



October 2006

# THE Epistle

## *St. Paul's...A place to belong*

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares"  
Hebrews 13:1-2*



I wanted to take this time to express my gratitude to each and every one of you, for the welcome you have given Alex and I. As a new member of the St. Paul's community I have had the privilege of getting to know the different persons and personalities that make up the diverse tapestry that is this Christ centered community.

Each person I have interacted with brings a unique gift to this community which when combined with the other members makes this place a warm, friendly and welcoming community; a place to belong. But the hospitality I have found at St. Paul's is not limited to my personal interactions. I have seen many of you open the doors of this place to visitors, making them feel at home and a part of this household.

The hospitality and sense of belonging found here permeates the very walls and furniture of this building. Several times since I have been here I have heard weekday visitors comment on how welcoming and safe this place feels. From the moment you enter the many doors of the church, there is a sense of warmth and care which makes both stranger and old friend feel a part of the body of Christ.

These past few weeks I have seen Paul's vision of the Church come alive. (1 Corinthians 12:12-31) In our diversity of understanding, and backgrounds we strive to be parts of the body. Paul's vision of the eyes, ears and other members of the body working together for the common good is truly expressed in this community.

It is my hope that in the months and years ahead that we, being individual parts of the one body of Christ, will share our gift of hospitality with not only those who enter our doors on Sunday morning but with all we meet. That they will know that we are Christians by our love.

Fr. Deon+

### Inside this Issue:

- Visit by the Bishop
- Crop Walk 2006
- DOK Installs Seven
- Spirituality Offerings
- Blessing of the Animals
- Exploring our faith
- Stewardship
- Comic Corner

## A Visit from the Bishop

We are privileged and honored to welcome Bishop Wendell Gibbs to St. Paul's on **Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services. Bishop Gibbs follows a scheduled of visitation to parishes within the Diocese of Michigan. This is an opportunity for baptism, reception, or reaffirmation. Please see the Rector for more details.

### About Bishop Gibbs

On February 5, 2000, **Bishop Wendell Gibbs** was consecrated as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Michigan. He was installed and seated as the Tenth Bishop on November 4, 2000.

Plan on welcoming Bishop Gibbs and his wife Karlah Gibbs at coffee hour following both services.



The date for the Brighton area CROP Walk is **Sunday, October 8; the walk begins at 2:00 PM** at First United Methodist Church on Grand River in Brighton.

Why do we walk? "We walk because they walk", often many, many miles for water supplies. Monies raised by the CROP Walk goes to less fortunate countries to help with food needs, education, and health issues. This walk gives to our local community as well; 20% of the proceeds is allocated between three agencies: St. Vincent de Paul, Gleaners Food Bank and Love INC (Love in the name of Christ – an outreach agency made up of various outreach committees of churches in Livingston County).



### Seven New members

The Dorothy Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King were privileged and honored to receive seven new members on Sunday, Sept. 24.

They are: Jackie Chenoweth, Linda DeLaura, Bev Field, Pat Gaetz, Doris Housner, Mary Khunger, and Helen Webster. Congratulations to each of our new members.

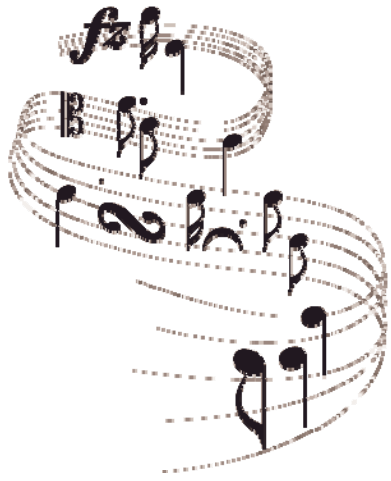
May they wear their cross proudly and faithfully.



**St. Francis**

St. Francis of Assisi is the beloved saint of all animals. In honor of his special day, St. Paul's will hold a **Pet Blessing on Saturday, October 7 at 1:00 PM.** Parishioners and others in the community may bring their dogs, cats, hamsters, birds, and other critters that make up their family. Please bring cats and smaller pets in a carrier, and have dogs on leashes.

*"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen."*



*Concert at First United Methodist*

Bethlehem Bible College Choir will be touring the United States beginning in October 2006. They will visit and perform in 6 states and the District of Columbia.

This group from Jerusalem, Israel, last visited the United States in 1997. The Christian Arab group will perform songs of praise and worship in their native Arabic.

Their first performance in the United States this year will take place at First United Methodist Church, 400 E. Grand River in Brighton on **Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM.**

The community is invited to enjoy the performance and meet the choir members at a brief reception following the concert. For information about this performance, please contact the church at 810-229-8561.

