

◆ News and Views From St. Paul's ◆

Vol. 12 Issue 7

July, 2009

Upcoming Events

- July 1: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship
July 4: St. Paul's joins in the 4th Celebration
Float in the Parade
Pecos Bill at the Grill in the Garden
July 5: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
9 AM, Worship
July 8: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship
July 11: 5 PM, St. Matthews, Stevensville
July 12: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
9 AM, Worship
10:30 AM, Adult Forum
5:00 PM, Vespers Service and
Light Supper
July 13: 5:30 PM, Vestry meeting
July 15: 12:10 PM Healing Service and
Wednesday Worship
July 18: 5 PM, St. Matthew's Worship
July 19: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
9 AM, Worship
10:30 AM, Adult Forum
July 22: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship
July 25: 5 PM, St. Matthew's Worship
July 26: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
9 AM, Worship
July 27-31: 9 AM-11:30 AM, Reading Camp
July 29: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship

Looking Ahead

- August 7-8: 9 AM – 4 PM, Christmas in August
Arts and Crafts Festival at St. Paul's
10 AM – 4 PM, Pecos Bill back
Grilling in the Garden

Enjoy all the festivities!
The 30th Annual Blueberry Festival
Two days of entertainment, food,
crafts and games!

SPIRIT OF SUMMER



Fourth of July

Watch for our float in the parade,
Visit PECOS BILL in our Garden and
our beverage/cookie stand

Children's Reading Camp

July 27th through 31st –
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Christmas in August Arts & Crafts Festival

Join us as we join in the
Blueberry Festival Celebration
On August 7th and 8th –
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and
Visit PECOS BILL in our garden
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday Eucharist at St. Matthews

July 11th through September 5th at 5:00 p.m.
Stevensville is on Rt. 706 West of Montrose

Community Vespers Services at St. Paul's

July 12th and August 9th at 5:00 p.m.
(followed by a light supper)

“Is there enough Silence for the Word?”

A friend of mine has given me a subscription to the newsletter from The Friends of Silence. Each month, the newsletter asks the above question. It's a good question for all of us who live in a busy, noisy world.

Church is one of the few places where you can experience a quiet environment. As wonderful as it is to see, greet, and catch up with each other, it's also wonderful to have a place where it's OK to be quiet! My appreciation of silence has grown immeasurably in the last few years; I think it is a gift of grief.

The Prayer Book understands the need for silence in the spiritual life. In our Sunday service, for example, there are times when silence *may* be observed, and other times when silence *must* be observed. We *may* keep silence following the readings and before the Confession. We *must* keep silence between the intercessions in some forms of The Prayers of the People and after The Breaking of the Bread.

One of my favorite hymns begins, “Let all mortal flesh keep silence”. We have wonderful words to address to God and to praise God. But from the beginning of the human relationship with God, we have known that the greatest reverence and awe before God is expressed in silence. This silence is not a sign of absence, but a sign of the presence of God, filling everything.

Before I went on a silent retreat, I have to admit I was pretty anxious about having to keep quiet for three days. I hadn't yet experienced the restfulness of quiet, the refreshment of silence. One of the real joys of my life at the farm is its absence of the noises of technology and human business. There's plenty of sound—from the creek, from the birds, from the wind. Sometimes when I sit quietly on the deck and listen for awhile, after awhile I just say Amen. The prayer of no words lifts my heart.

Pastor Janet

The 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church

Every three years, all the bishops of The Episcopal Church, four lay deputies, and four clergy deputies from every diocese meet together for 9 days of worship, learning, and legislating. This year, that group will be meeting in Anaheim, CA from July 8th-17th.

The Episcopal Church consists of not only all the dioceses of the United States, but also those from Haiti, Virgin Islands, Taiwan, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Central Ecuador, Litoral Ecuador, Honduras, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Navajoland Area Mission and the Convocation of Churches in Europe. It's a big group—one of the largest legislative bodies anywhere.

On Sunday, July 12, Pastor Janet will discuss the history, structure, and agenda of The General Convention during the Adult Forum.

