



The Eagle

February 2010

Prayer List Maintenance By Ed Tourangeau

Here are St. John's we pray for many persons, both members and non-members of the parish community, who are sick, ill, or in need of special prayers. We accept any and all names and remember those names in prayer not only on Sunday but every day of the week during public worship in the Chapel of the Resurrection. Moreover, many people take the Sunday bulletin home and use the intercessions during the week as part of their own devotions. The only distinction we make between parishioners and non-parishioners is that for non-parishioners we pray by first name only. Moreover, a parishioner has recently undertaken the additional ministry of notifying by mail as many as possible of those persons we pray for, to let them know that they are in our prayers (this is why you will be asked for an address for the person whose name you give us, if that is possible or appropriate).

Human nature being what it is, though, there is a need from time to time to refresh our sense of accountability as regards our Prayer List. By accountability I mean the need for you, who ask us to pray for these folks, to let us know how they are doing. Believe it or not this can encourage those of us who do what you have asked of us - namely to remember your friend or loved one or co-worker or neighbor in our prayers. We do that faithfully, and it helps us to continue to do that when you keep us updated as to how they are doing. It doesn't happen frequently but it does happen: we pray for a person long after they have died, or recovered, or had their baby, or whatever (this is especially true of those "first name only" persons). Human nature being what it is this can have the expected result...

And so beginning this year we will "wipe" our prayer list every quarter. We will carry those persons you ask us to pray for "until further notice" until the end of March, June, September and December. From now on "until further notice" means 90 days at the most. On the first Sunday of January, April, July and October we will "wipe" the list clean of all names, no matter when in the preceding quarter we received them. If you desire us to continue praying for your friend or loved one you are most welcome to put their name back on the list where it will remain for up to 90 days. You may do that by filling out a Prayer Request card (available in several locations around the church) or calling the office. Remember to give us mailing addresses if that is appropriate.

Thanks for understanding, and for your cooperation. Do keep us posted, by mentioning to Hilary or myself, or Doug Powell, Greg McClure, Linda Jeffries, Caryl Matthews or Zach Brooks - who regularly read Evening Prayer (and your intercessions) in our Chapel. Let us know how "your person" is doing. Those updates are appreciated and can mean a lot!

New Vestry Members By Ed Tourangeau

On Sunday, December 13 members of the parish elected four persons from a list of six to serve three-year terms on the Vestry. Those persons are Bill Kealey, Kathy Johnson, Doug Powell and Dave Vorbeck, and they will formally begin their terms following the Annual Meeting on February 7. We welcome these folks, and are sure they have the support of all in the congregation as they take on this important ministry and leadership role. Thanks are due as well to Zach Brooks and Amy Paget who also allowed their names to stand in nomination.

Persons rotating off the Vestry are George Moore, Kaye Kleine-Ahlbrandt, Sandy Arterberry and Kristine Holtvedt. Thanks are due to these folks for their service in the past three years and especially to George who gave a fourth year of "moral support" at a time of transition when the by-laws were changed so as to allow a Vestry membership of from 9 to 12, rather than a mandated membership of 12. This freedom will allow the Vestry to "test" a smaller membership if it wishes, recognizing that in some years we have an insufficient number of persons able to serve.

Applause in Church? By Ed Tourangeau

I once heard (and have shared in sermons) an explanation of Christian Liturgy which likened corporate Christian worship to a symphony. Within that comparison the Presider corresponds to the conductor, the various members of the gathered congregation as they exercised this or that function to the musicians, and God (not the congregation) is the audience.

With that in mind I've asked Michael Bennett, as our Director of Music, to share some thoughts – and offer some instruction – about the proper place of applause within our worship. Here are Michael's thoughts (and some suggestions), edited by me only a bit:

Applause customarily expresses appreciation of excellence in a context of performance. While one might argue that applause in church is directed to God in thanksgiving for the gift just experienced, that might be a subtlety many miss. While some might find it appropriate to applaud after a children's choir sings, what message is sent to the children the next time they sing and there is no applause (this has happened)? And are the children or their parents really clear that the applause is directed to God?

