

Saint Paul's in-the-Pines Episcopal Church

“As a diverse family we seek and serve God through joyful worship, love and respect for creation, promotion of social justice, and growth into the image of Christ.”

office@stpaulsinthepines.net

December 2008

www.stpaulsinthepines.net

Diocese of East Carolina
The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, 3rd
Bishop
www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

Clergy
The Very Rev. John T. Frazier
rector@stpaulsinthepines.net

Vestry
Senior Warden Christina Barnett
Junior Warden Penny Fleming
Clerk of the Vestry Kevin Hasinger
Christian Education Doreen DeJaynes
Finance Donna Roraback
Missions Pam Perham
Pastoral Care DeeDee Lucas
Stewardship Robin Burrs
Worship Leslie Flom

Committees and Staff
Altar Guild Chair Charity Swick
Organist Bill West
Parish Assistant & Epistle Editor
Judy Krantz

We are the Church... ..

Let us hold in our prayers our government leaders and our Armed Forces on deployment; the millions of refugees worldwide in need of help; and our young people growing up in a challenging world. For our families and friends who need our prayers -

Rev'd Lucy Talbott
Faith Swick
Brooke Larsen
Andrea Eubanks, Tim Williams, & Justin Boyle serving overseas
Cheryl French
Gloria
Mary Lee Shanahan
Dianna Hamer
Mary Alice
Louise
Wanda
Dan
Elemihl & Louise Strouse
Mary Vickers
Agnes Bally
Peggy Varney
Bea Roraback
Mable Belton
Lori (Frawley) Buffinton
Dana Wynder
Dianne Helfrich
Bobby Jones
Mary Beckett
Jimmy Teachey
Helen Gilkenson
Cathy
Carol Orr
Julius Whitsett
Asia Surrano
The Family of Evelyn Frazier
The Family of Harry P. Lees
Saran MicLean-Hasinger
Mr. Billingsleas's daughter
Sterling Hasinger

From Our Rector

Greetings to All,

Here we are at the end of 2008! Where did the year go? I pray that 2008 was blessed year for you. This year has been filled with things expected and things unexpected, known and unknown. And now we switch from a methodical Matthew to a kick-it-up-a-notch Mark.

As I find myself letting go of the Gospel of Matthew from year A and coming to grips with the Gospel of Mark for year B, I notice on the first Advent Sunday we are taken quickly to the deep end of Mark's pool, his thirteenth chapter. This chapter of Mark deals with Jesus' apocalyptic response to his disciple's question of when the End will come. From Jesus we learn that our concern for when is a waste of energy. What would be our plan if we knew when the end was? Would we pace ourselves saving enough time to repent just before it was too late, sort of changing our ways just inside the cut-off? Living a righteous life must be genuine and all the time. None of us are permitted to know the day of the Lord's coming. Jesus says, "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Mk 13:32) To be ready then means being ready now. Are you ready now? I've still got work to do on myself. I am still asking God everyday to "cleanse the thoughts my heart by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that I may perfectly love God and worthily magnify God's Name." (BCP 355 paraphrased)

We all must remember that what we do or say is begun in the heart. Even before we assemble thoughts in our brains the impulse to be positive or negative, good or ill forms the core center about which what we do or say is built on and delivered. We must think God first. In this Gospel of Mark Jesus answers a scribe's question about which is the greatest commandment using the words of the Shema (Deut 6:4). "Jesus answered, 'the first is "Hear O' Israel the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The one thing you and I can do is try everyday to focus our hearts on God so that God might make the impulse that comes from our hearts have us to say and do that that is good.

We have the fixed season of Advent to focus on the "coming again of our Lord in glory to judge the living and the dead and whose kingdom will have no end. Truly, we are an Advent people all year long. And, we have a fixed day in which to remember and recall the birth of Jesus, Christmas Day. These deeds that we have done, and are doing, we know about and can plan for with some degree of certainty. We do not know what God is planning. When a day, or month, or year is past we can say for certain that that day, or month, or year was not the time that God chose for the coming of the Lord. But we do not know about tomorrow. To be ready then means being ready now. Let's give our hearts to God this Christmas. Our hearts are the only gifts that God wants. In giving our hearts to God we accept God's invitation to the great and eternal banquet. Giving our hearts to God is how we RSVP to an invitation with an unknown date.