To follow what happens at Convention on line, go to www.episcopalchurch.org/ens.htm. Then click on “Receive Episcopal Life in your email at the bottom of the homepage, on the line “ONLINE”. You will receive news releases from Episcopal News Service (ENS). It's easy to subscribe (and unsubscribe) and it's free! The diocesan website will also have information: www.diobeth.org.

Headlines in the regular press will no doubt focus on the most alarming and controversial matters. Get your news from a reliable, daily source!

God, Grant your blessing on all who join in this General Convention. By your Spirit give them grace to listen and grace to speak. Help them to discover where you are leading this church. Give us all a unity in mission that will enable the church by its life and witness to fulfill the ministry you have entrusted to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

~Adapted from the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

4TH of July at St. Paul's

Last year our float filled with singing graduates of our music camp, accompanied by energetic walkers displaying their Spirit of Summer t-shirts, and joined by none other than Uncle Sam himself was a true crowd pleaser. In fact, it was also a judge pleaser, earning us one of the highly coveted awards. We were also a featured part of TV coverage for the largest 4th of July celebration around. Can it get any better than that? YES IT CAN!! The team of Marker and Marker are at it again, creating another original St. Paul's float. Music Camp will have trained our young singers by the time you read this article. Uncle Sam is anxiously awaiting his opportunity to work the crowds once again. Pecos Bill is loading his grill for the move to St. Paul's garden, and throughout the parish, ovens are warming up to produce some of the greatest baked goods any parade watcher could hope to taste. There is even a rumor that Pastor Janet will make a special appearance in the parade.

With all this going on, what can you do to help? Well, as Uncle Sam so often says – “WE WANT YOU!” We would love to have you join us in walking with our float. Don't think you can make the full parade route? How about splitting the walk with a parade buddy? You can begin the parade and be replaced by your buddy when we reach St. Paul's.

If you are unable to complete the parade walk, help is also needed on the church lawn, where we will be selling cold drinks and baked goods throughout the parade. Are you available for a couple of hours after the parade? We can use you in the garden selling beverages while Pecos Bill feeds the public (and remember, St. Paul's gets a percentage of Bill's sales for our building fund).

The parade will start at 11:00 a.m., with all participants needing to be in position no later than 10:30. St. Paul's participants will gather in the NAPA Auto Parts parking lot on Grow Ave.

Whether you walk, ride, sell refreshments or wave from the sidelines – be sure to wear your St. Paul's Spirit of Summer t-shirt, which will go on sale on June 28th.

St. Paul's 2009 Christmas Ornament

Here is the first peek at this year's Christmas ornament, which will go on sale on August 7th and 8th at the Christmas in August Arts and Crafts Festival. Matching note cards will also be available. If you didn't get last year's Tiffany Angel Window Ornament, the first in the series of St. Paul's ornaments, we have some left and they will also be available for purchase in August.



Our Cook Book Is Growing

Your recipes are coming in and they look delicious. Our cookbook still needs to grow so publication for the Christmas in August Arts and Crafts Festival is not feasible. If you keep your recipes coming the unveiling of our cookbook for Christmas is still possible. We have some great cooks at St. Paul's so keep those recipes coming in. Chef's in training - don't feel left out – send us your recipes for a special “kids” section of our cookbook. Coffee hour cooks – how about bringing in the recipes for what you are serving?

Email them – mail them - write them by hand – type them – whatever the format, please get your recipes to Sandy Schwab (sanjrusselepix.net) or Judy Ochse (jochse@stny.rr.com).

Summer Picnic

It hasn't rained in two days and the sun is shining - its time for some summer fun. The Schwabs will host a parish picnic on Sunday, July 19th at 3:30 p.m. There will be swimming, fishing, hiking, horseshoes, crochet and some fun options for those who prefer more chair based activities.

Please bring your own meat to grill and a dish to pass.

Directions from Montrose: Rt. 29N to Lawsville Center. Turn L onto Laurel Lake Rd. In one mile R onto Tripp Lake Rd. Turn in first driveway on left after the pond (at the large black mailbox) and follow back to the house.

