



News from St. Paul's

December 2009 / January 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.

Inside this issue:

1 - Lead Clergy Update

Youth & Young Adults

A Collective "Thanks!"

Christmas Gifts Needed

2 - Stewardship Report

A Short Story

Spiritual Ponderings

Fun & Games

3 - Events Calendar

4 - Good Stewards

Newsletter Submissions

Prayer Chain Update

Meditation Book Reminder

Lead Clergy Update

Please join the Bishop's Committee in welcoming Rev. Christine Soule as our new lead clergy for 2010. After consultation with Bishop Waggoner and discussion by the Bishop's Committee it was determined that the best fit for St. Paul's at this time was right in our midst. Rev. Soule is officially in the position as of January 1, 2010, with her contract running through December 31, 2010. She will serve with the title of Community Priest.

Rev. Soule will continue to celebrate and preach two Sundays a month, and she will arrange for supply priests for the remaining two Sundays. We hope to see Revs. Elizabeth Hasen, Jeffrey Neuberger, and Frances Harland fairly frequently in the latter capacity.

Rev. Soule will provide leadership and support in the areas of liturgy and worship, pastoral care, Christian education, the development of lay ministries, and campus and young adult ministries. Provisions have been made for bringing in other clergy with particular expertise for workshops in areas where we would like to strengthen our ministries.

The Bishop's Committee and other various committees and lay ministries will work with Rev. Soule to make this a spiritually rewarding year wherein our faith may grow and flourish.

Youth & Young Adults

Our young adults group had a gathering in November at Sara and Steve O'Donnell's home in Medical Lake, which including a great meal and discussion, as well as a bonfire with roasted marshmallows. An outing to a Chiefs Hockey on Dec. 4 also gave the group a chance to get together for fun and fellowship -- the Chiefs even won! The group is planning an evening of serving food with the City Gate Homeless Program in Spokane at the end of January.

The campus ministry group *Holy Grounds* finished up the quarter at EWU with an evening of special music for the students during finals week. Next quarter the group plans to show some great movies of the times and follow up with theological discussions.

For more information about campus ministry, young adult and youth ministries, and to find out how to get involved, please contact Rev. Christine Soule, community priest for St. Paul's, at cjsoule@gmail.com 509.235.6150.

A Collective "Thanks!"

A hearty and heartfelt "Thank you!" to those members of the congregation who turned out on Saturday, Nov. 7 to weed, rake, haul, sweep the roof, work on the reader-board, and generally spiff-up the grounds of the church for winter. The next time you see one of the following workers, please give them a "thanks": Sam & Heather Buzby, Rob Wiseley, Lea & Claire Simpson, Ron Hess, Steve & Sara O'Donnell, David Tiffany, and Rev. Christine Soule.

Christmas Gifts Needed

Once again, Cheney Outreach, under the stewardship of Sally Schamp of the United Church of Christ, is offering a Christmas gift program for needy children in the Cheney area.

The distribution day is Tuesday, December 15, at UCC. The greatest number of children fall into the age range of elementary and middle school; however, there are also a number of preschool and high school age children.

Please consider including in your gift a book, an article of clothing, e.g. warm hat or gloves, and/or a toy or game. Please bring your gifts, unwrapped, to St. Paul's no later than Sunday, December 13. Susan Durrie will transport them to UCC.

Stewardship Report

Our Stewardship Campaign, seeking commitments of pledge, time and talent for 2010, has been concluded. We received 17 pledges, down from 19 in 2009, totaling \$26,354.00, somewhat short of our \$28,000.00 target. We do welcome a new pledging family. And to all who have pledged, thank you! The Bishop's Committee will base a 2010 budget on this and other revenue figures, and bring a recommendation to the congregation at the annual meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2010.

The roster of time and talent ministries is being organized, and someone will contact you about scheduling your service for 2010 in the areas in which you expressed a willingness to serve.

Finally, please do your very best to fulfill your financial pledge for 2009. If we all do so, we will meet our budget obligations for 2009 and be able to make a fresh start in 2010.

A Short Story: When Your Hut is On Fire!

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, 'God! How could you do this to me?'

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal." they replied.

The Moral of This Story:

It is easy to get discouraged when things go bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground, it just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.



