

Rector's Parochial Report for 2011

- I. **Average Sunday Attendance: 140**
- II. **Key Day & Special Service Attendance:**
- **January 25 Feast of St. Paul: 285**
 - **April 24 Easter Day: 320**
 - **August 21 Episcopal Visitation: 202**
 - **September 11 Remembrance: 174**
 - **October 16 Stewardship Sunday: 154**
 - **December 24 Christmas Eve: 312**
 - **December 25 Christmas Day: 65**
- III. **New Members: 30**
- IV. **Baptisms: 9**
- V. **Weddings: 7**
- VI. **Burials: 11**

Assistant Rector Report

I am thankful to God for the many things happening at St. Paul's in a variety of areas over the past year. In our children's ministry we have seen a number of new programs develop.

- Our first Early Communion Class which was held during Lent 2011 and focused on preparing children to have a greater knowledge of Holy Communion as they grow in their faith.
- This past summer we held our VBS "Hometown Nazareth" and had a tremendous response from the Lakeview community with over 45 children signed up. The interest from families was beyond our expectations and with a higher number of adult volunteers the number of children could be much higher in the future. It is a wonderful outreach from the church into the Lakeview community.
- In 2011 we began holding a service once per month in the chapel for children during Sunday worship. With the help of Stacey Hayden and Father Ed Robertson, the Children's Chapel continues to grow and evolve. In the chapel, sermons are interactive and age appropriate and children participate in the prayers and bring something for the offering.

At St. Paul's Episcopal School we have held a number of school-wide Eucharist's this past year, including one for Episcopal Schools week Oct. 2-8 and St. Nicholas Day Dec. 6th. The students participate at every level in the services and we have gained two new acolytes on Sunday mornings that began as acolytes for the school Eucharist's.

Our Christian formation for adults has been focused on The Story – an immersion into reading the Bible chronologically. We have been using The Story as part of our Wednesday night program along with Holy Eucharist and a fellowship meal. Recently another group for The Story has begun meeting during breakfast on Thursday mornings.

Respectfully submitted,
John+

Deacon Report

My first year as a deacon has been a great growth experience for me. As Deacon at St. Paul's, I am learning how to implement a great deal of what I learned during formation. Deacons are called to work in the community; I have visited and prayed with several of those who have been sick this year.

I have had the pleasure of assisting with ongoing programs in the church. We have a few loyal Eucharistic Visitors who minister to the sick at home or in the hospital on a rotating schedule that I manage. I consistently record our Sunday sermons and have set up a procedure and trained others to post these recordings on our web site. I work closely with our priests at the Wednesday evening programs and Eucharist. Cooking for these programs began as my own ministry but with the increasing number of volunteer cooks, I am now able to place more focus on the evening's practical and organizational aspects.

Not long after my ordination, I created a page on our web site called "Lord, Hear Our Prayer," which is available for parishioners to compose a prayer to be offered to God. I find my prayers are more meaningful to me when I actually write them out. Many of us are more visual and this page is meant to help focus our prayer in a meaningful and intentional manner.

Volunteer knitters helped make our first effort for the Seaman's Ministry a success. This year we packed 6 boxes of knitted items and other goodies that were gratefully received by those who work on our waterways.

Probably one of my most visible roles as a deacon is to proclaim the gospel each Sunday. On occasion I gratefully get to share my thoughts from the pulpit in the form of a homily.

I appreciate being your deacon here at St. Paul's and would like to extend that work with outreach. One of my greatest joys is a weekly movie ministry at Bridge House, a resident addiction recovery facility for men. The Bridge House residents are from all walks of life, trying to mend their broken lives. In the words of Jo Cohen, clinical director of Bridge House, "...some of these men are so hurt, and the time you give them makes them know in a special way that God wants them back. They are so appreciative of those who will love them until they can love themselves." If there are any of you men out there who feel called to reach out, I would love to share this ministry with you.

