

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

A Potpourri

August - September 2009



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Church Office Hours

9:00 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

Jimm Wetherbee, Treasurer

Sarah Palmer, Bookkeeper

Jim Becker, Webmaster

Organist/Music Director

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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

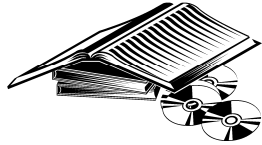
Laying on of Hands

and Anointing

Message from the Interim Rector

Then and Now...

**Church
Archives**



We've been trying to bring our Parish Register up-to-date. In one of the old registers, I found a weekly bulletin dated February 4, 1962, with the following commentary by the Rev. George R. Peters (1958-1963):

You are reminded that the service today and next Sunday will be broadcast.

Transfers have been received for Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Sistrunk, from Grace Episcopal Church, Drakes Branch, Virginia; and for Mr. Robert Lee Huffman, from St. James, Kannapolis, N.C. We welcome them as new communicants of St. Paul's.

++++++

Every Episcopal Church is required by the Canon Laws of the Church to keep a Parish Register. This register contains a record of all baptisms, confirmations, communicants, weddings, funerals, historical data, and previous rectors. We are very fortunate to have accurate records that go all the way back to the beginning of our church's work in 1874. Lack of space has required that we begin a new register and this entails a certain amount of transposing from the old one into the new one. It is an interesting job. One learns many things. Did you know, for instance: that St. Paul's, over a period of 87 years has had 21 different ministers; that Mr. Drane's was the longest, Mr. E.A. Osbourne's the second longest, and Mr. Cody's the third; that Mr. Hilliard was the first resident minister?

The first recorded baptism, on January 10, 1875 was a Francis Wingate Avant, ironically, a colored lady.

The first confirmation class, presented by the Rev. J.A. Deal to the Rt. Rev. Thomas Atkinson on the 9th of December, 1874 (one month after the first services were held in Monroe), consisted of five members of the McCauley family.

(continued on next page)

Then and Now.... (continued from previous page)

St. Paul's has been fortunate over the years to have a continuous ministry. Many churches, while in the mission stage, go through frequent periods without clerical guidance. We should not let ourselves forget, that over the 67 years before St. Paul's became a parish, the diocese poured many hundreds of dollars into the salary of those ministers who served this church. When we are inclined to grumble over present diocesan askings, it would do well for us to remember this. It will take many years just to repay this--but the more important factor is that through our giving now, we are helping other churches through the same stage of growth that we had to face!

+++++

<i>January</i>	<i>Anticipated income</i>	<i>\$1096.01</i>
	<i>Actual income</i>	<i>\$823.11</i>
	<i>Deficit</i>	<i>\$273.90</i>

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

God's Peace,

+ Gary

“It has been noted that the vesting rooms of different denominations speak eloquently about the differences between the denominations. For instance, the vesting room in a Baptist church will often have a picture of Jesus in it. The vesting room of a Roman Catholic church will usually have a crucifix in it. And the vesting room of an Episcopal church will almost always have a full-length mirror in it!”

~The Rev. J. Stephen Hines,
Easy on the Alleluias, Harry

135th Annual Meeting Is November 8

The Constitution of the Episcopal Church provides that each Parish shall have an Annual Meeting to elect Vestry members, hear reports about the work of church committees and departments, and transact such other business as may be necessary. The 135th Annual Meeting of this Parish will be held at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, November 8, 2009, between the regular 8:00 Holy Communion and the 10:30 Holy Communion services.



The three-year terms of Vestry members Henry Jenkins, Kyle Dunn, and Tara Steffen will be completed at year's end. We thank all three of these outgoing Vestry members for their very faithful service.

At the Annual Meeting we will elect three parishioners to succeed these retiring Vestry members. Nominations for these Vestry seats are **now open**. Nominees must be adult, confirmed members in good standing in this Parish, should attend church with some regularity, and must, in the old words, "be known to the Treasurer" (that is, should be individuals who support the work of the Parish).

To make a nomination, please follow this procedure:

- *Secure the consent of any prospective nominee.*
- *Submit a written nomination with your signature and the date to the Parish Office or to the Senior Warden, Henry Jenkins. Nomination forms will be placed in the back of the church and also will be available in the Parish Office. Or you may simply write on a piece of paper "I nominate (Name) for the 2009 Vestry election. (Name) is willing to be nominated."*

Each year the three outgoing Vestry members constitute the Parish Elections Committee. They will secure short biographies of each nominee and send them out to the Parish before the Annual Meeting.