Liturgy is not an exercise in self-indulgence. The ministers of worship, both lay and ordained, do what they do for the praise and glorification of God. The gathered worshippers are not here to be entertained but to offer worship. Music is provided to enrich that worship and to offer reflection. And while the musical voluntaries before or after the liturgies occur outside the parameters of the formal rite, they are still chosen to magnify certain themes of the day or liturgical season, and appear – to the average person – very much a part of “the worship service.”

Don't be confused by the moment of silence after the choirs conclude an anthem. It is there to allow a moment of digestion (quite the same as the silence after the readings, or the sermon) and to avoid a “hurry up and go” sense to our worship. It is not given to draw applause.

Moreover, applause can be cheap. Think of those times you have attended a poorly or haphazardly performed event and clapped anyway – out of courtesy rather than in recognition of an offering made with integrity and commitment.

For many of course applause is a genuine expression of gratitude, and so you might consider these “better” ways of doing that: 1) Speak directly to the person after the service and tell them you appreciated what they did. What effect might it have upon our children for example, if adults go out of their way to thank them following the service for what they did in it? 2) Encourage the Worship Committee to schedule regular “Recognition Sundays.” 3) Write a letter of appreciation to the editor of this newsletter. 4) Host an “Appreciation” coffee hour.

I thank Michael for his input, and commend his counsel to everyone who gives thought about how to reinforce that when we gather on Sundays we do so as worshippers, not consumers of entertainment.

Pancake Supper By Greg McClure

Come enjoy one last blowout celebration before Lent at the 33rd annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 16, at the St. John's commons.

Pancakes and sausage, along with a variety of fruit and beverages, will be served from 5:00 pm to 7:15 pm.

Ticket prices will remain unchanged for the fourth consecutive year — \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 6-13, and \$13 for families (4 or more). Children 5 years and under are free.

Tickets will be on sale in the commons room following both the 8 and 10:15 a.m. services beginning Sunday, Jan. 31. They also will be on sale following both services on Feb. 7 and Feb. 14, and at the supper.

Volunteers are needed to help with the supper. If you are interested in helping, or for more information about the supper, please contact Tracey Gage or Greg McClure.

Food Pantry News By Ken Paar

Despite December being the lightest month all year, 2009 set all time records at the Food Pantry. For the year, the Pantry served 8,948 clients, feeding 29,549 persons; increases of 11.7% and 16.2% respectively. With thanks to many generous donors, especially Prairie View Farm and St. Tom's, and your Federal tax dollars, the average feeding cost was \$0.65/person in 2009; down from \$0.79 in 2008. The Food Pantry distributed nearly 170,000# in 2009, almost 40,000# more than 2008. Looking back several years, in 2005 we were amazed upon realizing that we distributed nearly a ton of food per week, we exceeded 1.6 tons per week in 2009. Additional statistics and thanks are available in the 2009 annual report.

Episcopal Women's Ministries - ECW By Charlene Watson

All women of the Episcopal faith are invited to attend the 2010 Gathering at the Hyatt Hotel in Dearborn, Michigan on April 9, 10, and 11. The theme of this year's Province V ECW Annual Meeting is the "Spirit of One Woman." This theme supports the previous two gatherings, "The Heart of One Woman" and "The Power of One Woman."

The two keynote speakers will be focusing on ways to reach out to our various communities. On Friday night the dinner speaker will be the Rev. Stephanie Spellers from Massachusetts. She is the author of the book Radical Welcome, and the book will be available for purchase. Our Saturday evening speaker is a well known Methodist minister, the Rev. Faith Fowler. She recently received an award at the White House for her work in the Cass Community Church and its surrounding area.

Six workshops on various aspects of spirituality are planned for Saturday afternoon, and two may be chosen at the time of registration. Information tables for DOK, CPC, UTO, and others organizations will be available for those interested in picking up literature and/or talking to representatives who can answer questions.

