

MAGNIFICAT

PARISH NEWS FROM THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LADY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH FEBRUARY 2008

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FROM THE RECTOR

In our annual meeting this past Sunday, I was reminded of how hard it is to be a democracy. Several key figures in the formation of our country were also key figures in creating the Episcopal Church when it split from the Church of England during the Revolutionary War era. Our church still has some of the same challenges in common with our democracy.



Both the affairs of the Episcopal Church and the affairs of the United States rely heavily upon the interest and participation of its people. Without this participation, both our country and our church can turn into institutions that serve those whose voices are present. For a time, this is really no problem. But when only a particular group is heard

from, the institution begins to serve only those who are in power. The institution begins to look and feel like a product of the particular group. And it is no longer what it was created to be, not because it is broken, but because the people have chosen not to participate.

Running a church, much less a country, on the assumption that everyone is interested enough to participate is a dangerous proposition. But it is this very notion that was the radical element of what I believe Alexis deTocqueville called “the great experiment” when he spoke of the newly formed United States. In reality, democracy is time consuming, it is not always fun or entertaining, and the process does not always get things right. But it is a way of governing that gives everyone equal status and has the possibility of creating something greater than what we could accomplish individually.

Our annual meeting was an exercise in democracy. I was reminded of what a gift our way of being in community is when I spoke to one of our newest parishioners, Rob Quirk. Rob is a former Roman Catholic monk who spoke with great awe in his voice as he talked about all of the energy that had clearly been put into the presentation of our meeting. He said that the Roman church never had anything like this. No one had a say about how the church would be run or what funds would be allocated for what ministries. And

no one put much effort into owning the ministries of the church to report to the congregation about what they dreamed a particular ministry might look like.

Sometimes it only takes such small observations to remind you of what you have. Thank you to all of you who stayed for the meeting, and to those who took the time to make presentations about our ministry together. Thank you for sticking around and being a part of the democratic process -- that same process that gave birth to our nation and is the answer to the challenges that we face in the church as well as our country. God bless you all.

See you in church.
- Fr. Clyde+

FROM THE (NEW) SENIOR WARDEN

Some people at Annunciation know that every year instead of a making a New Year's Resolution, I choose a one word motto. The motto is meant to help guide my decisions and actions. It's always a verb. The fact that it's one word makes it easy to remember and flexible to fit almost any situation. One year my motto was "risk," another year it was "engage." This year, as I begin my term as Senior Warden, I have chosen "pray" as my motto.



I don't know about you, but prayer is often the first thing that goes when I get busy. I've often put prayer on the same level as going out to dinner with my husband -- something that happens only when there is an important occasion or we've planned well in advance.

Reaching out to God shouldn't be as infrequent as "date night!" Heavens!

Especially now, as I've taken on the responsibilities of Senior Warden, I need to pray and 'pray without ceasing.' I hope to weave prayer in and out of my days as I go through the hum drum or the dramatic. I hope to call God down to help me when there is conflict or sorrow. I just can't do it by myself. And I hope to pray for all of you everyday, just as I hope you'll pray for me.

-Maggie Attiyeh

FROM THE (NEW) JUNIOR WARDEN

Last year I wrote in the *Magnificat* that I appreciated your electing me as a Vestry person, and that I would do my best to serve you in that capacity. On January 20th, you again showed your confidence in me by making me the Junior Warden of the parish. I am most humbled by your vote.

At the same time, I'm very excited about the direction Annunciation is going with its strategic plan for this year and beyond. All of us should be proud of this plan which we created. A lot of well-spent time and effort went into making this a living document, not something that is going to be shoved into a corner and forgotten in the next several years. If you think things are not going according to the plan, please let somebody on the Vestry or Maggie, the Senior Warden, or me know of your concern. **Do not keep it to yourself.**

All of us, as the Annunciation parish community, have the obligation to make Annunciation the best caring Episcopal Church in Lake County.

