



St. Paul's Epistle

St. Paul's Anglican Church

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Hours: Wednesday to Friday

8:00 am – 1:30pm

To Do List

Something I had never understood about my organized, non-procrastinating, productive life partner is her penchant for lists. I did so long for life to be spontaneous and lists seemed to be an exercise in Type A behaviour (you know, that pattern of living that tends to lead to heart attacks). The irony is that I am the Type A in our household and over the years I have come to ask Connie to make all sorts of lists with me so that I could keep all the tasks I am juggling in play. Eventually, I even gave in and started making lists for myself. The last bit of this evolution took place recently when it became my responsibility to make a list for our vacation preparedness! So the value of lists was something that I discovered later in life. (Some of us take longer than others to grow up.)

In parish ministry, I have often felt swamped and weighed down by an apparently endless number of tasks that I thought should be done or thought might be nice to have done. As someone who dreams big, looks at the big picture, and expects a lot of himself, new things are always being added to my "To Do" lists. Yet, I have had to come to terms, as we all do, with the fact that time is not elastic. I have been given stewardship of a limited number of hours each day, week and year. While my accumulated overtime at St. Paul's is a reminder that I have not mastered this life lesson entirely, I have learned that not everything can be done, and it certainly cannot all be done now.

I share with you one of my lists for St. Paul's.

-Function as Rector tending to the normal liturgical, pastoral, educational, leadership development and administrative tasks of a parish.

-Continue to pursue the ministry of reconciliation: calling together a Reconciliation Team, monitoring our collective progress on this "file" and developing plans for events and processes which will help us heal.

-Promote awareness of the transitional ministry tasks:

- + *Coming to terms with the parish's history*
- + *Seeking a new identity*
- + *Facilitating shifts in power and leadership*
- + *Rethinking denominational and wider church linkages, and,*
- + *Committing to new leadership for the future.*

-Work with the new Parish Council and Parochial Committee on developing goals and plans for pursuing them for the interim period.

What all of this will end up looking like for St. Paul's is not yet clear to me. The tasks on that "To Do List" are rather abstract. I have lots of ideas about how these abstractions might be translated into particular initiatives: "cottage" meetings (group visits in parishioners' homes); a Lenten programme on reconciliation; a workshop on the purpose(s) of the church; a Parish Council Orientation event; *et cetera*. However, rather than burn myself, and quite a few parishioners besides, out, it would be prudent to take the time necessary to decide what will be possible given the limitations of time, energy and staffing. So I will just have to keep working away at my list.

Happily, it is not just my list and not only my tasks. These are in many ways ours. Please be attentive to the various invitations which will be forthcoming for you to join in making some of these dreams a reality. You are needed and welcome as partners in ministry. Being the church and doing the church's work is a joint venture between God and the baptized community, both clergy and people.

A partner in ministry,



P.S. I am very grateful to Bishop Clarence Mitchell for leading our services of worship on February 18 and Ash Wednesday, February 21; and to the Rev'd Canon David Thomas who will be taking emergency pastoral calls during the week of February 17-24 when my list-making wife, Connie, and I will be on vacation.

May we introduce you to the
"Vics and Nicks Chicks"

You know us as the "Victorian Ladies", or the "St. Nick's Elves", but in actuality we call ourselves the "Vics and Nicks Chicks"!! So rather than differentiate all the time between our various projects when we're chatting with you, we're going to report from here on in from the "Vics and Nicks Chicks"! So, now, we have some clucking to do for this episode of the Epistle.

We started up again on the 8th of January (we meet every Monday) to make preparations for our four projects this year. Throughout the year, however, we are always working on items for the bazaar and for St. Nick's Children's Shopping Day. So may we remind you, before you put all your Christmas cards away, instead may we have them to cut out appropriate pictures to use for tags for St. Nick's. And if you have any new ribbon or tissue that you didn't use this year, that would help tremendously in our budget. And one of our ladies has come up with a fantastic jewellery craft that we're going to make throughout the year, but we need buttons! Flat buttons (no shanks). Wait 'til you see what we're creating!