Search Committee Update

The excitement builds as the interview process continues. We have fine tuned our interview skills to include written interview questions and a telephone interview prior to our visit and formal interview by the full search committee. The Diocese continues the background check process, as well as selecting a few more candidates to round out our selection process. Pastor Janet is now focusing on the formal interview process to fine tune the techniques we have developed thus far. Our goal is to complete formal interviews by late July/early August and submit our recommendation to Vestry shortly thereafter. Your Search Committee continues to work diligently on this process as we come closer to learning who our next rector will be. During this time of exciting anticipation, members of the parish are encouraged to work with Janet on preparing the welcome for our new rector.

Please continue to keep the Search Committee in your prayers and keep your hearts and minds strong in the faith that God will bless St. Paul's once again.

Daughters of The King Training

The Daughters of the King have commenced the renewal of their commitment to the Daughters by going through the National Study Guide for the DOK as a group. This study guide provides clear understanding of the purpose and commitment of the Daughters of the King. Currently two potential Daughters are participating in this Study and we welcome anyone who would like to learn more about the Daughters of the King to join us. Our next study will be led by Jane Chandler at our Sunday, July 12th meeting, following the Adult Forum. Upon completion of our renewal study, we will commence our study of Corinthians. Sunday meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of the month immediately following the Adult Forum. Attendees may feel free to bring their lunch if they desire. Tuesday meetings, which are held on the last Tuesday of the month at noon, will continue the study of Genesis.

St. Paul's will host the Diocesan Daughters of the King Meeting on Saturday, June 27th at 10:30 a.m. Attendees should bring some form of brunch or continental breakfast item to serve at the start of the meeting. For further information contact our President, Jane Chandler.

Your Vestry at Work Summary of June 8, 2009 Vestry Meeting

The three newest members of St. Paul's Vestry were welcomed to their first official meeting on June 8th and then the work began. The following is a summary of the meeting:

- Discussions continue with the Diocese regarding the \$40,000 Colt-Sterrett Loan Application to defray costs associated with the accessibility ramp. The ramp is near completion and a July dedication ceremony is anticipated. Donations continue to come in for this project.
- The balance of funds raised for Bountiful Blessings (\$1,200) will be donated to the food bank.
- The Property Committee continues the pursuit of a rectory. They have inspected and eliminated a number of existing properties in favor of pursuing the purchase of land and construction of a modular unit.
- The Search Committee is currently in the interview stage and also awaiting more names from the Diocese in order to pursue as many quality options as possible.
- A committee will be established to determine the interest in continuation of the Northern Tier Partnership, which was established to strengthen area Episcopal churches.
- A committee will be formed to pursue development of an organizational structure within St. Paul's. The process will identify the 4 primary ministries of our parish, followed by a determination of how our committees fall into these 4 quadrants. The outcome of this process could be key in goal setting, budget planning, and recruiting new members and leadership.
- Pastor Janet is being contacted by individuals interested in being part of the welcoming process for the new rector.
- St. Paul's will participate in an informational meeting hosted by the Diocese about Partners for Sacred Places, a program that aids churches with historic properties to develop a capital budget to address restoration needs.
- Janet will review St. Paul's delegates for the October Convention.

An ad for the Spirit of Summer will be placed in the Independent.

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

4th of July Refreshments in Front of the Ramp

This will be our second year selling cold drinks, coffee, water, cookies and other bake goods in front of the church near the ramp. Your help is needed to stock the tables with good items to eat. Jerry and Maggie Sock will be there at 7:30 am setting up the table and putting on the coffee.

Most items are for sale at 50 cents to a dollar, unless there are pies or cakes. Help bring in extra money for the ramp by bringing in your bake goods Friday. Leave them in the kitchen. If you can, bag them in 50 cent or dollar bags so we do not have to do it all on Saturday morning.

If you wish to help, call Maggie at 833-4586 or email at mcgeesock@epix.net. Help is always appreciated.

Historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church Tours

On many occasions in the past (Crafters Corner, Blueberry Festival and the 2008 Fourth of July celebration), I have been asked by visitors if I would show them our church.

Historic St. Paul's has so much to offer in the way of interest and beauty, that I thought it would be nice to open our Church and Parish House to guided tours on the 4th of July.

Dr. Stark has agreed to lead tours with me and we would gladly welcome anyone to assist us as tour guides. The tour would consist of the sanctuary and Parish House and would last approximately 20 – 30 minutes.

If you are interested, please call Jerry Sock at 833-4586.

Don't Sit on Your Cans – July 11th

The Men's Group is once again holding a can drive to raise money for St. Paul's Capital Fund. Collection will take place on Saturday, July 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. We are collecting all aluminum beverage cans. We are also collecting plastic bottles that note on the side they are redeemable for 5 cents in NY. Please rinse out bottles and cans and do not crush the cans. Bring your bags of bottles and cans to St. Paul's where some of our men will be at the Chestnut Street entrance ready to take your bags. It's easy, it's environmentally friendly and it raises money for our church.

Our final can drive will be held on September 12th, the first Saturday following the Labor Day holiday. If you have any questions please contact Jerry Sock (833-4586) or Dick Schwab (967-2962).

Help Our New Rector Find St. Paul's Flock

While trying to find ways to welcome our new rector, the Search Committee thought that a map of the area, with people's addresses marked on it would help to make the new rector feel more comfortable with our wide distribution of families.

A map of Susquehanna County will be placed in the Guild Room, so that members, other than those living in Montrose proper, can use a strip of paper, (provided) and a push pin, (provided) and write their initials and last name on it, and pin it on the map at their location. We felt that this would be a good aid for finding one's way around the county, and a nice welcoming gesture to our new rector.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Jerry Sock at 570-833-4586.

Summer Music Camp Was Another Great Success!

Under the direction of Sarah Birchard and Jamie-Dean Brackett, over fifty children, known as 'Hummingbirds' and 'Cardinals' sang, played and had a merry time learning their music. The week's grand finale was a concert at Lathrop Street Elementary School on Friday night.

The 'Hummingbirds' – ages 5-7 – under the direction of Jaime Dean Brackett; the 'Cardinals' - older children ages 8-12 were under the tutelage of Sarah Birchard. Jamie's husband Jeff assisted with his banjo and guitar.

Many thanks to all who contributed their time and talents in making this year's Camp another big success.

Susquehanna County's Food Bank And the Women's Resource Center Change in Collection Date

We at St. Paul's have always been supportive of the Food Bank and the Women's Resource Center (WRC) over the years. We are returning to the first Sunday of each month to do our collection. (We had moved the food Bank to the last Sunday, and the WRC to the second Sunday). Each month a reminder will be in the newsletter to ask that you bring your donations in on the first Sunday. Baskets has been place in the back of the church to collect items for both the WRC and the Food Bank.

Items needed for the food bank are canned goods that can create a meal, such as tuna fish, spam, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, juice, vegetables and fruits. Many children depended on the lunch meal at school and are without that meal now. Remember cleaning supplies and paper goods that one cannot get on food stamps. They all help fill the food pantry. When items are on sale, get a couple to put in the basket. Think of items you always use. Pick up an extra item when shopping.

The Women's Resource Center needs items for women and their children who have had to leave home due to domestic violence or other reasons. These women need items to start again. Gift certificates to department or grocery stores, phone cards or cell phones are needed as well as blankets, sheets, pillows and other household items. Take a minute and think. If you had to suddenly leave your house, what could you use?

Each month suggestions will be given as to what you might bring to put in our 2 baskets. Along with members of St. Paul's, The Daughters of the King have taken this on as one of their service projects. It is only their goal to encourage members to support these local charitable agencies.

Mary Morgan Zalewski for many years has helped deliver the items donated by our members. She wishes to continue this as others have offered. Rita Leigh will make up baskets and address them, so you know where to put the items.

With your help, we can provide necessary items to make many people happy.

Remember...the first Sunday of each month is our collection for donations to the Food Bank and the Women's Resource Center. Even in these economic times where we all feel the pinch, let us help others. *Submitted by Maggie McGee Sock*

Angel Food

Have you tried Angel Food yet? It's easy, it's affordable and the food is very good. Angel Food is high quality food at a low cost. The only qualification for participation is an appetite. Each month for \$30 you will receive a box containing a variety of frozen meats (including steak and chicken); frozen vegetables; a potato, pasta or rice; milk; eggs; dessert and an assortment of other food items. The box will provide balanced meals in a sufficient quantity to feed a family of 4 for a week. Best of all, items are packaged so that smaller families can often cook only the amount needed for their family size. The program has expanded to also offer Senior Convenience Meals and Allergen Free Food Boxes, along with an assortment of special meat and vegetable/fruit boxes each month.

The local Angel Food Ministry, which just celebrated its first year anniversary, is carried out through a joint effort of volunteers from local churches. Its rapid growth has led to the establishment of 5 sites for food pick ups – Montrose, Susquehanna, Hallstead, Forest City and Hop Bottom.

To participate, simply place your order at the Bridgewater Baptist Church or on-line at www.ministryofchristianservice.org. Then on distribution day go pick up your order at the Bridgewater Baptist Church in Montrose between the hours of 8 and 10 a.m. Orders for the July 18th pickup must be placed no later than July 9th.

Flyers, which include the July menu, are available on the information table at our church entrance. For further information please feel free to talk to Bernie or Mary Zalewski. Also, be sure to tell your family and friends – anyone can participate. *Submitted by Sandy Schwab*

“Oldest Church” Fires Up for the Summer!

Since 1799, Saint Matthew's in Stevensville has been a place of worship for Episcopalians in the northeast corner of Pennsylvania. This date enables Saint Matthew's to claim the “oldest in the diocese” title. The original building burned in 1814 – the same year the British burned Washington – and the replacement was consecrated in 1820. For about 100 years it served as the focal point for Episcopal worship in Ontario, Bradford, and Susquehanna counties.

In 1925 the Diocese passed responsibility for Saint Matthew's to Saint Paul's. Varying degrees of commitment by Saint Paul's rectors have been reflected in sporadic attendance and interest in Saint Matthew's over the years. This has changed in recent years, most notably under the leadership of The Reverend Cannon Charles A Cesaretti. Saturday evening services – starting at 5:00 PM – have become a normal part of the life of Saint Matthew's and will continue this year starting July 11th under the guidance of our interim Rector, The Reverend Janet Watrous.

Special music programs are planned to utilize our recently donated electric organ and the newly refurbished pump organ.

Worship at Saint Matthew's is a comfortable experience that allows us to remember our heritage and at the same time enjoy the familiarity of our usual service.

Come and bring a friend – you will be glad you did – and so will they!

Vespers Service, Sunday July 12, 5 PM

The July Vespers service will be held at historic St. Paul's Church, Church Street, Montrose on Sunday, July 12th at 5:00 p.m. Greeters for the service will be George and Dede Shafer. Alisoun Bertsch will welcome the congregation. Sarah Bertsch, will be organist for the meditation. A light supper will follow in the Parish House. The Service of Vespers is held on the second Sunday of every month at St. Paul's Church which is located on the corner of Church and Chestnut Streets. All are welcome.

Susquehanna County Interfaith

Interfaith's Back-to-School Shoe Program will begin Monday, July 27th, and continue for two weeks. Last year, with your help, they were able to provide over 215 students with new school shoes and backpacks! At that time they were working with L & M Comfort Footwear and appreciate the fine job they did properly fitting each student. We were sorry to see them close.

This year, they will be working with Northeast Shoe in New Milford. Clients may call Interfaith to schedule an appointment. Each student will receive a voucher for a free pair of new shoes, along with a backpack and school supplies. Kindergarten through 12th grade students are eligible. If anyone would like to become a sponsor, \$40.00 would cover a new pair of shoes. All donations are helpful. Contact Interfaith at 570-278-1776.

**FAITH AND FAMILY DAY
AT NYSEG STADIUM
SUNDAY, JULY 19TH
@ 1:05 PM**

DAVIS
COLLEGE



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*Ath: Erica Mincher

St. Paul's Altar Guild

Mary and Martha, sisters in Bethany, each served Christ according to her own temperament. Both traditions of service are the foundations of Altar Guild work.

The Altar Guild is composed of those women and men of the church who faithfully and devoutly undertake the care of the altar and its vestments. Members take care of the elements, vessels, linens, and all things used to Celebrate our Lord's presence in the Breaking of Bread. To quote Pastor Janet, " They keep things beautiful for God !"

When considering membership in Altar Guild, it should be remembered that it is a privilege to serve God in His sanctuary. Members dedicate themselves and their work to service. This dedication is evidenced by the care and time devoted to this most gratifying work from which each will find a greater growth in grace and a deeper understanding of God's presence.

If you are interested in joining this altar centered ministry at St. Paul's, please contact Pastor Janet, Margie Baker, or Betty Smith.

The Heart of Christianity Rediscovering a Life of Faith By Marcus Borg

The Daughters of the King just finished reading and discussing The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg. Borg asks the questions "What is the heart of Christianity" and "What does it mean to be Christian today?" He then offers us an emerging approach to Christianity that is compassionate and intellectual. Borg compares an earlier understanding of Christianity with a different view that has been developing over the past 100 years. This book provides a valuable glimpse into the essence of Christianity for those who have left the faith because they no longer believe its doctrines and those who are trying to remain in the faith while questioning its doctrines. The new paradigm, Borg writes, is about loving God and loving what God loves, rather than rigidly adhering to a specific set of beliefs. In exploring this new way of "being Christian," Borg offers a middle ground for conservative and liberal Christians. The DOK really enjoyed discussing this book, and would highly recommend it to everyone. We will put a copy of the book in the St. Paul's library.

Submitted by Brenda Syle

I Have Too Many Things

I have too many things. I have too many things that I don't use. Some of them I don't use because I can't find them because I have too many things. I'm trying to move these things out of this house. I'm tired of clutter. I want to make my life simpler.

I live a life with too many *things!* I have to get rid of these *things*. However, . . . I'm sort of enjoying going through these *things*. I saw a sign once that said, "Neat people never make the great discoveries that I do!" It's true! Already I've found a very pretty summer shirt hidden away in a box. A great surprise!

I started writing this to say that we somehow get bogged down in material possessions, *things*. However, I can see that I am also talking about making decisions. What should I get rid of ? What shall I keep? The decisions I make will have some effect on my life. All the decision I make do have an effect on my life. Maybe I should ask a different question . Should the question be, "What kind of life do I wish to live?"

Now why am I putting this in the newsletter? Father Charles taught us to look for metaphor. I see a big metaphor here.

I want to get rid of clutter: I also need to remove clutter that isn't material from my life. What is some of that clutter? What have I become bogged down in? How do I make my life cleaner? That's a lot of questions. And there is another question I just thought of. How is our church life like this? What clutter is the church involved in? How do we make our church life cleaner? That's also a lot of questions.

I don't have the answer, or at least the complete answer to any of it, but at least I know what the questions are. *Submitted by Jane Chandler*

LIBERTY: July

We celebrate our independence as a nation, during the month of July. Coincidentally, the Church calendar commemorates five people for their contributions to individual liberty, also during the month of July.

William Wilberforce is honored for his devotion to the abolition of slavery, and four women are commemorated for their work in the emancipation of slaves, and women.

William Wilberforce is remembered on the date of his death in 1833, July 30th. Wilberforce was born in 1759 and served in the British House of Commons from 1780 to 1825. He devoted much of his life to the abolition of slavery. He introduced a bill in Parliament, every year for eighteen years, to abolish slavery and the slave trade. The slave trade was finally abolished in 1806 and four days before he died, slavery in all British territories was abolished. A year later, in 1834, 800,000 slaves were set free.

Wilberforce University was established in 1853, in memory of William Wilberforce, specifically for the education of African-Americans. The University was established by the Methodist Episcopal Church, near Xenia, Ohio. Today, 850 students attend Wilberforce University.

In 2007, a movie about the life of William Wilberforce, *Amazing Grace*, was released and is available as a DVD.

July 20th is reserved in the calendar in honor of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Ross Tubman. The date chosen was the anniversary of the Women's Rights Convention, held in 1848. These four women devoted their lives to attaining personal and political liberty for slaves, and for women.

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Maryland, in 1820; she escaped to Canada in 1844. She returned to Maryland, and in the 1850's, in nineteen trips on the Underground Railway, led more than 300 slaves to freedom. She joined the Union Army during the Civil War, serving as a cook, a nurse and a spy. Once, she led a raid that freed more than 750 slaves.

Sojourner Truth was born in New York in, about, 1798. Quakers helped her to escape in 1826, and she became a street-corner evangelist. She founded a shelter for homeless women. She spoke extensively at both black and white church gatherings against slavery, and for improved legal status for women. During one speech, a male speaker explained that women were denied the right to vote, to "protect them from the harsh realities of political life". She replied that, "society had not sheltered her!"

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in 1815. She was largely responsible for the passage of New York's Married Women's Property Act, allowing women to have custody of their children, hold property, make contracts, keep their own earnings and inheritances, and to sue in court. She was also instrumental in the passage of the Women's Suffrage Act, although it was not passed until seventeen years after her death.

Finally, *Amelia Jenks Bloomer*, active in the anti-slavery, anti-alcohol and women's vote movements, was responsible for a major improvement in women's health – *Bloomers* -. Tight-fitting women's clothing had frequently been denounced for its effects on women's health, but it was left for Amelia Bloomer to design, to demonstrate and to publicize, an alternative.

Each of these five people sacrificed, and devoted their lives to something that "we've never done before", and they changed their world – and ours, for the better. *Submitted by Edward A. Stark, with help from the Internet*

Smith's Secret Gospel

As we began reading together the *Gospel of Mark* in the **Adult Forum** I was immediately struck by the impression that what we had before us was a manual of instruction prepared for the formation of *Disciples of Christ*. As Pastor Janet pointed out in the outline prepared for our meeting:

“The purpose of Jesus' teaching is to draw disciples. Miracles draw crowds, but do not create disciples”. Back in 1973 there was a furor following publication of a study on Jesus' method for building a future apostleship. Professor Morton Smith wrote:

“[Jesus] could admit his followers to the kingdom of God, and he could do it in some special way, so that they were not there merely by anticipation, nor by virtue of belief and obedience, nor by some other figure of speech, but were really, actually, in.”

The implication of the use of mystic rites here immediately reminds us of the repeated condemnation throughout Scripture of the practitioners of the mysterious arts. Smith elaborates:

“[. . .] From the scattered indications in the canonical Gospels and the secret Gospel of Mark, we can put together a picture of Jesus' baptism, "the mystery of the kingdom of God." It was a water baptism administered by Jesus to chosen disciples, singly and by night. The costume, for the disciple, was a linen cloth worn over the naked body. This cloth was probably removed for the baptism proper, the immersion in water, which was now reduced to a preparatory purification. After that, by unknown ceremonies, the disciple was possessed by Jesus' spirit and so united with Jesus. One with him, he participated by hallucination in Jesus' ascent into the heavens, he entered the kingdom of God, and was thereby set free from the laws ordained for and in the lower world.”

Could one ever conceive of the Biblical Jesus as an initiator in cultic ritual? This is what set off that furor in 1973. Smith wrote:

“Jesus himself actually performed--or meant to and was understood to have performed--magical feats. Among these was a baptismal initiation rite through which he was able to "give" his disciples a vision of the heavenly spheres. This was in the form of an altered state of consciousness induced by "the recitation of repetitive, hypnotic prayers and hymns," a technique common in Jewish mystical texts, Qumran [Dead Sea Scrolls] material, Greek magical papyri and later Christian practices such as the Byzantine liturgy. This is a radical departure from the mainstream scholarship....”

These words certainly put a totally different meaning to my thoughts about this *Gospel of Mark* and the formation of disciples. I found out later that Jesus as magician is not a dead issue. John Dominic Crossan's very intriguing book on *The Historical Jesus* has an extended discussion of the topic. He argues that Jesus may indeed be understood as a magician. He rejects an artificial dichotomy between magic and religion, saying, "the prescriptive distinction that states that we practice religion but they practice magic should be seen for what it is, a political validation of the approved and the official against the unapproved and unofficial." (*The Historical Jesus*, p. 310.)

That certainly gives me a lot to think about as we proceed through the next few weeks in the **Adult Forum**. Come join us and give us your ideas and understanding! For more details on this question read

The Strange Case of the Secret Gospel According to Mark:

How Morton Smith's Discovery of a Lost Letter

by Clement of Alexandria Scandalized Biblical Scholarship

http://www.gnosis.org/library/secm_commentary.htm

Submitted by David Plank

“Revelation for Blockheads”, Revisited, Hopefully

A year ago I wrote about “Revelation for Blockheads”. As I revisit what I wrote I can write about “Revelation for me, a blockhead.” By the way, the books on Revelation are in the Celtic Room rather than the Guild Room.

