

The Church Mouse

July 2010

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Romeo

Inside This Issue		<i>From the desk of Rev. Stacy:</i>	
Next Deadline: 07/23		<i>"For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery...For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another."</i> Galatians 5:1, 13"	I have not experienced living in a place where there are <u>no</u> jobs, <u>no</u> unemployment compensation, <u>no</u> government aid, no way to provide for my family and I have two choices—work for the drug lords or cross the border into the promised land (Mexico, Afghanistan)
Church School—Youth & Adults	2		freedom, most of the bondage we live under is what we do to ourselves spiritually. There is domestic violence, addiction, gossiping, unforgiveness... in every area in this globe. God offers a freedom that extends beyond our physical being. God says that if we manage our spirit, yoked with his Spirit, then it will not matter, in the long run, what happens to us physically, our spirits will soar.
Vestry	3	I am fortunate to have been born in a country that allows me to live my life the way I want, as long as I am not hurting anyone. My country has a government that offers benefits to me, yet I have the perfect right and ability to complain about that same government. Despite this fortune, I doubt my ability to appreciate my freedom, for I have never experienced oppression at the hands of others.	Stories of freedom and faith come from places of such oppression. From the nuns of Tibet, who smuggle new sacred songs out of their prison cells, the Mustard Seed Communities of Jamaica who teach the "left behind" children that they are precious in God's eyes, the small family shrines in Mexico which receive daily prayers of intercession and thanksgiving, the Islamic call to drop everything to pray, 5 times a day. Even when it is against the law, people practice faith and find freedom in being in relationship with God.
Stewardship	4		In our country, we barely need to pray for our daily bread, we should, therefore move quickly into asking for God's forgiveness and practice forgiving others (letting go of the past and moving forward). This is where true freedom lies.
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<p>St. Paul's Vestry</p> <p>John Contoni, Senior Warden Mike Wilson Junior Warden Bill Himelberger, Secretary Neil Russo, Treasurer</p> <p>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</p> <p>Our Vestry next meets on Thursday, July 23 at 7:00 p.m.</p>		<p>I have never been arrested for peacefully protesting against a nation which exiles my political and spiritual leader as they begin to govern my country with an iron hand... arrested and sentenced to 15 years, beaten and tortured anew each time I helped a fellow prisoner (The nuns of Tibet)</p> <p>I do not have the daily worry about suicide bombers as I sit with a friend over a cup of coffee. (Israel, Palestine, Iraq, Pakistan,..)</p> <p>I have not experienced a childhood where both parents died of AIDS and I was left to die in a river bed (Africa, Jamaica...)</p>	<p>In my country of "Let freedom ring", most of us understand our blessings because we hear stories of those who do not have our the benefit of liberty. But do any of us really understand what God means when he offers Freedom?</p> <p>Whether we live in a regime of oppression or</p>

Thanks to Cody Murphy for his wonderful work in the Galton Meditation Garden

A huge thanks to Cody Murphy who led Boy Scout Troop 256 in re-mulching the *Galton Meditation Garden. Cody also built 4 benches, two with backs, two without, that now circle the flower garden. He also made a pedestal to hold the beautifully painted rock given in memory of Harriett Salles, by the folks of Network Business Coalition (painted by Heide Wilt).

Cody Murphy is a student at Romeo High School. Cody lives near St. Paul's and is familiar with our beautiful grounds. He knew we had re-claimed the old "Extreme" Bike track that young people in the neighborhood had built, and wanted to help us beautify our space and provide seating for anyone in the community who would come and enjoy the peaceful

solitude of God's creation. We hope that you will take some time to walk in our lovely garden.

* The Galton Meditation Garden was formally known as St. Paul's mediation garden. Alex and Mary Alice Galton gave the people of St. Paul's the land on which we built our church building. In thanksgiving for the huge blessing they gave us, we name this beautiful and sacred place in honor of them.

Volunteer positions at the Church

Harvesting at St. Paul's—As I write this article I can't help but think of the Gospel story for Sunday July 4th—Jesus sends out 70 of his disciples to preach the Good News and minister to the needs of the people. Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way." (Luke 10:1-2).

