

From Ms. Judy . . .

Well, we've done it again. . . run head-long through another school year! The days have just flown by, especially the last couple of months. There's been so much going on at school, even though we *said* we would try to do less in May, it never happened. Note to young parents: It only gets busier and time flies even faster as the years go by. Don't forget to stop and smell the roses. Enjoy your little ones because, before you know it, they'll be heading off to college!

I want to say a huge "thank you" for the very generous gift that I received from parents and Parent Council. It will make my summer brighter and I already have several places in mind to spend it! You are such nice people to work with. I really have the best job in the world because of the caliber of people with whom I come in contact day after day. Getting to know all of you—some, quite well—means so much to me. You enrich my life each and every day. Have a wonderful summer with your little ones.

Ms. Judy

50th Anniversary Party . . .

Our milestone party was a huge success. **Charlotte Broughton** and her committee worked tirelessly to provide us with a fabulous day and evening. We started out with a delicious breakfast buffet for the teachers, hosted by **Angela Winterle Colleen Friedman, and Susannah Greco**. **Anne Dunn** videotaped our parade and provided the T-shirts (complete with teacher, **Anna Teague's**, original design); she and **Ann Hough** brought balloons and coolpops for everyone on the playground. The weather couldn't have been nicer all day, and that night the children really enjoyed the bounce house, pony rides, and popcorn—always huge favorites that were procured by **Christine Storch**. **Roger Echols** planned the menu and invited his and my old friend, Chaz Misenheimer, to be our roving magician who entertained young and old with his slight of hand. **Shannon Wilson** ordered and delivered the delicious Dewey's celebration cakes. **Kimberly Gentry and Cary Marcantonio** were instrumental in getting the word out about the celebration, and Kimberly even managed to have Winston-Salem mayor, Allen Joines, stop by for a proclamation. **Laura Neelon** provided the lovely flower centerpieces for festive decorations. **Jerry Luffman and Don Childress** were "Chefs Extraordinaire" as they cooked and cooked *and cooked* over the grill. **Denise Golsby** had lots of other delicious food to complement the hotdogs and burgers. A crowd in excess of 400 people experienced this special event. Many thanks to Charlotte and committee.

It was nice to have a chance to honor our long-time teachers: **Dianne Cox** (27 years), **Susan Gupton** (23 years), **Gaye Hoban** (23 years), and **Mary Showalter** (20 years). How fortunate for all of us that they have chosen to remain at SPP and guide our young ones through their preschool years. It was also fun to have so many former teachers in attendance. We invited all that we could locate (more than 100) and had a good representation from them. Former Director, **Page Hill**, seemed to have a great time catching up with several teachers from her staff of nearly 25 years ago!

I absolutely love my watercolor of St. Paul's Church. It is currently being framed and will be hanging in my office next week—come by to see it! There's also another picture that you need to see. **Clare Quadland** (former SPP parent) took a photo of the entire assemblage of children and teachers Wednesday morning before our big celebration that night. We're all wearing our special T-shirts, and the rainbow of colors makes a big splash. This picture will soon be hung, along with other memorabilia from the 50th anniversary, in the education building or outside my office. Come by to check it out.

SPP Board

Speaking of **Charlotte Broughton**, she has been an excellent chair of the Preschool Board this year. Charlotte has an amazing ability to balance being a mom, a dentist, and a volunteer—and doing a great job of each one, and it was my pleasure to work with her this year. She and **Charlie Campbell** rotated off the board at the end of the school year. New members coming on are **Anne Dunn, Cary Marcantonio, and Paige Daniel**. **Kimberly Gentry** assumes the chairmanship of the board for 2008-09, with **Roger Echols** serving as vice-chair, and **Anne Dunn** as secretary. **Andrew Hano** is a returning board member, and **Lucy Paynter** is our current Vestry representative.

The members of the preschool board work quietly and tirelessly behind the scenes to make decisions that impact the quality of education we offer the children in our care. In addition, they provide monthly treats for teachers, and they were directly responsible for the 50th anniversary celebration and all it included. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of parents, staff, and parishioners behind us.

