



News from St. Paul's

Mid-February / March 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 - The Lenten Season

Projects in the Works

Important Congregational Meeting

2 - From the Outreach Committee

Stewardship Report

2010 Marsden Scholarship

Spiritual Ponderings

3 - Events Calendar

4 - Good Stewards

Lenten Soup Suppers

Newsletter Submissions

The Lenten Season

Last week I spent three days in retreat with the clergy of the diocese. We spent time together in silence and meditation, laughing and talking. We spent time in the wilderness both inwardly and outwardly. We read the story of the prophet Elijah hearing the "still, small voice" - confronting the presence of God after first running away from danger, starving in the wilderness and fed by an angel of the Lord. After forty days, Elijah goes up onto the mountain to encounter God. First there is a wind so powerful that it breaks rocks and uproots trees. Then an earthquake. Then fire. But there is no God in the wind or earthquake, or fire. Then silence. The sound of "sheer silence" or the "still, small voice". When God meets Elijah it is in that stillness, in that silence, that comes after the wind, the earthquake, the fire.

The purpose of Lent is to be a season of looking both inwardly and outwardly, spending some time in the wilderness, whether it be a quiet day at home or an hour watching the sun set over a lake or your favorite spot in the garden. Our busy lives keep us from hearing the "still, small voice" of God. We listen to the voices of this world and ignore the one who endured so much more and emerged triumphant that we might not have to suffer. How will we at St. Paul's prepare for the wilderness journey and the joy of Easter, how will you prepare yourself for the wilderness journey and the joy of Easter?

Blessings,

Rev. Christine Soule
Community Priest

Projects in the Works

As you have undoubtedly noticed we have a rich, new color on the walls of the Narthex. This is the first of two changes to refreshen the appearance and heighten the impact one experiences entering the church whether as a first-time visitor or a long-time member of St. Paul's. The second piece is a commission to professionally design and produce a new banner that will hang 8 or 10 inches out from the back wall of the Narthex. We are working with Debra Rose, a former UCC minister in Cheney, who now has a business producing stoles and banners. Her design will incorporate

themes that depict the liturgical seasons as well as the mission of St. Paul's.

Cheney Glass is preparing two estimates, one for replacing our windows with thermal windows, and two, for permanently attaching storm windows to the existing frames. We are well advised to winterize the windows in one these ways to both preserve the wood interiors of the sills and walls as well as achieve some energy conservation, and reduce our heating and cooling bill. More on this when the estimates come in.

David Tiffany once again (he raised the matter several years ago) suggested that we consider placing stained glass windows in the two existing window frames behind the altar. A geometric design would be less costly while the colors used would still bathe the altar and the church in soothing and spiritually uplifting light. This project is certainly worth investigating. If you have any questions, please contact George Durrie, Senior Warden.

Important Congregational Meeting - Sunday, Feb. 21

Several members of the congregation have asked over the past few months when the outcomes of the *Rooted in God* congregational formation process would be brought to a congregational gathering for broader discussion. This is indeed the final step of this program, that is, to obtain congregational commitment of its individual "gifts" to the ministries the congregation identifies in response to the question, "what do we want St. Paul's to become?" The diocese has urged us to complete this process to provide guidance for the transition we are making in clerical leadership.

We will meet after the service on **Sunday, Feb. 21 at 12:30 p.m.** for an all-congregation discussion of the vision and goals to which we, as a congregation, will commit our individual time and "gifts."

It is important that we have the broadest possible participation in this discussion. Please plan to attend. A lunch of sub sandwiches will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact George Durrie, Senior Warden.

From the Outreach Committee

UPDATE: The Clothing Exchange, which was recently closed, reopened at The United Church of Christ, corner of Sixth and Oakland. Its hours will be Tuesdays, Noon to 6 p.m. A special Thank You is in order to the UCC Church which also gives temporary housing to Cheney Outreach, all in the wake of the closing of the Wren Pierson Building one year ago due to snow damage.

OUTREACH REPORT: Due to the tragic earthquake in Haiti in Jan. 2010, the Outreach Committee unanimously decided to make an exception to our usual distribution of at least 50% to local concerns and give all of the 4th quarter tithe to the Episcopal Relief and Development Haiti Relief Fund: \$637.65.

St. Paul's total distribution for 2009 is as follows:

Local Ministries - in the West Plains area

Cheney Outreach	\$ 675.00
Cheney Food Bank	\$180.46
Medical Lake Food Bank	\$335.74
Total Local Ministries	\$1,191.20

International Ministries - Episcopal Relief & Development

Africa Relief Fund	\$790.00
Philippines Relief Fund	\$301.20
Haiti Relief Fund	\$637.65
Total International Ministries	\$1,728.85

TOTAL TITHE, OUTREACH MINISTRIES, 2009 \$2,920.05

A special thanks to the congregation for strong support of the Holiday Gift Program for Children held in December. Your gifts were very generous and deeply appreciated. Some 168 children were the recipients of Christmas gifts offered mainly through local churches.

St. Paul's Outreach Committee: Susan Durrie, John Graves and Rev. Killy Balabanis

Stewardship Report

We are very pleased to report that we met our 2009 pledge income goal. Our goal was \$27,404, and we received \$27,555 for the year. All members of our pledging family are to be commended for fulfilling your financial commitment of support to the church during a difficult year. Our plate offerings, again, exceeded our goal for 2009: our goal was \$1,500, and we received \$1,645.

St. Paul's is generously supported with offerings by both visiting families of our members, other visitors, and those who, at this time, are unable to make a pledge.

