



News From *Behind the Red Doors*

June / July 2013

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The Broken Universe and Dandelion Greens

Most of us are happy to accept the physical world around us, enjoying the sounds of birds and the wind in the trees without worrying too often about how it all came to be. But there is a mystery back at the beginning, at the Big Bang. It is thought that at the beginning in that immense explosion, there were the same amounts of matter and anti-matter made. If that were so, how can there be any matter left over for us to enjoy now? Matter and anti-matter fuse with each other and destroy each other.

It turns out that the universe was broken at the beginning and is broken now, at its very heart. We think of balance and symmetry as lovely things, signs of perfection, but all the world around us turns out to be the gift of a broken symmetry. The exact details are the sort that physicist delight in (quark gluon plasma! Positive and negative quarks!) but the bottom line is that there is a very slight twist in the fundamental particles that make up the rest of matter, so that at the deepest level things are just a tweak off kilter. That little imbalance means that the matter and anti-matter didn't quite balance, and there was enough left over to make gas, and then stars, and then planets, and then us. Thank Goodness!

But quarks are mysterious and hard to think about. Let's consider dandelions and their greens (don't worry – these are connected! Honest!). One spring I discovered just how good dandelion greens can be as food. We started eating them mixed into salads (adding a nice edge). That emboldened us to substitute them for the endive we used to use for a lentil-blue cheese salad (every bit as nice as the original version). Next we used them in place of parsley in a sardine-parsley pasta dish. All good – and we haven't yet tried the recipes friends have shared that involve garlic. It has been delightful to turn what could seem like a weed into a healthy delicious vegetable that is totally local with a zero carbon footprint.

And that's the connection to the broken universe – God's grace is astoundingly generous and amazingly creative, turning the broken and the despised into the beautiful and joyful. God does not work with perfect beings (or we would all be left out!). God works through the broken and discarded to make this bountiful, abounding world, and can take our brokenness and create something we would never imagine. May God's grace work wonders in you!

+ Peace,
Mother Alice

You're Invited ...

Luke Geurink and Maria Snell cordially invite you to celebrate their wedding day with them. Although the service will be by invitation only, please know that everyone is welcome to attend their luncheon reception immediately following the wedding service right here at St. Paul's.

Date: July 27, 2013

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Altar Flowers

We will continue with having flowers on the altar. A sign up sheet is available for you to help with this. The sheet is located on the bulletin board at the entrance of the church.

ST. PAUL'S VESTRY MEMBERS

Karon Lewis, Sr. Warden785-6021
Gayle Langbehn, Jr. Warden ..785-6739
Diane Quiram, Sec/Clrk785-4782
Tami Allison 563-320-2615
Terry Martz732-3905
Deb Jepson.....785-4691

Newsletter prepared by Pam Jepson

Congratulations — St. Paul's honored our two high school graduates, Mickey Hagge, son of Tom Hagge and Adam Hollenbeck, son of Heather Hollenbeck, at the church service on 5-19-2013. Congratulations to both as they continue on the path that lies before them.

Miracles Can Happen Boys' Ranch — St. Paul's has made a commitment to provide support to the Miracles Can Happen Boys' Ranch of Wilton run by Jim and Cathy Fry. A basket at the back of the church is for a collection of food, paper products, personal hygiene products and just about any other thing that is essential in the running of a household. As the summer progresses and gardens are producing more than one can use, please think of the Ranch as they welcome fresh fruits and vegetables. Of course, gift cards are always welcome.

Vacation Bible School — VBS is again being planned as a joint program with Gloria Dei Lutheran, St. David's and St. Paul's. The scheduled dates are July 16-18 from 5:50 to 7:30 p.m. with a light dinner to be served. The last day will be celebrated as a water day with a fire truck and other water features. Miranda Durham is in charge of the program this year and she can be reached at 563-503-9252 if you have any questions. Watch for further announcements in the local newspaper regarding registration, etc. If you are able to volunteer your time and/or talents, please let Karon Lewis know.

Facilities for Rent — Hopefully you have noticed the ads in the local Wilton/Durant news and News and Views of the availability of our basement for meetings, family gatherings, parties, etc. A fee of \$50 will be assessed on those wishing to use our facilities. The fee will be waived for nonprofit groups. You are asked to spread the word of its availability and any interested persons are asked to speak to either Diane Quiram or Gayle Langbehn.

Mark your calendars!!