Spiritual Ponderings



"Hope has two lovely daughters, Anger and Courage – Anger, so that what must not be, cannot be; and Courage, so that what must be, will be."

-- St. Augustine
4th Century Philosopher, Theologian and Saint

"Be discontented with the world, but be respectful at the same time."

-- Chaim Potok
20th Century Jewish-American Author and Rabbi

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

-- Hamilton Wright Mabie
19th Century American Essayist, Editor, Critic and Lecturer

"If we are we still waiting for something, we must remember that the New Year is waiting for us, too, with fresh challenge, virgin promise, rude discovery and confirming triumphs. Open your hearts to life's new hurdles and simmering victories now. Life is waiting for your gift."

-- Sister Joan D. Chittister
Contemporary American Author and Benedictine Nun

Fun & Games

The following text contains the hidden names of 15 more books of The Bible. See how many you can find!

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. YES, THERE WILL BE SOME REALLY EASY ONES TO SPOT. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. One little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there are really sixteen names of books of the Bible in this story.

St. Paul's Events Calendar - Dec. 2009 / Jan. / Feb. 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 December Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i> Preacher: <i>Rev. Elizabeth Hasen</i> <i>St. Paul's leads service at Cheney Care Center</i>	7	8 Narcotics Anonymous (N.A.) Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	9 Fellowship Breakfast - 7 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	10 	11 <i>Hanukkah Begins at Sundown</i> <i>EWU Winter Break Begins</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> <i>Stewardship Celebration</i>	14	15 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	16 Fellowship Breakfast - 7 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	17	18	19 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
20 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i> Preacher: <i>TBD</i> <i>Bishop's Committee Meeting</i>	21 <i>First Day of Winter</i>	22 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	23 Fellowship Breakfast - 7 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	24 Christmas Eve Service - 7 p.m. <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
27 Morning Prayer - 11 a.m. <i>Dale and Kathy Lamphere</i>	28	29 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	30 Fellowship Breakfast - 7 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	1 January <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
3 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i>	4 <i>EWU Winter Quarter Begins</i>	5 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	6 Fellowship Breakfast - 7 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	7 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	8	9 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
10 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i> Preacher: <i>TBD</i>	11	12 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	13 Fellowship Breakfast - 7 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	14 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	15	16 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
17 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i>	18 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	19 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	20 Fellowship Breakfast - 7 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	21 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	22	23 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
24 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Elizabeth Hasen</i>	25	26 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	27 Fellowship Breakfast - 7 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	28 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	29	30 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
31 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i> <i>Annual Meeting & Potluck</i>	1 February	2 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	3 Fellowship Breakfast - 7 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	4 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	5	6 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>

Good Stewards

First, a grateful "Thanks!" to our young adults group for donating several pew cushions to the church. The comfy, red cushions are located in the back pew at the entrance to the sanctuary. Please help yourself! **Second**, a special "Thank you!" to all the people who baked, sewed and crafted for the Christmas Bazaar and to those who worked tirelessly all day serving and helping. The Bazaar made \$839 this year, the largest profit ever! **Finally**, a big "Thanks!"



Thanks
for being
a
**Good
Steward**

to Rob Wisely for his participation in the Holy Grounds meetings each week.

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.

4

Prayer Chain Update

If you would like to add a name of someone needing prayers to the prayer list, or If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain (i.e. one of us offering prayers) please call Susan Durrie at 235-4273.

On the Lighter Side

A \$1 bill and a \$20 bill were about to be retired. The \$20 bill said, "I'm ready to retire. I've been to Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Las Vegas... I'm worn out!" The \$1 bill said, "I'm ready too, I've been to a Baptist Church, an Episcopal church, a Catholic Church, a Lutheran Church... I'm exhausted!" To which the \$20 replied, "What's a church?"

- *Complements of Rev. Killy Balabanis*

Don't Forget!

Don't forget to pick up your copy of the Advent meditation book *Sparks of Advent Light* by Joan Chittister. The books are in the welcome area, next to the weekly bulletins -- please pick one up if you haven't already! For more information, please contact Rev. Christine.



St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

625 C Street • Cheney, WA 99004

Telephone: 509.235.6150

A Prayer for Advent

All-powerful God, help us to look forward in hope to the coming of our Savior. May we live as he taught, ready to welcome him with love and faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Peace be upon each of you this Christmas season, and blessings in the New Year!