

MAGNIFICAT

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

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FROM THE RECTOR

I have learned that one of our strengths as a parish community is that when we are faced with a difficult situation, we are really good at finding a way of turning that into a new opportunity. Last year, Carol Anderson tiredly entered my office and said that she was so blessed to have chaired the parish life team, but that she needed some time away from that responsibility. If you know anything about Carol, she is a person with great energy and enthusiasm. Knowing the course that parish life had been on, I wasn't surprised by her desire to take a break as the task of coordinating that ministry is a great challenge. She and her predecessor, Laura Fulton, both made parish life a very effective ministry. Thanks to both of you!



Since no one has expressed an interest in running parish life, the vestry and I would like to try another approach to this formidable ministry that encompasses so many aspects of our life together. The whole parish is invited to meet on April 6th with representatives from our ministry teams and the people involved in parish life events to create a new way of addressing our ministry of fellowship with one another. Essentially, we are proposing that we approach our fellowship from a seasonal perspective. For instance, we will meet in April to lay out our calendar from Eastertide through the entire "Green Season" (up to the beginning of Advent).

As we lay out our events, we will assign one team leader for each event. That person will be in charge of recruiting and coordinating for that event only. Once they are finished, they can either participate as volunteers for other events, or take the year off and hopefully be recharged when their event comes around again. If no one comes forward to take on an event, it will be tabled till the next year. This approach is not new. What *is* new is that when we are planning the events for a particular season, we will have at the table representatives from communication, outreach, education and other ministry groups. The event is then communicated to the other ministry teams and the forum provides a great place for people to exchange ideas.

What I am hoping will happen is something like the following scenario: the education team would like to do a cross-generational offering with the new Narnia movie coming out; the communication team hears this and is able to gather information to publicize the event. At the same time, the education team provides materials to our church school so that the teachers can begin to talk to our children about some of the symbolism of "Prince Caspian". While hearing about this discussion, someone involved with parish life thinks that it would be cool to have a pizza after the movie to talk about it.

What begins with a re-working of Parish Life will eventually enfold all the ministries of the parish. If this works, we will have fewer meetings and more people with renewed vigor to involve themselves in ministries that energize them. Confused? Interested? Intrigued? It all begins with you and your participation. Please come to this inaugural meeting on April 6th.

See you in church.

- Fr. Clyde+

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

I am a "pile" person. My house has stacks and piles on every available flat surface. Sometimes I look around and shake my head and wonder why one of the kids has not been buried by an avalanche of "stuff" that has tipped over due to excessive height. This year for Lent, I have made an attempt to clean up one pile each day. I go through and sort the items into groups to throw away, put away or give away. Sometimes I'm not quite sure where to put things. They usually wind up in a pile all their own. In that spirit, I have a

"pile" of thoughts that, on their own, don't make an entire article, but perhaps together will make...something!

Here is a quote from Thomas Merton that has been floating through my mind for the last six weeks or so:

There "is a (person) I want myself to be but who cannot exist because God does not know anything about him. And to be unknown of God is altogether too much privacy."

The other day I had to open a window in an office because the heat was running so high. It was in one of those old buildings where the rooms are either freezing or smoking hot. When I pushed open the window, I looked down and saw tiny green shoots poking up through the leaves. What a boost that was after such a long, horrible winter!

In January, I was talking to my sister about what trouble our Vestry was having in putting together a budget due to the late start of the pledge drive and the slow trickling in of pledges. She really had a hard time grasping what I was talking about. She's Roman Catholic, as I used to be, and the concept of the contributing members of a church controlling the funds of the church was beyond her. Suddenly I felt lucky to have the opportunity to have a budget "problem."

The other week, my kids were all mad at me because they couldn't come to the Lenten Program. It just didn't work out logistically. I drove away thinking, "Wow. They're angry because they couldn't come to church...I must be in the right place."

I have given up fasting. Every time I try, I commit so many sins - snapping at people, thinking mean thoughts - all because I am hungry! It seems to defeat the purpose,

somehow. I'll try again when I'm more spiritually evolved.

Read Rich's article about our planning meeting on April 6th. More information will follow, but this is an opportunity for veterans and brand new members to get involved in ANY and EVERY aspect of the parish. Spend a little time with us on April 6th, get to know each other and get involved, a little or a lot!!!
-Maggie Attiyeh

FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

Last year we, the congregation of Annunciation, spent a good deal of time and effort to identify what is needed to make this congregation a healthy, living body of Christ. After we determined what is needed and wanted, the vestry synthesized this and put it into a reasonable, workable format with achievable goals, to insure that we the congregation could do these things that we wanted. The Growing Together Initiative was then presented to the parish at the 2008 parish meeting. At the 2008 installation of the wardens and vestry, I cut the word "initiative" from the phrase "Growing Together Initiative". Annunciation's strategic plan is "Growing Together".

