



Fall 2015



Epistle

Growing in Relationships
Growing in Service
Growing in Christ

In this issue

School News & Events2

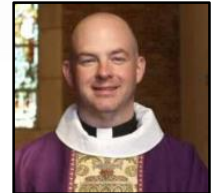
Katrina Remembrance4

Choir News5

Senior Center Updates6

Center for Counseling and Education7

From the Rector's Desk



Greetings! Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We're back into the full swing of a new school and program year at St. Paul's. During the week, the halls are abuzz with the sound of students and faculty hard at work. The halls are also hopping on Sundays as we've begun our new service schedule and added on Christian education for children, youth, and adults at 9:00 a.m. between the services. All of the activity is exciting and energizing!

Bishop Gray and I have both been enjoying having the opportunity to teach on a regular basis. His face lights up when he talks about the group he's been working with in his intensive study of the Gospel of Mark. I, also, have thoroughly enjoyed leading *The Discovery Series: A Christian Journey*. Both of these courses continue through December 20. I'm very excited to see so many of you eager to grow in your faith. We grow by making an investment in our spiritual development, and Bishop Gray and I enjoy helping people step up to the challenge.

In his wonderful book *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* (HarperCollins, New York, 1998), Richard J. Foster explains that spiritual disciplines are not ends in themselves but are a means of receiving God's grace. He directs us to Paul's words to the Galatians: "If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit" (Gal. 6:8). Foster writes, "Paul's analogy is instructive. A farmer is helpless to grow grain; all he can do is provide the right conditions for the growing of grain. . . . The disciplines are God's way of getting us in the ground; they put us where [God] can work within us and transform us. By themselves [spiritual disciplines] can do nothing; they can only get us to the place where something can be done. They are God's means of grace" (p. 7). One of the disciplines Foster identifies is the discipline of study, reminding us again of Paul's words to the Romans (12:2) that we are transformed by the renewal of our minds. Paul means that "The mind is renewed by applying it to those things that will transform it" (p. 62).

I encourage you to raise your own spiritual expectations for yourself and, in doing so, to expect transformation. Consider joining us for a class on Sunday mornings or for our "Service, Supper, & Substance" (#S3@StP) on Wednesday nights—or both! We grow by placing ourselves in a position for growth. I challenge you to challenge yourself and then to expect that God will do something good with your planting.

God's blessings,
rob+



School News and Events

School Has Begun at St. Paul's

St. Paul's Episcopal School is dedicated to instilling in our children strength of intellect and strength of character in a Christian environment that is positive, respectful, and familial. We encourage our students to strive to do their best, be compassionate, and appreciate and preserve the beauty of life.

St. Paul's is a Pre-K to 8th grade school with a Little Saints Program for two- and three-year-olds and a Baby Saints Program with children as young as six weeks. This year, our population is comprised of 225 students in Pre-K to 8th, 40 two- and three-year-olds, and 22 babies and toddlers.



As stated in our mission, St. Paul's strives to be a school with a familial atmosphere. The teaming up of younger and older students, Panther Pals—a pair of which is shown above—is one of our prized traditions.



Over the summer, we built a couple of new additions to the school: a cottage we call the Innovation Station (at left), which will serve as a work area for the Sustainability and Outdoor Education Program, and an outdoor classroom for groups seeking a unique gathering place.

St. Paul's Episcopal School was recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council for our dedication to sustainability. We were awarded \$2,000 toward our program!



At left: students enjoying the new outdoor classroom



At right: St. Paul's Episcopal School is recognized at the Green Awards

Upcoming Events



PUMPKIN PATCH

October 10–30

St. Paul's Annual Pumpkin Patch is a Lakeview gem with thousands of pumpkins, big and small, to choose from. Hours are 10 to 6 Monday through Saturday and 10 to 3 on Sundays. Bring your family and friends, and be on the lookout for the volunteer sign-up sheet.

