

# Frankly Speaking

November 2006

Season After Pentecost, Year B

St Paul's Episcopal Church, Woodville, TX

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

### WELCOME

to St. Paul Episcopal Church's new newsletter!

This newsletter will attempt to be monthly, but there are no absolute guarantees in life except that God loves you.

Features will include articles on various ministries (such as Altar Guild, Men's Group, Alpha, etc.) with thoughts or ideas or requests to share, a listing of birthdays, anniversaries and events, requests for prayers and thanksgivings, church directory updates, and regular columns such as "Ask Fr. Steve," "WhazzUp" and "Those



*St Francis greets parishoners and visitors at the doors of St Paul's*

### Crazy Episcopalians: Why Do They Do That?"

If you have any news or information you would like to share with the family, or if you have a question to submit to "Ask Fr. Steve," please get it into the Frankly Speaking mailbox at church by the 22<sup>nd</sup> or email it to [stpaulswoodville@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpaulswoodville@sbcglobal.net).

If you email, please either use Microsoft Word or just type it in the body of the email.

Please plan to pick up your copy at church the first Sunday of the month. This will help us reduce mailing costs.

Thanks for your support.

Nancy & Cheri

### SILVER ANNIVERSARY

This December is the 25th anniversary of Fr. Steve's ordination to the priesthood .

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, December 10, for a gala Open House and Reception following church .

Other clergy are invited to attend following their services, as is anyone who wants to congratulate Fr. Steve and wish him well.

The Open House and Reception will take the place of coffee hour, with a light lunch of appetizers and finger foods. Please contact Reggie or Nancy to let them know if and/or what you would like to contribute.

#### NOTE:

**NO GIFTS, PLEASE**, or make a donation to your favorite charity or worthy cause on his behalf.

### FR. STEVE'S SCHEDULE

Fr Steve will be out of town the following days:

Monday, Nov. 20 through Friday, Nov. 24

Wednesday, Nov. 29 through Saturday, Dec. 2

For emergencies, contact the Rev. Dorothy Gremillion at St. Luke's Episcopal, Livingston, or the Rev. Tommy Williams at Woodville United Methodist.

**NOTE: The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, and on Friday, Nov. 24.**

## WHAZZUP? Upcoming Events

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Nov 12: Consecration Sunday

Nov 19: Gray Panthers sing at the Gib Lewis Unit

Nov 20-24: Fr Steve & Nancy gone

Nov 22: Deadline for December newsletter submissions

Nov 23: Thanksgiving Day  
(Office Closed)

Nov 24: Office Closed

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Dec 3: First Sunday of Advent

Dec 6: Taize service, 6 p.m.

Dec 10: Gala celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Fr Steve's ordination, after church

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Festive Holy Eucharist 5 p.m. Christmas Dinner to follow, by reservation

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Jan 6: Feast of the Epiphany, 12 noon Holy Eucharist. Lunch to follow

Jan 28: Bishop High here for Visitation & Confirmation

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Feb 1-4: Cursillo #215, The Cursillo of the Power of the Holy Ghost, Camp Allen. Lou Campbell, Rector; Fr Steve, Asst Spiritual Director

Feb 20: Shrove Tuesday with Pancake Supper

Feb 21: Ash Wednesday

Feb 24: Moon Magic, St Paul's School fundraiser, at Our Lady of the Pines Family Center

## ASK FR. STEVE

Q: Why did we move the Peace back to the middle of the service?

A: Because that's where the Prayer Book says it belongs.

Q: Why there, where it interrupts the whole service? What sense does that make?

A: We must not go to communion with unclean hearts. We've just confessed our sins to God and been forgiven. At that point, we have been reconciled to God. Now, before coming to the altar to receive Christ's Body and Blood, we need to be reconciled to each other.

We are told that if we "have aught against any" (that is, if we feel angry or resentful towards someone or feel hurt by their actions), we must go and make our peace with them before we go forward to receive communion.

Christ does not want us to be estranged from one another by hardness of heart. Remember the story of the servant whose master forgave his debt but who then turned around and prosecuted those who owed debts to him? His master rescinded his forgiveness and prosecuted him.

If we do not forgive our brother or sister as we have just been forgiven by our Father, then we are like the bad servant. We are not following our Master's teaching or our Father's will.

And when we ourselves have done something that may have offended a brother or sister, we need to go to them for reconciliation. We need to apologize and ask for forgiveness.

In fact, it's actually best if you seek out the folks you have problems with **before** you come to church so that you can address the real issue.

The exchange of the Peace offers us one last chance to LET GO of the nasty little devils that tempt us to defile the most holy expression of our unity as Christ's people, Our Lord's Supper.

So be reconciled with your sister and brother, offering them the Peace of God and receiving it from them. Then come and receive the blessing of unity with Christ and one another in Christ's Real Presence.

Yes, of course you may exchange the Peace with people you don't need to forgive or apologize to. But, first, do the hard work of truly seeking reconciliation.

One last word: Also seek out those whom you know to be visitors or who are strangers to you. What better way of welcoming people or starting a new relationship than in the Peace of the Lord!

