



PARISH NOTES

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2010

Vol. 51, No. 33

MAY 2

UTO Ingathering

Don't forget to empty the contents of your "Blue Boxes," and convert the coins into bills or a check for the United Thank Offering on Sunday, May 2. Blue envelopes will be in the pews. These coins are joined with offerings from others to help build schools and daycare centers, assist food banks and missionaries in this country and the world.

The Beginning of the Christian Church

Join us on Sunday, May 2, at 10:10 a.m. in the Dining Room as we continue to explore our religious roots and consider which issues remain relevant to the church of today. Led by Kate Gillooly, Minister for Christian Formation and Program.

"Life@St. Paul's" Series

We will explore our connections with each other and with the Christian story in the final session of our three-part series called "Life@St. Paul's" on Sunday, May 2.

The Rev. Lisa Hackney will lead the discussion from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Brooks Room.

8th Grade Confirmand/ Sponsor Breakfast

Eighth graders and their sponsors are reminded to meet in the Brooks Room at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday, May 2 for their final breakfast of the program year. See you there!

Apostleship in the Library Features Reading Camp Cleveland!

Come and hear about Reading Camp Cleveland in an information session at 10:10 a.m. on Sunday, May 2, in the Library. Parishioners will share reflections on Reading Camp and details for bringing this ministry to Cleveland. Find out how you can be involved!

Planning for Reading Camp Cleveland is in high gear! This is a week-long residential camp for 3rd and 4th graders at Cedar Hills Camp and Conference Center June 19-26. We will welcome 18 campers for the week, and we need books, supplies, financial assistance and both teen and adult volunteers! We need teachers, photographers, snack providers, game leaders, naturalists, song leaders, craft leaders, hikers, campers, musicians, storytellers, thespians, and people who love to read. In essence, we need YOU! Contact Karen Carter at readingcampcleveland@gmail.com. (*Also see On My Mind, page 4.*)

UPCOMING

St. Paul's Will Preview CEIRS Workshop

On Sundays, May 9 and 16, St. Paul's will offer a two-week Adult Formation series previewing an upcoming Cleveland Ecumenical Institute for Religious Studies (CEIRS) workshop with Brian McLaren on "The Emergent Church." The word "emergence" has been used in disciplines as diverse as architecture, physics, biology, sociology, economics and politics. Now thanks to writers such as Phyllis Tickle (*The Great Emergence*) and Brian McLaren (*A New Kind of Christian; A Generous Orthodoxy, The Secret Message of Jesus*) a new discussion has begun about the "emergent church."

Join the Rev. Richard Israel and Kate Gillooly in the Dining Room at 10:10 a.m. as they give an overview of this discussion and invite you to join this new conversation about our Christian beliefs. All are welcome whether or not you plan to attend the CEIRS workshop with Brian McLaren.

Brian McLaren to Keynote CEIRS Workshop & Lecture

Brian McLaren will be the featured speaker at a workshop and lecture offered by Cleveland Ecumenical Institute for Religious Studies (CEIRS) entitled *Emerging Christianity: Reframing Our Beliefs for the New Millennium* on Wednesday, May 26, at First Baptist Church, Cleveland Heights. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an evening lecture at 7:30 p.m.

Profound and sometimes disturbing questions are being raised in conversations about "emerging Christianity." Brian McLaren has been giving voice to the thoughts of people who have become disenchanted with the church and American Christianity.

McLaren is a nationally known author, speaker, activist, and networker among innovative Christian leaders. His many publications are foundational for the emerging church movement, including *A Generous Orthodoxy*, and *Everything Must Change*.

The CEIRS workshop costs \$40 and includes the evening lecture. The lecture alone costs \$15. Go to www.ceirs.org for registration information.

“I’ll Keep Preaching the Same Thing ‘til We Finally Get It...”

There’s a story that I’ve heard more than a couple of times from preachers. This story is about an old minister who has served for years in a particular parish. One Sunday, as the minister greeted the congregation, a man waited at the very end of the line. When the minister finally got to the man, the man said, “Pastor, I’ve been coming to this church for a few months now, and it occurs to me that you say the same thing every Sunday. Your sermons are a little different, the Scripture passages are different—but the subject is always the same...” The minister laughed, scratched his nose and said, “I wondered when someone would notice that. The fact of the matter is I decided years ago when I came to this church to preach a lesson for as long as it took people to get it. And, I’ll keep preaching the same thing ‘til we finally get it right.”

