

St. Paul's Herald

From South Bass Island



September 2010

Caol Áit – A Thin Place Where We See God

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Through out our lives we wncounter "Thin Places." These are the places where heaven and earth seem to reach out to one another. South Bass is a place where you can find the thin places if you look for them. The Gaelic term for these "Thin Places" is Caol Áit. (Pronounced 'kweel atch')

A thin-place is is described as the times when the veil separating heaven and earth is lifted and we are able to receive a glimpse of the glory of God.

For the Celtic community these "Thin Places" were often associated with wilderness areas but there are many found elsewhere, if you just watch for them. They appear at different times and in the events of our lives. Perhaps they are more common that we might imagine if we just look for them.

For the people of St. Paul's, thin places include Oak Point at sunrise, State Park beach or on the ice at sunset, the docks, the mountains, and St Paul's

sanctuary.

Jacob experienced what can be seen as a thin place. In Genesis 28:16-17, Jacob had a dream about God. When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." Then he said, "How awesome is this place!"

Let us all stop and see the hand of our awesome God revealed to us in the "Thin Places."

(See the related article on page 3)

Special points of interest:

- Caol Ait – A "Thin Place"
- Welcome our Priest on Sept 22nd.
- St Paul's T-shirts and stickers still available
- Communications – we are on the web and Facebook.
- Fall Plans
- See the office hours and key info on the back page.

St Paul's Will Welcome Our Priest – Sept 19th

On September 19th St Paul's will hold a parish pot-luck after our worship service to welcome The Rev Mary L. Staley as our "Priest-in-Charge."

Please join in our celebration and welcome by bringing something to share at our pot-luck and by bringing canned goods for our food pantry. This will be our kick-off for the ingathering of the food we share with others over the winter months. For more information, contact Mary Ann Myers.

Over the course of the past three years St Paul's

worked with the Diocese to discern our path and seek a priest for our congregation. This involved countless phone calls, e-mails and interviews with several candidates.

The easiest way to describe what happened last spring is to say the Holy Spirit allowed us to find each other.

Once Mo. Mary arrived it was full speed ahead! She came to South Bass on August 16th. Her household goods arrived the next day and she

officiated at our worship service on August 22nd.

Mo. Mary will serve St. Paul's on a ¾ time basis. This is one of the reasons she is called a Priest-in-Charge instead of rector (but she lives in the rector)

Most parishioners will not see any difference between what she does and what our other clergy have done in the past. The vestry members can explain the terminology if you are interested.

Vestry Seconds (abbreviated from the Minutes)

The vestry met on August 17th 2010.

Old Business:

-- Buildings and grounds reports and motions to pay bills. The front step repairs will begin soon.

-- Discussion of steeple repairs and the Laybrieth continued.

-- The vestry received a report on the spaghetti

dinner which was a success again this year.

New Business:

-- Payroll questions were addressed.

-- The vestry noted the rectory plumbing and electric in garage should be revised for safety.

The next Vestry meeting is Sept 15th 2010 at 7pm

in the church office. All meetings are open to anyone who is interested in attending.

The complete vestry minutes are available in the church office and the Narthex bulletin board.

*"Songs of
Thankfulness and
Praise...."*

Thanks to all our parishioners for the outreach activities and support to St Paul's this summer.

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise...

So begins a familiar hymn. We are singing the praises of all who have offered their time and energy to St Paul's over the past few months.

There is always a risk of leaving out a name because many of our volunteers are doing things "behind the scenes."

We want to say **THANK YOU** to all of the people who helped with the Spagetti Dinner, the people who offered their time to prepare the rectory and all of those people

who coordinated with the contractors.

Welcoming guests and parishioners to with a cup of coffee, a light snack and a warm smile! A special **THANK YOU** to the users who are the first to welcome them. Also, a special **THANK YOU** to every member of this parish who goes out of their way to greet and welcome newcomers and visitors! It takes an entire parish to be warm and welcoming!

Spaghetti Dinner Feeds 300 – A Big Success

It only took 60 lbs of meat balls, 80 lbs of spaghetti, 3 cases of garlic toast, 24 gallons of Marinara sauce, \$170.00 of Pepsi products, 8 lbs of salad with dressing and lots and lots of fun! Thanks to Melinda McCann Myers and Gail McCracken, EVERYTHING was donated!!! All the vendors used by the Crew's Nest and other establishments on the island were very happy support us. St. John's at the Bay and Mother of Sorrow's gave us lots of help as well. Members of all three congregations donated desserts, which were delicious and in demand! Pasquale's provided the essential "to go" boxes while the Island General Store and Joe's Bar provided shopping bags and boxes for delivery. The Chefs at the Crew's Nest pre-

cooked the pasta to speed things up. Thank goodness Marc Burr came up with the idea of using turkey boilers outside. Marc and Joe Shull "slaved" over those pot's for several hours. The kitchen workers did not slow down even though it was one of the hottest days in August!!! That just made it all the more fun! The island workers were extremely grateful and surprised that they got an entire meal! "You mean we get salad, bread and dessert, too?! We thought we only got the pasta...."

Delivery requests far outweighed those could come in to eat, but it sure was fun to see their faces when we drove up. Three golf carts covered the island in pasta creating: happy island workers and very happy, satisfied volunteers. It was "psychic income". We have bigger

and better ideas for next year's dinner, with visions of 400 meals in 2011! Mary Ann Meyers made fliers and brochures and we circulated them throughout the work community. Once they knew we delivered, their prayers were answered! God worked in a wonderful way on August 9, 2010. Boy, did we have fun!

As a community are very blessed to have each other and the congregations of Mother of Sorrow and St. John's at the Bay. Marc & I had a great time, and are certainly looking forward to next year!!! Thanks to everyone who helped, both in big and small ways.

In God's Love, Nan F. Burr
(PS – a big Thank You to Nan too!)

Focus On Our Young Christians

Children's Ministry

- ❖ VBS was 2010 a huge success. We are already anticipating next year's program.
- ❖ Church School resumes this fall. Please look for information in the Sunday bulletins or call the parish office.

God and Country Recognition programs for youth.

This is a four level program for young people from 1st through 12th grades. Each level challenges the young persons involved to look more deeply into their faith. It is a good opportunity for parents to help in the faith formation of their children outside of the Church School program. For additional information about the program please contact Mo. Mary or read about it on the internet. <http://www.praypub.org>

Communion Preparation for Young Christians

In the Episcopal tradition, anyone who is baptized (in any faith tradition) is welcome to receive communion in our parish. This includes young children of any age. Parents, supported by the clergy are responsible for the faith formation of their children and are the ones who will decide when their child is ready to receive communion. Most parents feel it is important to help their children understand the sacraments. To help our parents discuss the importance of communion, we will offer materials titled "Life in the Eucharist." It may be used with children who are preparing to receive communion for the first time or children who are already receiving. The materials are suitable for children ages 6-9 but may be use with a broader age range. Please contact Mo. Mary to request these materials.

Pam and Gene Zajax on
Founder's Day 2010.

Young Adults (under 18) Confirmation Program Begins Soon!

The Youth Confirmation Program is for our 8th-12th graders. We will have a group forming soon to prepare for Confirmation when the bishop visits in the fall of 2011. Please contact Mo. Mary for more information.

Epis-Co-Speak

Do you speak Episcopal? If you have wondered about some of the vocabulary, but never had the time to ask, come to the Epis-Co-Speak discussions during the forum. Who can ask the best question? How good is your Episcopal Trivia knowledge? Can you name three television actors/actresses who are Episcopalians? This fall several of our adult forums will be Epis-Co-Speak sessions. This is the "Warm-up" for our Adult Inquirers group (groups?) who will meet in 2011.

Adult Inquirers Discussions are for any adult interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church's traditions, history and theology. Some of the inquirers may choose to be confirmed or received by the bishop in October 2011 but the discussions are open to anyone over the age of 17.

Participants are encouraged to ask questions! Please contact Mo. Mary for more information.

Pet Blessing Please join us in Sunday, October 3rd at 4:00pm as we celebrate the "Blessing of the Animals". This event will take place on the church yard (weather permitting). In the case of marginal weather we will gather in the rectory garage area.

