

News and Views From St. Paul's



Vol. 11 Issue 2

February 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 1:** Friday, Crafters Corner Store
11:30 AM – 6:30 PM
- Feb. 3:** Sunday, Last Epiphany
9 AM, Worship
Church School
- Feb. 4:** Cornelius the Centurion (page 6)
- Feb. 5:** Tuesday, The Martyrs of Japan
Shrove Tuesday, 5 PM Pancake Supper
(page 5)
- Feb. 6:** Ash Wednesday (page 1)
8 AM, Worship & Imposition of Ashes at St. Paul's
5:30 PM, Ecumenical Service & Imposition of Ashes
7 PM, Choir Rehearsal
- Feb. 10:** Sunday, I Lent
Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday
(page 7)
9 AM, Worship
Church School & Adult Forum (p. 4 & 11)
10:30 AM, Daughters of the King
- Feb. 13:** Wednesday, Absalom Jones
5:30 PM, Ecumenical Lenten Worship
7 PM, Choir Rehearsal
- Feb. 17:** Sunday, II Lent
9 AM, Worship
Church School & Adult Forum
- Feb. 20:** Wednesday,
5:30 PM, Ecumenical Lenten Worship
7 PM, Choir Rehearsal
- Feb. 24:** Sunday, III Lent
9 AM, Worship
Church School & Adult Forum
- Feb. 27:** Wednesday, George Herbert
5:30 PM, Ecumenical Lenten Worship
7 PM, Choir Rehearsal
- Feb. 28:** 6 PM, Daughters of the King
- March 2:** Sunday, IV Lent
9 AM, Worship
Church School & Adult Forum
- Looking Ahead:**
- March 16:** Palm Sunday
- March 22:** Easter Eve, a special time for Baptism
- March 23:** Easter Sunday

MONTROSE CHURCHES SPONSOR ECUMENICAL LENTEN WORSHIP

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 6, the Montrose Ministerium is sponsoring a Lenten Worship Service, 5:30 PM, at the Montrose Methodist Church. On Ash Wednesday the traditional Imposition of Ashes will be a part of the worship.

Participating in the weekly services will be Dee Butler and the Rev. Gerald Safko of Holy Name of Mary RC Church; the Rev. Canon Charles Cesaretti of St. Paul's Episcopal Church; the Rev. Chase Page and the Rev. Chuck Link of the First Presbyterian Church; and, the Rev. Deborah Rose of the Montrose Methodist Church. Lectors, musicians, and young adults from the participating congregations will join in the forty-five minute service.

One of the unique aspects of the worship this year will be the inclusion of a time for silence, reflection, and personal prayer. The practice of silent prayer is one of the great treasures of not only Christianity but many faith systems.

To introduce the practice of silent prayer into our regular worship, a number of helpful resources will be available at St. Paul's in the tract racks at the rear of the church. Also, we will "pause" for one minute of silence after the reading of the Second Lesson, before the Sequence Hymn and the Gospel reading. "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

As the silence begins, take a deep breath and let your body relax. Recite to yourself: "For God alone my soul waits in silence" (Psalm 62:1). Focus your mind on one of the words you heard in the Scripture readings, or a mental picture that the reading evokes. Be prepared to welcome the presence of God. As the organist begins quietly

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February 2008

My dear Friends,

As the Vestry of St. Paul's was engaged in its annual two-day planning meeting the beginning of January, I became aware of something different in the proceedings. There were major decisions to be addressed, as well as the usual business items by the numbers. However, something "felt" different.

We began the meeting with a session of open and free-flowing evaluation of the year past, and then moved into discussing the coming year. Then we began to move through the prepared agenda items. At first I realized how relaxed and engaged all the members were; then I noticed that everyone was actively participating; then I became aware that there everyone was paying attention to what the others were saying; and, then it struck me that everyone was talking with enthusiasm and excitement about the future. I had to pinch myself to make sure that I was not dreaming – yes, this *was* a vestry meeting. What was going on?

As I was driving home on Saturday afternoon, I was trying to evaluate what I had experienced. Then it hit me! The power of prayer! Every member of St. Paul's was praying for the vestry. That made the difference.

In preparation for the annual meeting, the Vestry asked Al Leigh to contact every member of the parish and ask that they hold up the meeting in their prayers. He had an outstanding response. He prepared a prayer and distributed it. We all experienced the power of prayer.

We are entering the great season of Lent. One of the major activities of Lent is prayer.