I know this is a story that has gotten plenty of mileage for a lot of preachers. But, at the risk of sounding cliché, I think the minister had it right—especially if we’re talking about loving one another. In such a case, I think we need to hear about it as often as possible, and I think that the Gospel reading from John is a serendipitous example. (John 13:31-55)

It really hasn’t been that long since we heard this reading, after all, as part of the Maundy Thursday liturgy. When we heard it on that evening, it was framed as a commandment. So, why the repeat in the Lectionary? Well, my immediate response, of course, is that you can’t hear the lesson enough: “Love one another as I have loved you...By *this* everyone will know that you are my disciples.” What a powerful statement. Not only does Jesus make this a commandment, but he makes it clear that this is what defines us as his followers.

This command to love is just tough enough that we might be tempted to put certain caveats onto whom, how, or when we choose to do it. Any one of us could cite reasons in our own experience why such caveats would be most prudent. However, before we begin to formulate our particular self-exemptions to this command, we need to remember that when Jesus said it, he had just finished washing the feet of the man he later identified as his betrayer.

The fact is, loving as Jesus loves is not easy, but it is something that we must constantly strive to do. And lest we forget what it means to be disciples, pray that we’ll hear it preached again, so that we can once again try to get it right.



The Rev. Matt Humm, Youth Minister

Our Guests Arrive on June 20

St. Paul’s is preparing for our 12th year of participation with Interfaith Hospitality Network. This is a consortium of local churches seeking to help support and preserve families by providing lodging and encouragement during times of transition. Several families will be invited to stay the week of June 20 as our guests in the South Wing classrooms, which will be temporarily converted into comfortable living quarters.

Brochures with volunteer forms are available in the Old and New Narthexes. Volunteers are invited to a training session at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 19, in the O’Hear Room.

This unique volunteer ministry makes an indelible impression on all who participate, and also sends a strong message that St. Paul’s is a hands-on church!

For more information about the Network, or about volunteering to participate, please contact Kirby Colwell at (216) 932-5815, ext. 226 or April Green (440) 338-3421.

*God willing,
And the people of God consenting,
The Right Reverend Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.
Bishop of Ohio, will ordain
Jennifer Claire Leider
To the Sacred Order of Priests
In Christ’s One Holy, Catholic,
and Apostolic Church
On Saturday, May 8, 2010
At ten o’clock in the morning*

❖ ❖ ❖

*St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
317 East Liberty Street
Medina, Ohio*

❖ ❖ ❖

*Your prayers and presence are requested.
Reception to follow.*

South Africa Partnership Update: 118 Attend Potluck

St Paul's Dining Room was filled with 118 people seated at 14 tables vividly decorated with colors of the South African flag for the Global Mission Action Group potluck luncheon on April 18. Parishioners and community guests from Trinity Cathedral, St. Ann's, Gesu, Church of the Word, and Plymouth Church attended to hear Mary and Richard Nodar's update on St. Paul's expanding relationships in the Anglican Diocese of False Bay, South Africa. Rector Alan Gates opened and closed with prayers from an African prayer book. Having recently returned from a three-month mission on behalf of St. Paul's in South Africa, the Nodars presented highlights of our partnerships, including:

- The Installation of Fr. Richard Martin as the new priest at St. Clare of Assisi in Ocean View;
- The Blessing Service for *St Paul's House of Hope* in Ocean View, a foster home for children orphaned and abandoned due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic;
- Progress of *The St. Francis Anglican Trust Fund* to support the building of a similar foster home in Masiphumelele;
- An introduction of the South African Pilgrims, young people and their chaperones coming from St. Clare's and St. Matthew's to St. Paul's in June 2011;
- Plans for the first Reading Camp in the Diocese of False Bay at *Church of the Good Shepherd* in 2011;
- The opening of a new addition to the Masiphumelele Library, where the Nodars serve as tutors and mentors each year;
- The ongoing support of St. Matthew's Chapelry in Masiphumelele.

The Nodars' presentation finished with an expression of prayer and hope: "As we consider our future involvement in South Africa with the Diocese of False Bay and St. Matthew's Chapelry, may God's voice be heard, and God's will be done."

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2010 THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SERVICES

Holy Eucharist, 7:45 a.m.

The Rev. Richard Israel, *Celebrant & Preacher*

Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.

The Rev. Alan Gates, *Celebrant*; The Rev. Lisa Hackney, *Preacher*

Holy Eucharist, 11:00 a.m.

The Rev. Alan Gates, *Celebrant*; The Rev. Richard Israel, *Preacher*

Holy Eucharist, 5:00 p.m.

