

January 2014



# St. Paul's Epistle



## Mission Statement

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, anchored in the love of Christ, Scripture, worship and outreach, offers shared leadership and casts a beacon of light to all.

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1307 West 5th Street Freeport, Texas 77541**  
**Phone/Fax 979-233-3673 email: [stpaulsfreeport@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsfreeport@gmail.com) [stpaulsfreeport.org](http://stpaulsfreeport.org)**

**Sunday Worship , Holy Eucharist 10 am**  
**Healing Service First Sunday**  
**Adult Sunday School 9am ; Children's Sunday School 9:30 am**

## The Dynamic Church

*"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams" Acts 2-17*  
To illustrate the difficulty many churches experience with attracting and keeping new members, there is a joke about a priest who got rid of bats by confirming them and adding them to the membership, the bats haven't been back since!

When you compare percentages of church membership to general population, the church is smaller than it was 50 years ago. Yet, the early church changed the course of human history in spite of having no resources, no buildings, no seminaries, and no denominational headquarters.

What if our church today can be like the early church was on the day of Pentecost, a powerful and dynamic force in the world?

The dynamic church possesses an atmosphere in which God is free to move. The early church cultivated this atmosphere through obedience to God's Word and through faith in God's promises.

A dynamic church grabs the attention of outsiders. Repeatedly throughout the book of Acts we see that the church was too powerful to be ignored. As the crowd witnessed the miraculous events on the day of Pentecost, their reaction was either amazement or amusement, but they were unable to ignore what was going on.

A dynamic church opens its doors to everyone. A tragic element of the church's history is that it has often acted as an exclusive social club rather than the body of Christ. Peter made it clear that in the church of Christ, distinctions would be eliminated. He said there would be no room for any kind of discrimination. Every member of the congregation has a role to play, and the church needs every one of them.

A dynamic church proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ. One reason we have lost influence in society is that the church, as a whole, has gotten away from this message. The church has an evangelistic mission, and if we're not bringing souls to God through Jesus Christ we're simply not doing our job.

The extent to which we accomplish these goals of the early church will determine our effectiveness. The church is God's, His hands, mouth, and feet in this world, the body of Christ. We are to be doing the things that Jesus Christ would do if He were here physically on the earth. The church is to be Christian, Christ like and Christ following. Our church can be like the church was when it came into existence on the day of Pentecost, a place in which God is free to move.

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" Acts 2:42*

### **Rector**

The Rev. Robert Dohle

### **Vestry Officers**

#### **Sr. Warden**

Junior Martinez

#### **Junior Warden**

Richard Barnes

#### **Clerk**

JoAnn Mayo

#### **Treasurer**

Donna Hayes

### **At Large Members**

M.J. Ardoin  
Nola Copus  
Linda Barnes  
JoAnn Mayo  
Al Mayo

### **Church Organist**

Cindy Watson

### **Christian Formation**

Salim Zabana ~ Adult





## Epiphany Chili Lunch

Directly following the 10 am service on January 5th, chili with all the trappings,

trimmings and extras, will be served in the parish hall. Come join us in the wonderful St. Paul's tradition.

## *Annual Meeting*

St Paul's annual meeting will be held on January 26th after the 10 am service. New vestry members will be elected and the 2014 budget will be presented.

The church will furnish ham as the meat dish, please bring a covered dish, salad or desert. Hope to see everyone there.


## *LENTEN PROGRAM 2014*

The program this year will be "*Christian History Made Easy*", by Dr. Timothy Paul. We will view dvd's of Dr. Paul discussing the following five sessions:

- SESSION ONE The first Christians, AD 1-100  
Nero; the Persecution of Early Christians; and the Fall of Jerusalem
- SESSION TWO Defending the Truth, AD 100-300  
Four Heresies within the Early Church; Jesus' Divinity; and the Bible's Authenticity
- SESSION THREE From Persecuted to Preferred, AD 300-500  
Constantine; the Legalization of Christianity; and the Council of Nicaea
- SESSION FOUR Christianity on the Move; AD 300-500  
Gregory of Nazianzus; Fall of the Roman Empire; and Augustine
- SESSION FIVE A Church Divided, AD 500-1300  
Roman Church vs. Eastern Church; Charlemagne, and the Crusades

Sessions will be held Thursdays, March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 and 10, starting the week after Ash Wednesday and closing before Palm Sunday. We will start at 5:30 pm with soup/stew and bread, crackers, triscuits, cheeses and assorted cookies for an evening meal. Questions and discussion will follow each session. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to learn about early Christianity and enjoy evenings with your church family. A sign-up sheet will be posted by the coffee pot in the Parish Hall in March so we know how many plan to attend.






***Greeters***

Jan 5	Linda Barnes
Jan 12	JoAnn Mayo
Jan 19	Mescal Steele
Jan 26	Linda Barnes

***Lay Reader/Chalice Bearer Schedule***

	<i>Lay Reader</i>		<i>Chalice Bearer</i>
Jan 5	Demain		Demain
Jan 12	Collins		Copus
Jan 19	Dohle		Ardoin
Jan 26	Zabana		Zabana



***January Birthdays***

- |                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Donna Hayes      | 1-1  |
| Clay Ennis       | 1-11 |
| Carolyn McKinnon | 1-12 |
| Hayah Zabana     | 1-14 |
| Wallace Tippen   | 1-16 |
| Mario Chapa      | 1-16 |
| Mike Dohle       | 1-17 |
| Frank Leavey     | 1-18 |
| Chris Felder     | 1-23 |
| Julie Barrera    | 1-23 |

***SPECS***

We seniors at St. Pauls met on December 10, for our last meeting in 2013. There were sixteen of us that enjoyed the Chicken Enchiladas and lots of good side dishes and of course desserts. Al Mayo and Patricia Dohle took home the door prizes.

We will meet on January 14th for our first 2014 meeting. Richard and Linda Barnes will be bringing the main dish. Any one age 55 or older can be a part of SPECS and we always welcome guests. Our guests can be younger or older. We enjoy having guests and meeting new people. Hope you had a Blessed Christmas and a Great New Year.



***January Anniversaries***

- |                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| Doug and Jamie Etie     | 1-21 |
| Phil and Tammy Brooks   | 1-25 |
| Frank and Sandra Leavey | 1-30 |

**A New Year's Prayer**

Dear Lord, please give me

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;  
 A work to do which has real value,  
 without which the world would be the poorer;  
 A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not  
 blazed;  
 An understanding heart;  
 A sense of humor;  
 Time for quiet, silent meditation;  
 A feeling of the presence of God;  
 The patience to wait for the coming of these things,  
 With the wisdom to recognize them when they come.  
 Amen.



# January 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Worship Service / Eucharist and Healing Service 10 am Adult SS 9am Children SS 9:30 am <u>Epiphany Chili Lunch</u></i>	6	7	8	9	10	11 <b>DoK</b>
12 <i>Worship Service and Holy Eucharist 10 am Adult SS 9am Children SS 9:30 am</i>	13 <b>Evangelism Meeting</b>	14 <b>SPECS 11 am</b>	15	16	17	18
19 <i>Worship Service and Holy Eucharist 10 am Adult SS 9am Children SS 9:30 am</i>	20 <b>Vestry Meeting</b>	21	22	23	24	25
26 <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> <i>Worship Service and Holy Eucharist 10 am Adult SS 9am Children SS 9:30 am</i>	27	28	29	30	31	Notes: