

THE QUILL

ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

November, 2002 Vol. 15, Num. 11

MINISTRY MORE THAN ORDINATION



"Once again we are coming to that time of the year when people can choose any of a number of ways to exercise a ministry in the Church. Some of those are quite visible -- people put on robes and get up in front of the congregation. Others are quite invisible -- at home or on the week-days", Fr. Newman challenged his listeners.

"At one time, when a person became too active in Church -- especially if he was a young man, the congregation would hustle him off to seminary. The problem was that some of those young men finally realized that their calling was not to the ordained ministry ... after they were already ordained. Now, men and women who are inspired to be active in the life of the Church are shown a variety of ways their ministries may be lived out.

"It is sort of the 'All Saints' Hymn' -- 'one was a doctor and one was a [civic leader] and one was [concerned with the welfare of animals]'. Some are counters and some are financial advisors and some are legal experts and ...using the talents they have been given for the building up and development of the Body of Christ.

"The Diocese has challenged us to live into the concept of the Stewardship of All Creation. There are ongoing opportunities to discover and expand our ministries -- a workshop on peacemaking at St. Mary in Palms on Nov. 2, a conference on Joyful Living at the Cathedral Center on Nov. 9, volunteering at the Diocesan Convention in Riverside on Dec. 5-6, and on and on...just look at the diocesan website <www.ladiocese.org>.

"That what the cards mean, looking at my life...all that I am and have. What are my priorities? We are all different and we are all united by the One Spirit."

VESTRY NOTES

Meeting on 10/28/2002

***Jim & Golie reported on pastoral issues in the parish; Golie talked about the Miami Conference of Black clergy

***Ulysses from PAC Design reported on the plans for Luther Hall renovation; received questions and feedback from the Vestry, and checked some aspects of the electrical system for their work;

***Jim distributed David Toy's report on roses (no chart available); a long discussion ensued about how it meshes with the over-all plan begun last fall; referred to Mark's "Garden Club" committee for study;

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

***A representative from Church Insurance reported that we did not have some coverages; Jim will check on the materials needed to comply;

***Paul passed on a report from the St. John's Guild for office help; Jim will talk with Janet about the issue which caused concern; Karen suggested that St. John's organize the needed volunteers in consultation with the Rector; and Jim suggested that any budgetary issues be given to the Budget Committee's meeting in December;

***final chance at records & tapes will be in November;

***Mark made an extensive report on problems with doors open & lights on; Golie reported that two patens are missing from the Sacristy;

***Samira made brief report on Wills Awareness;

***Gordon requested that Room A not be used by outside groups.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

SOLEMN CHORAL EVENSONG

(music of Lauridsen & Stevens)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

6:00 P.M.

FR. JIM'S JOTTINGS



I baptized Dianne on the day that she died. That was not the way we had planned it to happen -- we were waiting for All Saints' Sunday. However, the cancer that had driven her in our door was faster than the calendar.

What if I had still had the flu on Wednesday? Or what if I simply had decided to visit the hospital on Thursday instead? Would Dianne have ended up with all of those un-baptized "pagan babies" that Romans talk about?

These are not idle questions. We face them all the time. People call and want to get their child "done", that is baptized ... often without any sense of this community or the meaning of baptism or commitment to the promises being made.

Recently, we witnessed a large group of adults being confirmed or received by Bp. Bruno -- the first such acts in the building since 1988 when Bp. Krumm confirmed two adults. We did not have extensive classes and I have heard some questions and comments about the requirements for baptism and confirmation.

One of the Church's jobs is to act as an agent of Christian formation. We need to be formed as Christians -- able to live out our faith in concrete ways. We need to identify our talents as members of the Body of Christ and offer them within the community of faith. Our programs for youth -- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Christian Education -- are part of that formation. Young adults are encouraged to continue to define their faith as they take responsibilities for the baptismal promises made for them by parents and god-parents. However, often we "lose" these people before they reach this point. My experience is that young people often need time away from church before they are ready to claim their own faith. They need time to wander in the wilderness of temptations and beasts.

Confirmation should not be something that happens because the Rector's timetable says it should happen but because one's inner timetable says, "Now". In the case of baptized adults already active in their various ministries, the formation is happening as part of "on-the-job-training".

Likewise, I have found that un-baptized adults come here because they have discovered the image of Christ that they carry as part of God's creation. They need to understand what it means to make that affirmation as part of a baptismal community. They need the welcome and acceptance of the baptismal community. However, they have discovered and are affirming something that is already there -- that they are a child of God.

Dianne had been led to St. Bede's by her faith. She had already become part of the community through its welcoming her and her reaching out to it. Dianne knew that I was baptizing her that Wednesday. When she rejoined her Creator eight hours later she was at peace. I believe that God would have welcomed her even if I had not shown up -- because she had found that image of the Christ she carried and knew that God would love and care for her always.

