

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

April 2008

Dear Brother's and Sister's in Christ,

It's been a busy month since the last newsletter, and a lot has happened. Consequently, my letter to you will be more informational than it usually is. We finished our observance of Lent, and topped it off with a very prayerful and solemn Holy Week culminating in our celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Day. I would like to thank everyone for their commitment, prayers, and hard work during Lent and through Easter Day. The church was truly beautiful, and our worship was spirit filled and uplifting.

As some of you may have already heard, the search committee met with Bishop Whitmore, and then reported to the Vestry that the process is moving forward, but that it is taking longer than was originally expected. With that in mind, the Vestry approved a six month extension of my contract with St. Paul's, to which I agreed. It's hard to believe that I've already been here for 8 months! Where has the time gone??? I am very thankful, though, to have been offered the extension, and to be able to stay here with all of you for that much longer. We still have a lot of work to do, and even though it may not seem like it, we have accomplished quite a bit since I came here last August. Thank you for your patience and your prayers as together we continue to discern the path that our Lord has set before us.

The Search Committee will continue working on the profile of both the church and community. The Servant Community is thinking and praying about ways to help strengthen our family and bring us together for more fellowship and prayer during this time of discernment. And the Vestry will be going on a retreat April 4-5 to reflect on what we have accomplished, where we are going, how we can get there, and how we can include a greater number of our

members in the process. Please keep all three of these ministries in your prayers over the coming months.

And finally, to top off the busyness of this time of year, we were informed of Bishop Whitmore's decision to resign as Bishop of the Diocese of Eau Claire effective April 15th. This was very sudden and jarring news for many of us, and certainly raises a lot of questions concerning not only the future of our Diocese, but also our future at St. Paul's. I wish Bishop Whitmore and Suzie all the best as they move to Atlanta, GA, where he will serve as the Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta. There will be a "farewell" Solemn Evensong and Dinner at the Cathedral in Eau Claire, Sunday, April 13th, at 4:30 PM. There is a sign up sheet on the Kiosk in the Narthex for those who will be attending the dinner. I need to submit the numbers to the Cathedral by April 7th, so they will know how many people to plan to feed, so please sign up as soon as possible if you plan to attend.

As I said, though, this raises a lot of questions about the future. The Standing Committee of the Diocese is the Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence of the Bishop, but obviously they cannot perform the sacramental functions of a Bishop. The Rt. Rev'd Russell Jacobus, Bishop of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, has been approached to serve as an Interim Bishop for Eau Claire. This process is still ongoing, and if something is worked out, I will pass it on as soon as I know. There is also a continuing dialogue between the two dioceses about the possibility of a merger. To me, this would make the most sense, particularly when you consider the greater opportunities for mission and ministry that we would have if we combined our resources and worked as one as opposed to being two separate entities. This is my hope and what I am praying for, but there is nothing definite in the works as of yet; although, I will be attending (and I believe some of your Vestry members are planning to attend as well), a bi-diocesan conference on mission in Wausau on Saturday, April 12th. Hopefully, this will be the first of many opportunities for our two dioceses to get together and work together for the furtherance of His Kingdom.

Included in this letter will be the letter from the Bishop to the Diocese, as well as a letter from the Standing Committee to the Diocese. Please read these, and if you have any questions concerning them, I'll do my best to answer them.

Obviously, this is a very important time in the life of our Diocese as well as St. Paul's. I would ask that you continue to pray for both, that

our Lord's will shall be made known and that we will have the courage, the strength, and most importantly, the faith to step out into the unknown and follow Him wherever He may lead us.

Yours in Christ's Love,

Fr. Guy

Letter to the Diocese from Bishop Whitmore

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8"

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the author of Ecclesiastes writes, seasons come and go. I sense that such a passage of seasons has occurred in my life. I believe I am being called to a new position as I try to be faithful to God's call, namely as Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta. I therefore have submitted my resignation as bishop of Eau Claire effective April 15, 2008.

The Standing Committee, the ecclesiastical authority in the absence of a bishop, will meet with Bishop Clay Matthews of the Presiding Bishop's Office for Pastoral Development on March 18. Bishop Matthews will work with the Standing Committee on all the issues of transition following the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Eau Claire. More information will be sent to the parishes and placed on the Diocesan website as it becomes available.

