

The Messenger

*Word to World
from the Priest-in-Charge*

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The Word is committed to the reign of God and the law of love, whatever the cost to ourselves. The world is committed to our personal survival and that of the families and groups we belong to, whatever the cost to others.

Friends,

What do you think is the bottom-line mission of the Church? What are we supposed to accomplish as Christians and as a Christian organization? "Word to world" is one memorable way to articulate our mission.

We have, in our hands and in our minds, the Word. This "Word" is actually lots of words, myths, stories, histories, aphorisms, regulations, and principles that are found in the Bible. "The Word" is a shorthand way of speaking about the Bible, and the Church considers "the Word" to be God speaking to us—the Word of the Lord.

We also have—in our culture, our physical nature, and our minds—the "world." The New Testament distinguishes between the "world" and "the kingdom." The contrast is made between what we are given in our nature (the world), and what we can become and generate among ourselves (the kingdom of God).


The Word is committed to the reign of God and the law of love, whatever the cost to ourselves. The world is committed to our personal survival and that of the families and groups we belong to, whatever the cost to others.

The Word aims at light and truth. The world aims at winning.

So, the bottom-line mission of the Church could be said to be "bringing the Word to the world" so that the world might be transformed into something approaching the kingdom of God. This is a daunting task, it seems to me, since it means confronting, on a day to day basis, the stubborn and intractable nature of the world. That nature, every time we bring order, light, and peace to it, instantly reverts to its former state—something like a rubber band, the world snaps back into its natural shape. Word to world is thus a never-ending task; the job is never finished.

On the other hand, there is great satisfaction in not having to be anxious about the world, in living in the kingdom, in trusting our Creator God to make things right in the end. There is great satisfaction in standing in the Word as we confront the world. And when the miracle occurs, when some small piece of the world is transformed into the kingdom, if only for a short time, then the struggle is worthwhile.

We pray regularly "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven." We are praying that God's Word will transform the world. We are bringing Word to world.



Out of Africa - A Spiritual Lesson

Marian Acquah and Pam Abner, Vestrymembers



Lions in Harmony

Photo by Geert Dhont

THIS SUMMER WE WERE BLESSED with the opportunity to travel with our families to Kenya. Upon our arrival in Nairobi, friends treated us to a wonderful welcome party. Later on our visit, we ventured by car through the Great Rift Valley en route to our safari in Masai Mara. During our 5-hour drive from Nairobi we immediately felt calm and peacefulness while enjoying the beauty of nature including sightings of baboons, goats, and unique birds.

As we passed through the Masai villages, we experienced the tranquility of the warriors in their communities living in perfect harmony with the land and caring for their herds of cows as though they were their own offspring. We saw women decorated in make-up of vibrant colors and learned that this indicated a marital ceremony would soon take place.

At our game reserve, the Kenyan people greeted us as family and we were extremely touched by the warmth and humility of the people. We spent three glorious days at our camp and on safari where we saw nature at its best—including the thrill of seeing mating lions, white rhinos, cheetah, buffalo, hyenas, and a myriad of other splendid creatures. Remarkably, we found the animals ignored our presence—so long as we remained respectful of their land and did not threaten them. We came away realizing that we should appreciate and be thankful for the wonderful world in which we live.

Lastly, we visited the remote island of Lamu—which is a predominantly Muslim community with Swahili culture dating back over a thousand years. We learnt and appreciated many basic life lessons observing and interacting with the beautiful people while touring the islands in the archipelago of Lamu. We also took the time to visit a local orphanage in Lamu, where we were quite humbled by how kindly the staff and children received us. We were also deeply impressed by the wonderful services that are available to the children there—it truly was reflective of the sense of community and caring that the Lamu people exude. This was a trip we hope our children will always remember.

CHANGES IN THE EUCHARISTIC SCHEDULE

**Please note that the Tuesday morning Eucharist has been cancelled,
that the Thursday evening Eucharist is moved to Wednesday,
and that the Saturday evening Eucharist is a Healing service.
*There will be music at all services.***

An Anecdote: E-Mail to The Messenger from Parishioner Johanne Gambrill

INTERESTING ARTICLE ABOUT WOLOF IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE MESSENGER! In 1961, I was a participant in *Operation Crossroads-Africa*. Two hundred college students and other young post-university students were chosen to work in countries in Africa in groups of about 12. My group, which was the United States in microcosm, representing many religions and races, male and female, was located in Senegal. Forty kilometers south of Dakar is a village called Popenguine where we built a school. Our 12 African counterparts spoke French, Arabic and Wolof and some English. We communicated in French with the African students. With the villagers we used words from many languages. We learned some Wolof. The children were generally puzzled, so we drew pictures in the dirt to explain what we wanted to say, and they drew pictures for us. In the evenings after work, we had lectures. One night we would speak in English and it was translated into French. The Africans spoke French and it was translated into English, even though we had all become fluent in both languages! We discussed our cultures.

