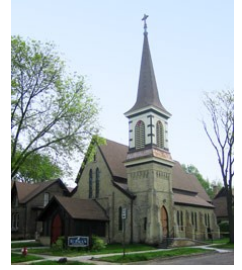


St. Paul's Episcopal Church



The Epistle

May and June 2009

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From Our Priest

This morning I was selecting music for the next couple of weeks and emailed them to the choir. I quickly learned that choir is over for the summer. And suddenly I realized that another season gone. I seem to have a habit of starting these letters with some kind of statement about how fast time is traveling. But then isn't that a pretty common comment? Aren't we frequently surprised by the realization of how fast the seasons are changing? But, how often are we surprised by the season it self? When it comes to Christmas and Easter we are often relieved when the holiday arrives. After all the preparation for guests and meals the holiday is no surprise. But are we ever prepared for Pentecost? Do we even think about Pentecost?

Pentecost is a very special day in the life of the church. In fact, with out Pentecost there would be no reason for Christmas or Easter! The purpose of God becoming incarnate, living among us, dying, the resurrection and ascension, is so that we can see and know the spirit of

Christ in each one of us. You might say that Pentecost is the objective of the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Because it is only after the apostles realized that the spirit of Christ was in them, and that they understood that it was their job to continue Jesus' ministry.

And so it is with all of us! As we grow in our realization that the spirit of Christ is in us, we understand more and more that it is our job to continue Jesus' ministry. And it is visible everyday! Here are a few examples just within our small parish. Our home communion and visitation ministry, prayer shawl ministry, Sunday school ministries, building maintenance, music, lay readers, sub deacons, acolytes, ushers and greeters all help build the community by reaching out to each other and supporting the understanding that we are all part of the Body of Christ and serve to welcome friends and visitors.

In addition, the Sunday School classes have given over 150 "Blue Bags" to the food pantry so that those families that cannot afford their groceries can

From Our Priest (cont.)

have a birthday celebration for their kids. Bread and Roses continues to be a major ministry in the community, our outreach to victims of domestic violence is in the process of selecting our second family and is beginning to make a difference. By adopting a mile of high way 26, and recycling cell phones and printer ink cartridges we are demonstrating good stewardship of our resources. And we are participating in the summer Art Fair and municipal band concerts with our ice cream sales. Each of these activities are reaching out to the community to share the love of Christ and to invite the world into that incredible faith.

And there are many other things done by people of St. Paul's on an individual basis through teaching, advocacy, caring for the elderly, or taking leadership roles in political, environmental, and social issues, all demonstrate love for our neighbor. That is living as the Body of Christ.

But as Pentecost also reminds us, there is so much more work to do. The Kingdom is not fully realized and our work must always be to strive to see God's spirit in ourselves, and in each other. Sometimes we wonder what we are here for, or what is our life meant to be. I think we are all here for one purpose and one purpose only, to build the Kingdom of God. The real question is not what we are here for, but how do I use my gifts to help build that Kingdom. And we all have so much to offer. The Body of Christ knows the value of each and every person, and cherishes the gifts they bring. Young and old, weak and strong, all contribute to the compassion and love of Christ in the world. That is our gift, and our challenge is to use those gifts to service of God and one another to build the Kingdom of God.

Peace always,

Fr. Mark

Adopt-a-Highway



To all of you who have volunteered to help with the Adopt-a-Highway program, and to those of you who want to help but don't know it yet, we are just about ready to start the program. Vicki Wright was kind enough to pick up the trash bags and the safety vests that we are required to wear while working in the highway right of way. These items are supplied by the Department of Transportation at no cost to the church. The only thing we are waiting for now are the two St. Paul's adopt-a-highway

signs to be installed.

I hope you have all viewed the online Adopt-A-Highway Safety Tips video! It takes less than 10 minutes to watch and it is required, otherwise you won't be able to help!

Please watch your bulletins for information regarding when our first "outing" will be.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Steve Simpson

If you haven't done so yet, please click on the video at:
<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/aid/adopt-a-highway.htm>

From Our Senior Warden

It's all about family. That's right, God's family right here at St. Paul's! A family that is so close to each other, that when someone is not in church, they are missed. Archbishop Desmond Tutu says, "You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them." St. Paul's family is a special gift to all of us.

As members at St. Paul's, we support each other as we meet life's joys and challenges. I love what Fred Rogers of Mister Rogers Neighborhood has to say about the importance that all of us hold in a family relationship.