For 2010, our pledge income goal was \$28,000. We received pledges totalling \$28,554. We added a new pledging family for a total of seventeen pledging members, down from nineteen in 2009. We have just under 80% congregational participation in the 2010 annual campaign.

Rev. Soule will review the 'time & talent' sheets as well as consult directly with the congregation to recruit members to commit to the shared work involved in the various ministries of St. Paul's as a community of faith.

2010 Marsden Scholarship

We have received copies of the 2010 Marsden Scholarship application. Marsden Scholarships are awarded based on academic excellence to students whose legal residence is within the boundaries of the Diocese of Spokane and who are accepted for admission at the nation's top universities. Universities with recent Marsden Scholars include Gonzaga, Whitworth, WSU, UW, Columbia, and Yale among others. Church membership is not a requirement. Award standards are quite high: the last few years' new scholars had an average GPA of 3.9, often with honors or advanced placement courses. The deadline for submitting applications is April 10. If you know of a student who fits this academic profile, please contact George Durrie for more information and an application.

Campus Ministry

Holy Grounds continues to meet on the EWU campus at the PUB for coffee and conversation, currently talking about GLBT issues on campus and in the community. Dinner with prayers follows at St. Paul's. Pastor Shelley Wee and Rev. Christine Soule will hold **Ash Wednesday Services at the PUB**. The service will be at Noon in Room 206 with the imposition of ashes. All are welcome.



Spiritual Ponderings

"The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw- and knew I saw-all things in God and God in all things."

-- Mechthild of Magdeburg
13th Century Beguine and Benedictine Nun

"The miracle is not to walk on water, but on the earth."

-- Thich Nhat Hanh
20th Century Vietnamese Zen Buddhist

"Why when God's world is so big, did you fall asleep in a prison of all places?"

-- Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Balkhī
13th Century Persian Poet, Jurist, Theologian and Sufi Mystic

"God is not found in the soul by adding anything but by subtracting."

-- Meister Eckhart
14th Century German theologian, Philosopher and Mystic

"There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning."

-- Louis L'Amour
20th Century American Author

St. Paul's Events Calendar - Feb. / March / April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 February Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i> <i>St. Valentine's Day /</i> <i>Chinese New Year</i>	15 <i>President's Day</i>	16 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i> N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	17 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i> Ash Wednesday Service - 6:30 p.m.	18 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	19	20 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
21 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i> Preacher: <i>George Durrie</i> <i>Congregational Meeting</i>	22	23 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	24 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i> Lenten Soup Supper - 5:30 p.m.	25 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	26	27 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
28 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i>	1 March	2 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	3 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i> Lenten Soup Supper - 5:30 p.m.	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>
7 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: TBD	8	9 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	10 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i> Lenten Soup Supper - 5:30 p.m.	11 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	12 <i>New Year's Day</i>	13 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
14 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i>	15	16 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	17 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i> Lenten Soup Supper - 5:30 p.m.	18	19 <i>EWU Winter Quarter Ends</i>	20 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i> <i>First Day of Spring</i>
21 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: TBD	22 <i>EWU Spring Break Week Begins</i>	23 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	24 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i> Lenten Soup Supper - 5:30 p.m.	25	26	27 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
28 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	29 <i>EWU Spring Quarter Begins</i>	30 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	31 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i> Lenten Soup Supper - 5:30 p.m.	1 April Maundy Thurs. Passover Celebration - TBD <i>more info to come</i>	2 Good Friday Service 7 p.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Soule</i>	3 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
4 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: <i>Rev. Christine Soule</i> <i>Easter Sunday</i>	5	6 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	7 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	8 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	9	10 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>
11 Holy Eucharist Rite II - 11 a.m. Celebrant and Preacher: TBD	12	13 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	14 Fellowship Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	15 Holy Grounds Coffee - 4:30 p.m. <i>EWU PUB</i> Dinner - 6 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>	16	17 N.A. Meeting - 7:30 p.m. <i>Parish Hall</i>

Good Stewards

We would first like to recognize the hard work and determination of St. Paul's Outreach Committee members **Susan Durrie, John Graves** and **Rev. Killy Balabanis** who help to distribute our tithe each quarter to people in need, both in our backyard and around the world. You are helping to spread the love and gifts of St. Paul's to those who need it most, and for that we thank you! Also, a big "Thanks!" to **Rob Wisely**, along with **Michael Feller** and **Cassie Tobler** and everyone else who had a hand in painting the Narthex and adding life to our welcome area.



Thanks
for being
a
Good
Steward

The color looks great and is a statement of welcome to all who enter St. Paul's.



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.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Lenten Soup Suppers begin next Wednesday, Feb. 24 from 5:30-7 p.m. at St. Paul's and continue each Wednesday throughout Lent. Our program will be *Living the Questions: What's Next For Christianity*. Some of the contributors are John Shelby Spong, Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Siyoung Park, Nancy Ammerman, Emilie Townes. We will eat and watch the 20 minute video and then have lively discussion. Sign up sheet for soup and bread will be in the Parish Hall. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Also: This year's Lenten meditation books *Forty Days* will be made available to you soon. Please contact Rev. Christine for more information.

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.

4



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A Prayer for Haiti

Dear God, we ask you to give comfort and strength to the people of Haiti. May they know of your love and care through the actions and prayers of your people. We pray that they may receive spiritual and material help through the generosity of the world community.

We pray also for those who have died, may they rest in the peace of your Heavenly Kingdom. May their families and friends find solace through their prayers and the prayers of others.

Amen.