As Episcopalians we are people of the book --- The Book of Common Prayer. We have a great tradition of communal and private prayer in our community of faith. However, it is easy to slip into the thinking that all prayer is "word" bound, and addressed by us to God. In fact, our Catechism reminds us "Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deed, with or without words" (PB, p. 856).

Prayer is *our* response *to* God, and prayer can be wordless – silent, contemplative.

During Lent we will be experiencing "wordless" prayer. This method of prayer is called "centering" or "contemplative" prayer. The aim is to quiet our faculties, to calm down, and to cooperate with the gift of God's presence. This wordless form of prayer allows us to receive the gift of God's presence into the center of our lives.

Through centering or contemplative prayer, our minds and hearts are open to the presence and will of God. Beyond thoughts, words or emotions, we allow an interior silence to open our whole being to God. We literally rest in God. Through practice and personal discipline, beyond thought, words, and emotions, we can truly find a personal relationship with God.

During Lent we will draw on this ancient method of prayer both in our Sunday Worship and in our Wednesday evening Ecumenical Services.

May we all experience a Holy Lent.



Charles A. Cesaretti

From Your Senior Warden

With glad hearts and thoughtful minds, the vestry convened on January 4-5 for their annual retreat. The presence of every vestry member led to full and hearty discussions. After careful deliberations, a draft budget for 2008 was accepted. In addition, our partnership with the other northern tier churches and a special summer schedule of worship services rounded out our conversations as we looked to the year ahead. It was a tiring, thought provoking, and inspirational retreat.

As you may remember, one of the goals for the retreat was to select a Search Committee to begin this process again. However, many of our prayers were answered when Father Charles Cesaretti, our amazing spiritual leader, agreed to stay on as the part time rector for an unspecified length of time.

There is so much to be grateful for—a hard working and able vestry; Father Charles Cesaretti; our Administrative Assistant Brenda Allen; old and new faces joined together on this amazing journey; lay leadership that works to share the peace and justice of Jesus with others; cheerful and generous parishioners; and a beautiful historic church, filled with memories and mementos of the faithful.

I continue to be thankful for the many opportunities and the many blessings!

Happy New Year—may we continue to “Come and Grow” together!

Rachel

ST. BRIGID DINNER TO BE POSTPONED

The Daughters of the King recently met and decided to postpone their annual Celtic Dinner, which was originally scheduled for Saturday, February 2nd. With the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper scheduled for Tuesday, February 5th, and the commencement of Lent with the Ash Wednesday services on February 6th, it was the decision of the Daughters to schedule this event at a future date and focus on the events already included in the Church calendar. This will also enable the Daughters to pursue some entertainment options they are desirous of making part of the dinner. We will keep you apprised of the new date for the dinner once this is established. In the meantime, the Daughters encourage all to join them at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. Paul's.



All Church locks to be changed The Property Committee has arranged to change the all the locks in the Church and the Parish House. The locks will be changed next week. This is for security and insurance purposes. Each parish group will have its own code, e.g. Altar Guild, Choir. The Chestnut Street door will be open during the week the times that the Parish Office is open (9 AM - 2:30 PM). If you have need to access the church, please call the Parish Office (278-2954) to receive the code for your group.

Henry Pease Henry Pease has been moved from Geisinger Hospital in Wilkes-Barre to a therapy facility. Please keep him, and his family, in your prayers. All are encouraged to send cards of greeting to: The Rev. Henry J. Pease, Golden Living East Mountain, Room 115, 101 East Mountain Blvd., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

Summer at St. Paul's

Many of you have heard that something new is in the air at St. Paul's for the summer of 2008. But what exactly is this new endeavor we keep hearing about? Could we call it outreach--yes. Tourism—yes. Evangelism, festivities, entertainment, community growth? Yes to all! We at St. Paul's are very blessed and this summer we want to share that blessing with others. The beautiful aesthetics of Susquehanna County, and Montrose itself, attract a lot of people over the summer months. Do they know about St. Paul's? Are they familiar with the many wonderful summer events in Montrose, such as the Blueberry Festival? Would they enjoy the opportunity for special summer activities at St. Paul's, activities which may attract more people to the downtown, some of whom may return to join us in worship? These concepts are all being developed into a program that will include events throughout the summer to bring people to Montrose and St. Paul's. We want to be sure that anyone coming into Montrose and its surrounds feels the warmth of the welcome to St. Paul's. Signage will soon be going up extending a warm welcome from St. Paul's and insuring that people know our hours of worship and how to find us. Various means of marketing to local campgrounds, lake associations, tourism entities, etc. will further extend our welcoming hands. A calendar of family oriented activities is being developed to provide for fun and festivities throughout the summer. Although there is a focus on summer residents and visitors, year round residents will also certainly enjoy these activities. In essence we are endeavoring to draw visitors to St. Paul's with the hope they may opt to make St. Paul's their home. Ultimately, we never know who may walk through our door for a visit and decide to stay.