FALL FEST

October 18

Our annual Fall Fest is a fun day of music, games, and food. There are bouncy houses, hamster balls, slides, a petting zoo, and fun games. Join us Sunday, October 18 from 11 until 3. The event will be held on the school turf.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

November 6

The St. Paul's Episcopal School Men's Club is excited to announce its 8th Annual Golf Tournament, to be held Friday, November 6 at City Park North Course. You don't have to be a professional or even a good golfer—just come out to have fun with friends and support St. Paul's Episcopal School! For more information or to register a team, contact Kelly Nelson (knelson@stpauls-lakeview.org).

OPEN HOUSE

November 10

Family Science Night Open House is an experience like none other. Instead of just touring families for Open House, we have potential parents and students join our school for Family Science Night. Various science experiments led by our middle school "Lab Rats" are around the school for parents and children to enjoy. The event will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m.



Katrina Remembrance

Tenth Anniversary Service

St. Paul's Episcopal Church and School remembered and rejoiced in recovery for the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. We wanted to share some of the letters we received expressing gratitude for the weekend's remembrances and appreciation for the service we performed for the community following the storm.

September 4, 2015

The Rev. Rob Courtney
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
6249 Canal Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124

Dear Fr. Courtney:

I deeply appreciate all the gracious hospitality you and St. Paul's so lovingly provided Martha, Freweini and me last weekend. The fellowship, food and worship were awesome and we felt so welcomed and loved.

It was wonderful to see how well St. Paul's church and school are doing. The commitment of the community to be faithful stewards of all the gifts you have received was inspiring. I was truly amazed how many new faces were in worship and what an expression it is of the ongoing growth and health of St. Paul's. Indeed St. Paul's continues to be a great blessing to Lakeview and the New Orleans community.

My hope is that St. Paul's will continue to reflect on how it is an anchor of hope, love and grace for the city of New Orleans and live in expectation of where Christ is leading us all.

Faithfully

The Rev. William R. Hood

The Rev. William R. Hood

August 30, 2015

To: The congregation of St Paul's, the people of Lakeview, and all the people of New Orleans;

MEMO

I am Ralph Provenca, a volunteer from Olympia WA and a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, headquartered in Seattle WA. My words represent only my own thinking, although I have hope they would resonate with other volunteers.

After receiving many 'Thank You's' from groups and individuals on the 10th anniversary of the Katrina storm, I feel it necessary to return thanks to you, the congregation of St Paul's, the people of Lakeview, and to the people of all New Orleans.

I believe all of you also need to turn to your neighbors and thank each other, for without your presence and voices here, with your determination to restore your homes and this city, there would have been little or no call for volunteer help. There would have been little or no opportunity for persons like myself to give aid where and when aid was needed. And, yes, I know it's not over. I also know, in the greater scheme of things, it matters not whether you weathered the storm here or evacuated and returned. The important issue is your presence, without which there would have been no focus to our coming.

It takes confidence and strength to suppress personal, congregational and civic pride to call for help and accept it graciously. It also takes great individual strength to meet the needs individually, head on, and find ways to use volunteers effectively by working with them and accepting what each can do as the best available.

Without you, the true re-builders of this, your community, people such as I would not have had the opportunity to experience the heart-glow of making a difference in other people's lives in a very real and measurable way. I thank you with all my heart and love, and urge you to recognize your own contributions to making the alliance of residents and strangers work.

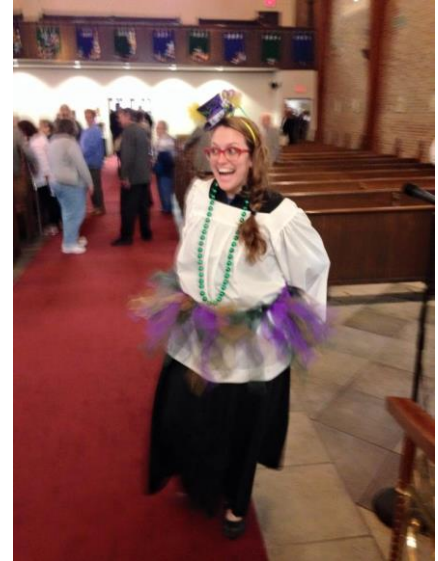
Ralph

Choir News

Openings in Adult and Children's Choir



The adult choir is saying goodbye to members Tory Gordon (pictured at right) and Sarah Pallin (left). Both are now engaged. Sarah has moved to California and is starting a degree program, and Tory has begun a new job here in New Orleans. We will miss them sorely, but we are wishing them the very best as they move onward.