The Rev. Lisa Hackney, *Celebrant & Preacher*

READINGS

Acts 11: 1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

FELLOWSHIP

8:00—9:00 a.m. Parish Breakfast

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

9:00—10:45 a.m. Preschool Session

10:00—10:45 a.m. Grades 1-6: *Global Mission Activities*

Grade 7: *Review/Overview*

Grade 8: *Confirmand/Sponsor Breakfast #5*

Grades 9-12: *Spiritual Legacies*

10:45 a.m.—noon Preschool Session

6:00—8:00 p.m. Junior & Senior High Youth Groups: *Bowling Night*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ADULTS

10:10 a.m.

Adult Forum: *The First Christians* — Join us for the second of a two-part discussion of the practices and beliefs of the early church. Led by Kate Gillooly. (Dining Room)

Apostleship in the Library: *Reading Camp* — Karen and Carl Carter will present information about the Cleveland Reading Camp planned for this summer. Come and get involved! (Library)

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Flowers on Sunday are given in loving memory of Blossom Miller Boles and Laurence Huey Boles by their family.

PARISH LIFE

Ride Along With Us and Loop Along the Lake

The Fifth Annual Bishop's Bike Ride will cover a loop along Lake Erie. The event begins Sunday night, June 27, and finishes Friday about noon on July 2, in Ashtabula. All—young and old, experienced or novice—are welcome on the Bishop's Bike Ride, and bring your friends, too. You don't need to be an Episcopalian to ride. Donations go to fund youth mission trips. Learn more at www.dohio.org.

Root for the Home Team

The annual St. Paul's night out at Progressive Field is set for June 10, when the Indians take on the Boston Red Sox. Tickets are now available from any Men's Council member. \$30 seats are available for only \$18. Get your tickets now and join the fun!



PARISH NOTES

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2747 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

TIME-VALUED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

ON MY MIND...

A Fun-damental Reading Ministry

In the many conversations and surveys which led to our Long-Range Plan, parishioners repeatedly named commitment to educational opportunity as a core value at St. Paul's. Another oft-expressed desire was to continue serving the needs of the city of Cleveland. A new parish initiative this summer touches on both dimensions of our parish identity.

Reading Camp Cleveland 2010 will be a week-long, residential camping experience for eighteen 3rd- and 4th-grade students who are significantly below grade level in their reading ability. The program will be held at Cedar Hills, our diocesan camp and conference center in Painesville, June 19-26. Children will be referred to our program from Miles Park Elementary School in Cleveland, Noble Elementary in Cleveland Heights, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Cleveland's west side, bringing together urban and suburban children. Summer is often a time during which academic gains are lost, especially for children in families unable to afford camps and enrichment opportunities. Reading Camp Cleveland will serve just such children.

Children will spend the morning with their tutors, focusing on reading comprehension and strategies, decoding/encoding skills, and phonics. Afternoon sessions provide traditional camp activities – arts & crafts, hiking, swimming, and quiet time for pleasure reading. The self-confidence which is boosted by this

community time will, in turn, foster children's engagement with the learning process.

St. Paul's has a long history of supporting such projects. Volunteers have been tutoring at Miles Park for nearly two decades. Numerous parishioners have volunteered at Reading Camp at the Pine Mountain School in Kentucky, and St. Paul's has been engaged with sharing the Reading Camp model in South Africa. Thanks to the organizing efforts of Karen and Carl Carter, we now bring this same passion and experience to Reading Camp Cleveland.

I hope you will consider volunteering or supporting this venture! Volunteer tutors, camp assistants, and support staff of all sorts will be needed. If you are able to spend the week, or a day, please contact Karen and Carl at ReadingCampCleveland@gmail.com, or come to their informational session on Sunday, May 2, 10:10 a.m. A Reading Camp Brochure and a Reading Camp Volunteer Staff Application are both available on the parish Web site www.stpauls-church.org -- go to "Helpful Links" under the "Resources" tab. Financial support will also be gratefully received; use the brochure from the Web site or narthex tables to direct your donation.

It would be hard to over-estimate the blessing which literacy skills constitute. What a privilege for us to help share that blessing.

Faithfully and fondly,

WHO WE ARE

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Our Mission

St. Paul's is a living, evolving community of Christian people who worship together according to the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. We seek to know God and God's will for us; to care for each other; and to support each other in the exercise of our ministries among our neighbors and in the wider world.

Parish Notes

Deadline for submissions is **Tuesday at noon, 12 days** before the Sunday publication date. Items may be edited for space and/or clarity. Kim Fry, editor (216) 932-5815 ext. 214 kfry@stpauls-church.org