Arabic was the language of the educated people. French was the "tourist" language and Wolof was the language of the villagers.

Dakar looked a lot like DC. We landed in Dakar and spent a week there. The government had just had a change of ministers and didn't know who we were! After a week we were kicked out of the country and went to the next door neighbor, Mali. We were taken in by some Catholic nuns who fed us and arranged trips (I use the term loosely) to places around the capital, Bamako. Two weeks later, we were invited back to Senegal and sent to the village of Popenguine to build a school.

Popenguine is in the middle of nowhere, as are most of the villages. We had a spectacular experience, one that has allowed me to see the world through different eyes and has allowed me to head projects in the school where I last taught for 11 years, including running an Africa Day. Africa Day is another chapter. I won't explain it now.

Who knew that Wolof would inspire this e-mail?

October Birthdays

10/02 Grafton Huggins, Jr.
10/03 William Payne
10/07 Nagelia Harrison Sheldon
10/07 Shirley Bodine
10/08 Robert Shearer
10/10 Dorothy Campoli
10/10 Beverley Lannaman
10/14 Andrea Kinloch
10/15 John Bullough
10/17 Sandra Bonnick
10/21 Ethel Moses
10/22 Christina Charlery
10/22 Nereida Ferran-Hansard
10/23 Lydja Mitchell
10/25 Ruth Herrick
10/30 Dolores Kinloch
10/30 Faris Herbert
10/30 Veronique Dhont
10/30 Wilma Huntley

Music Notes by Mark Trautman, Music Director

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR IS BUSILY REHEARSING FOR THE FALL and preparing for our annual All Souls observance on Sunday, November 7 at 7 p.m. Rehearsals are every Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 and Sunday mornings at 9:30. Sight-reading skills are recommended. For more information, call me in the Parish Office, or email me at matrautman304@gmail.com.

Small Voices began rehearsals on September 26 and will sing for the first time this year on October 17. Under the direction of Kelli Estes, this choir will lead worship most every third Sunday of the month during the academic year. Elementary through early middle school singers are welcome; for more information, contact Kelli at kellidit@yahoo.com.

St. Paul's Concert Series will begin on Sunday, October 24 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our own Kelli Estes will join mezzo soprano Tracelyn Gesteland and pianists Gary Norden and Jeremy Wood in a program of French, American, and Spanish songs in "Dueling Divas." Please come and support these fine musicians and the St. Paul's music program. There will be a suggested donation of \$10 at the door, and a reception will follow. Check our Website for more information.

WOMEN OF ST. PAUL'S: If you would like to form a women's reading group, please call Janice Walker at 201-833-4081, or Peg Slaven at 201-767-6117.

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

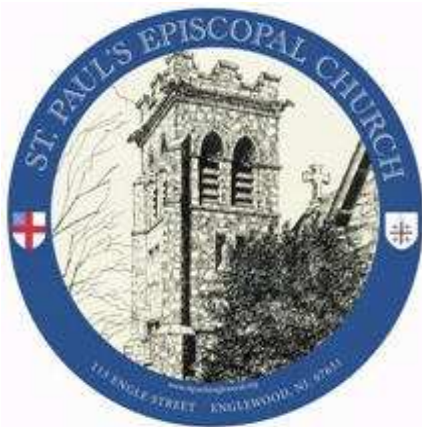
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www.stpaulsenglewood.org



Where We Are by Bill Payne, Treasurer

Deficit Still Growing

Vestry Authorizes Extra Drawdown from Endowment

BECAUSE THE DEFICIT GREW by another \$8,357 in August 2010, St Paul's owed \$6,401 in outstanding bills and no money to cover the payments at the end of last month. The deficit for the year is now \$48,741, and we cannot keep paying bills late with, in some cases, late fees attached. Therefore, as announced in church by Warden Pat O'Neil September 19 in anticipation of needed urgent action by the Vestry, the Vestry authorized an extra drawdown of \$20,000 at the Vestry Meeting on September 21 to cover present outstanding bills and anticipated future deficits for 2010. This drawdown was transferred to the church's account September 24.

As of August 31, 2010, year-to-date income was \$266,168, \$8,818 *below* the budgeted \$274,986; thus, we have fallen behind in our income projections for the year. However, this is due to a temporary lapse in rent payments from our 3 major tenants, who are almost \$20,000 in total behind in rent at this point, though we do not anticipate any problems in receiving all their overdue rents soon. We have for now cut costs enough to bring the year-to-date expenses back in line: As of August 31 they were \$314,909 *vis-à-vis* the budgeted \$315,400.

But please remember that the 2010 budget is a **deficit** budget so ***even if we keep the costs down as we have and get our income back to or even over the budget, we will still be operating at an estimated deficit of \$5,000 per month.*** Only increased pledging can make up this deficit and prevent future extra drawdowns from the endowment without further drastic cost-cutting.

The value of the Endowment Fund is \$1,090,000 as of September 23, prior to the drawdown on September 24.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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