

## *St. Paul's Newsletter, Feb. 2007*

### *THE RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2006*

The Reverend Earl D. Beshears

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Epiphany, January 28, 2007, reads:

*Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

As I look back on the year 2006, there are many special ways that God answered our prayer at Saint Paul's to: "*in our time grant us your peace.*"

This of course has been another year with the United States at war in the Middle East. So where is the peace we pray for regularly? We long for a world at peace. We pray for a world where peace and justice reign and our young people do not have to face the violence and destruction of war. We will continue to pray for peace, to act for peace, and not give up on the dream of peace.

However, in the midst of conflict and upheaval of all kinds, there is another kind of peace. It is a peace that gives us the strength and courage to the Body of Christ in the face of all sorts of conflict. It is the peace of mind and the peace of heart that encourages us and leads us to love one another because that is how the world will know that we are Christ's own. It is the peace that brings joy to our fellowship and makes Christ known to the world.

Much happened at Saint Paul's this year; too much to include it all in this report. We witnessed to the Peace of Christ and Christ's presence among us in many ways. I will discuss just two.

First. One of the ways Saint Paul's practices the Peace of Christ year after year is by opening our doors and our hearts to everybody and anybody without exception. We literally open our doors to hundreds of people every week. Almost all of them are not members of Saint Paul's. Some are not even Christians. But they come here as Girl Scouts, teenagers and adults in recovery groups, and non-profit organizations meeting. They are all meeting here under Saint Paul's roof. The Way Home, a program to help inmates reenter the community, has offices in our basement. Emmanuel Haitian Baptist Church worships here on Sundays. First Steps Primeros Pasos, an early childhood learning center under development, has storage space in the basement. In addition, we host Diocesan training and quiet days, Georgetown Ministers Association meets here, the Bishop is here once a month for meetings and private discussions, we organized and hosted the Community Concert and besides all of this we worship and offer Christian education here several times every week. All of this hospitality is the Peace of Christ alive in the world saying, "come to Saint Paul's, whoever you are, welcome home." This is the kind of peace that says there is one place I can go to be safe and welcomed – Saint Paul's.

Second. Another kind of peace is the peace that reaches beyond our walls and property lines. It is where we reach out beyond hospitality to give our money, time and talent to others. This year we gave \$28,800 to the Diocese of Delaware to support the ministries of the larger church. We gave \$1,000 to Saint Paul's school in New Orleans to help with their recovery from Katrina. We gave two \$1,000 scholarships to students entering college. We gave Thanksgiving food baskets to families and we brought Santa Claus to two families. Strangers were helped with their medical expenses and heating bills. The youth did yard work and earned over \$1,000 to give to the Diocese to award as Camp Arrowhead scholarships. We helped a family repair their leaking roof. We paid the expenses for an eight-person work team to go the mountains of southwest Virginia to help with the Appalachian Episcopal Ministries. We delivered meals on wheels and prepared breakfast for the clients of the Georgetown Center. All of this work and giving brings people the Peace of Christ in knowing that in this world that can be so hard and cruel there are people believe and follow his command to "love one another." It is the kind of peace that offers people hope that the Kingdom of God is very near, very near indeed.

God answers our prayer "*in our time grant us your peace*" and blesses us with the Peace of Christ. May we continue to be a blessing to others. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.



## Senior Warden's Report

On January 28, St Paul's held its annual meeting. Great food and fellowship was had by all. For those of you unable to attend, here is a quick recap. After lunch, the meeting started with an opening prayer and a round of *Seek Ye First* was sung. Written annual reports were submitted by Hospitality, Altar Guild, Treasurer, Junior Warden, Senior Warden, and the Rector. The off-going vestry members were thanked for their service and given a small present by Fr. Beshears. Our thanks to Nancy Whelen, Bruce Carter, and Charlie Kruger for their wonderful service. Next, new vestry members were selected by the Matthias Method. Young Rachel was our selector this year and she did a great job. The three new vestry members are Bobbie Quillen, Amanda Goebel, and Jessica Clark. The other candidates were picked (for replacement purposes, if necessary) in the following order; Bill Whelen, Mary Ann Torkelson, Tammy Rust, and Maureen Leary. After the selection, Fr. Beshears introduced the congregation to his Green Friday Proposal. Anyone needing copies of the reports or of the proposal, please contact the church office.

