



CONWAY
St. Paul's
 A Heart for the Gospel - A Heart for People

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March 2010 Issue

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

Tripp Jeffords, Rector • Dawn Rider, Deacon/Faith Formation
 Sean Richardson, Youth Minister • Vicki Roach, Secretary • Ann Boutcher, Pastoral Care
 Ann Miles, Choir Director • Don Dickens, Sexton • Vickie Hogan, Treasurer
 Tim & Heather Underwood, Contemporary Music Team

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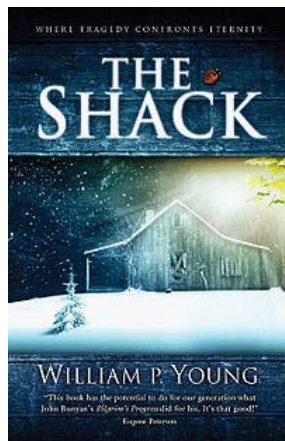
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(Submit news, announcements and photos for the April 2010 issue to spnews@sccoast.net and jamartin@coastal.edu by March 22)

From the Rector's Desk

The Shack - Impressions



Several people have asked me what I thought of *The Shack*, the phenomenally successful work of fiction by William Young. I'll have to say that I am not sure exactly how to respond. The book has sold well over seven million copies and has helped to create a great deal of discussion by people who aren't inclined toward religious talk. I am all for a book that leads folks to discuss their faith.

The Shack does a few things pretty well. It helps folks to wrestle with evil and suffering as a natural result of human abuse of free will. It leads the reader to an understanding that, even though God does not stop evil from occurring, God is accomplishing a greater good in allowing for it – one which we cannot see or understand at present. Since we don't have God's eternal perspective on suffering, the book challenges its readers to stop being bitter in the face of suffering and to trust that God is judge and we are not. *The Shack* puts forth the very biblical understanding that the presence of Christ can heal even our deepest grief. The book has even brought non-believers down the path toward belief, because it helps to remove some of the stumbling blocks in their way.

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From the Rector's Desk - continued from page 1

Tim Keller, the writer of *The Prodigal God* offers the following criticisms of the book.

- The God we meet in scripture is constantly condemning and vowing judgment on his enemies, while the Persons of the Triune-God of *The Shack* repeatedly deny that sin is any offense to them.

- The reader of Psalm 119 is filled with delight at God's statutes, decrees, and laws, yet the God of *The Shack* insists that he doesn't give us any rules or even have any expectations of human beings. All he wants is relationship.

- The reader of the lives of Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and Isaiah will learn that the holiness of God makes his immediate presence dangerous or fatal to us. Someone may counter (as Young seems to do, on p.192) that because of Jesus, God is now only a God of love, making all talk of holiness, wrath, and law obsolete.

- *The Shack* effectively deconstructs the holiness and transcendence of God. It is simply not there. In its place is unconditional love, period. The God of *The Shack* has none of the balance and complexity of the Biblical God. Half a God is not God at all.

A proper biblical view of God is one that retains God's character as both transcendent and also immanent; a God who judges and also heaps out grace upon His children; a God who is frighteningly holy and also unconditionally loving. *The Shack* does not retain this balance. Is it a totally heretical book? No. It is, however, marshmallow theology with a feel-good God and universal salvation at its core.

I would not recommend *The Shack* to a new believer, but for a mature Christian who recognizes the book as a work of absolute fiction, I don't believe it can do any harm. I just wish people were as excited to read their Bibles as they are to read *The Shack*.

Peace of Christ,

Fr. Tripp+

Instructions -- From Deacon Dawn Rider

For those of you who have children or if you've ever had any kind of contact with a child one thing becomes glaringly apparent in short order – when it comes to giving children instructions you have to repeat yourself. And usually you end up repeating yourself more than once.

Moses knew this. In Deuteronomy 6:4-8, Moses told the Israelites, *“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. **Repeat them again and again to your children.** Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again. Tie them to your hands as a reminder, and wear them on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”* The emphasis on the beginning of verse 7 is entirely mine.

