

Frankly Speaking

May 2007

Easter/Pentecost, Year C

St Paul's Episcopal Church, Woodville, TX

Break Down the Walls; Come, Know Jesus (Holy Ghost Power)

THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

Happy Easter! The Easter Season began on Saturday night at the Easter Vigil. If you have never attended the Easter Vigil, you've missed the most stirring service of the entire church year.

Some folks find it confusing to have two vigils. When we talk about the Maundy Thursday vigil of the Garden, that is the night of Jesus's betrayal, arrest, flogging and torture. We hold the vigil because he asked of Peter, John and James, in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Can you not wait and watch with me one hour?" We'll address this again next Lent.

The Easter Vigil is on Saturday night, after sunset, and is the first celebration of the Risen Lord. In Jewish tradition, a new day begins after the sun sets on the old day. So the Saturday Sabbath begins after sunset on Friday and, for us, Easter begins after sunset on Holy Saturday.

The Easter Vigil is not a vigil in the same way as Thursday night. That's just the name of the service, which dates back to the earliest days and practices of the first-century church.

Plan to attend the Easter Vigil next year. It's absolutely



St Francis thinks the new brick signpost looks great!

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

Happy Easter! The Easter Season continues until Pentecost.

Pentecost is one of the most important days in the church year, the day the power of the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles as they preached in the market square. Suddenly, tongues of fire appeared above the apostles' heads, and the crowds heard the Good News of Jesus, each in their own language! Look it up in Acts 2.

Historically, the Jews believed that God gave the Law to Moses seven weeks after Passover - on the 50th day, known as Pentecost. So our Pentecost comes fifty days after Easter, falling in late May or early June, depending on when Easter is. This year, Pentecost is May 27th, which is the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

Traditionally, we wear red on Pentecost to celebrate the fire of the Holy Spirit descending on us as it did on the apostles that day. So, mark your calendar now and put a sign on your closet reminding you to WEAR RED on May 27th as we celebrate this glorious feast day.

After church, we'll celebrate further with a **Pentecost Potluck** dinner. Bring a friend and a dish to pass.

NOTE: The church office will be closed on Monday, May 28.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

CHANGE

Adineh, Georgia Cell phone: 409-489-8927

Cone, Woodie Cell phone: 409-225-1697

Hill, Valerie (Quentin) Work phone: 409-283-3779
709 Beech St, Apt #6
Woodville, TX 75979

Becky Stowers (Dori) Cell phone: 409-383-6307
Livingston, TX

GRIEFS SHARED

We are all saddened by the loss of two dearly-beloved members of St Paul's.

Ken Kethan left us on April 10. We all know he's up there saying, "Hey, Jesus, have you heard the one about. . ."

Bernice Mott took her first breath of Paradise on April 27. We know she's taking inventory to organize the kitchen.

We miss them terribly, but we know they are healed, whole and happy with the saints who preceded them. We know we will see them again.

Thanks be to God, Alleluia.

WHAZZUP? Upcoming Events

May 13: Mother's Day

May 20: At Coffee Hour, Nancy will share what she learned in March at the Conversational Evangelism conference.

May 27: **Pentecost Sunday**
WEAR RED!!
Pentecost Potluck
Bring a friend & a dish to pass

May 28: Memorial Day

June 3: Trinity Sunday

June 6: Taize service, 6 p.m.

June 10: Jammin' With Jesus starts, 11 a.m.

June 17: Fathers Day

June 21 - 25: Fr. Steve gone

June 25 - 29: 2nd Annual Woodville Community Revival

Submit your information on upcoming events to be included in the next newsletter!

ASK FR. STEVE

Q: Why do you kneel during the middle of the Creed? Why do you "bob" your head sometimes?

A: I kneel during the second part of the Nicene Creed, when we say (of Jesus) "who came down from Heaven, was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and was made Man." That's called, in theological terms, "the Incarnatus," a gesture recognizing the Incarnation. Some clergy bow rather than genuflect, and some don't do anything. Some lay people also genuflect or bow, and others don't. It's a matter of personal preference.

When I "bob" my head, it's a small bow done when the name of Jesus is spoken. The practice comes from the scripture "every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Q: What is genuflecting?

A: When you genuflect, you lower one knee to the floor and raise back up. It is done as a sign of respect for the Real Presence of our Lord, generally when going into your pew from the center aisle or when crossing in front of the tabernacle or aumbry.

Q: What is an aumbry? What do you mean by "tabernacle"? I thought a tabernacle was a building.

A: The aumbry (*omm-bree*) is the brass cabinet on our west wall, near the lectern, under the sanctuary lamp (candle) on the wall. It has a locking brass door and is where the reserved sacrament is kept.

A tabernacle is alternative to an aumbry. It is a free-standing, locking cabinet used for the reserved sacrament. We don't have one at St Paul's, but some churches do. Some protestant churches have called themselves "Tabernacle" because it is an ancient word denoting the place where God dwells.

Q: What is the reserved sacrament? Why does it need to be locked up?

A: The reserved sacrament is either bread alone or bread and wine both, already blessed and held to be used for giving private communion, such as to shut-ins or penitents after confession. It is locked to keep it safe from vandalism and natural dangers, such as vermin or insects.

JAMMIN' WITH JESUS

Sunday June 10 will see a new evangelism venture begin at St. Paul's, on Sundays at 11.