After the annual meeting, the new vestry met for the first time. This meeting was to introduce the new members and to elect officers. Richard Bennett was reelected to the role of Treasurer, Buster Richardson was reelected to Junior Warden, and I was reelected to Senior Warden.

The vestry will be participating in a retreat at the end of February. During this retreat we will discuss the future of the parish and the year to come. Anyone with ideas or suggestions, please talk to a vestry member about it.

Yours in faith,

Chris Bennett

Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message  
31st December 2006

Here in this London shopping centre - as in towns across the UK - the January sales are well underway - after a Christmas when many of us probably spent more than we should and eaten more than we should . It's all in stark contrast to Sudan where I visited last February.

The local church feeds several hundred each day, using its school as the feeding point where the World Food Programme's supplies can be distributed. Centres like this are few and far between - and the World Food Programme is already warning that resources are running out.

We all respond as best we can to one emergency appeal after another. And we feel just a bit guilty as we acknowledge that we're almost bored by yet another appeal - yet another set of pictures of suffering children in need.

It's true that endless appeals lose their impact. Information - statistics, won't really motivate us; The only thing that makes a difference is if we get to see those faces and figures as somehow about us - not just Them.

It's when the hunger or the homelessness or the loneliness of someone else becomes something that I feel for myself as an affront - something that makes me less of a person.

In the Bible, Jesus talks about being hungry and thirsty for righteousness, for justice. And if we hear that in the way it's surely meant, we have to conclude that he means that we should feel there's something missing in us, something taken away from us, when another person, near or far away, has to face need and suffering. We get to be ourselves only when we wake up to them and their needs.

2007 marks two hundred years since the slave trade was abolished. Here at Holy Trinity Clapham - a group of Christians called the "Clapham Sect" were at the forefront of the fight to end the slave trade.

People like William Wilberforce and Henry Thornton felt they were made less human than they should be by the appalling injustice of the slave trade. They felt a hunger for justice - a sense of being spiritually impoverished - "undernourished" because of slavery.

This is what made the difference. When we look at the familiar images of other people's suffering, do we feel a void inside ourselves, a yearning for something different and a conviction that it needn't be like this?

That's where change begins. And it's one of the differences that faith can make; faith in God and in people.

It's worth remembering this year those who struggled to do away with the slave trade. If we lived in a society that tolerated slavery now, wouldn't we feel soiled and diminished by it? Wouldn't we feel hungry for something different?

So what are the things today that make us feel the same?

People often speak about the spiritual hunger of our society. But the answer to that isn't in ideas or spiritual feelings; it's in the decision to act - to reach out to feed, to heal, to befriend, knowing that this is where we discover who we're really meant to be.

We get the power for that when we believe that there is a divine love that is waiting eagerly for us to cooperate.

And when we do, both physical and spiritual hunger can be met. We find our nourishment as human beings together, as we really learn to share the world we've been given to live in.

God bless you all in this New Year and help you find the nourishment you need for spirit and body.

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I Corinthians 13: 1 – 13

Love never gives up,  
Love cares more for others, than for self.  
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.  
Love doesn't strut,  
Doesn't have a swelled head,  
Doesn't force itself on others,  
Isn't always "me first".

Love doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,  
Doesn't revel when others grovel,  
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,  
Puts up with anything,  
Trusts God always,  
Always looks for the best,  
Never looks back,  
But keeps going to the end.

*The above was used by the Monday Night Live group and thought it would be good in the newsletter.*

## PARISH ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY January 28, 2007

- Reports were heard from Karen Baker, Buster Richardson, Chris Bennett, and the Rev. Earl Beshears
- All of the reports celebrated the new and ongoing ministries at Saint Paul's
- We thanked Nancy Whelen, Bruce Carter and Charlie Kruger for their ministry as vestry members.
- We selected three new vestry members: Bobbie Quillen, Jessica Clark and Amanda Goebel.
- Father Earl presented a proposal for Green Friday. Russ Henk agreed to chair an exploratory / planning committee and the following people volunteered to serve on the committee: Earl Beshears, Mary Ann Torkelson, Vicki Reinsfelder, Karen Baker, Ginny Collins, Donna Littleton, Tammy Rust, and Jessica Clark.
- Special thanks to Karen Baker and Jean Beshears for making the luncheon so special.
- Following the annual meeting, the vestry met and elected Chris Bennett as Senior Warden, Buster Richardson as Junior Warden, and Dick Bennett as Treasurer.

