

Magazine of
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Monroe, North Carolina

A Potpourri

April - May 2009



Church Office Hours

8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.,
Monday - Friday

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Diocese of North Carolina

The Rev. Gary Steber,
Interim Rector

The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry,
Bishop

The Rt. Rev. William O. Gregg,
Assistant Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Alfred C. Marble, Jr.,
Assisting Bishop

The Vestry

Henry Jenkins, Sr. Warden

Gary Noles, Jr. Warden

Lisa Hilbish, Clerk

Jim Becker

Ronnie Cutler

Kyle Dunn

Jan Lochary

Scott Rushing

Tara Steffen

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Sarah Palmer, Bookkeeper

Jim Becker, Webmaster

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Parish Secretary

Kristin Barclay

A Potpourri

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Please mail or e-mail any news or articles for A Potpourri to Charlotte as indicated above no later than the 15th of each month to appear in the following month's magazine. Articles may be edited for clarity and length.

Sunday Schedule of Services

8:00 a.m. (Spoken Service)

Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

10:30 a.m. (Choral Service)

1st Sunday, Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

2nd Sunday, Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

3rd Sunday, Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

4th Sunday, Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

5th Sunday, Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

Weekday Service

5:30 p.m. Every Tuesday,

Holy Communion with

Laying on of Hands

and Anointing

Message from the Interim Rector

April 2009

My dear friends in Christ,

I am blessed to be your Interim Rector. As far back as last August, when I came to you as a weekly supply, I sensed your wonderful hospitality, openness and spirit. Thanks be to God!

As we together undertake this “interim” period, I hope to continue and build on the firm foundation laid down by Henry Presler.

There’s a Greek word, *koinonia*, which is used to describe the fellowship of Christ’s believers. It begins with the second chapter of Acts, and tells us that, on the Day of Pentecost, they were gathered together in one place, and the Holy Spirit came upon them with the sound of wind and tongues of fire....and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2.1-4).

From that moment on they were “on fire” and emboldened so much that

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

~Acts 2.42

This is a striking description of the common life of a group of people who were infused with the power of the Holy Spirit, and through

† teaching

† fellowship

† breaking bread

† and prayer

they were able and driven to go into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

My friends, you are the *koinonia* of our Lord Jesus at St. Paul’s. It is the presence of God’s Spirit within you that I see. Let us strengthen that spirit within each of us to

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

+Gary

Welcome to Our Interim Rector

Have you been to church at St. Paul's...lately?

If not, then you've missed more than the opportunity to worship with your church family. You have missed the very real privilege of getting to know our Interim Rector, Gary Steber.

Gary first came to us as a supply priest on August 3 of last year; and, except for a few assorted Sundays, he has served us since...through regular services, funerals, and baptisms. From the very first, he was willing to make himself available to the people of St. Paul's for emergencies and whatever else we might need; and it didn't take long for a special relationship to develop. Thus, when the new year brought few full-time interim candidates, the Vestry determined that we could maintain a full schedule with a part-time interim—and they didn't have to look far. The perfect candidate was right at hand, just as he had been for the past six months.

Gary spent his first 18 years in Mobile, Alabama, before heading north to Sewanee, Tennessee, for a Forestry degree from the University of the South. After three years in the Air Force, he went to Yale University for his Master's Degree in Forestry. He worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forestry Service) for a few years and, with a partner, founded Sewanee Forestry Industries.

Always in the back of his mind, however, was an idea that had grabbed him when he was a very young boy: the priesthood. That urge was growing stronger, and in 1976 he returned to Sewanee as a seminarian. He served parishes in Dothan and Mobile, Alabama, as well as St. Luke's in Salisbury and St. Patrick's in Mooresville (after his retirement).

Hired in 1994 as the first full-time Vicar of St. Alban's in Davidson, Gary established a Sunday School, started a fellowship program for college students, formed ties with other churches and the community, and encouraged the tiny St.



Welcome to Our Interim Rector (cont.)

Alban's to grow. Within two years, the congregation tripled, achieving parish status, and the little church that could added an associate rector. Within two more years, the rapidly growing congregation took a giant leap of faith and built a new church home under Gary's leadership. When he retired in September of 2002, he was named Rector Emeritus.