The SPP Board voted recently to pave the gravel walkway and steps through the wooded area of the 3/4/5-year-old playground. The same “safety surface” that has been used on the courtyard and 2-year-old playground will be installed before Summer Fun begins. This upgrade is possible because of the generous donation to SPP from St. Paul’s 2007 Bazaar. We feel that this safety surface will benefit not only the preschool, but Sunday School classes and neighborhood children who play there as well.

New Bundles of Joy . . .

CeCe Butler became a big sister to **Martha Ann Patterson Butler** on January 22nd. Patterson weighed 6 lbs 10 oz and was 22 inches long. Mom, Missy, shares this, “Upon learning of Patterson’s arrival, CeCe exclaimed, ‘She’s out, she’s here!!’ CeCe is a wonderful big sister and a huge helper to mommy.”

Davis Albert Skorich arrived on February 20th, weighing 8 lbs 5 oz and measuring 20.5 inches. He will enliven his big brother, **Perry Skorich’s**, life forever! Mom, Beth, tells us, “Perry is learning the joys of being a ‘Big Brother’ and likes to mimic Davis’ cry.”

Eli Inman also became a big brother on February 20th with the birth of **Samuel Whitley Inman**. Sam weighed 6 lbs 11 oz and was 20 inches long. These two little boys will help us all remember the Bible story of Samuel and Eli—and I bet they’ll have some stories of their own, too!

Elaina Valente added **William Rocco Valente** to her sibling pool on February 21st. Will weighed 6 lbs and was 19 inches long. Mom, Amy, says, “Upon hearing we had a boy, Elaina said she was so excited because that is what she always wanted—a baby brother. [She already has a little sister, Emmy.] When we said his name was Will, she told us she already had a Will. He was in her class!”

Teacher **Shellie Brewer** welcomed another grandchild to the family on February 26th. **Paige Elizabeth Bell** weighed 9 lbs 2 oz and measured 20.5 inches. Paige’s family consists of parents, Laura (Brewer) and Jason Bell, as well as big brother Jamison and big sister Sierra.

Lemuel Morris Cannon, joined big sister, **Ann Cooper Cannon**, on March 27th. Lem weighed 7 lbs 3 oz and was 21 inches long. Mom, Sara, tells us, “Ann cooper loves to play music for ‘Baby Lem’ and sing and dance for him.”

William and Eliza Price welcomed baby brother, **James DuMont Walker Price**, on May 9th. James was 21 inches long and weighed 8 lbs 10 oz. Mom, Margaret, shares this story, “Several months ago, William and Eliza decided to name their new baby brother ‘Claude Monet Price’ and proudly announced this to anyone who asked about the baby’s name. Mom and Dad got lots of puzzled looks! Thank goodness the children understood when we opted for a different name.”

SPP Staff Comings and Goings . . .

The end of the school year always brings some sad good-byes as beloved teachers move on to other challenges. This year is no exception. We say to good-bye to **Sally Meehan**, lead teacher of the M-Th(F) 4s, as she pursues her dream of a doctorate in education! She will begin this process in the fall at UNC-Chapel Hill. (Fortunately, Riley Meehan will still be at SPP, so we will occasionally catch a glimpse of her mom.) **Karen Kooken**, co-lead teacher in the MWF 2s, is leaving to return to teaching in the public school system. Karen's not sure exactly where she will end up, but we are sure they will be lucky to have her. **Mary Anne Stowe**, first floor T/Th floater, is going to return to full-time motherhood for a while, but we hope she will rejoin our staff in the near future. All three of these teachers have made their mark at SPP, and they will surely be missed.

Replacing Sally will be a team of co-leads **Pam Hansen** (currently assistant teacher in the M-Th(F) 4s) and **Nancy Macfarlane** (currently readiness assistant). Both of these teachers have experience and early childhood credentials and are looking forward to the challenges of next year. **Angie Ogburn** (currently T/Th 2s #2 assistant) will assume Karen Kooken's responsibilities. She joins Sue Mueller as co-lead in both MWF 2s and T/Th 2s #2. **Kathy Faucett** who was out on maternity leave this year will return as first floor T/Th floater, taking Mary Anne's place. Kathy taught 2-year-olds 2007, and we welcome her back to SPP. I am still looking for a replacement for the readiness assistant position.

I want to say a special thank you to **Andrea Thomas** and **Roger Echols**. These parents have given us the gift of their time and expertise in Spanish and science respectively. We are all enriched by them.