Medical Update: I have six weeks to go (May 28-July 15) till I’m scheduled to lose my surgical virginity. Yes, I’ve been on this earth for over 69 years and have successfully avoided broken bones or other medical intrusions. (The sigmoidoscope procedures don’t count.) Surgeons want to surge. We surge.

Either I’ll have a good surgical procedure or not. My wife and I have written our PA wills, so I’m ready, legally, in either case. How am I ready spiritually? Good question. My study of Revelation may be sooner than I expected revealed. Maybe I’ll see what John saw. Divine! Either this is my last article about Revelation or I’ll continue into August. Acceptance is a wonderful thing.

We broached the subject of “dispensationism” a year ago. Since then I’ve read the book by Tim La Haye (dispensationalist) about his views on Revelation. He is one of the two authors of the “Left Behind” series of books. I think they are up to twelve books in the series. Again, he wrote twenty times more pages (372 pages) about Revelation (in the book I read) than Revelation is long. If you aren’t reading “Revelation”, why would you want to read twenty times as many pages ABOUT it? I’m committed, ... but a committed blockhead. Bruce Metzger has written a book about Revelation entitled, “Breaking the Code”, only 106 pages to Revelation’s 20 pages (KJV), a little over five times as many pages ... manageable. That’s my next task. (*Should finish it before surgery in mid-July. Done,*)

If I remember correctly, this is where I consider the middle part of Revelation. We’ve considered the seven letters and the introductory prelude of chapters four and five. Now we get into the “meat.” The four horsemen get released and the seven trumpets are blown and the seven bowls are poured out. Lets not forget the two witnesses who are killed and resurrected. All this happens because the lamb can open the seven seals. But the things that happen are scarier than any horror films. Maybe that’s why its taken me so long to read Revelation. I don’t LIKE horror films!

But for everything I’ve been reading, Revelation is a book about HOPE. LaHaye notwithstanding (always wanted to use that word!), there are some authors with biblical credentials (not me!) that offer their view that Revelation was written to give the Christians AT THAT TIME some serious hope from their trials. Revelation was included in the canonical works of the bible to give hope to us. Once you get past the scariness (four horsemen scare the bejesus out of ME, as intended), you can consider hope. Revelation is hardly a bedtime story.

Several times I’ve mentioned, with disdain, those authors who write multiple times the article about which they are writing. Less is more. Guess what? I’m doing what I hate in other authors ... writing too much. Now, I can justify(excuse) the words I’ve written because I’m encouraging you to read Revelation ... or re-read it. Consider yourself encouraged ... and nudged ... twenty-two pages, more or less.

Submitted by Al Leigh(BoSA) for St. Paul’s July 2009 newsletter, BoSA(Brotherhood of St. Andrew) = f (study, prayer, service) “Bringing men and boys to Christ.” Join us.

July, 2009 Lay Ministry Schedule

Altar Guild

5: Betty Smith
12: Alice Wood
19: Bernie Zalewski
26: Mary Zalewski

Camera and Closing

Ron Chandler

Coffee Hour

5: Charlotte Ellis
12: Carol Marker
19: Carol Lasher
26: Colleen McAleer

Greeter

5: Fraser Moffat
12: Mitzi Perry-Miller
19: Alma Shingler
26: Maggie Sock

Counters

5: Jane Chandler and Ed Stark
12: Karen Wolfson and Warren Morgan
19: Sandy Schwab and Bernie Zalewski
26: Dick Schwab and Nancy Finlon

Eucharistic Minister

5: Bernie Zalewski and Bob Arnold
12: Margie Baker and Jennie Bowen
19: Jane Chandler and Alma Shingler
26: Brenda Syle and Mary Jane Syle

Lector

5: Bernie Zalewski
12: Mary Zalewski
19: Margie Baker
26: Scott Finlon

Usher

5: John Finlon
12: Hap and Tom Syle
19: Bob Arnold
26: Al Leigh

St. Matthew's – 5:00 PM

Lector

11: Mary Jane Syle
18: Jerry Sock
25: Rita Leigh

Usher

11: Hap Syle
18: Maggie Sock
25: Al Leigh