

The Church Mouse

April 2010

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Romeo

Inside This Issue		<i>From the desk of Rev. Stacy:</i>	
Next Deadline: 04/21		<p><i>"And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb."</i> Mark 16:2</p>	
Church School—Youth & Adults	2	<p>Those of you who have asked me to pray with you during hard times have often heard me recall how God resides with us in the deepest and darkest of tombs. There is a second half to that image, God waits on the other side of the darkness, waiting to embrace us while our eyes adjust to new light and new life. In the throes of uncertainty it is tempting for us to forget that part of the image. We find ways to keep visiting the tomb as if there is unfinished business to attend to only to find there is nothing more to attend to. God has taken care of it. All we need to do is acknowledge God's work, give thanks, and move into something new.</p>	
Vestry	3	<p>We live in a world of such a temporal existence there is always going to be unfinished business.</p>	
Stewardship	4	<p>Emma's father left her when she was a small child. She has no idea where he is or even if he is alive. She struggles with a child-like guilt. She must have done something wrong to make</p>	
Announcements	4	<p>him leave. She is angry, but he isn't around to lash out at, so she expresses her displeasure with everyone else around her. When she has her good days, she keeps on visiting the tomb, bringing spices to spruce up a body that isn't there anymore.</p>	
Samaritan House	5	<p>Derrick had a learning disability and school was tough. He will never hear apologies from those who picked on him. He has no sense of self-worth. Each time he gets a chance to improve his lot he visits the tomb and covers his head with the linens left on the cold stone bed. Does he even wonder what happened to the body that was there?</p>	
Key Dates in April	6	<p>Robert's first wife left him and the children many years ago, no reason given. He can't help wondering how much of the relationship was a lie. Each time a wonderful woman comes into his life, Robert keeps traveling back to the tomb, poking his head in. He sees there is no body, but he still smells the stench. He cannot believe that God</p>	

has a new life prepared for him. He can only feel the sting of that first death.

Andrew has visited the tomb enough times to know that he is ready for resurrection. Everyday he struggles with addiction. There are no real answers as to why God made him the way he is. He stopped visiting that tomb long ago. He doesn't even look at the empty place in the tomb. He doesn't bring spices for the long buried body. He has taken hold of the white robe of new life and put it on. For the most part he will join hands with those who have followed the course of resurrection. Andrew will only visit the tomb so that he can say to others, "God is not here anymore. He has been raised. He is going on ahead of you. Go on with your life. He is waiting."

(Names and stories are all fictional. Any resemblance to reality is purely coincidental)

Happy Resurrection!

Rev. Stacy Salles +

St. Paul's Vestry

John Contoni, Senior Warden
Mike Wilson Junior Warden
Bill Himelberger, Secretary
Neil Russo, Treasurer

John Contoni, '11, Lou Kraetke, '11,
 Rick Youngblood, '11, Pat Clinton '12,
 Bill Himelberger '12, Gary House '12,
 Kathy Kueppers '12, Mike Wilson '13,
 Matt Manzo, '13

**Our Vestry next meets on
 Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m.**

Church School and Youth News & Celebration Dates

UPCOMING and past YOUTH EVENTS:

Teen—Nightwatch: Detroit—An overnight retreat for grades 9-12. This is adventure, community, worship, and mystery all rolled up into one fantastic overnight experience in the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's. Cost is \$25 and scholarships are available. See Rev. Stacy for forms and more information. The dates are **Saturday, April 10—11**. Rev. Stacy is on the planning team for this event and will at least be there through Saturday evening.

Teen—Happening #6— Grades 9—12 are invited to attend this retreat from **April 23-25** at All Saints, E. Lansing. Teens explore their own faith by listening to other teens witness to their own spiritual journeys, through games, worship, and making new friends. Teens who attend this event usually ask to be more involved in their own church community. Our very own Alissa Alexander and Rev. Stacy Salles will be attending this event. Forms can be picked up from Rev. Stacy Salles. The cost is \$45 and scholarships are available.

Sunday School at St. Paul's for the smaller children. The Children continue to learn the parables of Jesus. Be ready for some big time worship events for the children. Palm Sunday, the children will be leading us in the worship for the day. Maundy Thursday Service, the children help Rev. Stacy with the washing of feet and stripping the altar. Saturday Stations of the Cross are participatory. The dates for these are below.

