

# Market Begins Year 13

**By Lauri Torrelli**

Saturday Nov. 9 marks the beginning of the 13th year of the Farmers' Market at St. Paul's. The Market is held on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon, until mid April. It provides a reasonably priced venue for people to sell their produce, flowers and other items.

The market has been very successful in past years; originally featuring 50 vendors we now have up to 80. Many of the original produce vendors are still with us.

While generating a decent revenue for the church, of more importance is the outreach to the community. We love to see the up to 4,000 visitors every week, giving us the opportunity to smile, shake hands, meet new people and greet old friends. In addition to vendors there are organizations on hand to explain the services they provide to the community.

The Farmers' Market owes its success to not only the vendors and their goods but to the volunteers who keep it running smoothly. Weekly up to 70 volunteers assist vendors setting up, greeting customers and assisting with safe parking. We have volunteers helping customers in the Gift Shop, the Boutique and cooking and serving hot dogs and refreshment in the courtyard. It's a great opportunity for the parish volunteers to get to know each other better too, outside of the Sunday worship atmosphere.

I have been a parishioner of St.

Paul's for 6 months and I feel blessed to be a part of this loving, welcoming community. A week hasn't gone by that I haven't witnessed the concern of one person for another who may be ill, or absent from service for some reason. I urge anyone who would like to have that feeling of belonging to

visit St. Paul's for Sunday service. I find myself wanting to be involved in church activities and to spend more time with my fellow parishioners; it's like having an extended family. I will be one of the weekly volunteers and I hope to have the opportunity to say hi.



*The Gospel of Luke is the topic of a 6-week study offered on either Sundays between the 8 and 10 a.m. services or Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Participants use a study guide designed to promote group discussion. It's not too late to join!*

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# Hot dog hospitality at market

Located at the concrete 'sorta circle' that houses the grill, the Hospitality Circle serves as the Farmers' Market welcoming center.

Around 8 a.m. on a typical Saturday you can find parishioners Laurie, Laura and Ken serving up hot coffee to vendors and early shoppers. Shortly after, you can smell the charcoal burning in preparation for the free hot dogs that will be offered. It has become a favorite waiting post for hubbies and an, "I'll meet you at the 'barbie'" gathering spot.

Our trio of volunteers use this opportunity to warmly greet those who drop by for coffee or dogs and hopefully give our visitors a sense of that special "friendly aura" for which St. Paul's is well known. And, basically, this defines the original intent for setting up the "Hospitality Circle."

Just two years ago the vestry established a long-range planning committee to make better use of church resources and facilities. It was clear that we were not taking advantage of the thousands of "prospects" visiting us each week at the market with no noticeable effect on church attendance. That is not to overlook the presence of volunteer docents that had in the past and currently continue to meet and greet anyone who wishes to visit our sanctuary.

A couple of the committee members took a "short range" view of the issue and got permission from the vestry to start providing free coffee. A couple of



***Here's Ken Eastlack at the courtyard grill, ready to greet and treat visitors to the Saturday Farmers' Market. Stop by to say hello!***

weeks later we added hot dogs as well.

A vendor and friend of the church, Bob Melucci, was selling a delicious "gourmet" frank at his site and offered to provide his product at cost in support of our efforts while gaining marketing exposure. Thus we became the "Hospitality Circle" with the tastiest hot dogs in town. It has also become an almost self-supported ministry through generous appreciated donations to the free will offering basket on site.

Some of our volunteers come by from time to time to grab a dog and chat with visitors, but we would love to have more parishioners on hand to brighten the aura mentioned above and help demonstrate that our Lord, his Church, and especially St Paul's beckons them.

—Ken

## Many hands make light work

Fifteen years ago Roger Conant was grabbing folks by the lapels at coffee hour, stirring up support for a new initiative at St. Paul's.

"We're thinking about having a farmers' market. Will you help us?"

Roger and his lieutenant, Alan Cragg, worked the next ten years to make the market what is today; a thriving Saturday morning block party serving the church, neighbors and vendors. The ministry replaced the labor-intense "Trash and Treasure," a one-day rummage sale that took months to coordinate; all over in eight hours except for the cleanup.

Roger and Alan got lots of help; they kept asking.

Jeff Page ran the market for the last couple of

years and is helping in the transition to a new team. Jeff asked for and got help, too. Now Peter Lund will be the point man with help from Dick Emerson. Lee Perry will be handling parking volunteers while Jim Crosby recuperates from a health setback.

In the beginning Jean Szen and her group of volunteers labored in the Courtyard Gift Shop. Now and for last couple of years Susan Larson and Marilyn Perry run that shop. For all the years up to this, Marion Kennedy painstakingly tended to the success of the Unique Boutiue, even putting on a Valentine's Day fashion show, recruiting lots of women to show off the fancy clothes offered in the boutique. This year Donna Nidds will tend that shop.

