

Magazine of  
The Parish Church of St. Paul  
Monroe, North Carolina

# A Potpourri

★Special Edition★

November 2009



November 8, 2009  
Annual Parish Meeting  
Vestry Elections

## Why Attend the Annual Meeting?

Why should you attend the Annual Meeting of the parish?

The reasons for attending are many and varied, but perhaps the most obvious one is so that you can vote for parishioners to serve on the Vestry for the next three years. If you do not attend the Annual Meeting, you

miss an opportunity to participate in selecting the parishioners who will lead St. Paul's during this important time of transition—an especially important transition, since we will soon welcome Fr. Brad Smith as the twelfth Rector of St. Paul's.

Another compelling reason to attend the Annual Meeting is so that you can hear first-hand the reports from our Wardens and the committee and activity heads. These individuals will help you to understand what has happened in the parish over the past year and—of equal importance—to understand what is planned for 2010. This is an excellent chance to ask questions, seek clarification, and make suggestions.

You might even want to arrive early for the meeting. Your Vestry has put together a moving slide show about parish life, and that should be fun to watch.

So come to the Annual Meeting. Cast your votes. Find out where we as a parish have been, where we are, and where we're going. See what you've missed, and indulge yourself with a little nostalgia as you relive a few shining moments from the year.

See you there!



## Annual Meeting Is November 8



### Annual Vestry ELECTION

The 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will convene at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 8, 2009. All communicants in good standing with the parish, 16 years of age and older, have voice and vote at the Annual Meeting and are encouraged to attend. Canons 1.17.2 and 3 of the Canons and Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the United States,

define *communicant* and *communicant in good standing*:

A communicant is a member who has received the Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year.

A communicant in good standing is a communicant who, for the preceding year, has been faithful in corporate worship (unless for good cause prevented) and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

An election will be held to fill the three Vestry positions that will become open in January of 2010. The canons of the Episcopal Church give parish Vestries the charge of all secular and financial concerns of their churches. At St. Paul's, Vestry members serve through prayer, participation in worship and the life of the parish, attendance at meetings, and giving their time and talents for the good of the church.

Because vestry elections have such a tremendous impact on the future of this parish, they should never be considered popularity contests. What is important is that each member elected has the gifts and leadership talents needed by the church and the commitment and willingness to use those gifts and talents for the good of St. Paul's.

As of this writing, eight nominations for the Vestry have been received: **Nicci Brown, Ruthie Orr Dixon, Nicole Dunn, Tripp Helms, Susan Long, Susan Norwood, Phil Pender, and Melinda Plue**. Biographies and photographs of the nominees are printed on the following pages.

On the day of the Annual Meeting, nominations may also be made from the floor.

## Nicci Brown

**Family** Husband, Rhett Brown  
Son, Wyatt  
Daughter, Isabelle

**Years at St. Paul's** 15

**Church Activities, Current and Former**  
Sunday School Superintendent, 2004-2007; Parish Choir, 1996-2001; Soup Kitchen, 2001-2003.



### **Other Activities**

Extra time outside work, Church, and home has recently been given to my children's school and athletic projects: cheering them on at games, working concessions, serving as a lunch-room or field-day volunteer

### **Employment**

Registrar, Wingate University

### **Education**

BA, University of the South, Sewanee, TN  
MA, UNC-Charlotte

### **What can you bring to the Vestry—your strengths, talents, goals, and ideas for the future of St. Paul's?**

As a long-standing member of St. Paul's, I have in a sense grown up in this church...In 1993 Rhett and I underwent pre-marriage counseling from Father Henry. We began as a young married couple and have subsequently raised both of our children in the church. I have participated in the life of this church in a variety of ways, such as through the fellowship of Foyer's, painting the Sunday School rooms with a group of enthusiastic parents, hiding Easter Eggs, or baking chicken pot pies for ECW. I love St. Paul's with all of its quirks and quibbles, and would feel honored to serve as part of its governing structure. I bring a love for this parish, these people, and our liturgical traditions, and a desire to see St. Paul's enter into a new phase in its history with a spirit of renewal and fellowship.

### **Nominated by**

Henry Jenkins



## **Ruthie Orr Dixon**

**Family**            Husband, Doug Dixon  
                              Stepson, Sam

**Years at St. Paul's** Lifetime Member

**Church Activities, Current and Former**  
Outreach Committee, Carnivale for  
Katrina Fundraiser, Deliver Altar Flowers  
Monthly

### **Civic Involvement**

Good Neighbor Fund, JDRF

### **Employment**

Belk Store Services, eCommerce Division

### **Education**

B.A., University of South Carolina

### **What can you bring to the Vestry—your strengths, talents, goals, and ideas for the future of St. Paul's?**

I am a third-generation member of St. Paul's; I was confirmed and married at this church. I sang in the junior and senior choirs as a child and was president of the EYC as a teenager. I miss seeing members of our church who were in the congregation every Sunday when I was growing up. I believe our history needs to be represented within the Vestry. This will be an exciting time for St. Paul's with the arrival of our new rector and the centennial celebration. The Vestry will be stronger with representation from St. Paul's present, its future, and its past. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Nominated by**

Jan Lochary

## Nicole Dunn

**Family** Husband, Kyle Dunn  
Sons, Ian and Owen  
Daughter, Lydia

**Years at St. Paul's** 9

### **Church Activities, Current and Former**

Every Member Canvass team (last two years), former ECW President, Sunday School Superintendent, VBS Director, Nursery Volunteer, Interiors Committee.