"There's something unique about being a member of a family that really needs you in order to function well. One of the deepest longings a person can have is to feel needed and essential." All of us play an essential role at St. Paul's whether that role is serving for coffee hour, reading lessons, being an acolyte, serving as a vestry member, singing, counting money, gardening or working with our outreach project. These are just a few ways that we function as contributing members of St. Paul's. Each of us is essential to our St. Paul's family.



Erma Bombeck also has an interesting way of talking about family. "The family. We are a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's deserts, hiding shampoo, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that binds us all together." We certainly know the common thread is that binds us at St. Paul's – our faith and doing the work that God has called us to do. No family could have a more significant reason for being than our belief in God.

For Peter and me, St. Paul's has been the home where we have found friendship and people caring for each other. We have been able to celebrate some very special moments for our family and know that we have the quiet support in times of sadness. My hope is that we will always be able to relay that same sense of family to all those friends whom we have yet to meet; no matter how large we grow. St. Paul's is home and family for all of us.

Vicki Wright

Good Report Book Club

I am launching a new book-reading group based at St. Paul's that will be advertised and open to the community. I am tentatively planning that this group will meet on the second Wednesday of every month, and I will distribute a flyer to the congrega-

tion very soon and before advertising outside the church. A different book will be discussed each month, the first book to be discussed will be "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. I intend to have a babysitter available.

Submitted by Amy Byrne

The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 8 at 6:30 p.m.

The Hand of God

Little Philip was spending the weekend with his grandmother after a particularly trying week in preschool. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful. His grandmother commented, 'Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?'



'Yes,' replied Philip, 'God did it and he did it left handed.'

This confused his grandmother so she asked him, 'What makes you say God did this with his left hand?' 'Well,' said Philip, 'we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand.'

Submitted by Vicki Wright

Beware of Home Improvement Scams

During spring and summer, many individuals are swindled and defrauded by transient/traveling criminals groups performing what are sometimes known as "bunco" or "gypsy" scams. In most cases, the perpetrator approaches a homeowner and offers to provide low-cost home improvements. One of the most common types of scams involves asphalt paving. The perpetrator tells the homeowner they have asphalt left over from another job in their neighborhood and offers to resurface their driveway or sidewalk at a reduced cost. When the homeowner agrees, the con artists proceed to either apply a thin layer of asphalt that breaks away in a few days, or use a substance other than asphalt. The perpetrators then collect their money and leave before the homeowner is aware of the substandard work.

Another common scam involves painting barns. The perpetrator paints the exterior of a barn using an improper paint such as an interior, water-based paint. When the homeowner inspects the job, it looks sufficient and therefore pays the scam artist. It is not until a few days later, usually after

rain, that the low-quality job is noticed. By that time, however, the perpetrator has left the area. These scams can also involve the perpetrator partially completing a job, requesting payment and then never returning to finish the work.

Some traveling criminals have also been known to perform exterior home improvements without the permission of the homeowner. This has occurred in cases where the perpetrator made contact with the homeowner, but the homeowner simply took the perpetrator's business card without requesting their services. The following day the perpetrator performs part of the work, and demands payment for the entire job. As previously stated, these types of crimes are known to increase during the spring/summer months and law enforcement is encouraged to be vigilant of potential groups traveling through their areas. In these types of cases, the elderly are often an easy target. Because they feel foolish for being taken advantage of, these crimes often go unreported.

Submitted by Steve Simpson

Church Bulletins

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services.

- The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: "Jesus walks on water". The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus".
- Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
- The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.
- Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.
- Don't let worry kill you off. Let the church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again", giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and is requesting tapes of the pastor's sermons.
- The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy".
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So there ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell"? Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.



Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King has had one meeting so far this year and is looking forward to our next one according to Sandy Deblare our president. Georgia is gathering ideas for a fall Retreat in our own church and possibly a day trip to the Julian of Norwich Monastery for a day of silent prayer.



We believe that those of us who give out to others in a consistent way need to be nurtured so that we can continue to provide the energy to others.

We are an uncomplicated in format group of women dedicated the availability of a confidential prayer chain in our church

and beyond. Anyone needing prayer for a long time or short term need can contact any one of us with requests. The information will not go beyond our prayer chain. We are on email and prayer instantly upon receipt of the prayer requests. Surgeries, accidents, childbirth, or long term concerns as well.

The Daughters of the King pledge themselves to a Rule of Life incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. If you are interested in joining us in this pursuit, please contact our president, Sandy Deblare or any of the Daughters: Patricia McCollum, Beth Wroblewski, Nancy Bauer, Georgia Irre or Ellen Klaus.