Adult Christian Education Spring, 2010

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 28, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. (Children lead the worship)

Maundy Thursday, April 1—7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2—noon and 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 3—Stations of the Cross, 10:00-4:00

Confirmations and Receptions

What does it all mean?

On Saturday evening, April 3, 2010, Daniel Erickson and Alissa Alexander will be Confirmed by the Bishop during the Easter Vigil service at the Cathedral of St. Paul's, Detroit.

In the early church baptism and confirmation happened at the same time, with the bishop laying hands on the catechumate. As the church grew it was no longer possible for the bishop to lay hands on all those being baptized, and many of those were infants. Confirmation requires the laying on of hands by the bishop. It is typically adults who are claiming the baptismal vows that were made for them as infants.

Paula Wrobel and Linda Contoni will be received into the Episcopal Church on May 15, 2010 at St. John's, in Royal Oak. Paula and Linda were both baptized and confirmed as Christians in the Roman Catholic tradition. We honor that tradition. Being received in the Episcopal Church only means they choose the Anglican means of celebrating their Christian

heritage. As in confirmation, the bishop will lay hands on them and bless them in their continued Christian ministry.

Gratitude, Grace, and Generosity

Take some time to rest your spirit as we listen to Kristine Miller speak to us about what it means to celebrate God's blessings in our lives. We will be sharing our stories with Episcopalians from other congregations. This event is sponsored by the Oakland Deanery so there is no cost to you. The event is graciously being hosted by St. Stephen's in Troy, April 18, 2010, from 1-3 p.m.

Household of God: Body, Mind, and Spirit

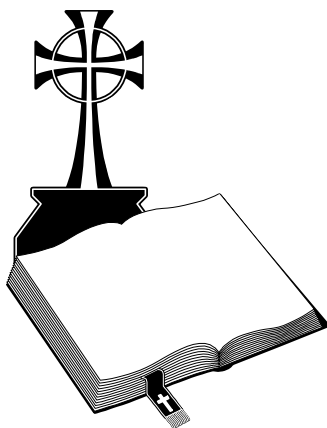
Ten women from St. Paul's attended the Household of God event hosted by the Whitaker School of Theology. The guest presenter was The Rev. Mpho Tutu. The topic was about praying and reading the Word using our bodies. This may seem strange, but Episcopalians use their body to pray all the time. Many people kneel at the prayer of confession. Think about the implications of what it means to kneel before God. We wash feet on Maundy Thursday just as Jesus did in the Gospel of John. We shout "Crucify him" on Palm Sunday. The written and divine word takes on more meaning when it becomes incarnate within us, spirit, mind, and body. If you would like to know how to do this give Rev. Stacy a call. (Yes, men too!)



Vestry

**VESTRY MEETING
THURS., MARCH 25**

- **Heard** that First Friends will have a new student beginning the end of April
- **Heard** that First Friends has been granted a full license, with a 2-year renewal date
- **Heard** that Comcast will be installed soon for our phone, FAX, and internet coverage
- **Heard** that we will keep the credit card payment ability open to receive payments from vendors for the craft/flea market during Labor Day weekend
- **Heard** that the Administration Commission has worked on job descriptions
- **Heard** that the Visioning Commission will be in contact with the Village Offices, and Romeo High School to see about getting our name and what we do out there
- **Noted** that the next Vestry meeting will be on **Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**



Folks With Halos



Special Thanks & Congratulations Go To...

- **Kathy Kueppers** for completing the Stephens Ministry program
- **Pat Kruizenga & Trudy Dodson** for driving folks to Household of God
- **Alissa Alexander & Daniel Erickson** for confirmation
- The **angel** who planted flowers in the first garden of the meditation walk
- **Trudy Dodson** for all her work with the flowers for the Altar
- **Rob Temple** for making sure our outside sign remains lit
- **Altar Guild** for their continuous work keeping the altar current, especially during Holy Week
- **Chris Hurd** for bringing in more instruments for the children's service

Two new ways of giving to St. Paul's:

St. Paul's is accepting credit and debit card payments. If you would like to make a a donation to flowers for the altar or any of our outreach programs—even if you want to pre-pay your pledge due to vacation you can contact Sally at the church office on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 9:00 a.m. and noon and she will help you with this.