"THE NEW DAY HAS ARRIVED."

Now we are about to take the next gigantic step. The congregation must come forward and say publicly that they want to help in the various activities for Annunciation that support the Growing Together Plan. The vestry will become the engine to support the activity, not the lead. To paraphrase the late President Kennedy: "Ask not what your

church will do for you, but rather ask what you will do for your church."

On April 6th, the vestry is having a planning meeting for the fall activities. This is a big change from the way we have done things in the past. It used to be that Parish Life ran all these activities, and the same people did them time after time, with great success. Now we are asking you the congregation, if you are so inclined, to volunteer to do one project, not to take on all the different activities that Annunciation does do. This can be doing a coffee hour, or doing the St Nicholas Day party. More details will be forthcoming in the next several weeks. **Please mark your calendars for April 6th for this important planning meeting.**

-Rich Ringhofer

FROM THE VESTRY

Journaling my way through Lent

I have always had mixed emotions about Lent. How do I best prepare for Easter? By fasting or eating fish on Friday? By giving up chocolate, (which I never crave by the way until I give it up)? To my relief, I have come to find out that Lent is not only about fasting and self-denial, it is also about introspection. It just so happens that our Via Media homework recommended journaling, which is a great way to capture reflections and introspections. So I have decided to journal my way through Lent, to help me discover, change and grow in preparation for Easter.

In my search for tips on journaling, I came across this saying from a Baptist minister ("Baptist Digest" website): "Keeping a journal is like lingering in the presence of God. It is like talking and listening to God in writing." He offers a number of tips and thoughts on

journaling that are helping me to make the most out of this new experience.

- 1) Journaling is for personal remembering, not for publication. Don't worry about grammar or spelling!
- 2) Journaling is different than a diary. It's not about recording daily events but about reflecting how the events affect you. In keeping a journal what you think and hear "becomes ink and paper." (Anne Broyles, *Journaling*, 1999).
- 3) And most importantly, similar to what we learned in our day of meditation last Fall, be willing to be vulnerable with God and take time to listen to what God is saying to you.

What to write about? Via Media has given me great food for thought, as has our April book selection, "When the Heart Waits", by Sue Monk Kidd. So as I journal my way through Lent, I am looking forward to the growth that comes from introspection and reflection. With my journaling (and without my chocolate!), I know that I will be better prepared for Easter!

Cindy Pullinger, Vestry

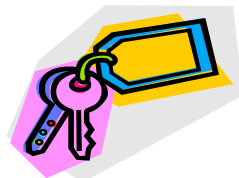
FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Your Keys, Please

Do you have keys to the church or any of the rooms inside the church? If so, you'll need to update your key assignment.

Who will need to participate? Everyone who has building keys, inside and out.

Why is this necessary? Two reasons: First, we need to order new keys for all outside entry doors, and we are considering having the



doors re-keyed. If you currently have a key and would like to continue to have access to the building, you'll need to be on the list. Second, for insurance purposes, we need to know who has access to all parts of the building.

What's the easiest way to update your key assignment? A clipboard will be available on the Narthex table marked "Key Assignments." You will need to list your name and *any and all keys* that you have. Each key has a number or letters on it that should be listed on the form. You do not need to turn in your keys at this time, unless you no longer need them. If you need a key and don't have one, you may request one on this form.

Please be sure to have your keys registered by *March 16th*. These patented keys are expensive, since they cannot be reproduced. If you don't have your name on the list by the deadline, you will not receive a replacement key.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me in the office, Monday – Thursday between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. Thank you for your cooperation!

