

A look back, and ahead

The first weekend in November looks to be a pretty special weekend at St Paul's. It was rather special last year and I hope it is just as special this year. November 1, 2018, was my first day as your rector and the first Sunday of November we hope to celebrate that anniversary.

This has been a year of learning and adjusting, change and settling. My first several weeks as your rector I lived in a condo off of Immokalee Road while the rectory was being renovated. This past year quite a few repairs and changes have been made at the rectory and we are just about fully settled in. My wife, Quincey, and I would love for the parish to see the renovated rectory. We decided that marking our anniversary would be a perfect time for an open house!

On November 3 we will have a combined single service at 9 a.m. Afterward you are invited to drop by the rectory for an open house that will run until 1 p.m. We hope you will all stop in for a visit.

Approaching the end of the first year is a great time to take stock and assess.

What I have learned about St Paul's

•Like nearly every parish, there are two congregations at St Paul's. Here our groups are not split between the early and late service; they are delineated by seasonal and year-round residents. Things are different in the summer than they are during the fall and spring. I am amazed at how much love and affection is shared among us even though we are only fully together about half the year.



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•St Paul's is an amazingly welcoming congregation. I have never seen nor experienced a congregation so ready to welcome and incorporate newcomers.

•St Paul's is strong and stable. With a 50+ year history we have a sense of who we are and who we will be.

Observations as we move forward

•Most of our challenges are challenges that face nearly every congregation in every denomination.

•We are an aging parish but with desire to adapt for the future.

•We are somewhat caught in the crux of nostalgia ("We used to...") and changing abilities ("We used to be able to...").

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Sunday Services at 8 and 10 a.m.

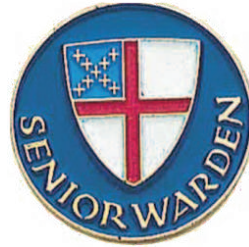
'Shining our Light' conference theme

Stewardship is the main theme of this article by the senior warden. Every year the diocese has a stewardship day-long conference at DaySpring on the last Saturday of August. (For any of you that have not visited DaySpring in the last few years, I urge you to attend a conference there or just visit if in the neighborhood of the Manatee River. Our Bishop Smith has led a wonderful rebirth of DaySpring with new buildings and a swimming pool having been recently added).

This year's conference was attended by Fr. Tom and both wardens. To my knowledge this year is the first year that any of our rectors have attended the conference. Unfortunately, the new chair of the Stewardship Committee, Linda Connelly, was unable to attend.

Incidentally, please thank Bev Whiteman the next time you see her for all of her years as head of Stewardship (for most of that time she did it all by herself). We now plan not to put the entire burden of stewardship on one person but on an entire committee.

The theme of this year's stewardship conference was "Shining our Light." You will hear this phrase again. As you think about stewardship, remember that all that we have is a gift from God. I am certain



that under Linda, our stewardship campaign will lead to record receipts of the three Ts (Time, Treasure and Talents) for St. Paul's.

As we approach the fall season (or as it is known in Naples, the lull before our northern friends return) I would like to mention again the Diocese Convention in Punta Gorda on October 11 and 12. As those of us that were lucky enough to attend last year's 50th Convention, the service and Eucharist at about 5 pm on Friday should not be missed.

Although we will not have our Presiding Bishop with us this year, I am certain that the service will be memorable. Please plan to drive up Friday afternoon (less than an hour) to Punta Gorda and join us in a service not to be forgotten. If interested, there are a variety of classes earlier on Friday, beginning at 9 am.

If you would like more information on the topics of the classes, please contact the office.

Our vestry continues to be very aware of all the members with items of some disagreement being massaged until there is unanimity on the issue. I invite you all to attend a vestry meeting. The next one is at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17.

—Dick Breithaupt

A look back, and ahead

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My goals for the future

•Teamwork: My doctoral thesis focussed on the building of teams for ministry. We are better and stronger when we work together. Independence, though a great American ideal, is not always the best way to live faithfully. Interdependence, more often than not, is. The vestry and I will continue our work to build a team of leadership and to extend our team to as many in the parish as seek to serve.

