



St. Paul's Epistle

"To know Christ and to make Christ known"

FROM THE RECTOR:



A God with Skin

In his book, *The Holy Longing*, Ronald Rolheiser tells us, "God takes on flesh so that every home becomes a church, every child becomes the Christ-child, and all food and drink become a sacrament" (78). This is Good News, my friends. This is *the* Good News! God becomes human flesh for us. Incarnation! The word "takes its root in the Latin word *carthus*, meaning flesh, physical flesh" (78).

Our flesh! In essence, this makes the incarnation of God an ongoing, life-giving, life-changing reality for this world! "The incarnation," concludes Rolheiser, "is not a thirty-three-year experiment by God in history, a one-shot, physical incursion into our lives. The incarnation began with Jesus and it has never stopped" (79). Now that should be mind-blowing for all of us! I mean, the first time I read those words they were so far out of my theological box on the one hand, because we don't really talk about incarnation that way most of the time; and at the same time it fit like a tailor-made tux. We are, after all, the body of Christ, are we not? That's not just some meaningless aphorism. It is an ontological statement about one of the greatest truths humanity has ever known. We are a part of the ongoing incarnation of God into a world desperately in need of Good News.

By putting on skin – by putting on human flesh – God has made our flesh sacred – has made our flesh – this stuff of which we are made – God has made our flesh holy. We are, by virtue of the incarnation, sacred and holy people – and this world, by God, needs to remember that! Each of us, our communities, the people of this country, the people of all countries, need to acknowledge the sacredness – the holiness – of all human flesh. And then we need to start treating one another in this world as the sacred and holy flesh which God chose to put on for our sakes. We need to ask how we might become God's skin, because how faithfully we wear that skin makes a difference in this world and in the lives of those around us.

"And the Word became flesh and came to live among us."
"And Mary gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, for there was no place for them in the inn." Amen.

Blessings, Jim+

Habitat Dates Have Changed!

Due to the recent snow and heavy rains, the start date for the first 2019 Johnston County Faith Build has been pushed back a week. The first build begins on Saturday, **January 12** with a Wall-Build and Raising event. All churches involved are asked to send **4-5** folks on January 12 to help build walls. Lunch will be provided. St. Paul's is signed up to work on **Friday, January 18** and **Saturday, January 19**. We can bring 7-8 people.

The registration link is <http://vhub.at/johnstoncountycoalition>. If you were part of the 2018 build your registration information and password will probably still work. Please register sooner rather than later.

Sunday, January 6

Rector's Epiphany Party

Because Christmas Eve and Day fell on Monday-Tuesday this year, the Rector's Annual Christmas Gathering will once again be an

Epiphany Party!

The Epiphany Party will take place

AT ST. PAUL'S!

January 6 from 12:15 pm-2:30 pm



Cookies, Cake,
and More



OUTREACH AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE... AND MORE...

Outreach and Social Justice Committee

January 2019
"Volunteers are
a work of heart"



Mission Statement: The Outreach and Social Justice Committee of St. Paul's will identify and share with parish members opportunities to serve as Christ would serve in our community and throughout the world by promoting Christian service, programs and projects. Thank you for making our projects a success!

The Outreach and Social Justice Committee meets four times/year and is led by Diane Every and Debby Jenkins.

Contact information:

Diane Every: 919-934-5080, diane.every@gmail.com

Debby Jenkins: djenkins2615@nc.rr.com

We always appreciate extra help with our projects.

Outreach and Social Justice Committee would like to thank parishioners for making the Angel Tree project a success. St. Paul's collected presents for 35 "angels" as well as additional donations made to the Salvation Army from St. Paul's.



Please continue to save the aluminum tabs from your soft drink cans and place in either the container on the Outreach table by the kitchen or the container on the desk in the hallway by the offices. We turn these over to the Ronald Macdonald House that gets credit for buying supplies for the families that stay there.

Please continue to donate paperback books for the USO at RDU airport and children's books for the Selma "Read and Feed" program. Please feel free to read the Thank You notes that so many of the organizations we help out have written back to us.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 5 at 12:00 noon at St. Paul's. We welcome new participation and new ideas!

Brotherhood of St. Andrew News

Our next meeting of the Brotherhood will be on **January 3**. It all begins with a country ham dinner at **6 PM** and the meeting to follow. Please contact the Brotherhood Chef, John Branch, if you can come so we will know how many to serve. John can be reached at 919-631-2661 or johnb99513@aol.com.

Upcoming Adult Education Schedule

January 6 – February 3: The Lord's Prayer led by Linda Armstrong. Luke 11:1 says that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them about praying after they observed him in prayer. They must have seen something in Jesus that made them want to pray as he did. Whatever it was, they yearned to connect with God, to experience God's presence. So do we all. That doesn't mean we know how. Join us as we consider how to incorporate this wonderful prayer more deeply and meaningfully into our own prayer lives.

ECW News



What a wonderful Bake Sale we had! Our thanks go out to all the people of St. Paul's.

You donated generously, then came back and bought every piece down to the crumbs! Thank you to all who helped in any way. Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all.