So let's have some fun with this—starting with a name. I'm sure we can do better than “Summer at St. Paul's.” Let's have a naming contest—a name that sums it up, has appeal, and can be used in our marketing efforts. Put on your creative thinking caps and submit your best ideas. A committee will be created to review all submissions and select the winning entry. Young or not-so-young—we want your ideas. Entries may be emailed to me at sanjrussel@epix.net or given to me in written format no later than Sunday, March 2nd. Have fun—be creative—and help us grow.

Sandy Schwab

2008 Easter Dinner Project Begins

Opportunities abound in our community to share the peace and justice of Jesus with our neighbors; many of these opportunities can directly involve the preparing and sharing of food. Last year, many, many local Christians helped feed over 500 families on Easter Day. If you are interested in serving on a committee to organize the Easter Dinner Project (and look at other ways to continue these efforts), please contact Rachel Bartron or the parish office as soon as possible.

ADULT FORUM

The Adult Forum will reconvene on the First Sunday of Lent, February 10, following the 9 AM Worship. (page 11 for Feb 10 topic)

The topics of the weekly Forum will vary this session between an examination of the English Reformation, and guest speakers addressing various topics such as the Area Agency on Aging.

Participants are encouraged to visit the Coffee Hour and then proceed to the Parish House for the session.

The topics for each session will be announced in the Weekly Email Update and the Sunday leaflet.

VALENTINES DAY AT THE CRAFTERS' CORNER STORE

Who can forget Valentines Day, 2007. You remember--Punksatony Phil told us we would NOT have 6 more weeks of winter—then we got hammered by the Valentines Day snow storm (not to mention the infamous April storm). This year the Crafters' Corner Store beats out old Phil—we will make our predictions on February 1st—a full day ahead of Phil. You won't see anyone wearing top hats—and I dare to wager that there will be no groundhog sightings. You will, however, again find the crafters gathering at St. Paul's, and they are promising lots of great Valentines Day gift ideas as well as signs of Spring. Homemade soups will be simmering in the kitchen along with coffee, tea and desserts to help ward off any remaining January chill. We continue to increase the available options by adding new crafters, as well as new creations by your existing favorite crafters. The Crafters' Corner Store varies every month so keep coming back and spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors.

New demonstrations are scheduled for this month. At 1 p.m., Ginny John will demonstrate the skill behind her macramé creations. At 3 p.m. Gretchen Storck will enlighten us on the process for turning jewelry into beautiful pieces of art. Remember, our new winter hours are 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

On behalf of the crafters, we would like to thank all of you who have so actively supported this endeavor. Many of you are faithful attendees at the Crafters' Corner Store. Food and paper product donations have also been abundant throughout this endeavor. Without all of you, the Crafters Corner Store would not be recognizing the success it has achieved to date. As many of you know, this incubator type setting was intended to open doors for local crafters by providing an affordable opportunity to market their wares and test the response to their creations. We are pleased to tell you that one of our crafters—Markella Matheos has opened her own store in Nicholson. We will miss Markella at the Crafters Corner Store but wish her well in this new endeavor. I am sure Markella, along with the other crafters, greatly appreciate all you do to support the Crafters' Corner Store.

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(Continued from page 1) Lenten Worship

to play the Sequence Hymn, say "Thank you, Lord, for this quiet time."

The use of silent prayer, meditation, and reflection during our Lenten Worship will enable us to experience another form of prayer.

St. Paul's will suspend its regular Wednesday 5:50 PM Worship so that all might participate in the community-wide worship and observance of Lent. However on Ash Wednesday, February 6, as has been the custom, there will be a service of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at St. Paul's at 8 AM.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 5 AT 5PM

The men of St. Paul's will be at their cooking stations for the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, which will be served in the Parish House. The women of the parish will prepare the desserts. Serving will begin at 5 PM, until all are served (or, until food runs out).