The gospels proclaim that in giving life, we shall have life. Merry Christmas to All, John.

More from Our Rector

Greetings and God's Blessings upon you all,

Let me share this passage with you: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."* (John 14:1 – 3 NRSV)



On November 11th 2008 my mother accepted Jesus' invitation and is now in the company of Christ, in a dwelling place prepared for her in realms beyond our comprehension. I am happy for momma, but sad for myself. It is a normal feeling and a dreadful thing to realize the day after that it is still true, she has gone. I was asked several times prior to the funeral if I would speak. Every time I refused. I just wanted to hold myself together through the ordeal. As I was seated in one of the front rows of the church, my nephew also a minister, made eye contact with me and summoned me to come with him. In a private corner he again invited me to say something to "our" family, our family still here and looking to me as mamma's oldest living child to give them words of comfort. I then realized how selfish I was. I wanted to hold myself together while my sisters, brother, children, nephews, nieces and cousins were falling apart. So I pulled myself together, accepted the invitation to speak and waited for my cue.

When my time to speak came I stood at the pulpit and looked out over a sea of people whose blood flowed through my own veins. I finally broke the silence by telling my hearers who I was. How silly. As I recalled my experiences with mamma I remembered that as a family, we moved around a lot. Momma never cared much for buying a house until very late in her life. We lived in several houses in the northern part of Nashville, Tennessee. As I gazed down at the closed casket in front of me it occurred to me that mamma doesn't have to move any more. I remembered the words from John's Gospel; *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.... if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."* These words gave me comfort. I shared them with my family and friends. The truth is, we are all living in rented spaces that one day we must leave behind. Jesus has paid in full the price for our eternal dwelling place. When Jesus comes to take us to the place he has prepared for us there will be no papers to sign, no bills to pay and most important, no looking ahead to where we might have to move to next. No, thanks be to God, Jesus has arranged our final destination where there will be no more crying but eternal happiness forever and forever, Amen.

Ronnie and I thank all of you for your many prayers, cards and words of sympathy, love and support through this very difficult time. You lifted me up and I felt your love. May God bless you all.

The Gospels proclaim that in giving life

We shall have life,

John+



Adopt the Epiphany Party

As most of you know, Brooke Larsen has been hosting the Epiphany Party at her home for many years. Since, she has now moved, we are looking for someone who would like to adopt this party and host it in their home. If you have an interest, see a member of the Vestry or Father John.



Dear St Paul's In The Pines,

I would like to tell you all about something new we have started. It is the St Paul's in the Pines Evelyn Frazier Scholarship Fund. This fund was established in memory of my late mother who adopted and cared for children beyond her own. When asked about gifts in memory of my mother by the loving members of this parish, I thought it would be fitting to continue her tradition of caring for the young as they grow into adulthood. The St Paul's in the Pines Evelyn Frazier Scholarship Fund is for our parish high school seniors who intend to continue their education beyond high school and is to be awarded on our Youth Sunday that normally takes place in June following their graduation from high school. I want to thank all who have supported this fund with their generous donations.

Blessings, John+

Christina's Corner

Christina Barnett, Senior Warden

Deck the Halls

On Sunday, December 14th, St. Paul's in the Pines will commence a new tradition. All parishioners are invited to bring an ornament to hang on our Christmas tree. The parish tree will then have a special gift from each family, as they join in our church family's event.

You may bring more than one decoration and if room allows, include your name and the year 2008. These ornaments will be hung again next year, along with the 2009 additions. It will be exciting to view the different ones and see the tree display all the love we have in our church.



Gathering of the Greens

Please join us on Friday, December 19th at 6:00 PM in the longstanding tradition of the gathering of the greens. This is a fun time where we actually go into the community to cut foliage, which is then used to adorn the sanctuary. If you don't like being out in the dark, cold night, then you can volunteer to create and hang wreaths or help prepare a hot snack for those who did gather. In any event, on either day, your support is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

The process of making the beautiful creations will culminate on Saturday, in preparation for the children's Christmas pageant. What a sight to see, as you come in to worship on Sunday morning!!

