



The Chimes

WORSHIP ✦ MINISTRIES ✦ OUTREACH

February 2015 — The Seasons of the Epiphany and Lent

From the Rector

The days are hastening on

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Paul's,

I look forward with mixed emotions to my last Sunday with you on February 8th. Each day now is valued and treasured for me, and each day is a day of laughter and tears, as well as joy and a bit of longing, sorrow and yearning.

I am grateful to God that I was called to be among you for a time. It turned out to be “seven lean years” to use a Biblical concept and expression. That is to say my arrival coincided with the global and local Great Recession. In many ways we faced the challenges of that together, and the Spirit of God did great things here through you. I am disappointed that we could not do together here some of the things I saw God do at the two congregations I served before coming here: membership up by 30-40%, worship attendance up by 10 to 44%, giving up by 50 to 100%, and capital campaigns that met goal or soared to double the goal, coupled with new endowment funds. If we did not achieve those superlatives here, we did the best we could together, and as a folk theologian says, “not even angels can do better than that.” I continue to believe that the work and ministry we have accomplished here will flourish under re-invigorated leadership and new leaders in the months and years to come.

Eight or ten years ago you published the strengths and values you see here — and you listed the qualities, talents and skills you wanted in your Rector, to come on board in 2008. A process has begun that will refresh and grow your perceptions, yearnings, and hopes. One small part of that was last Sunday's (January 25) widely-marketed Adult Forum with an open mic Exit Interview. We used principles of the Appreciative Way (identifying and building on strengths in ministry) to list some accomplishments of the last 7-10 years. We also discovered some mutual wants, needs, disappointments and opportunities, as members of the congregation looked forward to their vision of Christ's ministry here in the future. You will read some of these comments in the *Celebrating the Present — Looking Forward to the Future* article on page 3. One standard question in exit interviews is to ask, “what are the biggest challenges facing the

congregation and the next Rector.” The Vestry and its team of consultants have all the information gathered from you — and I'll offer my thoughts on that before the Vestry meets in Retreat January 30-31.

Here's one challenge — and opportunity — that was identified at the January 25 Sunday Forum: Young Adults were not well-represented at that Forum, by their own choice and readily-apparent absence. This was true, as well, in participation in last fall's Gallup *ME25 Member Engagement Survey*. (Vestry will get a summary of that report, too.) As I leave, the two priests serving the parish are both young, by design. Not knowing who your next Interim Rector or your next Rector is, I do know that all age cohorts have the opportunity to be heard in the Search and Transition Process. This is a pregnant, expectant, creative time for everyone already here, as well as for those who clamor aboard this wonderful ship of faith.

As I said in my sermon on the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, all blessing is accompanied by Change. God cannot bless us without changing us. And all Change is accompanied for a time by its twin sibling, Confusion. But out of prayerful discernment, leaving behind past hurts and building on strengths, the Body of Christ is built up in love and in ministry, achieving the unity, harmony, and wonder Saint Paul envisioned for the Church of Christ:

“May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

These days I am not only closing out 7 years of ordained ministry among you, but also many more years of ordained ministry in a variety of congregations. I hear other callings into “first retirement”, to be refreshed, and to be useful in other ways.

Saint Paul's will always have a special place in my heart — and in my hopes for you. The sky is the limit on what God will do here, and as I've said, you ain't seen nothin yet. May God continue to bless you richly, that you may be more and more a blessing to others in Jesus' name.

I am grateful to God for each of you and all of you. God loves you. I do too. Thank you.

Faithfully,
Donald

FROM THE SENIOR CHURCHWARDEN

Be present February 8 and beyond as we move forward together

Dear Parish Family,

If you haven't already, MARK YOUR CALENDARS! On February 8, after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist, we celebrate The Rev. Donald Fishburne, his seven years as Rector of St. Paul's Chattanooga, and his 35 years of ordained ministry, ushering him in to the first phase of what we know will be an active and fruitful retirement. Please join me in offering prayers and thanksgivings for Donald and Sarah, and come celebrate on February 8.

In other news, a team of the Churchwardens and Officers plus Vestry members Alison Shaw, Brad Pope and John Woody are working with Diocesan leadership to discern candidates for Interim Rector. The full Vestry

will make the decision on whom to call to fill that position. More news on that and other transition topics on February 8 at the 9:15 Education Hour.

We are also working closely with our Bishop and Diocese, as well as with our Vestry Consultants Lynn Schmissrauter and Ann Holtz, on our transition process. They will be available to us through the search for an Interim Rector, and through the search for and welcome of the next Rector. We ask your prayers as we meet with them at the Vestry Retreat the last Saturday of January and beyond.