*St Francis Day is
Monday October 4th.*



St Paul's T-shirts and Bumper Stickers

St Paul's has great t-shirts (button front henleys) and bumper stickers with the design shown above. If you did not get yours after church on August 22nd, you can still drop by the parish office during the hours listed at the back of this newsletter to get one.

All you need to do is fill in a short info sheet with your name address and a few

other things. Once you do, the shirt is yours!

The stickers are made of bumper sticker material. You can display them just about anywhere. Some people have turned them into refrigerator magnets by sticking them on sheet magnet material found in most office supply stores.

The Diocese of Ohio Weekly Bulletin

To receive an e-mail copy, take these easy steps

- Go to the Diocese of Ohio Web page www.dohio.org
- Scroll to the bottom of the page
- Click on the "Sign-up" and enter your name and e-mail
- Click Subscribe

The story behind the design...

The bottom half of the design is an actual photo of the Put-in-Bay horizon and Perry Monument taken from the ferry in April 2010.

The silhouette of the church was added along with the light beckoning people to enter the doors and find a welcoming community. The light also spreads out across the water, as a reminder of the parish mission and outreach to the world beyond our steps.

The Episcopal shield is often seen with the words of Welcome.

Above these words are three stars reminding us of the Trinity or the three streams for the legend about St. Paul.

The design started with a doodle but with the assistance of a graphic artist it evolved into the design above. You can see it in full color on our Facebook page.

Calendar

See master calendar for details.

Sep 15 - Vestry, 7:00pm

Sep 26th Labyrinth Pt I 4pm

Oct 3rd 4:00 pm St. Francis Day observance & Pet Blessing (outside)

Oct 10th – Labyrinth Pt II 4pm

Oct 11th - Columbus Day. Ofc Closed

Oct 17th – Book Group – Seder Explanation event after church

October - 20th Vestry, 7pm

Labyrinth

St Paul's has discussed the creation of a labyrinth on our grounds. One of the next considerations is the placement and layout. To help us "see" what it might be like we will place a two temporary labyrinth on the grass with soccer field paint on October 10 (rain date is Oct 17th). It will last until the next mowing so we can try it out and make adjustments. After this is done we can discuss placement of the columbarium.

On Sept 26th St Paul's will host a gathering of people who are interested in learning about our temporary labyrinth, the history and traditions of walking the labyrinth.

Parishioners who want to help paint the labyrinth should come to St Paul's at 2pm on Oct 10th. The community will be invited to come walk at 4pm or any time in the following week.

Diocesan and Episcopal Church News

Traces of Traces of the Trade

We hope to have this film shown here at St. Paul's some time this winter. Mo Mary saw an early version of this film at General Convention 2009 and said it was a very powerful account of how Northerners, and Episcopalians were involved in the slave trade before 1820. You can also see it September 24th at 7pm. If you are near Oberlin on the 24th consider going to Wilder Hall (Student Union) 135 West Lorain St., Oberlin, OH 44074-1097, Room 101.

Diocesan Council will take place November 12-13th in Toledo.

All the parishes of the Diocese of Ohio send delegates to this meeting where we share in the decision making process of the Diocese and of the Episcopal Church.

If you are interested in learning more about it, please contact Mo. Mary.

Mission Statement:

To welcome all people and encouraging Christian growth, to proclaim the Gospel by word and deed.

St Paul's Vestry, Officers and Delegates

Mary Ann Meyers - Senior Warden '12
Judy Ruggiero - Junior Warden '12
Sue Amrine '11
Jack Zimmerman '12
Clark Davies '13
Melinda Meyers '13
Doraine Toms '13

Dana Blumensaadt, Treasurer
Mella Davies, Clerk/Registrar

Delegate to Diocesan Council 2009: Mary Ann Meyers
Alternate to Council 2009: Dorine Toms

The Rt. Rev Mark Hollingsworth Jr, Bishop, Diocese of Ohio
The Rev Mary L. Staley, Priest-in-Charge

“The Bulletin Board”