Gary's wife, Linda, is the Director of Christian Education at Davidson College Presbyterian Church. He has four children—Laurie, the CEO of a San Francisco retirement community; Alison, a real estate broker in Atlanta; David, a teacher at an inner-city school in Washington, D.C.; and Rachel, a junior at UNC.

Gary is a busy fellow. Besides serving as our part-time Interim Rector, he is also a part-time chaplain for Hospice & Palliative Care – Charlotte Region.

If you haven't been to St. Paul's *lately*, you've missed meeting a special person. He's not just a good supply, not simply a dedicated interim. He's someone who quickly became part of the fabric of St. Paul's, someone who truly cares.

Gary Steber is, in a word, *family*.



Fr. Gary's Usual Office Hours

Monday & Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

**Holy Eucharist with Laying on of Hands
and Anointing every Tuesday afternoon at 5:30*

Seek and Ye Shall Find

Don Ambrose

The Search Committee has met with the Vestry and Michael Hunn, Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of North Carolina. Subsequently, we developed a Parish Profile, which appears on our web site, and is there for all to see, particularly applicants for the position of rector of this parish.

A position description for the position has been sent to the deployment office of the diocese, the national church, and to an association of deployment officers that includes our diocese.

Mid-April, Canon Hunn will meet with the search committee to discuss further our search procedures. It's been estimated that he could forward to us as many as 20 to 40 names, some of which he might bring to this meeting.

Afterwards, the committee will review the list of applicants, narrow the list, conduct interviews, and make a recommendation to the vestry by November 1.

The members of the committee are Don Ambrose, Chair; Melinda Plue, Vice Chair; Doug Lengquist; Susan Long; Susan Norwood; Frank Gaertner; Ven Burwell; Jim Becker; and Lisa Hilbish.



A Mother's Prayer



Make me a wise mother, O Lord. Keep me calm and give me patience to bear the small, irritating things in the daily routine of life. Give me tolerance and understanding to bridge the gulf between my generation and that of my children.

Let me not be too ready to guide my children's stumbling feet, but allow me to be ever near to bind their bruises. Give me a sense of humor that I may laugh with them but never at them. Let me refrain from preaching with words; let me show by example instead.

Keep me from forcing their confidences, but give me a sympathetic ear when my children come to me. Make me humble. Keep my children close to me, O Lord, though miles may separate us. And let Thy light so shine upon me that they, too, will perceive Thy glory. *Amen.*

Grant Us Thy Peace

Do you sometimes wish you knew a little more about our Episcopal traditions? Do you wonder about certain liturgical words or phrases and wish you were a Greek or Latin scholar so that you'd understand their meaning? If so, you're not alone.

Fr. Gary's Instructed Eucharist in March provided the history and theology behind many of the things we do in our Rite 2 Communion services; but if you weren't able to attend, don't despair. There are extra copies of the Instructed Eucharist booklet in the church office, and you can also access it on our web site.

From time to time here in *A Potpourri*, we'll try to give short explanations of symbols or phrases. If there are particular topics you'd like to read about, just let us know...and we'll do our best to find the answers.

Consider the words *Agnus Dei*, a Latin term that means "Lamb of God." In John 1:29, John the Baptist sees Jesus and says, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" The Book of Common Prayer lists the *Agnus Dei* as a fraction anthem that can be said or sung just after the breaking of the bread:

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.*

In art the Lamb of God represents the risen Christ who triumphs over death. The lamb carries a white resurrection banner with a cross of red. The banner, representing the body of Christ, is attached to a cruciform staff, representing the cross on which Christ died.



Welcome to Our New Parish Secretary

If you're in downtown Monroe on a weekday morning, be sure to stop by the church office to meet Kristin Barclay, our new Parish Secretary.

Kristin began her new duties on April 1. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Sweet Briar College as well as an accomplished musician. Her husband, Matt, is the youth pastor at Trinity Baptist Church in Monroe.

Welcome, Kristin—you are already proving to be a wonderful addition to the staff!