In Deuteronomy 5 we find the second place the Ten Commandments are listed. It's these commandments that Moses is referring to in the passage above from Deuteronomy 6. But as I began to think about ways that we, as a church, could help people become 24/7 Christians and not just Sunday morning Christians, I started thinking...

I believe that before we can start living into Deuteronomy 6 – that is teaching our children, we need to go back and learn Deuteronomy 5 (or Exodus 20) for ourselves. Honestly, stop right now and write down the Ten Commandments. Seriously, do it right now, and write them down so you can check yourself.

Do you have ten? It's kind of hard to live the life we're called to live, much less teach it to our children, if we don't even know what's expected of us by God. And yes, God does have expectations of us. Moses makes that very clear throughout Deuteronomy, but especially in Chapter 6. The beginning of verse 3 reads, *“Listen closely, Israel, to everything I say. Be careful to obey.”*

And there we have one of those really difficult words – obey. Obey is a verb. It's what we learned in school is an action word. One definition for obey is to submit or conform in action to. And there we go again; another difficult word – submit. Our human nature is that we want to do what we want, where we want, when we want, and with whomever we want. It's a rare wedding ceremony where you'll hear the word obey in the wedding vows. And yet this is exactly what God expects of us – to listen and obey.

Of course some propose the argument that the Ten Commandments are in the Old Testament; we are a New Testament people. But Jesus said, in Mark 12:29-31, *“The most important commandment is this ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.”*

Before we can begin to teach these things to our children (and the age of the child doesn't matter) we need to listen, learn and obey. And then we need to repeat them again and again and again; to our children and grandchildren and to those around us.

Blessings...
Dawn

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Instructions (continued)

Other Announcements

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!
SAVE THE DATES!!**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL'S COMING JULY!!

Vacation Bible School will begin on Sunday, July 25th, and run through Thursday, July 29th. Our time will remain the same. Dinner begins at 5:15, with program starting at 5:55. The night ends at 8:30. Our program this year is "Hero Headquarters" and as always we're going to need tons of help. Check out the church's website for children's registration and volunteer sign-up.

We need people to help with crafts, story, games, nursery, small group leaders, youth leaders, decorating (set-up and take-down), and setting up each day. Please list your preference when you sign-up, but we cannot guarantee you'll get your first choice. Be aware there are a limited number of volunteer slots and you must sign-up in order to volunteer for safety reasons. You must also attend one of the training sessions offered in July.

Keep watching the newsletter and bulletin for more announcements and details as they become available.

First Communion Classes will be held March 20th & 27th, and April 4th starting at 9:00 in the church. Parents must attend all classes with their children. Please email Deacon Dawn at emdee@sccoast.net by March 14th if you and your child plan to attend the classes so supplies can be prepared.

Stations of the Cross are read each Friday evening at 6:30 through Lent. Please come and join us as we meditate on the Way of the Cross and walk in Jesus' footsteps on his final journey. A different version is read each Friday.

***It's a BIG birthday!
St. Paul's will be
100 years old on
Sunday, April 11, 2010
Put the date on
your calendar
NOW!***

"Authentic" Headlines - Sean Richardson

We have a new way of communication through our youth group website! Don Dickens has been actively updating and changing our youth website to make it more user friendly and eye appealing. Through the interactive calendar you can now sign up for events and download events to personal electronic calendars. Anonymous prayer requests can also be sent via a link on the website. Useful resources that I come across are also linked under the "Link" tab. Another tab will direct you to the Authentic Facebook page. This new website is a great way to organize your busy schedule and to see what the youth ministry is up to. Add this website to your bookmarks www.youth.saintpaulsepiscopal.com and make sure you visit often.

