

THE QUILL

Volume 19, Issue 9

September, 2006

INTERNS AROUND

FROM MIKE OLSEN

I've been missing you!

Many of you have asked about my whereabouts the last few months, and others have wondered what I have been doing. The answer to those questions is easy. I have been experiencing the most profound, rewarding and fulfilling duties of a Hospital Chaplain. This experience may well be the most significant growth opportunity I will have during my journey to Ordination.

In late March I began a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course at Methodist Hospital of Southern California, a wonderful hospital located in Arcadia. The first thing I learned was that if you try hard enough, you can fit eight days of work into a seven day week. In addition to my regular 5 day job supporting JPL, I spent 6 hours every Thursday and every Saturday and Sunday at the hospital. On every third weekend I also spent 24 hours in the Hospital so that a Chaplain was available immediately for the staff, patients and families.

Clinical Pastoral Education is designed to bring theological students and ministers of all faiths into supervised encounters with those in crisis. My CPE peers included an Indonesian (go to p. 2)

St. Bede's will have two parish interns this year. Giovan King will be here through the offices of the Commission on Ministry of the Diocese. She will be working primarily in liturgical and pastoral areas.

Mike Olsen (whose column is found elsewhere & replaces Canon Newman's comments this month) will be working through a class at the School of Theology at Claremont. His ministry will be primarily educational and pastoral.

Both of the Interns will be visible in the services and each will preach once every other month. Giovan will have a support committee (chaired by Mike Mullins, it is currently being formed); Mike will report to and be evaluated by the Rector.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our **education program for children** begins on Sunday, September 24. We need **all families** to be at St. Bede's on Homecoming Sunday (Sept. 17) to register **and** for the next Sunday's kick-off of the atriums and classes.

The **Via Media** program will begin on October 1 following the 10 a.m. service. A new **Confirmation** program for older teens and young adults will begin later in the fall.

The **Breakfast & Bible** group will re-convene on Tuesday, September 12 at 9 a.m. in Luther Hall. Breakfast will be hosted by Canon Newman & Roger Jayne. Needed: A Bible & textbook.

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THIS MONTH

Intern's Column

Sept. Birthdays &
Anniversaries

SoB Venues

Hawaii/Santa Barbara Retreats

GC 2006 Report

The Friends of Bede

SoB Venue Dinners

IS GOD'S WILL IN YOUR WILL ??

MIKE OLSEN'S REPORT

Roman Catholic Priest; a Psychologist who spent 25 years in LA County's Children's Protective Services; & 2 Fuller Seminary Graduates, one ordained in an independent church & the other awaiting ordination in the Reformed Church of America. Our Supervisor was a Samoan Congregational Church Minister.

During CPE I was called on to provide support to families facing end-of-life decisions, I responded to medical crises where patients were dying, I hugged patients and held their hands as they faced the reality of life threatening illnesses, or the loss of their freedom as debilitating diseases took their toll. I celebrated with families as they received the news of a successful surgery, and cried with others as I prayed the Commendation at the Time of Death, commending the Souls of their loved ones to the place Jesus, in the Gospel of John, told us He was preparing for us all.

I would like to share some of the stories of my CPE experience. In the beginning it was very difficult for me to enter a hospital room and announce "Hi, I'm Mike, I'm one of the Hospital Chaplains". One morning, I introduced myself to a beautiful, elderly, bed-ridden lady. As I approached her bed I held out my hand to her. She smiled and took my hand and in the gentlest way pulled it to her mouth and kissed it. She said "I know who you are". For the next 10 minutes or so, this beautiful woman held my hand and told me how proud she was of me, how much I meant to her. I don't know who she thought I was, but for those few minutes I was the most important person in her life, as she was in mine. After this encounter it was no longer in trepidation, but rather in anticipation that I entered the rooms.

One evening I was called to the Intensive Care Unit to be with a family as the Doctors and Nurses struggled to keep the mother alive. While the resuscitation was successful, it was clear that it was only machines keeping their loved one alive. I sat with the family praying and offering consolation for several hours as they discussed whether they should make a "do not resuscitate" decision. One thing became very clear to me, a time of crisis, when you watch a loved one suffer, is not the time to make decisions like this. I held her grieving husband's hand as he was faced with the most difficult decision any per-

son could be faced with, removing the machines that were keeping his wife's body alive. Please, oh please, if you have not made your wishes known through a Durable Power Of Attorney, do not put it off. Those decisions, as difficult as they are, need to be made when the whole family is able to participate in the conversation, not at a time of crisis.