You Might Be Episcopalian...Encore

You might be Episcopalian if....

the groomsmen at your wedding whisper "with God's help" right after you say "I will"

the sight of a woman in a clerical collar doesn't make you cringe

you think that the Bible is a holy book because it quotes the Book of Common Prayer so well

you're looking for a can opener in the church kitchen and all you can find are four corkscrews

you've ever been to a keg party—at church

you sometimes accidentally start saying the priest's part of the service

you won't put up your Christmas lights until the beginning of Advent....or take your tree down until Epiphany

you couldn't have a piece of your birthday cake because it was Lent and you gave up sweets

you have ever been part of a serious debate over the best method for tying a cincture

New Prayer List Policy to Begin



Our Prayer List has become unwieldy...again. Many of the people included on it may now be in the pink of health, but the church office has no records of who placed names on the list or why or when the people were added. To try to solve this conundrum, the office is starting a new policy.

To add someone to the Prayer List, you must complete a simple form with the person's name, your name as the sponsor, and the date. That person will remain on the list for a month. If you wish him or her to remain on the list, you may call or e-mail the office and request that the person be included for another month.

Our current list will be continued until May, when the new policy will take effect and any unsponsored names will be dropped.

Forms will be available in the office and in the back of the church.

Date _____

Prayer List Request

Please add the following person to the St. Paul's Prayer List:

Reason (Optional)

Sponsor Signature

Altar Guild News

Christine Flack

The Altar Guild continues to quietly go about its business of preparing for each service and now getting ready for Holy Week and Easter, which is always a busy time for the Guild.

We have also purchased two new torches, which are a nice addition to our services.



Save Those Soup Labels

Rachael Eldridge, Volunteer Resources Coordinator says the Campbell Soup label project continues to generate revenue for Thompson Child and Family Focus (formerly Thompson Home).

Simply remove entire labels from Campbell's products, complete with bar code, and when you have a good batch mail them to her or drop them off. Each label generates one to five points. The result provides support for this long-time program of the Episcopal Church in NC.



Rachael Eldridge
Volunteer Resources Coordinator
Thompson Child and Family Focus
6800 Saint Peter's Lane
Matthews, NC 28105
704-644-4403
www.reldridge@thompsoncff.org



*Do not abandon yourselves to despair.
We are the Easter people and "Hallelujah!" is our song.*

~Pope John Paul II

*Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die,
life is a broken bird that cannot fly.*

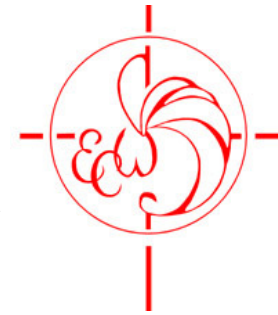
~Langston Hughes

Episcopal Church Women

All women of the church are invited to join us for the next ECW meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 18. Please bring a salad to share; we'll enjoy a light luncheon after the meeting.

The ECW invites the Parish to help us refurbish our kitchen. We now seem to be hosting many more events, and we need to update our kitchen supplies so that we do not have to depend on individuals to bring items from home. We are having a kitchen shower!

Please look for information on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Take a ticket, sign your name to the list, and return the item by April 25. Or give us a donation, and we can purchase the items. These items are greatly needed, and your help will be greatly appreciated.



St. Catherine's to Meet in May



St. Catherine's Guild of the ECW will meet in the Guild Room at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19. Charlotte Jenkins and Nancy Caudle will share photographs and their experiences (with Henry) in repairing broken tombstones at the Harrison United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Loaves & Fishes Annual Meeting Is April 30

All members/volunteers are invited to attend the 25th Anniversary of Loaves & Fishes Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. A covered-dish dinner will follow the meeting, so please bring a dish to share.

Calling All Graduates

Parents—do you have a soon-to-be graduate in your family?

If so, please send information about your child's graduation (high school and date) and future plans so that we may honor him or her in *A Potpourri!*



Sunday School NEWS

Nicole Dunn

Spring is finally here, and Easter is right around the corner! We enjoy sharing this special season of Lent with your children and hope you'll continue to bring them to Sunday School.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt/Party will be held on Saturday, April 11, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.. We will hunt eggs, make a special craft, and eat lunch. All are welcome, but please RSVP to Nicole at nicole_d24@hotmail.com or 704-821-9613. We need a headcount for lunch. Thank you!