Sunday, March 7th we will travel to Christ United Methodist Church to see Ketric Newell. We will leave the church at 5:00pm and return at 8:30pm. Ketric Newell suffered from a learning disability as a child, but a verse in 2 Corinthians 12 changed his life: "My grace is sufficient for you..." In a "Moses" kind of way, God showed Ketric how he could have an awesome impact on the people around him because of the disability he wanted to hide. Since then, Ketric has spoken plainly about struggling in Christ, encouraging audiences to rely on the truth to set them free. In 2005, he joined LifeChurch.tv, serving as youth pastor to over 400 students each week. Please bring a pack of individual fruit cups/applesauces. **THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3rd.**

We will have a church cleanup day on Saturday, March 27th. We will begin the cleanup at 8:00am and finish around 1:00pm. Lunch will be provided. Please come and help clean our grounds as we prepare for Easter and of 100yr Celebration!! **PARENTS PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND WITH YOUR CHILD AND BE SERVANTS AS A FAMILY!!**

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER TRIP... This is open to all rising 6th-8th grade students. We will be participating in Summer Camp at Camp St. Christopher July 19-23rd. This week at summer camp is specifically designed for youth groups. We will be participating in the various activities at camp such as MUDPIT, low ropes course, seining, sailing, kayaking, archery, and much more. With all the fun we will also be growing in our faith through daily chapel, quiet time, and fellowship. I am really excited that we have the opportunity to go to camp as a youth group. This will be a great way to strengthen our community in Christ. The price for camp is \$399 but if you register before April 1st the cost is \$360. Please don't let cost stop you from coming. See Sean for scholarship opportunities. The churches that participated in last years middle school mission trip will also be participating this year at summer camp!!

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP... We will be going to Tampa, Florida and work with a program called Team Effort. The dates for the trip are June 27th-July 3rd! We are planning to spend an afternoon at the beach on the west coast of Florida and a day at Disney. The trip will cost \$325 and a \$125 deposit is due immediately! Since we are not putting this mission trip on ourselves we must register to reserve spots. Once spots are filled we will not have room to add additional students. I will register students when I receive deposits. These diocesan churches will also attend; St Michaels, Charleston, Christ Church, Mt Pleasant, St Johns, Florence, and Trinity, Pinopolis. They will also be signing up students so **SPACE IS LIMITED!!**

***In HIS grip,
Sean Richardson
Director of Youth Ministries
stpaulsauthentic@gmail.com***

March 2010 Worship Helpers

Sunday, March 7th

Vestry Person of the Week – Nancy Mathews
 Altar Guild – Sigrid Cork, Travis Cork, Ann Boutcher, Katherine Clark,
 Fran Mahaffey
 LEM- Kathy Hamilton, Mike Oyer

7:45 am Chalice/POP/ Lector – Gail Whitehead

9:00 am Chalice- Vickie Hogan, Kay Hungerford
 Greeters – Ed & Marilyn Bule
 Lector- Don Boutcher
 POP- Mike Battle
 Ushers – George & Millie Deegan

11:00 am Acolytes- Joanna Burch, Olivia Biddle,
 Harrison Biddle, Conner Miller
 Chalice- Terry Carotti, Pete Unsworth
 Children's Church – Kelsey Pharr, Elizabeth Singleton
 Greeter – Carroll Coleman
 Lectors- Sara Sanders, Pete Hearn
 POP – Donna Catton-Johnson
 Ushers – Bud Fretwell, Jim Selee

Sunday, March 14th (Daylight Savings Begins)

Vestry Person of the Week – Sammie Jordan
 Altar Guild – Tricia Dodge, Martha Lewis, Dianne Goldfinch,
 Kim Biddle, Barry Dennis
 LEM- Bob Wiley

7:45 am Chalice/POP/Lector- Edie Burgess

9:00 am Chalice- Marie Bennett, Lauri Rinskey
 Greeters – Len & Gail McCoy
 Lector – Ann Boutcher
 POP- Lauri Rinskey
 Ushers – Leo Nowakowski, Don Boutcher