Our clergy staff is very lean these days: Associate Rector Quinn Parman

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WORSHIP TIMES AT ST. PAUL'S

Sundays

8:00 a.m. Said Eucharist, breakfast following.
10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist with St. Paul's Choir.

Weekdays: Monday - Friday

12:05 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. The Holy Eucharist.
Please note: No Eucharist on Friday, February 6

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. — Breakfast at 8:45 a.m.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Diocesan Transition Minister Pat Grace leads a **Special Forum** on the Search & Transition process and preaches at our 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Eucharists.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

I BELIEVE IN GOD?

Speaker: The Rev. Quinn Parman, Associate Rector. Christians have come up with many different answers to questions about whether belief in God can be defended through rational thought. We will explore whether the life of faith makes sense — and what the answer to this question means today.

FEBRUARY 22 - MAY 3: INQUIRERS CLASS

St. Paul's Inquirers Class prepares adults for Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church and welcomes them into the life of St. Paul's Church. New members who just want to learn more, or long-time members who want a refresher, may also find the class helpful and interesting. Topics include Church History, Anglican Theology, *The Book of Common Prayer*, and Mission & Ministry of the Church. Led by the clergy of St. Paul's.



SUNDAY, MARCH 1

PASTORAL CARE

Speaker: Janet Hale, St. Paul's Pastoral Care Minister. *St. Paul's Cares...* is a communication network of clergy, shepherds, and pastoral support ministries working together to ensure that "no one walks alone" as they face the challenges and changes of life. Come and learn about the expanding pastoral care work growing in our parish.

For other upcoming or continuing classes, read our weekly *eChimes* newsletter! A full schedule is also available at www.stpaulschatt.org/christian-education

Saying Farewell to the Fishburnes

If you wish to the Fishburnes a note or card, you may address it to 3488 Reflecting Dr., Chattanooga 37415. The Fishburnes have requested that any gifts in their honor be made as tax deductible contributions to the Church (earmarked *Camps and Missions*) to benefit children and youth from the parish and community to take part in camps/conferences at Grace Point (home of Saint Paul's Chapel) as well as choir camps/conferences, our Arts Camp, youth camps/conferences, and the 2015 summer Youth Mission Trip.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8: CELEBRATION OF OUR RECTOR'S MINISTRIES & RETIREMENT!

8:45 a.m. — Breakfast honoring Donald & Sarah Fishburne.

11:45 a.m. (after the 10:30 Eucharist) — Reception honoring the Fishburnes and celebrating our Rector's ministries. Key-Andrews Hall.

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper: February 17

Let the Good Times Roll!



Come to our Mardi Gras Pancake Supper sponsored by the Youth of Saint Paul's on February 17 at 6 p.m. in Key-Andrews Hall. This family-friendly, fast-paced, fun evening will conclude by 7:15 p.m. so folks can get home for homework and other activities. \$5 adults, \$2 children, \$20 max. per family.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday: February 18

Join us at 7:00 a.m., 12:05 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

We gather on February 18 for the Ash Wednesday Liturgy, the Holy Eucharist, and the Imposition of Ashes as together we mark the beginning of the Season of Lent.

Fast Day to Benefit the Community Kitchen

The First Sunday of Lent — February 22

This year, St. Paul's will observe Fast Day on the first Sunday of Lent — all in support of the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. The Community Kitchen opened its doors as a feeding program in 1982 when St. Paul's and six other downtown churches partnered to better meet the needs of Chattanooga's growing homeless population. Since then, the Kitchen has expanded to cover a city block, providing food and services 365 days a year.

On February 22, your Outreach Committee will serve as chefs, and they will match your donations at breakfast! What a great way to double your gift and the blessing to the Community Kitchen and our 350+ neighbors they serve each day! Information about the Community Kitchen will be available at breakfast and at Coffee Hour.

You may also make a gift to the Kitchen by using the envelopes in your bulletin on February 22 — they are also available throughout the church. You can drop your gift into the offering plate with your check payable to the Community Kitchen. For more information about the Kitchen, its programs, and how you can volunteer, contact Community Kitchen Board Member and St. Paul's Liaison Debbie Martin martinrm914@comcast.net.

THE THORNE SPARKMAN SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Wednesdays in Lent: February 25 - March 25

The Thorne Sparkman School of Religion features a keynote speaker on March 25:

The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina

Five courses will be offered on Wednesday evenings

February 25, March 4, March 11, and March 18.

Participants may register for two classes each evening.