Molly Shumate
Parish Administrator

FROM OUR SEMINARIAN

As many of you know, I will be ordained as a deacon in June (June 7th to be exact), and I will serve as a transitional deacon for 6 months before I am ordained to the priesthood in December. In order to prepare for my diaconal ministry, I will begin serving with Deacon Sue in our Sunday services. In particular, I will be setting the table in preparation for the celebration of Holy Eucharist. Normally, this role is specifically part of a deacon's ministry. You may have

noticed that Deacon Sue always reads the Gospel and prepares the table for Holy Eucharist. These are essential elements of the diaconal ministry within worship (and a part of the deacon's larger ministry to bring the concerns of the world to the Church and the concerns of the Church to the world). The *Book of Common Prayer*, however, says that a layperson may serve as a subdeacon and set the table in certain circumstances (usually when there is not a deacon). However, because Deacon Sue wants to make sure that I am well-trained for my future diaconal ministry, she has agreed to share her liturgical ministry with me. -Bradley Pace

2008 LENTEN PROGRAM



It's not too late to join us! Our Lenten program continues through the second Wednesday in March. Each week, we've gathered at 6:15 for a simple supper, followed by a short video that introduces a topic for small group discussion. We conclude with a brief worship service, ending promptly at 8:00. Child care is available from our youth group.

This is a great chance to connect with other members of this parish, while also getting to know a bit more about the Anglican tradition and Episcopal faith. Our final two topics will be the Holy Spirit (March 5th) and Scripture (March 12th). Bring your questions, bring a friend, and join us.

SOJOURNERS IN SPIRIT

Our parish women's group continues to be a hotbed of enlightenment and fun. In February, we talked about Mary Magdalene, and the whole issue of "heroes and sidekicks." If you haven't yet attended Sojourners in Spirit, please plan on joining us on March 17th, (yes, that's St. Patrick's Day) when we'll look at our next "woman who dared": Dorothea Dix, a powerhouse social activist on behalf of the mentally ill. See you in March



-Maggie Attiyeh and Rev. Kate

SOJOURNERS IN SPIRIT - II

I noticed it last night ... do you know what I like about attending the Sojourners meeting once a month? It is actually twofold. First, I always learn something, always. I come away with more knowledge than I came in with, and you cannot say that about every meeting you attend. Second, being with the women of this parish is like sitting among jewels. Beautiful, shimmering jewels ... all different in size and shape ... each one representing a beauty that nobody else has. The ruby, the emerald, the pearl, the opal, the sapphire, the amethyst, the many shades of a diamond they all have their uniqueness. They all add something to the piece of jewelry and it would not be as lovely without one. It was a thoroughly delightful evening last night enjoying the knowledge gained by Maggie and Rev. Kate's insight and research and just sitting back enjoying the glistening jewels of our parish. -Linda Lutter



BOOKS & MORE

April 3 - 7:00 PM

"A Night with Sue Monk Kidd"

Gentile Center – Loyola
University



The Book Club is reading *When the Heart Waits* by Sue Monk Kidd for March, to prepare ourselves for her appearance on April 3 at 7:00 PM at the Gentile Center at Loyola's Lake Shore campus. Some of us are making a day of it ... starting at the Art Institute, lunch/dinner, shopping and ending with Sue Monk Kidd. Others will be carpooling from church around 5:30 to attend the event. Whichever you choose to do, please let me know but don't forget to get a ticket for the event. Go to this site to request and print your ticket: www.eventwax.com.

Enjoy!

Linda Lutter

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

If you peek into a Sunday school classroom you might find students creating Lent journals out of construction paper and yarn. You might find some young man carrying around the Moses action figure that he just won. Or you might hear junior high girls giggling and teasing each other about their choices as they play a game based on bible principles.

If you peek into a Sunday school classroom you will always find children engrossed in activities lovingly prepared for them by teachers who beautifully share the lessons of our faith with your children.

Please find time to thank your child's Sunday school teacher for all that he/she does. We are truly blessed.

-Karen Kelley

Sunday school coordinator

ATRIUM NEWS



This past month has been an amazing time in the atrium. We have welcomed two new children to the atrium since January, we have changed the colors in the atrium to purple, and have put away the flower arranging work during Lent. The children have learned the Parable of the Mustard Seed, the Parable of the Merchant and the Pearl of Great Price, and the Parable of the Good Shepherd. During the presentation of the Parable of the Mustard Seed, I posed the question. "What is in that tiny seed that makes it grow into that huge bush?" To the adults' amazement, the children replied, "The Holy Spirit". The children are truly spiritual beings and it is a privilege to witness their revelations. I would like to thank Susan O'Morchoe for making the white gown for the Baptism work (coming soon) and to Vic Oesterlein for making the Merchant and the Pearl of Great Price diorama. Thank you to all the parents who bring their children to the atrium each week. Spending that time with them is a most rewarding time for me.

-Mary Oesterlein

SUNRISE ASSISTED LIVING

Our Sunrise ministry has come a long way... but is still missing something.