On another occasion I sat on the hallway floor in the middle of a group of young gang members as the Nurse explained to them that their friend would forever be paralyzed by the bullet that had severed his spine. I saw boisterous young men and women, who moments earlier acted so strong, dissolve in tears and shock as the reality of their friend's future sunk in. Through events like this I learned to minister to those whose life style I do not understand. I learned that all of us, no matter how different, share the same fears and feelings of abandonment as we struggle with illness and death. At those times, all of us, homeless, gang members, atheists and faithful, need someone at their side; that someone for awhile was me, the Chaplain.

I came to understand that Hospital Chaplains serve at the times of 'Crucifixion', a time when patients and families feel alone, abandoned and are filled with fear. It is the Chaplain's responsibility to find ways to replace that fear with hope, the hope promised by the Resurrection. While we may hope for recovery in this life, we have the promise of The Lord for everlasting peace in our next life. It is that promise, that faith, which provides peace at times of crisis.

Luke 8:22-25 tells the story of a great storm tossing the Disciple's boat to and fro while Jesus slept. The Disciples, filled with fear, knew they were going to die. They finally woke Jesus who was calmly sleeping through the storm and who stilled the waters and rebuked them for their lack of faith. This is a story that I have used to minister to patients who feared their future; it is also of use to us as we enter stormy waters. The story reminds us that Jesus is there with us, and will protect us and comfort us, if only we ask Him and have faith that our request will be answered.

Fear, trust, hope, faith, pastoral presence, death, Chaplain, are all words that only a few short months ago had completely different meanings to me. They now are words that I own, that are part of me, words I can use as I hold the hand of a trusting patient or a parishioner in crisis. This clearly has been a time of growth. The process facilitated integration of all that I am and all that I believe into my ministry and into every part of my life. The growth has made me a better Chaplain and will make me a better Priest. I am aware and thankful that this growth has also permeated other parts of my life including my work, my Church, and my family.

I have been changed by the encounters with death, patients in spiritual crisis or need, and those who needed someone with an open heart to share their stories with. I look forward to continuing change and growth with the knowledge that the Holy Spirit is there to guide and support me. I want to thank you, my St. Bede's family, for your love and support for both Sandy and me as we continue on this journey of growth.

VITAL STATISTICS

Visitors:

Geoff & UnaLee Just, Ann Winchester, James Date, John & Dora Ramsden, Rea Crane, Nicholas Phelps, Sandra Mason, George Back

Please Pray for:

Fr. Giles, Tina, John, Lois, Eugenia, Dulcie, Janet, Michael, Diane, Nabila, Harriet, Fr. John, Daniel, Joe, Wes, Mary Jane, Kim, Megan, Ada, Ina, Frances, Peggy, Jeff, Sandy, Kelly, Ergun, Don, Caleb, Dennis

September Birthdays:

09/01	Alex Hornof	09/16	Patti Duvall
09/05	Katherine Russell	09/21	Peggy Levenstein
09/06	Ina Klem	09/24	Connor Jackson
09/07	Brian Byers	09/29	Robert Irons, Jr.
09/13	Kristen Weirick	09/30	Tori Hisserich

September Anniversaries:

09/01	Jeff Kloss & Abeer Sweis
09/13	Russell & Elizabeth Harter
09/28	Tom & Melanie Elliott

THE FRIENDS OF BEDE – F.O.B.

Yes, another “...of Bede” group to join in the fellowship with the *Sisters Of Bede* and the *Brothers Of Bede*.

The Friends Of Bede is being formed at St. Bede’s. The F.O.B. is a group of folks — men and women of all ages, from within the parish community and outside the parish community, who want to get together monthly for fellowship. Activities will include bicycle riding, hiking, picnics, bowling, movies, etc. The F.O.B. is not only a group that prays together, but is also a group that plays together.

Fr. Jim says, “Some are called to be **Sisters Of Bede** (Womenfolk); Some are called to be **Brothers Of Bede** (Menfolk); But, *all* are invited to be **Friends Of Bede**.”

Look in the weekly parish bulletin for upcoming events. If you wish to be involved in the monthly activity planning process, please see Michael Gallagher.

HYMN PICKING SYMPOSIUM

Join with Frank Basile to engage in the process of choosing this fall’s hymns in the 2nd Annual “**Hymn-Pick**”, Saturday, Sept. 16 at 11 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP

Living Stewardship: The Bishop’s Conference on Stewardship will be offered by the Program Group on Stewardship & Development on Saturday, September 23, 8 am—3.30 pm at Cal State, Los Angeles. Presentations by Bp. Bruno, Tom Gossens (Ex. Dir., Episcopal Church Stewardship Network) & Diocesan stewardship leaders. The cost is \$20 (incl. parking, breakfast, sessions, materials & lunch). See the Rector or Jerry Hornof for more information. Deadline: 9/14.