The need for laborers—Although God would like us to exhibit and even talk about the Good News of Christ, we also need to continue the harvest here at St. Paul's. Maybe you are interested in being a Eucharistic Minister, Altar Guild, Lay reader, Church School Teacher. Perhaps you can lend gifts for the Administration, Finance, Property Commissions, Outreach Commission (Talk to me to find out what the heck these are). Maybe you are feeling called to lead a Christian Education program for adults. The more volunteers we have, the lighter the work load and the more successful we will be at attracting people to our wonderful and loving community.

Rev. Stacy's Wish List

1. **Acolyte Program for Youth**—We have some children who are interested in learning all about being Acolytes. Wouldn't it be great to start this up once again? We have some youth who are wondering why we don't have something going on for our teens
2. **A teacher to take one Sunday a month to work**

with our teen class—Rev. Stacy provides the material for the class. Currently we have Chris Hurd who does a great job, but she is our only teen teacher and she would like to have some Sunday's to do something else (like sitting through a whole service).

Diocesan volunteers—Another great way to help out is by volunteering for a position within the diocese. This helps St. Paul's keep connected to her brothers and sisters and also gives us a voice in various aspects of our church organization. People who have volunteered for various activities say their faith and understanding of church life is enriched as they extend themselves beyond the congregation boundaries.

1. **Cathedral Chapter**—If you have a love for all things "Cathedral" this organization might be for you. It meets 4 times a year. The people who come are from all over the diocese. They concern themselves with all the great things that happen at the Cathedral, the building that was built for all of us to share together.

I wish you all well as you pray on how you can help the harvest, right here at home. Rev. Stacy



Vestry

**VESTRY MEETING
THURS., JUNE 24**

- **Heard** a report from Village of Romeo President, Paul Reiz about the structure of the Village
- **Heard** that the Finance Commission is working on a policy and will submit it to the Vestry for review and approval
- **Heard** from the Property Commission that the work day on Saturday, June 19 was successful, but there is still work to be completed
- **Heard** that another work day is scheduled for Saturday, July 10
- **Heard** that the Administration Commission is working on the duties of the Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Secretary and Treasurer
- **Heard** that St. Paul's has been approached to be the starting area for the Peach Festival 5K Run
- **Noted** that 12 students will be returning to use the parking lot in the fall
- **Noted** that applications for new students to park in the fall will be posted in August
- **Noted** that the next Vestry meeting will be on **Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

**SATURDAY, JULY 10
WORKDAY— 10 AM-12 PM—
LUNCH INCLUDED.**

Please join us as we finish up in the memorial garden and completion of the small paved pathway that leads from the parking lot to the driveway. Those who cannot join us, please keep us in your prayers, for a beautiful and not too hot of a day.

**SUNDAY, JULY 25
LANSING LUGNUTS
VS.
CLINTON LUMBERKINGS**

"It's Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Day" at Oldsmobile Park in Lansing and Bishop Gibbs cordially invites The Diocesan Household to attend this fun event!

Cost: \$22 for adults
\$17 for children ages 3-12

Includes a game ticket as well as a delicious buffet lunch with hamburgers, hot dogs, barbeque chicken, side dishes, drinks and dessert. Lunch will be on the Tailgate Terrace.

Contact smccune@edomi.org or call Sue at 313-833-4435 about reserving tickets.

Folks With Halos



Special Thanks & Congratulations Go To...

- **The angel** who obtained a new printer for the office when the old one died.
- **Paul & Linda Willen** for the donation of printer paper for the office.
- For everyone who came and worked on the garden and future pathway: **Todd Gilleland, Diane and John Hotter, Trudy Dodson, Daniel Erickson, Pat and Kruiuz Kruiuzenga, Bill Himelberger, Paul and Linda Willen, Rev. Stacy Salles, John and Linda Contoni** (who did work on a different day than the rest of the group), **Mike and Susan Wilson, Dawn Strynkowski**. We also thank **Dwayne** from the neighborhood who not only worked in the garden, but made sure we had a fine lunch of delicious home grilled hotdogs.
- For **everyone** who has been passing out fliers for the Craft show in September.
- For the **secret angel** of coffee beans for bringing us more coffee and for **all those** who provide goodies at the 8 am service and the 10 am service.