# ASH WEDNESDAY

*“Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.”*

**Ash Wednesday worship:**

**February 21, 2007**

Imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist is offered at three different times for your convenience.

7:30 a.m.

Noon

7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday begins the Holy season of Lent with the imposition of ashes and the words “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” With ashes, bread and wine, the Ash Wednesday feast reminds us of our mortality, our need for repentance before God and the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ. Make your Holy Lent, a season of penitence and fasting. Begin Lent with your church family at Saint Paul’s at Ash Wednesday worship.

## What’s Happening at St. Paul’s?

Monday, 7:00 pm – Bible Study

Wednesday, 7:30 pm – Holy Eucharist

Saturday, 8:00 am – Men’s Group – Join us for a brief devotional, coffee, conversation, and the occasional joke.

Saturday, 9:00 am – Prayer Group – We meet in the parlor and share our prayer concerns, our pray practices and experiences.

Sunday, 8:00 am – Holy Eucharist – Without Music

Sunday, 9:15 am – Youth Group – If you are age 13 and older, join the youth group in the Parlor.

Sunday, 9:30 am – Sunday School – Ages 12 and younger, downstairs in the classroom for Bible lessons, arts and crafts, and song.

Sunday, 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist – with choir and music.

## Heroes of the Faith

February 5

### The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

The introduction of Christianity into Japan in the sixteenth century, first by the Jesuits under Francis Xavier, and then by the Franciscans, has left exciting records of heroism and self-sacrifice in the annals of Christian missionary endeavor. It has been estimated that by the end of that century there were about 300,000 baptized believers in Japan. Unfortunately, these initial successes were compromised by rivalries among the religious orders; and the interplay of colonial politics, both within Japan and between Japan and the Spanish and Portuguese, aroused suspicion about western intentions of conquest. After a half century of ambiguous support by some of the powerful Tokugawa *shoguns*, the Christian enterprise suffered cruel persecution and suppression.

The first victims were six Franciscan friars and twenty of their converts who were crucified at Nagasaki, February 5, 1597. By 1630, what was left of Christianity in Japan was driven underground. Yet it is remarkable that two hundred and fifty years later there were found many men and women, without priests, who had preserved through the generations a vestige of Christian faith.

## Heroes of the Faith

### February 14

#### Cyril and Methodius, *Monk and Bishop, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869, 885*

Cyril and Methodius, brothers born in Thessalonika, are honored as apostles to the southern Slavs and as the founders of Slavic literary culture. Cyril was a student of philosophy and a deacon, who eventually became a missionary monastic. Methodius was first the governor of a Slavic colony, then turned to the monastic life, and was later elected abbot of a monastery in Constantinople.

In 862, the King of Moravia asked for missionaries who would teach his people in their native language. Since both Cyril and Methodius knew Slavonic, and both were learned men, the Patriarch chose them to lead the mission.

As part of his task among the Moravians, Cyril invented an alphabet to transcribe the native tongue, probably the “glagolitic,” in which Slavo-Roman liturgical books in Russian and Serbian are still written. The so-called “cyrillic” alphabet is thought to have been originated by Cyril’s followers.

Pressures by the German clergy, who opposed the brothers’ teaching, preaching, and writing in Slavonic, and the lack of a bishop to ordain new priests for their people, caused the two brothers to seek foreign help. They found a warm welcome at Rome from Pope Adrian the Second, who determined to ordain both men bishops and approved the Slavonic liturgy. Cyril died in Rome and was buried there. Methodius, now a bishop, returned to Moravia as Metropolitan of Sirmium.

Methodius, still harassed by German bishops, was imprisoned at their behest. Eventually, he was released by Pope John the Eighth, on the condition that Slavonic, “a barbarous language,” be used only for preaching. Later, the enmity of the Moravian prince caused Methodius to be recalled to Rome on charges of heresy. Papal support again allowed him to return to Moravia and to use Slavonic in the liturgy.

Methodius completed a Slavonic translation of the Bible and of Byzantine ecclesiastical law, while continuing his missionary activities.

At his funeral, celebrated in Greek, Latin, and Slavonic, “the people came together in huge numbers . . . for Methodius had been all things to all people that he might lead them all to heaven.”

