



The Mars Hill

PROCLAIMER

It's the Lobster Boil! May 17, 2008

Spring-Early Summer 2008

EVA LEONARD, EDITOR EMERITA
by Marilyn Cleland

Eva Leonard is my friend. In that I am blessed. I know I am not alone in claiming this. But I want to acknowledge it. When I came to St. Paul's, many years ago now, it was Eva who welcomed me right away, as she continues always to acknowledge and greet newcomers – strangers – to our midst.

Eva's interest is always genuine. I think that she really wants to know who you are and what you have to say. There seems to be nothing generic or formulaic about her. Her interest is part of her authentic interest in others and her wide interest in current events, in history, in culture, in our faith. She has kept the library for St. Paul's, and in talking to her about the occasional article I read in *Christianity Today* or in the *Anglican Advance* or in some other magazine on the library table outside of our gathering room, I find that quite often – indeed, usually – Eva has read it. Moreover, she has a response to the article. She can place it within the context of religious history or comparative religion. But just as importantly, she wants to know what I think about it. What my thoughts are. She is an informed, an enlightened person who greets us, who goes out of her way to engage us, to get to know us.

And Eva has persisted with me. But it was not only her informed intelligence that spoke to me. What I found and continue to find in her is her faithfulness, which in her case has two meanings: her faithfulness to me and her fullness of faith. Eva's faith shines through her, often spoken softly as an afterthought or a timely insight. I remember her once adding to something I said that Christ is "about forgiveness, isn't He." Or something like that. Said quietly, said quickly. But presumed. That is not the only thing one can say about Christ, but within the context of our conversation, it was exactly right. Her observation was the right thing spoken at the right moment. It had *kairos*. And conviction. It is one of her great gifts that Eva can speak of our faith with conviction and knowledge and timeliness but without bombast, without ego, without pride of faith.

It is her conviction and her values and her faith that have caused her to contribute so much to St. Paul's. For so many years, she was a Sunday School teacher; for 25 years she has been the editor for our newsletter; as far as I know, she continues as our librarian. Through Sunday School, she reached out to our children and remembers them, asking often about their lives today. My children remember her vividly and fondly. Through the Mars Hill, she has kept us informed about our church and the larger church. As librarian, she has not only displayed materials relevant to our lives as Christians and Episcopalians (there isn't a difference, is there?). Through the years I have looked through the materials and found something relevant to my faith journey.

Eva, then, is an ambassador of the Episcopal Church. (One we could all learn from as we work to gather new members.) She is one of those increasingly rare people in the Episcopal Church born into it and raised in its traditions and culture; yet, at the same time, she has no vanity about that fact (which some do, but not here at St. Paul's of course!). One may say, as a matter of fact, that the current Episcopal Church is a church of converts. And, speaking as one of those converts, I have to say that part of my conversion to the Episcopal Church and especially to St. Paul's is due to the evangelism – yes, if you will – of Eva Leonard, whose faithfulness shines through her beautiful smile. For her friendship, for her outreach to me and to our community, I give thanks.



NEWS from ST. PAUL'S

Lobster Boil 2008, May 17

We are in the final weeks before our annual fundraiser. This event not only results in raising money for many local charities and St. Paul's programs but also is a wonderful community building event for our parish family.

How it works for those who are new:

A truck loaded with approximately 2000 live lobsters arrives at St. Paul's late afternoon and the activities begin about 4:00 P.M., when those ordering live lobsters pick up their fresh crustaceans. The boilers are cranked up and the cooking begins for the 5, 6 and 7:00 P.M. orders. The cooks pay close attention to the timing and when the lobster are cooked perfectly they bring them in containers to the tent. The staff in the tent work feverishly putting the lobsters in bags and then boxes which are carried into the garage. In the garage the orders are filled, according to names and number of lobsters ordered, which have been written on paper grocery bags. (The bag labeling process is done on Friday night by a dedicated crew!) As cars line up in the driveway, our runners pick up customer tickets from the waiting cars, run to the garage, pick up the order for that customer and run back to the car with the delicious lobsters and the car drives away – another happy customer!

In between each boil, there is time to munch on snacks and beverages and talk with fellow workers. Snacks include fruit, vegetable, cookies, sandwiches, etc. Beverages provided include, water, soft drinks and beer.

Following the boil, all the equipment needs to be moved from the rectory to the church and ***everyone needs to help with this process!*** (Many hands make light work – is the theme of this day!)

Many of us stay at the church and have a wonderful lobster dinner together. For those who would prefer to eat something else – there will be a grill going! Salad and desserts are provided.

NEW THIS YEAR:

- We discovered it is cheaper to have our printer label and mail the order forms so we didn't have to do that – yay!!
- We have set up a process to order lobster on-line using credit cards through Google Merchant. This has been request for years and we are excited about this new payment option.
- We will be staffing a table outside Schnuck's on Saturday, May 3 to take orders and distribute information.

On the Lobster Table in the Parish Hall:

- Sign up sheets for the various functions listed above – we need your help!! Workers are needed from 4 - 7:30. (If you can only work part of that time – we appreciate any time you can contribute.) Following the boil, all the equipment needs to be moved from the rectory to the church and ***everyone needs to help with this process!***
- Posters and order forms for distribution. Please pick up posters and sign up to post them to designated locations if you have not already.
- If distributing order forms to various locations – if possible write the location on the order form somewhere so we can see which locations are most effective.

- Take a stack of order forms and pass them out to whoever you come in contact with or leave a pile in places you think they might be picked up. Feel free to take people's orders and checks and put them in the Lobster Order box by the mail boxes.



If you have a tee-shirt, start wearing it - you can be a walking advertisement! Be sure to have order forms with you!

We want to make this

overwhelming success and we need everyone's help. If you are going to be out of town on May 17 please help with the promotion and publicity. Questions or suggestions? Please contact **Ellen Anderson** at 758-0934 or Pat Brown, 758-5210.

Youth Recognition Sunday is May 11th

The program year is quickly coming to a close. Sunday School classes end May 11th, and our students will take an active roll in the liturgical service at 10:30 p.m. A special coffee hour will be held after the service in honor of our young people. Everyone is invited to join us for this happy occasion!

Youth Group Report

Members of St. Paul's Youth Group participated in Bowl-for-Kids' Sake and baked cookies for Hospice in March. We met in April for a popcorn and movie night, and hope to make a trip to St. James Cathedral to see the Keiskamma Altarpiece exhibit. The meeting that was scheduled for May 11th has been cancelled as that is Mother's Day!

Outreach

2008 Bowl-For-Kids' Sake Report

Team St. Paul raised \$507 for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program! Gail Sitzes was the top money raiser at \$155. Bob Lastick had the best score at 151 - we had a bum lane!! Jennifer Sitzes had the best score of the ladies at 109, and Maggie Russell bowled 101! Gail Sitzes and Maureen Gerrity were "also rans". Our faithful cheerleader Norma Fitzgerald kept our spirits up throughout. Thank you to all the bowlers, sponsors and well-wishers for your splendid support of this worthy cause. Maureen Gerrity

Hope Haven Supper Night, May 30th

St. Paul's is scheduled to provide the meal for the homeless shelter on **Friday, May 30th, at 6:45 p.m.** There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in helping with this service project. Typically, we serve 35 - 45 homeless adults. There are two or three "slots" on the sign-up sheet for each course of the meal, with each person preparing enough to serve 15-18 people. Please feel free to contact me at 815-748-1718 for more information. Thank you for your support! **Maureen Gerrity**

BISHOP'S VISIT: JUNE 1, 2008

The Rev. Jeffrey Lee, Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago