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# ◆ News and Views From St. Paul's ◆

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Vol. 13 Issue 2

February, 2010

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## Upcoming Events

- February 2: 9:30 AM, Bountiful Blessings, p.2  
Kickoff Meeting  
St. Paul's Church
- February 6: 9 AM, Vestry Audit Meeting
- February 7: Epiphany V  
9 AM, Worship at St. Paul's  
10:15 AM, Adult Forum and Church School
- February 10: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship  
7 PM, Choir Rehearsal
- February 11: 5:30 PM, Vestry Meeting
- February 13: 10 AM, Daughters of the King Meeting
- February 14: Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
9 AM, Worship at St. Paul's  
10:15 AM, Adult Forum and Church School  
5:00 PM, Vesper Service, Light Supper, p.7
- February 16: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- February 17: Ash Wednesday  
12:10 PM, Imposition of Ashes & Eucharist  
6 PM, Imposition of Ashes & Eucharist  
7 PM, Choir Rehearsal
- February 21: Lent I  
9 AM, Worship at St. Paul's  
10:15 AM, Adult Forum and Church School
- February 22: 6 PM, Finance Committee Meeting
- February 23: 12 PM, Daughters of the King Meeting
- February 24: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship  
7 PM, Choir Rehearsal
- February 28: Lent II  
9 AM, Worship at St. Paul's  
10:15 AM, Adult Forum and Church School
- Looking Ahead:**
- March 3: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship  
7 PM, Choir Rehearsal
- March 7: Lent III  
9 AM, Worship at St. Paul's  
10:15 AM, Adult Forum and Church School

**Monday through Friday:**

**9:00 AM, Morning Prayer  
5:30 PM, Evening Prayer**

## Living with a Grateful Heart:

**How do I seek and recognize  
God's presence in my life?**

2009 brought more difficult moments, more challenges, and more sadness that I have ever experienced in one year. Yet, doors opened, smiles and laughter were shared, and difficulties were overcome. And, I count my blessings--for a strong family, for wonderful memories, for kind and gentle children, for a supportive and loving husband, and for a wonderful church...

Through it all, I felt the presence of God in my life. When Lucas fell yesterday and hit his head so hard on a corner, I was grateful and thankful to God that it was only a surface injury. As Ben's mother begins her recovery and rehabilitation after a stroke on December 26, we thank God for her strength and her amazing determination. When Max, Lucas, and I all walked away from a head on collision with a stationary trailer in November, all I could do was thank God for our good fortune and the gift of our lives.

How can and do I give thanks for these and other blessings in my life? By belonging to a welcoming and affirming church like St. Paul's, I know that my stewardship pledge too is a way of affirming my faith and giving thanks to God. Volunteering to serve Christmas Dinner was a way to share the grace of God in my life. Being an active and engaged member of Vestry for five years has given me an opportunity to share my own talents. And, my monthly pledge provides a chance for me to say thank you, God. Thank you for my children, for memories of a wonderful father, for a beautiful place to live, for a job I love, for a family that embraces me, and for this wonderful, crazy thing we call life. Thank you, God, I live with a grateful heart.

*Submitted by Rachel Bartron*

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## *Glimpses of grace from Father Paul and Father Randy...*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



The **Celebration of New Ministry** on January 23 was one of the most significant events in the life of the St. Paul's parish family and the Borough of Montrose in many years. It was not only an opportunity to celebrate the ministry that has taken place at St. Paul's over many years but also a renewed commitment to further build upon this foundation, with much excitement and anticipation, as we begin a new chapter in the life and ministry of St. Paul's Parish.

There are several groups and individuals I would like to thank for making our celebration the success that it was. The **Vestry** offered their support and assistance in a variety of ways. The **Daughters of the King** did an excellent job organizing the reception—the set up, providing the unbelievably scrumptious food, and the clean-up. **Dick Schwab, Jerry Sock, Jack Lasher and Bernie Zalewski** worked several days completing some long overdue maintenance work and clean-up that needed to be addressed in both the church and parish hall. **Cindy Vernet** offered her talents and provided the beautiful table decorations. **The Altar Guild**, as usual, made certain that everything in the sanctuary was in place. **Scott Zimmerman, Fr. Randy and the Choir** put in many hours preparing the outstanding music program for the celebration. **Fr Randy** additionally worked on setting up the seating arrangements as well as completing and printing the bulletin. **Reilly Shingler** became a torch bearer for the first time, enabling us, along with **Heather Walker and Anne Ward**, to re-establish the use of the processional torches which had been put away for a number of years. I am hoping that others in the parish will be willing to come forward and continue this ministry as well.



A number of **Diocesan Clergy** joined us for the celebration including **Fr. Charles Cesaretti, Mother Elizabeth Moulton**, and my close friend **Fr. Donald Shearer**. I was very pleased to welcome to our service regional clergy including **Pastor Chuck Link** from First Presbyterian Church, **Pastor Jane Bensley** from the United Methodist Churches in Dimock and Springville, and **Pastor Bob** from the Bridgewater Baptist Church. Finally, I am very grateful that **Mayor John Wilson** was also able to join us, presenting a **proclamation from the Borough Council** recognizing both the Celebration of New Ministry and the long history of St. Paul's reaching out into the Montrose Community. Thank you not only to all of these groups and individuals but to the many others who quietly worked behind the scenes to make this a very successful event!

The first meeting to begin **The Bountiful Blessings** ministry will be held on **Tuesday, February 2, 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul's**. **You are invited to join us at this 2010 organizational meeting of Bountiful Blessings**. Last year over 600 meals were provided for at Easter and \$7,000 was raised to support the purchase of food items not donated. Monies not needed for the purchase of items for these dinners were then donated to the Community Food Bank. Canned and boxed food items and cash donations are needed.

Fr. Paul

### **How to Order a DVD of the Celebration of New Ministries!**

A Complete DVD will cost \$20. Of that \$10 is the cost, and \$10 will go to the church. All orders must be paid in advance. Please order by March 5 from Jack Lasher, or if you have any questions call Jack Lasher at 278-2868.

### **Pictorial Directory**

A new **Pictorial Directory** is in the works for St. Paul's, St. Mark's and Christ Church. I have become aware that it is not only Fr. Randy and I who still have to struggle to put names and faces together but there are a number of people in our congregations who do as well. This is an opportunity to enable us to bring names and faces together for all three of our parish communities! Appointments for having photos taken will be offered from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and then on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until noon, February 20<sup>th</sup>. You will receive a free 8 X 10 color for sitting for the photo. You will also be able to order additional photos as you would like. Additionally you will receive a free Photo Directory once they are completed. **WE NEED EVERYONE IN EACH PARISH TO BE REPRESENTED IN THIS DIRECTORY!**

### **Local Librarian on Jeopardy!**

Systems Librarian Hilary Caws-Elwitt is going to be a contestant on the Jeopardy quiz show. The taping date is 2/2 and the episode will air in mid-April. We wish her luck representing Susquehanna County and Pennsylvania librarians!

Dear sisters and brothers of faith,

For many of us one of the very first Bible stories that we learned as children was probably the story of the creation of humankind by God out of the dust of the earth. God took a lump of dust and breathed into it the "ruah" or breath of God, and it became a living being. Fantastic stuff, this notion that ordinary dust could become alive through the ruah of God.

A little later, probably about the time I was in late elementary school I learned another bit of fantastic stuff, that our human bodies are made up of about 99% water and a little bit of solid matter, "dust" if you will. Perhaps, if I had only thought about it then, I shouldn't have been surprised at that epiphany, and the thought that, if all of the water were removed from my body, all that would remain is a bit of dust.

And so it all comes together for me as an adult on the First Day of Lent, which we call Ash Wednesday. Father Paul places a mark of ash in the form of a cross on our foreheads with the admonition "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return..." The Collect for the blessing of the ashes says "Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior."

In that action of inscribing an ashen mark on our foreheads there is perhaps one of the most paradoxical of all our liturgical acts if there ever was one. That little smudge of ash is superimposed upon another cross, the indelible one made in oil at the moment of our baptism when we are sealed and marked as Christ's own forever.

The mark of the ash reminds us of where came from and where we are going, "from ashes to ashes and from dust to dust.." A stark reminder that there is an ultimate defeat of our mortal nature, of all of our hard-won and cherished progress and all of our earthly accomplishments. And superimposing this mark upon the indelible mark on our souls tells us that we cannot come to the full and eternal life promised in baptism without taking seriously our need for the total and sacrificial offering of ourselves, "our souls and bodies."

*Cont. on page 4...*

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*Cont. from page 3,*

Sooner or later we will all wash the ash smudge off of our foreheads, but even if the material ash we receive is gone, the spiritual mark remains until Easter Day.

I would suggest that each of us, as we mark these forty days of Lent daily place on God's Altar a new and figurative batch of ashes each morning. Where might those ashes come from?

The first source is everything about you and your life which has been taken from you without your consent- the hurts, the unkind words and deeds, the power plays that sent you reeling, the withdrawal of recognition and support that someone else decided you should no longer have and had the power to take from you. You might remember here Father Paul's admonition to each of us on Sunday morning at the Offertory: "If you are offering your gift at the Altar, and remember that your brother or your sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the Altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or your sister, and then come and offer your gift." Let God take those things and burn them up in God's consuming fire.

The second source are those things about you and your life that has special significance, either positive or negative, that you choose to offer to God for both transformation and renewal. There are things about each of us that may have had value once, but their day is past and they are ready either for burning or for renewing by God's ruah.

So daily, in your mind, take something from each source and place it before God and ask that God's fire come and consume it. Offer it up totally so that only the very residue of the ash remains. Then mark the sign of the cross on your own forehead as a daily reminder that which has not died cannot be raised, and anything not surrendered cannot be made new again, except by the creating, redeeming and sustaining love of God.

I invite you to keep this paradoxical and great truth before you as you seek to walk a holy Lent.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Randy

## **Liturgy 101: Some Thoughts as we approach the season of Lent**

The Proper Liturgy for Ash Wednesday invites the people of God to the observance of a holy Lent with these words: *Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful, were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.*

*I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.*

The word Lent itself means simply "spring." In the ancient Anglo-Saxon language from which it stems, the meaning is of the lengthening of days; the season in which flowers and trees begin to put forth new shoots. The season of Lent is, then, a time for new growth, not only in the flora and fauna around us, but also in our own spiritual lives.

*Cont. on page 5...*

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*Cont. from page 4*

Lent is the liturgical season, marked by fasting, and lasting for forty days (excluding Sundays) before Easter. During the first three centuries of the church, the period of fasting in preparation for Easter did not, as a rule, exceed two or three days, which is evident from a statement of Bishop Irenaeus, recorded by the historian Eusebius. The first mention of a period of forty days, probably referring to the season we now call Lent, occurs in the Canons of Nicea (A.D. 325). The custom may have originated in the prescribed fast for candidates for baptism, and the number forty is evidently suggested by the forty days fasts of Moses, Elijah, and certainly of Our Savior Jesus Christ himself, although the period was calculated differently in different churches. In the eastern churches, the Lenten fast was observed for seven weeks with both Saturday and Sunday exempt, totaling only thirty-six actual fasting days. In the west, the church fasted for six weeks, exempting only Sundays from fasting, and also totaling only thirty-six actual days. Only at Jerusalem was fasting done for forty days, covering five days in each of eight weeks. The number forty was not set in the Latin Church until the seventh century, when the four days from Ash Wednesday were added to the six weeks of six days from the First Sunday in Lent through Easter. Here we should note that Sundays are referred to as "Sundays in Lent," not "Sundays of Lent," since Sundays are always Feasts of Our Lord. *Submitted by The Rev'd. Randy Webster*

**Shrove Tuesday** is the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday. Its name comes from the Old English word "shrive," meaning "to confess; it is on this day that confession of the faithful privately to a priest, and the receiving of absolution occurred.

Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday," was the public revelry that developed on the day before Lent began. Among the many things that were to be abstained from during the somber and penitential season of Lent was the use of fat, grease or butter to fry foods in. It was on this day that all of the fat in the household was used up until Easter. This is the reason why Pancake Suppers are connected with Shrove Tuesday; the griddle cakes were fried in butter or grease which needed to be used up before the beginning of the season of Lent. *Cont..*

The revelry which sprung up, especially in the French Quarter of Louisiana, as well as in places such as Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on "Fat Tuesday" have to do with the death and burial of the "Alleluia." From Ash Wednesday until Easter Day no Alleluias are used in public worship. In many areas there is even a symbolic coffin paraded through the streets, accompanied by traditional funeral "parades." *Submitted by The Rev'd. Randy Webster*

### **All things come from you O Lord. Of your own do we give to you.**

We say these words every Sunday as the offering is presented. Do you live them?

We are asked by God to give of our time, our talent and our treasure, all of which we possess only through the grace of God. Do your gifts of time, talent and treasure truly reflect your thanksgiving for all that God has given you? Or, do you try to barter your thanks by rationalizing – if I give of my time and talent, that should be enough; OR I'll give money, but I'm too busy for anything else.

Have you ever said that we need to buy, repair, or replace something at the church, or we need to support certain ministries? Does your stewardship make it possible to fulfill your request?

Do you believe that God has bestowed gifts, love, and blessings upon you and your family? Are you giving back, thereby enabling St. Paul's to reach out to others through your gifts of time, talent and treasure?

Every day on this earth is a gift from God – He gives us time. The special skills we possess that enable us to earn a living, care for our family and home, enjoy hobbies are all gifts from God – He gives us talent. Our families, friends, church, community, and the money and possessions we have are also all blessings from God – He gives us treasure. We are made in God's image, and God is a giver! We must all ask ourselves, as Christians, are we giving enough back?

All things come from you O Lord.  
Of your own do we give to you. *Submitted by Sandy Schwab*

### Thank You And May God Bless You!

Thus far the following members of St. Paul's congregation have stepped forward to share in God's bounty to help St. Paul's further its mission and ministries by pledging their financial support in 2010. Please thank them for their gracious and generous gifts when you next see them:

Robert & Patty Aiken	Vida Finlon	Barbara Shingler
Richard & Dorothy Arrowsmith	Lynne & Dan Graham	Mike & Heather Shingler
David and Margie Baker	Glen & Ann Kiefer	Shirley Shingler
Ben & Rachel Bartron	Robert & Janet Kuhn	Ted Shingler
Naomi A. Bennett	Carol & Jack Lasher	Jerry & Maggie Sock
Jennie Bowen	Richard & Carol Marker	Richard & Susan Stone
Chris & Barb Buffington	Eleanor McKeage	Tom & Brenda Syle
Margaret Burgh	Warren Morgan	Paul Walker & Randy Webster
The Rev Charles Cesaretti	David Plank & Anna D'Andrea	Joe & Esther Welden
Ron & Jane Chandler	Sandra & Richard Schwab	Karen Wolfson
Mary Ann Dewitt	Alma Shingler	Alice Wood

Sharing God's blessings through Stewardship is an everyday event. Please consider St. Paul's when you thank God for all the good things He has given to you.  
St. Paul's Vestry

### Coats for the Community

Many thanks to all the people and organizations that made this year's Coats for the Community Program a great success. Thank you for your prayers and support to this program since its beginning.

The Coats for the Community received donations from the general public, Burlington Coat Factory, Old Navy and Aeropostale. We went out and purchased over \$925.00 worth of kids' coats from the Salvation Army, Kids Consignments and Interfaith.

The following is a list of the distribution sites and the number of items given away at each:

St. Marks Episcopal Church, New Milford	176
Christ Episcopal Church, Forest City	401
St. Pauls Episcopal Church, Montrose	90
Christ Episcopal Church, Susquehanna	176
Blue Ridge High School, New Milford	320
Roger Sherwood Farms, Meshoppen	25
American Legion Post 154, Montrose	234
Peoples Bank, Meshoppen	30
St. Pauls Episcopal Church, Montrose	<u>255</u>
	1707

Included in the above total were a number of blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters, and sweat shirts for families in our communities.

## Vespers Service

Historic St. Paul's will host the monthly Community Vespers Service on February 14 at 5:00 P.M. The service will be presented in observance of African-American History month. The Rev'd Paul Walker, Rector of St. Paul's will officiate at the service and The Rev'd Randy Webster will play the organ and direct the music. A light supper will follow the service.

The Evensong in Black-Church tradition will include the singing of a number of hymns in the tradition, the singing of Psalms, the reading of scripture and several prayers. The service is free and open to the public.

Persons wishing to join the choir for the singing are asked to meet at the church at 3:30 in the afternoon.

St. Paul's is located at 60 Church Street in Montrose. For more information you may call 570-278-2954. *The Rev'd. Randy Webster*

## African Team Ministries Crafts on Display at St. Paul's

A display of crafts and goods from African Team Ministries will be on display for sale at St. Paul's on Sunday, February 7 through Sunday, February 14. African Team Ministries serves the churches of eastern Africa, providing funds for vital outreach in the area. Among the many projects are the support for the training of 5,000 lay elders in Kenya, both men and women, in AIDS prevention ministry. After the training, each elder will visit a family each week to help them change their behavior so they will not catch AIDS. Another is providing help for displaced people in Kenya who have been forced from their homes due to political unrest, to provide food, blankets, shelter and support for people to return to their homes.

## Women's Resource Center

Winter can be a hard time for someone who leaves their home suddenly due to domestic violence. If one must leave they leave suddenly when they get a chance and frequently turn to the Women's Resource Center. Often they only have the clothes on their back. Some of the needs at this time are warm blankets, socks, pj's, winter hats, gloves, mittens, jackets, sweat suits, even flannel sheets and shirts. Think also of the children who may leave with their parent, and some items they could use. They could use some clothes as well as items to keep them busy, such as art supplies, games, cards, pens, pencils, paint and paper. Babies need items such as diapers, blankets, and baby wipes. These are just some suggestions. Any help you give someone who is trying to start a new life away from their previous living situation is always appreciated.

*Submitted by Maggie Sock*

## Good Stewardship Starts Here!!!

I have an issue I would like to address in my stewardship letter this month. It is in regards to use of utilities in our church buildings. As you know, I am in charge of snow removal for the parish and the rectory. The issue I have is when I come down to remove snow and ice at 5:30 a.m. in the morning, I am finding outside lights left on, hallway lights left burning and on one occasion there were spots left on in the sanctuary. In the future before you walk out and lock the last door do the following:

1. Make sure all exterior and interior lights are turned off.
2. Make sure all doors are closed for heat conservation.
3. Make sure all exterior doors are locked and secured. Remember folks, good stewardship starts here !!!

*Thank You, Bernie Zalewski, Senior Warden*

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## **Your Vestry At Work Summary Of The January 9<sup>th</sup> And January 11<sup>th</sup> Vestry Meetings**

Your Vestry has been hard at work in January, meeting twice to address the needs of the parish, including the following:

- Approved the 2010 Budget
  - Charged the Property Committee with the development of a job description for cleaning the church, which shall be provided to the current cleaning service
  - Established the 2010 meeting schedule, moving monthly Vestry meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., and setting an audit review meeting for February 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
  - Approved submission of the Parochial Report to the Diocese
  - Established a Stewardship Committee
  - Implemented the development of a parish-wide photo directory through Photique, with the option for Christ Church, Susquehanna and St. Mark's, New Milford to participate
- Accepted the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to increase lay ministry for various communication and scheduling tasks and to obtain server space through Frontier for all church electronic files

Complete minutes of the meetings are posted on the bulletin board in the Guild Room.

*Submitted by Sandy Schwab, Clerk to Vestry*

## **Silence and Organizing**

"Our task is the opposite of distraction. Our task is to help people concentrate on the real but often hidden event of God's active presence in their lives. Hence, the question that must guide all organizing activity in a parish is not how to keep people busy, but how to keep them from being so busy that they can no longer hear the voice of God who speaks in silence.

Calling people together therefore means calling them from the fragmenting and distracting wordiness of the dark world to that silence in which they can discover themselves, each other, and God. Thus organizing can be seen as the creation of a space where communion becomes possible and community can develop.

... But let us not be too literal about silence. After all, silence of the heart is much more important than silence of the mouth...

Silence is a quality of the heart that leads to ever-growing charity. Once a visitor said to a hermit, 'Sorry for making you break your rule.' But the monk answered, 'My rule is to practice the virtue of hospitality towards those who come to see me and send them home in peace.'

Charity, not silence, is the purpose of the spiritual life and of ministry. About this all the desert Fathers are unanimous."

### **Thank You One and All!**

The Daughters of the King would like to thank all the people who helped to make the dinner following the Celebration of New Ministry a great success! Thank you to all the men who helped with the tables and chairs and with the clean up afterwards. Special thanks to the young people who helped serve and clean up. Their help was invaluable.

We hope everyone enjoyed that dinner, and we also hope that you are looking forward to the celebration of St. Brigit. That dinner will be on March 17, St. Patrick's Day. I think the two Saints can share our tribute.

*Jane Chandler, President, Daughters of the King*

## Psalms and Amazon.com

The parts of the title many not seem connected, but they are. Beyond the similarities of “books”, amazon.com is a multiplier.

This year I’ve gotten out of my comfort zone and asked a few friends to suggest a book or two for me to read. Over the last few years I have gotten more frugal. I used to hear of a book and would buy it. Now I print the first three pages on amazon.com and one page of amazon.com used books. This allows me to consider the thickness of the book and another person’s view of it BEFORE I buy it. My “search” has accumulated a file one foot thick. Unfiled “searches” are approaching two inches, (I wonder how much I’m spending on print cartridges?)

IF I buy a book, I always consider if amazon.com will pay for the postage. When I buy a USED book I must consider the cost of postage, four dollars, usually.

BUT ... that’s not the payoff. Amazon.com has a feature called, “Customers who bought this item also bought ...”. Now I know that this feature is driven by economics ... maybe I’ll impulsively buy more. But the other side of that coin is that THESE books MEANT something to the one who bought them. So, if I get ONE suggestion, amazon.com links me to 99 or so other suggestions. That is like a multiplier of 100 to 1. What a deal!

When I built my “to read” list for 2010, this process was used. You’d be surprised at the books that showed up more than once. The list even showed me new authors to consider. From last year’s topic, the psalms, I got the breakdown of times for reading: lauds, prime, terce, sext, nones, vespers, and compline, three hours apart starting at 3 a.m. I picked seven topics and books that represent the topic.

Works for me. (They all seem to fit in the 7.5 inches of the shoe box I keep them in.) I didn’t start off with all 7.5 inches of books. Several years ago I began with *Forward Day by Day*. (They are available from the back of the church for free.) I Couldn’t understand why they included the psalms. Maybe next year I’ll get around to reading their suggestions.

*Physical Update: .Had a new MRI to see the effect of the September cyberknife treatments and two resultant analyses. The analyses showed all is well.*

**Back to the psalms ...** During 2010 I propose to hear the psalms sung. Maybe I won’t hear ALL of them sung, but certainly, a weekend at a Benedictine monastery is not out of the question ... like my own special mini retreat. (Anyone else want to come?)

I like the psalms. (I’m working on loving the psalms.)

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*Submitted by Al Leigh BoSA(Brotherhood of St. Andrew) = f(study, prayer, service) “Bringing men and boys to Christ.”*

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## Martin Luther: February 18, 1546



Martin Luther is commemorated in the Church calendar, on the day of his death, February 18, 1546. His writings were crucial in forming the Protestant Reformation as he attempted to reconcile Christ's teachings with current church practices.

In the summer of 1505 Martin, in accord with his father's wishes, was returning to the University of Erfurt in Germany to begin the study of law. During a severe thunderstorm, a bolt of lightning struck very near. Frightened, Luther vowed to devote his life to the church; he dropped out of school and entered a nearby monastery.

Luther found shortly that there was a large discrepancy between what monastic service seemed to demand and his own abilities. He tried to eliminate that discrepancy through diligent study of scripture and conscientious application of what he was learning. Teaching moral philosophy at the University of Wittenberg, he studied scripture, especially St. Paul's epistles, in depth. He discovered, in contrast with current church practice, that salvation is a gift of God's grace, not to be purchased with money or good works. He found also, that Christ is the only intercessor between the individual and God; each individual is his, or her own priest.