Susan, Marilyn and Donna need your help. Please offer your help and prayers!



# Our collegial bishop

Our diocese met for its 51st Diocesan Convention in Punta Gorda on Oct. 12. It was my 16th convention in this diocese. When I first arrived in this diocese, the conventions were troubling. There were often contentious arguments over resolutions and amendments to the budget. It didn't take me too many conventions to see that it was the same people each year that seemed to be arguing over the same issues. The clergy were often at odds with each other and at clergy conferences there was very little collegiality; trust was at a very low level.

Then we elected Dabney Smith as our bishop.

During his tenure healing has occurred. Trust has been built. We have become functional, collegial and joyful. Conventions have become smooth and efficient. Yet each year there is still an issue that brings comment and a bit of controversy. It all revolves around the budget and the amount of money the diocese pays to the "National Church." Each year the same individuals offer the same amendments with the same arguments and the amendments to the budget always fail.

This year was no different, except it was. Father John Hiers rose to speak against the amount of money we send to the "National Church" and the Rev. Becky Robbins-Penniman rose to counter his remarks. However, the tone was different. Father John will be soon retiring. This would be his last convention as a rector. The asking and expectation of what each diocese gives for the support of the



Episcopal Church has changed. The issue addressed in years past is moot. But the points and counterpoints made from the convention floor turned into words of regard and respect between these two fine priests who, over the years, have rarely found themselves on the same side of an issue on the convention floor. The budget was passed, without amendment, as it has been at almost every convention I have attended in this diocese.

As usual the budget was the last major issue of discussion. What followed then is what follows every year: various announcements, brief remarks and courtesy resolutions, and then the dismissal by the bishop. But the bishop

did something quite beautiful this year. Instead of offering the final prayer and blessing he invited John and Becky forward and asked them to honor us by leading us in prayer.

The two priests crossed the room, met on the floor, held hands and walked onto the stage and offered prayers and blessings for the health of this diocese.

I have served in three dioceses as a priest. I have lived in five dioceses in my life. I have friends all over the church, some of them are very involved in their dioceses. I am pleased and honored to report that the Diocese of Southwest Florida is healthy, thriving, faithful and functional. We are blessed with great people in our parishes, fine priests and deacons as our clergy and a gifted bishop as our leader.

—Fr. Tom Thoeni

## *Challenge for St. Paul's Church*

One good statistic about St. Paul's is that in most parishes, 80% of pledge dollars are given by 20% of the pledgers, here only 65% of the pledge money is given by the top 25% of the pledgers so that our pledge base is not nearly as skewed as most parishes.

Last year the average pledge in our diocese was \$2,689. The average pledge for St. Paul's was \$1,814. Our median pledge (the number where

50% of the pledges are less than the median and 50% are over the median) was \$1000. The median at St. Paul's has remained constant for the last four years. The average pledge at St. Paul's went down slightly from 2018 to 2019 whereas across the diocese the average was up about 7.2%.

The challenge for St. Paul's this year is for us to get closer to the diocesan average rather than getting further apart.

—Stewardship team

# Beautiful home and great food...

On Sunday, the 3rd of November, everyone gathered for a single church service at 9:00 am, to facilitate maximum opportunity to attend a rectory open house hosted by Fr. Tom and his gracious wife, Quincey, following the service. The celebration also marked Fr. Tom's first anniversary of his appointment as our rector. The couple especially wanted to showcase the restoration efforts the parish had accomplished on the rectory.

The chef, Thomas, with the ample assist from sous-chef, Quincey provided a marvelous buffet brunch of hot dishes, hors d'oeuvres, and fresh fruit. The highlight of liquid refreshment featured selections from Fr. Tom's home brewery.

Thanks to parishioners Roger Conant and Don Anderson an eight-passenger golf cart was made available to ferry members from and to the church.

Attendees thoroughly enjoyed a lovely day of fellowship and food while touring the beautifully renovated rectory. How much so? Check out these comments:



"Nice gathering with a beautiful day! Thank you, Quincey for your hard work; especially appreciated your listing the ingredients of foods. Great location for a Church Picnic! (Next time paper plates & Pot Luck." - Jeannie Smith

"I really liked the new floors, remodeled bathrooms, kitchen and pantry. Very nice screened porch. Beautifully finished!" - ANON

"Hard to believe renovations, especially the flooring. Ten years ago, it was nothing like this. Interesting furniture, and paintings. Not to mention the good food! So HAPPY for you ALL! WE LOVE FR. TOM." - Linda Condon

"What a wonderful thing [open house] for you both to have done for the congregation. Enjoyed by all. Thank you." - Lee & Marilyn Perry

"Beautiful home and great food.



Thanks Fr. Tom & Quincey." - Barbara Pearce & Laurie Harvey

"A wonderful event! Great fellowship." - Carol & Bob McKenna

"We are very happy that God sent you both to St. Paul's. Thanks, Tom and Quincey for a wonderful party." - Joe & Phyllis Tracy





# ...Thanks Fr. Tom and Quincey

"What a wonderful reception at Fr. Tom & Quincey's home. Thank you for hosting us. Everyone was enjoying themselves." - Charlene Connolly"

"Lovely, Lovely, Lovely – delicious – and the beer is great! Thank you for all the hospitality! God Bless." - Bev Whiteman

"What a lovely event! Thank you to all who planned and executed – for the wonderful food and the generous hospitality... blessings on you all!" - ANON

"Going to see the rectory was a great idea. They did a great job with the remodel. What a nice group of people came, plus it was fun." - Frances Nadeau

"Wow! Quincey and Tom know how to throw a party! Great food and fun. Such a treat to see your home. Many thanks!" - Gail Cooper

"A lovely event was enjoyed by many. Buffet = AWESOME! Thank you from the heart." - Liz & Walt Hotaling

"Beautiful! Such a gracious host and hostess. You thought of everything! God Bless." - Mary Lou Hawdon

"We had a wonderful time. Great food, great friends of St. Paul's and how gracious of Quincey and Fr. Tom to have us all." - Darlene & John Shoemaker

"The service and the sermon were great. The house is a show-piece, And the food was SCRUMPTIALICIOUS." - George & Joan Menslage

"Very nice event. Especially with so many people attending church." -



Judy Martin

"The open house at Fr. Tom & Quincey's to celebrate their 1 year at St. Paul's was a wonderful event. The food and fellowship was a great representation of two great people." - Judy Allen

"The food spread was beautiful and delicious. Also it was great for Fr. Tom and his wife to open their home to everyone." - Peter & Laura Torrelli

"Fr. Tom and Quincey, thank you so much for a fantastic time spent with you both. It was such a wonderful time to gather together!" - Anthony & Judy Cimaglia

"Quincey and Father Tom you have made a house into a very special home. It makes me more happy that the rectory is meeting your needs." - Peggy Anson

"A beautiful day to honor Father Tom's first anniversary with excellent food and friendship." - Vera & Erwin Stegmaier

"A delightful occasion to meet

members of the church." - Joan Cottham

"This was a lovely gathering – very enjoyable. It was nice to see everyone again." - Joan Farmer

I might add it was especially nice to have Alan & Marcie Cragg among us once again as they made the trip back to Naples to share in this special occasion.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church has a growing aura of warmth, friendliness, and sharing of Christ's love through our worship and ministries. That aura shone brightly on this occasion of celebration and thanksgiving; for the gift of Fr. Tom and Quincey to the congregation and of we to them. Thanks be to God.

**Editor's note: Special thanks to Ken Eastlack, who handed out comment cards (the "anons" forgot to sign their names) and wrote this piece and much more of the content in this edition of Pathway.**







# Great day For golf

It was a beautiful day for golf, and, for being the "first annual" outing, a turnout of 28 golfers was pretty good, too. Next year will be better! Joyce Cashin organized the event, held Oct. 26 at Hibiscus Golf Course. A dozen non-golfers joined up for lunch at Erin's Isles for lunch, prizes and laughs.





# Have you met... ?

## **...Gary and Paulette Dickerson**

Born in Long Island, Gary Dickerson and a sister, Catherine (who became an RN in the Naples school system), migrated to Naples when he was two years old, in 1951. His mom, our very own nonagenarian 'Evie', and dad, Charles Dickerson, left New York at that time in search of adventure.

Getting far away from New York, his dad was part of the history-making Bell Telephone crew that ran the first telephone line from Naples through the Everglades to Coral Gables. Charles and Evie then founded the Coral Drive Inn in Naples.

Paulette was born and raised through elementary school in Sayer, PA. She attended high school in Wiesbaden, Germany where her Air Force father, Bill Wall, and mother, Alice, were stationed. Paulette's dad had the distinction of serving during WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Paulette has one sibling, a sister, Nikki, who resides in Blue Diamond, NV.

Paulette came to Naples in 1972. She and Gary met at a friend's house and were wed in 1976. They have two sons, Crispin, a retired U.S. Marine, and Jacob, who works with Crispin as a pool tech. The former presented Paulette and Gary with a grandson, Charles Edward, 8 and the latter, Jacob, added two granddaughters, Evelyn, 14, and Hailee, 10. Hailee has become a familiar figure at St. Paul's where she was baptized and attends Sunday school. Hailee is a fourth grader at Gulf Coast Charter Academy where she sings in the choir.

Following graduation from Naples High School in 1962, Gary began his career as an apprentice carpenter. In 1980 the couple moved to Georgia when Paulette left her employment at Naples Memorial Hospital to accept an x-ray tech position at Redmond Regional Hospital in Rome, GA. While residing there Paulette took course work in environmental horticulture; more an avocation than career.

Gary grew up a Roman Catholic and attended St. Ann's here in Naples as a youth. Paulette came from an Episcopal background but like Gary; as with many of us, became somewhat inactive during their professional/working years.

In the Winter of 2018 the Dickersons found their way to St. Paul's through the efforts of Gary helping his mom, Evie, to get re-involved with the church. Gary explained that "she too had been too busy during the working years." He added that Evie felt



she, "...needed to get back to church so a priest would get to know her and be able to say something nice about her in her passing."

The "re-involved" process led to a visit to St. Paul's Farmers' Market where they stopped by for coffee

and a free hot dog at our Hospitality Circle. (See Pg 2)

Gary said the friendly welcoming they felt there convinced them to attend the next service. The rest is history. They are now a part of the, "fairly small, friendly and comfortable" parish they discovered.

The couple, mom, Evie, and granddaughter Hailee attend both services (not on the same Sunday) so be sure to take a moment to offer a dollop of that warm and friendly greeting that St. Paul's is becoming so very well known for when next you see them.



## **...Jack LaRose and Brooke-Lynn Williams**

Jack, a year-round resident of Naples since 2000, was born and grew up in Brooklyn. He attended East New York Vocational High School and graduated as an aviation mechanic. Following high school he worked as an auto mechanic until he was drafted into the Army during the Vietnam era. Following a two-year hitch he returned home and to his previous area of employment but also took the NYC Fire Department test, enrolled in their academy, and served as a fire fighter for 26 years.

Jack met his wife, Rosemary, at age 16 when they served as best man and maid of honor at a friend's

# Our children in the DR

Our ministry to these children in the Dominican Republic began almost 20 years ago, long enough to have established deep bonds of affection between Naples and San Francisco de Macoris. And it's long enough to observe and celebrate the fruits of relationship.

In the beginning, 20 children were saved from the streets of the poor barrio; today more than 100 children spend the day at the Albergue Infantil El Buen Samaritano instead of on the streets.

The kids are in a loving, nurturing environment where they learn their ABCs, are fed breakfast and lunch and are slowly but steadily inching up the ladder of respectability and acceptance—no mean feat for



those from the wrong side of the tracks. For us it's an awesome responsibility!

All operating expenses are raised by Episcopalians of Naples, Marco Island and Bonita Springs, through church outreach budgets and by parishioners who buy sponsorships.

Sponsorships are \$275, and cover about a half year of a child's attendance.

Thank you for your continued generosity in helping your fellow Christians meet their awesome responsibility, freely chosen and lovingly undertaken.

—Tom Connolly

## Mark your calendar



**November 16** Blessing of the animals 10 a.m. at Farmers' Market, front lawn (Near St. Francis Garden, of course!)

**November 24** Pageant practice, 5:30 p.m. in Trinity Hall.

**November 28** Thanksgiving begins with worship service at 1 p.m., then on to a lovely banquet we all can be thankful for!



### **...Jack and Brooke-Lynn** *continued from Pg 7*

wedding. They wed in 1966 and have remained together for 53 years. Rosemary is Roman Catholic and attends St Elizabeth Seton here in Naples. In New York Rosemary worked as a tutor for kids with special needs at Coney Island Hospital. She and Jack have two sons; Grant, 52, and Steven, 48, and a daughter, Suzanne, 43.

Granddaughter Brooke joined the couple just last Thanksgiving. She is a fifth-grade student at Calusa Park Elementary and will be attending St. Paul's neighboring middle school next Fall. Her favorite school activities have been gym and soccer.

As a child Jack attended Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Brooklyn. He recalls serving as an "altar

boy" (today's acolyte). He was initially introduced to St. Paul's by Buddy Jackson and the flea market that once thrived here. Jack decided to attend services here when Brooke-Lynn joined him and Rosemary last year. Since then Jack has become a major contributor to God's Gardeners, and Brooke a regular attendee in our youth church school.

Asked for his initial impression of St. Paul's Jack replied: "Seems everyone I meet is involved in church activities. There is a sense of friendliness and community." He added that he would like to see more young people attending and participating, he would particularly like to see more children. Jack concluded with his appreciation of Charlene Connolly and her work with the kids.