It has been a joy to serve the people of the Diocese of Eau Claire for the past nine years. Suzie and I are most grateful for the way we were welcomed and included in the Diocesan family. I will continue to keep the Diocese in my prayers during this transition.

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev'd Keith B. Whitmore

Bishop

4 March 2008

Letter to the Diocese from the Standing Committee

To my Brother and Sister clergy of the Diocese of Eau Claire,
Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ:

As President of the Standing Committee of our Diocese and with the able assistance of our Archdeacon Jeanne Stout, I will attempt to keep in regular contact with all of you to give you timely up-dates about our activities on behalf of the Diocese of Eau Claire. Please feel free to share this information with whomever you chose. I am also asking Jeanne to include a picture of the Standing Committee so that you all have a visual connection as well as a written one. Throughout this entire process the Diocesan office will continue as it has in the past.

On Monday, March 17 we all met with Bishop Clay Matthews of the Office of Pastoral Development for the National Church. He was helpful in outlining our duties as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese after Bishop Whitmore leaves on April 15.

Let me tell you, there is quite a list of duties and responsibilities!

As you are all aware, we cannot do any of the Sacramental functions of a bishop nor any other canonically directed activities that only a Bishop may do. Therefore, we will be looking for what is called an "Assisting Bishop". To this end, I have spoken with Bishop Russell Jacobus of the Diocese of Fond du Lac. He said he would talk with his own Standing Committee about this and would meet with our Standing Committee on April 12 at the Bi-Diocesan meeting in Wausau. I look forward to the possibility of working with Bishop Jacobus and hope that this arrangement can be made.

The other main direction Bishop Matthews gave us was the process for an Episcopal Election. There have been some significant changes in this process since the last time most of us were involved in the election of a Bishop.

We also asked Bishop Matthews questions about the alternatives to calling a new Bishop. It appears that there are three possibilities before us as a Diocese. The first is, of course, to go through the Discernment Process and elect a new Bishop for the Diocese of Eau Claire. Another possible alternative is to elect a Bishop who would also be rector of one of the parishes of the Diocese. The third alternative is to become part of a new diocese made up of our territory as well as that of some other, contiguous diocese such as Fond du lac and/or Milwaukee.

It should go without saying that we, the Standing Committee, do not have the authority to make any of these decisions on our own. As

these alternatives are looked at we will keep you all informed and as we reach conclusions amongst ourselves, will tell you and ask you to help make these decisions in the proper, canonical arena.

Certainly, the second and third alternatives I note will have a very mixed reception amongst all of you around the Diocese. We will each have our own preferences. Be assured that whatever conclusions we draw as the leadership of our Diocese will be shared with you and at the same time we will ask for YOUR opinions, thoughts, dreams and, through out the whole process, most importantly, your prayers.

Through out this process I will welcome your comments and advice. I know that the Holy Spirit is already guiding us to make decisions consistent with God's plan for our Diocese. In whatever form we finally find ourselves, the Church will continue to exist in our area and we will have a Bishop to lead us. Along those lines then, would you all please make the following prayer a regular part of your private and corporate worship.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Thank you and God bless you and be with us all at this exciting, all be it unsettling, time in our diocese. May we greet our Risen Lord this Sunday with renewed strength and spirit to carry forward the work of this diocese.

The Rev. George Stamm

President, Standing Committee of the Diocese of Eau Claire

Members: Jim Rice, Dr. Charles Miller, Fr. Bob Hoekstra, Mother Kathy Charles, Ms. Missy Stepanek

Bi-Diocesan Missions Conference:

Evangelism A conference for members of the Dioceses of Eau Claire and Fond du Lac in Northern Wisconsin

Why a Missions Conference?

The Dioceses of Eau Claire and Fond du Lac are a lot of like. They share a common heritage. The mission field outside the doors of their congregations is the largest it has ever been and is growing.

This conference is to help both dioceses start the conversation of

how to best enter the mission field outside our doors. Many members know how to do mission away from our home bases, but we often fail to do mission work right in front of us. You can help us all get started re-claiming our missionary heritage in our own backyards.