COFFEE HOUR

AUGUST 2013

- 4 - Joyce Jepson & Darcie Jehle
- 11 - Polly & Randy Geurink
- 18 - Tom & Diane Quiram
- 25 - Sandy & Dale Trede

We appreciate you volunteering your time and talent to provide a coffee hour. If you have any questions or problems, please contact Gayle Langbehn 785-6739.

DON'T FORGET...

Firefighter's Celebration August 9-10 2013

The Firefighters' Celebration is scheduled for August 9-10, 2013, this year. There will be a band on Friday night and also Saturday night. The talent show has been moved to Saturday afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

It's not too early to start rounding up family and friends to help us in our food stand.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom (563-360-3606) or Gayle (563-347-1497).

Condensed Vestry Meeting Minutes —

May 8, 2013

Old Business

Bathrooms Remodel Update—need two more boxes of tile so can't schedule until we get that. Voelkers is ordering the toilets.

Church Signs—Tami will talk to Jeff to get sign in garage to make sure it's same as the other one.

Turtle Tree Service/Prayer Tree—old tree has been removed so payment can be made as quoted. Discussed getting replacement tree from Light Plant's program and use as prayer tree.

Curtis Fry Event—decided to not give him a donation from the church. His travel expense were paid by the Thursday night event in Wilton. He did very well in Durant; not sure of the money he collected. He may be coming back to the school during school hours; discussed paying his travel expenses then.

New Crucifix—decided to not schedule the memorial service until we know the crucifix is done.

Courtyard Estates Sunday Service at 11:15 a.m.—Alice has committed to 6/23 and 8/18.

We have Leland Smith service on 5/26.

Clothing Closet Update—Jenn Jennings from First Presbyterian will head this up initially. Mechanics of how this will run will not be our responsibility. We may have someone on steering committee from St. Paul's. No charge for this service. We don't have fixed date for this to start in the parish hall.

New Business

Mission Statement—decided to put sticky note pads and pens on coffee hour tables and have people jot down words or phrases for next few weeks of what they feel our purpose is and we'll post them on the north wall of the basement. Vestry will then take that information to try to develop a mission statement for our church.

Collection of Goods for Miracle Can Happen Boys Ranch—basket in back of church.

Community Use of Church Basement Rules—made few modifications to the list Diane started. Should have document in format to be signed by both parties. Getting occupancy number from City and then we'll put ad in Advocate.

UTO in-gathering May 12—Tami is in charge of this but received no information about it this year. We have envelopes and boxes so we'll extend through 5/19.

Vacation Bible School—date is July 16-18. Mandy Durham is in charge of the program this year. Those interested or have ideas are to email Mandy at mandik37@gmail.com.

Spring-Summer Storm Seasons Assistance per e-mail—It was mentioned that we think St. Paul's is already a location for a shelter. Tami to confirm with the City.

Memorial Day Service—We are responsible for just the innovation. Gayle volunteered to do this. Service starts at 9 a.m. at the cemetery.

Shady Creek June 2nd—do we want to do this again in September? Decided to keep both on our calendars for now.

Graduates from St. Paul's—We have Adam Hollenbeck and Mickey Hagge. Graduation is now Thursday 5/16 so decided to have service honoring them on Sunday 5/19. We'll have cake for coffee hour.

Conference Table & Chairs in Parish Hall—Do we want to sell these? We don't need them for the clothing closet, per Alice. Tami indicated the Light Plant could use these. Negotiations will start with the Light Plant concerning the purchase amount.

Altar Guild—It was decided we'd have the Eucharistic minister put these items in the closet after services, if the person assigned altar duty is not in church that day.

Wilton-Durant Ministerial Association—meeting was held at St. Paul's 4/10. Alice shared copies of the minutes for that meeting with the group.

Meeting was motioned to adjourn.

Respectively submitted,

Diane Quiram, Clerk

Condensed Vestry Meeting Minutes —

April 14, 2013

Old Business

Church Signs—Al Olderog will put up both signs found for us.

New Neighbor List—Durant and Wilton each have their own baskets they give newcomers. We will continue to put our red pamphlets in these baskets but are not going to include cookbooks any longer. We want to save those for visitors to our church. Karon is going to ask if our flyer can also go into the Wilton baskets.

Curtis Fry Speaking Engagement—Diane reported this is finalized for Friday 4/26 at 6:30 in the High School auditorium. She will be putting out a sign-up sheet for cookies and punch to serve afterwards. Diane will be putting up flyers in town and Polly will ask the Advocate to put in notices this week and next.

