, March 6: There's a lot happening!

1) It's World Mission Sunday as well as the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. The Reverend Rich Frontjes will preach.

- 2) After each service, there will be a collection for Episcopal Relief and Development in the parish hall.
- 3) Since it's the first Sunday of the month, we have a second collection at each service for the Discretionary Fund.
- 4) Bowl for Kids' Sake!



Bowl-for-Kid's-Sake Team St. Paul will bowl at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 6, at Mardi Gras Lanes. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Parish Hall, as well as pledge envelopes, for anyone interested in bowling. The proceeds for this event benefit the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program of the Family Service Agency. You don't have to be a "pro" to bowl, and the bowling game and shoes are free! Join us for an hour of fun for a good cause!! Last year, Team St. Paul raised \$350 for the BB/BS program.



Did you know....The Church of St. Paul is on Facebook? Join our page & get the latest updates on what's going on!

The next issue of the Mars Hill Proclaimer will be our summer issue covering June, July and August. As you may recall, we have gone to a quarterly publication schedule. This saves money on paper, postage and labor. We have faster, easier ways to keep you in the loop... if you read the bulletin announcements, our Facebook page and the parish website, you won't miss much! Please plan to submit any articles or notices by May 15 for the June 1 issue.

Recognition Sunday, May 15 will end our Christian Education program year for children and youth. We always include as many of our younger members as possible in the 10:30 service on this day. It might seem kind of early to be planning for this, but it will sneak up on us if we aren't careful!

One of the nicest things about Recognition Sunday is that the kids bake the Communion Bread the Sunday before. This year that will be May 8. We'd like to include parents this year. The time will be 9:30 a.m.



Rev. Stacy will lead a discussion about the Sacrament of Holy Communion as we prepare the dough and bake it. Details to follow.

New this year at Easter:

On Easter Day, April 24 we will have a Children's Chapel Service at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall during the Liturgy of the Word portion of the service in the sanctuary. Details to follow.

Not new this year at Easter:

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:30 service on Easter Day, April 24.

Adult Education News:

The Sunday Morning Class: We are discussing *Horizons of Mission*, by Titus Presler. We meet in the conference room 9:30 – 10:15 on Sunday mornings. All are welcome. The Reverend Rich Frontjes will be the primary teacher for this class.

Sundays March 13 – April 10 we will be reading *Christ on Trial: How the Gospel Unsettles Our Judgment*, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, Published by William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. ISBN 978-0802824967. The Rev. Stacy Walker-Frontjes will be the primary teacher for these sessions.





Soup for the Soul On Wednesday evenings we offer family-friendly supper and class sessions, beginning at 5:45. *Child care is provided!* We gather for a potluck supper in the parish hall and then have class until about 7:15. Our topics are drawn from a DVD curriculum entitled, *Embracing An Adult Faith: What It Means to Be A Christian*, by Marcus Borg. That means you don't have to buy a book! Everyone is welcome to attend. Sign-up sheets are in the parish hall.

On March 9, Ash Wednesday, we won't have *SOUP FOR THE SOUL*; instead we have our 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday service, followed by a soup supper in the parish hall. *SOUP FOR THE SOUL* will resume on Wednesday, March 16.



Telecommunications for St. Paul's Church are provided by DNA Communications in Rochelle, IL.


 Important Stuff to Remember
 

- ◆ Sunday, March 6: World Mission Sunday & Last Sunday after Epiphany. The Reverend Rich Frontjes will preach.
 - Discretionary Fund collection during both services;
 - Episcopal Relief & Development collection in the parish hall after each service.
- ◆ March 9: Ash Wednesday. Services at 8 A.M. and 6 P.M. A soup supper will follow the evening service.
- ◆ Sunday, March 13: -Rev. Stacy on vacation. Supply clergy: The Reverend John Crist.
 - Daylight Savings Time begins. (Spring ahead, etc.)
 - Food Pantry Sunday.
 - Vestry Meeting 11:45 A.M.
- ◆ Sunday, March 27: Chili Cookoff, 12 p.m. Details TBA.
- ◆ Sunday, April 3: Guest preacher: The Reverend Jim Steen, Bishop's Deputy for Administration
- ◆ Saturday, April 16: Celebration of a New Ministry, 12 P.M.
- ◆ April 17: Palm Sunday. Two services, 8 & 10:30
- ◆ April 21: Maundy Thursday; service at 7 P.M.
 - Vigil at the Altar of Repose 8 p.m. – Midnight.
- ◆ April 22: Good Friday; services at Noon & 7 P.M.
- ◆ Saturday evening, April 23: Easter Vigil service, 7 P.M.
- ◆ Sunday, April 24: Easter Day. Two services, 8 & 10:30 A.M.
- ◆ Sunday, May 1: Low Sunday Brunch btw. services, 9:30 – 10:15.
- ◆ Sunday, May 15: Recognition Sunday.
- ◆ Saturday, May 21: Lobster Boil 🦞
- ◆ Thursday, June 2: Ascension Day. Service at 6 p.m.
- ◆ Sunday, June 12: The Day of Pentecost (Whitsunday)
- ◆ Sunday, June 19: Trinity Sunday
- ◆ Wednesday, June 29: Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul. Evening service at St. Paul's with St. Peter's congregation. Bishop Lee will preside at the Holy Eucharist. Supper to follow.
- ◆ Sunday, July 10: Parish Picnic. One service at 10 A.M. Details to follow.

Lectionary for Sundays in March, April and May 2011

{You can find the texts of the collects and lessons at:
<http://www.io.com/~kellywp/>

<u>March 6</u> Exodus 24:12-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9 Psalm 2	<u>March 13</u> Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11 Psalm 32	<u>March 20</u> Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 Psalm 121

<u>March 27</u> Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42 Psalm 95	<u>April 3</u> 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41 Psalm 23	<u>April 10</u> Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45 Psalm 130
<u>April 17</u> Matthew 21:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 The Liturgy of the Word: Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66	<u>April 24</u> Acts 10:34-43 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-18 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	<u>May 1</u> Acts 2:14a,22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31 Psalm 16
<u>May 8</u> Acts 2:14a,36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35 Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17	<u>May 15</u> Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10 Psalm 23	<u>May 22</u> Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14
<u>May 29</u> Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:7-18 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21		