Please save your empty egg cartons—the children use them to collect eggs. Feel free to drop the cartons off in the nursery or Sunday School classroom.

Summer will be here before we know it, and with it, Vacation Bible School! We are trying to reach everyone so that they can help us decide whether to switch to evenings this summer. Please vote for your preference, as follows:

- ✚ VBS in the morning from 9:00 a.m. until noon
- ✚ VBS in the evening (we're still working on times)

We need your feedback as soon as possible so that we can plan accordingly.

Thanks for sharing your children with us!





"As for youth director, I say we pass on the Master of Theology and hire the mother of 12."



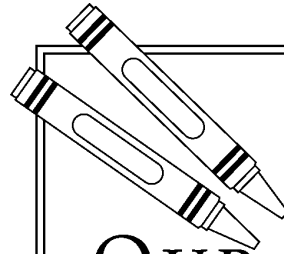
Happy Birthday!

April

- 1 Debbie Kiko
- 3 Timothy Meade
- 16 Madeleine Kern

May

- 7 Jack McGee
- 13 Aaron Wilson
- 15 Keith Kasler
- 17 Sarah Hirsch
- 22 Baker Anderson



Just for **KIDS**

OUR LIVING HOPE

Easter is a time to rejoice because of what God did for us in sending his Son. Jesus is our living hope. Read 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV) below. Then find the **bold** words in the crossword search.

“Praise be to the **God** and **Father** of our **Lord Jesus Christ!** In his great **mercy** he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an **inheritance** that can **never perish, spoil** or **fade** — **kept** in **heaven** for you”



P	R	A	I	S	E
P	E	R	I	S	H
B	I	R	T	H	A
K	E	P	T	U	S
L	O	R	F	A	D
E	V	E	A	R	G

R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	J	E	S	U
H	E	A	V	E	N	I	N	H	A	D	L	I	V	I	N
I	G	S	P	O	I	N	H	E	R	I	T	A	N	C	E
C	H	R	I	S	T	L	O	R	D	P	R	A	I	S	W



H	O	P	N	S	E
H	O	P	E	P	L
L	I	V	V	O	I
J	E	S	E	I	V
E	V	E	R	L	I
S	U	F	F	E	N
U	T	A	S	I	G
S	O	D	O	E	T
A	M	E	R	C	Y

Thanks

FOR YOUR EXAMPLE

Mother's Day is a great opportunity to thank your mother, grandmother or any other woman who has been a wonderful example in your life. Make and give this craft to show how much you appreciate these special women.

What you need:

- An empty, glass, wide-mouthed jar (no lid needed)
- Acrylic craft paints (several different spring colors)
- Votive candle (optional)
- Flowers (optional)
- Small candies (optional)

What you do:

1. Make sure your glass jar is clean and dry.
2. Dip your pointer finger into one of the paint colors.
3. Using your finger as a stamp, make about five prints in a circle on the outside of your jar. These will be your flower petals. (Hint: Hold your jar by placing your hand inside it. Then you can turn the jar easily without messing up the wet paint.)
4. Dip your finger into another color and make a fingerprint in the center of your petals.
5. Make as many flowers as you want, using different fingers or your thumb to make different-sized petals.
6. Present this beautiful gift to a special woman this Mother's Day. There are many ways to use it:
 - Place a votive candle inside to make a candleholder.
 - Fill it with water and place flowers inside to make a vase.
 - Fill it with small candies to make a candy jar.

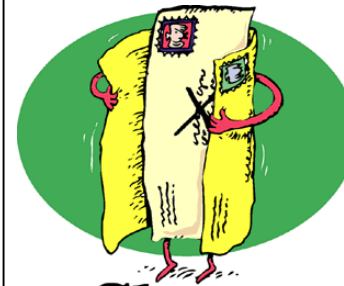
Looking
for



a date?

2009

Apr. 12	Easter
May 9	Seniors Dinner
May 10	Mother's Day
May 25	Memorial Day
May 31	Day of Pentecost
June 10	Last Day of School
June 21	Father's Day
August 25	School Begins Again
Oct. 16-18	Family Weekend at Valle Crucis



**Change
of
Address**

**Moving?
Be sure to let us know
your new address!**