Seek and Ye Shall Find

Don Ambrose

During the month of June, the Committee received from the diocese more than 80 names of persons who appeared to be good candidates as well as those who submitted applications to be rector of our parish. In June and July, over several meetings, the committee reduced the number of candidates to the seven who appeared to be the best matches for St. Paul's. During July, over two days, the Committee interviewed each of the seven by telephone. Each conference call via speaker telephone lasted 50 minutes.



The committee then reduced the number of candidates to four and sent their names to Canon Michael Hunn of the Diocese of North Carolina for diocesan approval. As of this writing (July 28), the Committee is awaiting a reply.

Once a reply is received, we will proceed to arrange in-person visits and interviews with candidates. Assistant Bishop Gregg would have an hour at some point to interview each candidate.

The goal, as set by the Vestry, is to recommend a candidate by November 1.



Coffee Hosts Needed



Coffee Hosts

We would appreciate the help of some new coffee hour hosts, both to fill the present gaps and perhaps to give others the chance to "rotate off" the schedule at the end of the year, after their sterling service! At the moment the coffee hosts are helping every three months: with a few more helpers, it could be less often.

If you can help, please contact Jenny Gale Tsering at jgtsering@gmail.com.



Budget Review

JUNE PLEDGES

Pledge Payments Budgeted	\$18,750.00
Pledge Payments Received	\$14,885.42
Difference	-\$3,864.58

JAN-APRIL PLEDGES

Pledge Payments Budgeted	\$112,500.00
Pledge Payments Received	\$105,813.55
Difference	- \$6,686.45

Please remember that the church doesn't go on summer vacation. There are still electric bills, telephone bills, salaries, and other expenses that must be paid.

Is *your* pledge up to date?

No one has ever become poor by giving.

~Anne Frank



Outlook for Outreach

St. Paul's will begin the school year with two familiar outreach projects. In August, we will collect school supplies for ARC students and their siblings. Suggested donations include notebook paper, #2 pencils, colored pencils, fat pencils (type used by primary students), crayons, markers, pens, erasers, composition books, and back packs (gender-neutral if possible). Donation bins will be located in the Parish Hall, the hall near the office, and the front porch (this location during Sunday service only). Collection will run through the end of August.

The bins will be used in September for our annual Share with the Shelter project. In addition to providing two suppers a month for shelter clients, once a year St. Paul's collects items the shelter has on its request list. This year the items include paper towels, toilet paper, napkins and coffee/sugar (sweetener)/creamer.

The collection bins will be in the usual spots during the month of September. If you are interested in joining or helping one of the shelter supper teams, please contact Jo Singer or Chris Flack.

One of the new projects we plan to undertake this fall is making Ugly Quilts for the homeless. To make these special sleeping bags, we will need your hands, your sewing machines, and your old sheets, blankets, and clothes (especially men's ties!). We will collect material for quilts in a box outside the church office from September 6th through October 4. Volunteers may sign up on the sheet over the donation box or by e-mailing betsy.odonovan@gmail.com. No sewing experience is needed! More information is online at <http://tiny.cc/uglyquilts>. Stay tuned for more information on how to get involved.

And please make plans to donate school supplies and shelter items.

~Nancy Noles & Shelia Pueschel

Valle Crucis Awaits You

Don't forget to make your reservations for our annual Valle Crucis weekend!

Rooms in the Mission House—our *only* house for the October 16-18 Family Weekend—are filling up, so go ahead and reserve your space while there are rooms left.

This year's retreat coincides with the Valle Country Fair as well as the peak leaf-looking time in the North Carolina mountains. At the fair you can enjoy 100+ juried fine-art and crafts booths, freshly pressed apple cider, hot-out-of-the-kettle apple butter, music, food, and old-fashioned fun.

Rooms, all linens, and six meals cost \$120 per person...a real bargain. Reserve your space now by contacting Charlotte at 704.821.6037 or charlottejenkins@windstream.net.



Open Those Doors!



When the book of Acts (see 16:25-26) reports that Paul and Silas sang in the Philippian jail at midnight, it doesn't record whether they were basses or tenors. It doesn't even report if they sang on key. It simply says they sang. And as they sang, there was an earthquake, and the prison doors were opened.