**Other Activities:** Union Co. Women's League (Past President), Loaves & Fishes Secretary, Monroe Jaycees (Past Secretary), Wesley Chapel Elementary School PTA Executive Board, First Presbyterian Preschool Committee

### **Employment**

Former elementary school teacher; presently teaching 3-year-olds at First Presbyterian Preschool

### **Education**

B.A., College of Charleston

### **What can you bring to the Vestry—your strengths, talents, goals, and ideas for the future of St. Paul's?**

Before having children, I taught elementary school. Since then, I was blessed to stay at home until I just returned to the classroom at First Presbyterian. I am running for Vestry because I feel very strongly about our youth, the future of our church, and would like to be instrumental in any new programs for them.

### **Nominated by**

Kim Rushing



## **Tripp Helms**

**Family**      Wife, Amy  
                    Daughters, Madeleine &  
                                    Zealy  
                    Son, Henry

**Years at St. Paul's**    6

### **Church Activities, Current and Former**

Current activities: Lector, Sunday School teacher. Past activities include Vestry, Parish Choir, Youth Committee, Scoutmaster for St. Paul's Cub Scout troop.

### **Other Activities**

Former Chair, Union County Board of Education

### **Employment**

District Court Judge

### **Education**

B.A., Davidson College  
M.T.S., Duke Divinity School  
J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill

**What can you bring to the Vestry—your strengths, talents, goals, and ideas for the future of St. Paul's?**

### **Nominated by**

Melinda Plue

## **Susan Long**

**Family** Husband, Richard  
Sons, Richard & Robert  
Daughter, JoAnne



**Years at St. Paul's** 25

### **Church Activities, Current and Former**

Rector Search Committee,  
Discernment Committee, Altar Guild,  
Every Member Canvass Committee,  
Coffee Host. Past: Choir Member,  
Sunday School Coordinator, Vacation Bible School  
Director (3 years)

### **Other Activities**

PTO (middle school), Site-Based Management Team  
(high school), Principal's Board. Volunteer with  
Unionville BBQ and the Piedmont High School Athletic  
Booster Club

### **Employment**

Teacher Assistant, Unionville Elementary School

### **Education**

Graduate of Salem College

### **Other**

I am a life-long Episcopalian.

### **What can you bring to the Vestry—your strengths, talents, goals, and ideas for the future of St. Paul's?**

My vision for St. Paul's is to help create a vibrant and loving church that will nurture all members of our parish. We have a large number of families with young children, and their needs are paramount to our future. A parish that can sustain good Christian formation for our youngest members is non-negotiable. Our young families need a place where they can meet and support each other during their family's growing years, and our parish should be a respite and a safe haven for all members to be fed and rejuvenated in the love of Christ, so we can go forward in His name.

### **Nominated by**

Ronnie Cutler



## **Susan Norwood**

**Family**      Husband, Larry  
                    Son, Bill Culpeper  
                    Daughter, Kathleen  
                                    Culpeper  
                    Grandchildren,  
                                    Michael & Elizabeth

**Years at St. Paul's** 12

### **Church Activities, Current and Former**

Rector Search Committee, Discernment Committee, 8:00 a.m. Lector/Server

### **Employment**

Together with husband, Larry, own and operate W.T. Norwood, Inc., a small septic and grading company

### **Education**

Bachelors in Economics, Duke University

### **What can you bring to the Vestry—your strengths, talents, goals, and ideas for the future of St. Paul's?**

Over the past year, I have become more active at St. Paul's, and it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve. If St. Paul's is to prosper and not merely survive it will require a unified effort on the part of every church member. We cannot afford to do less, give less, expect less because of difficult economic times...In these times more is demanded of us, not less. So, what can I offer the vestry? Unification requires communication. I would strive for more awareness on the part of each member regarding every aspect of the church's life. Financial difficulties loom on the horizon. It will take a practical, frugal approach and many budget modifications to get us through. I wrestle with such problems daily as I run a small construction-related business. The physical condition of the church...is another priority. God is supplying the right priest for us, I have no doubt about this. Our challenge is to unite, maintain fiscal and physical responsibility, and do God's work.

### **Nominated by**

Frank Gaertner, Larry Helms

## **Phil Pender**

**Family**      Wife, Ravonne  
                    Daughters, Kelly & Erika  
                    Mother, Elgeva  
                    Brothers, Charles & Samuel



**Years at St. Paul's** 55

**Church Activities, Current and Former**  
Vestry, two terms; Senior Warden, two years; Junior Warden, four years; Finance Committee (Chair, one year); Men's Breakfast Chair

### **Other Activities**

Former member of Sertoma Club, Optimist Club, Home Federal Association, Home Builders Association

### **Employment**

Owner-Operator, Unique Cabinet Tops, Inc.

### **Education**

Indian Trail High School

### **What can you bring to the Vestry—your strengths, talents, goals, and ideas for the future of St. Paul's?**

Because of my previous experience, I believe that I could be a valuable member of the Vestry. I would enjoy serving again.

### **Nominated by**

Herb Joyner

## Melinda Plue



**Family** Husband, Kevin;  
Daughters, Georgia &  
Juliet  
Brother-in-Law, Jake

**Years at St. Paul's** 9

### **Church Activities, Current and Former**

Vice Chair, Rector Search Committee; Every Member Canvass Captain,; Worship Committee; ECW (President, 2004-2007); Coffee Host; Greeter,; Nursery Worker; Sunday School Teacher

### **Employment**

Executive Director, The Arc of Union County

### **Education**

B.A., UNC-Charlotte

### **What can you bring to the Vestry—your strengths, talents, goals, and ideas for the future of St. Paul's?**

I am running for vestry because I have such excitement for our new priest and what he will bring to our parish. I'd like to see a strong youth program emerge at St. Paul's and a renewed interest among the congregation in fellowship opportunities and parish family weekends. I have a strong desire to get our parish involved at Kanuga and the many opportunities there for youth and adults alike.

### **Nominated by**

Jim Becker