Blessings on all y'all,  
Fr. Steve+

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

### ADD

Montgomery, Ruth (Janice)      Birthday: August 20  
402 North Pecan St.  
Woodville, TX 75979  
Home: 283-7732      Work: 331-9939  
email: [Jeno2u49@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeno2u49@yahoo.com)

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Hill, Valerie      Birthday: April 18  
Quentin      Birthday: May 6  
P O Box 322  
Burkeville, TX 75932  
Home: 565-4227      Work: 384-3451  
email: [mightyquen2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mightyquen2002@yahoo.com)

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# THOSE CRAZY EPISCOPALIANS!

## *Why do they do that?*

Those of us who did not grow up with the Episcopal church (most of us reading this!) have at times been mystified by Episcopal traditions. This column intends to address some of those questions and to explain some of those practices and some of our terminology.

First: We are Episcopalians, meaning we attend the Episcopal Church. It is not called the "Episcopalian church," it is called the Episcopal Church. We are not called "Episcopals," we are called Episcopalians. People who live in Houston are called Houstonians; we who are in the Episcopal Church are called Episcopalians.

"Episcopal" refers to having bishops. The "Episcopate" is the Office (position) of Bishop. "Episcopal oversight" refers to the bishop's responsibility for parishes, missions and clergy. An "Episcopal visitation" is when the bishop visits the parish/mission for confirmation, as Bishop High will do in January, and/or meeting with the Vestry/Bishop's Committee, inspection of parish records and finances, etc.

What's the difference between a Vestry and a Bishop's Committee? A Vestry is the governing body of a Parish. A Parish typically receives no aid from the Diocese and pays the full compensation and benefits package of their priest. A Bishop's Committee is the governing

body of a Mission.

A Mission typically receives some aid from the Diocese or provides only part of the compensation and benefits package of their priest. The Bishop is the Rector of a Mission and appoints a Vicar or Priest-in-

Charge to function in his/her place. St. Paul's is a Mission Church with a Bishop's Committee. Fr. Steve was St. Paul's part-time Vicar until the spring of 2006, when the Bishop appointed him our full-time Priest-in-Charge.

The Bishop oversees all the churches and clergy in his/her Diocese. A Diocese (*dy-oh-sees* or *dy-oh-siss*) generally is a specific geographic area, although with the recent controversy in the national Episcopal Church, there is talk of creating a "floating" position that would allow a bishop to oversee churches in unconnected geographic areas.

The Diocese has its headquarters in the Diocesan (*dy-ah-siss-sun*) Office, where the Bishop is based. Assistant Bishops may be based in the Diocesan office or in other cities. Bishop High is an assistant bishop based in Tyler.

You've made it through this sometimes-confusing terminology! In future issues, we'll look at such things as why some people kneel & others stand, why some people "cross" themselves, why the colors of the hangings change, and more.

*People in Houston are called Houstonians.*

*We in the Episcopal Church are called Episcopalians.*

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### CHANGE

Continued from page 2

Franklin, Jim & Susan                      Home: 283-7974                      Cell: 200-9417

Franklin, Heidi                                      email: [heidi.franklin@elpaso.com](mailto:heidi.franklin@elpaso.com)

Sanderson, Wayne                                      email: [we-bwsanderson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:we-bwsanderson@sbcglobal.net)  
B.W.    [cbts1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cbts1@sbcglobal.net)

Duke, Patsy  
153 Linsey  
Dover, Arkansas 72837

## WHAZZUP? Upcoming Events 2

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### *Gray Panthers Sing at Gib Lewis*

On Sunday, November 19, the Gray Panthers will perform for the prisoners at the Gib Lewis Unit east of Woodville.

The performance will be at 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel Building in the prison complex. Songs will include familiar favorites "Tramp on the Street," "In the Still of the Night," "Soon and Very Soon," and a new number for the Panthers, George Jones' "He Stopped Loving Her Today." That should be a show stopper!

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### *Taize Service*

We will hold a Taize service on Wed, Dec 6, at 6 p.m. Taize services are very calm, offering scripture readings, meditation, and simple, quiet music. Come and try it.

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### *Bishop High Visit and Confirmation*

Bishop High will make a visitation to St Paul's on January 28 for Confirmation and Reception.

If you have not been confirmed and would like to be, or if you were confirmed in the Catholic Church and wish to be received into the Episcopal Church, please contact Fr Steve.

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### *Christmas Eve Dinner*

Would you like to host a table for the festive Christmas Eve dinner following the 5 p.m. Festive Holy Eucharist? Contact Pat Knecht.

St Paul's Episcopal Church  
1703 West Bluff  
P O Box 546  
Woodville, TX 75979



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**NOTE: The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, Nov 23, and Friday, Nov 24.**

Quick Peek at Upcoming...

Nov 22: Deadline for December newsletter submissions

Nov 23: Thanksgiving Day

Dec 3: First Sunday of Advent

Dec 6: Taize service 6 p.m.

Dec 10: Anniversary Gala

Jan 28: Bishop High Visit

## LAWSON KETHAN BAPTISED



Lawson Kethan, son of Michael and Crystal Kethan and grandson of Ken and Darby Kethan, was baptised on All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 5.