Luther's studies and a visit to Rome impressed him with the extent of the church's departure from Christ's teachings, and in 1517 he tacked a list of 95 theses on the door of the church at Wittenberg, intending to initiate debate concerning what he considered to be the heretical exchange of 'salvation' and release from purgatory, for money paid to the church and to the clergy. In thesis #37 he wrote, "Every true Christian, whether living or dead, has part in all the blessings of Christ and the Church; and this is granted by God, even without letters of pardon."

People, ideas, and philosophies traveled freely along the network of roads created by the Roman Empire, and the spread of ideas was greatly magnified with the development of the printing press. Luther's thoughts and the thoughts of many other thinkers and reformers began to be freely exchanged and discussed, resulting in, among other things, the formation of new religious concepts and institutions, constituting the Protestant Reformation.

Luther's 95 theses led to his being declared an outlaw by the pope and in 1520, he was exiled to Wartburg Castle. Here he continued work he had already begun on a translation of the Bible into German. He visited nearby towns and markets to familiarize himself with the language used by the people. In the meantime Luther's theses were being printed, copied and circulated throughout Europe, constituting a major impetus in the Protestant Reformation.

While the Church in England was also about to undergo major reforms, Henry VIII was designated "Defender of the Faith" by Pope Leo X for his defense of the pope from Luther's charge of heresy. Eventually, of course, Henry's new Church of England adopted most of the new doctrines associated with the Reformation.

Like many other reformers, Martin Luther's intense study of Scripture led him to realize that the Church, like many other institutions, had strayed from the mission for which it had been formed. All institutions need to be reminded, periodically, of their mission. He also proved, like many others commemorated in the church calendar, that he was human, with human failings, as well as divine gifts.

*Submitted by Edward A. Stark*

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**St. Paul's December 31, 2009 Financial Summary**

		Year to Date	
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
1	Pledges Realized	\$57,619.60	
2	Plate Offering	\$8,057.81	
3	Easter/Christmas/Special Offering	\$1,456.00	
4	Flowers	\$1,702.68	
5	Outreach	\$13,641.17	
6	Memorial Fund	\$755.00	
7	Capital Fund	\$17,539.88	
8	Other	\$2,115.60	
9	Accessibility Ramp	\$25,613.08	
	<b>Total Offering</b>		<b>\$128,500.82</b>
10	Interest Earnings (MM&DIT)	\$169,888.04	
	<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$298,388.86</b>
			<b><u>\$237,748.00</u></b>

**EXPENDITURE BUDGET 2009**

<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>			
1	Worship	\$7,817.98	
2	Flowers	\$1,400.56	
3	Education	\$555.61	
4	Outreach	\$38,161.72	
5	Administration	\$23,826.01	
6	Maintenance and Contracted Services	\$32,538.48	
8	Capital	\$96,094.38	
9	Wage, Salary, Withholding & Benefits	\$68,238.78	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>		
	<b>YTD</b>		<b>\$268,633.52</b>

**NOTES:**

1. Outstanding obligations include an estimated \$20K moving expense for 2009.
2. Income reflects principal from Colt-Sterritt loan and rectory account closing (approx. \$65K).
3. Balance leaves St. Paul's with an approximate \$50K deficit of annual income over expenses going into 2010.

*Submitted by Richard Schwab*

## February, 2010 Lay Ministry Schedule

### Altar Guild

7: Mary Zalewski  
14: Margie Baker  
21: Else Brunner  
28: Barb Buffington

### Camera and Closing

Ron Chandler

### Coffee Hour

7: Sherri Warriner  
14: Esther Welden  
21: Mary Zalewski  
28: Else Brunner

### Counters

7: Jane Chandler and Joan Hamilton  
14: Warren Morgan and Sandy Schwab  
21: Carol Marker and Dick Schwab  
28: Jerry Sock and Ed Stark

### Eucharistic Minister

7: Margie Baker and Jennie Bowen  
14: Jane Chandler and Alma Shingler  
21: Brenda Syle and Mary Jane Syle  
28: Esther Welden and Bernie Zalewski

### Greeter

7: Maggie Sock  
14: Mary Jane Syle  
21: Karen Wolfson  
28: Alice Wood

### Lector

7: Margie Baker  
14: Jerry Sock  
21: Ed Stark  
28: Brenda Syle

### Usher

7: John Finlon  
14: Al Leigh  
21: Dick Schwab  
28: Mike Shingler