Fr. Jim Newman+

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Anita Baxter, 11/01

James Newman, 11/15

Jim Baxter, 11/16

Ned Vaughn, 11/20

Jean Boone, 11/25

FROM THE RECORD

Visitors: Endia Rose, Elaine Stumpus, Dianne Kahyai, Margaret Clarke, Joe Perrin, Cliff Brown & Leslie Anne Smith, John Thornton, Jerry & Juanita Washington, Steve Geer

SOME THOUGHTS BEFORE THE BOMBS DROP

An editorial by the Very Rev. James Newman

My friend Louie Crew is the most prodigious writer on the computer that I know. Many have said that Louie's computer is what unites the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion or both. Since he blames me for suggesting that he attend his first General Convention a number of years ago, I am taking the liberty of quoting him. One section of his website notes:

Geoff Curtiss and Marge Christie, both colleagues on the Newark deputation, have pointed out to me a dangerous mistake on page 847 of the Book of Common Prayer: "Question: What response did God require from the chosen people? Answer: God required the chosen people to be faithful; to love justice, to do mercy, and to walk humbly with their God." That's not what Scripture says: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8) At General Convention in 2003 God is calling us to do justice and love mercy. It is easier to love justice than to do it; it is easier to be merciful than to love mercy. -- Louie

It is tempting to say that we are living in the most perilous of all times -- I'd rather think that it is one of those many perilous times that have circulated throughout history. As we begin the 21st century, the world is unstable for a number of reasons -- one of them the unreasoning and unyielding return to religious fundamentalism that is affecting and perverting all religious communities. It is what Jesus reacted against in Palestine of the 1st century.

We are also in a weakened United States. It is weakened NOT because of 9/11 but, paradoxically, because of its success. For 70 years, we found ourselves the "leader" of the "free world" fighting the evil empires of facism and communism, psuedo- religious ideologies which were in competition and conflict with the Judeo-Christian West. In 1990, European communism imploded due to its systemic weaknesses and it seemed that we had won.

However, the past decade has shown that being the "top dog" in the "only pack" has just as many problems. One is that there are always problems breaking out with which we feel we must solve. Another is that we have not yet learned how to live without an evil empire to fight. So, we create our own enemies. Saddam Hussein is just the latest -- some factional leaders but some just psychotic thugs we armed to do our dirty work so that we would have clean hands (VP Cheney's Halliburton Oil was Iraq's biggest supplier while the Veep was in the private sector). In earlier years, we had others (Diem, Trujillo, Batista, Noriega, and our reinstatement & support of the Shah made him seem like our creation). Often the reason has been hemispheric hegemony (the Monroe Doctrine), while at other times it is blatently the world's energy reserves. (Is it coincidental that we are staring at WW3 while our country is led by two oil executives from one side of the abyss?). No leader -- Republican or Democrat -- in this country is without either a bias or a partisanship.

As we face the abyss yet again, Christians must ask "What does our faith say? How are Christians called to act? Is it better to be right or be faithful? Indeed, what would Jesus do?" We can not blindly wave a flag and say an unthinking "Yes" nor can we react as if we were re-living the Vietnam protests of 40 years ago. We learned that lesson while I was in college. It is a time to gather as community and study our texts and hear what gives life. Our call is to life ... even in the face of death. Our call is to life ... because Christ proclaimed abundant life. Our call is to life ... because it is the gift from God which we are to pass on.

NOVEMBER LESSONS

NOVEMBER 3 (All Saints' Sunday)

Revelation 7.9-17; Ps. 34.1-10,22;
1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12
Preaching: Fr. Newman

NOVEMBER 10 (Pentecost 25/Proper 27)

Joshua 24.1-3a, 14-25; Ps. 78.1-7;
1 Thessalonians 4.13-18; Matthew 25.1-13
Preaching: Mother Haynes

NOVEMBER 17 (Pentecost 26/Proper 28)

Judges 4.1-7; Ps. 123;
1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30
Preaching: Fr. Newman

NOVEMBER 24 (Last Pentecost/Proper 29)

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24; Ps. 100;
Ephesians 1.15-20; Matthew 25.31-46
Preaching: Fr. Newman

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

WEEKDAY EUCHARISTS

11/6 - Proper 26 - (JN)
11/13 - Proper 27 - (JH)
11/20 - Edmund of East Anglia - (JN)
11/27 - Thanksgiving Eve-(at St. Andrew's)

NOTES

---The Parish Work Day is on the 1st Saturday each month -- come help us fight weeds, dust, cobwebs & mildew.

---Fr. Newman will be at a national church meeting on 11/10-15.

---The "Brothers of Bede" have "BoB caps (\$15) and 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.

---Are you interested in servind as a lector, intercessor, or Lay Eucharistic Minister? See the Clergy.

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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.*

NO CLASS ON ELECTION DAY - 11/5

CLASS ON November 12, 19 & 26

WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM

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

11/6 Discussion of the Movie "Signs"

11/13 Engaging the Word - Ch. 5-6

11/20 Final Class on Vols. 2& 3

11/27 -- no class ... Thanksgiving Eve --

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)