-Rich Ringhofer

2008 Lenten Program



As the Education Committee considered topics for this year's Lenten Program, we listened to the comments and requests you made during the GTI discussions last year. Many of you told us you would like to get together more often in smaller groups to discuss your opinions, beliefs and feelings about topics of faith. The Via Media program allows us to respond to all of those needs. Moreover, we will be able to enjoy a simple meal and worship together.

The Via Media program was designed by Episcopalians across the country to appeal to three groups of people: those new to the Episcopal Church, those returning to the Episcopal Church after falling away for some reason, and those currently in the Episcopal Church wanting to explore more fully what it means to be an Anglican. It explores a series of topics, including our understanding of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, as well as our interpretation of the Bible, sin and the Kingdom of God. The premise of the discussions is that we Episcopalians are *diverse, thoughtful, intelligent* people who want the freedom and encouragement to explore and question our faith, and to disagree about issues while still caring for and supporting each other.

Each evening will begin with a simple meal of soup, salad and bread, followed by a twenty minute video presentation of a diverse panel of ordained and lay persons introducing and discussing the topic. We will form small

groups led by one of our clergy as table facilitator to have conversations about the presentation and our response to it. We will be able to take away material to continue our thoughts throughout the week, and the evening will conclude with worship.

For those of you who, like me, like to know the details, we plan to begin at 6:15 PM with dinner and conclude after worship around 8PM. The program will start on Wednesday, February 13, and will continue weekly through Wednesday, March 12. The Parish Life committee will be organizing the dinner and we will have childcare available.

Please plan to join us during Lent for some warm fellowship and thoughtful discussion. We hope that not only will you come away with a greater understanding of your own Episcopalian beliefs, but also you may be able to convey better that understanding to others in these controversial times for Episcopalians.
-Deb Gallinger

The advertisement has a purple background. On the left is a large, stylized purple hand with fingers spread. To the right of the hand, the text reads: "Were you the kid who got in trouble in Sunday school for asking too many questions?" in a bold, white font. Below this, it says "Come join the rest of us." in a smaller, white font. At the bottom right is the Via Media logo, which includes a cross graphic and the text "via media A Safe Place to Ask Questions".

PARISH LIFE

Mardi Gras is almost here. The celebration will be on Tuesday, February 5. Dinner will be served between 5 and 8:00 featuring

traditional New Orleans foods with special kid-friendly and vegetarian selections available. Carryout plates will also be offered. The Actual Size band will make their third appearance this year. Come on and let the Good Times Roll! Be sure and sign up to help serve, or clean up, or set up. It will be the night of the Illinois primary election, so vote early and don't miss this night of fun and food before Lent begins.



There is also a sign-up sheet in the narthex for soupmakers for the Wednesday Lenten services. Last year we had an amazing assortment of delicious homemade soups served. Please join us for the service and program that accompanies the meal on Wednesdays during Lent.

Gardeners, the seed catalogues have started coming in the mail, so start thinking about your garden and how you can have it ready for the Garden Walk in June. We will be looking for some new gardens to visit this year.



—Carol Anderson

LENT

Lent is the 40 days before Easter, excluding Sundays, and it starts early this year: February 6th. Do you know why? To determine when Lent is, you have to first determine when Easter day falls, and then count backward from there to Ash Wednesday. Easter day is calculated by finding the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after March 21. This year that's March 23rd. Brr! Start looking for a long-sleeved Easter dress now!



And speaking of Easter preparations, this is precisely what Lent is all about: preparing for Easter, the holiest day in the Christian year. Since the earliest times of the Church, Christians have prepared for Easter, though the specific practices and duration of Lent evolved over the centuries. Not that the focus on prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works has changed, but the church's instruction on how best to do that has evolved with our evolving societies. These days, people still "give things up for Lent," but we encourage you to be creative in implementing changes for 40 days that will prepare your body and soul for a joyous celebration of Easter.