Scheduled to Serve in July

8:00 Service

- 07/04:** Lector: Bill Himelberger
LEM: Paul Willen
- 07/11:** Lector: Sue Kraekte
LEM: Paul Willen
- 07/18:** Lector: Ed Frederick
LEM: Paul Willen
- 07/25:** Lector: Bill Himelberger
LEM: Paul Willen

10:00 Service

- 07/04:** Lector: Alissa Alexander
LEM: Chris Hurd
Ushers: Trudy D. & Joyce C.
- 07/11:** Lector: Carolyn Cregar
LEM: Mike Cregar
Ushers: Daniel E. & Cindy H.
- 07/18:** Lector: Daniel Erickson
LEM: Alissa Alexander
Ushers: Joyce C. & Trudy D.

- 07/25:** Lector: Michele Alexander
LEM: Larry O'Donnell
Ushers: Trudy D. & Georgie D.

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

“Me — A Letter?”

Scripture Readings:

“You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ . . . written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts” (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, Who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Thoughts:

A concerned man went to his pastor asking for literature to give to his unchurched neighbor. Instead of searching through the “tract rack” for the appropriate brochure, the wise pastor simply opened his Bible to the first Scripture reference above and asked his parishioner to read it. Yes, we are Christ’s letter to anyone who comes into contact with us. Before we can offer instruction, we have to offer ourselves in love and service to our neighbors. Before we can ask for commitments, we must demonstrate the joyful and joy-bringing life of the committed Christian steward. This is quite a responsibility. Christians suffer from the same frailties that affect others. We can be petty, irritable, and even nasty. We cannot excuse ourselves, however. We are Christ’s letter, and He calls us to be His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). We are the first, and often the only, letter that many will read from Christ.

In and of ourselves, we fall flat on our faces. Fortunately, we are not on our own. We are redeemed creatures. We are “in Christ” and, therefore, “new creations!” Our neighbors will see

us fall on our faces. Then it’s time to reveal the great mystery of grace, that, even though we are poor miserable sinners, God sees us as perfect creatures in Christ. He forgives and restores. He continues to use us as His servants to bring others to Him. So get busy and start writing!

Discussion Thoughts:

1. Should we put as much emphasis on sanctification as we do on redemption?
2. What should motivate us to service? What motivates you to service?

Prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, what an awesome call You’ve extended to us! I am often ashamed of the “letter” I’m writing. I confess that I am not what You would want me to be. Forgive my shortcomings, my sins, and cover over the offense I bring on the Gospel. Let me never be a stumbling block to one who is seeking You. Help me, instead, to be Your ambassador, serving others in love according to the grace You have given me through Christ Jesus in Whose name I pray. 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

Memorial Garden—The memorial garden is in need of volunteers to weed and trim. If you are able to help, please contact Susan Wilson.

Peachy Flea Market/Craft Fair, “To Do” List”

1. Keep making those wonderful craft items! So far we have knitted scarves, dishcloths and baby washcloths. Quilted candle mats, hot dish mats, lid lifters. Fabric snowmen in various sizes and children’s pillowcases.
2. Clean out the attic, garage, basement. Donate that unused croquet set, jewelry, glasses, dishes, tools, books, furniture.
3. Have unused baskets?—make some themed baskets to sell: “Tea for Two” with 2 tea cups, some tea bags and cookies for the baked goods table.
4. Spread the word that St. Paul’s is going to have a fun-filled four days at their Peachy Flea Market/Craft Fair on their lawn.
5. Volunteer to go to area flea markets and craft shows and hand out flyers. See the listing on the back table.
6. Volunteer your time for that weekend! Thank you in advance!