Keynote Speaker The Rev. Canon Robert M. Nelson is Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Nevada and has helped numerous congregation across the country to reach out to those in the neighborhood.

Location The Best Western Midway Hotel Wausau is located southwest of Wausau in the shadow of Rib Mountain, 2901 Hummingbird Rd, Wausau.

Schedule 9:00-10:00 Registration

10:00-10:15 Morning Prayer

10:15-12:00 Plenary Session

12:15-12:30 Noon-Day Prayer

12:30-1:15 Lunch

1:15-3:00 Plenary Session

* Continental Breakfast: assorted chilled juices, assorted mineral waters, whole fresh fruit, granola bars, yogurts, seasonal sliced fruit, granola and shredded wheat cereal, coffee, milk and specialty teas.

* Lunch: soup and salad buffet-soup du jour, seasonal mixed greens, julienne ham, julienne turkey breast, cheddar cheese, tomatoes, mushrooms, seasoned croutons, cucumbers, black olives, balsamic vinaigrette dressing, pepper parmesan dressing, fresh fruit, breads, coffee, specialty teas.

The fee for attending the conference is \$20 which covers the conference expenses and includes continental breakfast, lunch and conference materials. To register and get directions to the site of the conference go the web site of the Diocese of Fond du Lac www.episcopalfonddulac.org click on the event on the right side (Bi-diocesan Missions Conference), print off the form and return it with your check made payable to the Diocese of Fond du Lac.

Please Help Keep postage Costs Down!!!!

Let Ted Firth know if you'd like to receive our newsletter electronically. This will help us in keeping printing and postage costs down.

Thank you!

Update from the Vestry
March 2008

Dear Family of St. Paul's,

The Search Committee met with Bishop Whitmore at the end of February to share their progress on the search for a new permanent rector. It is clear from the surveys you filled out last fall, and parish meetings since then, that the grieving and discernment processes we were told to expect, weren't just words for "the in between time." Our grief over the loss of Father John and the loss of our stability and our dynamic growth is real. In the absence of those things, we need to learn what plans God has for St. Paul's—how we are to serve one another and the Kingdom. Of course these natural processes are complicated by the grief and bewilderment over the uncertainty in the Anglican Communion, the larger Episcopal Church, and now the Diocese of Eau Claire.

We cannot stand still; nor can we force action prematurely, so where does that leave us and what are we to do? First, recognizing that this process is far from over, we extended Fr. Guy's contract with us until at least January 2009.

The Search Committee:

- 1 can proceed on parts of the profile we present to attract rector candidates. They can assemble the story of St. Paul's past, and the story of our community and our connections.
- 2 They cannot complete a profile picture of St. Paul's vision of the future and our mission until we have managed through enough of the transition to know, once again, who we are, in Our Father's eyes.
- 3 Without a clear picture of this church's identity and direction, it is premature to interview candidates for the permanent position. Please be patient with their work.

The Servant Community :

- 4 is also revisiting the traditions and habits that enacted the life of our church family in order to recommend ways to re-energize our family's bonds.
- 5 Prayerfully consider supporting church events with

your presence. It's not for everyone else that we gather.
You are missed.

The Vestry, however, must proceed. The Vestry's role is to lead. Not to dictate a way or a compromise but to lead through example of commitment and the communication of what remains constant.

- 6 We can advise Fr. Guy with our knowledge of St. Paul's and support the ways he crafts to move us forward.
- 7 We are taking a weekend retreat together to develop plans for leadership through this time of change. We discuss ways to patch and sustain St. Paul's at every meeting, but this will be a chance to talk at length about one particular aspect of our life together as a church, the relational aspect.
- 8 Some initiatives are already underway which need to be further developed, described below.
- 9 We must intentionally notice, hear, and respond to the grief, concerns and hopes of the committed members of this congregation.

Initiatives underway

1 Tuesday evening prayer service

This is a short, quiet opportunity to gather for corporate worship and prayer. It offers a chance for reflection and calm. You don't need to be a weekly regular to enjoy this quiet time.

2 Guided prayer for discernment

This program is still under development with plans to begin after Easter. Bishop Whitmore suggested that we need to define what the discernment process is. We must pray intentionally to gain discernment, as one body, from our God. Look for more information following Easter.