Many of life's doors open more easily when we sing. So why not open some doors by joining the choir?

The Parish Choir season begins with a special two-hour evening rehearsal on Wednesday, September 2; weekly rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m.

...Yes, They Can Dance!

Along with many other community events last spring, Bonita's School of Ballet in Monroe provided an afternoon of fantasy and whimsy. More than 100 young dancers performed an original ballet patterned after the "Candy Land" board game and directed by Bonita Simpson (with assistance from St. Paul's own Amy Helms).



Henry Helms led the audience on a journey through Peppermint Forest, Gumdrop Mountain, the Land of Licorice, Peanut Acres, Lollipop Woods, Snowflake Lake, Chocolate Swamp, and Candy Castle. Along the Rainbow Path he met Zealy Helms, who also danced in several of the sweet stops, and Gramma Nutt (Anna Meade) who was directing the peanut harvesters (including Anna Grace Hilbish). At the lovely Snowflake Lake, he met Georgia Plue and Juliet Plue. Further along the way, Wyatt Brown and his group of roughriders provided a dramatic moment.

Finally, Henry and his young friend, Gracie, reached the Candy Castle where they were met by Queen Kandy (Amy Helms), and Sweet Treats (Madeline Rushing, Ella Rushing, and Isabelle Brown). Helping keep the show moving backstage was Madeline Kern.

Kudos to Bonita Simpson for her dedication to the arts in Union County, and to our St. Paul's artists for the hours of practice needed to present a recital full of fun as well as classical ballet.

Keep watch on the calendar and plan to see the Nutcracker next December performed by the Union County Youth Ballet. This performance will again include many from the St. Paul's family.

~Jan Lochary

He who wins souls is wise.

~John Angell James

Help Needed for Christian Formation



It's time to go back to school, both during the week and on Sundays at church. Our annual Sunday School Kick-Off is set for September 13, Carnival-style, with a hot dog lunch followed by games after the 10:30 a.m. service.

We invite our whole church family to the Kick-Off for food, fun, and fellowship! We ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share, but if you forget or don't have time, please join us anyway.

You asked for it—and we're planning to deliver—but we need your help. In the discernment survey, one of the

highest-ranked priorities of our church family was Christian Education. For several years we've offered two Youth Sunday School classes during the 10:30 AM services. With our growing number of youth, it's time to add a third Sunday School class. Adding this third class means we need more volunteers.

We are appealing to the ENTIRE church family to volunteer to teach a Sunday School class for a 6-week period.

Weekly lesson plans from an Episcopal Children's Curriculum will be provided for each age group.

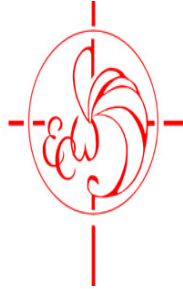
The three Sunday School classes will be organized as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Time</u>
Pre-K	3-5 (preschool-K)	10:30 AM
Primary	6-8 (grades 1-3)	10:30 AM
Intermediate	9-11 (grades 4-6)	9:30 AM

Please pray about this, and listen to see if God may be calling you to help. This job is not just for those with young children. We all need to take a role in fostering our youth, as they are the future of our church family.

~Nicole Dunn

ECW News



It's back! The Episcopal Church Women Wine & Cheese Kick-Off has been resurrected and put on the calendar. Ladies, please bring a bottle of wine and a light snack and join us in the Parish Hall at 7:30 p.m. on August 27.

This is an important gathering—not only because we'll be making plans for the year but also because it's a chance to enjoy each other's company after the long, hot summer. Think about it—do you want to sit at home watching one more summer re-run on TV...or would you rather sip a cool, crisp Riesling while you catch up on the latest gossip?

See you on August 27.



Forgive the Inexcusable

To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. This is hard. It is perhaps not so hard to forgive a single injury. But to forgive the incessant provocations of daily life—to keep on forgiving the bossy mother-in-law, the bullying husband, the nagging wife, the selfish daughter, the deceitful son—how can we do it? Only, I think, by remembering where we stand, by meaning our words when we say in our prayers each night, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We are offered forgiveness on no other terms. To refuse it means to refuse God's mercy for ourselves. There is no hint of exceptions and God means what He says.