Just a quick note to let all know that when making purchases for the church at Office Depot, Office Max, or Staples, we do have tax exempt status—so save those “pennies” and take advantage of no sales tax!

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

July Pantry Needs

Juice	Cereal
Coffee	Canned Meat
Crackers	Jelly
Pancake Mix	Syrup
Canned Fruit	Laundry Soap
Toilet Paper	Port & Beans
Deodorant	Dish Soap
Toothpaste	Toothbrushes

NEEDS FOR OUR DIABETIC CLIENTS:

Sugar-free Jell-o	Crystal Light
Sugar-free Jam/Jelly	Splenda
Sugar-free Pancake Syrup	Sugar-free Fruit

**12th Annual Golf Outing
Saturday, July 31
Heather Hills Golf Course**

There is still time for you to become involved in our Golf Outing. We can always use gifts for the golfers, items to auction. Perhaps you would like to volunteer to help that day, or become a hole sponsor. And, of course, you could gather up three friends and golf. Call 336-9956 or visit our website: samaritanhousemichigan.org for details.

Rockin' at the Roostertail

Save Friday evening, September 24 so you can join us at the Roostertail for a great night of rock and roll and fun. Details to follow.

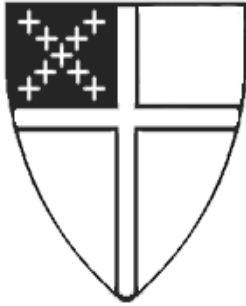
It's That Time!

Back-to-School Backpack Drive begins July 23. Backpacks will be distributed in late August. Backpacks, spiral notebooks, pocket folders, report covers, wide-ruled loose-leaf paper, binders, children's scissors, pencils, pens, watercolor markers, colored pencils, white school glue, 12" rulers, \$20 gift certificates to Payless Shoes, cash to purchase items are all needed.

Calendar of Events

July 2-6	Samaritan House Closed
July 31	12th Annual Golf Outing Heather Hills Golf Course
August 27/28	Back to School Distribution
September 24	Rockin at the Roostertail
October 3	Quilt Raffle & Crop Walk

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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On Sundays
 Services 8:00, 10:00 & 6:00
 Church School 10:00 a.m.

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Mrs. Sally Gereau
Parish Secretary

Key Dates in July

Sun., July 4
 Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Mon., July 5
 Men's Group, 7:30 p.m. at
 Younger's Irish Tavern
 Church Office Closed

Sat., July 10
 Workday—10:00 a.m.

Sun., July 11
 Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
 Labor Day Planning, 9:00
 a.m.
 Youth Mission Trip through
 Sunday, July 18

Wed., July 14
 Healing Service, 6:00 p.m.

Sun., July 18
 Fr. Chris Berg, guest pastor
 at 10:00 a.m. service

**Mon., July 19—
 Mon., August 9**
 Rev. Stacy on vacation

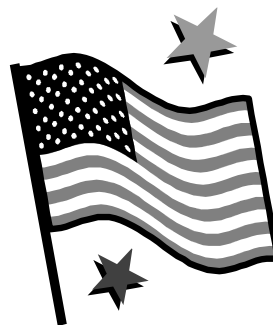
Wed., July 21
 Beer & Bible Study, at Thee
 Office Pub, 7:00 p.m.

Thu., July 22
 Vestry meets, 7:00 p.m.

Fri., July 23
 Church Mouse deadline

Sun., July 25
 Morning Prayer

Sat., July 31
 Samaritan House Golf Out
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UPCOMING IN AUGUST:
Sunday, August 1:
 Fr. Peter Groschner,
 guest pastor, 10:00 a.m.
 Labor Day Planning, 9:00
Monday, August 2:
 Men's Group, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 8:
 Morning Prayer
Tuesday, August 10:
 Rev. Stacy returns
Wednesday, August 11:
 Healing Service, 6:00
 p.m.
Saturday, August 14:
 Book Discussion, 11:00
 a.m.
Wednesday, August 25:
 Beer & Bible, 7:00 p.m.