3 Issue forums

Our first issue discussion forum was Feb 19, and will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month,

after Tuesday evening prayer.

The discussion forum is open to all and cannot be effective without significant participation. Our parish cannot heal in little homogenous knots. Members with varied perspectives must speak and be heard respectfully. We can develop a true and broad lay leadership as we receive and respond to one another, submitting our fears and hopes to Christ.

In the first forum session, Fr. Guy led us in a brief Bible study, highlighting Biblical approaches to conflict and valuing diverse members of the body. We ended with a brainstorming session that produced a list of issues plaguing St. Paul's'. These will be dealt with in future forum discussions and possibly through other avenues as well. The issues identified are listed on the next page.*

We owe a debt of gratitude to Father Guy who has stepped out with thoughtful suggestions to plot a way forward. We'll cling to traditions that nurtured our bonds at the same time we follow new trails in our pilgrimage. Fr. Guy respects our traditions; his eyes are set on our future.

Continue your life in this church prayerfully, patiently, respectfully and hopefully. Bless this parish with your continued presence. Please speak up and share what is on your heart for your church. Remember what we at St. Paul's have always proclaimed: Jesus is Lord....ALL THE TIME!

In Christ's Love,
The Vestry of St. Paul's

Forum Issues*

1. **Change**

Just list the many changes that St Paul's has experienced in the last couple of years. † We shouldn't just forget them and move on. We can note them and grow beyond them. †

2. **Fallout: How this has affected St. Paul's on a daily, personal, on the ground basis?**

1 Welcoming. We may be less welcoming to newcomers because we aren't as welcoming to one another

2 Serving. † We need to build appreciation for the varied spiritual gifts in this body and affirm one another.

3. **Vestry decision to table ACN membership**

What was that all about anyway? Why was this affiliation attractive to so many and objectionable to others? Will this issue re-emerge in the future?

4. **The Global Anglican Communion**

- Information about the protests, the disagreements and the strategic actions and how and whether those conflicts affect St. Paul's and our Diocese.
- Framework for analysis of the information. The nature of our communion...what is Lambeth? What is General Convention? What impact can we have?

5. **The Diocese of Eau Claire.**

- What role does the Diocese play in the life of St. Paul's and what does the leadership of the Diocese think?
- Please note that since the forum occurred, Bishop Whitmore has resigned. Clearly this development will raise other questions for the Diocese and for St. Paul's.

6. The Church's teaching on sexuality, especially, homosexuality

- What does the Church say?
- What does Scripture say?
- How does the Episcopal Church practice depart from these teachings?

7. Action

What can we do, if anything, to impact the Diocese of Eau Claire, TEC and the Global Anglican Communion? Or what can we do without them?

8. Education

The answers to all of our concerns are in Scripture. The disagreements are at their core, about interpretation and the primacy of scripture. So we must dig in deeper and with more commitment to increase our understanding and open a door to the Holy Spirit for guidance.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

Jennifer Mueller has asked to step down as chair of the Helping Hands Ministry. Please search your heart to see if this might be an opportunity for you to answer God's call to take action! This ministry is vital to our loving parish family! The ministry members provide assistance to those in our parish who have experienced an accident, surgery, birth, death, illness or just "hard times." We provide meals, rides, or run errands. Sometimes we just call to make sure things are going OK. Whatever the reason we try to help! The chair person need not do the actual "tasks"; rather simply **coordinate** the efforts of the dedicated ministry members. This helps to ensure that a recipient does not receive eight meals on one evening! If you are interested in becoming a chair or co-chair or a member, please call Karen Solimar @ 715-749-3606. Thank you!