The website for further information and a registration form which can be copied is – www.ecwdioceseofmichigan.com

The deadline for registration is February 15, 2010.

Reunite with long-time friends and make new ones. This will be an energizing experience for females of ALL ages. JOIN US! Please contact Mary Lou Davis (497-1909), Dorothy Jones (497-2348), Kaye Kleine-Ahlbrandt (463-3897), or Charlene Watson (474-9101) for more information.

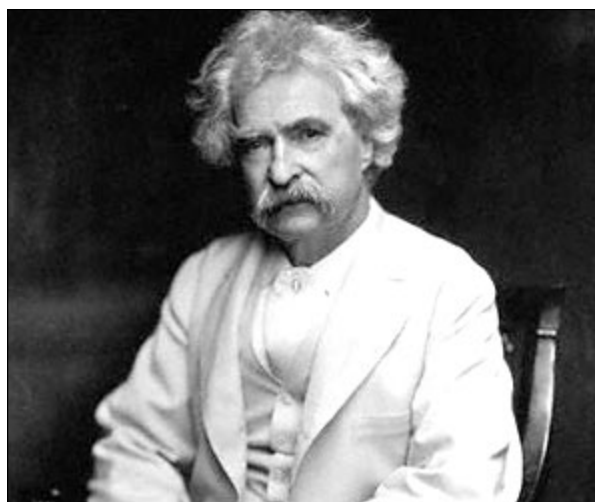
Thank you 40 Times Over and Many More By The Very Rev. Robert A. L'Homme

The Fourth Sunday of Advent was a special day for me as I celebrated the 40th anniversary of priesthood and prayed for Fr. Tourangeau on his 39th anniversary. We sang a few of my favorite hymns, though not very "adventy," and listened to Fr. Ed's fine sermon. We also had a concelebration of the Eucharist with Hilary. I was able to use the Orthodox chalice given to me many years ago in memory of my grandmothers. I want to thank Fr. Ed who made it all possible, Michael for the music and the altar guild for being so helpful. I was very surprised at the generous gift sent by the vestry to the Order of the Holy Cross for the occasion and delighted to ask it also be in thanksgiving for Fr. Ed's 39th anniversary. I have been an associate of the Order since 1960, and I'm dedicated to this Benedictine order and its prayers and good works. Located in the Hudson Valley at West Park, you would enjoy a visit to the Mother House, or one of its branches such as Santa Barbara, CA or South Africa. My deep thanks to the rector and vestry for their gift in St. John's name to the Order.

Celebrating the Eucharist that day was a great privilege as it is Sunday after Sunday, and I am grateful to Fr. Ed and you for making it possible.

When in Doubt, Tell the Truth By The Very Rev. Robert A. L'Homme

These are the words of wisdom from one of America's greatest writers and wits. Mark Twain left us some of our most beloved characters, and his life seems to define the American character itself. In writing he was a genius; in business a disaster. He did publish the memoirs of a beloved friend, but it ended his career as a publisher. He lost his beloved Connecticut home because of bad investments, but that sent him abroad with a revived writing career. He lost a beloved daughter, but still brought laughter to millions. Come join the St. John's book club for a night with Mark Twain on Wednesday, February 24 at 7 pm. And because it's a "horrible death to be talked to death," we promise to be "short and sweet, like an old woman's dance."



e-spirituality By Amy Paget

e-spirituality is designed to be an item in each Eagle where St. John's parishioners share the online resources that they have discovered that aid in their understanding of their faith.

<http://www.chicagoconsultation.org> **The Chicago Consultation** is a group of Episcopal and Anglican bishops, clergy and lay people that supports the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Christians in the Episcopal Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion. I discovered this site when I saw an on-line press release from them. What I appreciate on this website is the range of resource from essays, to op-ed articles to FAQs that "make the case," scripturally and theologically, for the full inclusion of all baptized Christians in the life and leadership of the Church.