From the Workbench of the Junior Warden,

Penny Fleming (and Rich)

Getting lots of inquiries about the stained glass windows. There are various options: pay for a large window- (\$1700), a small window - (\$800-900), or make a contribution. Fr. John and I met with two gentlemen from the grant committee who reviewed our request, showed them the windows and told the story and answered some questions. Hopefully we presented our story well. We have received new dishes for our many dinners. Very attractive service for 60. Peace to All, Penny&Rich

Worship

Dorzen DeJaynes



The Worship Committee met on November 10th and continues to prepare for our Advent season. First of all, we have the Bishop of Myra visiting on December 7th at the 10:30 AM service. Gathering of the Greens is Friday, the 19th. We will gather at the church around 6:00 PM. Remember to bring gloves and hedge clippers if you have them. We are treated to hot soup and sandwiches upon our return. Then the very next morning around 8:00 AM the real work begins! The making of our wreaths and hangings!. It is an all day effort with many hands needed. Come whenever you can and remain as long as you are able. Wonderful food will be provided throughout the day. We need lots of hands from making wreaths to the final act of hanging them. A couple of strong men would be appreciated for that job! We will also need help in cleaning up.

Then on Sunday morning, December 22, when you enter our sanctuary, you will be amazed at all the good work that has been done! The offering on that morning will be our annual Christmas Pageant. There will be two services Christmas Eve—our child-friendly service at 5:30 PM and the 10:30 PM service. We will also have a service on Christmas morning at 10:30 AM. Please join on in anything and everything that is happening.

The next Worship Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 PM. Remember, we are all part of this committee, so if you have an opinion or suggestion be sure to come and share them at the meeting.

EYC, Debbie Liebers

EYC Christmas

Sunday, December 14, 2008

Lunch at St Pauls at 12:30 after the 10:30 service. We will be attending the play, "The Christmas Carol" at the Gilbert Theatre. The play starts at 2pm. After the play we'll walk down Hay Street to Rude Awakening for coffee/hot chocolate and desert. We should be back at St Pauls around 5:30. Tell your parents you will call them as we are leaving downtown. You must provide a permission form in order to participate in this event. Please sign up on the EYC bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

EYC Bag Meals For The Homeless

Our young people are doing bag meals for the homeless once a month. We are in need of donations. The meals exist of a hearty sandwich with lettuce tomatoes and cheese, fresh fruit, chips, something sweet and a treat—chap stick, hand lotion, life savers, etc.

The following items are needed:

These items can be purchased in advance and placed in the EYC "Homeless Meals" plastic tub by the EYC bulletin board

Brown paper lunch bags

Ziplock sandwich bags

Condiment packs (mayo & mustard)

Plastic gloves

Paper napkins

If you would like to provide some of the treats, keep in mind that they need to be small enough to fit in a brown paper bag.

12 or 24 pack of chips

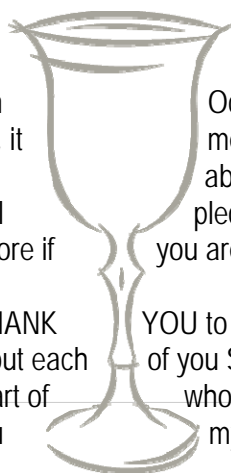
candy bars, packaged cookies, --you get the idea—individually wrapped

We will be happy to accept financial donations for the bread, meat, chips, etc.

Questions? See Debbie Liebers, Chuck Liebers, Gail Brown, Pam Frawley or Doreen DeJaynes.

We approved a deficit budget at our church meeting in which we will be spending more money than we have coming in, it our Priest Fund. So as we look to 2009, please pray need your time, your talent and, YES,.....your financial give less if you have to and more importantly give more if

As this year is coming to a close I would like to say THANK and, of course, never forgetting your money..... Without each blessed because you all are so giving. St. Paul's is part of empty.....because of my Lord and because of you



October. Working with a deficit budget means that we means that we will be tapping into our small savings and about the giving of your gifts for the upcoming year. We pledge. Making a pledge does not mean that you cannot you are able.