Before each Wednesday session: Organ Meditations followed by Holy Eucharist, and Optional Dinner. First Session of classes begins at 6:30 p.m.

Presenters & Classes

Dr. Mark Hopwood — Global Ethics

The Rev. John Runkle, RA — Holy Spaces: Architecture of the Western Church

Dr. Andrew Thompson — Christianity and Ecology

The Rev. Canon James Turrell — The Revolution in Baptism in the 1979 Prayer Book

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Wright — Enough: Limits and the Old Testament

To register, pick up a brochure at the Church or see www.stpaulschatt.org/thorne-sparkman

Celebrating the Present — Looking Forward to the Future

At the Forum on Sunday January 25 and in other times and ways we have gathered from the congregation information on the ministries we see as revealing **values and strengths from the last 7-10 years, including:**

Liturgy and music, the arts (including Arts Camp, Exum Gallery, Icons in Transformation), After Hours ministry, Outreach, St. Catherine's Shelter; much improved communication both inward and outward; transparency; Vestry Highlights; breakfast; youth ministries including EYC, mission trips, handbell choirs; new members [more than 360 since 2008 and more than 400 prospective members at various stages of joining with 40-50 newcomers invited to suppers each fall and spring]; environmental education and stewardship of creation including GreenFaith; diversity in membership and worship; inclusivity; Field Ed seminarians staying with us longer — and we are more intentional about this; even stronger connections with Sewanee; clergy a blessing; education for adults including a stronger Thorne Sparkman School. We want to carry these ministries into the future.

In addition, we have done these things well and have these assets and strengths: involvement with the clergy and congregations of Greater Chattanooga and the Diocese, as well as through regional and national networks (Downtown Episcopal Clergy of the New South, Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes); the Bishop's satellite office here; Diocesan grants to our ministries; our increased giving to and through the ministries of our healthy Diocese; our Deacon for Outreach Ann Weeks and our Pastoral Care Minister Janet Hale; The Ayai family who joined our congregation and gave us the opportunity to help them build their house and home; Dr. Keith Reas as head of music ministries; concerts; and increased spirituality in the congregation.

What do we celebrate as talents and ministry strengths that Donald has shared with us? Pastoral care, pastoral presence, compassion, attentiveness; strengthening lay ministries; communication, transparency and efficiency; his strong spiritual presence; preaching, sermons, sermon content, tone of voice; teaching; financial leadership in difficult times including the Great Recession when he arrived; exceptional work ethic; identifying strengths and weaknesses in our five buildings and in the congregation's ministries; administration; being a mentoring leader for clergy; leading in our successful capital campaign; leadership in inclusivity; prayerfulness; emphasis on young adults; young adult clergy support; the arts; worship.

We asked: What are some disappointments or hurts? Listed by those at the January 25 Forum, including Donald: Impact of the 2008 Recession right at Donald's arrival; Donald's expectation that a skilled Parish Administrator/Chief Operations Officer could have been brought on board to see to administration and facilities needs, giving him more time and presence with members of the congregation as well as with newcomers. Donald's disappointment that almost nothing has been done to address needs and opportunities in the nave that have been identified over the last 5 to 30 years, including acoustics, attention to the Organ, and much more. Little opportunity to strengthen and broaden our worship and liturgy. Parishioners at the Forum expressed surprise that more people were not present; and low ministry participation rates by the congregation as a whole. "The elephant in the room is annual giving by members of the congregation."

Imagining five years into the future, the congregation yearns to see: even more attention to young families with children; young adults [Associ-



Photo courtesy of parishioner Ed Barels

ate Rector for Cradle to College Ministries]; ministries with singles and seniors; revision of our mission and vision with financial support for the vision; increased financial stewardship through new and existing commitments; more offerings and more participation on Wednesday nights through classes and small group experiences [like the former Disciples of Christ in Community]; tap the gifts and talents of skilled and gifted people here [Gifts and Talents Workshop, Time and Talent Pledges, etc.]; a vision that brings cohesion and more participation; inter-denominational gatherings; we don't want to be the "frozen chosen."