April 2008

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 502 County Road UU
 Hudson, WI 54016
 Office Hours Monday-Friday
 10 am-1 pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 am Circle of Love 6:30 pm Evening Prayer	2 2-3 pm Women's Bible Study 3-5 pm Networks Middle High 6-9 pm Networks Senior High	3 9:30-11 am Hudson Mom's Group 11-1 pm Holy Eucharist Bag Lunch Bible Study 5 pm HOME Supper @ Bethel	4 5:30 pm Pizza & Games	5 8:30 am Band of Brothers
6 8 am Holy Eucharist Traditional 9:15 am Adult Bible Study Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Contemporary Service 12 noon Ultreya potluck	7	8 6:30 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm Vestry Meeting	9 2-3 pm Women's Bible Study 3-5 pm Networks Middle High 6-9 pm Networks Senior High	10 9:30-11 am Hudson Mom's Group 11-1 pm Holy Eucharist Bag Lunch Bible Study	11	12
13 8 am Holy Eucharist Traditional 9:15 am Adult Bible Study Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Contemporary Service	14	15 6:30 pm Evening Prayer	16 2-3 pm Women's Bible Study 3-5 pm Networks Middle High 6-9 pm Networks Senior High	17 9:30-11 am Hudson Mom's Group 11-1 pm Holy Eucharist Bag Lunch Bible Study 5 pm HOME Supper @ Bethel	18	19
20 8 am Holy Eucharist Traditional 9:15 am Adult Bible Study Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Contemporary Service	21 7:00 pm Networks Board Meeting	22 6:30 pm Evening Prayer	23 2-3 pm Women's Bible Study 3-5 pm Networks Middle High 6-9 pm Networks Senior High	24 9:30-11 am Hudson Mom's Group 11-1 pm Holy Eucharist Bag Lunch Bible Study	25	26
27 8 am Holy Eucharist Traditional 9:15 am Adult Bible Study Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Contemporary Service	28 6:30 pm Servant Commu-	29 6:30 pm Evening Prayer	30 2-3 pm Women's Bible Study 3-5 pm Networks Middle High 6-9 pm Networks Senior High			

St. Paul's Servant Schedule: April 2008

Date	Time	Acolytes	Eucharistic Min	Lector	Greeters	Pray bfr worship	Ushers
6-Apr	8:00	A Dickerson	C Tank	T Schuler	Conovers	S Pogalz	Conovers
6-Apr	10:30	A Solie J Ball	M Blanchard E Shoemaker	K Peterson	K Peterson	D Ingram	Granbergs
13-Apr	8:00	J Kadidlo	V Barber	D Martin	Muenich	E Slamkowski	Dickerson
13-Apr	10:30	P Solie B Blanchard	CR Hackworthy K Solimar	B Rupert	Solimars	N Firth	Singerhouses
20-Apr	8:00	K Dickerson	J Conover	D Kadidlo	Granbergs	D Martin	Granbergs
20-Apr	10:30	D Ball D Hackworthy	Jeremiah Harelson N Cicero	N Cicero	Jensens	N Cicero	K Peterson C. Bailey
27-Apr	8:00	T Granberg	C Pogalz	R Brower	Dickersons	R Brower	E Slamkowski S Pogalz
27-Apr	10:30	I McGinnis K McGinnis	P McGinnis H Jensen	H Jensen	Marbens	B Rupert	Marbens

Notes:

If you cannot serve when scheduled, please arrange a switch and change the kiosk schedule @ 386-2348.

Acolytes & Eucharistic Ministers: if help is needed, please vest during the Peace and join the Worship service

All: If you are being scheduled incorrectly or are missing from a schedule and wish to participate, please contact Kim Larsen at 425-0015 or klars@mac.com.

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

St. Paul's Episcopal
Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church:

502 County Road UU, Hudson, WI 54016-7583

Office: 715-386-2348 Fax: 715-386-2542

E-mail = spchudson@sbcglobal.net

Services:

Sun. 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Traditional Service

9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School

Children's Sunday School (Sep-May)

Youth Confirmation Class (Sep-Apr)

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Praise Service

Tues: 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Wed. 2:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Sep-Apr)

3:00 p.m. NETworks Middle High

6:00 p.m. NETworks Senior High

Thur. 9:00 a.m. Hudson Mom's Group Meeting

11:00 a.m. Eucharist/Bag Lunch/Bible
Study

Clergy:

The Rt. Rev. Keith B. Whitmore, Bishop

The Rev. Guy Usher, Interim Rector

The Rev. Richard McGinnis

NETworks Youth Director: Dave Pulsfus

Episcopal Church Women: Patti Muenich

Band of Brothers: Fr. Derek Washington

Men's Ministry: Ed Slamkowski

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