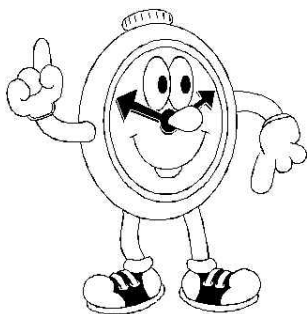
## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Gordon Warren	10/1
Matthew Pumphrey	10/5
David Johnson	10/6
Bill Way	10/6
Mike Rosinski	10/7
Dave Brown	10/9
Al Burkett	10/9
Taryn Cofield	10/9
Ruth Shaffer	10/9
Karen Goss	10/15
Kris Haskins	10/15
Craig Becker	10/17
Terry Keefe	10/19
Joannée DeBruhl	10/22
Michele Smiley	10/24
Evan Smiley	10/25
LaVerna Blades	10/26
Doris Fay	10/26
Madeline Pumphrey	10/26
Abigail Wright	10/26
Audrey Wisner	10/27
Megan Cofield	10/28
Kathy Fuller	10/28
Doris Burch	10/29



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Clay and Susan Uvick	10/7
Ed and Sherry Nyhus	10/10
Randy and Patti Shields	10/16
Doris and Paul Burch	10/21
Jeff and Laura Schwennesen	10/25
Bob and Sharon Rosenberg	10/25



Don't forget to move your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. Of course, if you forget, you will have an extra hour to meditate and pray before the service starts!



## Spirituality Group

The Spirituality Group meets at 7:30 PM at the home of Dorothy Calmes.

Upcoming sessions include:

October 11 – Jewish Mysticism, the Kabbalah;

November 2 – Islamic Spirituality, Sufism;

November 20 – the Venerable Haju Sunim will lead the group in exploring Buddhist Spirituality.

Two additional sessions are being planned for later dates.

There is a \$35.00 class fee to attend all of the sessions; this will enable us to give the facilitators an honorarium.

For additional information, please call Dorothy Calmes at 517-548-6666.

explorefaith.org



### Is believing certain creeds really what Christianity is about?

As I see it, being Christian is not primarily about believing a set of statements to be true. I think that's one of the distortions introduced into the Christian tradition over the last 300 years or so because of the conflict between traditional Christianity and the enlightenment of the 17th Century. [That conflict] called many traditional Christian teachings into question and had an unfortunate transforming effect on the meaning of faith. Faith began to mean believing difficult things to be true, which puts the emphasis in the wrong place.

I don't think God is concerned primarily about the beliefs in our heads, but about something much deeper within us. If one understands the beliefs of the tradition and the scriptures of the tradition not as what is to be believed, but as pointers beyond themselves that use the language of metaphor and poetry and symbol and so forth, then one can begin to see that the **Christian life is about a relationship to the sacred**. Christianity, like all the religions of the world, is a human construction. It uses human language, culturally conditioned relative language, and to absolutize that language is a profound mistake.

To be Christian, I would say, is to live within the Christian tradition as a metaphor of the sacred, and also as a sacrament of the sacred. The tradition as a whole has as one of its main purposes mediating the reality of the spirit or the reality of the sacred—that is, entering into a relationship with the sacred. It's about entering into a relationship with suchness, with is-ness. I think of God, to use very abstract language, as is-ness without limits. Our relationship to is-ness matters profoundly. It will shape our whole way of being in the world. If we see is-ness as indifferent, we will be concerned with our own self-protection. If we see is-ness as threatening, we'll be even more paranoid about life. But if we see is-ness as giving us life, it creates the possibility of relating to life in a non-threatened kind of way. That makes possible the lives of the saints.

--Dr. Marcus Borg



## *Education Update...*

### ***Youth***

Sunday school is underway. We were pleased to see so many of the children back this fall. Please do your best to get your children to church on time so they don't miss the beginning of the classes each week. We have 5 separate classes being run this year for youth. Pre-school and kindergarten students will be meeting from 10:30 to 11:00 with Lisa Bay and Liz Nielsen in the room next to the choir room. 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will meet in the large classroom next to the nursery with Heather McNamara from 10:30 to 11:00. 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders will meet with Stacey Heinonen in the former library from 10:30 to 11:00.

The older youth will be having Sunday school along with a mid-week fun and fellowship night. The 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders will meet in the Noiroot Room from 9:00 to 9:40, with 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders, who call themselves GITM/CIA (God in the Mind, Christ in Action) also meeting in the Noiroot Room. They will meet from 9:45 to 10:25. Both of the older groups will work with me.