What did this congregation list as strengths and wants in the 2007 Parish Profile and Search for a Rector? Our stated strengths and values were: Liturgy, preaching, teaching. Stability. A place of faith and hope. Firm foundation. Anchor. High expectations of clergy, staff, congregation. Challenges: "Increased attention to issues of financial stewardship. A need to stress more deliberately inclusivity and diversity... The need to mobilize people and resources for service within and beyond the walls." **"Immediate challenges"** in 2006-2007: "Our approach to parish finances demands a clear, well-articulated plan... we have experienced a slight decline in the number of parishioners who pledge.... This decline in annual pledges has meant we have had to adjust our contributions to the diocese and to examine our support of some social outreach programs.... There is the unfortunate perception of St. Paul's as a 'wealthy parish', and this has created the misconception that there is no need for an aggressive stewardship campaign and asset management. There is the need for better financial management, better communication with the congregation, and more transparency in how we spend our money. The new Rector (in 2008) will need to take a leading role in this arena. We need to clarify and reaffirm our commitment to outreach and service. While many parishioners give both of their time and their financial resources, we tend to offer more of the latter and less of the former. We will look to the new Rector for leadership about how best to approach our larger leadership role."

Who we seek in a Rector (2007): "Four primary areas have risen to the top as we seek our new Rector:

- Continuing and building upon our rich Episcopal tradition of worship and music.
- Developing a network of personal and pastoral care that will nurture the full life of the parish.
- Energizing the parish in outreach through a greater sense of service to our communicants, our community, and the world and a stronger sense of leadership within the denomination.

Faith in Action

MINISTRY HERE AND 'BEYOND THE WALLS'

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25: THE FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL



Continued from page 3 ... **CELEBRATING THE PRESENT — LOOKING FORWARD**

- Developing the stewardship of the parish through personal and financial resources.”

Other qualities sought in the Rector (2007): An administrator with strong organizational skills. “He must be financially astute, a capable administrator, and a competent manager.” And a preacher, liturgical leader... who can articulate his or her



positions on a range of issues affecting community issues, diocesan concerns, and the national Church. We desire preaching which emphasizes a scriptural text while bringing that text alive in relation to our modern circumstances. We seek someone with both intellectual breadth and an informal, conversational style to challenge our intellects as well as touch hearts. In addition to being a strong preacher, the Rector must also serve as a liturgical leader who can adhere to the order of service while trying non-traditional approaches that complement the traditions. As a downtown parish this role also requires that Rector and staff have the ability to plan and conduct a variety of services of public worship.

More from the 2007 Profile: After his or her roles as pastor, preacher, and liturgical leader, the skills of a strong administrator are key. Managing a \$1.25 million budget requires both a certain financial acumen and an ability to manage people. Our Rector needs to be an effective team leader who communicates with the executive administrative secretary, other clergy, and the various support staff at St. Paul's. Finally, he or she needs to be adept at managing the affairs of the congregation and participating in both diocesan matters and matters involving other institutions.

Continued from page 1 ... **FROM THE SENIOR CHURCHWARDEN**

is the only fulltime, resident priest. Associate Rector Leigh Preston is 3/4 time and lives with her family at Sewanee. They are both fully engaged and working hard, serving and leading this wonderful parish family and community. Further good news is that we have two fulltime-equivalent staff members: Deacon for Outreach Ann Weeks, and Lay Pastoral Minister Janet Hale. They are non-stipendiary but strongly and faithfully committed to us. In addition, The Rev. Jocelyn Bell, retired Rector of Christ Church, helps us liturgically on weekdays and some Sundays. She is a member of our congregation. Please join me in thanking each of them for their ministries.

We thank “retiring” Vestry members on Sunday, February 1. They are John Woody, Herb Knowles, Lori Govan, Janet Hale and Lee Culpepper. We commission all Vestry members, Churchwardens and Officers on that date – the date we officially take office. The next regular meeting of Vestry is Monday, February 23. Our Bishop will meet with the Vestry at that time as well. It is also likely that there will be special meetings of the Vestry before then.

I have two requests of you: please keep us (Clergy, Vestry, Officers, Lay Leaders, Committee members) in your daily prayers. And if you have not yet made a financial pledge to the Mission and Ministry budget of this wonderful parish, please do so now. We will adopt the Mission and Ministry budget very soon.

Thanks and blessings, **Hank Hopping**

**DID YOU MISS THE
— SPECIAL EDITION —
MID-JANUARY CHIMES?
See it online at <http://ow.ly/I2YtG>**

Souper Bowl of Caring 2015

Our Youth have won the Souper Bowl for the past 8 years, and they hope to keep the coveted trophy — but the real winners are the needy families who will receive your donations. Place your non-perishable food donations in the bins in the Bonner Tower and the Narthex, or make your check payable to St. Paul's marked *Souper Bowl*.

Habitat for Humanity 'Build Day'

All parishioners 16+ are welcome to participate in our monthly Habitat Build Days! **Our next date is Saturday, February 21.** Contact Pat Daniel: danielp1345@yahoo.com.

Family Promise Volunteers: Thanks!