Our Sunday morning services will change dramatically to both reflect and encourage this change in focus from the joyful exuberance of Epiphany to the penitential preparation of Lent. Gone are the flowers, the bells, the Gloria, and even the word "alleluia." In their place is a more somber and reflective service, beginning with the penitential rite, and ending not with a blessing, but with an admonition to "bow down before the Lord" for a solemn Prayer over the People.

Plan to use Lent well. Prepare yourself to greet the risen Lord on Easter morning with a joyful heart, proclaiming at last: "Alleluia!"

CALL FOR BLESSED PALMS

You are invited to return your blessed palm branches and palm crosses from last Palm Sunday, and place them in a basket in the Narthex. These dried palms will then be burned on Mardi Gras (a.k.a. Shrove Tuesday) in preparation for the observance of Ash Wednesday on February 6th. Their imposition upon the heads of the faithful will complete the palm's cycle of existence.

SOJOURNERS IN SPIRIT



Our parish women's group met on the third Monday of January for fellowship, fun, and to discuss women and vocation. Our example was Madeleine L'Engle, and we were blessed with the knowledgeable assistance of

Ruth Chatlien in helping to guide our discussion.

If you haven't yet attended Sojourners in Spirit, please plan on joining us on February 18th, when we'll look at another "woman who dared": Mary of Magdala. Sure to be interesting... destined to be fun. See you in February - Maggie Attiyeh and Rev. Kate



ATRIUM NEWS



"The Church is a gift of God; assembly required" reads a sign on a small church outside of St. Louis. Thought provoking and humorous, signs like this have a way of resonating in you long after you have driven by them. Almost any meaningful endeavor requires more than one person. This is true of our atrium too. Since November, the atrium has received many gifts. The Pace family donated a most beautiful copy of *Madonna della Sedia* by Raphael. The O'Morchoe family presented the Good Shepherd work that they have made and painted. Father Clyde, the children and the O'Morchoe family blessed this material just last week. And Jane Penticoff graciously refinished a very sad table to a shine and it

will be put to use this month. Thanks to all of you who have helped and continue to help assemble our wonderful atrium.

The children have been busy with our Advent celebration, learning about the Annunciation, as well as the Adoration of the Shepherds. We have changed the prayer table drape to green and we'll spend three weeks growing with the recently received gifts. All of your efforts mean so much to them. Thank you again.
-Mary Oesterlein

FORWARD DAY BY DAY

The next issue of the very helpful Episcopal resource for daily Bible reading, *Forward Day by Day*, covering the months of February - April will be available on the coffee table in the Narthex. A \$2 donation is suggested. You are encouraged to pick up a copy, or perhaps to begin following this gentle, spiritual discipline for the first time... perfect for Lent!

PUBLIC ACTION TO DELIVER SHELTER "Why Volunteer?"

The P.A.D.S. menu for January was macaroni and cheese, ring bologna and Kielbasa sausages, corn bread and coleslaw. We wanted to make something else to go with the menu. Having 6 ham hocks on hand, we decided to make ham hocks and greens. Knowing our clientele is mostly African American we wanted to try it and see if it would go over. Go over, what where we thinking? It went over so well that we didn't have enough! Everyone got a chance to sample it, but only a few got pieces of the ham hocks.

Making others happy is just one of the pleasures of volunteering. It was such a cold

evening that we wanted to make comfort food for the people at PADS. Our planning did not go unappreciated, and the last minute addition of ham hocks and greens was a huge success. I was tired from prepping the food and wanted to go home, but decided to stay and serve. The smiles and the thank you's said it all. That was enough for me. As I drove home I thanked God that I stayed and I now have 48 smiles to remember!

-Cheri Johnson

FINANCIAL STATUS

Our Parish is at a financial crossroads since our expenses exceeded revenues by \$8K in 2007, and our draft budget for 2008 predicts an even larger shortfall of \$17K. This deficit continues to exist even though the Vestry has made several rounds of difficult cuts which impact the mission of the church. For example, the Outreach Budget was reduced by \$5K and our Diocesan Pledge was reduced by almost \$15K below the requested amount.

The items which remain in the budget are basically Salaries and Benefits, Utilities, Buildings and Grounds Maintenance, and Operating Expenses such as Insurance, Office Equipment and Supplies, Altar Guild, and Christian Education. These items are either at or below 2007 levels which presents a challenge given the age of our building and the fact that most of the 2007 cost overrun was due to repairs of our physical structure.

The other major challenge which we face is replacement of the roof on our building which is going to cost about \$60K. This will be handled by taking out a mortgage on the church which will require principal and interest payments for 15 to 20 years.

-Bruce Stowell

8 Degrees or Steps In the Duty of Charity

by Maimonides, 12th Century Philosopher

An interesting way to look at charitable giving ... from your Outreach Team:

1st degree and lowest degree is to give, but with reluctance or regret. This is the gift of the hand, but not of the heart.

2nd degree is to give cheerfully but not proportionately to the distress of the sufferer.

3rd degree is to give cheerfully and proportionately, but not until solicited.

4th degree is to give cheerfully, proportionately, and even unsolicited; but to put it in the poor man's hand, thereby exciting in him the painful emotion of shame.

5th degree is to give charity in such a way that the distressed may receive the bounty, and know their benefactor, without their being known to him. Such was the conduct of some of our ancestors, who used to tie up money in the corners of their cloaks, so that the poor might take it unperceived.

6th degree, which rises still higher, is to know the objects of our bounty, but remain unknown to them. Such was the conduct of those of our ancestors who used to convey their charitable gifts into poor people's dwellings; taking care that their own persons and names should remain unknown.

7th degree is still more meritorious, namely to bestow charity in such a way that the benefactor may not know the relieved persons, nor they the name of their benefactors.

Lastly, the 8th degree in the duty of charity, and the most meritorious of all, is to anticipate charity by preventing poverty; namely, to assist the reduced fellowman, either by a considerable gift, or a loan of money, or by teaching him a trade, or by putting him in the way of business so that he may earn an honest livelihood; and not be forced to the dreadful alternative of holding out his hand for charity. This is the highest step and the summit of charity's golden ladder. — Maimonides

FROM THE PEWS

A new segment in the “Magnificat” filled with news, views and who’s who... all from the pews! Please submit your own news and views to Rev. Kate for next month’s newsletter. We’d love to hear from you.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

It takes a village... to recognize and applaud and assist and encourage each other. Know someone who’s done something special? Let us know! The “village” of Annunciation would like to share each other’s joys and concerns. This month, kudos go to Madalene Shumate for her first role in a play outside of the church pageant (you might remember her as the small but intimidating “Darth Herod”). Madalene will perform in her school musical, *Alice in Wonderland*, at the end of this month. And speaking of performers, Erin Donegan will play the roles of Star-to-be, a servant/dancer, and a Rockette in *Annie Jr.* put on by CYT. This is Erin’s 18th



performance with CYT, and *if* there are any tickets left (they’re going fast), you can buy them from her.

And here’s one last tribute to a lifetime achievement. This comes from Craig Pelley (Linda Lutter’s brother), talking about Mary Fulton: “She was a very special person. To this day I remember her when she was my Sunday School teacher. I often picture her in class showing her love of God and the church. I am not sure what age she taught (maybe 5th grade), but I can remember sitting and actually enjoying being there. I thought of her on Sunday when the priest talked about how people see God in us. We don’t all see “the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove”. She made a difference in my life. That’s all one can ask... make a difference for one person.

VIEW FROM THE PEWS

Morning of Reflection facilitated by
Jennifer Haworth and Rob Quirk

I’m sure you have all heard of the power of prayer. The morning of reflection on Saturday, December 8th, taught me about the *importance* of prayer. That the power isn’t only the outcome of the prayer, but what happens *while* you are praying is mighty powerful too. My prayer life has always been one of praying for things. Praying for people, healing, forgiveness, questioning... asking was the bulk of my prayer life. On December 8th, I realized there was another point to prayer: to get to know God, and for God to enjoy your company and get to know you.