You can also do this through our website, www.stpaulsromeo.org and click on the e-giving button. That will take you to an e-giving site where you fill in information either to pay a pledge, or to just give a donation.

Scheduled to Serve in April

8:00 Service

- 04/04: EASTER SUNDAY**
Lector: Paul Willen
LEM: Bill Himelberger
- 04/11:** Lector: Greg Paduch
LEM: Bill Himelberger
- 04/18:** Lector: Sue Kraetke
LEM: Bill Himelberger
- 04/24:** Lector: Ed Frederick
LEM: Bill Himelberger

10:00 Service

- 04/04: EASTER SUNDAY**
Lector: Georgie Daly
LEM: Kathy Kueppers
Ushers: Cindy H & Daniel E
Sun. Schl: None
- 04/11:** Lector: Kathy Kueppers
LEM: John Contoni
Ushers: Cindy H & Georgie D
Sun. Schl: Allison Manzo

- 04/18:** Lector: Alissa Alexander
LEM: Michele Alexander
Ushers: Georgie D & Trudy D
Sun. Schl: Cindy House
- 04/25:** Lector: Carolyn Cregar
LEM: Mike Cregar
Ushers: Daniel E & Georgie D
Sun. Schl: Alissa Alexander

If you cannot attend church on a Sunday when you are scheduled as a reader or Eucharistic Minister please get a substitute and let Sally know who is taking your place.

Stewardship Corner

“Keeping our Focus”

Scripture Readings:

“Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves Me” (John 12:26).

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15).

“... for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes ...” (Hosea 10:12).

Thoughts:

Have you ever felt that life is so full of distractions and that there are such pulls on your time that you have lost your focus? As God’s stewards, our goal is to live our lives for God’s purpose according to His grace given us by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament. Getting our priorities straight and sticking to them is one of the most difficult tasks we face.

It is challenging, but, with God’s help, it is possible to keep God at the center of our busy lives and to keep some of life’s diversions from consuming our time. We need to recognize that much of life is meaningless when compared to the times we spend in God’s Word, prayer, and worship. We may ask ourselves the question, “Does the way I live my life reflect the importance of my relationship with God?”

We may also ask, “Does my faith help focus my life or does my faith get lost in the blur of busyness and day-to-day routine?” Our goal is to keep “the main thing the main thing,” which is to love, serve, trust, and obey our heavenly Father.

Discussion Thoughts:

- What are some distractions unique to all of us? What distractions are unique to you?
- What does the Apostle Paul mean when he refers to “opportunity” in Ephesians 5:15?
- What are some values that guide your focus and actions?

Prayer:

Father, we thank You for the gift of life. Please grant us Your wisdom so we can see the foolishness of our own ways. Help us, Lord, to use our time wisely so that we may glorify You. Guide us in Your path. Amen.

If you know, or hear of, anyone from the parish family who is in the hospital, ill, laid up at home, in nursing/foster care, or has had a death in the family; please let Bill Himelberger know so a card can be sent from St. Paul’s. Bill’s number is 586-752-2565. This is a part of our Outreach/Stewardship Program.

Announcements

The Sacred Heart Men’s Choir, from Caro, will be performing for St. Paul’s on Sunday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m. A free will offering will be collected so that the choir can support its many charitable endeavors. Please join them for an inspirational evening and bring friends and family.

Credit Card Availability—Welcome news—it’s here—you can now purchase flowers for the altar, memorial garden, meditation walk. Also available for donations or contributions to special causes and outreach programs, including Sunday school, Diocesan Apportionment, disaster relief, Samaritan House, MCREST, etc. This became effective February 7 and you may use VISA, MasterCard, American Express. Contact Neil Russo for further information.

People can still give donations online through our website: stpaulsromeo.org

St. Paul’s Peach Festival Flea/Craft Market—Spring cleaning is coming. When you are going through cupboards, basements, closets, etc. think about our craft/flea market tables. If you have retro items you’re willing to give up we’d love to have them. 50s and early 60s items are in demand now. **NO CLOTHING**—this isn’t a rummage sale. Framed art you’re tired of, we will take them. Do you knit, crochet, sew, weave baskets? Our other table is for crafts/gifts. Contact Linda Willen, 586-254-1183, if you have questions or donations.