## Heroes of the Faith

### February 27

#### George Herbert, *Priest, 1633*

George Herbert is famous for his poems and his prose work, *A Priest in the Temple: or The Country Parson*. He is portrayed by his biographer Izaak Walton as a model of the saintly parish priest. Herbert described his poems as “a picture of the many spiritual conflicts that have passed betwixt God and my soul, before I could submit mine to the will of Jesus my Master; in whose service I have found perfect freedom.”

Herbert was born in 1593, a member of an ancient family, a cousin of the Earl of Pembroke, and acquainted with King James the First and Prince (later King) Charles. Through his official position as Public Orator of Cambridge, he was brought into contact with the Court. Whatever hopes he may have had as a courtier were dimmed, however, because of his associations with persons who were out of favor with King Charles the First — principally John Williams, Bishop of Lincoln.

Herbert had begun studying divinity in his early twenties, and in 1626 he took Holy Orders. King Charles provided him with a living as rector of the parishes of Fugglestone and Bemerton in 1630.

His collection of poems, *The Temple*, was given to his friend, Nicholas Ferrar, and published posthumously. Two of his poems are well known hymns: "Teach me, my God and King," and "Let all the world in every corner sing." Their grace, strength, and metaphysical imagery influenced later poets, including Henry Vaughan and Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Lines from his poem on prayer have moved many readers:

*Prayer, the Church's banquet, Angel's age,  
God's breath in man returning to his birth,  
The soul in paraphrase, the heart in pilgrimage,  
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth.*

Herbert was unselfish in his devotion and service to others. Izaak Walton writes that many of the parishioners "let their plow rest when Mr. Herbert's saints-bell rung to prayers, that they might also offer their devotion to God with him." His words, "Nothing is little in God's service," have reminded Christians again and again that everything in daily life, small or great, may be a means of serving and worshiping God.

**Poetry by George Herbert in *Hymnal 1982*: pp. 382, 402, 403, 487, 592**

## WHAT IF??

**WHAT IF** – God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank him yesterday?

**WHAT IF** – God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow him today?

**WHAT IF** – We never saw a flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent us rain?

**WHAT IF** – God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as his day?

**WHAT IF** – God took away the Bible tomorrow because we wouldn't read it today?

**WHAT IF** – God took away his message because we failed to listen to his messenger?

**WHAT IF** – The door of the church was closed because we didn't open the door of our heart?

**WHAT IF** - God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?

**WHAT IF** – God would not hear us today because we would not listen to him yesterday?

**WHAT IF** – God answered our prayers the way we answer his call for service?

**WHAT IF** – God met our needs the way we give him our lives?

Another special day  
by The Rev. Earl Beshears

Another special day  
the full moon sets in the west  
while the sun comes up red in the east

and the frost makes no sound  
it lies there silent  
living its brief life  
waiting for what's next.

Another special day  
the full moon rises in the east  
the sun sets in the west  
and the cold fog makes no sound  
it lies there silent  
living its brief life  
waiting for what's next.

Another special day  
she rises to coffee and NPR  
she sets to a smooth merlot  
and falls asleep making no sound  
she lies there silent  
living her brief life  
waiting for what's next.

## Cookbook Correction!!!

Editor of the *St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cookbook* Jessica Clark has this correction for "Pepperoni Pie" on page 88:

- Change 1/2 cup oregano to 1/2 teaspoon oregano.

Jessica assures this non-cooking parishioner, Doug, that it would make a significant difference, & in fact is a "tragic" mistake....

The cookbooks are going fast so get yours soon -- & go easy on that oregano. Cookbooks are \$12 each.

### FOOD NEWS, VIEWS AND THANK YOU'S

The January luncheon was amazing! As Judy and Fred Dean and Cindy and Russ Henk prepared the main dish in the kitchen--chicken and rice and chicken and noodles -- the kitchen doors kept opening.

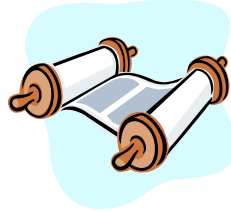
In came our members, their guests, and even some visitors carrying food to go with the luncheon. It was a procession of pastas, applesauce, beans, carrots, peas, salads, fruits, biscuits, lasagna, mousse, tapioca, brownies, brownies, brownies, fudge. Wow ! Guess everyone was ready for a sit-down gathering!

And it was a wonderful day to be together in the Parish Hall. The piano donated by Ann and Joe Forrester was dedicated and blessed by Father Earl and officially used by a large choir who led us all in

singing. It was Jo Dryden's first day back playing for services. And numerous volunteers cleaned up afterwards, including two visitors. What a memorable morning. The Lord is good indeed!!