*Be kind and compassionate
to one another;
forgiving each other,
just as in Christ
God forgave you.*

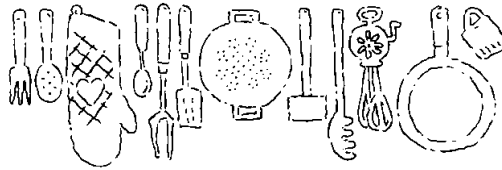
Ephesians 4:32

~C.S. Lewis

Kitchen Shower Is Great Success

A *big* thank you to everyone who purchased items or donated money for our Kitchen Shower—it was a huge success. We now have many items we can happily use for our parish

FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



functions: cooking and serving utensils, cutting boards, cooking pots, glassware, a beautiful silver ice/wine bucket, and many other items. Again, *thank you!*

The ECW

Kitchen Committee meets each month to do a general cleanup and check our inventory on paper products and other items we may need. However, our Parish Kitchen is used by many people, and it is everyone's responsibility to help maintain it. If you use the kitchen, please clean up afterwards...including the counter, microwave, stove, and oven. Cleaning products are under the sink.

If you leave an item in the refrigerator, please date it and make a note of its intended use. Stick-on labels are in the drawer. If items are not labeled, they may be thrown out if we don't know their purpose or age. When in doubt, we toss it! Also, if you notice that items are needed (especially paper products, cups, etc.) please list them on the note board in the pantry so that we can re-stock.

If we all do our part, our parish kitchen will always be in good order for the next use.

~Christine Flack



The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.

~Albert Schweitzer

This Just In....

Are you aware that the centennial of our present St. Paul's church building occurs in 2011?

To prepare for this milestone event—and to ensure that our historic building survives the next 100 years, the vestry has created a special Centennial Committee. Chaired by Kyle Dunn, this committee is hiring experts to check out our drainage systems, foundations, brickwork, and the like...and then getting estimates for restoring everything to the best possible condition. More information about the Centennial Committee and its work (and, eventually, about the celebrations) will come this way later, so stay tuned.



Do you know this person?

Could you *be* this person?

Think about it. Please.

St. Catherine's Guild News

Carole Pyle



The ladies who attend St. Catherine's said their good-byes to Sandy Dailey at our May 19th meeting. We will all miss her contributions to our group. She and Jane Beamer prepared a wonderful lunch for us which we all enjoyed. Charlotte Jenkins presented a program about a cemetery restoration project that the Jenkins and Nancy Caudle have been working on at Nancy's church in Pineville.

Our next meeting will be in the Guild Room/Library at 10:30 am on September 15. Our program that day will be given by Pam Collins, the Community Outreach Director for Hospice of Union County. Some of us have had first-hand experience with hospice services, but to others it is something we don't want to think about. This will be a good opportunity to educate yourself on the "who, what, when, and why" of Hospice. We extend an invitation to anyone in the church who is interested in Hospice to come to our meeting. You would be most welcome. Charlotte Jenkins will be our hostess that day. If you do not regularly attend St. Catherine's, please let Charlotte know so she can count you for lunch.

Please bring any knitting for the Seaman's Chapel that you have done over the summer so we can get that sent off. Thank you.



Vacation Bible School Report

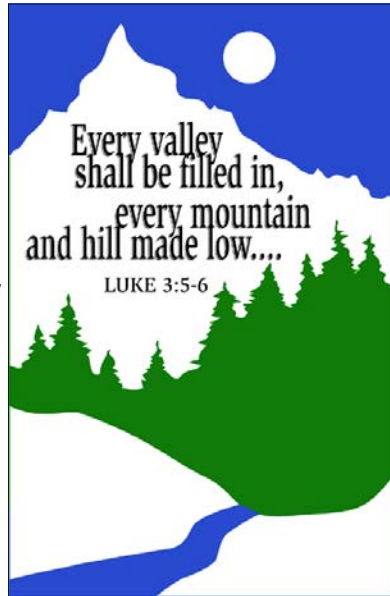
Nicole Dunn



We kicked off our summer with an awesome week of VBS at Camp E.D.G.E., where 30+ campers Experienced and Discovered God Everywhere. Thanks to ALL who helped with this fun-filled week!

