

Frankly Speaking

November 2007

Pentecost, Year C

St Paul's Episcopal Church, Woodville, TX

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

ASK FR. STEVE

Q: Would you please explain the meaning of the colors we use in the church year?

A: In general, you will see 3 colors rotate through the church year: Purple, White and Green.

These correspond to the three categories of the seasons:

- Purple is for Preparation, used for the two Penitential seasons
- White is for Celebration, used for the two Festive seasons
- Green is for Growth, used for the two seasons of learning

These colors - and seasons - always cycle in that order:

- * purple, white, green; purple, white, green.
- * preparation, celebration, growth; preparation, celebration, growth
- * Penitential, Festive, Green; Penitential, Festive, Green.

The six seasons are:

- Advent -- Penitential, preparation
- Christmas -- Festive, celebration
- Epiphany -- Green, growth
- Lent -- Penitential, preparation
- Easter -- Festive, celebration
- The Season After Pentecost -- Green, growth

The church year begins with a Penitential season. Advent is the season when we prepare our hearts and our minds for Christ's coming. It begins on the 4th Sunday before Christmas, which could be as early as the Sunday after Thanksgiving or as late as the first Sunday of December, depending on what day of the week Christmas falls on. As a penitential season, it is traditionally purple but it can be blue, the color for the Virgin Mary. At St. Paul's, we are using blue.

Christmas follows, a Festive season of celebration, traditionally using white, but you may also see gold. White stands for purity and gold represents the utmost value - Jesus, of course. The Christmas season begins at sundown on Christmas Eve and ends at Epiphany, the day we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men. It is appropriate to turn on your Christmas lights for the whole season of Christmas, since it celebrates the Light of Christ coming to a world lost in darkness and sin (which we reflected on during Advent.)

We celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men, on January 6th, the *day* of



Frank is psyched about our All Saints' Sunday activities!

Epiphany (which means revelation). That begins the *season* of Epiphany, a season of learning and growth, represented by the color green.

The first cycle being completed, the next color is - ta da! - purple again!

Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Lent is the penitential season of reflection on our inadequacies, our sins, and our need for a Saviour. Lent leads us to the cross.

Lent is typically purple but may use bleached linen, representing the gravecloths in which Jesus was wrapped for burial.

Holy Week, which is part of Lent, may be bleached linen but traditionally is blood red (for obvious reasons).

Easter is our highest celebration of the church. Christmas is important, but if Christ had not accepted the cross, Christmas would have no importance at all. So Easter is white and gold.

Red is used for the *day* of Pentecost, symbolizing the "tongues of fire" seen over the apostles' heads when they received the Holy Spirit.

The long *season* after Pentecost is green again. This is the longest season of the church year, with its focus on learning from the teachings and parables of Christ. This lasts until Advent begins again.

(Continued on page 2)

DAYS OF THANKS

In a year when much was given,
Much was taken, too.
So we, who pause and give our thanks,
For what now is,
Think, too, of what once was,
And we are grateful for
The threads of lives gone by
Threads that enrich the fabric
Of this, the life we know.

(Anon.)

WHAZZUP? Upcoming Events

November:

1: All Saints' Day Holy Eucharist, 6 pm

1: Stations of the Cross for team and candidates of Cursillo #218, St. Stephen's, Beaumont, 7pm

1-4: Cursillo # 218, Camp Allen

4: All Saints' Sunday Lunch and activities, 12 noon

16: Russian icon exhibit opens at SFA University Griffith Galler, Nacogdoches. Runs thru Feb 10

16: Ultreya, St John's, Silsbee, 7:00 pm

12: Community Thanksgiving Service, FUMC, 6 pm

22: Thanksgiving Day

23: OFFICE CLOSED

December:

1: Christmas in Tyler County

2: First Sunday of Advent, with Instructed Eucharist at 9 am

5: Taizé Service, 6 pm

8: Advent Quiet Day, Holy Cross Monastery, Beaumont

23: Advent Lessons & Carols @ 9
23: Greening of the Church, noon, followed by lunch

24: Carols hymn-sing, 5:30 pm
24: Christmas Eve Service, 6 pm

25: Christmas Day service, 10 am

26: Healing service, no supper

Submit your information on upcoming events by the 22nd of the month to be included in the next newsletter!

(Ask Fr. Steve, *Continued from page 1*)

Remember the pattern: Two sets of three seasons in the same order: Preparation, Celebration, Growth. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany; Lent, Easter/Pentecost, the Season After Pentecost.

If you have an Ordo Kalendar, you will see that each day has a color designated. These will conform to the colors of the seasons plus any special days, such as saints' feast days. The colors of the hangings used will conform to these colors unless there is something special which requires a different color, such as a wedding or a funeral.

White is used for both weddings and funerals. Weddings, because they are celebrations of the new life created by God in the union of two, dedicated to and made holy by Jesus. Funerals are a time to give thanks for the life of one whom we loved and to celebrate that our loved one is now in the presence of God, so we use the same

color used for Jesus' birth and resurrection.

Red is used for feast days of martyrs. Martyrs are those who are known to have died for following Christ. Red is also used for confirmations and ordinations, because those are times when the Holy Spirit is invoked.

The Altar Guild is the special ministry dedicated to preparing the altar for each service and maintaining all the supplies and materials. If you are interested in learning more about the Altar Guild or perhaps even learning how to serve in this special ministry, please contact me.

In Christ,
Fr. Steve

WHY, INDEED?