Father Ed suggests that some more 'conservative' viewpoints within our communion may be found at:

<<http://cariocaconfessions.blogspot.com/>> **Confessions of a Carioca: Carioca: Anyone born in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Confess: to acknowledge one's belief or faith in; declare adherence to, to reveal by circumstances.** This is Dan Martins' blog. Dan is an Anglican priest in Warsaw Indiana. Recently he has been blogging about Advent anthems.

<<http://www.kendallharmon.net/t19/>> **TitusOneNine** by Kendall Harmon. Though Harmon himself is pretty conservative, his blogroll along the right hand column sites commentary on both sides. **TitusOneNine** aims to be a free floating commentary on culture, politics, economics, and religion based on a passionate commitment to the truth and a desire graciously to refute that which is contrary to it.... "He must hold firm to the sure word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it." —Titus 1:9, Revised Standard Version

<http://www.thoughtfulchristian.com> Heidi Kauffman discovered this site which is maintained by Westminster John Knox Press, the publishing house of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). However, **The Thoughtful Christian** is an ecumenical site with writers from a variety of denominational affiliations and experiential backgrounds. The site's goal is to help Christians from a wide variety of perspectives find resources to help them understand, share, and practice their faith. It is a web-based resource center, filled with studies ranging from one to four sessions each for adult groups and individuals. The studies can be downloaded as Acrobat PDF files, printed out, and photocopied for use in classes or for personal study and devotion. In addition, leaders can e-mail the Participant Handout to students in advance of the next meeting. New studies, including rapid responses to current events, are added to the site on a regular, ongoing basis.

Have you found an online site that's contributed to your journey in faith? Email Amy at pagets@gmail.com and watch for it to appear here in the upcoming months.

Reminder: St. John's Annual Meeting February 7. There will be no Godly Play or Sunday Forum. Combined Eucharist at 9:00 am followed by brunch and the annual meeting. Childcare will be available during the meeting.

Godly Play Needs You By Heidi Kauffman

More people are needed to join the Godly Play study Group. Currently we have exactly the number of instructors we need, meaning no one gets a break. This is a formula for ultimate disintegration and we seek to prevent it. We meet monthly to study and train in the Godly Play teaching method. In June and July we meet weekly until all our work is done planning and setting up for the next year. That is the time commitment in addition to Sunday mornings. The quality of the Godly Play program depends upon training - plus it's fun to get together and hear each others' experiences in the classroom.

Do you want to learn more about the biblical story so you can share it with others? To support our deepening children's formation program? To develop community in a small group of adults? To ensure we don't lose what we've worked hard to attain?

Talk with our Godly Play teachers and substitutes. They will tell you that doing this has deepened their own faith. Godly Play is not just for little kids. Godly Play teachers all over the world do it because it is so personally enriching. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. We really need you! If you want to learn more join us once and we can tell you more or talk with Heidi K., Leah, Nate, Cresta, Debbie, Gayle, or Heidi O.

Next Eagle Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the March *Eagle* will be Monday, February 15. Email to eagle@stjohns-laf.org or place items in *The Eagle* mailbox on the porch.

Taize Prayer Services

By Heidi Kauffman

Last summer, the pastors and various staff people of the “downtown” churches decided to take turns hosting Taize prayer services in our community. Starting January 26, 2010, there will be a Taize prayer service every 4th Tuesday of the month. St. John’s will host the services in March and June. The first service is January 26, 2010 at St. Ann’s. See the St John’s web calendar for places and times each month.

A Taize (pronounced te-ZAY) prayer service is candlelit and incorporates short readings, silence, and lots of simple, beautiful songs that are repeated – allowing the singer to enter a meditative state of prayer. The music is accompanied by piano, flute, violin, cello, clarinet, bassoon or other instruments. The music was written for the Taize community. Because of the international nature of the community and the thousands of visitors from all over the world, much of the music is written and sung in Latin. The texts are taken from the psalms and other parts of scripture.