11:00 am Acolytes- Gregory Roberts, Andrew Roberts,
 Caroline Ennis, Anna Roberts
 Chalice- Rebecca Lovelace, Blair Zoll
 Children's Church – Kelsey Pharr, Elizabeth Singleton
 Greeter – Rebecca Lovelace
 Lectors- Ginny Biddle, Willard Wadman
 POP – Sara Sanders
 Ushers – Bob Wiley, Gene Pharr

Sunday, March 21st

Vestry Person of the Week – Marc Thomas
 Altar Guild – Jacquelyn Wiley, Eunice Roberts, Nancy Mathews,
 Tabby Shelton, Pauline Pratt
 LEM – Gail Whitehead, Scott Johnson

7:45 am Chalice/POP/ Lector – Kathy Hamilton

9:00 am Chalice – Willard Wadman, Tricia Dodge
 Greeter – Billie Jo Reidell
 Lector – Shane Shelton
 POP – Jeri Dubbs
 Ushers – Russ Archer, Al Hogan

11:00 am Acolytes – Carolina Tilma, Mary Kathryn Tilma,
 Conner Thomas, Tradd Humphries
 Chalice – Donna Catton-Johnson, Geoff Davis
 Children's Church – Kelsey Pharr, Elizabeth Singleton
 Greeter – Jackie Andersen
 Lectors – Rebecca Lovelace, Geoff Davis
 POP – Pete Hearn
 Ushers – Travis & Sigrid Cork

Sunday, February 28th (PALM SUNDAY)

Vestry Person of the Week – Tricia Dodge
 Altar Guild – Nelljean Rice, Jackie Browder, Lisa Bennett,
 Jeanne Browder, Joy Wadman
 LEM- Cathy Battle

7:45 am Chalice/POP/Lector – Gail Whitehead

9:00 am Chalice – Vickie Hogan, Kay Hungerford
 Greeters – Richard & Sherri Tucker
 Lector – TBA
 POP – Don Boutcher
 Ushers – Ed & Marilyn Bule

11:00 am Acolytes – Christian Jeffords, Davis Jeffords,
 Paul Carotti, Hayden Jeffords
 Chalice – Wayne Schmidt, Lydia Unsworth
 Children's Church – Kelsey Pharr, Elizabeth Singleton
 Greeter – Dianne Goldfinch
 Lectors – TBA
 POP – Willard Wadman
 Ushers – Larry Biddle, Casey Biddle

March Birthdays

3/1	Brian Hungerford, Hayden Jeffords	3/13	William Sartain
3/2	Jackie Andersen, Tracy Pickens, Bryan Doyle	3/14	Tom Badgett
3/3	Jack Benson, Elizabeth Harry, Georgia Humphries, Charles Hawkins	3/16	Mike Battle, Landen Doyle
3/4	Gail Whitehead, Bob Wiley	3/18	Bob Davies, Pat Strong
3/6	Lyndsey Martin	3/20	Alexander (Alex) Owen Martin, Trish Kirchner
3/7	Bobby Smith, Margaret McGougan	3/21	Corrina Carotti
3/8	Joseph Smith, Jeri Dubbs	3/23	Allie Jeffords
3/9	Lisa Bennett	3/24	Carol Crane
3/10	Leslie Burch, Daniel Stanley	3/25	Leslie Jeffords, Terry Strong, Rob Smith
3/11	Logan and Harrison Skinner	3/26	Macon Lovelace
3/12	Jane Holley Wilson, Vickie Hogan	3/27	Barbara Stacy
		3/28	Julia Corontzes
		3/29	Mary Saunders

March Anniversaries

3/13	Richard and Karen Preston
3/23	Jeff and Emily Miller
3/25	Joseph and Margaret McGougan

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Celebrating 100 Years

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Announcements

JOYFUL NOISE CONCERT SERIES: Concerts will continue this year as part of the 2009-2010 season. They include:

Monday, March 8 - 7:30 pm

Chamber Wind Ensemble (CCU Winds)

Sunday, March 28 - 3:00 pm Patti Edwards, soprano

Sunday, April 11 - 10:00 am

St. Paul's Centennial Celebration

special music by brass, organ & percussion

Sunday, April 18 - 4:00 pm "A Celebration of Music"
(CCU Performing Arts Students)

Sunday in May - TBA Rodney Ward in organ concert

If you would like to be a patron or sponsor for our concerts, please contact Ann Miles @ 450.3906 or via email: amiles@sccoast.net. Checks should be made payable to St. Paul's and earmarked Joyful Noise Concerts. We thank you all for your generous support and for your attendance at our concerts!

COLUMBARIUM/MEMORIAL GARDEN: Columbarium/Memorial Garden information is in a brochure in the Narthex and on our website under 'Members section'. Applications and regulations are available in the church office.

ROTELLI DONATIONS: Michael Ryhal, owner of Rotelli, wishes to thank St Paul's parishioners for their patronage. Remember, he refunds 5% of our purchases to the Church, We have just received another donation in the amount of \$50.

MATTHEW 25: The second Sunday of each month is designated Matthew 25 Sunday, when all loose offering, and that so designated, goes to a fund to help "the least" of us in this community.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION POLICY: All articles for the next edition of the Epistle must be submitted to spnews@sccoast.net and jamartin@coastal.edu by March 22 for editing and approval. Anything submitted after the deadline will not be in until the following newsletter. In addition, we are requesting photos be submitted of various events to help "dress up" the newsletter. If you have any questions about the newsletter, please also submit them to that e-mail address as well. Thanks for your help, support and patience as we work to keep everyone informed!

PRAYER TEAM: The Intercessory Prayer Team is available to you at the 11:00 service every Sunday in the Cranmer Room (Prayer Room) to the right of the altar. Give us the opportunity to share your concerns in prayer with Our Lord.

Monthly Calendar

Check for the most current schedule of events online at:

<http://www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/week.php?crd=stpauls>

The Shepherd's Table

Step into 1412A Gamecock Avenue after 2pm on any Monday - Friday, and you are likely to find someone from St. Paul's helping to prepare a hearty food, mopping the floors, or attending a managerial meeting. Upon entering the large rectangular room with bright tablecloths covering small wooden tables, it is easy to see how inviting it is to come, sit, eat, and enjoy a devotion and a good meal. At 4:30pm a line forms outside as the guests start to congregate. Dee Shearin, coordinator of The Shepherd's Table, greets each person at the door with a handshake and a warm smile as he or she signs in, and gets ready to enjoy what may be the only hot meal of the day.

The Shepherd's Table, our local soup kitchen in Conway, is the brain child of our own Lyn Snyder. She, along with Tripp and other representatives from local churches, saw a need and began a mission to fulfill it. The Shepherd's Table served its first meal on September 15, 2008. The first few weeks served 20-30 people each night. Over 2009 the average was 68 people per night. To date that number remains steady with occasional increases to as many as 85.

Church groups and other volunteers cook and serve Monday through Friday of each week. The cooks arrive around 2pm and prepare a specific meal. The directions and ingredients are ready upon arrival. Around 4:15pm the servers appear and the cooks are free to leave once the kitchen is clean and the food is on the serving line. Servers are then responsible for a short devotion before plating the meals for the guests, serving drinks, and offering desserts. Clean up after the meal is also the responsibility of the servers. Normally all work is completed by 7:15pm.

Each church has a liason who compiles names of those willing to help. Sammie Jordan (397-3985) is our liason. Contact her if you are interested in serving in any capacity.

Thanks to the generosity of local merchants and the Extreme Food Drive, The Shepherd's Table has a full pantry. It seems that each time the cupboard starts to get bear, God's hand fills it up again. Still there is always a need for more cleaning supplies, gloves, and kitchen utensils. Donations may be dropped off at The Shepherd's Table or contact Sammie (397-3985) for pick up.

The only requirements for serving at The Shepherd's Table are a willing heart, helpful hands, and closed toed shoes. Our next opportunity to serve is March 16th. So if you are interested in helping, give Sammie a call and get involved in this worthwhile mission.