This year the young people of the parish will assist with the serving. The youth are raising funds for our partners in the diocese of Kajo Keji. All funds from the supper will go to the New Hope Campaign on behalf of the young people of the diocese.

St. Paul's welcomes all its parishioners and extends a warm invitation to all in our community to join in this annual event.

Cornelius

(February 4th)



Cornelius the Centurion was a Gentile; that is to say, he was not a Jew. Cornelius was an officer in the Roman army occupying Israel. He is commemorated on February 4th in the Church calendar because he and his family were the first Gentiles to become Christians.

The Jews had known for many generations that they had been chosen by God as His special people. People who were not Jews were Gentiles, that is, 'other' nations. Since Jesus was a Jew and had preached mostly to Jews it was easy for the early Christians to assume that only Jews could become Christians.

However Isaiah, almost eight hundred years before the birth of Christ had said that God would send a servant who would "extend His hand to all the nations", including the Gentiles. Finally Cornelius, both a Gentile and a Roman soldier - who was described as a God-fearing man - had a vision while he was praying: An angel told him to send a message to Peter asking him to come to preach to him and his family. Coincidentally Peter also had a vision, telling him to honor Cornelius' request.

James Kiefer write for the Internet notes that roughly ten percent of the population of the Roman Empire were monotheistic, God-fearing people who rejected the Roman polytheistic religion. Many of the Roman gods were characterized as highly unethical and immoral, making them unacceptable as objects of worship by thoughtful and moral people, regardless of religious background. These people preferred to worship a single creator, the author and upholder of the moral law. Many of these people, while not converts to Judaism, regularly attended synagogue services in order to worship and to learn about the God of the Hebrews. Cornelius was one of these.

Responding to his vision, Peter and some of his followers traveled from Joppa to Cornelius' home in Caesarea. As Peter was preaching the Gospel to Cornelius and his family, the Holy Spirit descended on all those who were listening, and it became obvious, even to the Jews who were present that the Gospel was meant for everyone, Jews and non-Jews alike.

Submitted by Ed Stark

(Continued from page 5) Crafters' Corner

We must, however, keep up the good work. Anyone interested in donating soup, bread, bagels or baked goods for the February Crafters' Corner Store should contact Rita Leigh.

Don't run the risk of Punxsutawney Phil being wrong again—get your Valentines Day gifts at the Crafters Corner Store on February 1st then sit back and think Spring—no matter what Punxsutawney Phil tells us.

Submitted by Sandy Schwab

WANT ADS

Sr. Citizen Luncheon Coordinator

Are you looking for a rewarding and challenging opportunity? St. Paul's is looking for someone to plan and coordinate monthly Sr. Citizen Luncheons. The monthly event will precede an afternoon movie at the Montrose Theater. If you like working with people in a pleasant atmosphere, like working with volunteers, and enjoy bringing smiles to peoples faces, please call Fr. Charles at 278-2954.

Sunshine Outreach

Like to work from home, enjoy bringing sunshine into people's lives? St. Paul's is looking for someone to be Sunshine Outreach Volunteer. The task is to send greeting cards to those who are house-bound, people in the hospital, those in the armed forces, individuals celebrating birthdays or wedding anniversaries, or those observing special occasions in their lives. All expenses paid for postage and greeting cards. If you enjoy bringing sunshine into the lives of people, if you find a great personal satisfaction in keeping people connected, please call Fr. Charles at 278-2954.

Have you returned your 2008 Pledge Commitment to St. Paul's?

Dummies vs. Idiots

I've found a new way of amusing myself. It doesn't appear to be sinful so I'll offer it for your consideration. In 2008 I decided to read the book of Revelation in the Bible. As you start a new activity, my father taught me to get professional advice. The subject was golf, but I use it for everything. My dad's philosophy was that the instruction would pay for itself in lost golf balls not being lost.

So, I decided to get "professional instruction" about a book. Hello, amazon.com, my favorite bookseller. I started off the search under "books" with a search criteria of "bible revelation". The search returned 11,806 hits! That's a little daunting. But on the first page was a title that peaked my interest, "The Book of Revelation, the smart guide to the bible series". I'm smart, right? That was a test. The real message from God was down four books, "The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Book of Revelation." My burning bush had arrived, again!

