

Lenten Soup & Study

This year, St. Paul's will hold a Wednesday Lenten soup and study series beginning March 4. We will be reading together *The Dream of God: A Call to Return* by Verna Dozier. Copies will be purchased from Amazon. The price is \$12 per book, payable to Holladay. Please sign up in the parish hall to bring in soup and/or bread.

Cheney Outreach Update

Due to the closure of the Wren Pierson Building after structural damage caused by the excessive snowfall, the Cheney Food Bank, Clothing Bank and Outreach Center have been forced to temporarily relocate. At this time, their new information is as follows:

Cheney Food Bank: temporarily located at the Cheney Recycling Center, 100 W. Anderson Drive, Cheney. Open Wednesdays 9 a.m. - Noon.

Cheney Outreach: temporarily located at the United Church of Christ, 423 N. Sixth Street, Cheney. Open Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. - Noon. Phone: (509) 235-8900

Cheney Clothing Bank: temporarily located at the Cheney United Methodist Church, 204 4th Street. Open Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This issue's good steward is **Susan Durrie**, in recognition of her endless efforts to help the needy in our community through St. Paul's, Cheney Outreach and the Cheney Food Bank. We could



all learn a lot from Susan's passion for giving back in this time of great need in our world. Susan, on behalf of those you help each and every day, thanks!

Church Youth: Listen Up!

Diocesan Winter Weekend for Youth is March 6-8, at 49 Degrees North. The group will depart from Holy Trinity, Spokane. For more information and to register for this fun weekend, visit www.spokanediocese.org/news/winter-weekend-2009 Hurry! The deadline is Feb. 28.

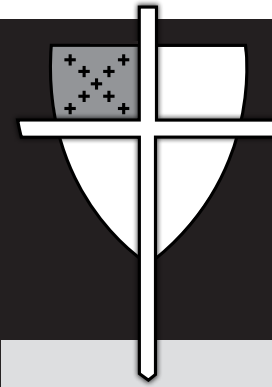
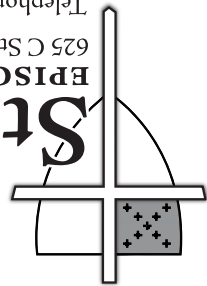


Save a tree! If you would like to receive *News from St. Paul's* via e-mail, please write to Sam at sam.buzby@gmail.com.

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.
Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.
And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.
For this is love and nothing else is love,
To which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends he will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

A Prayer for Spring - By Robert Frost

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News from St. Paul's

February/March 2009

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Cheney, Washington

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

What's Inside...

- P. 1 - Holladay's Message
- George's Message
- P. 2 - Quarterly Updates
- Spiritual Ponderings
- P.3 - Events Calendar
- P.4 - Lenten Series
- Outreach Update
- This Issue's Good Steward
- Youth Event

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 25: 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service at St. Pauls.

March 2: College Student Dinner

March 4: Lenten Soup & Study series begins

March 6-8: Diocesan Winter Weekend for Youth, March 6-8, 49 Degrees North

Holladay's Message

Dear People of St. Paul's

In our bi-monthly cycle of newsletters, we find ourselves again immersed in transition. This cycle of our news begins in Epiphany and will end near the end of Lent. On one end we are celebrating the gift of God's Light that has come into our midst. When our cycle closes, we will be deep in our annual meditation on how we are to respond to the extraordinary gift we have been given in Jesus; how we shall follow God's call to us.

At the end of March, we will be in the midst of Lent, close to the beginning of Holy Week, but not yet there. As Christians we are always people in that "soon, but not yet" time. So it is not totally surprising that our common journey finds us, as we often are, in a state of transition. Winter will slowly but surely be turning to early spring (we hope!!) The light of Epiphany will lead us toward the growing darkness of Lent when we begin our journey to the cross with Jesus.

During Lent, we enter into a season of special devotion: a time when we add something spiritual into our lives. Or we could give something as a spiritual practice. During this season we ponder our call to repent; to return; to turn our lives in a new direction. That theme of return guides our choice for our Lenten study on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7:30 PM.

We will be reading together Verna Dozier's *The Dream of God: A Call to Return*. It is now a Seabury classic; a significant piece of Episcopal spiritual literature. Ms. Dozier was a feisty lady from Washington, DC, whom I had the honor to meet when I was in seminary. She was a retired teacher who pondered deeply God's call to all of us; God's call to ministry. She believed firmly that ALL people have a share in ministry. On the back of one of her book covers,

the following is found:

"The church, as an institution, has again and again fallen away from the dream that God has for us – to follow Jesus and not merely worship him.... Through her adept sense of storytelling and knowledge of the Bible, she engages Christians in the call to lead the church again toward the dream of God."

Hopefully our own dream of church will grow in its shape during Lent. Who shall we become? How is God calling us to follow? What transition are we entering together? What is next for us?

Whatever God holds in store for us, we know that God is with us on the Way. Thanks be to God.

In Christ's love,

George's Message

I want to commend and thank you all for the strong turnout and engaged involvement in our 2009 Annual Meeting. We had 21 members in attendance, and, all, I dare say, were engaged in the discussion at one time or another.

We had disquieting news from Holladay that St. Martin's, Moses Lake, has funding for her salary only through March 31. She is working with the Bishop to enable her to secure another 1/2 time clergy position, most likely in the Wenatchee Deanery. The Bishop informed me that he is prepared to do all that he can to keep Holladay in the Spokane Diocese. Please keep all parties in your prayers, including St. Martin's as the congregation and its leadership discern the direction of its clerical ministry.