Currently, I am working with our Homecoming center to formulate a list of items needed on regular basis by their clients. Look for it soon on the church bulletin board. If you would like to be involved in one of St. Paul's ongoing ministries or if you would like to begin a new one, please seek me out so that we can discuss those possibilities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deacon Jay Albert *God gives us so many gifts each day, "and to whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required: and to whom they commit much, of him will they ask the more." Luke 12:48-49 (ASV)*

The Center for Pastoral Counseling and Education

The Center for Pastoral Counseling and Education opened in early November 2011, and is located next to the Parlor. This ministry has thus far served individuals with personal and family concerns and provided the practical aspects of pre-marital counseling with couples wishing to marry in the Church.

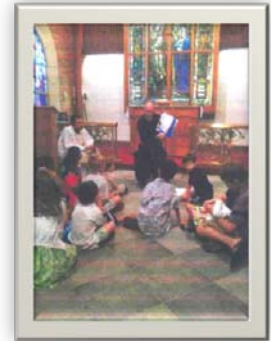
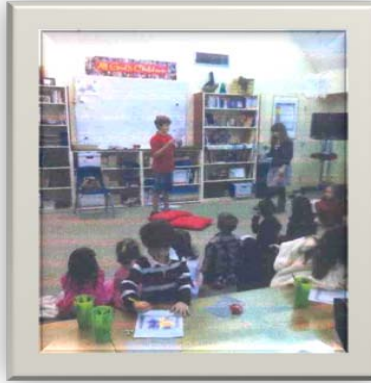
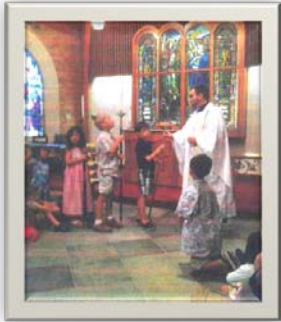
In the coming year, an expansion of services is anticipated. In addition to counseling, the Center will provide facilitated group discussions and have presentations/workshops on a number of topics including: parenting challenges at varying ages; grief and loss; and assertiveness as Jesus modeled it. This ministry is open to all parishioners, school families, and the faculty and staff of St. Paul's Church and School. You are encouraged to contact the Director about your needs and/or requests.

The Center is a ministry of pastoral care and education sponsored by, and under the oversight of St. Paul's Church. There are no fees charged, but donations to help support this ministry are encouraged and will be gratefully received.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Robertson, PhD, LMFT, LPC

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Youth

Children's Chapel: On the second Sunday of every month, St. Paul's offers Children's Chapel in small chapel during the 10:00 service. All children in grades PK and older are invited to attend. Father Ed and Father John lead a children's church service which includes story time, scripture and prayer. We will be implementing our Junior Acolyte program this Spring in which younger children will have the opportunity to learn the duties of the acolyte ministry. We collect an offering to support our Outreach Sunday and discuss the meaning of our gifts.



Sunday School: St. Paul's Sunday School program for children in PK – 5th grade is offered during the 10:00 service. We are currently using "The Story" curriculum which is designed to teach the stories of the Bible in creative and interactive ways. We begin each lesson with telling the Bible story and then have activities that further enhance and engage the children in the Bible story. The children then participate in a skit to act out the main point of the Bible story. We join the congregation right before communion. We have 1-18 children per week participating in "The Story" and there are four leaders who teach the class on a rotating basis. The children also participate in the Epiphany Feast of Lights pageant each year – a favorite service of both church and school.

Executive Director of Center St. Paul's Homecoming Center

St. Paul's Homecoming Center, an outreach of St. Paul's Episcopal Church continues its ministry to putting shattered homes and lives back together. Through our senior and case management ministry, in 2011, we have given out 1120 boxes of food for our senior food distribution program. 600 seniors have attended our monthly bingo socials and 120 seniors have attended our senior computer classes.

Through our homeowners assistance program in 2011, we have completed over 85 homeowners request for help with painting and landscaping. We have had over 726 people use the services at our center such as free computer, fax, copy machine and notary services. Cathey Randolph has served over 400 clients with food, clothing, housing, mental health and disability issues. The Greater New Orleans Foundation Grant provided us with the funding to complete the rebuilding of 15 homes. We were also able to furnish many of these homes through our case management program and donations from St. Paul's Church and School members. We have hosted over 2,500 volunteers this year. 25 families were adopted at Christmas time and 26 food baskets were delivered at Thanksgiving.

Our partnership with Hope United Church has been a large part of our focus in 2011. Through the UTO Grant we were able to complete the renovations of the gym and the computer tech center allowing us to open the Gentilly Community Center of Hope in November 2011. The Gentilly Community Center of Hope will continue to be our focus to be a viable community center for the Gentilly neighborhood for 2012.

Thank you,
Connie Uddo

St. Paul's Homecoming Center Case Manager

Dear Partners of Love,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All! May God continue to bless our ministry throughout the year! Recapping Thanksgiving and Christmas Blessing!

Thank you so much for supporting St. Paul's Homecoming Center Outreach Ministry and Case Management Program. Your gifts brought blessings and joy our client's world. You have touched so many lives with kindness by providing Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts. We were blessed to serve 25 needy families this Christmas and 26 food baskets for Thanksgiving. All of the families were very appreciative. As we delivered to the homes the families we served, all expressed their appreciation with a word of thanks, a hug, a card, a phone call, a tear of joy or a great smile with sparkles in their eyes knowing that someone cares. There were many gifts of love. Blessings! Blessings!

Seventeen families were adopted by St. Paul's School and the Church's Angel Christmas Tree and coordinated by Susan Robinson.

One very generous anonymous donor had intentions of adopting 1 family for Christmas but, her donation enabled us to adopt 4 more families based on their needs.

This generous donor donated (4) \$250.00 Wal-Mart Gift Cards, (2) \$50.00 Master Gift Cards and \$300.00 Cash. On file remains (1) \$250.00 WGC

- With this donation we were able to give her 1 family a \$250.00 Wal-Mart Gift Card for gifts and a \$200.00 Rouses Card to purchase food for their household.
- Two other families were given a \$250.00 Wal-Mart Card for gifts and 1 of them got and additional cash \$100.00 to purchase food.
- With another cash donation of \$200.00 we were able to pay a Gentilly senior citizen's disconnected Entergy Bill. This senior was more than grateful! This lightens her load and allowed her to focus on her illness, colon cancer, which is a continuous fight. She is also a recipient of our Senior Food Commodities at our Center.
- A senior citizen called in the office needing her family adopted for Christmas but hesitated to tell us that her live in daughter was expecting a baby. We were able to give the expected mother (2) \$50.00 Master Gift Cards to purchase baby items.

Another anonymous donor donated (\$250.00(@ 25.00 per card) worth of Wal-Mart Cards. Five cards were used for 3 families and five cards remain (\$125.00) on file for future cases.

At the last minute we were blessed to have a donor call the office wanting to adopt a small family (a single working mother with 2 small children). This donor did adopt the small family but little did he know she had a small gift for him in appreciation. It was an LSU Wishing Well Bank that was hand made by her grandfather at a correctional facility.

My former retired co-worker of Episcopal Community Services, Ann Ball, was so kind to get the congregation of All Saints Episcopal Church Angel Tree to adopt 2 other needy families for Christmas. These families were dealing with unemployment and mental health issues. One of the families even received a sofa that was much needed in her 9th ward home.

Another donor called the office wanting to donate furniture to a needy family. This donor wanted to be matched with a family that would truly care for his deceased mother's furniture. We matched this donor with a Christian family who had no furniture and was about to move in the newly renovated Katrina damaged home. The client brought a truck and a crew that made moving look easy. Donor and client were both happy.