•Prepare for the Future: What we do now will have a great impact on where we will be in the future. We will continue the work we have accomplished this year in stabilizing our budget, growing the Society of St Paul's and addressing capital concerns so that we will offer our future parishioners opportunities rather than burdens.

•Teaching: I love to teach. I have been rather frustrated with a lack of opportunities to teach this

past year. Later this Fall, and into next year, I will be leading an overview of the Gospel of Luke and an overview of the Gospel of Matthew. More information on that will come very soon.

My dream for 2020

•I would love to have a monthly dinner. We would gather for dinner, I would teach for a while, we would pray Compline together and we would go home fed physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.

What we need to make this dream come true

People. People to help and people to attend.

I am hopeful that November 3rd will be a wonderful day, a day when Quincey and I open the rec-tory for your visit and a day when we turn our aspirations toward a new year of strengthening our wonderful and beloved parish.

—Fr. Tom Thoenii



As a biker and former lawyer, Senior Warden Dick Breithaupt knows that riding bicycles in the dark without lights is both dangerous and unlawful. So he and fellow vestry members spent an hour or so at St. Matthew's House affixing lights to bikes. Fr. Tom declared this to be the first of what will be quarterly activities for the vestry involving team-building, outreach and witness. Kind of like how St. Matthew's House was founded, with great support from St. Paul's.

Mark Your Calendar

Oct 11-12 Diocese of Southwest Florida Annual Convention

Oct. 17 Deanery ECW leadership workshop, 9 a.m. to noon

Oct. 26 Parish Golf Outing, Hibiscus Golf Course. Call Joyce, 1-440-655-4512

Nov. 9 Opening of Farmers' Market 2019-2020 season (Gift Shop and Unique Boutique are looking for helpers and donations now)

Nov. 16 Blessing of the Animals, 10 a.m. at Farmers' Market

Jan. 26 Trivia Sunday! (between NFL playoffs and Superbowl)

Money Matters

We are beginning to round down the Summer months and it won't be long before our seasonal parishioners begin returning. I am pleased to say that 2019 year to date overall income is 9% above the 2018 level. However, our YTD overall expenses are 25% more than 2018 YTD expenses.

In an effort to address this situation, as well as our financial strategic plan going forward, several new committees have been formed. Our new Budget Review Subcommittee will be reviewing each of the different financial reports produced each month by going over every line entry and account code to determine if they are effective and needed or can they be consolidated or are they funded properly.

The Financial Strategic Plan Committee will help us determine what are future projects should be and how do we go about funding them. They will also advise us on how our money should be invested and what level of risk we can afford to take.

St. Paul's, like many other churches, is in a transition period where we are not getting enough new parishioners to replace those have left due to illness or death. Therefore, we have to be careful with what we spend, and become creative in finding means to increase revenue. Every vestry member is involved in some part of a process to make us successful going forward.

—Dave Abernethy, Treasurer

Have you met ...?

Betty Jane Reeves (nee Pfaff) was born and raised in the Kensington district of Philadelphia (just across the Delaware River from Camden, NJ).

She became involved with the Episcopal Church at the early age of four through “flirting” with a young teenage neighbor.

Betty and her family, mom, dad and younger brother Robert (now a retired Lutheran pastor), lived on a corner above a family-owned bakery. Typically on Sunday mornings you would find her playing outside the bakery. On such occasions the neighbor lad would pass by and eventually Betty Jane asked where he was going. On replying, “To church,” she immediately responded, “Can I go with you?” Parents were consulted, consent was given, and the four-year-old became a member of the Emanuel Reformed Episcopal church.

Emanuel RE was a conservative sect that among other things disallowed smoking, dancing and drinking. There being no mention of “flirting”, the four-year-old had no objection to the other restrictions and remained active at Emanuel until after graduation from the Philadelphia High School for Girls.

