

# THE QUILL

Volume 17, Issue 11  
November, 2004

## RECRUITING POSTER: “UNCLE BEDE” WANTS YOU!!

The “Stewardship Season” is all year long!! However, during late October and early November, the parish asks its members to think about Time, Talent and Treasure. The Rector & Vestry have distributed the various cards — tan for monetary pledge, yellow for areas of ministry within the parish, and white for the data needed for the new data base we will have in the new year. Later in the year, blue 2nd Century cards will be distributed for all.

However, this article is about your time! How can you serve the parish? On Sunday, February 6, the Annual meeting will elect three members to the Vestry — Gordon Fuglie and Samira Tamer will complete their three-year terms and Jerry Hornof will be eligible to be elected to a full term. Annette Graw & Kyle Ferstead will complete two-year terms as delegate and alternate to the Diocesan Convention (we nominate women in one cycle and men in the next).

However, more than the elected offices, there are many forms of service:

- \*serving on a worship team as a lector, acolyte, usher, intercessor or eucharistic minister;
- \*working in one of the several areas of outreach (managing the rummage collections, NYA tutoring, book table, cold/wet weather feeding, St. Joseph Center food);
- \*overseeing/staffing an area of ministry (Vestry committees, grounds, the Quill, the library, liaison with outside groups using the building, office clerical work, altar guild).

Please prayerfully consider your ministry here at St. Bede’s or in the Committees and Commissions of the Diocese of Los Angeles

UNCLE ALBERT DID NOT HAVE A WILL. IT TOOK 3 YEARS TO SETTLE HIS ESTATE.  
YOUR WILL CAN HELP YOUR FAMILY, YOUR PARISH

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### THIS MONTH

- The Stewardship of Time
- Rector’s Column—  
guest columnist from PA
- November Birthdays & Anniversaries
- News Briefs-Around the Parish

# CANON JIM'S JOTTINGS

*This was written by a much wiser head, Fr. Andrew Gerns, of Trinity Parish, Easton, Pennsylvania (Diocese of Easton).*

*He calls it, "The Windsor Document—An Appreciative Approach."*

Well, it's out — The Windsor Report, aka The Eames Commission. The charge of the groups that wrote it was to seek ways for the several churches of the Anglican Communion to stay in communion even though disagreements on several issues.

The underlying question before the Eames Commission is not new. While the current problem arose of the consecration of V. Gene Robinson, a gay man in a committed relationship, as Bishop of New Hampshire, and the creation of rites for blessing same-gender unions in a diocese in Canada, we have seen this before. In our recent past, in the ordination of women, of developing contemporary prayer books: and before these, the ordination of African-Americans, slavery, how protestant and how catholic the church should be. If you go back far enough, we find in scripture that people chose up sides over what meat they ate and whether Christians ought to be Jews first. In other words, The Windsor Report tries to address an old problem in a new global, Anglican context.

The challenge is where do we discover Communion when we do not see eye to eye on everything? How does the Church stay together as we address a changing culture? A good place to start is at the Communion table around the Body and Blood of Christ. This report does not go there.

I've only read through this 96-page document once, and I am disappointed because one underlying assumption steers the whole document. If we don't address that assumption and respond to the recommendations reactively then we as a church will end up chasing our tails.

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## VITAL STATISTICS

### Visitors:

Wendy Butts, Keith & Trisha Lambert, Paddie Harris,  
Rich Grimm

### November Anniversaries:

Thomas & Jo Ledsam 11/11  
Tori Patterson & Helmi Hisserich 11/29

### November Birthdays:

Anita Wacker	11/01
James Newman	11/15
James Baxter	11/16
Ned Vaughn	11/20
Bettina Ayers	11/21
Jean Boone	11/25
Price Campbell	11/29

That assumption is this: the report sees an institutional symptom and tries to cure the symptom instead of the problem. The symptom is institutional. The cure is attitudinal.

The symptom they address is that thirty-eight Anglican churches all over the globe exist in different cultures and contexts (not even counting congregations and dioceses within them) so we all approach fundamental pastoral and theological problems differently. The real, underlying problem is that we don't know how to live together when we disagree. We must learn once again for the first time how to be the Church.

I believe that ones focus becomes ones reality. The situation of our disagreement has become the reality of those who put together this report. Starting here, then what is likely to come out will be institutional fixes for attitudinal problems. The suggested institutional fixes (Listed above in the summary of recommendations) do nothing to solve matters of the heart. They may instead create the basis for political positioning and struggles for power.

You can see where this is going. If all the findings are followed as written, then we will set up mechanisms that rely on bureaucracy and shame to enforce an outward compliance. It will make a hurting system a sick system. In the name of Communion, we may end up substituting Communion for compliance. We may burn the village to save it.

Well, one might ask, what is the alternative? How do people who disagree get along, especially in churches?

One option, especially on the level of parishes, is simply to move to a place that seems more compatible. Actually, humans have this built in-if we ignore the problem maybe it will go away. We've been doing this-it's called denial-and we've only perpetuated injustice. Instead, if we intentionally and in faith gather around what we share as Christians, real healing and spiritual growth will take place.

Except for a tip of the hat, The Windsor Report does not begin with an appreciation of what all of us share and bring to the table. By making the focus "The Problem," the group lost focus on the many more things we members of the Anglican Communion do well.

Since some in our several churches seek punishment and a realignment of power, this is understandable. Still, I wish there were more fortitude in insisting that we must begin with what we share and what we do well.

Real "bonds of affection" and effective "instruments of unity" are spiritual and are only imperfectly reflected in the institutions we set up on earth. We do the best we can, but we are always in need of renewal and reform.