The name Taize is from a small town in the center of France where a man started an ecumenical community in 1941. His name was Brother Roger. He and the community initially helped many people displaced by the second world war including Jews.

Brother Roger died in 2005 at the age of 90 but the Taize community continues and has over one hundred brothers and hosts thousands of visitors every year – mostly young people between the ages of 19 and 35. St. John’s parishioner, Erik Hanson, had the opportunity to spend a week there and would be happy to talk with people about his experience.

Brother Roger of Taize says, “From the depths of the human condition a secret aspiration rises up. Caught up in the anonymous rhythms of schedules and timetables, men and women of today are implicitly thirsting for the one essential reality: an inner life, signs of the invisible. Nothing is more conducive to a communion with the living God than a meditative common prayer with, as its high point, singing that never ends but continues in the silence of one’s heart when one is alone again... In a technological society, there is a clear separation between prayer and work. When inner life and human solidarity appear to be in competition with one another, as if people had to choose between them, that opposition tears apart the very depths of the soul. Prayer is a serene force at work within human beings, stirring them up, transforming them...”

There are countless churches and campus ministries that host regular Taize prayer services all over the world, testifying to the beauty of the music and its ability to quiet ourselves, be still, and listen to God. Come, join the Community Taize services and experience this form of prayer. If you would like to help with the service at St John’s by learning the songs, being a lector, decorating the nave with candles, or playing an instrument please contact Heidi Kauffman. For more information about Taize prayer, check out these websites:

<http://www.spiritualitytoday.org/spir2day/904234burke.html>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/priests/taize_1.shtml

<http://www.taize.fr/en>

Mom’s Morning Out By Angela Mosier

The next Mom’s Morning Out will be February 12 from 9 am until noon. Please contact Angela Mosier at ajmosier@comcast.net to reserve your space. Mom’s Morning Out will occur monthly on the second Friday of each month until May.

United Thank Offering By Mary Louise Davis

This poem comes from the United Thank Offering devotional material:

Today

Outside my window,
a new day I see
And only I can determine
what kind of day it will be.
It can be busy and sunny,
laughing and gay,
Or boring and cold,
unhappy and grey.
My own state of mind
is the determining key,
For I am only the person
I let myself be.
I can be thoughtful
and do all I can to help,
Or be selfish
and think just of myself.
I can enjoy what I do
and make it seem fun,
Or gripe and complain
and make it hard on someone.
I can be patient with those
who may not understand,
Or belittle and hurt them
as much as I can.
But I have faith
in our Lord Jesus Christ,
and believe what I say,
And I personally intend
to make the best
of each day.

Quiet Day By Amy Paget

St. John's first Quiet Day in 2010 on February 13 from 10 am until 2 pm will focus on learning about the Desert Fathers and Mothers and exploring their sayings and spiritual practices. We'll 'jump off' using resources available from The Thoughtful Christian. For a preview, head to www.thoughtfulchristian.com.

So who were these men and women? They lived in the fourth and fifth centuries, C.E. Their way of life came into being after Christianity had become legal and Christians were no longer under persecution. Some had deep questions about an expression of the faith that was taking on the trappings of the Roman Empire. As a result, women and men began going to the deserts of Egypt and the Holy Land, and seeking to live out the Great Commandment: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27, Dt. 6:5, Lev. 19:18) As scholar Roberta Bondi has pointed out, the desert mothers and fathers are remarkable for their daily practice of seeking to "love as God loves."

In the sayings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers, there was insistence on the primacy of love over everything else in spiritual life, over knowledge, asceticism, contemplation, solitude, or prayer. Without love the exercises of the spirit lose all meaning. Their idea of love was not sentiment but spiritual identification with one's brother; taking one's neighbor as one's self. The full difficulty and magnitude of the task of loving others is recognized everywhere and never minimized. They understood that it is very hard to love others in the full sense of the word and that it involved a kind of death of their own being.