From Our Mail Box

- ❖ An invitation to the celebration of ministry and retirement of Mother Nancy Betz who was rector of St. Paul's in 1994-1997. After retiring from Three Rivers Episcopal Parishes in Clayton, NY she move to Virginia You can mail a retirement message to:
 The Rev Nancy C. Betz
 c/o The Episcopal River Parishes
 235 John St. Clayton, NY 13624
- ❖ A thank you note from Bishop Mark Hollingsworth's office for St Paul's support of the bishop's bike ride.
- ❖ A thank you from Fr. Webster and Joy expressing their sincere gratitude for St. Paul's prayers, hospitality and good natures. They both cherish the friendships they have made here and although they will not be around on Sunday Mornings, they may be spotted on the island from time to time! His letter is posted in our Narthex bulletin board (in the binder).

IN THE HOSPITAL

Please contact Mo. Mary if someone in your family or from our parish is hospitalized. This includes when you are away from PIB in the off season. We want to pray for all in our extended family wherever you may be. Mo Mary will visit those who are hospitalized in the Toledo-Sandusky-Cleveland area whenever possible.

The Narthex Bulletin Board

- ❖ We receive many notices and flyers in the mail each week. Some are highlighted below. Other things of interest will be placed on the bulletin board in the narthex so you can see them when you come into church. Since the board has limited space, the “overflow” will be in a three ring binder below the cork board.

Looking forward

- ❖ **All clergy from the Northern Mission Area Council (NMAC)** will meet here at St Paul's, Put-in-Bay on Oct 12th at Noon. If you can help move them from the ferry to the church please tell Mo. Mary.
- ❖ **Diocesan Natural Church Development (NCD) Health Day** will take place on a Saturday this fall in Toledo. The Diocese requires new clergy and their parishes to participate in this program. If you can attend this workshop with Mo. Mary please let her know. She would love to have your company! The NCD provides a process for parishes to plan for and encourage growth in faith and numbers.
- ❖ **The Community Thanksgiving Celebration** will be held in November.
- ❖ **Food Pantry opens soon.** Donations of non-perishable food begins this month. Please be sure the expiration dates are appropriate for the winter months.

Buildings and Grounds

St Paul's was built on land provided by José" de Rivera with funds offered by Jay Cooke in 1865. Those who worshiped here for nearly 150 years have been the stewards who have cared for, maintained and repaired this historic church. Today, the people who worship here each week continue to maintain this historic site for those who will follow us. In addition to our small island population, we have many partial year worshipers and countless visitors. Together all of these people respond to the maintaince requirements generated by time, weather and daily use. Every year we find opportunities to be stewards of St. Paul's campus.

The Steeple is one of the items that need our loving care. The vestry is receiving bids to do the much needed restoration and repairs. We hope to finish the work by next summer.

The Rectory has received needed attention in the past few months. The hard work and elbow grease had the rectory ready in time for the arrival of its newest full time occupant. After several years of minimal there was a lot of deferred maintenance to be done. The bathroom has been renovated and renewed, the fireplace and gutters were repaired, we painted the interior, and did a lot of cleaning. The kitchen drawer handles were replaced, the living room floor is beautiful and the flower beds offer a cheerful greeting. All of this was possible due to the generous contributions of time, and money. A big **THANK YOU** to all who helped.

Sunday Adult Forum 9:30am – 10:10am

An adult discussion of topics related to our journey in faith. This fall they will all be short topics. Each week we will engage something different so you can come for on or all. Fall topics are

- 9/12/10 Conversation with Mo Mary
- 9/19/10 Fall Plans and Activities
- 9/26/10 The Book of Esther
- 10/3/10 Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy
- 10/10/10 Epis-Co-Speak
- 10/17/10 Jay Cooke & the Episcopal Church
- 10/24/10 Caol Ait – Sharing our stories
- 10/31/10 Holy Women/Holy Men
- 11/7/10 All Saint's Day
- 11/14/10 Epis-Co-Speak
- 11/21/10 Thanksgiving Traditions
- 11/28/10 The Jessie Tree
- 12/5/10 Advent Traditions
- 12/12/10 Epis-Co-Speak
- 12/19/10 EROCRAS (An Advent tradition)
- 12.26.10 No Forum
- 010/2/10 No Forum
- 01/09/10 Epiphany Traditions

Sunday Book Discussion at Coffee Hour

On Sundays in September the book group will finish discussing portions of "Have a Little Faith" at coffee hour. Pull up a chair at the book discussion table after worship and join in the conversation. They are looking forward to sharing the insights they have gained with the whole parish including an educational Seder. More info coming soon!

