



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Good News; February 2007

Dear Beloved in Christ,

As I write this letter I am preparing for my eighteenth annual meeting with this parish. The annual meeting is all about family business. We set a budget for the next year. We talk about what has happened in the previous year -- reminisce a little. We set a direction for the next year. We elect people to lead us. And we take time to share in the joys and sorrows of being a family. It is about being the Body of Christ. I hope that you will come. I know meetings can be long sometimes and even frustrating, but we need you there. So if you can, please come.

Last year was a difficult year for some of the people of this community. There were some struggles with health, broken relationships, death of loved ones, financial struggles, and departures of friends. In this, however, there has been growth, fruit that is abiding and love which overwhelms the heart. There have been healings and births; breakthroughs and adventures; new friendships and restored relationships. God has been at work transforming us into his people, changing us into the likeness of his Son. We have been blessed. And so in our sorrow there is joy; in our brokenness there is healing; in death there is life. God is creating new men and women out of us. He is restoring that which was lost. He is bringing us into the community of love called Trinity. So, as we gather together this year for our annual meeting, let us rejoice in the One who offers us life.

Our new life began with resurrection -- the resurrection of Jesus. He was the first new man, new person. He is the origin and center of every new person. He came into his created world of his own choice, and he brought with him life - "in him was life and this life is the light of humanity. And that light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot put it out." (John 1:4-5). Jesus brings this new life - eternal life into all of those

who trust in him. We become new by being in him. And this life is just beginning.

The world no doubt thinks that we are soon done with the experiment called Christianity. It thinks we are dinosaurs, out of touch, dying. This is not a new thought from the world. It began when the world thought that it was done with Jesus. And yet he came to life again. And this has been repeated over and over again. The world keeps on killing this thing called faith in Jesus, but it keeps rising again, “and each time just as they are patting down the earth on its grave, they suddenly hear that it is still alive and has broken out in some new place.” (Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis page 172). We are above all else people of hope.

Do not let the struggles and sorrows take away your trust in Jesus. Receive these words from Paul, “We have been afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our flesh. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4: 8-9, 11, 16-18). May you always manifest Jesus in your flesh.

Do not lose heart. You are being prepared for an eternal weight of glory that shall never fade away. You are children of the living God. “Beloved we are God’s children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” (1 John 3:2-3). Live in his promise, embrace his life, and know that you are his children and “if children then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” (Romans 8:17).

Love in Christ Jesus,

John+

CELEBRATE BARB!!

Set aside Friday evening, February 16th, 2007! Our parish family and friends will gather together for dinner, to celebrate Barb Gaynor's continued progress and recovery.

All parishioners, including children, are invited.

Please sign up (in Narthex) so we can prepare enough food.

When: Friday, Feb. 16th, 2006

Where: St. Paul's Church Parish Hall

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20. Per adult or free will offering (for kids and adults)

What to bring: Your funny/sentimental/unforgettable memories of Barb

We will be preparing the food on Sat, February 3rd, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m. Please sign up (in Narthex) if you can help with the preparations...the more the merrier! Questions? Call Karen Solimar, Helene Jensen or Dorothy Ingram.

Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato, corn, rolls, salad, apple crisp and ice cream, beverages.

REMINDERS:

Chocolate Sale

Sunday Feb 11

Annual ECW Valentine's Chocolate Candy Sale!!

(for your sweetheart or sweet tooth, or both).

Between and after services.

Beginning February 7th

Wednesday Women's Bible will begin studying:

TAKING ON TOUGH ISSUES -1 Corinthians.

The gathering runs each Wednesday, 2-3 PM and welcomes all women.

Women of St. Paul's

A peek under the tent:

A second 'Beloved' day for you is in the planning stages. Please mark your calendars for April 22nd, 2007. More information will be coming in next month's newsletter, but we'd like to give you advance notice, so you have the day free.

Men of St. Paul's: We could use a few volunteers to help serve. The time commitment will be approximately 3 hours. Anyone willing? Let Carla Hamill, Kim Larsen or Tori Marben know! THANKS!

February Birthdays:

5 Bruce Dickerson
5 Ayla Jo Granberg
9 Susan Gerard
11 Alex Cooley
13 Amy Dickerson
15 Tracy Conover
15 Steve Hamill
15 Evy Nerbonne
16 Eileen Shoemaker
16 Marlys McGaver
17 Ben Chirhart
19 Nathan Washington
21 C.R. Hackworthy
24 Rose Rasmus
24 Joey Mensen
25 Betty Brower
28 Kim Ball
29 Beth Schneider

February Anniversaries:

1 Bob/Eileen Shoemaker
14 Richard/Tracy Conover
28 Keith/Karen Solimar

If your special day is not listed—Please contact the church office and Tori Marben. Thanks!

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February 2007

We're on the Web!
Stpaulshudson.faithweb.com

Jesus is Lord, All the time!

Non Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID #434
Hudson, Wisconsin
54016

St. Paul's Episcopal Church:

502 County Road UU, Hudson, WI 54016-7583
Office: 715-386-2348 Fax: 715-386-2542
E-mail = spechudsonwi@sbcglobal.net

Services:

Sun. 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Traditional Service
9:15 am Adult Bible Study/Sunday School
Children's Sunday School (Sep-May)
Youth Confirmation Class (Sep-Apr)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Praise Service

Wed. 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study (Sep-Apr)
3:00 PM NETworks Youth Ministry Middle High
6:00 PM NETworks Youth Ministry Senior High

Thur. 9:00 am Hudson Mom's Group Meeting
11:00 am Holy Eucharist/Bag Lunch/Bible Study

Jesus is Lord...All The Time!

Clergy:

The Rt. Rev. Keith B. Whitmore, Bishop
The Rev. John E. Rasmus, Rector
The Rev. Richard McGinnis, Associate
The Rev. Derek Washington, Associate

NETworks Youth Director: Dave Pulsfus
Episcopal Church Women: Patti Muenich 715-386-8532
Band of Brothers: Fr. Derek Washington 715-386-2348
Men's Social Ministry: Ed Slamkowski 715-246-9989
Sunday School: Amy Dickerson
Operation H.E.L.P. Volunteer Phone Line 715-386-0881
*Small Group Bible Study: Sunday and Wednesday evenings
* Inquirer's Class is offered in the fall and early spring. Call the church office for dates, times and locations