Then I thought that maybe I should search under "bible revelation episcopal". The search returned 31 hits. Now THAT was a more manageable number! I could reasonable scan ALL of those. Some of those were kind of flaky. Over half referred to the "Methodist Episcopal" church. Not what I was looking for.

Then the fun began. I tried the search criteria "complete idiot's guide bible revelation". 147 hits. Still manageable. So I picked one for further exploration. There was a section of "people who bought this book also bought ...". There were over 50 books listed ... and over half of them were "idiot" books! In addition, they also bought "...for Dummies" books. You know, "The Bible for Dummies", "Christianity for Dummies", "The Book of Revelation for Dummies"! People, this is a religious publication. I AM NOT making this up!

Being a student of the scientific method I decided to do a search on "complete idiot's guide" ... 3799 hits. Then I searched for "for dummies" ... 75,787 hits! My scientific mind has proof positive that there are more dummies than idiots ... by a factor of 20:1. Who knew?

Submitted by Al Leigh

Come and Grow with us at St. Paul's.

All are welcome .

Presiding Bishop declares February 10 Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin a new church year and congregations plan events and celebrations for the coming months, I write to urge all parishes to observe the First Sunday in Lent -- February 10, 2008 -- as Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday. I am very pleased to announce that 2008 will mark the first year of what will be an annual celebration of Episcopal Relief and Development's role in our mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

The Episcopal Church's ongoing commitment to fight poverty and disease around the world is lived out in a variety of ways. Advocacy with our government for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is one vital way. Another is through the ministry of Episcopal Relief and Development, which works with the worldwide Church to alleviate hunger, fight disease, and strengthen communities.

Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday provides an opportunity for congregations to support ERD's life-saving work through prayer and a special offering that will help people around the world.

Episcopal Relief and Development plays a significant role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Why? Simply put, churches and other faith-based institutions in the developing world are equipped to fight poverty and disease in ways that few other organizations can because of their deep reach into local communities and their relationships of trust with millions of people. By partnering with the worldwide Church and with ecumenical organizations, Episcopal Relief and Development empowers communities to maximize their resources and develop lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and disease. To learn more, visit <http://www.er-d.org/>.

Episcopal Relief and Development gives Episcopalians the special opportunity to partner with the

(Continued on page 11)

William Houston Warner

(Nov. 10, 1869 – Feb. 19, 1927)

In St. Paul's communion of saints, he's my buddy. He is the one commemorated by a stained glass window on the left as you enter St. Paul's, the one that I sit next to for Sunday services, William Houston Warner (Will).

I bring him to your attention for two reasons:

1) February 19 is the anniversary of his death. 2) There are three windows that have stained glass, all dedicated to somebody, but have no blurb about who the commemorated person was. Someone out there must know key facts worthy of a "window blurb" for these 3 saints!

On the 81st anniversary of Will's death, it's appropriate that one of his friends (me) blow the dust off his eulogies (with the kind assistance of Betty Smith, reference librarian) and remind people who he was. The information below is excerpted from the Montrose Independent of Feb. 24, 1927.

Reverend R. A. Weatherly, rector of St. Paul's, said, "An aristocrat of character, William Houston Warner, represented the finest ideals of his generation. Courteous always, he had the charm, the thoughtfulness, the bearing, the sympathy and the intelligence of a gentleman. Devoted to his parents and family in a way amazing in unselfishness, his noble and tender esteem brought to his wife the realization of the rich meaning and content of such a man's love. One who knew him well said his best friend was everybody. His chief and constant interest for the greater part of his life was the church. A vestryman for St. Paul's parish for twenty years, the parish treasurer, superintendent of the church school, the teacher of the boy's class, a layreader, delegate to conventions, a generous parishioner, without exception loyal to the rector, the friend of the humblest layman, Mr. Warner by his personal religious practice, constant attendance at all services and his contact with his fellow men showed his true priesthood, his true conviction. (He) told me before he died, 'The Church is a Divine Institution, incomparable.' While we with sorrowful hearts thank God for his example, we know that a prince has fallen in Israel."

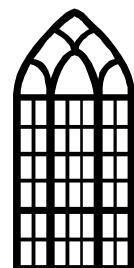
Mr. Warner's other eulogies are in the guild room for your review and meditation in the Brotherhood of St. Andrew area. You may even want to go over to his stained glass window and read Will's blurb.