RECTOR’S FORUM

The **Rector** will make a presentation on the **2006 General Convention** between the services on Sunday, Sept. 9 in the Parish Hall.

2007-2008 SISTERS OF BEDE VENUE DINNERS & EVENTS

The **Party of Parties** is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 7. At that time, you may sign up for many varied (we hope) events. The sign-up form is included in this month’s *Quill*.

EL SALVADOR APPEAL

A **matching grant** has been made. Contribute toward El Salvador Housing for the ERD between now and Homecoming Sunday (Sept. 17) and have it matched \$1=\$1.

AIDS WALK

Each year, family members and friends of St. Bede’s Parish, join up and form *the St. Bede’s AIDS Walk Team*. This year’s walk will take place on Sunday, Oct. 15, 2006. We will gather at St. Bede’s at 8:00 am and car pool to the **AIDS WALK**.

If you would like to join *the St. Bede’s AIDS Walk Team*, please see Michael Gallagher for information. If you are not interested in walking, but would like to financially support the team, please see Michael. *St. Bede’s AIDS Walk Team* registration forms are found in the Narthex. Thank you for your prayers and support. Together, we can make a difference!

RETREATS

Sign up now for two parish retreats:
PARISH RETREAT at MT. CALVARY RETREAT CENTER, Santa Barbara, Oct. 27-29; \$175.

ST. BEDE’S-ON-THE-BEACH at the **GILLIN BEACH HOUSE**, Maha’ulepu, Kaua’I, Hawai’I, Jan. 29-Feb. 5, 2007; \$750.

SEPTEMBER LESSONS

SUNDAYS

Sept. 3 (13 Pent./Pr. 17): (AH) Song of Solomon 2.8-13; Ps. 45.1-2,7-10; James 1.17-27; Mark 7.1-8,14-15, 21-23
Sept. 10 (14 Pent./Pr. 18): (MO) Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Ps. 125; James 2.1-10, 14-17; Mark 7.24-37
Sept. 17 (15 Pent./Pr. 19): (JN) Proverbs 1.20-33; Ps. 19; James 3.1-12; Mark 8.27-38
Sept. 24 (16 Pent./Pr. 20): (JN) Proverbs 31.10-31; Ps. 1; James 3.13-4.3,7-8a; Mark 9.30-37

WEEKDAYS

9/6: (JN)
1 Corinthians 3.1-9; Ps. 62; Luke 4.38-44
9/13: HOLY CROSS (eve.) (JN)
Isaiah 45.21-25; Ps. 98.1-4; Philippians 2.5-11; John 12.31-36a
9/20: ST. MATTHEW (eve.) (JN)
Proverbs 3.1-6; Ps. 119.33-40; 2 Tim. 3.14-17; Matthew 9.9-13
9/27: ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS (JN)
Gen. 28.10-17; Ps. 103.19-22; Revelation 12.7-12; John 1.47-51

ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE PARISH OF MAR VISTA, VENICE, OCEAN PARK & PLAYA VISTA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

3590 Grand View Blvd
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Fax: 310-391-8113
Parish Hall Telephone: 310-391-9316
Rector's Pager: 310-569-1575

We're on the Web!
www.stbedesla.org
Hear Sunday's Sermon!

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

Hosts:
9/12: J. Newman & R. Jayne
9/19 & 26: — to be announced

WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM:

Great Figures of the Old Testament
09/06—OT Overview
09/13 — Adam & Eve
09/20 — Cain & Abel
09/27 — Noah

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

RECTOR: The Very Rev. Canon James Newman

ASSOCIATE: The Rev. Argola Haynes

ASSISTING CLERGY:

the Rev. Giles Asbury, the Rev John Hancock

INTERNS: Giovan King & Mike Olsen

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Frank Basile

FACILITIES MANAGER: Tom Ledsam

VESTRY

Annette Graw ('07) — Senior Warden

Jerry Hornof ('08) — Junior Warden

Joelle Underwood — Clerk

Paul Thompson—Treasurer

Mike Olsen — Assistant Treasurer

Jennine Townsend — Financial Secretary

Michael Gallagher ('07) Kathy Hartley ('07)

Ricky Lewis, Jr. ('08) Liz Mohler ('08)

Phyllis Morrison ('07) Alice Short ('08)

Reed Wilson ('08)

DELEGATES/ALTERNATES TO CONVENTION

Kyle Ferstead (D)/Annette Graw (A) - ('07)

Frank Basile (D)/Michael Mullins (A) - ('08)