St. Paul's has received a wonderful piano for the Parish Hall. It was given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for the lives of Violet and Ralph Richardson by daughter Anne and her husband Joe Forester.

### Big and Little Kids Page



In the first row of letters cross out the letters of the word REMEMBER. In the second row, cross out the letters of the word THE. Continue in this way for each row. Write the leftover letters at the end of each row. They will spell a message.

REMEMBER.....REMLEMOVBERE \_\_\_\_\_  
 THE.....TTHEHE \_\_\_\_\_  
 LAWS.....LLAOWRS \_\_\_\_\_  
 AND.....AYONDUR \_\_\_\_\_  
 DECREES.....DECGOREEDS \_\_\_\_\_  
 OF.....WOIFTH \_\_\_\_\_  
 MOSES.....MALLOSES \_\_\_\_\_  
 TALK.....TAYOLKUR \_\_\_\_\_  
 ABOUT.....HEABOUARTT \_\_\_\_\_  
 THEM.....ATNHDEWMITH \_\_\_\_\_  
 THESE.....TALLHESE \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMMANDMENTS..COYMOANDMURENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
 ARE.....ASROEUL \_\_\_\_\_  
 TO.....ANTDWOITH \_\_\_\_\_  
 BE.....BALLE \_\_\_\_\_  
 UPON.....YOUUPONR \_\_\_\_\_  
 YOUR.....YSTROUENGRTH \_\_\_\_\_  
 HEART.....HEDEUATRERONOTMY 6:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_:

# Acolyte Schedule

February 2007					
	4	11	18	25	
	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am
Crucifer	Ellen	Calvin	Zoe	Bryan	
Torches	Ariel	Georgia	Ariel	Calvin	
	Rebekah	Mary	Ellen	Hannah	
Server	Hannah	Bryan	Georgia	Rebekah	
Gospel	Sarah	Rachel	Sarah	Rachel	
Other	Rachel	Sarah	Rebekah	Sarah	

## Reader Schedule February 2007

<u>8:00 AM</u>	Feb.4	Feb.11	Feb.18	Feb.25
<b>Chalicer</b>	J.Dryden	C.Bennett	D.Bennett	F.Dean
<u>10:30 AM</u>				
<b>Chalicer</b>	B.Richardson	T.Rust	N.Whelen	C.Marshall-Steele
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson</b>	L.Stevenson	K.Swartout	M.Torkelson	S.Goodwin
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson</b>	S.Goodwin	D.Goebel	K.Bennett	J.Beshears
<b>Intercessor</b>	C.Marshall-Steele	J.Messick	M.Mires	R.Myers
<b>Ash Wednesday Evening-Chalicer</b>		C.Bennett		<b>Noon- Chalicer</b> B.Quillen
		1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson N.Whelen		
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson J.Beshears		
		Intercessor B.Richardson		

## February 2007 – Usher schedule

February 04 Peter and Daniel Goebel  
February 11 Bill Whelen / Jim Boyer  
February 18 Chris Bennett / Lit Dryden  
February 25 Dr. and Mrs. Mires

February 21 Ash Wednesday – B. Richardson / B. Whelen

If you are unable to usher, please find a substitute

## Birthdays

February	1	Jo Dryden
	5	Shirley Goodwin
	9	Paul Nichols
	10	Mary Ruckman
	13	Cora Marker
	14	Mary Anne Elliot
	17	Chris Bennett
	21	Georgia Kruger
	22	Dara Donaway John Richardson
	23	Hannah Goebel
	25	Lit Dryden
	26	Karen Swartout
	27	Bruce Carter

November 19, 2006

To: Everyone at St. Paul's

From: Murphy and Nancy Bird

In the past few years at St. Paul's, you have enriched our lives hugely as we got to know you through working and worshiping with you. You are dear friends and we love you all. Therefore it is very hard to tell you that we have made the difficult decision to move our membership to Christ Church in Milford, a five minute drive from our home.

Living as far as we do from St. Paul's has become increasingly difficult. Driving has proved a growing obstacle to regular participation in several church activities. We need to live closer to our church.

We expect to visit you occasionally, and we plan to keep in touch. Please let us hear from you. Thank you for all your friendship and support.

Email: [birds@bluecrab.org](mailto:birds@bluecrab.org)