Please consider joining our choir! Reading music helps, and being willing to commit to Wednesday rehearsals is a requirement. We meet Wednesdays from 6:30–8 p.m. and each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. to rehearse before the service. We are *so grateful* for the dedication of our choir members and for all of the work they do! We have lots of fun together and share in



Children participating in a choir rehearsal

the life of the church. The goal is to have enough volunteers from our congregation so that any member can miss an occasional rehearsal or Sunday morning without pressure. Currently, several members of the congregation have said, "Oh, y'all are so good. You don't need anyone like me," and that could not be further from the truth! **WE DO NEED YOU!** Everyone works together, and each voice counts! We could be stronger and more stable with you, and I bet you'll like it! Give it a try!

Children's choir began September 9th. Led by Andy Williams, our kids will sing, learn about the church year, and have lots of fun! Please let us know if your child would like to be involved.

Adult choir member Caroline has posted some blog entries about her mission trip this summer. Check them out here:

- <http://thewhiskeypalian.blogspot.com/2015/09/mungeli-india-2015.html>
- <http://thewhiskeypalian.blogspot.com/2015/09/teaching-at-rambo-memorial-school-and.html>

Senior Center Updates

Funding Needed to Continue Programming



St. Paul's Homecoming Center operated as a Hurricane Katrina recovery center from 2006 until 2013, rebuilding shattered homes and lives for thousands of New Orleans residents. In 2014, the center transitioned into the St. Paul's Senior Center, serving over 250 senior citizens per month.

Funding is now being solicited in order to continue this important work. Please visit <http://www.gofundme.com/StPaulsSeniors> and consider making a donation. Even \$5 will help us continue what we do for the citizens of New Orleans.

Why now? In the ten years since Hurricane Katrina and the federal levee failures, much has changed. St. Paul's Senior Center addresses the needs of senior citizens who have returned to New Orleans and are living on fixed incomes. The programs offered by the center enrich the lives of seniors who might otherwise be physically or socially isolated.

Please go to <http://www.gofundme.com/StPaulsSeniors>, consider donating, and like or share this with your friends on social media to help us spread the word. Thank you!



The seniors have found their niche as well as a very creative volunteer who shares her talents with them. Caryl Branch has been teaching the Tuesday/Thursday senior group how to do mosaic art and stained glass projects. Caryl, a volunteer and a new member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, has been a jewel to St. Paul's senior center! She is so talented and always exercises so much

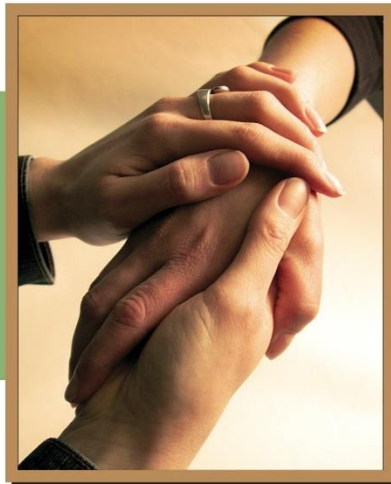
patience with the seniors. They love her and look forward to attending her classes. Caryl has REALLY turned this Tuesday and Thursday group around. They are now very active, laughing, and enjoying coming to the center. There's new life among the members of this group!



Center for Counseling and Education

Services Available

ST. PAUL'S CENTER FOR COUNSELING AND EDUCATION



Who does Dr. Jeanne see?

Individuals, families, couples. Everyone who is part of the St. Paul's church and school community.

How much does it cost?

It's free. This is a ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

What can we talk about?

Anything and everything: life transitions, marriage, divorce, children, finances, job or career changes, grief and loss, death, moves, change.

We can talk about big decisions, how to say no without hurting feelings, communication, discipline (for self, for children), how to deal with extended family, alcohol issues, and much more.



For more information or to make an appointment with Dr. Jeanne Robertson, call 504-330-2549 or email jrobertson@stpauls-lakeview.org.

Growing in Relationships. Growing in Service. Growing in Christ.



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