St. Paul's Email Address—Karon reported she had this shut off with the phone company.

New Crucifix—Polly reported this and two stands have been ordered and will take 4-5 weeks to get here. We'll have special service when these arrive. Tentatively scheduled for June 2.

Grinnell Retreat—Information was shared in the church bulletin today. Will be held 6/28 – morning of 6/30. It was motioned and passed to pay for anyone going from St. Paul's (excluding mileage).

Removal of Pine Bush by Parish Hall—Deb shared estimate from Turkle's is \$120 to remove, grind stump, and fill hole. Motioned and passed.

Bathroom Remodel Update—Polly to get with Voelker's to purchase toilets and get installation date. Once a date is secured, we'll set date for tear-out work and get Mike Grunder lined up to do the tiling.

Other Old Business:

Polly shared she's reworking old "accounting" pages she found of memorials. Karon indicated the real "old" pages are in a blue or red binder and the contents are handwritten. Gayle thinks she may have that and will look.

Diane indicated St. Paul's did not have anything in the Advocate about our Easter Services. We need to make sure we do this for Easter and Christmas going forward.

New Business

~~Collection of Goods for Miracles Can Happen Boys Ranch—Karon to call Dave Mohr at BFC and have private that make sense.~~

Spring Cleanup—scheduled for Sunday 4/28 after church. Tami shared that Jeff & Sue (our tenants) have asked if they can put up a privacy fence to the east of their patio. They are willing to cover the expense and will decorate the east side attractively. Agreed to let them do this. Sue also wants to take care of the plants herself around her house.

Collection of Goods for Miracles Can Happen Boys Ranch—their website indicates items they are in need of. Need to put some collection container(s) in back of church for people to keep their needs in front of us.

Community Usage of Basement—After discussion Karon motioned to have \$50 fixed fee for private events; free will donation for non-profit groups; need list of rules established; no deposit. This was passed. Everyone to email Karon on what they think needs to be part of the rules. Deb to check what our fire capacity number is. Gayle and Diane will be contacts for those wanting to rent the basement. Alice or David will show them how to update the calendar on the website.

Courtyard Estates Request for Sunday Service—They have 11:15 a.m. service time and are asking if St. Paul's wants to be in their pastor rotation. Alice is agreeable to do, but wouldn't be able to start until June. She'd have to work around Leland Smith services and our bible study dates. We would pay Alice for a second service plus extra mileage to and from Walcott. Alice is to call Courtyard Estates and arrange dates/times (not to exceed once per quarter).

Thermostat in Basement—Brian Brooks installed new digital thermostat and did not charge St. Paul's.

Bishop's Chair at Altar—We need to fix the wood and have this chair reupholstered. Karon will call Diane Delever in Wilton to see if she can do this.

Ministerial Association—Alice shared that St. Paul's is hosting the 5/8 meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Alice shared that at the recent Ministerial Association meeting she attended, it was shared they are looking for space to "house" their clothing closet they have for those in need. Jenn Jennings from First Presbyterian Church heads that up. Alice asked if we'd consider the parish hall. Discussed doing this for a year to see how this works. Alice will contact Jenn Jennings to see when she wants to look at this space to see if it will work. We need to look in the parish hall and the garage to see what we can get rid of.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Quiram, Clerk

C.H.O.I.C.E.S.

On Friday, April 26, Curtis Fry spoke to the Durant Community in the High School Auditorium.

Curtis is a Wilton High School graduate and an inspirational speaker who talks to people, young and old about "C.H.O.I.C.E.S." (choosing Him over I changes every situation)

With approximately 125 people in attendance, Curtis shared how he made poor choices on the night of his 21st birthday and ended up taking the life of a 75 year old man.

Curtis spent almost four years in prison and with his quiet faith, shared how he got through that time, changed the lives of others, and how he's using his faith now to share his story and ministry with others.

St. Paul's sponsored this event and as a result of the inspiring presentation, Durant School is planning on bringing him back next fall to talk during school hours to a broader audience of students.

Ministries For June

June 2 — 9:00 a.m.

EML - Karon Lewis
A.G. - Diane Quiram
C.H. - Pam Jepson & Deb Jepson

June 9 — 9:00 a.m.