Who were the desert mothers? For one thing, we know there were a lot of them. One historian of the times tells us that

there were twice as many women as men in the deserts. Another scholar said that there were so many Christians who sought to live this life in the desert that "the desert became a city." There were even accounts of "tourists" going out to the deserts to observe the ammas and abbas.

Join us for a visit with these ammas and abbas and their practices. This Quiet Day will feature group activities, personal prayer and exploration, and conclude with lunch, then worship. It will be held in the Commons, St. John's.

Questions? Contact Amy Paget at pagets@gmail.com.

Include future Quiet days on your calendar ...all are Saturdays: May 1, 2010.



December Financial Report By Linda Jeffries

OPERATING BUDGET INCOME AND EXPENSES MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009

A. RECEIPTS	Current Month	Total Year
2009		
1. Pledge Income	32,593.00	303,208.00
2. Non-Pledge Income	5,481.00	39,204.00
3. Transfer/Reserve Funds	-0-	-0-
4. Transfer/Stephens Fund	-0-	-0-
TOTAL INCOME	38,074.00	342,412.00
B. EXPENSES		
1. Outreach	3,862.00	47,988.00
2. Program	1,547.00	13,550.00
3. Personnel	16,123.00	217,392.00
4. Office	2,377.00	21,768.00
5. Property	4,361.00	59,802.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	28,270.00	360,500.00
C. EXCESS OF RECEIPTS/EXPENSES	+9,084.00	-13,936.00

A Few Notes:

- For 2009, the budget assumes a shortfall of up to \$35,000. In 2010, 2011, and 2012, any shortfall (up to \$35,000/year) will be met by income from the Extraordinary Stewardship Effort (ESE).
- This is a summary report of operating income and expenses. Details are available for review from any member of the Finance Committee or the parish office. Parish funds such as endowment/investment funds, or pass-through receipts not directed toward regular parish operations are not included in the above report. They are available for review through the parish office or any member of the Endowment Committee.
- 2010 pledge totals as of 12/31/09: 128 units totaling \$310,208.00. Average pledge - \$2,423.50.



**February Lunchtime Concert
By Michael Bennett**

On this month’s docket of our lunchtime concert series you will hear Ben McCartney, our Church Music Intern, playing the King of Instruments. Ben is an organ student of Michael Bennett, a member of our Parish Choir, and a sophomore at Purdue. Ben frequently plays in our 10:15 am worship, accompanying the Jr. Choristers and playing hymns and voluntaries. His eclectic program will feature music of Bach, French contemporary organist Jean Langlais, and also that of a living American composer, Dan Locklair. Plan to join us Wednesday, February 10. The concert begins at 12:10 pm with lunch following.



St. John’s Episcopal Church

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Rector
The Reverend Ed Tourangeau

Youth and Young Adult Ministries
The Reverend Hilary Cooke

Sunday Associate
The Very Reverend Robert L'Homme

Parish Administrator
Teresa Lohman

Director of Music
Michael Bennett

Religious Education Coordinator
Heidi Kauffman

Parish Health Ministries
Pequita Behrndt

Building Use Coordinator
Caryl Matthews

Eagle Editor
Cresta Cates

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Ann Schreiber, *Clerk*
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Ginny Hull, *Asst. Treasurer*
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Kleine-Ahlbrandt, Linda Jeffries, Dorothy
Jones, Maggie McClure, George Moore,
Debra Murawski, Rachael Schexnailder,
Heather Johnston Nicholson

**Operational Subsidy
Fund
By Sue Bracey**

There is a new option for putting donations to work at St. John’s by giving to the Operational Subsidy Fund whose quarterly earnings are deposited directly into St. John’s operating budget for use now. Anyone can donate to this fund at any time by giving to St. John’s and designate for OSF. Contributing to OSF is a “gift that keeps on giving.” Won’t you consider a gift to OSF? If you have questions, please contact a member of the Endowment/Investment Committee.

