

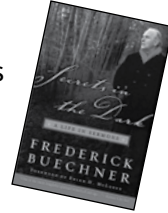
Summer Book Readings



The first July book is *Believe Me* by Nina Killham, a novel about a 13 year old who is trying to figure out his relationship with God, his parents and his friends. He's wondering who is God, Does God exist, and how is God active in the world if at all? Son of 2 college professors of Catholic and Jewish

backgrounds, one of whom is an atheist, he begins participating in a conservative Christian church. This is an interesting take on the religion vs atheism debate from a teen's point of view.

Secrets in the Dark: A Life in Sermons is a collection by Frederick Buechner, considered one of the finest preachers today. From the book cover: "... Buechner has long been a kindred spirit to those who find elements of doubt as constant companions on their journey of faith. He is a passionate writer and preacher who can alter lives with a simple phrase."



Holladay has ordered a few copies of these books. If you want to be sure to have one, let her know ASAP and she will order more!

This issue's good stewards are **those who helped during spring cleaning last month.** Thank you



Thanks for being a Good Steward

for your much needed ministry and your willingness to get your hands dirty taking care of St. Pauls. The church and grounds look great!

Special Note:

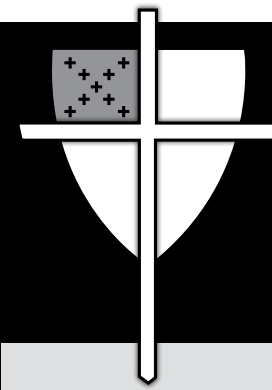
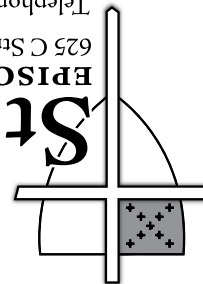
George and Susan Durrie will be on vacation June 19 through July 12. Please direct any urgent inquiries or issues that might normally go to the Senior Warden to either Holladay or Christine.



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.

A Summer Prayer...
Lord, help me to rest a while in
the cooling shade of your
presence. Slow down my restless heart
and fill me with gentle compassion for
all your people.
Amen.

St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
625 C Street • Cheney, WA 99004
Telephone: 509.235.6150



News from St. Paul's

June/July 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

P.2 - Treasurer Vacancy

Spring Beautification

Put a Can on the Can

Celebration of Thanks

Spiritual Ponderings

P.3 - Events Calendar

P.4 - Summer Book Readings

Our Good Stewards

Special Note

Upcoming Events:

June 23: Book Discussions

July 7 : Book Discussions

July 19: Potluck and Celebration of Holladay's ministry

Holladay's Message

Dear People of St. Paul's

How bittersweet it is to write this last newsletter reflection to you all. Our time together has been a blessed time for me. We have journeyed far in a short time. And now we each look forward to transition and to new possibilities.

I speak of possibilities so much. They are always there, lying ahead of us, waiting to be grasped, to be embraced. As Christians, our hope lies in the soon-but-not-yet sensibility gifted to us by Jesus himself. It's much like Tony sang in the beginning of the musical *West Side Story*: "Who knows? Could be. There's something due any day... Something's coming right away... soon as it shows... I don't know what it is, but it is gonna be great." With Jesus walking beside us daily, we know our 'somethings' that are coming will indeed be great.

I am going to miss being a part of your journey as your discern together how you will live out being a welcoming haven for spiritual growth; what nourishing people both in and outside of this worshipping community will look like at St. Paul's; how you will nourish people in body, mind and spirit. Your mission statement covers a lot of ground yet it will also ably guide and shape the decisions you will continue to make as a faith community.

It has been such an honor to walk in faith with such a deeply faithful community.

I will treasure our time together and will always value the ways you have enriched my life and ministry. With that faith to ground you, I wish you joy as you explore new possibilities in liturgy and ministry. Both will go far in laying a foundation for enhancing the relationship between St. Paul's, EWU, and the towns of the West Plains.

Even as I have all these farewell wishes for you, I am overjoyed that our time is not over! Not yet! I'll be around through July 23 or so. My last Sunday isn't until July 19. Through June, the book discussion groups will be finishing *A New Kind of Christian*. In July, there will be two separate dates to explore a couple more books: *Believe Me*, a novel by Nina Killham and *Secrets in the Dark*, a set of sermons by Frederick Buechner. There is more information about both later in the newsletter.

We may be having a couple of trainings for Worship Leaders or Eucharistic Visitors as the summer progresses, so keep your eyes on the web page and the Sunday bulletin for any dates that may come up. In the midst of vacations and recreation, the Christian life hardly slows down! In the midst of our transition, blessedly we are still in the soon-but-not-yet and have many more opportunities to come together as the worshipping and celebrating people of God.

In Christ,

Holladay

Treasurer Vacancy

As you may know, Linnea Messinger submitted her resignation from the position as Treasurer of St Paul's effective August 1, 2009. Linnea has volunteered her ministry in this most important position for the past three years. During this time she put our bookkeeping system on sound footing. Linnea brought our accounts current, systematized our bookkeeping procedures, and closely monitored our ongoing income and expense status. I have the highest regard for the dedication, the diligence, and the affability Linnea brought to this critical ministry in the life of St Paul's.

We, of course, are seeking a replacement for Linnea. If you are interested in serving in this capacity at St Paul's, please contact George Durrie. We must fill this position in such a way that ensures the financial integrity of the Church. If we cannot fill the position from within the congregation, we will have to take on the expense of an outside bookkeeping service.

Spring Beautification

I know you join me in thanking the 'Dirty Dozen' of your fellow congregants who put a shoulder to the wheel at our spring clean-up on Saturday, May 30. We prepared the grounds for a new cover of beauty bark, we cleared the unsightly shrubs at both ends of the flower bed in anticipation of planting some hearty perennials in their place, and we spruced up the interior as well. We concluded with the fellowship of a hearty lunch. A mighty fine effort, though some projects remain to be addressed. More on that later.

George Durrie,
Senior Warden

Put a Can on the Can...

and drop a dime when you flush!

The theme for this year's Diocesan Convention is "**Living Water for Thirsty People.**" There are two projects to prepare for as October approaches. **First:** we are being asked to set a can (or other coin receptacle) on the backs of our toilets and drop in a dime for every flush. The money collected will be taken for the offering at Convention. In this clever way, we will be able to share our abundance so that parts of the world that have little or no potable water to drink (let alone flush down the drain) can have access to this life-giving resource. The donation will go to Episcopal Relief and Development's (ERD) Clean Water Wells project. Of course paper money is also accepted. **Second:** We are being asked to read and discuss (in our congregations and at the convention) *Troubled Waters: Religion, Ethics and the Global Water Crisis* by Gary Chamberlain.



A Celebration of Thanks

While Holladay's resignation from St Paul's is effective August 1, 2009, her last Sunday with us as celebrant and preacher is July 19. Please circle this date on your calendar as a 'must attend' Sunday service. We will plan a potluck either at the church or in the park following the service on July 19 to celebrate the gifts of Rev. Cn. Sanderson's presence with us over nearly two years. Perhaps Holladay can persuade Sandy to join her for this celebration.

Spiritual Ponderings

"Power, success, happiness, as the world knows them, are his who will fight for them hard enough; but peace, love, joy are only from God. And God is the enemy whom Jacob fought there by the river [Jabbok, Gen 32:22-31], of course, and whom in one way or another we all of us fight – God, the beloved enemy. Our enemy because, before giving us everything, he demands of us everything; before giving us life, he demands our lives – our selves, our wills, our treasure."

-- Frederick Buechner

From *Secrets in the Dark*. San Francisco: Harper, 2006. P. 7

"...I think it is possible to say that in spite of all its extraordinary variety, the Bible is held together by having a single plot. It is one that can be simply stated: God creates the world, the world gets lost; God seeks to restore the world to the glory for which he created it. That means that the Bible is a book about you and me, whom he also made and lost and continually seeks, so you might say that what holds it together more than anything else is us. You might add to that, of course, that of all the books that humanity has produced, it is the one that more than any other – and in more senses than one – also holds us together."

-- Frederick Buechner

From *Secrets in the Dark*. San Francisco: Harper, 2006. P.194

"...People who seriously seek God find that no one goes unrewarded. So we have to say to ourselves: 'This search is the most important task I shall ever attempt. This adventure is going to take all I have, but my aim is to find the greatest treasure that could possibly exist.'"

-- David Edwards

From *What Anglicans Believe in the Twenty-first Century*. New York: Continuum, 2002. P. 7

St. Paul's Events Calendar - June/July/August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 June Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. - Rev. Sanderson	8	9	10 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	11	12	13
14 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. - Rev. Soule Bishop Committee MTG 12:30 p.m.	15	16	17 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	18	19 <i>Durries leave for vacation</i>	20
21 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. - Rev. Sanderson	22	23 Book Discussions: <i>A New Kind of Christian</i> 2 p.m. - Evelyn's 6 p.m. - St. Paul's	24 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	25	26	27
28 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. - Rev. Soule	29	30	1 July Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	2	3	4
5 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. - Rev. Sanderson	6	7 Book Discussions: <i>Believe Me</i> 2 p.m. - Evelyn's 6 p.m. - St. Paul's	8 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	9	10	11
12 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. - Rev. Soule <i>Durries return from vacation</i>	13	14	15 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	16	17	18
19 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. Rev. Sanderson's Last Sunday	20	21 Book Discussions: <i>Secrets in the Dark</i> 2 p.m. - Evelyn's 6 p.m. - St. Paul's	22 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	23	24	25
26 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. - Rev. Soule	27	28	29 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	30	31	1 August
2 Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. - Rev. Soule	3	4	5 Fellowship Breakfast 7 a.m.	6	7	8