Miss Pfaff became Mrs. Buchanan when she married husband Bill at age 19. He was a chemical and nuclear engineer undergraduate and upon completion of his degree the couple moved to Iowa where Bill was employed in his major field of study and Betty worked as a seed analyst. Her job was to determine for farmers the potential quality of crops. While in Iowa the Reeves begat their first child, a daughter, Kaylynn.

The couple relocated to Philly where Bill entered a PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania. During that time sons William and Craig were born. After receiving his PhD, Bill took employment in New Jersey. The family remained in North Jersey for 17 years where Betty Jane held several jobs including in-store promotional work for Polaroid, modeling shoes for Caressa, and in-store clothes modeling.

Following a divorce, Betty eventually met and wed John Reeves with whom she had a son, Jason. John had been Betty’s landlord in Westfield, NJ. The



couple remained married for 37 years until his passing 2002. The Reeves came to Florida circa 1990, and Betty Jane returned to school at the local VoTech on Estey Avenue, certifying in phlebotomy (“hold still, I know that vein is in there somewhere”), and qualifying as a CAN and LPN. Her studies led to her employment as a senior caregiver. Betty also had extensive experience in the fabric industry here.

Betty Jane found her way to St Paul’s through her relationship with a neighbor, Barbara Metcalfe.

Actually, Barbara introduced her to St Mónica’s, but when Ms. Metcalfe chose to move on to St. Paul’s, Betty decided to join her here.

Betty Jane’s initial impression of St. Paul’s? “I liked it, it was friendly and soft.” By soft she explained I mean “homey.” Betty has become a regular attendee at our monthly lunch-out get together and would like to help in some way with our boutique. She concluded the interview with a request that we provide evening activities.

—Ken Eastlack

(Ken was born and raised in Camden, NJ)

Peter and Laura Torrelli

Peter and Laura have their parents to thank for finding each other in Naples.

Peter was born, raised, and dwelled in Rochester, NY for the first 33 years of his life. However, when his folks decided to move to Florida in 2003, Peter; struggling with insufficient career opportunities and unhappy with Rochester in general, decided to join them a year later.

Laura was born and raised through age 14 in a tiny Michigan town called Pinconning (any of you out there heard of it?). From age 14 to 22 she moved with her parents to Bay City; also, in MI for those of you that are not familiar with Wolverine State. Laura’s parents came to Naples in 1981 and she and her first husband and three children (currently aged 28, 29 and 31) followed that parental move three years later.

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Have you met ...?

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Peter found work with a security firm in Naples and eventually became a part of the security team at Cedar Hammock; "I regularly greeted Bill and Barb Kling at the gate for quite some time before they eventually did a wonderful job of doing the same to me (and Laura) here at St. Paul's."

Laura meanwhile also found employment in the condo industry. Diningroom management at first then moving on to accounting. A couple years after her divorce in 2010, Peter; still a bachelor, and Laura met online. Peter pointed out that they nearly never got together because Laura kept dialing the wrong number for a couple of weeks. Laura commented she believes the Lord ultimately places us where he wants us to be. I would add despite the barriers we often put in the way.

So, thanks to their parents' choice to come here, they were wed in 2012. Well, maybe not solely because they followed moms and dads, but something had to lead them here in the first place.

Peter was raised a Roman Catholic. He attended a parochial grammar school but attended a public high school. Laura came from a Lutheran background. When they decided to find a local church to attend, they opted for St. Paul's although there were several churches nearby from which to choose. Asked if someone from St. Paul's had suggested or invited them, they replied no, but they had visited our Farmers' Market and felt welcomed by those of us they encountered.

From that first Sunday visit; highlighted by Katie's greeting and Bill's ushering them through their first "coffee hour," to this day they have cherished our warm friendliness.

Over the next few weeks the couple realized one



regret. They haven't reached retirement age yet and both have full time jobs. Thus, they are not available for the usual church activities that occur during the workday. That eliminates their involvement in things like the Tuesday Lunch-Out and God's Gardeners. Still they have volunteered as ushers and Laura has agreed to help with the Hospitality Circle when the Farmers' Market re-opens. Peter, by the way, will have a booth at the market to vend his hemp oil products.