Thank you to all the volunteers whose hospitality ministry made the week safe, comfortable, and enjoyable for our Family Promise families! **Our next Family Promise week is May 3 - May 10.**

St. Paul's Financial Coaching Ministry

Are Money Worries Weighing You Down?

Turn Concerns into Confidence with a Financial Coach!

Many people want to improve their financial well-being but need motivation and support from someone who knows the ropes and someone who can help them become more confident with their financial position. Your trained volunteer Financial Coach can help you set goals and take action, navigate your concerns, and develop and maintain healthy financial behaviors. Financial Coaching is a one-on-one relationship that provides encouragement, guidance and helpful resources in setting your goals and putting them into action. There is no cost for this ministry.

Interested in meeting with a volunteer Financial Coach?

Contact Gail Winterbauer: 423-602-5662 (direct line) or winter@stpaulschatt.org.

Vestry Members

Hank Hopping — Senior Warden

Rick Lee — Junior Warden

Katherine Betts — Secretary

Bobby Crates — Treasurer

Hugh Sharber — Chancellor

Russell Craig, Bo Hixson, Lynn Hodge,

Randy Odle, Clay Patton, Brad Pope, Alison Shaw

Also to be commissioned February 1

Ed Barel, Julia Cronin, Mary Lockhart, Tom White

Terms expiring February 1

Lee Culpepper, Lori Govan, Janet Hale,

Herb Knowles, John Woody



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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8: CELEBRATE DONALD'S MINISTRY & RETIREMENT



Our Sunday service is broadcast live on our website each week: www.stpaulschatt.org

Are health issues keeping you away from church on Sundays? You might join our weekday Eucharists in the chapel at 12:05 Monday through Friday. The brief daily service can be a good option when you do not have the stamina for an hour's worth of church. Come join us there, or let us know if you need Communion at home.

Send your email address to beverly@stpaulschatt.org to receive *eChimes*, our weekly email newsletter! Deadline for the March issue of *The Chimes*: February 15. Send news to jenny@stpaulschatt.org.

Special Events

AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH AND AROUND THE DIOCESE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 — 4:00 P.M. Children's Choral Evensong

Led by the Children & Youth Choirs of Good Shepherd, St. Timothy's, St. Paul's, and Church of the Nativity (Hunsville). The Evensong will preview music the choirs will sing at the Diocesan Chorister Festival at Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville. Reception follows.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 — 4:00 P.M. Choral Evensong for The First Sunday of Lent

Featuring Plainsong, Byrd, and Copeland. Reception follows.



SUNDAY, MARCH 1 — 4:00 P.M.

Artist Series Concert: Peter Marshall, Harpsichord

Peter Marshall has appeared as a soloist with major orchestras as well as with chamber groups *Hesperus* and *Folger Consort*. He currently holds the Hugh & Jessie Hodgson Keyboard Chair at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. The concert will feature early and contemporary harpsichord music by Bach, Ligeti, Couperin, Byrd, and others. General \$10, Students \$5.

St. Paul's After Hours

St. Paul's *After Hours* is a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners! It is a small group adult social ministry that meets once a month for Sunday lunch, either in parishioner homes or local restaurants. Group members rotate at four-month intervals. Our spring gatherings begin in March and will continue through June. Please contact Debbie Martin (martinrm914@comcast.net), Lee Moore (mooremlee@aol.com) or Lee Thomas (leethomas0701@gmail.com). Returning members need not re-enroll.

Men's Night Out

Thursday, February 12 at 6:15 p.m.

The men of St. Paul's gather to enjoy food, drink, and time together on the second Thursday of each month. This will be our **last gathering at Chattanooga Brewing Company for a while**, so if you have been wanting to check it out this is a good chance! (We'll find a new spot in March.) Contact The Rev. Quinn Parman: parman@stpaulschatt.org.

YAMs (Young Adults) News

The YAMs Second Sunday Lunch will meet on the **third Sunday of this month** — because we want to celebrate Donald's ministries and retirement on February 8!

On Sunday, February 15, St. Paul's Young Adults will head out to lunch at Tupelo Honey (Warehouse Row, Downtown) following the 10:30 Eucharist. Plan to gather in Key-Andrews Hall after the Eucharist and we will walk or carpool to Tupelo Honey for great fellowship and a tasty meal!

The YAMs will also join St. Paul's Habitat for Humanity Build Day on Saturday, February 21! Contact Quinn for more information.

EYC Parents' Dinner

The Rev. Quinn Parman invites all parents of EYC members for dinner while the youth enjoy EYC on the second Sunday of each month. **We are not meeting in February, but we will resume our dinners on March 8.**