In early January I made contact with Angie Frystak, wife of the caretaker of the Montrose Cemetery, James Frystak. Several phone calls later I had instructions on how to get to Will's grave. (One of those steps was to go past Samuel Dexter Warriner's white marble bench. Isn't it a small world!) Will's massive headstone is some 12 inches thick and stands 27 inches wide by 39 inches high on a base 8 inches high, 39 inches wide, 20 inches deep...impressive. I spent a few minutes chatting with him. Feelings, no burning bush.

There are three questions left to be pondered:

- 1) Who has a page of data for those three unblurb'd, commemorated windows ?
- 2) Who of St. Paul's communion of saints do YOU sit next to?
- 3) If there were a window in YOUR memory, what would YOUR blurb say?

Submitted by Al Leigh



WALKING THE WALK

The Greek word, *martus* [martyr] signifies a witness who testifies to a fact of which he or she has knowledge from personal observation. The Apostles were witnesses of all they had learned from the teaching of Jesus. Their careers were beset with dangers of the gravest character so that within their lifetime the term *martus* came to be used in the sense of a witness who at any time might be called upon to deny what he or she testified to, under penalty of death. The Christian tradition, as also its Jewish predecessor, is replete with elaborate stories that convey fundamental teachings. The parables of Jesus were the work of a master teacher. Later His disciples produced memorials shared throughout the community to bolster and encourage the faithful practice known as "The Way". Then, new stories, stories of faithful Christian witnesses, began to find favor and importance throughout the Roman Empire. The Age of Martyrs followed the Apostles' time, becoming a focus of interest and concern that dominated the historical record of the church for centuries. How are we to understand these often gruesome tales of torture and death as examples of the Christian path?

The search for the light of Christ within is marked by these teachings recorded in the Gospels. Drink the cup: Matthew 20:22 "Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" Lose this life: "Matthew 16:25 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it".

Those who hope to see the Kingdom Jesus preached must be prepared to undergo a sort of suffering they have not yet imagined, a subtle psychological suffering encountered when attempting to give up the self-centered programs of the individual ego. The life of the "small" self must be abandoned for the "larger" mission of the incarnated Christ.

At each celebration of the Eucharist we are invited to drink the cup. In so doing we take on a struggle to renew our vision, illuminated by the light of Christ. To persevere and be able to witness to the revelation of Abba, the source of all love, requires the support of the entire community of faith. Consequently the community supplies us with stories of suffering and witness that suggest extreme measures must be undertaken if we are to undergo a real conversion. A choice must be made between views of the world. As Paul wrote: (1 Corinthians 10:21) "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons."

The fantastic tales of martyrdom carry with them encouragement for each of us to face the trials of transformation, and to persevere in the search to uncover the light of the Kingdom of the New Covenant. These stories teach us that it is possible for all to find the strength required for walking the walk with Jesus, no matter how difficult the struggle might be. In this way we become witnesses to the truth revealed through the mission of the Christ, and are blessed as true martyrs in our own times.

Submitted by David Plank

St. Paul's Goes Green

St. Paul's will begin recycling. A special container will be placed in the kitchen area, which will contain clear bags. A list of acceptable materials and non-acceptable items will be posted in the kitchen. We must remember that the kitchen is used by many groups and individuals. Please help keep the kitchen neat and clean.

Youth Page

Church School Update

Under the guidance of Dawn Washo, the children have been practicing two new songs for the Lenten and Easter services. Downstairs, we continue to study the life and ministry of Jesus. The children have learned about Epiphany, John the Baptist, and the constant presence of God in our lives.

Mark your calendars! The second annual Easter Egg Hunt at St. Paul's will be on Saturday, March 22nd, at 9 am. There will be crafts for the children, some healthy snacks and lots of eggs to find! If you'd like to help out, please let Rachel or Sarah know.



IT'S IN THE PRAYER BOOK

The Prayer Book designates Ash Wednesday, the weekdays of Lent, and Holy Week as days of "Special Devotion" (BCP, page 17):

"The following days are observed by special acts of discipline and self-denial:

"Ash Wednesday and the other weekdays of Lent and of Holy Week, except the feast of the Annunciation.

"Good Friday and all other Fridays of the year, in commemoration of the Lord's crucifixion, except for Fridays in the Christmas and Easter seasons, and any Feasts of our Lord which occur on Friday."

Tradition has identified prayer, fasting/abstinence, and almsgiving as the marks of special devotion. The idea of "fasting and abstinence" is to gain self-control, a simplification of life-style, and as a solidarity with the poor and hungry. As such, fasting and abstinence should always be focused towards making life simpler not more complicated.