No casseroles, few meetings but a daily contact with God.

Youth Christian Education

Our Sunday School year concluded the weekend before Memorial Day. The children have continued to study the bible using lessons based on the revised common lectionary (our readings in Church each Sunday). The close of the "school year" was celebrated with a mass in which the children took on the important roles of ushering, acolyting, bringing up the gifts, and singing.



The children recently delivered another large batch of birthday bags to the food pantry. Thank you to all who helped with supplies of cake mix, frosting and candles!

As Ellen Klaus has retired from her full-time teaching position in Johnson Creek, she will be

traveling a lot in the upcoming year (Congratulations Ellen!). Therefore, we will be looking for another Sunday School teacher. Please let me know if you are interested in teaching every other Sunday, or at least once per month. I would be interested in having the kids do a service activity within the church once per month, cooking once per month or playing a game once per month.

Thank you for all you do in supporting our children in the parish!



Submitted by Amy Byrne

Calm before the Storm?

It was still only the end of May. In spite of continued warnings of late overnight frost, the annuals that had just started to take hold in the freshly prepared gardens were offering up bright little flowers, echoing the beauty of the glorious sunny, if cool, morning. The quaint little shops were chocked full of curiosities, guaranteed to delight the eventual hordes of visitors who overrun the little Door County town of Fish Creek in their seasonal search for happiness. Fish Creek is once again preparing for the onslaught, and the occasional jingle of coins falling into the as yet untried cash registers is a mere trickle of the anticipated.

Amidst all the heightened anxiety and budding hustle and bustle, is the serenity offered by The Church of The Atonement, a delight-filled little Episcopal mission church, set in a stand of mature trees at the end of Main Street. The open heavy iron-gate welcomes all those who take the time to enter, and the generous garden benches offer rest for weary feet. Built in 1878, the Church of The Atonement is still maintained by the Fond du Lac Diocese, and is an historic Carpenter Gothic Episcopal chapel. On March 7, 1985, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The Church of the Atonement is the oldest church in Fish Creek, and it is a summer Episcopal mission that serves residents as well as vacationers. Although there is no permanent Rector, the 9:00AM Sunday services are celebrated by clergy from Illinois, Wisconsin and Florida during the late spring through early fall seasons.

The open door invited us into the peace-filled bliss of God's calming presence, in stark con-

trast to the transacted business of one block away. Spending a few minutes in thoughtful silence, with familiar prayer books and hymnals as companions, put life into perspective, and gave a deep appreciation for all those unnamed souls whose vision and hard work were rewarded with the gift that this sanctuary continues to provide.

Returning to the outdoors with a calmer vision of the world outside, we strolled leisurely through the lovely gardens, front and back, and were pleasantly surprised to wander into the memorial garden, with its brass name plates on waist-high stone walls, to which some unknown visionary had dedicated so much thought. A perfect environment in which to thank so many who have contributed to this intimate setting, and to allow time to visit with memories of those precious saints who are always with us.

If you happen to be in Door County to enjoy the outdoors this year, please consider including Fish Creek in your agenda. Time spent at The Church of the Atonement is restful time for meaningful reflection, and it is open every day. The calm before the storm, indeed!

Submitted Vicki Wright



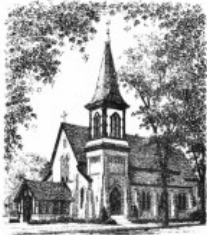
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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Watertown, Wisconsin

*Growing in the experience, knowledge
and love of God.*

Our Calendar

The screenshot shows a calendar for June 2009 with the following events:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	1	2	3 7:30 AM Morning Prayer	4 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist	5	6
7 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	8 9:00 AM St. Paul's Golf Outing	9	10 7:30 AM Morning Prayer	11 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Watertown Municipal Band Concert and Ice Cream Sale	12	13
14 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	15	16	17 7:30 AM Morning Prayer	18 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Watertown Municipal Band Concert and Ice Cream Sale	19	20
21 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM Vestry Meeting	22	23 7:30 PM Watertown Municipal Band Concert and Ice Cream Sale	24 7:30 AM Morning Prayer	25 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist	26 8:00 AM Parish Rummage Sale	27 8:00 AM Parish Rummage Sale
28 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	29	30	1 7:30 AM Morning Prayer	2 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist	3	4

Church rummage sale is June 27 and 28!