The Victorian Tea is our first project this year – on Mother's Day weekend (Saturday, May 12th). Because of its popularity every year, we have decided to again offer a third sitting. But you know how quickly these tickets sell, so as soon as the tickets are available be sure to get yours right away. The theme for the Tea this year is "The Baby" (last year we had "The Wedding", so it follows!). So if you would like to start rummaging around in your attic or treasure chest, we need all manner of decoration relating to a baby – particularly from years ago. Old dolls, or doll buggies, baby buggies, old baby clothes, cribs, or particularly we are looking for baby shoes or ceramic baby shoes for a special project. In whatever manner you may be able to help, we are always so very grateful. And don't forget, you are always welcome to join us – we have great fun, but we work hard, too. So bring your lunch any Monday and join a work group – we will always find a job for you to suit whatever talents you may have – or not have!

From the two top Chicks, Marilyn DeBeau and Barb Steele

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ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is that quiet, behind-the-scenes group of dedicated men and women who set up the altar for every Eucharist, as well as preparing the church for all those special services, such as weddings, funerals, etc. The wonderful decorations that adorn this church at Christmas, Easter, Palm Sunday, Thanksgiving, etc., are the results of this team of individuals quietly working in the background. Teresa Whitford is the Guild President and you may reach her at 906-871-1490 if you would feel a calling to help participate in this service to St. Paul's.



CHURCH SCHOOL

So many wonderful things have been going on since our last report in the Epistle. The children had a party on the 17th of December and an angel came to visit!



Mr. Anderson donated stockings which the church school staff embroidered with each child's name. Mr. & Mrs. Hobbs donated a beautiful Christmas wall hanging, and Mrs. Coleman donated a book of the Ten Commandments. The next unit of studies began on the 7th of January, entitled, "Animals of the Bible", which began with an Epiphany presentation. Then the children went to the kitchen and made pizza for the entire congregation for our coffee hour! What a celebration! Now they want to know, "what's next?!"



It's 'cold and flu' season again, and did you know that if you mix one-quarter cup vinegar with one-quarter cup honey, and take 1 tablespoon 6 times a day, the vinegar will kill the bacteria causing your sore throat!

I know you are all familiar with the "Prayer for Serenity", but have you ever heard the entire prayer – beyond the first four lines? It's quite beautiful.

*God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to your will;
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen*

Reinhold Niebuhr

There is quite a similarity between the Prayer of St. Francis and this old nursery rhyme.



Monday:

Monday's child is fair of face -
"Where there is hatred, let me sow love."

Tuesday:

Tuesday's child is full of grace -
"It is in pardoning that we are pardoned."

Wednesday:

Wednesday's child is full of woe -
"To be consoled, as to console."

Thursday:

Thursday's child has far to go -
"To be understood, as to understand."

Friday:

Friday's child is loving and giving -
"For it is in giving that we receive."

Saturday:

Saturday's child works hard for a living -
"Where there is despair, hope."

Sunday:

But the child that is born on the Sabbath Day,
is good and kind, loving and gay -
"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."

Have you ever wondered exactly what a Warden's role in the Anglican Church was? Or Parish Council? The present Corporation of St. Paul's recently met with Archdeacon Fred Goss to discuss this very topic, and we thought you might like to hear what he had to say.

Wardens 101

Basically, the Wardens are responsible for the finances of the church, the property, and the staff (with the exception of the Rector, who is responsible to the Bishop). But further to this, their role is one of leadership – sharing their vision for St. Paul's with the parishioners, so that we feel a sense of community with. Wardens need to keep the parishioners informed about what's happening in the parish, most specifically on the financial front. When the monies to run a parish are not there, programs and ministries change. The Wardens may also serve as Synod Delegates to give them a more comprehensive view of how the ministries of the diocese are decided and used. However, this can certainly add to the workload of a Warden. There is no distinction between the roles of the Rector's and People's Wardens, with the exception of how they get their job. The People's Warden is elected at Vestry, whereas the Rector's Warden is appointed by the Rector.