Let's not forget about our Senior Bingo Ministry! In November there were 44 seniors in attendance. In December there were only 25 in attendance but the Christmas spirit filled the Church Fellowship Hall. The seniors won a variety of gift baskets and individual gifts that were donated by St. Paul's Church and School. We have also been truly blessed to have dedicated volunteers who work every month at the Fellowship Hall of Edgewater Baptist Church where the bingo game is held. The seniors also enjoyed the festive holiday refreshments and activities! The Senior Computer Class taught, by Mr. Chris Chopin and coordinated by Ms. Sylvia Parks have been just wonderful! The children mentoring the senior citizens have amazingly worked out well. The Christmas Party and musical entertainment was greatly appreciated by all in attendance. The Christmas spirit was in the air!

The last blessing came in when a donor brought several styles of winter pajamas for kids size 1 month to 10 years old. Finally, the center's live Christmas tree was given to a man who had no tree and wanted to have the Christmas spirit in his home for his little grand children.

None of this would have been possible without our **Partners of Love**, who opened their hearts to continue the wonderful generosity that has been extended throughout the year. St Paul's is a giving community that God so loves and honors. **We look forward to further blessings in 2012!**

Sincerely, Cathey Randolph

Head of School

Our Head of school resigned in June and Charleen Schwank was named Interim Head. Charleen was Lower School Principal and had been Assistant Principal of St. Paul's. She has taught at St. Paul's for 30 years.

St. Paul's Adventure Summer - Our School ran the summer camp for the first time this summer. Camp lasted for 7 weeks and 60 children in all attended the weekly sessions. It made \$30,000.

Admissions – Baby Saints, Little Saints, Pre-K – 8th grades - August - We began the school year with 196 students in grades Pre-K – 8. Our budget for the year is based on 210 students. We were also completely full in Little Saints with 18 – 2 year olds and 20 - 3 year olds. We had 6 babies and 7 toddlers in Baby Saints. This was the first full year for our Baby Saints, and we added a class this fall for our toddlers.

January – We now have **201** students in grades Pre-K - 8, topping over the 200 mark for the first time since Hurricane Katrina. We continue to have 38 students in Little Saints and 8 babies, and 10 toddlers in Baby Saints.

Pre-kindergarten Modular - The second pre-kindergarten modular was added this summer to accommodate a growing pre-k class of 28 students. This was paid for and by FEMA dollars. The Pre-K now has a large area for their learning centers.

Faculty - This year we hired 8 new teachers, including a new Spanish teacher for grades 4 - 8, an English teacher for grades 6 - 8, an After Care Manager/ Master Gardener, a 2nd grade teacher, 2 new kindergarten teachers, a Little Saints teacher, and a Little Saints / Baby Saints teacher.

ISAS/SAES Self Study - We have been conducting our 10 year self-study for ISAS (Independent Schools Association of the Southwest) reaccreditation. Our SAES (Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools) reaccreditation report can be included at the same time by adding just one more committee, which we have done. The seven basic sections have 7 committees and most committees have turned in their rough drafts for review. ISAS and SAES will visit our school in January of 2013 to evaluate our report.

Curriculum - Our school has adopted *Math in Focus* as our math program for grades K - 6th. This is the American version of Singapore Math and it provides opportunities for in-depth study of math concepts, using a bar model and frequent word problems. We adopted a new study skills on-line program for 6 - 8th grades called *Study Island* for math and language arts. Our teachers continue to write sustainability lesson plans and employ them in the classroom.

Fundraising - Our St. Paul's Golf Tournament was a big hit and was supported by both parishioners and school families. We raised almost \$15K which is dedicated toward the new building, Men's Club activities, and technology.

The **Pumpkin Patch** was a new addition to our fundraising for the year. Many Church and School volunteers helped to man the patch and make it very successful. Many school groups attended our patch and helped to bring the community onto our campus. We raised almost \$10K.