Once again, we are blessed to have two new active members join the congregation. Be sure to make an effort to meet and greet them if you have not yet had the opportunity to do so.

—Ken Eastlack



Evie Dickerson, left, wearing her new St. Paul's cross, presented by Senior Warden Dick Breithaupt on behalf of the vestry, upon her 95th birthday.

At right is Michelle Bright, who has just completed 23 years volunteering on the cancer ward at Naples Community Hospital. She says she has a "couple more" years to give.



Notes from the diaspora

Sharing Summer highlights are...

Carolyn Hale & Jack Haar in New York:

"Time has just been flying by! I volunteered to help with Vacation Bible School at my Church of the Epiphany. It took place for one week in the middle of August. I helped with the First and Second Graders. There were about 34 children in total, from pre-K through 5th graders.

Additionally, Jack and I went to a couple of Yankee games. They're doing great this year, as you probably know.

We belong to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum which is on the USS Intrepid, a decommissioned aircraft carrier berthed on the Hudson River. We usually attend special events there for Fleet Week and Memorial Day, as well as some others. It's nice also to buy sandwiches there, and sit outside on the pier looking at the Hudson on one side and the Manhattan skyline on the other.

Well, looking forward to seeing you later in the fall. Hope you had a good summer."

Bill & Barb Kling, on Manitoulin Island in Ontario Canada:

"The Klings began their trip north stopping in Hilton Head at their daughter's and then traveled on with family to Charleston SC, where the family enjoyed a day at the Women's Open golf tournament. Our grandson, Eric had worked two years for the USGA on the tournament organization. Then we went on to our son's in Lewiston NY where we met our new great granddaughter, Emily! Next stop was Tobermory, Ontario where we took the ferry to our cottage on Manitoulin Island. We always begin and end our summer trip on the



Barb Kling and Jean Hayes in Tobermory

ferry with a delightful dinner with Jean Hayes who lives in Tobermory when she's not in Naples and being active at St. Paul's. This summer we were asked to host a small study/prayer group twice a month by a friend who has received a miraculous healing. We have had special times of study of the next Sunday's liturgy, helping a seeker to find her way in the Bible and then prayer time for the needs of folks in our community. We look forward to seeing everyone at St. Paul's in October."

William & Stephanie Griffith checked in from Newburyport, MA:

"Our children threw us a 50th anniversary party for 75 family and friends on July 12 (our actual anniversary) at Michael's Harbor-side restaurant in Newburyport, MA. A good time, as they say, was had by all. It was special because our twin daughters were the driving forces. Sara (and husband Stefano) came in from Milan, Italy. She's the admissions director of the American School of Milan. Her sister Sandy (with husband Steve and Jack, our only grandchild) came up from Connecticut. Our son John did a lot of behind the scenes work to make it a special night. Hi to All."

From Topsail Beach, N.C. **Peter**

Lund & Donna Nidds share:

"(We) spent the summer at the family beach condo at Topsail Beach (just south of Wilmington). Donna enjoyed her long walks on the beach, playing pickle ball and, being part of the town's turtle nest monitoring program. Peter enjoyed fishing, fishing, and

some more fishing. (see photo). Even though we love Topsail, there is no place like home with family and friends in Naples."

DIANE KANE, in Southport, CT:

"Some of my paintings are on display right now at the senior center in Westport. I have been taking classes and workshops in collage and portrait painting. They are definitely my weak spots. And I also am taking some workshops in pen and ink drawing and 'loose' watercolor. I do not teach while I am in Connecticut, as that is my 'vacation' time. However, I take classes and workshops mostly to get some ideas from other teachers on new things to do in my classes in the winter months.

I am happy to have a pool here in my complex, as we have certainly had a warm (hot) summer here also."

The **Richardsons, the Rev. Kay and Brian**, in Ottawa, Ontario Canada:

"(We) have been having a quiet summer at home. We have been having lovely times with the family and went on a short visit to a friend's neighbour's cottage for a couple of days. Right now our weather is very beautiful."

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From the diaspora

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Darlene & John Shoemaker in Bartonsville, PA:

"We are very blessed to be able to travel up north in the summer and spend time with our children and grandchildren.