EML - Gayle Langbehn
A.G. - Diane Quiram
C.H. - Dave & Karon Lewis

June 16 — 9:00 a.m. — *Father's Day*

EML - Polly Geurink
A.G. - Pam Jepson
C.H. - Tami & Dave Allison

June 23 — 9:00 a.m.

EML - Terry Martz
A.G. - Pam Jepson
C.H. - Al & Wendy Olderog

June 30 — 9:00 a.m.

EML - Karon Lewis
A.G. - Wendy Olderog
C.H. - Skip Sorgenfrey & Terry Martz

Ministries For July

July 7 — 9:00 a.m.

EML - Polly Geurink
A.G. - Wendy Olderog
C.H. - Sandy & Dale Trede

July 14 — 9:00 a.m.

EML - Gayle Langbehn
A.G. - Tami Allison
C.H. - Skip & Sandy Boldt

July 21 — 9:00 a.m.

EML - Terry Martz
A.G. - Tami Allison
C.H. - Nancy & Leroy Steffen

July 28 — 9:00 a.m.

EML - Karon Lewis
A.G. - Deb Jepson
C.H. - Tom & Gayle Langbehn

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is hard to believe that summer is upon us-- where was spring? The church doesn't go on summer vacation and for that matter neither does God. If you are taking a vacation this summer, don't forget to take a St. Paul's towel with you and have your picture taken with it. If you so desire, we will then have it posted to either our website or Facebook or both.

Speaking of Facebook, all of us have probably experienced a 3,4 or 5 year old being more accomplished with electronics than most of us adults are. I would like you to journey with me on your computer to a new and exciting website which will make you feel like an old pro at this new world. I am becoming more familiar with the web and all it has to offer and I would like to introduce you to a wonderful site which can uplift you on a daily basis and give you many thoughts to ponder. ECF Vital Practices is a Facebook page which has many interesting articles which are particularly relevant to the small

church like St. Paul's. To access this, google ECF Vital Practices .org. Which will take you to their site. Then click on Follow on Facebook and follow their instructions. Another site will give you, on a daily basis, both morning and evening prayer along with musical selections. Again google Unapologetically Episcopalian and when their site comes up look for a tab for Facebook. Click on "like". You may then be asked to log onto your Facebook site. This should get you in the position of getting all new entries to these sites on your Facebook page. On ECF Vital Practices there is a current article on Eleven Traits of Churches that will Impact the Future. Of particular interest is point #5 - A willingness to embrace smaller to become bigger. It says in part, "when small churches stop trying to be mega-churches, good things can happen".

Please try your hand at this. Keep on surfing...

*Yours in Christ,
Karon*

June Anniversaries

BIRTHDAY:

- 2 - June Mardock
Ben & Brittany Jepson
- 5 - Allison Birkett
- 19 - Karson Trede
Heidi Wulf
- 23 - Elizabeth Thoma
- 24 - Jean Novinski
Terry Martz
- 29 - Joyce Jepson

BAPTISMAL:

- 19 - Antonio Mesa
- 20 - Abigale Boldt
- 23 - Tami Allison

WEDDING:

- 25 - Skip & Sandy Boldt

DEATH:

- 7 - Blanche Jepson
- 11 - Jim Paustian
- 12 - Loren Cole
Dennis Avey
- 13 - Alvina Lewis
- 15 - Velma Otto
- 19 - Joyce Lincoln
- 20 - Leroy Geurink
- 21 - Hank Hagge
- 25 - Adelia Schlapkohl
- 28 - Amelia Siems

July Anniversaries

BIRTHDAY:

- 7 - Kevin Jepson & Skip Boldt
- 10 - Luke Geurink
- 15 - Polly Geurink
- 16 - Lily Ann Olderog
- 20 - Laila Schmidt
Louis Thoma
- 24 - Victoria Novinski
- 27 - Sandy Boldt
- 29 - Darcie Jehle

BAPTISMAL:

- 22 - June Mardock
- 30 - Nancy Steffen

WEDDING:

- 11 - Dale & Sandy Trede
- 26 - Dennis & Cathy Juchter

DEATH:

- 2 - Ella Rife
 - 8 - Minnie Otto
 - 15 - Wilma Jepsen
 - 16 - Bob Reimers
 - 17 - Cecil Robb
 - 21 - Kurt Schreck
Elizabeth Johnson
 - 25 - Pearl Hagge
 - 26 - John Christiansen, Jr.
Florence Christiansen
 - 28 - Norma Ploen
 - 30 - Harry Diedrich
-