Parish Council 101

Encircling the Rector and Wardens are the representatives of various parish groups, and others, who form the Parish Council. The Council is an advisory body whose support and guidance to the Rector and Wardens (the Corporation) is invaluable. At St. Paul's, Parish Council meets monthly, the second Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 pm, and each group reports to the council on the activities and programs they have been working on over the past month, and what their plans are for the up-coming month. This helps keep all members of Council informed, to advise or to know where assistance is needed, as well as help those in charge of St. Paul's finances with knowledge of fund-raising projects to help with their budgeting and projections. Parish Council is open to all parishioners who may wish to simply sit in and observe.

A.C.W.

Did you know that our A.C.W. actually started at St. Paul's in 1901! What an amazing group of devoted people throughout the years! And have we been busy! From making our famous Christmas puddings and helping out with the annual Christmas bazaar, helping with St. Nick's, memorial services and funerals, rummage sales, and all the other year-long fund raising projects, we're a busy group! But, along with all the work, we do have great fun and we would warmly welcome you to our group. Meetings are usually held at 2:00 pm on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month (except July and August). Now get out your calendars and mark down these up-coming events:

Saturday, February 17th, our annual Spring Rummage Sale, from 9:00am 'til noon.

Friday, March 16th, our Spring Soup and Sandwich Luncheon, from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

St. Paul's Outreach Kitchen

The meals for the new season started in September and the response for help from our parishioners was overwhelming! Thanks to everyone – you do a wonderful job assisting this committee in so many ways. These meals are freely given to the community on the fourth Saturday of each month. But, we have a big **“HOWEVER”** coming up this committee, in its entirety, is stepping down as of May of this year. We know there are some very capable parishioners who would enjoy continuing this ministry of outreach, and it's time to approach us, or the Wardens and Interim Pastor, and let us know of your interest. You would want to come out to a meal or two and see what it's all about. It would be great if we could walk away after our May meal and know that everything is in place for the new committee. But the clock is ticking, so please give this some serious thought, and feel free to give us a call.

Bill and Teresa Whitford, 905-871-1490

Jack and Lois Hobbs, 905-871-2827

Community of Faith – In Action

The plery of Fort Erie, five of the Churches in Fort Erie have taken a leadership role within our community working with Habitat for Humanity to assist facilitating a five (5) home build. This is the largest single project initiated by Habitat for Humanity within the Niagara Peninsula.

The first build is a duplex, beginning February, led by DSBN (District School Board of Niagara) with the students of Grades 9-12 directly participating in the build.

The local community build, led by the faith community of Fort Erie, begins in May of a single family dwelling. We are looking for individuals, groups and organizations who would be interested in helping with the May build.

1. Providing meals for workers
2. Leading prayers
3. Assisting with construction – material - supplies and / or labour on build
4. Financial assistance

There will be two information sessions held at the Fort Erie Library – Centennial Branch on Thursday March 8th 2007 @ 1:30 p.m and 6:30p.m. Staff with Habitat for Humanity are also available to hold an information session here at St. Paul's.

If you are interested and willing to help in any way with this local build, please speak with Rod McDowell, John Newton or Kyle McCooley - Parish Representatives for more information.

Assisting Those in our Midst

As refugees from Burundi, two of our newest members to the congregation are in need of some personal/ household items to help them establish a new home in our midst. There are 3 ways we can help:

- (1) select an item from the list on the bulletin board outside the main office, (please cross out and initial the items);***
- (2) participate in the Kitchen/Bathroom/Bedroom shower today (Jan 21st 2006) following services in the hall, or,***
- (3) donate to St. Paul's - Rector's Discretionary Fund.***

For more information please speak with Canon DeForest or Rod McDowell.

PRAYER

Prayer is so simple; it is like quietly opening a door and slipping into the very presence of God. There, in the stillness, to listen to His voice, perhaps in petition, or only to listen. It matters not. Just to be there in His presence is prayer.

Author unknown.