

THE QUILL

ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December, 2002 Vol. 15, Num. 12

HOLIDAY EVENTS FILL DECEMBER



Advent means preparing for Christmas -- and this Advent will include a number of events designed to help us prepare for the Savior's birth -- in us and in our world.

The Sisters of Bede & the St. John's Guild will both hold social events in the 2nd week of the month -- the SoB's having their Holiday Party at the home of Samira Tamer on Monday, 12/9 and the SJG holding their Advent meeting on Wednesday, 12/11.

Holiday music will ring forth twice on 12/15 and again on Christmas Eve. On the morning of the 15th, the Choir will present Advent Lessons & Carols at the 10 am service. Later that day, the Recorder Players West will present their annual Holiday Concert at 2 pm (admission is free).

Children of all ages are invited to the Christmas Decorating Party on Saturday, 12/21. Help prepare the sanctuary & parish hall for the holidays. For information or tickets, call Liz Mohler, cost is \$5.

Finally, the Christmas services are on Tuesday, Dec. 24. A hymn-sing and service designed for younger parishioners will begin at 4.30 pm. The annual "midnight" service of lessons & carols and choral Eucharist will begin at 10.30 pm.

**FRIENDS OF MUSIC
ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
10:00 A.M.**

VESTRY NOTES

Meeting on 11/25/2002

***Jim commented that he is considering altering the manner in which prayers are offered at services and throughout the week;

***The Vestry established a subcommittee to meet with PAC Design and plan for the renovation of Luther Hall - from the Vestry are Tom Ledsam and Karen Kuchel; Jim will work on outside funding requests;

***The Vestry pledged \$1,000 to CDSF in 2003 and a Mission Share Fund of \$28,356 to the Diocese;

***Jerry Hornof will talk on stewardship this Sunday and provide the annual luncheon; all materials have gone out;

***Fr. Jim will rearrange the front office and have an office volunteer training day in January; Golie reported that St. John's Guild was not interested in coordinating the volunteer program that they had proposed;

***The Vestry discussed Room usage and the need for not absolutely restricting space - more will be discussed at the winter retreat;

***The Nominating Cmte. made a preliminary report (final in Dec.); the prayer chain committee is looking for ways to get it "up and running"; the final chance at records & tapes will be at the January FoM event; preliminary stewardship report is positive (up 13%)

***The Rector reported that the company covering liability has been changed and also that the brokers handling life & health insurance had changed;

***The rector will contact Mr. Ferraro about some needed work including a dark tint on the temporary glass;

***Approved termite work at the Butler house.

***Samira made brief report on wills awareness.

FR. JIM'S JOTTINGS



Looking around, it is hard to tell if the Prince of Peace would identify with our world. To what peaceful corner would he go? ... Nigeria, Bali, the Fertile Crescent of the Middle East, So. Los Angeles, or even cities of his youth -- Nazareth, Bethlehem, Hebron, or Jerusalem.

How can we prepare for his birth if we live in a world which would reject its results without even thinking about it?

I remember a speaker once who said that war is the ultimate failure of people doing what they are called to do to live with one another...."the ultimate failure".

We have been in wars before and we will be again. Our country was forged through wars. I grew up on war movies in the years right after WWII. I attended an Episcopal high school with a Jr. ROTC program and learned to go on marches in what passed for our "fatigues" and battle gear. One parishioner has recommended that everyone see the movie "Bowling for Columbine" to focus on our seeming fatal attraction to guns.

In the language of the day, we are fighting "a War on Drugs" and "a War on Terrorism" -- amorphous concepts at best. I would suggest that we might find it difficult to focus if we were not fighting a war. Also, the political reality is that a wartime leader or a wartime congress seems to have more reason to be re-elected than if it were peace-time (look at what happened to Winston Churchill in 1946 for example).

When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, I think we all expected that we had finally made it to peace -- no more communist bad guy, no more cold war, no more inflated budgets to bluff the other side. But it seems that we need a bad guy even if they don't exist. Right-wing fund-raisers changed their targets to feminists and homosexuals. We quickly fought a Gulf War to keep ourselves in shape. [Make no mistake, Saddam Hussein has done all in his power to give us and the world plenty of reason to focus on him as the Darth Vader of international geo-politics.]

The question is, "how is a Christian to respond" ... "what would Jesus do"? On Christmas Eve, we will again sing "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear". Edmund Sears wrote this poetry in the 19th century as a reaction to social unrest in the mining region of Pennsylvania. As we hear in the third stanza:

*"Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!*

My prayer for this Advent and Christmas is that we Christians work at all times to take Jesus' high road. We humans may again fail and get into a war, but we should only get their with sorrow and the gnashing of teeth.

May we listen to the words we say and sing and may they prepare us for the Prince of Peace,

Jim Newman+

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dennis Winston, 12/02

Joyce Matlack, 12/06

Liz Harter, 12/07

Leo Nicastro, 12/09

Gaston Biraben, 12/12

Annette Graw, 12/14

Charlotte Thomas, 12/17

Laird Hegamin, 12/19

Phyllis Morrison, 12/19

Karen Scharre, 12/24

Laurie Romanak, 12/27

Adelaide Vaughn, 12/29

FROM THE RECORD

Visitors: Lynne Snead, Laurence Feinberg, Ivor Boast, Hidenori Uchida, Gloria Bando, Brenda Galloway, Leslie Hughes

Burial: Dianne Lee Kahyai, 10/29

SOME TIME IN THE OFFICE.....???