Jammin' With Jesus is designed to appeal to those who do not attend church, who have questions about the Christian faith, or who are unhappy with the faith background they were raised in. It may also appeal to those who find it difficult to get up before 10 a.m. ;-)))

The Jammin' With Jesus service is patterned on the prayer book but more free-flowing. It will be lay-led but include Communion. The music will include a variety of styles, musicians and instruments. Anyone know a drummer?

We will have more information available and talk about **JWJ** at Coffee Hour this month. Be sure to attend on May 20, when Nancy talks about the Conversational Evangelism conference.

RELAY FOR LIFE REPORT

St Paul's had another successful year, raising over \$4300 of the total of \$53,000 raised for Relay for Life.

Jackie Fultz was our Team Captain for the past two years and put in many hours of planning and preparation for the various fund-raisers she organized. We extend our congratulations on the success of her projects and express our appreciation for her devotion to this ministry.

Cheri Hannum has volunteered to be the new Team Captain and proved her mettle at this year's event, staying all night & helping Jackie. Cheri is already full of plans and ideas for fund-raisers, and I know we will all work with her on behalf of St Paul's and Relay for Life in the coming year..

Thanks to everyone who has participated and helped make this program successful. We look forward to continued participation in this very worthy ministry.

THOSE CRAZY EPISCOPALIANS!

Why do they do that?

So, what's with Episcopalians and the color RED?

Red doors, red hangings, red . . . stuff Fr. Steve wears at times. What's with all that?

Most Episcopal churches have red doors.

This goes back to the story of Moses and the Exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt, and the origins of the Passover feast which is the basis of our Eucharist.

In the story, God told Moses to have the Israelites "paint" the lintel of their doorway with the blood from the lamb that was prepared for their final meal in Egypt. Then when the Angel of Death came for the firstborn sons of all the people and animals in Egypt, the Angel would *pass over* the homes of the Israelites and not take their oldest sons.

The Feast of the Passover is the annual remembrance of this experience. The Feast of the Passover is the meal Jesus and the disciples shared before he was seized and crucified. This is the origin of our Communion and the reason Jesus is called the Paschal Lamb.

So church doors were painted red to symbolize salvation by the blood of the lamb, from the Israelites in Egypt to the 100 generations following Jesus' sacrifice of his life for us.

The red doors also came to be a sign of sanctuary - that is: safety. Traditionally, soldiers and police could not enter a church to seize someone who had sought sanctuary there.

We use red hangings and the priest wears red *vestments* on holy days and saints days. Red symbolizes the blood of the many saints who were persecuted and died for their beliefs.

It was not uncommon, in the early days of the church, for governments to try to discourage this new religion, Christianity, by killing its followers. For example, we're all familiar with the stories of Christians in Rome, in the early days of the church, being sent to the Arena to be torn apart by lions, entertaining the crowds and "ridding" the Roman Empire of these problem people who refused to say they'd worship the Emperor. We also know, that didn't work.

In our own Anglican history, St. Thomas à Becket was the "right-hand man" of King Henry II, who appointed him Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. Henry thought that with Becket loyally in his pocket, he could seize control of the Church. Unfortunately for Henry, God seized Becket before Henry could seize the church, Becket became **God's** loyal servant and defied the king. As a result, in 1170, Becket was murdered at the altar of the Cathedral in Canterbury.

Richard Burton starred in the movie "Murder in the Cathedral," based on T. S. Elliot's play of the same name.

To read more about Becket, go to <http://www.bartleby.com/65/th/ThomasaB.html> or <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/becket.htm> or just Google "Thomas Becket."

WHAZZUP? Upcoming Events 2

Cursillo

Upcoming Cursillo dates in 2007 are June 14-17, August 2-5 and November 1-4.

If you are interested in attending, please see Fr. Steve or anyone who has already attended. Cursillo.

Your Event Here

If you are part of or planning an upcoming church event, please provide the information so that it can be included in the newsletter! Just put your information in the newsletter mailbox in the parish hall, or email it to Fr. Steve at <frstephen@sbcglobal.net> or to Nancy at <nksecaur@yahoo.com>

Know of an event or activity that should be listed here? Let us know!

RECYCLERS' ALERT!

Recycle your greeting card fronts for use as postcards, or (Christmas ones) as wrapped gift decor (handy for those that go in the mail) **OR** send all kinds of fronts (Valentines, birthday, etc.) to:

St. Judes Ranch for Children
P.O. Box 1426-AL
Boulder City, NV 89005

They will be remade into cards for sale to provide money for field trips and other activities.

Give your card fronts to Carol Sherer or place them in the Church Secretary mailbox, on the top shelf of mailboxes.

This is a cause worthy of your support, and it provides an easy way to recycle those lovely cards we hate to throw out. Remember, all they want is the card front, and cutting off the back saves on postage, as well.

Recycling is simply good stewardship of this Earth that God has entrusted to us!

St Paul's Episcopal Church

1703 West Bluff

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Woodville, TX 75979



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NOTE: The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 28.

Quick Peek at Upcoming...

May 20: Coffee Hour session on Conversational Evangelism

May 27: Pentecost Sunday with Pentecost Potluck
WEAR RED. BRING A FRIEND & A DISH TO PASS!

June 3: Trinity Sunday

June 6: Taize service, 6 pm

June 10: Kickoff of Jammin' With Jesus, 11 am

A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE....

A man climbs to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God. Looking up, he asks the Lord. . . "God, what does a million years mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A minute."

The man asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A penny."

The man asks, "Can I have a penny?"

The Lord replies, "In a minute."