Why go to Wednesday night events at St. Paul's? Well, if you're looking for what's in it for you, here's a short list:

Obedience training: I am an Episcopalian, either formally or "unofficially", and that makes me a member of the body of St. Paul's church. When that body gathers, I, belonging to that family, gather with them, just as I attend my personal-family gatherings.

Community: We are called to worship in community with others.... remember the "2 or 3 gathered in my name" business? Although some folks may seem strange (not me or thee, of course), we are all members and this is a chance to know and grow in fellowship with others.

Wisdom: As I listen to older members in their conversations, I learn. I hear of problems solved, of prayers answered, of needs met and I learn ways to live my daily life by and with God's grace, mercy and love.

Support: I find love, acceptance and concern from members of the community. Expressing loving concern for one another through food and conversation takes showing up. Being there is what it means. If you've missed Wednesday nights, we've missed you.

Fun: Being with people, young, old and in-between is just plain fun. Add a meal that you don't have to prepare, and a sing-along of favorite hymns, and you have a perfect evening of food, fellowship and faith.

NOTE: On the **2nd** Wednesday of the month, we have supper, a humn-sing or speaker, and lcase with Compline, one of the sweetest gems of the Prayer Book.

On the **4th** Wednesday of the month, we have a Healing service with Eucharist, followed by supper.

Once a **quarter**, on the 1st Wednesday, we have a Taizé (Tah-ZAY) service. The next Taizé service will beheld on December 5th. Plan to join us for a deeply moving worship experience!

EMAIL TREASURE

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith

if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy -- when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

QUOTE - "Life is a coin. You can spend it anyway you wish, but you can only spend it once."

A PRAYER FOR THE MORNING

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HOLIDAY RECIPE CONTEST

**** Grand Prize \$100 in Groceries ****

Categories:

Autumn Appetizers & Breads
Harvest Main Dishes
Festive Favorite Side dishes
Holiday Desserts

Deadline to enter is 4:30 p.m. October 29!

e-mail or bring your entries to: *The Tyler County Booster*, 205 West Bluff, Woodville, or email: vh@tylercountybooster.com

Contest Rules

1. Entries must be typed or hand written on an 8 ½ X 11 sheet of paper with name, address, telephone number, and category entered in the upper right hand corner.

2. Contestants may enter as many as two categories. Prizes will be awarded for the top three in each category: \$50 – First; \$40 – Second; \$30 – Third

3. After preliminary judging by a panel of food experts, the top three entries in each category agree to prepare their entries for the final judging for top prizes on November 9, 2007, and to have their picture taken for possible publication. Afterwards, the winners' dishes will be served to very special guests, the Tyler County Pastors.

4. The deadline for entries is 4:30 p.m. October 29, 2007. Prize winners will be announced in *The Booster's* November 14 Annual Recipe Guide.

5. Decisions of the judges are final.

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WHAZZUP? Upcoming Events 2

All Saints' Sunday

Don't miss the lunch and festivities on **Sunday, November 4**, celebrating All Saints' Sunday.

Smoked pork loin and beverages will be provided. Bring a dish to share. Carol Sherer is organizing "Saints Charades for our entertainment. *Don't forget to wear your Hawaiian shirt!*

Christmas in Tyler Co.

The annual festival will feature something new this year: Instead of a Tour of Homes with 3 homes, we have a Tour of HOME at Lonnie & Jill Grissom's! The tour will include a concert on the porch by our own Gray Panthers.

Date: **Saturday, Dec 1.**

For tickets, please see Reggie, Nancy, Darby or Lisa Knapp.

Cursillo

The Cursillo dates for 2008:

Feb. 21 - 24 (Conference Center)
June 19 - 22 (Conference Center)
Aug. 7 - 10 (Conference Center)
Nov. 6 - 9 (Camp Site)

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

Your Event Here

Part of or planning an upcoming church event? Please provide the information so that it can be included in the newsletter!

Just put your info in the newsletter mailbox OR email it to Fr. Steve at frstephen@sbcglobal.net OR to Nancy at nksecaur@yahoo.com by the **22nd of the month.**

St Paul's Episcopal Church
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Break Down the Walls; Come, Know Jesus (Holy Ghost Power!)

Quick Peek at Upcoming...

Nov. 1: All Saints' Day Holy Eucharist, 6 pm

Nov 1-4: Cursillo, Camp Allen

Nov 4: All Saints' Sunday, celebration lunch, 12 noon

Nov 16 - Feb 10: Russian Icons exhibit at the SFA Univ. Griffith Gallery, Nacogdoches

Nov 22: Thanksgiving Day

Nov 23: **OFFICE CLOSED**

Dec 2: First Sunday of Advent

JESUS IS COMING!

Word has reached us that a celebrity is coming to town! No dates have been confirmed yet, but according to "inside sources," he is expected to arrive within the next two months, probably by the end of the year.

We have a lot of work to do, to ensure he knows how honored we are to have him visit our humble community. We must organize committees to cover every aspect of his visit. We need to prepare a welcoming ceremony, find a place for him to stay, plan the best meals by the best cooks and the finest deserts. We also need to plan the activities and entertainment, so he will see what a warm, welcoming and *fun* community we are! Perhaps he would even enjoy a joint concert by all the churches in the area.

Anyone who is interested in chairing St Paul's "Welcome, Jesus" committee or in chairing or serving on any of the committees, please contact Fr. Steve.

The "Welcome, Jesus" kickoff date is Sunday, December 2nd. Get ready!