Annual Fund 2010-11 – Recap Total \$74K

Annual Fund 2011-12 – Goal \$81K and 100% Board, faculty, staff, and parent participation

- \$38,823 (donations)
- \$18,260 (pledges)
- \$450 matching gifts
- \$57,333 total (\$23,467)

St. Paul's 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee – raised almost \$35K for financial aid and faculty professional development programs.

Grants

- Thanks to St. Paul's alum, Stanton Murray, St. Paul's received a grant in the amount of \$9,963 in support of a Learning Specialist salary.
- The Ruth U. Fertel Foundation, \$20K in support of the Financial Aid Program
- Schwier Charitable Fund, \$2,500 in support of general operations

Outdoor Culinary Center - Our Outdoor Culinary Center was completed in November and we were able to cook part of our Thanksgiving Feast using the grill. The Grand Opening is January 27, 2012 at 1:30 PM when donors will return for a celebration that includes some food that our children have cooked on the grill.

New Building - Funding from FEMA for the new building was stalled in July. After many FEMA meetings, it was recommended that St. Paul's reapply for a Small Business Association loan in order to be rejected, allowing the FEMA funds to be awarded. The Sulzer Group (our project manager) concurred and this advice was followed. Amazingly, this worked and we were awarded \$1.9 million in December to build our new Lower School building. Having chosen TKTMJ Construction in July as the lowest bid for the building, and after a value engineering (since all 5 bids were over the budget), we were able to sign contracts January 6, 2012 for building to begin. The completion for the building is set for October 2012. It will contain 6 classrooms and allow us to eliminate the need for the modular classrooms. The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new building is January 25, 2012 at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Charleen Schwank

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee's chief focus this year was on annual giving. Following Hurricane Katrina, St. Paul's church lost many members and we have not been able to pay our expenses without making use of our endowment, The O'Farrell Fund. Receipts from pledges do not fully fund our Parish's budget. This year's Committee set a goal of increasing pledging units and increasing the amount pledged with the theme, Feasting on Gratitude. It is our goal that St. Paul's Church and School will reach a point where we are self sufficient.

Members of the Stewardship Committee include Margie Christian, Perrey Lee, David Slichon and Fred Sawyers. They assisted with the planning of our Stewardship Campaign and planning and carrying out our kick-off event. The well attended kick-off event was hosted by Drago's at the Hilton Riverside and was arranged by Committee member Fred Sawyers. Besides feasting on char grilled oysters and a delicious buffet, each table held a stewardship discussion.

We appreciate the support of Lori Lavelle, Tracy Tingstrom and the spiritual direction of Fr. Scott Albergate.

Kathy Gray,
Chair

ECW Report



The ECW had several effective outreaches in 2011. We were able to contribute \$1000 to the Homecoming Center's operational budget as the result of our past fundraising efforts. Our Annual Bake Sale allowed us to donate over \$400 to the work of the Solomon Center. The ECW Holiday Boutique was a well-received fundraiser which provided funding for the refreshments for the Christmas caroling outreach sponsored by the Homecoming Center. Finally, with the help of so many members of the Saint Paul's community the Angel Tree sponsored by the ECW brought the joy of many wonderful remembrances at Christmas time to clients of the Homecoming Center. We are honored to be of service!

Music Annual Report

This past year, the music area started the St. Paul's Children's Choir, directed by Ms. Natalie True and Mrs. Margaret Albert. It has been very successful and provides a wonderful complement to the adult choir. The music area has also officially named the concert series - "St. Paul's Concert Series" and has hosted over 40 concerts since Caroline has been at St. Paul's. Part of this series is Harmoniemusik, a monthly, professional concert offering. The Parish Choir continues to thrive and has been invited to Ely Cathedral for a residency for 2013.

We are very pleased to welcome new members Sara Loetzerich and Michelle Burge to the choir loft!