

THE QUILL

Volume 21, Issue 2

February, 2008

EDITORS NOTE BY REED WILSON

As most of you know by now, *The Quill* is undergoing some changes, and we invite you to be a part of it!

First of all, in an effort to save paper and also make the newsletter available quickly, we will only be printing and mailing issues to those who have indicated that preference. *The Quill* will be posted online each month at our parish website, www.stbedesla.org, and we will soon also e-mail copies to those for whom we have current e-mail addresses. Print copies will always be available in the narthex for parish visitors and those who prefer to pick one up.

Second, I'd like to invite others to contribute here. This month's edition features an article on the beginnings of the AIDS ministry, written by Jeanette Young and Elliot Ryder of St. Mary in Palms. Rea Crane, a registered nurse and new vestry member, has also contributed some websites of interest to those of "a certain age" and others.

Please let me know if YOU would like to contribute an item or column to *The Quill*. We expect to expand within the next few months, and encourage submission of news items as well as features on our parish community and outreach efforts. Thanks for your support!

ANNUAL MEETING PROMISES SPIRITED NEW YEAR!

The 42nd Annual Meeting of St. Bede's Parish elected new vestry members Akani Fletcher and Rea Crane, as well as new Convention Representatives Mike Mullins (Delegate) and Jerry Hornof (Alternate). Later, the Rector announced that Reed Wilson would be the Senior Warden, and Liz Mohler was elected Junior Warden.

Canon Newman announced that the pledging for 2008 set an all-time high, with pledges amounting to just over \$218,000. The meeting was presented with an operating budget of \$255,000.

Lent Begins. . .

The Lenten season begins with a visit by Bishop Jon Bruno on Ash Wednesday, February 6. Bishop Bruno will serve as celebrant at the 7 p.m. service, and then begin the Lenten study series featuring readings and reflections on *In Times Like These: How We Pray*, edited by Bishop Bruno and Malcolm Boyd, poet and writer-in-residence at Los Angeles' Episcopal Cathedral Center of St. Paul.

How We Pray, which features "short reflections by a variety of pray-ers. . . Opens up the contemporary heart of prayer.

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THIS MONTH

Rector's Column
February Birthdays &
Anniversaries
Early Beginnings of the
Aids Ministry
Rea Crane's "Surf Report"

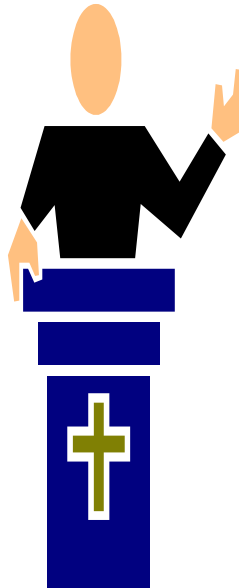
SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE SUPPER AT
ST. ANDREWS LUTHERAN CHURCH
6:30 P.M., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5!

CANON JIM'S JOTTINGS

I am writing this at a very interesting time in the life of our parish. We are in the middle of a process called Natural Church Development. Essentially, NCD begins with a survey that asks a representative group of parishioners to reflect and respond to a number of questions about spirituality as it relates to this congregation. Those responses help measure the congregation in eight aspects. Nancy Mills is correct, "listen to the adjectives in each term": **Empowering leadership – Gift-oriented ministry -- Passionate spirituality – Functional structures -- Inspiring worship service – Holistic small groups Need-oriented evangelism – Loving relationships.** We got healthy scores in all categories. Our highest scores were in the areas of Loving Relationships and Functional Structures. Our lowest score was in Passionate Spirituality.

This is not a surprising result for me. I think that this is a loving place which runs rather smoothly (when everyone is doing his/her part). "Passionate Spirituality" looks at part of our life together that most Episcopalians take for granted but often do not have words for -- their motivation. We are here because we love Jesus and because we are loved by God. However true that may be, they are not concepts that pop off of Episcopal lips with great ease. We get academic. We do not want to sound overly religious. We are not showy about our faith or our spirituality. One of the characters on the TV-show "Designing Women" was an Episcopalian. When asked if "his people" rolled around on the floor at Church, he identified himself as an Episcopalian and said that the only time "his people" got on the floor at Church was to pick up a mis-placed golf ball.

In January, we held a number of meetings at which our NCD team (Liz Mohler, Nancy Mills, Michael Gallagher, Amy Cox & Vicki Mouradian) explained this process and the results, and then brainstormed about WHY this was the lowest area and WHAT we might do to grow in this area. This is an ongoing process. The NCD Team will meet to collate all of the results of the discussions and make a presentation to the Vestry at its Retreat in February. We will be reflecting on prayer and spirituality in our Lenten Classes using a book that is also available to all parishioners to be part of their Lenten discipline -- whether they come to the classes or not. We will again have a Lenten Day (actually morning) of Reflection. This year, it will be on Saturday, March 15 and will be led by the Rev. Jimmy



Bartz, Missioner of the Thad's Fellowship. He will be talking about "Prayer & Spirituality in Corinth". After Easter, we will again take the survey to see how we are doing in these areas.

Spirituality is of great concern to me. I express that in processes of learning. In late January, I again left for my annual sermon study leave in Hawaii. This year I hope to work on all of my sermons in the seasons of Lent and Easter (during which I will preach eight times out of fourteen Sundays). In early March, I will attend a short seminar sponsored by the Westar Institute in Santa Rosa to hear speakers like Marcus Borg, Amy-Jill Levine and John Shelby Spong. At the beginning of April, I will be attending a week-long seminar in Vancouver sponsored by the Church Building Fund called "Start Up! Start Over!" on congregational growth and development. Finally, in the last third of April, I have been invited to participate in CREDO 2, a clergy wellness initiative at a retreat center outside of Richmond, VA.

We are off to a good start here for 2008. The program of Christian formation is in good hands as Vicki Mouradian works with Tom Elliott and the teachers in the several classes. One of our current problems is "overcrowding". All I can say is, "HALLELUJAH! What a nice problem to have! The Vestry will be addressing those issues and Vicki's thoughts at the Retreat and throughout the spring. Our new associate clergy person, Jason Cox was ordained to the priesthood and will be with us on Jan. 27, Feb. 3, March 2, April 27 and June 15. Please welcome him and make him feel comfortable making St. Bede's his second home. Amy Cox is continuing her field work here and will be with us through the first Sunday in May. Finally, Mike Olsen was our preacher on the Sunday of the Annual Meeting. He will return to preach and serve as Deacon on Sunday, June 8 -- the day after HIS ordination to the Diaconate at St. John's Cathedral (see the annual calendar in the Annual Report).

Let us continue to WORK and PRAY for the Kingdom of God. We are called to be active members of God's Dominion and our life is an ongoing process of gifts-discernment. May the Holy Spirit be with us as we use this Lent as a time of prayer, peace and reflection as to where God is leading us.

In Christ, Jim Neuman+

February Birthdays

02/02 Jim Kelley	02/03 Devon Jackson
02/09 Xandro Peter Samaranayake	02/09 Yohan Joseph Samaranayake
02/12 Jackson Butts	02/14 Frances Knight
02/18 Nancy Mills	02/22 Denise Daclan

VITAL STATISTICS**Please Pray for:**

Fr. Giles, Ray, Lois, Jean, James, Eugenia, Dulcie, Diane, Nabila, Harriet, Fr. John, Elsie, Daniel, Joe, Wes, Kim, Ted, Frances, Kelly, Don, Caleb, Dennis.

Visitors:

Jennifer, Jill & Carl Anderson, Delonne Valers, Brad Thomas, Aaron Gyarfaz, Harold & Dolores Finley, Shannon Finley Ferguson, Sharon Arthur, Carly Portalupi, Carol Bender, Nicolas Tolentino, Gregoria Smith, David & Joy Lane, Jay & Yuko Ferrell, Tony Andersson

From the Records:

Baptism: Charlotte Reed Vaughn, Dec. 30, 2007

assist. Often patients ask what church group provides the lunch. Most are appreciative. Joanne Beierle of Gethsemane Lutheran, provides fresh flowers from her garden for both clinics, the main clinic and the Women and Children's Clinic. A very dear friend of the late Jean Boone, Virginia McShane, from St. Monica's, bakes and decorates delicious cookies AND slips twenty dollars with the cookies for our program. What a dear gem at 90 plus!

Last year the Women and Children's Clinic had an unexpected visitor. Kofi Annan, at that time, the Secretary General of the United Nations, was most interested in seeing the program the County offers.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church would like to be part of AIDS Ministry. We are currently trying to think of ways their church can be a part of this program.

The Early Beginnings of AIDS Ministry

By Elliot Ryder (St. Mary in Palms)

And Jeannette Young, Co-chairs of AIDS Ministry

The AIDS Ministry was started by All Saints Beverly Hills and several synagogues and temples on the Westside. It was out of a need for AIDS/HIV patients at L.A. County/USC.

All Saints got us started in the late 1980's with the help of Shirley Hutson (formerly of St. Mary in Palms) who gathered a group to begin the program. Lew Ehrich, (formerly of St. Mary in Palms) was the Treasurer. Lew just retired from that position during 2006-07.

