

SAINT PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

THE EPISTLE

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Oak Cliff

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You Could Just Feel the Love!



The Rev. Mark Given

"You could just feel the love!" this was the report I heard five days after the event (from yet another!) person who was part of our Vacation Bible School

venture with Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church. I don't want to mention any names, so I can tell you I heard this report from someone with the initials Emalee McRoberts. (ooooops!) ... "You could just feel the love!" Isn't it good to hear this? Isn't this even better to experience? Emalee and others reported how the language difference (with the youngest children and some of the moms) just melted away and how, "Everybody worked so well together ... all the people kept asking how they can be more helpful ... it was joyful!"

These were the adults ... and the kids? "They would just come up to us and give us hugs and smiles! ... so attentive and well behaved! ..." Errrr ... these were the adults talking again ...

What about the kids? At the supper tables two 'tween-age girls were practicing the bible memory verse in quick and perfect sign language. How? Because Francinne Delaloye taught them every night! The kids singing the songs every night with hand motions and dance, my daughters are singing these VBS songs to each other while we are driving. Why? Because Genia Keys led the way! ... and so much more led by so many others: out with the kids and, behind the scenes and all around the edges, like when the air conditioning failed on opening night! Many thanks to Don Houston, Skip Wavada, Mike Spehar, Antone Barbosa ... (did I miss anybody else's initials here?) ...

What about the kids? They baked, made cards to send to the homebound and

infirm, played learning group games outside, mixed together with kids they have never met before, and they learned of God. They sang the praises to Jesus our Savior. They came, and kept coming to Something New. I am willing to wager that if asked and "prompted" they too would say something to the effect: "You could just feel the love!"

Not in anybody's recent memory at St. Paul's and no one at all from Our Lady of Fatima had ever been to a Vacation Bible School. This was Something New of all of us. And, we did it! We did something new! There was very few concerned "raised eyebrows" among the Vestry and others from January through last week. When the brows were raised, they all said, "But OK, let's go ahead and try." As your priest, when I hear: "But OK, let's go ahead and try it." in response to a New Thing, or a New Way we can try at St. Paul's ... I come home and tell my wife Emily: "You could just feel the love!"

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mark E. Given +
Priest-in-Charge

Evangelism Team

The Evangelism Team met on 17 July 2011. Current members are Emily Kent-Street, Charlotte Barbosa, and Fr. Mark.



We are looking for St. Paul's Directories going back to 2000. They will be returned after being copied. The goal is to reach out to those who "used" to be here and invite all to a "HOMECOMING" event.

WE LOVE IT WHEN YOU'RE HERE!



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CURSILLO!

Cursillo is a "short course" on Christianity. It is a weekend retreat. Cursillo is led by people like you: non-clergy. There is song, discovery, joy, and for some it has been a re-ignition of the living of their faith.

Cursillo is alive and growing again in the Diocese of Dallas! We know that there are some here who have been to Cursillo at some time. Please make yourselves known to Fr. Mark.





Notes from the Junior Warden



Again, another listing of work recently completed in and around St. Paul's

Two chandeliers in the church sanctuary that have not worked in a couple years, were re-wired and are now in working condition. This was caused by water damage from previous roof leaks.

The heavy rain on June 20th, caused major water seepage into the south side of the church, soaking the carpet 3/4 of the way down the left aisle. The carpet was wet-vacuumed, removing about 8 to 10 gallons of water, and then fans were used to dry out the carpet

over the next couple days. Leaf and twig debris was removed from the gutters which had caused them to dam up during the rain. Also flushed out and cleared the 2 downspouts nearest to the church lobby. The gutters are not in good shape, and have proposed getting a roof & gutter service company to suggest alternatives and /or determine our future needs for the building.

Other minor repairs or fixes:

Repaired 2 cabinet drawers located in the chapel sacristy, and also replaced a chapel ceiling

light.

Re-attached 2 pieces of molding that had worked loose from one side of the columbarium.

Replaced sliding door guides in the church sacristy closet.

New U.S. and Episcopal flags for outdoor use, were purchased to replace the old and tattered flags that had been used far too long.

Again, thank you for your continued vigilance in making me aware of any physical problems / items you feel need more attention on the church premises.

Mike Spehar, Jr. Warden

Parish Administrator We regretfully announce Kate Butler Francis' resignation earlier in July. She was a fine and able parish administrator for St. Paul's during the years of our adjustments. She faithfully served full-time Rectors and part-time Priests-in-Charge. She made many friends over the years here. She will be missed. Feel free to send her cards of your appreciation.

Kate Butler Francis

[Contact Parish Office for Address]

Outreach to DISD Elementary Students

It is that time again. We support four Saint Simon's groups here at Saint Paul's. We need to start collecting school supplies for the children we serve. They need:

- ◆ #2 pencils
 - ◆ red and green folders
 - ◆ loose leaf notebook paper for starters.
- As the programs get into high gear after the start of school, I am sure there will be some other items also. There will be a container in the Narthex to put these in. We thank you in advance for your great generosity.