*Until one is committed, there is
hesitancy, the chance to draw
back, always ineffectiveness.
Concerning all acts of initiative
(and creation), there is one
elementary truth, the ignorance
of which kills countless ideas and
splendid plans: that the moment
one definitely commits oneself,
then Providence moves, too....*

W.H. Murray,
*The Scottish Himalayan
Expedition, 1951*



Happy Belated Birthday to

Ralph McGee IV - July 4

Sorry we missed it!

August
3 Patrick Bailey
18 Nathaniel Wetherbee
23 Alex Wilson
27 Nick Giarla

September
3 Henry Helms
4 Will Prevost
9 Georgia Plue
13 William Brown
21 Isabelle Brown
21 Ella Rushing
21 Madeline Rushing



A Thought for Reflection

Once upon a time, a miserly man visited a minister. The minister led him to a window. "Look out there," he said, "and tell me what you see."

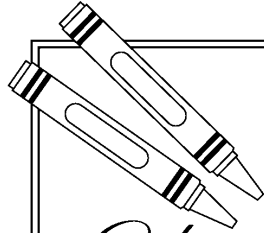
"I see nothing but some people," replied the rich man somewhat disdainfully.

Then the clergyman led the miser to a full-length mirror. "And what do you see now?" he asked.

"I see myself," answered the rich man, puffing up his chest and admiring his reflection.

"That's the problem!" said the minister. "The window is made of glass, and the mirror is also made of glass. But the glass of the mirror is covered with a little silver. No sooner is a little silver added than we cease to see others and see only ourselves."





Just for KIDS

Upon your hearts

The Bible is the perfect guidebook for living God-pleasing lives. Deuteronomy 6:6-8 (NIV) tells us how to remember the Scriptures.

Use the picture clues and Word Bank below to finish the verses.

WORD BANK

children	road
commandments	sit
down	Talk
foreheads	Tie
hands	up
hearts	walk
home	



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13

“These (1) _____ that I give you today are to be upon your (2) _____. Impress them on your (3) _____. (4) _____ about them when you (5) _____ at (6) _____ and when you (7) _____ along the (8) _____, when you lie (9) _____ and when you get (10) _____. (11) _____ them as symbols on your (12) _____ and bind them on your (13) _____.”

Answers:
 (1) commandments; (2) hearts; (3) children; (4) talk; (5) sit; (6) home; (7) walk; (8) road; (9) down; (10) up; (11) tie; (12) hands; (13) foreheads

GROWING UP FAST!

In September, Monarch butterflies migrate to warmer climates. In God's wonderful design, these butterflies have gone through an amazing transformation. This craft will remind you of the ongoing transformation that God has planned for you, too.

What you need:

- Clear, one-gallon zipper baggie (with no writing)
- Colored tissue paper
- Scissors
- Wooden, one-piece clothespin
- Pipe cleaner
- Black permanent marker
- Glue and wiggly eyes (optional)
- Magnet tape

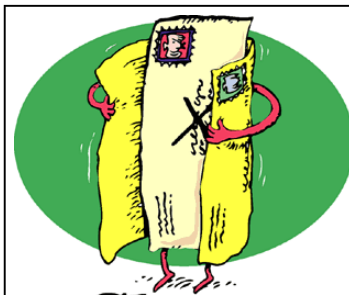
What you do:

1. Turn the baggie inside out and rub it on your head to create static cling. Then turn the baggie right-side-out again.
2. Cut tissue paper into 2" x 2" squares.
3. Fill the baggie with tissue squares.
4. Press excess air out of the bag and zip it. Lay the baggie on its side (this will form the butterfly's wings) so the zipper is at the top.
5. Pinch the baggie with the clothespin so it divides the baggie into two equal parts to create the butterfly's head and body.
6. Thread the pipe cleaner through the hole atop the clothespin to form the antennae.
7. With a permanent marker, write "Romans 12:2" on the bottom half of the clothespin.
8. Draw on eyes (or glue on wiggly eyes).
9. Attach a strip of magnet tape to the back of the clothespin. Then display the butterfly on your refrigerator.



2009

- Aug. 25** School Begins Again
Aug. 27 ECW Wine & Cheese Kick-Off
Oct. 3 Blessing of the Animals
Oct. 16-18 Family Weekend at Valle Crucis
Nov. 8 Annual Meeting
Nov. 14 Food Fair
Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day



**Change
of
Address**

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