Prayers of the People

Each week we pray for those having birthdays and anniversaries – if your name is not on this list it means that we don't have this information. Please add your name to the list in the narthex so we can include you. We will also pray for those who visit us the previous week.

Veteran Grave Medallions Now Available

Last year the Department of Veterans Affairs approved a metal medallion that may be affixed on a veteran's grave marker, provided that the marker/headstone was commercially produced. These medallions come in various sizes and indicate branch of service. Those veterans with military headstones/markers are not eligible for the medallion. If you are interested in finding out more information, go to:

<http://www.cem.va.gov/hm/hmtype.asp>

Worship at St Paul's -- 10:30 AM Sundays

Our worship will continue in the pattern St Paul's has used but when there are Island activities that we can share in, we will look for appropriate ways to integrate them in our worship. For example, when the island celebrates ½ of the way to St. Patrick's Day, we will use prayers of the people from the Celtic tradition. Next spring, as we celebrate Victoria Day we will use a portion of the prayer book she would have used. Do you have other ideas on how we can share in the community activities during worship services?

Morning Prayer – Tues & Thurs

At 8am on Tuesday and Thursday Mornings there is an opportunity to begin your day in a quiet and peaceful way. We will use Rite II Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. We will also share in the accounts of people who are examples of faithful living through the pages of "Holy Women, Holy Men" which was published after the 2009 General Convention. Of the Episcopal Church. This is an opportunity for those who work on Sundays to join in the worship at another time.

Thank You Coffee Hour Friends!

- ❖ **July:** Mary Lou Ramsbottom, Wes and Candy Baker, Mella Davies
- ❖ **August:** Jack Zimmerman, Burgess Household, Judy & Don Ruggerio, Candy & Wes Baker, Mary Lou Ramsbottom
- ❖ **September:** Mella & Clark Davies, Lois & Bill Jellison, Fran Beck.

From our priest...

Dear St Paul's Family.

I am thrilled to be here and there is so much I would like to say to all of you. Thank you for the warm welcome, the shared meals and your introduction to island life. This first month has been full of surprises as God works among us.

This newsletter is full of the things that reflect the hopes and dreams of this parish. The number of ideas you have is exciting. I look forward to sharing in the hopes and dreams with you.

The Holy Spirit is doing something in our midst if we listen and seek to hear what we are called to do as individuals, as families and as a parish community.

In the weeks and months ahead I hope to have a chance to get to know each one of you and to hear about the Thin Places you have discovered.

Stop by the office – I love visitors.

In Christ's Love – Mo. Mary

**ST PAUL'S
Episcopal Church**

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PUT-IN-BAY, OHIO
43456

Phone (419) 285-5981

Office E-Mail:
StPaulspib@cros.net

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.stpaulputinbay.org

And on Facebook

Celebrations – Remember Your Baptism!

St Paul's has a tradition of celebrating birthdays and Anniversaries. We acknowledge graduations and other key events in our lives. We are grateful for of these reminders of all the blessings we have received. There is a binder in the narthex where each person is encouraged to add their dates.

Beginning in October we will also celebrate the date of each person's baptism, which may be the most important date in your life as a Christian.

Normally baptism dates are recorded in the parish register and we will begin to compile our list from there. If we do not have yours, please

send it in to the office by e-mail or snail mail.

Do you have your baptismal certificate? Where do you keep it? Does it have a place of honor?

St Paul's Office Hours

September and October.

Tues, Wed and Thursday 8:30am to 12pm
Tues, Wed and Friday 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Drop-ins are always welcome and encouraged but it never hurts to make an appointment by calling or e-mailing the parish office.



ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
P.O. BOX 248
PUT-IN-BAY, OHIO 43456

ADDRESS
LABEL