Don Houston, Michael Barnes

Barbara Sowards, & Linda Odgers.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Saint Simon's After School Program:

St Simon's After-School is a program that helps those most in need - children from poor households

who have no one at home to care for them after school.

St. Simon's provides for a teacher at the student's elementary school to care for the children, gives them a nutritious snack (usually a peanut butter sandwich), and provides homework assistance. This creates a safe caring environment where academic performance is valued and supported until the parents are able to gather up their children. Individual programs serve 20-25 children. In total, our 16 programs serve approximately 400 students.

Because the programs are housed at the elementary schools, and we employ certified teachers selected by the school's principal, the administration of the program is very efficient and transparent -

no transportation costs, no capital costs.

More than 94% of all monies are used for supplies for the children and to pay the salaries of the teachers, snacks and program supplies.

31.5% of children in Dallas County live in single parent households. A majority of these have limited economic means and thin support systems.

Latch-key children in these circumstances score worse on measurements of health, education, emotional, and behavioral problems and are twice as likely to abuse alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

Program description excerpted from <http://stsimonsafterschool.com/who.html>



Notes from the Communications Committee



Ever wish you had a copy of The Book of Common Prayer 1979 at hand? Well, you no longer need to carry around a heavy hardback red book. If you have an iPhone, iPod Touch, or iPad you can purchase the iBCP app in the Apple App Store for only \$4.99. Additionally, there is a PDF copy of *The Book of Common Prayer 1979* available for downloading from <http://saintpaulsdallas.com/bcp1979.pdf>. If you are looking for a digital copy of an older version of The Book of Common Prayer and/or a translation of The Book of Common Prayer 1979 check out <http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/world.htm>.

If you want to see one of only five copies of an 8 March 1549 printing of the very first version of The Book of Common Prayer, visit Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology, where they currently have one from their collection on display. Library hours and directions are available at 214.768.3483 or <http://smu.edu/bridwell>. If you visit <http://smu.edu/bridwell> and click on "Highlights from Bridwell Library Special Collections" and then on "Book of Common Prayer" near the bottom of the page, you can read more about this rare copy of The Book of Common Prayer. Plus, if you click on the photo it takes you

to another page where you can see this very old BCP opened to part of the liturgy used at Communion on the Second Sunday after Easter.

Remember - we still need several more "likes" on the parish's Facebook page so that we can get a nice short Facebook link, instead of the really really really long one we have right now.

[See the June 2011 edition of the parish newsletter for directions.]

Jan Anderson

Chair

Staff Opening

Since Kate Butler Francis has left us (see story on page 4), we are looking for looking for a replacement for this part time position:

Computer Skills: MS Office (including Publisher), Social Media knowledge (Facebook, et cetera . . .), Web Design skills a plus, but not required. File Management Skills. Organized and organizing, Welcoming personality. Can smile into a phone. Is a happy member of another church.

Call Fr. Mark if you know someone like this.!

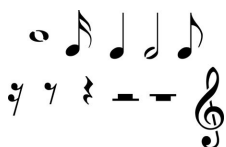
Music Classes

Ever wanted to learn to read music?

Now you can!

Every Wednesday evening after Choir practice our Organist, Gene Clark is offering classes in singing and note reading.

See Gene for more info!



Changes due to Staff Changes

Since the Parish Secretary position is currently vacant (see story on page 4) some things are being done slightly different. For one our newsletter, *The Epistle*, is a little late getting to your mailboxes this month. And Fr. Mark adds, "MEA CUL-PA!!! If your previously submitted NL article is not printed here we are very sorry ... it got lost in the transfer of emails, files, and folders."

Furthermore, the Sunday bulletins and our newsletter, *The Epistle*, are all now being created using 100% digital technology.

You might notice that this issue lacks a calendar as the centerfold. We are planning for the August 2011 issue to include one. If you have any questions about ministry scheduling in the next couple of weeks, please contact Anna Houston.



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To exalt God

To empower all people to build a loving relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ

To express God's love in service to others.

Tellers

Who are the "Tellers?" They are: Dick Geiger, Paula Venner, Patty Pender, Jan Anderson, Jack Humphrey, Terry Flowers, Antone Barbosa, ... (anybody left out?)

What are "Tellers?" They count the collection each week 2 X 2, double count the collection, enter our pledge offerings for your information and end of year tax considerations, and put the bank-ready deposit in a safe.

What do we want to say to our "Tellers?" "Thanks so much for doing this for us!!!"



Discretionary Fund Sunday

The first Sunday of every month is designated as Discretionary Fund Sunday. Discretionary funds have been in use in The Episcopal Church since at least 1814. The main purpose of the Discretionary Fund is to assist members of the congregation as well as the wider community in times of financial need. At Saint Paul's we dedicate all loose plate cash given on the first Sunday of every month to the Discretionary Fund. Funds can be given at other times. Just label your check or offering envelope "D-Fund" and place it in the plate or drop it by the parish office.