-- George

Quarterly Budget Updates

The budget adopted at the annual meeting shows an \$8,535 shortfall in income. This amount will be covered by fund-raising efforts and by tapping our operating reserve fund. In addition, we will, of course, as was the practice last year, remain vigilant in our spending. To keep the congregation informed of developments, we will provide, via the newsletter, quarterly updates on the status of the budget. It is very important in these difficult economic times that everyone is made aware of the financial condition of this parish.

Lay Ministry Governance Positions to be Filled

I don't think I have to emphasize to this congregation the importance of shared governance/shared ministry opportunities required to assure the well being of the parish and the gratification of each of us. I believe we need merely to be made aware of the situation. We have the following needs that require responses:

1. Bishop's Committee: Levi Mazurek informed me that it is necessary for him to resign his seat on the Bishop's Committee due to a demanding senior-year academic load. He agreed to serve on the Committee through the February meeting. We need a replacement to complete the second year of his two-year term. If you are in a position to serve in this capacity for 2009 please contact me.

2. Delegates/Alternates to the Diocesan Convention: we need two delegates and two alternates to the Diocesan Convention held this year in Lewiston, ID, in mid-October. This is an excellent opportunity to gain an understanding of the workings of the Diocesan organization and the range of ministries it serves. Please contact me if you are in a position to serve.

3. Fund-raising Committee: this is a new committee, made necessary by the budget shortfall noted above. We need two volunteers, or recruits, to serve as facilitators of a fund-raising brainstorming session that will hopefully identify viable and enjoyable fund-raising events. You needn't necessarily lead the fund-raising events; that will be determined as we select the most promising event(s). Again, please contact me if you are willing to fill this need.

Stewardship Reminder

It is still possible to fulfill your 2008 pledge, if you have not already done so. Simply increase your 2009 pledge installments by the amount remaining on your 2008 pledge. The total amount contributed will be recorded on your 2009 year-end statement, and the 2008 records will record that you fulfilled your pledge for that year.

Spiritual Ponderings

*I am the great sun, but you do not see me.
I am your husband, but you turn away.
I am the captive, but you do not free me.
I am the captain you will not obey.*

*I am the truth, but you will not believe me.
I am the city where you will not stay.
I am your wife, your child, but you will leave me.
I am that God to whom you will not pray.*

*I am your counsel, but you will not hear me.
I am the lover whom you will betray.
I am the victor, but you will not cheer me.
I am the holy dove whom you will slay.*

*I am your life, but if you will not name me.
Seal up your soul with tears, and never blame me.*

Let me remember, for all His Power God will not force himself upon us. We must invite Him into our lives. We need to let His Power come to work on our power. We must allow Him who is the Resurrection and the Life to enter into our many deaths, that we may experience the resurrection now. We need to know that He comes to us so that we may have life and have it more abundantly. This means letting Him enter the darkness and allowing Him to descent into our own hells. There are places in our lives where we all need Him to walk; we need His healing touch, His words of forgiveness, His liberating power. In the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins we all must "Let him Easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness in us." We must let Him transform our winter into spring, our darkness into light. Let Him come down to where we are and lift us up.

-- David Adam

From *The Eye of the Eagle: Meditations on the hymn "Be Thou my Vision"* London: Triangle, 1990, p. 120.

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The love of God is unconditional, but it does call for a response. As He gives Himself fully, it calls for us to respond with our whole being... Such love expresses the fact that God loves us whoever we are and whatever stage we are at. God's love does not cease, through it He seeks to bind us to Him. To express this love, the Church has always been full of prayers; it is not by accident that they have often been called devotions.

-- David Adam

From *The Eye of the Eagle: Meditations on the hymn "Be Thou my Vision"* London: Triangle, 1990, p. 48-49.

St. Paul's Events Calendar - February/March/April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 February Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. Rev. Soule	9	10	11 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	12 Eco-Justice Dinner, 6 p.m.	13	14
15 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. Rev. Sanderson	16	17 Dessert/Discussion: <i>Eucharist</i> Medical Lake, 1 p.m. Rooted in God, St. Pauls 5:30-7:30 p.m.	18 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	19 Dessert/Discussion: <i>Eucharist</i> St. Paul's, 6 p.m. Eco-Justice Dinner, 6 p.m.	20	21
22 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. Rev. Soule	23	24	25 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.	26 Eco-Justice Dinner, 6 p.m.	27	28
1 March Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. Rev. Sanderson	2 College Student Dinner Parish Hall 6-8 p.m.	3	4 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m. Lenten Soup & Study 5:30 p.m.	5 Eco-Justice Dinner, 6 p.m.	6 Diocesan Winter Weekend for Youth, March 6-8, 49 Degrees North	7 Diocesan Winter Weekend for Youth, March 6-8, 49 Degrees North
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29 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. Rev. Sanderson	30	31	1 April Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m. Lenten Soup & Study 5:30 p.m.	2 Eco-Justice Dinner, 6 p.m.	3	4
5 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. Rev. Soule Palm Sunday	6 College Student Dinner Parish Hall 6-8 p.m.	7	8 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	9 Eco-Justice Dinner, 6 p.m.	10	11