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday is found in the Prayer Book on page 264. A succinct description of the themes of Lent are found in the invitation to the observance of a holy Lent on pages 254-265.

It's in the Prayer Book!

Pastor's Business Card

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door .

Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote 'Revelation 3:20' on the back of it and stuck it in the door .

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, 'Genesis 3:10'

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.'

Genesis 3:10 reads, 'I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked.'

Thanks Rita L for this email

HYMN STORY: Just As I Am (Hymn 693)

Are you ever frustrated that you can't do more for Jesus? That you don't have anything special to offer?

Charlotte Elliott, the author of the hymn, "Just as I Am," certainly felt that way. She had been a brilliant and vivacious woman until an illness left her an invalid. Her situation left her quite depressed. She felt that she no longer had anything to offer -- nothing to give.

But a pastor, Dr. Caesar Malan, came to visit her. Noting her despair, he encouraged her to give Christ her life -- to come to Christ just as she was. That comment started a turnaround for her. While she remained an invalid, she began to search for ways to make her life meaningful.

And Dr. Malan's words stayed with her -- "Come to Christ just as you are." Several years later, she wrote this hymn, which has become a favorite around the world. While she wrote more than a hundred hymns, this one in particular has affected more lives than she ever could have imagined.

So if you ever wonder what you can do to make your life meaningful, just put it in Christ's hands and go where he leads. Christ has a way of using ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

- Thanks to Dick Donovan

SPECIAL ADULT FORUM ON KAJO KEJI Sunday, February 10

Mark your calendar! On Sunday, February 10, Mr. Charlie Barebo, Chair of the New Hope Campaign will be making a special visit to St. Paul's to address the Adult Forum about Kajo Keji. Mr. Barebo has visited our companion diocese and has been instrumental in framing the New Hope Campaign to meet the needs of the diocese.

Mr. Barebo's visit will allow St. Paul's to present the gift of our Christmas Offering of \$1,000.00 to him.

The Adult Forum will be held immediately following the 9 AM Worship.

(Continued from page 7) Episcopal Relief

worldwide Church and people around the world who are addressing challenging issues in their communities. This work is worthy of the support of all Episcopalians, and the beginning of Lent is an ideal time for us to renew our collective commitment to it. Almsgiving is one of the traditional disciplines of the season and one of the ways in which we participate with Christ in walking to the foot of the Cross and into the light of Resurrection. "If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted," Isaiah writes in a passage traditionally read at the beginning of Lent, "your light will rise in the darkness and your gloom will be like the noonday; you will be called repairer of the breach and restorer of streets to live in."

Trehab Food Bank Wish List



Please check expiration dates on products.

Things that can be used to make a

meal: peanut butter/ jelly; crackers; canned tuna; boxed macaroni and cheese; soup; pasta/sauce; beef stew; hash; spam; canned vegetables/ fruits; baby foods/ cereals.

Trehab can now accept fresh fruits and vegetables.

Non-Foods—items that cannot be purchased with food stamps are always needed: cleaning products, bath soaps, shampoo, laundry detergent, baby wipes, disposable diapers for babies, toilet paper, trash bags, tooth paste, and toothbrushes.

Regular food baskets are supplemented with donated items.



**February 2008 Lay
Ministry Schedule**

Altar Guild

3: Ellie McKeage
10: Betty Smith
17: Helen Viteritto
24: Esther Welden

Coffee Hour

3: Betty Smith
10: Brenda Syle
17: Kathy Warriner
24: Helen Viteritto

Camera and Closing

Ron Chandler

Counters

3: Sandra Schwab and
Bernie Zalewski
10: David Calby and
Richard Schwab
17: Vickie Calby and
Ron Chandler
24: Jane Chandler and
Richard Marker

Eucharist Ministers

3: David Calby and
Jane Chandler
10: Bob Arnold and
Jennie Bowen
17: Margie Baker and
Alma Shingler
24: Brenda Syle and
Mary Jane Syle

Greeters

3: James Cain
10: Vickie Calby
17: Nancy Finlon
24: Ellie McKeage

Lectors

3: Margie Baker
10: Jerry Sock
17: Ed Stark
24: Brenda Syle

Ushers

3: Bob Arnold
10: John Finlon
17: Al Leigh
24: Ed Ochse

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

60 Church Street

Montrose, PA 18801

(570) 278-2954

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