Several months ago, Fr. Newman challenged the community to take on the ministry of helping to see that St. Bede's functions better. "I feel that this is a welcoming, caring community. At the same time, there is more that we can do to extend our ministry", said the Rector. "One of the areas that I have been challenged on and which has been on our list of priorities for a long time is the office. Many would like to have the office staffed during the week. Right now, with the financial realities of the parish, that will have to be done with volunteers. There are many things that volunteers can do while working here, including ideas mentioned in previous Quill articles."

THE QUILL ASKS FR. NEWMAN: What are you envisioning for the office?

FR. NEWMAN: Ideally, I would like to have seven people sign up to staff the office for four hours per day, say 10 am - 2 pm or 9 am to 1 pm. Their primary task would be to answer the phone, to welcome people who walked in, to be here for deliveries.

QUILL: Would they have specific office duties?

JN: I think that there are a number of jobs around the church that need to be done. A volunteer here each day could do those tasks as part of their service. Obviously, there are times when people have to be at other tasks but I hope that some trading or covering could take place?

QUILL: Would this include work on the computer?

JN: It could! There are a number of things that I do now because I am here. Certainly, someone who was computer-proficient could prepare int inserts for the Sunday bulletins. We also have new service bulletins to compose and collate. We have mailings to prepare. The tract rack needs maintenance.

QUILL: How about other ministries in the building?

JN: I think that the volunteers could certainly do a walk-through of the building to see if items were out of place, if the restroom trash needed emptying, etc. Also, and this could be part of a larger lay ministry, I would hope that we could get to the point that lay people would commit to coming here every day to pray for the people on our prayer list. The clergy -- and especially me -- need to be freed-up to do the pastoral ministry of the parish.

QUILL: When and how will this start?

JN: We will gather those interested at 11 am on Tuesday, January 7 in the church!

DECEMBER LESSONS

DECEMBER 1 (Advent 1)

Isaiah 64.1-9; Ps. 80.1-7,16-18;
1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37
Preaching: Fr. Newman

DECEMBER 8 (Advent 2)

Isaiah 40.1-11; Ps. 85.7-13;
2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8
Preaching: Mthr. Haynes

DECEMBER 15 (Advent 3)

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11; Canticle 15;
1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8,19-28
Preaching: Fr. Newman
Lessons & Carols of Advent at 10 am

DECEMBER 22 (Advent 4)

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16; Ps. 89.1-4,19-26;
Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38
Preaching: Fr. Newman

DECEMBER 24 (Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 9.2-7; Ps. 96.1-4,11-12;
Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14(15-20)
Preaching: Fr. Newman

DECEMBER 29 (Christmas 1)

Isaiah 61.10-62.3; Ps. 147.13-21;
Galatians 3.23-25 & 4.4-7; John 1.1-18
Preaching: Mthr. Haynes

WEEKDAY EUCHARISTS

12/4 - John of Damascus - (JN)
12/11 - Wed., Advent 2 - (JN)
12/18 - Ember Day - (JH)
12/25 - NO SERVICE

NOTES

---The Parish Work Day is on 12/7.

---The "Brothers of Bede" have "BoB caps (\$15) & shirts (\$10) for sale (checks to Mike Olsen)

---Please recommend the church's Web Site to friends; it is: <http://www.stbedesla.org>

---James Raef is available to do handy-man work call him at (818) 590-2810.

---Ruth Nicastro is the author of "Every Little Bit: The Remarkable Life of Percia Hutcherson" -- see the December issue of the Diocesan News

---Ed Haddad is the new Chair of the Editorial Board of the Diocesan News; Angus Mackay is again serving on the Program Group on Communications; Annette Graw is an Alternate Delegate to Diocesan Council.

SECOND CENTURY FUND

CONSIDER EXTENDING YOUR PLEDGE

CONSIDER MAKING A PLEDGE

CONSIDER GIVING SOME WINDOW SHARES

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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SCHEDULE OF 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
MONDAYS 7 pm, Class & Compline (as announced)
TUESDAYS 9 am, Breakfast, Morning Prayer & Bible Study
WEDNESDAYS 7 pm, Holy Eucharist & the Sacrament of Healing
7:45 pm, Adult Class

BREAKFAST & BIBLE

*A weekly class - beginning with breakfast -
which looks at the lessons for the upcoming Sunday.*

CLASS ON December 3,10,17

NO CLASS ON December 24 & 31

WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated each week at 7 p.m.

*12/4 Traveling through Germany
12/11 Traveling through the Czech Republic & Austria
12/18 Traveling through Slovakia & Hungary
12/25 & 1/1 -- no classes*

ST. BEDE'S VESTRY & STAFF

RECTOR: The Very Rev. James A. Newman

ASSISTANT: The Rev. Argola E. Haynes

ASSISTING: The Rev. Giles Asbury,

The Rev. John J. Hancock, The Rev. Howard J. Happ, Ph.D.

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Mr. Frank Basile

SEXTON: Mr. Masoud Jamneshan

VESTRY

Adelaide Vaughn ('03) - Senior Warden
Carl Townsend ('03) - Junior Warden
Karen Kuchel ('04) - Clerk
Tom Ledsam - Treasurer
Richard Dancer ('03) Gordon Fuglie ('05)
Ruth Nicastro ('04) Mark Scott ('04)
Samira Tamer ('05) Paul Thompson ('05)
Jennine Townsend - Financial Secretary

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION & DEANERY

Patricia Toy (D)/ Annette Graw (A) - ('03)
Dennis Winston (D)/Angus Mackay (A) - ('04)