Originally Holy Nativity (Westchester) was also part of this ministry. Presently, St. Mary in Palms, St. Bede's and Grace Lutheran (Culver City) are the three churches who each pledge quarterly two hundred dollars to help purchase food and other supplies for the lunch program.

Early volunteers in the program: Elsie Harter was a volunteer from the very beginning. She provided her marvelous home-baked and decorated cookies. Eugenia Eaton volunteered from the start of the program, bringing her quiet way and generous offerings when needed. The late Patrick Fox was our chairperson and led us faithfully. Don Thomas was also a volunteer, helping with sandwich making. He did it on a regular basis, until it became difficult to find a parking place before 10am. The late Jean Boone was a volunteer from the start. She always took care of purchasing the dental supplies for our Ingathering. When their work schedules permitted a bit of extra time, Sandy Olsen, Karen Kuchel, Michael Gallagher, Marian and Jeff Leng would come to

"Surf Report"

By Rea Crane

All of us of a "certain age" know that experts recommend doing puzzles, etc. to keep your mind active. A good free site for many different games, puzzles, and crosswords is www.aarpmagazine.org/games.

One of the United Nations organizations, the World Food Programme is the largest feeding program in the world. You can contribute rice at no cost at www.freerice.com by playing a vocabulary game. You will make a contribution of 20 grains of rice for each correct word that you define from a multiple choice list. In this way you are contributing to the Millennium Development Goal of reducing hunger, challenging your mind, and increasing your vocabulary! 20 grains doesn't sound like much but it just takes about 15 minutes to add up about 3000 grains.

Finally, the Breast Cancer Site. Most of you have probably seen one of the sites where you simply click and major corporations offer free Mammograms for every so many clicks that are made. I know it takes many many clicks to get one mammogram but I still think it is worthwhile. This site is especially good in that there are also tabs across the top for Hunger, Child Health, Literacy, Rainforest, and Animal Rescue. You can click on all of them in less than 1 minute. I do them all every day: <http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/>.

FEBRUARY LESSONS**SUNDAYS:**

2/3: Epiphany Last (J. Cox): Exodus 24.12-18; Ps. 2 or 99; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9
 2/10: Lent 1 (J. Newman): Genesis 2.15-17,3.1-7; Ps. 32; Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11
 2/17: Lent 2 (J. Newman): Genesis 12.1-4a; Ps. 121; Romans 4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17
 2/24: Lent 3 (A. Cox): Exodus 17.1-7; Ps. 95; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

WEDNESDAYS

*Ash Wednesday 2/6 (Noon: J. Newman; 7: J. Bruno): Joel 2.1-2,12-17; Ps. 103.8-14; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; Matthew 6.1-6,16-21
 2/13 Absalom Jones (J. Newman): Isaiah 61.1-4 or 42.5-9; Ps. 137.1-6; John 15.12-15
 2/20 Wed. In Lent 2 (J. Newman): Jeremiah 18.1-11,18-20; Ps. 31.9-16; Matthew 20.17-28
 2/27 George Herbert (J. Newman): 1 Peter 5.1-4; Ps. 23; Matthew 5.1-10



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SERVICES & CLASSES

SUNDAYS: 8 am, Holy Eucharist (no music)
10 am, Church School & Nursery
10 am, Holy Eucharist (w/choir)
6 pm, Evensong or Evening Prayer

TUESDAYS 10 am, Morning Prayer & Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS: 7 pm, Holy Eucharist & Healing
7:45 pm, Adult Class

TUESDAY BREAKFAST & BIBLE
No class on February 5 -- Primary Election
Sessions on February 12, 19, 26.

WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM:
February 6: Ash Wednesday
Introduction to: *In Times Like These* by Bishop Bruno
February 13 (A. Cox),
February 20 (R. Wilson)
February 27 (J. Newman): Reflections on Prayer

***ST. BEDE'S
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ASSISTANT, CHRISTIAN FORMATION: Victoria Mouradian

ASSISTING CLERGY: the Revs. Giles Asbury, Jason Cox & John Hancock

SEMINARIAN (@ CDSP) : Mike Olsen **INTERN:** Amy Cox

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Rea Crane ('10) Tom Elliott ('09)
Akani Fletcher ('10) Kathy Hartley ('09)
Michael Mullins ('09)
Dean Pace ('09) Alice Short ('10)
Annette Graw — Clerk Laird Hegamin — Treasurer
Jennine Townsend — Financial Secretary

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Michael Mullins (A)/ Jerry Hornof (A) - ('10)