

News from St. Paul's

Mid-April/ May 2010

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Cheney, Washington

– Visit us on the web at www.StPaulsWestPlains.org –

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is called to be a welcoming haven, nourishing all God's people in body, mind and spirit.

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Christine's Message

A blessed Easter season to all,

Jesus is the resurrection! Jesus continues to call all of us to new life in him. What does that mean? David Brooks, in an article from the New York Times, states that: "besides all the problems, America's future is exceedingly bright. Over the next 40 years, demographers estimate that the U.S. population will surge by an additional 100 million people, to 400 million over all. The population will be enterprising and relatively young. In 2050, only a quarter will be over 60, compared with 31 percent in China and 41 percent in Japan. In his book, *The Next Hundred Million: America in 2050*" uber-geographer, Joel Kotkin sketches out how this growth will change the national landscape. Extrapolating from current trends, he describes an archipelago of vibrant suburban town centers, villages and urban cores."

How do we imagine and translate all these trends for the church? Paul Lebens-Englund poses that "as the church will need to be as ready to learn as we are to teach." St. Paul's has been hearing a lot about "Missional Renaissance" and small group development, about people development instead of program development. We are the church wherever we are interacting-at work, bible study, school, community functions, food pantry, or outreach. St Paul's has already been moving in this direction.

Some of the tough questions ahead are: "How do we transform our community?"; "How do we turn members into missionaries?"; "How do we develop followers of Jesus?"; "How do we prepare for the future?" We have lots to talk about – possibly a congregational group?

St. Paul's community continues to be a welcoming haven, to enrich all people in body, mind and spirit, especially in the way you listen to and care for each other, in your outreach endeavors and in your strong faith in God and your willingness to respond to Jesus' call with "Okay, I am not sure, but count me in."

Thank you and bless you for all you already do,

Rev. Christine Soule
Community Priest

Everyone is Gifted!

If you don't know what your gifts are, it may be because you have never discovered them. Spiritual gifts are by no means a reward for faithfulness, but they are distributed according to God's plan. Some people are of the opinion that God enjoys calling us to tasks that in no way correspond to our gifting. Each time I discover a gift that I don't have is a cause to celebrate. Since gifts are intended for life long use, we can plan our lives accordingly.

Feed Cheney Program

Last month marked the start of a new program for community members in need. On the last Monday of March, Cheney's United Church of Christ (UCC) hosted a free dinner for anyone in need of a good hot meal, and experienced a crowd of more than forty people. Sam and Heather Buzby were volunteer servers from St. Paul's, and had a wonderful and very memorable time helping out. They encourage everyone else to volunteer when they can. The dinners are held on the last Monday of each month from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Cheney UCC. If you are interested in helping, please sign up in the parish hall, or contact Linnea if you are interested. There are still openings for May-August.

Celebrating the Seder

On Maundy Thursday, families of St. Paul gathered in the parish hall for a Seder Meal with Eucharist. Liturgy of the Passover meal with narration (Haggadah) was adapted from the traditional Jewish Seder in celebration of God's mercy when He freed the Israelites from the Egyptians.

Passover foods of lamb, matzah, bitter herbs, eggs, harosis and wine (grape juice) were blessed and shared. The meal concluded with a celebration of the Eucharist in the fashion of the early Christians.

The gathering ended with preparation for Good Friday as all entered the sanctuary and participated in stripping the altar and observed a period of silence as the lights were extinguished.

Outreach Report

The Outreach Committee will meet soon to determine the distribution of our First Quarter Tithe, \$908.30. Our policy is to give at least half of these monies to help fill needs in Cheney and Medical Lake, with the remaining half going to relief efforts through Episcopal Relief and Development. Allocation decisions will be posted on the bulletin board at St. Paul's.

Narcotics Anonymous meets Tuesdays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. On June 26, the Washington/North Idaho Region of Narcotics Anonymous is holding the 2010 Mobile Convention at the Post Falls Church of the Nazarene (308 W. 12th St.). This is a free event featuring speakers from around our region. A complimentary dinner is also included. Check in time is 8 a.m..

Update: The Cheney Clothing Exchange is now located at The United Church of Christ in the building that also houses the preschool. Its hours of operation are every Wednesday from Noon to 6 p.m. Cheney Outreach continues its operation at the United Church of Christ as well. Its hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to Noon.

Financial Report

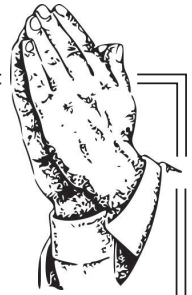
Our financial situation at the end of the first quarter of 2010 is sound, and we are on pace to meet our projected revenue needs. As of March 31, our pledge income was \$8,565 against total pledges for the year of \$28,544. Plate receipts are \$517.95 against an expected annual amount of \$1,200.

We continue to closely monitor our expenses to keep them within the parameters set in the budget.

Volunteers Needed: The Finance Committee is looking for two volunteers to serve on the audit committee to review the 2009 budget year. This would require no more than two meetings where the committee would examine the financial records of the church. If you are interested, please contact Lea. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Young Adult Happenings

The Diocese has scheduled two young adult events for this spring/fall. The first is a Silverwood trip on May 15-16. Participants will get two days of play at the North Idaho theme park, with one night's stay at nearby Camp Cross, all for around \$40. Then in the fall, a trip to Ohanapecosh campground at Mt. Rainier will take place Sept. 10-13 for \$30 per person (limited to the first 25 people). If you are interested in either trip, please contact Colin Haffner, Camp Cross Program Director at 509.723.3790 or colinh@spokanediocese.org.



Spiritual Ponderings

"We are talking about God. What wonder is it about that you do not understand? If you do understand, then it is not God."

-- St. Augustine of Hippo
4th Century Berber Philosopher and Theologian

"Throughout my whole life, during every minute of it, the world has been gradually lighting up and blazing before my eyes until it has come to surround me, entirely lit up from within."

-- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin
19th Century French Philosopher and Jesuit Priest

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

-- The Book of Hebrews
Chapter 13:2

"The life of faith is summarized by Micah (6:8) as, 'do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God'"

-- Timothy F. Sedgwick
Contemporary American Author and Theologian

"Who is this God who seeks us in so many ways, who calls us from our familiar and comfortable places and moves us into new roles?"

-- Christopher L. Webber
Contemporary American Author and Hymn-Writer

St. Paul's Events Calendar - April / May / June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 April Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i> <i>Bishop's Committee Meeting</i>	19	20 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	21 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	22 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	23	24 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
25 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Jeff Neuberger</i>	26 "Feed Cheney" Dinner - 5 p.m. <i>Cheney UCC</i>	27 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	28 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	29 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	30	1 May N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
2 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i>	3	4 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	5 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	6 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	7	8 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
9 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>TBD</i> <i>Mother's Day</i>	10	11 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	12 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	13 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	14	15 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Spring Clean-up (tentative)
16 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>TBD</i> <i>Bishop's Committee Meeting</i>	17	18 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	19 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	20 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	21	22 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Spring Clean-up (tentative)
23 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i> <i>Pentecost</i>	24 "Feed Cheney" Dinner - 5 p.m. <i>Cheney UCC</i>	25 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	26 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	27 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	28	29 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
30 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>TBD</i>	31 <i>Memorial Day</i>	1 June N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	2 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	3	4	5 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
6 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>TBD</i>	7	8 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	9 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	10 <i>EWU Spring Quarter Ends</i>	11 <i>EWU Commencement</i>	12 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
13 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i>	14 <i>Flag Day</i>	15 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	16 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	17	18	19 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>

Good Stewards

A special thank you to all of St. Paul's community for participating and supporting new visions in congregational development. A note of appreciation was received from the Bishop for recognizing and valuing the importance of our work both theologically and practically.



Come See our New Banner!

A special thanks to Pastor Deborah Rose, the artist who created our beautiful new banner for the Narthex. It is a living scene of the symbols of our faith and community. If you haven't already, please come and see it!

Have Something to Say?

If you have an article, event or good steward nomination to add to *News from St. Paul's*, please write to Sam at newsletter@stpaulswestplains.org.



Save a tree! If you would like to receive *News from St. Paul's* via e-mail, please write to Sam at newsletter@stpaulswestplains.org.

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Help us Find the Cure!

The 8th annual West Plains Relay for Life will take place from 6 p.m. Friday, May 14. until 9 a.m. Saturday. This overnight walk is held at Eastern Washington University's Woodward Field, and is the signature fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. The event brings together people from all walks of life with the common goal of eliminating cancer. This year's schedule of activities includes a silent auction open to the public. For more information and to make a donation, contact Jan Johnson at 509.838.0758.

Confirmation Classes

9 a.m. classes for anyone wishing to be confirmed will begin this Saturday, April 16 at the Cathedral of St. John. Cathedral Confirmations will take place on Saturday, May 22. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Christine at cjsoule@gmail.com.



St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Spring Prayer - by Ralph Waldo Emerson

*For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!*

*For blue of stream and blue of sky;
For pleasant shade of branches high;
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!*