FYI: Current staff assignments for 2008-09 are as follows:

Infants: **Dianne Cox**, Lead Mon-Thurs; **Anna Teague**, Ass't Mon-Thurs, Co-lead Fri; **Viki McCool**, Co-lead Fri
Toddlers #1: **Marion Stanley & Julie Walker**, Co-leads
Toddlers #2: **Megan Gilliam & Gaye Hoban**, Co-leads
T/Th 2s #1: **Jane Schell**, Lead; **Robin Fulk**, Ass't
T/Th 2s #2: **Sue Mueller & Angie Ogburn**, Co-leads
MWF 2s: **Sue Mueller & Angie Ogburn**, Co-leads
M/W 2s: **Shellie Brewer**, Lead; **Joycelyn Dillon**, Ass't
T/Th/F 2s: **Shellie Brewer**, Lead; **Joycelyn Dillon**, Ass't
MWF 3s: **Sharon Spangler**, Lead; **Wendy Rice**, Ass't
T-Th(F) 3s: **Lisa Childress**, Lead; **Beth Forsell**, Ass't
M-Th(F) 3s: **Amy Schell & Sarah Vernon**, co-leads
M-Th(F) 4s: **Pam Hansen & Nancy Macfarlane**, co-leads
M-F 4s: **Mary Showalter**, Lead; **Guy Spear**, Ass't
Readiness: **Kristi Byrd**, Lead; TBD, Ass't
Music: **Susan Gupton**
Shop (for 4s and readiness): **Viki McCool** (Tues/Thurs)
1st Floor Floaters: **Robin Fulk**, Mon; **Kathy Faucett**, Tues/Thurs; **Jane Schell**, Wed/Fri
2nd Floor Floaters: **Barbara Scott**, Mon/Wed; **Karen Kearns**, Tues/Thurs/Fri
Office Assistance: **Jane Schell**, Mon; **Susan Gupton**, Tues-Fri; **Robin Fulk**, Wed

We are really fortunate to have such a fine staff at SPP. We all enjoy teaching young children, of course, but we also have lots of fun together, and we help each other in crises. Not every workplace has this sort of atmosphere. We recognize this and treasure the relationships that have been established. I'm very grateful for each and every one of our teachers, and I know you, as parents, are also. They are what truly makes SPP such a special place.

Parent Council . . .

As usual, our Parent Council has done an absolutely stupendous job this year! Under the able leadership of **Susannah Greco** and **Lisa Hemby** we have enjoyed a Newcomer's Cocktail Party, Doughnuts with Daddy, Fall Festival, and Santa Tea. We all worked hard at the SPP Clothing Exchange and activities such as Photo Sculptures, St. Paul's Bazaar, Art By Me, and Collage Placemats produced keepsakes and priceless works of art. Accounts of spring projects follow:

Paige Daniel, Heather Zifchak, and Carlie Stubbs did a superb job of producing the best-ever *SPP Clothing Exchange* in February. Many marveled at the organization and planning that went into this event, and the wide publicity coverage brought shoppers from all over Forsyth County. We owe a debt of gratitude to these ladies and their committees (including nearly all Parent Council members) for the success of this year's sale.

Art By Me was another successful Parent Council event, led by **Jamie Stacy and Kristin Atkinson**. All SPP teachers are integral components in the success of the project, producing original works of art done by each SPP child that can be transformed into a myriad of products.

Ann Hough and Anne Dunn were Parent Council's representatives on the 50th *Anniversary Celebration* committee. They planned and executed the activities during the school day, prior to that night's party, and had a hand in arranging for the ponies and bounce house also.

Class collage placemats were chaired by **Evan Dunnagan and Missy Butler**. Each Parent Council class representative was responsible for creating that class' collage. They were all unique and will be treasured keepsakes of a year of fun-filled activities. Thanks to all who worked on this project.

Susannah Greco hosted a *Thank You Coffee* at the end of school as a way of showing Parent Council volunteers how much we appreciate their dedication and hard work this past school year. Susannah will continue in an advisory role for the 2008-09 school year, while **Shelley Holden and Meredith Masten** assume the duties of co-chairs of Parent Council. Every parent at SPP is welcome to participate in Parent Council. If you would like to sign-up, contact either Shelley (794-3157, sholden@triad.rr.com) or Meredith (722-7114, mmasten@triad.rr.com).