These older groups will also meet on Wednesday evenings for Fun/Fellowship beginning on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-7:30. They should eat dinner ahead of time.

Please note that Phil is not available either on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> or Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, so there will be no Sunday school for the older youth groups on those days.

As of this writing, the older youth groups are planning to help paint the nursery on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. We plan on making this an all-day event, with painting beginning at noon, followed by apple picking at Spicer's (apples given to the shut-ins and nursing homes.) Following dinner, we will be heading out for a haunted hayride or some such spooky evening. Watch the Friday Updates for more information during the month.

### ***Adult***

Jenny Ritter has agreed to head up a Kerygma group this fall. We are waiting for the adult education surveys to be completed before we set any dates or programs. If you are at all interested in any type of Christian adult education, please complete the survey form found in the newsletter. Copies are also available at both exits of the church. Please complete one and return it to the office or to me by Sunday Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Suggestions Always Welcome***

If you have any ideas as to how we can provide better Christian Education for our members please feel free to contact Father Deon Johnson or me. We are always open for new ideas.

### ***Christmas Pageant***

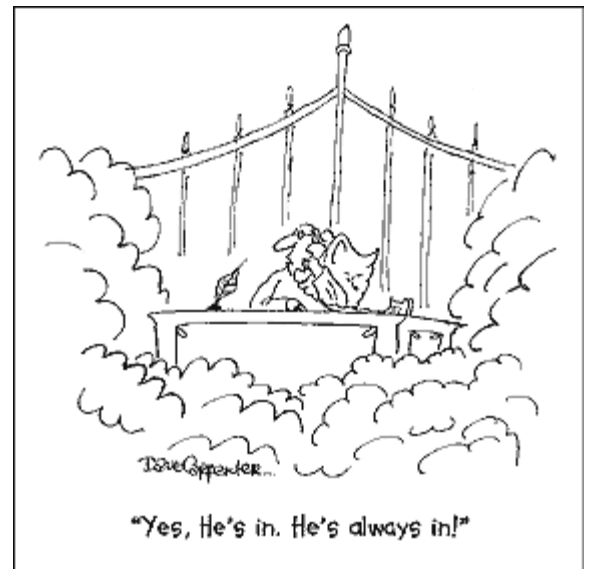
Speaking of new ideas, this year we will celebrate Christmas Eve at the 5:30pm service with the children's Christmas Pageant. This will be different for us at St. Paul's, but we hope will be enjoyable for all. Your children will be bringing home information for you in early November. We hope to see many *angels* and other *animals of the manger* in this pageant.

## Name Tags and Directories

We now have permanent name tags for our parishioners located on hooks on the wall across from the information center. It is our hope that everyone would wear their name tag for Sunday services and at other parish functions. This enables our new Rector to immediately know your name, and it also is an important tool in welcoming visitors and those who may have been away from the parish for awhile. If you would like a name tag or do not see one already made for you, please leave a note in the office.

A new paper directory update is now available on the large table at the office entrance to the church building. It has a "pumpkin" colored cover. Please take one home; it has many additions as well as changes and corrections. If you find a mistake, please call the church office.

## Comic Corner



## Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist - 8:30 AM  
Choir Rehearsal – 9:15 AM  
Sunday School – 10:30 AM  
Holy Eucharist – 10:30 AM  
(Summer Schedule – 8:00 & 10:00 AM  
Holy Eucharists)

## St. Paul's Vestry

David Beidler \* Laurie Bourbonais \* Pat Burkett  
Joannee DeBruhl \* Peter Finkbeiner \* Jay Haaseth  
Sue Knapp \* Mike Latham  
Kathy Maher Anguish \* Jenny Ritter  
Greg Seaman \* Sue Uvick

## Activities Contact Persons:

Warden – Kathy Maher Anguish	Rector – The Rev. Deon K. Johnson
Warden – David Beidler	Building & Grounds – Peter Finkbeiner
Parish Secretary – Gail Zorn	Acolytes – Lisa Bay
Sexton – Lisa Bay	Readers, Chalicists – Karen Goss
Treasurer – Laura Schwennesen	Parish Life – Michelle Rosinski
Financial Secretary – Clay Uvick	Altar Guild – Ellen Loerwald
Web Master – Melinda Latham	Service & Outreach – Pat Burkett
	Daughters of the King – Gail Zorn
	Prayer Chair – Diane Brown

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
200 W. St. Paul Street  
Brighton, MI 48116

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address  
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City, State 98765-4321

“St. Paul's is an open church with open hearts, loving and serving God and all communities.”

The Reverend Deon K. Johnson  
Office  
810-229-2821