Do you need???

A licensed plumber:

Contact Pat Clinton
65165 Campground
Washington, MI 48095
810-459-3475

A licensed electrician:

Contact Rob Temple
67600 Powell Road
Washington, MI 48095
586-709-6845

Home Improvement Projects:

Contact Mark at 586-336-7215

Computer Consulting:

Contact Kevin Gereau at 586-453-1567

Auto Detailing:

Contact Gary House
586-291-4747

First Friends Montessori:

Teachers: L. Emery, S. Wilson, P. Wrobel
11100 W. St. Clair
Romeo, MI 48065
firstfriendsmontessori@earthlink.net
www.firstfriendsmontessori.org

Samaritan House News

April Pantry Needs

Juice	Hamburger Helper
Spaghetti Sauce	Flour
Vegetable Soup	Jelly/Jam
Laundry Detergent	Toothbrushes
Dish Detergent	Diapers, sz. 4-6

NOTE: We need low sodium foods and sugar-free foods in our pantry for clients with health problems.

April is National Volunteer Month

“The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965).

Samaritan House is a non-profit corporation that has two employees. That’s right! Everyone else here and so very many people who work behind the scene are all volunteers. We average 70 different volunteers here each month; many of them work here on a regular weekly basis. When we say that we could not exist without our volunteers, we really mean it. Please, if you see or speak to a person who volunteers thank them for their devotion to others and the time they give.

Curves Food Drive

We would like to thank Curves for Women for their March Food Drive. Curves Romeo and two Shelby locations collected food all during the month of March. We are very grateful they chose Samaritan House to be the recipient of their program.

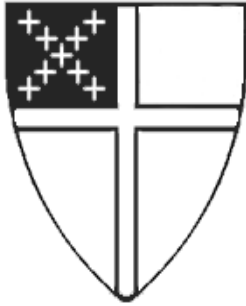
Calendar of Events

April 2-April 6	Samaritan House Closed
May 8	Mail Carrier Food Drive
June 12	Arts & Orchard 5K Run
July 31	12th Annual Golf Outing

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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The Church Mouse

is published by

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

11100 W. St. Clair Street
P.O. Box 148
Romeo, Michigan 48065

On Sundays

Services 8:00, 10:00 & 6:00
Church School 10:00 a.m.

For Information

Office: (586) 752-3212
Fax: (586) 336-9921
stpaulsromeo@juno.com
www.stpaulsromeo.org

The Rev. Stacy Salles

Home: 586-752-0971
Cell: 734-649-7726
E-mail: Revsalles@juno.com

Mrs. Sally Gereau Parish Secretary

Key Dates in April

Thu., April 1

- Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.

Fri., April 2

- Good Friday Services at noon and 7:00 p.m.

Sat., April 3

- Sanctuary Open for Stations of the Cross, 10:00-4:00

Sun., April 4 Easter Sunday

- Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Mon., April 5

- Church Office closed

Tues., April 6

- Men's Group, 7:00 p.m. at Francois—this month only

Sun., April 11

- Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
- Admin Comm, 11:00 a.m.

Mon., April 12— Sat., April 17

- Rev. Stacy on vacation

Wed., April 14

- First Friends Open House, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Thu., April 15

- Beer & Bible Study, 7:00 at Thee Office Pub

Fri., April 16

- Euchre Tournament, 6:30 p.m.

Sun., April 18

- Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.

Tues., April 20

- Hearts & Hands, 7:00 p.m.

Wed., April 21

- Church Mouse deadline

Thu., April 22

- Vestry meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Women's Prayer Group, 7:00 p.m., Susan Wilson's

Fri., April 23— Sun., April 25

- Happening

Sun., April 25

- Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.

Wed., April 28

- First Friends Open House 6:00-7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING IN MAY:

Sunday, May 2:
Labor Day Planning, 9:00
Monday, May 3:
Men's Group, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 8:
Cinco de Mayo, 5-8 p.m.