On Saturday January 19, 2019, we will have our next meeting at the home of Kay Hewett. Time to be announced. We will vote for officers as well as plan for the new year. Please come and let your voices be heard. Again, my personal thanks to St. Paul's. This is my last year as President of ECW. You have given your best, and I thank each and every one of you.

~ Patsy Gale, President

NEWS AND NOTES...

December Vestry Highlights

Vestry Meeting actions and updates for December:

- ◆ The Vestry elected Tom Stevens to fill the vacant slot on the Vestry. Tom joins Lance Armstrong and Linda Beckett for a three-year term through December 2021.
- ◆ We received the Treasurer's report through November. Pledges were significantly behind for the month and down about \$12K for the year. Unpledged donations were down for the month but still significantly up for the year. Expenses were at or below budget for the month and the year.
- ◆ We are still waiting on possibly six or more 2019 pledges from households that have pledged this year but not yet for 2019.
- ◆ Approved David Wiley of the Finance Committee as a fourth signer.
- ◆ Agreed to move any leftover Supply Clergy funding for 2018 to the dedicated account to help pay a portion of the supply clergy costs during the 2019 sabbatical.
- ◆ **Approved the 2019 Ministry Funding Budget at a total of \$291,363.00 after agreeing to use savings funds, in addition to budgeted income, to balance the budget. Directed that a letter go out to the Congregation explaining the reasoning for approving the budget and offering options to lessen the impact of using savings.**
- ◆ Approved a subcommittee of Lance Armstrong, Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan, and Mike Weathers to explore options of allowing pledges and other gifts to be paid via bank draft and other options.
- ◆ Assigned Vestry Liaison positions (see page 4).
- ◆ Approved the 2019 Clergy Housing Allowance.
- ◆ Reaffirmed the Vestry Meeting Norms and the Vestry Statement on Stewardship.
- ◆ Discussed dates for Safe Church Training for the Vestry, teachers, staff and Lay Eucharistic Visitors.
- ◆ Agreed to release the budgeted \$2,500.00 for Theological Education and to send the funds to The School of Theology at The University of the South in Sewanee, TN.
- ◆ At our December 2 meeting, we elected Curtis Brookshire as Sr. Warden, John Branch as Jr. Warden, Lindy Faulconer as Treasurer, and Pat Hovorka as Clerk.

Connections (Young Adults)



Connections had to cancel our December Christmas Party due to the flu bug's hitting our hosts at the last minute. Plans are underway to get the group together in the new year.

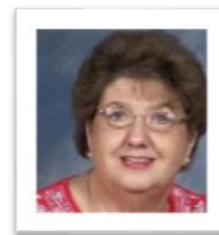
Young adults at St. Paul's (single or married, with our without youngsters) are invited to become a part of this fun group. We gather to build community and enjoy one another's company.

If you are interested in participating in our Young Adult group, please contact Galen Kashtock for more information about Connections. gkashtock@gmail.com

Newly Elected Vestry Class



Lance Armstrong



Linda Beckett



Tom Stevens

Attendance and Pledge Obligations 2018

Last Week 12/23/2018	Year to Date
Attendance 121	1/1/2018 –12/23/2018
Pledge Payments \$1460.00	Pl. Payments \$225,846.00
Weekly Pledge Target \$4587.00	Pledge Budget \$238,521.00

Vestry Liaisons for 2019

Each year the Vestry takes time at the December meeting to set the coming year's Vestry Liaisons. Vestry members are there to support the various committees of the church and to assist in communication between the committees and the Vestry.

- ◆ **Finance:** Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan
- ◆ **Kitchen Guild:** Mike Weathers
- ◆ **Outreach and Social Justice:** Oliver Tolksdorf
- ◆ **Stewardship:** Curtis Brookshire
- ◆ **Christian Formation:** Nancy Gibbs
- ◆ **DOK:** Linda Beckett
- ◆ **ECW:** Linda Beckett
- ◆ **Adult Choir/Bells:** Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan
- ◆ **Altar Guild:** Mike Weathers

- ◆ **Brotherhood:** John Branch, Curtis Brookshire
- ◆ **Buildings & Grounds:** John Branch,
and Tom Stevens
- ◆ **Special Events:** Nancy Gibbs
- ◆ **Communications:** Lance Armstrong
- ◆ **Connections:** Oliver Tolksdorf

Sr. Warden: Curtis Brookshire

Jr. Warden: John Branch

Treasurer: Lindy Faulconer

Clerk: Pat Hovorka

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Sunday Schedule

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 8:45 a.m. Coffee Hour Every 3rd Sunday
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour

Wednesday Choir Rehearsals

- 5:15 p.m. Bell Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Dec 31 2018 donations due by 4:00 pm today
- Jan 01 Office closed
- Jan 02 Bible Study (and every Wednesday 11:00 am)
- Jan 12 Habitat for Humanity Wall Build, 8:00 am
- Jan 15 Finance, 6:00 pm
- Jan 18 Habitat Build, 8:00 am
- Jan 19 Habitat Build, 8:00 am
- Jan 19 ECW at Kay Hewitt's home, Time TBA
- Jan 22 Vestry, 7:00 pm
- Jan 26 DOK, 11:00 am
- Feb 1-3 Vestry Retreat, Trinity Center, Salter Path