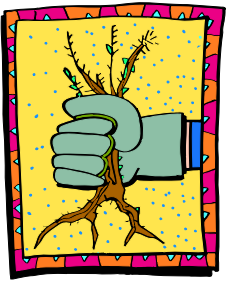


I look back at the beginning of the Sunrise ministry and remember a service with just Dolly and me in attendance. Now the numbers almost equal the attendance at the 8:00 service. It just goes to show you: give the people what they want, and they will be there. We are still lacking the one component

that enriches every worship service ... music. If you play piano and would like to share your gift with this ministry, we would love to have you. Just once a month, in between our two church services. There is a lovely grand piano for your playing pleasure, and you can pick out the music you would like to play. Please contact me for more information or to volunteer a Sunday. The first Sunday of the month has a pianist, but the other Sundays do not.

God's Peace,
Linda Lutter

ALL HANDS ON DECK!



We are planning an "all Parish" weed and mulch day for Saturday, May 3rd. This will be in conjunction with the Building & Grounds committee repairing, weeding and re-mulching the playground area. More info to come and a sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex starting March 30th. Plan to be there! Many hands make light work... not to mention a beautiful garden.

-Bill Hagan

COFFEE TALK

Greetings! A huge thank you to all of you who have taken your turn (or two) hosting our very popular Café Annunciation coffee hour. This is such a meaningful time of fellowship for all of us. It is a conspicuous void when there is no coffee hour. Unfortunately, there are still some openings that need to be filled. Please consider hosting an open time. Molly has put



out a call for volunteers in the bulletin. Thank you.
—Mary Oesterlein

CRAFT FAIR NEWS

When Terry Kline asked me to help with the craft fair at church, I thought why not? I like to go to craft fairs. Terry and her parents had the floor mapped out to show where the tables should go. Marge had prepared and frozen the chili the week before; Terry had shopped for the hot dogs, chips, pop, and other items to sell. John Anderson took one look at our menus and said he would print them up for us, and he added his own flourish by naming them. The "Archbishop" (nacho chips topped with chili and cheese) turned out to be a favorite.

Getting the stove lighted was a challenge, but Mark Johnson came to our rescue. I must admit we all had a good time in the kitchen getting everything prepared (once the stove cooperated). And the crafters were so friendly and had such interesting items. Unfortunately, the weather was not in our favor that day and we closed early due to the snow.

In spite of the weather, we were able to raise some money for the church. When Terry Kline told me that it was her last year of chairing the craft fair, I told her I would do it if she would help me. Why? Not because I need another project to do in my limited spare time. I said yes because I see it as an opportunity for Annunciation to grow. We are always asking how we can get people from the community in our doors – well, in spite of the snow they came! John welcomed people and gave some tours, but the one thing missing was a table for Annunciation! I envision one of those wonderful photo collages showing all our different events throughout the year.

Maybe photos of our different groups like the knitting group, the book club meeting at Panera, the youth group, choir, SIS, etc. We could even have craft items for sale or as raffle items; I've started an afghan I will donate. Since we always have a bake sale, we could even have a church cookbook for sale and feature some of the recipes from our bake sale.

A few of us have talked and tossed around some ideas, but I would like to hear from more of our church family. We have decided to move up the date of the craft fair to Saturday, November 15, 2008. Hopefully, we will have better weather and a larger turnout. Now I need to know who is interested in helping and what we want to do to showcase our church family. We need to start planning, so let's meet after the **10am service on March 16th** to solidify some of these great ideas. If you can't make the meeting but you want to participate, you can call me (847-356-1435) or e-mail me (ginsbox@yahoo.com) your ideas.

-Gin (Virginia) Bosserman

MUSICAL NOTES



Coming Palm Sunday Evening!!

At 7 pm on March 16th, the Annunciation choir and a collection of soloists will present Theodore Dubois' stunning musical rendition of "The Seven Last Words of Christ." This will be followed by Choral Evensong. Please

mark your calendars and keep an hour free on Palm Sunday evening to begin Holy Week with this prayerful, moving combination of prayer and music.

MEET THE WORSHIP TEAM

Did you ever wonder how our services are planned? Who decides what? Well... meet the Worship Team: Bob Coates, Charles O'Morchoe, Debbie Rakestraw, Deacon Sue, Father Elledge and Rev. Kate all gather to plan and dream. Do *you* have ideas for worship? Speak to a team member – we'd love to hear from you.

FROM THE PEWS

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

Wow! We have some talented kids at Annunciation. Jenna Penticoff made the honor roll at Warren High School. Amanda Pullinger and Nikolas Unda have both been accepted into Carmel High School next year, where they will join Erin Donegan. And for those of us who have heard Matthew Oesterlein play a postlude at the 10:00 service, it will come as no surprise that he received a 98 1/2 on his theory exam for Achievement in Music that is given at the Lake Forest Symphony School. Way to go, Matthew! He will sit (and play) for the performance section in April. Keep your fingers crossed for him.



VIEW FROM THE PEWS

“The Consecration of Bishop Lee”

Since I had the privilege to vote in the election of the Bishop during the Diocesan Convention last November, I was especially interested to witness his consecration a couple of weeks ago.

The ceremony was held in the House of Hope Arena, the home of the Salem Baptist Church on the far south side of Chicago. We were not accustomed to such a large Episcopal service, but the several thousand people who attended the ordination only filled part of the huge semi-circular facility, which seats 10,000 people.



We felt the air of anticipation, seated in the sections above the floor, which was reserved for clergy and dignitaries. A massed choir sat on the stage, including members from Bishop Lee’s choir in Seattle, and there were musical performers in several languages. The ceremony began with 5 processions of clergy and dignitaries entering from various doors throughout the arena. I was expecting to see priests and bishops festively dressed in their finest vestments, but they were dressed in their white tunics or albs, with stoles in a variety of colors. Even the bishops wore the white surplices with bright red long vests.

Only the presiding bishop was fully regaled in a purple vestment and mitre. The altar was on the floor in front of the stage and there were several children seated on the floor directly in front of it.

The Eucharist was performed in five languages for the readings and some of the hymns were sung in multiple languages. At one point in the service, priests sprinkled baptismal water on the members of the congregation. The stirring sermon was given by a member of Bishop Lee’s staff in Seattle, and my impression from it was that Bishop Lee was held in great love and respect at his previous parish. The moment of consecration was moving, as the Presiding Bishop and several other bishops laid their hands on Jeffrey Lee to consecrate him and then the assembly greeted Bishop Lee and his family enthusiastically after they helped him don his bishop’s robes and miter. The communion was held throughout the arena at several stations, then the ceremony ended shortly afterwards.

As the procession was leaving the arena, I was particularly thrilled and moved to witness the spontaneous cheering and applause that greeted the new bishop as he passed by in front of the assembled crowd. I was left with the overwhelming feeling that we have just welcomed a very impressive person as our bishop, and we can consider ourselves very fortunate to have such a strong leader for our diocese.

-Deb Gallinger



WHO'S IN THE PEWS

Last month I wrote about what a wonderful job Rob Quirk and Jennifer Haworth did at our Advent morning of reflection about prayer. I wanted to know more about them, so here is the first of two "Who's in the Pews" interviews: Rob Quirk.

Rob and his partner Dan, who owns Moorehead and Rhodes Florist in Macawan, Wisconsin, live one door down from Rob's sister in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, exactly one hour away from Annunciation. Rob has been a hospice chaplain for a total of 15 years, along with a brother in the Paulist Fathers and Salvatorian Orders of the Roman Catholic Church. At one point in his life as a brother, he felt the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church getting in the way of practicing his spirituality, or as he likes to refer to it, "wearing his skin." He started to search other churches and denominations, and realized when he went to an Episcopal church that he did not have to give up his "catholicness": he could still "wear his skin."

In 2003 Rob started going to St. Christopher's in River Hills, Wisconsin, and in 2004 he was received into the Episcopal Church. Because he feels called to become a priest in the Episcopal Church, Rob had to find a church in Illinois, because Wisconsin dioceses do not ordain gay priests. He first started at Christ Church, Waukegan and then was referred to our church by the interim priest there. Rob immediately felt at home. The welcoming community of Annunciation was a great fit for him.

Rob is a cartoonist and worked for Disney for a time. Cartooning is still what he loves to do to relax and relieve stress. He also loves movies, cooking, traveling and reading. He is a real people person, but also treasures his alone time. Make sure to say hello next time you see him pull into the parking lot after a long drive in his Mini Cooper!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

How are your writing skills? Would you like to get to know some of our parishioners better? Then I have just the job for you - "Who's in the Pews" reporter. Every month you would interview 1 or 2 people or a family and write up a short article about them for the *Magnificat*. If you would like to do this, please e-mail me or call me and we can discuss it.

Regards,

Linda Lutter

lindalutter@hotmail.com /847-367-7697



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