My daughter-in-law Rita's brother got married in July, and it was a wonderful time for everyone at the wedding. Our three granddaughters were in the wedding party. They were beautiful as well as their brothers all dressed up in their suits. The bride and groom wanted all the children in the family as well as close friends' children. There were about 50 children at the wedding, and they were great.

We go to the beach in Ocean



Peter Lund's Summer passtime

City, NJ every year with my son and family. It is a great family beach, and we always have a great time. We stay

very busy all summer visiting our kids and grandchildren (total 13) and great-grandchildren (3). I have included some pictures of my son, daughter-in-law and our 5 grandchildren.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer too. We miss our St. Paul's family, and we will see you soon."

Dick Emerson in Cape Cod, Ma:

"Nothing really 'newsworthy' from me up here on Cape Cod except that the time is flying by quickly and it's not that long before I'll be back in Naples- Oct. 6th. Think of y'all frequently and looking forward to being back 'home.' Hope all is well with you."

Compiled by Ken Eastlack

Meet the baby we're praying for

A few months ago, I was made aware of a newborn baby in need of heart surgery and a fund raiser to help offset the very high cost of such surgery. I let many parishioners know and asked that "Baby Rhythm" be placed on St. Paul's prayer list; which she was, and I hope remains.

Rhythm's parents are Dean and Melody Ramos, he a Collier County Sheriff's deputy, and she a small business entrepreneur. I met Melody at her coffee shop, *From Bean to Cup*, on Bayshore Drive. I was impressed with the little shop with an attached courtyard venue there on the canal, and the warm and engaging reception of Melody herself. We chatted quite a bit while I enjoyed a café mocha but since she remained behind the counter, I failed to notice that she was pregnant. A couple of weeks

later I returned, and a different barista greeted me with the news that Melody had just had her baby and would not be at the shop for a while. Then, while getting a haircut next door, I was told of the tragic circumstances of Rhythm's birth.

Rhythm was born with Hypo Plastic Left Heart Syndrome, a condition that required immediate and subsequent heart surgeries. Her heart had not developed fully.

On July 3 I revisited Melody and she said Rhythm was home with the family; including her three brothers Liger, 13, Urian, 8, and Harper, 5, for a brief time until a kidney infection required Rhythm's return to Children's Hospital in Miami.

Baby Rhythm had her second scheduled open heart surgery just prior to this edition of *Pathway* going



to press. It was a four-hour procedure and her mother reports that all went well and although Rhythm did suffer a lot of pain, and will be in hospital recovery for some while, the prognosis is that she will be home with her loving family soon.

Melody added that in spite of the trauma and pain she believes Rhythm's wonderful smile will greet everyone on her return home. Mom again asked me to thank those of you that have kept Rhythm in your prayers because, to date, they have been answered.

—Ken Eastlack

Our kids in the Dominican Republic

Only one of the six rectors in the Naples Deanery has visited our children, and more important, the neighborhood they come from, in the DR. Our deanery has been the principal supporter of el Buen Samaritano children's shelter since a 2001 trip by 20 priests and lay people from Naples. The Dominican Republic is a companion diocese to our diocese.

In the last couple of years five new rectors have been called in Naples/Marco Island.

The Deanery DR committee set up a trip for this October, but no one could break away. The committee feels it's essential that the leaders of the deanery have a first-hand acquaintance with this ministry, as support from the parishes is essential to its continuance. Indeed, the committee would like to see outreach chairpersons and other lay leaders and anyone else interested visit with our children.



If you would like to join Fr. Tom on such a trip, perhaps soon after Easter, please give me a call. These get-acquainted jaunts are usually

set up for three or four days.

Visiting with the children is a ball, and visiting their barrio is an eye-opener.

—Tom Connolly

Saint Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NAPLES, FLORIDA

Parish Golf Outing

Saturday, October 26
at

Hibiscus Golf Club, Rattlesnake-Hammock Rd

\$50, includes cart & lunch

Call Joyce to reserve your spot! 1-440-655-4512