YOU to each of you for your generous giving of time, talent of you St. Paul's-in-the-Pines would not exist. We are very who I am and I no longer look at my cup being half my cup overflows.....and so does St. Paul's cup.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies, you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows..Psalm 23:5

With a Grateful Heart
Your Sister
Donna Roraback
Finance



Feed the EYC on December 14th. anyone interested in feeling the EYC on this date, please call Debbie or Chuck Liebers. Or see the EYC bulletin board in the Parish Hall for a sign up sheet.

Missions, Pam Frawley

The Fayetteville Urban Ministry is in need of protein foods during the month of December. Canned tuna, ham, Spam, chicken, baked beans, stew, etc. are especially needed, but any other non-perishable foods you would like to donate are always welcome. Place donations in the red box at the rear door of the sanctuary.

Finance Donna Roraback

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Stewardship, Robin Burrs



St. Paul's 2009 Stewardship Campaign

by Robin Burrs Stewardship Liaison to the Vestry

PLEDGE AMOUNT	GENRL	BLDG	PRIEST	WNDWS	P'LOT	RTRT	BKS	YOUTH	TOTALS
64007	61447	760	760	2220	520	0	0	0	65707

My Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

It looks as though we are off to a splendid start to our 2009 stewardship campaign. We have received **31 units** of financial commitment for more than **\$61,400** in our General Fund! That is slightly less than one-half of us who have decided that we can support more than half of our proposed budget. Remember, the goal for the parish is for 100% of us to pledge. (I have found that making the financial commitment on paper is easier than stressing about being constantly asked by the Stewardship Chair to PLEASE TURN IN A PLEDGE!)

Pledge Packets are available on the Information Table in the parish hall. Offering envelopes are available too, for your convenience. Let's make this one of our most successful campaigns.

Our recent reading of the Gospel of Mark helped to clarify something for me. There was a poor widow who gave freely out of her poverty. Jesus goes on to explain that in this way she has given more and is actually wealthier by her sharing than the rich person who gives a little out of their abundance. This widow gave most of what she had because she understood the meaning of the covenant, the mission of the church. Please prayerfully consider the mission of our parish and your role in making it possible.

thank you for your generosity,
and bless you for thinking of those in need,
all to the glory,
robin burrs



USE THIS E-Z-COMMITMENT FORM TO SUBMIT YOUR 2009 PLEDGE TODAY!!

PLEASE **MAIL** FORM TO: St. Paul's in the Pines
1800 St. Paul Avenue
Fayetteville, NC 28304

OR **GIVE** FORM to Robin Burrs, Stewardship Liaison

As an agent of Christ and in a commitment to the work of our beloved church, I pledge an offering of \$_____ annually to St. Paul's in the Pines Episcopal Church for 2009.

I will honor this pledge annually_____ quarterly_____ monthly_____ weekly_____

Print Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

Signature _____

I am unable to pledge at this time. I wish to make a one time gift of \$_____

2008 7 December 14 December 21 December 24 December 25 December 28 December 4 January
 The 2nd Sunday The 3rd Sunday The 4th Sunday **Eve of the CHRISTMAS Morning Prayer** The 2nd Sunday
of ADVENT of ADVENT of ADVENT **Nativity of DAY** **The Service of after Christmas**
YEAR B **Lord Jesus** **10:30AM** **Lessons & Carols** **2009**

8:00AM C. Barnett R. Burrs N. Tetterton **5:30 PM L.Flom** George/Burrs C. Barnett

Eucharistic Minister D. George R. Burrs J. Crabill **10:30pm C. Barnett** R. Burrs D. Roraback J. Crabill