All prayer “takes time ... calls for mutuality and vulnerability ... requires trust.” The example used at our morning



of reflection when explaining prayer was the courting ritual. When you fall in love, you spend hours of time talking so you can learn as much as possible about that person. You form a relationship and it eventually becomes an intimate relationship. Can this be possible with God? Can you actually spend “time” with God not requesting, not pleading, not questioning? Well, evidently you can, and there are certain types of prayers that help you do this. One type of prayer discussed was the contemplative prayer. You can experience this type of prayer by meditative/mantras, Ignatian contemplation, and group – Lectio Divina. At your next prayer time, you can try this type of prayer. To get to know God better and let God better know you.

I hope the next time something like this is offered, you will be able to attend, because it filled me mentally, spiritually, and socially. It was a great morning. Let me leave you with this quote that Jennifer used concerning prayer from Bill Barry, a Jesuit priest ... prayer is like this: “I let God know who I am and I ask God to reveal Godself to me.”

-Linda Lutter

WHO'S IN THE PEWS

How are *All Souls*, *mission*, *the Sivers*, and *pioneer family* connected? Let me tell you a story that will make it all clear.

The Siver family is Annunciation's very own pioneers. They have been attending this church for over 50 years—yet many of you might not know them because they go to the 8:00 service. Please meet Dick and Loretta Siver and their children—Mick and his wife JoEllen, Holly Korus, Pam Meyer, and Randy and his wife Debbie (who moved to the north woods 5 years ago).

One chilly morning, I met with the Sivers at Holly's house. The warmth of her home and the partaking of hot coffee, tea, and flaxseed muffins made our time together a cozy reminiscence.

When asked how they started at Annunciation, Loretta said, “Because of Dean Ganster.” She had been attending Christ Church in Waukegan where Fr. Howard Ganster was dean. When Christ Church started a mission, the family transferred to what was then called All Souls' Chapel (it later became Annunciation of Our Lady Church).

Showing the can-do spirit of pioneers, the Sivers were involved in a myriad of projects at the new church. Loretta was the head of Altar Guild for over 20 years. She also helped out with office work or whatever was needed. Dick was the carpenter, and some of his handiwork still graces the church. He created the wood cross and pulpit in the chapel. When we were a mission, Dick was the first Bishop's Warden, comparable to a Senior Warden. As the Siver children grew up, they also filled jobs in the parish. Pam is in altar guild, and Mick was on vestry. He and Deb sang in the choir. Randy was head of the servers. JoEllen and Holly taught Sunday school. JoEllen was Jr. Warden.

It wasn't all work. Like the pioneers, the early parishioners at Annunciation knew how to have fun. The Sivers shared vivid memories with me:

- The church picnics at Hinkston Park—we would leave the park in the dark, exhausted and dirty.
- Bill Bergman, who grew up here, became a priest. He came home one year to visit his family and officiate at our Christmas Eve service. His father

died the afternoon of the 24th. Bill still celebrated the service, dedicating it to his dad. Everyone's eyes held tears that night.

- We used to have festive parties after Easter Vigil. Mick recalls that one year the organist slept in the pew because she had to play for early service. That vigil ran from 12:00 to 3:00, followed by a 2-hour reception!
- Mick's son, Scott, and Holly's son, Chris, both fainted while serving (at different times).



Dick and Loretta Siver (left) and Pam Meyer (right). No photo of Mick and JoEllen yet!

My morning with the Sivers turned into a wonderful time of reminiscing—and gave me a chance to introduce you to some of the people who built the church. If you ever go to the 8:00 service, you will see them in the 2nd and 3rd rows, sitting on the chapel side.

—Linda Lutter

Our mission is to know God and to make God known. Our office is open Monday – Thursday from 9-1. The vestry members who guide our church are:

Maggie Attiyeh, Senior Warden
Rich Ringhofer, Junior Warden
Deb Gallinger
Bill Hagan
Jane Penticoff
Cindy Pullinger
Deb Rakestraw
Dale Sander
Todd Shumate