You may wonder just what the funds that Parent Council raises are actually used for. Well, this year we have recently refurbished the manipulatives in all SPP classrooms at a cost of nearly \$1000.00, and our circus costumes and props were beautifully upgraded this spring to be enjoyed for many years to come. Last summer we upgraded many of the kitchen centers in classrooms using Parent Council funds, Other purchases include books, CDs, CD players, and other items too numerous to mention. All Parent Council earnings go into a special fund that is accessible, as needed, for special classroom toys, materials, equipment, and other items to be enjoyed with and by the children.

Out of the mouths of our babes . . .

"Our Father, who *has* art in heaven . . ." (Charlotte Hemby)

"Old Macdonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O. And on that farm he had some pigs, E-I-E-I-O. With a *pig pig ear and a pig pig ear, Nellywhere, nellywhere, Pig pig ear.* Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!"

(Annie Fulk)

Bits and Pieces . . .

Summer Fun will be held the weeks of June 16 and 23 and July 21 and 28. A few spaces remain in all classes except toddlers. Call the preschool office if you are interested in enrolling.

“Orientation/Open House” scheduled for 6:30-8:00 PM on Wednesday, August 27 was not included on the original 2008-09 calendar. This is primarily to orient new parents to SPP and let them get a feel for navigating the building, but all parents are welcome to come for the brief meeting, to check in with the teachers who will be in their classrooms that night, and for the socializing that will be sponsored by Parent Council. This will be the only chance to meet infant and toddler teachers before school begins. Visitation for 2s and above will take place on Thursday and Friday, August 28 and 29 (children will be assigned a time for a brief visit with their new teachers).

Don't forget that **medical forms** can be downloaded from the church website www.stpauls-ws.org. These are **required for all children by the first day of school on September 2nd**. The updated 08-09 SPP calendar is there also.

Thank you to: Kimberly & Dudley Gentry for puzzles and cardboard blocks.

Lisa & Ken Childress and Beth & Michael Forsell for the book, *Read All About It!*, by Laura and Jenna Bush. This book is given to SPP in honor of Susan Gupton.

Elliott & Alex Turner for a sturdy changing table for the infant room.

Recalls from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) will continue to be forwarded when they apply to toys, clothing, or other items pertaining to children. The following hints were printed in the SAM column of the *W-S Journal* recently:

- Go through toy boxes and throw out toys with chipped paint, deteriorated plastic or that are broken. Don't let children play with vintage toys or antique furniture that may have older, lead-based paint.
- Stay away from cheap, no-name trinkets sold at dollar stores, street fairs and in vending machines. Do not buy jewelry—especially *cheap* jewelry—for young children. Many pieces of metal jewelry have been recalled because of high lead content.
- Make sure that arts-and-crafts supplies for children are nontoxic. Adult art supplies, in particular, can contain lead and other toxic heavy metals. Look for water-based paints and glues.
- Some children's vinyl lunch boxes have been found to contain lead. Serve and store food in lead-free containers and wrap all food that goes in your child's lunch box.

Space available at SPP for 2008-09: We have a few spaces remaining in the infant, 4-year-old, and readiness classes for next year. If you know of someone who might be interested, suggest that they call the preschool office at 723-4395 or email jingram@stpauls-ws.org.

Our school year ended with a flurry of activities, beginning with *Week of the Young Child* in April. Two and three-year-olds visited each other's classrooms and were treated to different cultures; 4s and readiness emphasized science with Dr. Echols. The older children performed the famous **SPP Circus** to the delight of all of the younger classes. The **Spring Sing**, planned and directed by Susan Gupton with assistance from Mary Showalter and all 4s and readiness teachers was a splendid performance in early May. The 4s and readiness children also had **Kindergarten Day** that included a bus ride, and cafeteria-style meal to get in practice for next year. Other activities included a **book signing** in the M-F 4s and **children's theatre** in readiness. Whew! Talk about a grand finale! It was fun, fun, fun.

Have a super summer and I'll look forward to seeing you at Summer Fun, in the fall, or along the way. Best wishes to our graduates and good luck as you continue your educational careers.