**Continued on page three**

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Looking at the breadth of the Anglican Communion from where I sit, here a few places where I would begin:

We share a common heritage and ethos with the English Church and the spirituality behind it.

We share baptism into the Body of Christ.

We share Eucharist.

We have a common faith in Jesus Christ.

We share an appreciation of beauty, participation and intellectual engagement in our liturgy.

We take the Bible seriously.

We listen to catholic tradition.

We have a sense of mission-we know that the Gospel is not for us alone.

We know that our worship and common life is connected with the whole Church-in all times and places.

You could add to that list, but I hope that you see what I mean. The starting place, for me, is what draws us together. The starting place is what we do well. The starting place is an appreciation of who we are together.

An appreciative approach does not mean that we gloss over the hard stuff. It's just that the hard stuff takes on new meaning. Instead of being obstacles to overcome, crosses to bear; our diverse approaches to the Gospel become the things that mold us and teach us and show us what God would have us be.

Many in the Church have defined us in terms of problems, failures, and things done wrong or badly. The solutions some have devised focus on punishment, correction and rehabilitation. Some even wanted the Episcopal Church summarily ejected from the Anglican Communion and something new put in its place. That did not happen, thank God.

But I can't say right now that this would never happen because once one starts down a path that places compliance over communion, someone, somewhere is going to get punished. Someone, somewhere, has to be made an example. There are recommendations in fact suggest that. Personally, I don't believe that the groups that must always be "right" will ever be satisfied. Appeasing the violent with punishment only stretches out the pain.

What matters to me, finally, is the ministry that happens on the ground, in [local congregations and ministries] all over the globe. What matters to me is the transformation of ordinary people into extraordinary vessels of God's grace, power and love. In this parish, we have been blessed to see signs of Christ's power to draw people together over and over again. We are forming new groups for prayer and spiritual growth, we are always looking for ways to share God's blessings on those in need, we are looking for ways to deepen our worship and increase our joy, knowledge and love of the Lord. I have seen people care for one other when times are tough. We still laugh and cry together and play and work hard in Jesus' name.

We are not alone. Our experience is like that of dioceses, parishes and people all over the world. God is doing great and marvelous things!

As long as we keep our focus on what God is doing right with us, lift up to God our deepest yearnings and give our hearts over to God as friends and apprentices of Jesus, we will both see and experience deep blessing in real living.

When we focus on and expect the miraculous, then we will resist the temptation to fall into judgment, bickering and institutional fixes for attitudinal problems.

*Note: This has been slightly edited to remove specific parish references.*

## NOVEMBER SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY LESSONS

### SUNDAYS

November 7, All Saints' Sunday (Canon Newman)  
Daniel 7.1-3,15-18; Ps. 149; Ephesians 1.11-23; Luke 6.20-31

November 14, Proper 28 (Mthr. Haynes)  
15.17-2 Isaiah 12; 2 Thess. 3.6-13; Luke 21.5-19

November 21, Proper 29 (Canon Newman)  
Jeremiah 23.1-6; Lk. 1.68-79; Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-43

November 28, Advent 1 (Canon Newman)  
Isaiah 2.1-5; Ps. 122; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44

### WEDNESDAYS

11/3: Richard Hooker (Canon Newman)  
Ps. 37.3-6,32-33; 1 Corinthians 2.6-10; John 17.18-23

11/10: Leo the Great (Canon Newman)  
Ps. 77.11-15; 2 Timothy 1.6-14; Matthew 5.13-19

11/17: Hugh of Lincoln (Canon Newman)  
Ps. 112.1-9; Titus 2.7-8; Matthew 24.42-47

11/24: Thanksgiving Eve (Canon Newman) - at St. Andrew's  
Ps. 100; Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Philippians 4.4-9; John 6.25-35

# ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

3590 Grand View Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Phone: 310-391-5522 or 888-802-6722

Fax: 310-391-8113

Parish Hall Telephone: 310-391-9316

Rector's Pager: 310-569-1575

Email: stbedesla@yahoo.com

**We're on the Web!**  
**www.stbedesla.org**

## ***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:** 9 am, Breakfast, Morning Prayer & Bible Study

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

### **BREAKFAST & BIBLE**

*A weekly class — beginning with breakfast — which previews  
the lessons for the upcoming Sunday.*

November 2 — No Class (Election Day)  
November 9 — (J. Young, host)  
November 16 — (L. Beitzel & E. Harter, hosts)  
November 23 — (J. Newman, host)  
November 30 — (J. Fox, H. Haddad, M. Kosinski, hosts)

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM**

11/3:  
Movies & Theology: Ordinary People

11/10 & 17:  
The study of "Early Christian Traditions"  
By Professor Rebecca Lyman  
Church Divinity School of the Pacific

## ***ST. BEDE'S VESTRY & STAFF***

**RECTOR:** The Very Rev. Canon James Newman

**ASSISTANT:** The Rev. Argola Haynes

**ASSISTING:** The Rev. Giles Asbury,  
the Rev John Hancock, the Rev. Howard Happ, Ph.D.

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Mr. Frank Basile

**SEXTON:** Mr. Masoud Jamneshan

### **VESTRY**

Mike Olsen [06] - Senior Warden  
Annete Graw [07] - Junior Warden  
Kyle Ferstead—Clerk  
Tom Ledsam—Treasurer  
Gordon Fuglie (05) Michael Gallagher [07]  
Edmonde Haddad [07] Ina Klem [06]  
Samira Tamer (05) Jerry Hornof [05]  
Joelle Underwood (06)

### **DELEGATES/ALTERNATES TO CONVENTION**

Angus Mackay (D)/Frank Basile (A) - (06)  
Annette Graw (D)/Kyle Ferstead (A) - (05)