Chalice P. Frawley D. DeJaynes J. Peters G. Brown R. Huskey D. George

Lector J. Frantz P. Frawley P. Fleming G. Roraback J. Peters

Crucifer J. Flom J. Liebers M. Pettigrew J. Flom J. Huskey I. Martin

Acolytes I. Martin
 A. Perham

Ushers and J. Lowder G. Winder R. Burrs B.Perham G. Winder J. Lowder

Greeters and G. Brown J. Ashford D. George G. Winder B. Perham G. Brown

Front Doors D. Roraback A. Ashford M. Winder P. Perham R. Burrs D. Roraback

Altar Guild G. Brown P. Perham C. Swick ALL R. Burrs D. George G. Brown

Tellers B. Perham D. DeJaynes P. Frawley G. Winder D. DeJaynes

Flowers \$30 The Advent Wreath by Mable Belton ***** R. Burrs

Bread/Wine \$15 R. Burrs The Rorabacks R. Burrs

Nursery Susan/Charity Saran/Jasmine Leslie/Donna Pam/Doreen Gail/Charity

Team Leaders-- PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL YOUR TEAM **PRIOR** TO THE SUNDAY YOU ARE ASSIGNED. IF IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO SERVE, PLEASE FIND YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT BEFORE THE ASSIGNED SUNDAY. INFORM THE PARISH SECRETARY BY WEDNESDAY OF YOUR ASSIGNED WEEK. PLEASE SUBMIT IN WRITING TO Robin Burrs THE DATES YOU ARE NOT AVAILABLE. **Lectors**—PLEASE UPDATE THE HYMN **BOARDS PRIOR** TO YOUR ASSIGNED SUNDAY. ALSO PLEASE UTILIZE THE ILLUMINATIONS FOR READINGS ON YOUR ASSIGNED SUNDAY.

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM	2 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM	3 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:00 PM	4 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM	5	6 Br. St. Andrew 8:00 AM
7 Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM Christian Ed 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM EYC 4:00 PM	8 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM	9 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM Fr. John at Trinity Board Meeting 10:00 AM on	10 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:00 PM Worship Committee Mtg 7:00 PM	11 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM	12	13 Br. St. Andrew 8:00 AM Vestry In-House Retreat 10:00 AM
14 Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM Christian Ed 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist EYC will sing 10:30 AM EYC Xmas Dinner 12:30 PM EYC at Gilbert Theater 2:00 PM	15 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM	16 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM	17 Fr John out of the Office Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:00 PM	18 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM	19 Gathering of the Greens 6:00 PM 	20 Making and Hanging of the Greens 8:00 AM 
21 Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM Christian Ed 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist And Xmas Pageant 10:30 AM	22 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM	23 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM	24 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM Family/ Children's Xmas Service 5:30 PM Xmas Midnight Service 10:30 PM	25 Christmas Day Office Closed Christmas Day Service 10:30 AM	26 Office Closed Father John On vacation	27 Father John On vacation
28 Festival of Lessons And Carols 8:00 AM Festival of Lessons And Carols 10:30 AM Father John On vacation	29 Father John On vacation	30 Father John On vacation	31 Father John On vacation	JAN 1 New Year's Day Office Closed Father John On vacation	JAN 2 Office Closed	Jan 3 Br. St. Andrew 8:00 AM

Birthdays & Anniversaries in December: 8—Kendra & David Seay, Kendra Seay; 12—Bill & Pam Perham; 15—Jacinda Sergent; 18—George Winder; 21—Cindi Pettigrew; 26—John & Ann Ashford, George & Bea Roraback; 29—Susan Lees; 30—Catalina Crout

Note: If your birthday or anniversary is not included on this list, it is because the information is not in our database. If you would like it included, please notify the office at 485-7098 or email office@stpaulsinthepines.net.

Saint Paul's-in-the-Pines Episcopal Church
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Website: www.stpaulsinthepines.net

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Diocese in Prayer December 2008

Please pray for the following during the month of December: 7th—St Georges, Engelhard, The Rev'd Jim Lupton, Rector; Worshiping Communities in the Diocese, St. Francis, Goldsboro-Hispanic Worship; 14th—St Peter's by the Sea, Swansboro, The Rev'd Bert Eaton, Rector; St John's, Edenton; 21st—Committees of the Diocese of East Carolina; 28th—St John's, Fayetteville.



and on earth peace!

LUKE 2:14