

THE QUILL

Volume 17, Issue 2

February 2004

LENT COMETH

It is almost here -- Lent: the season for taking on something to deepen your spirituality and prepare for the Celebration of Christ's Resurrection at Easter.

Annually, we prepare ourselves with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. This will be held in Luther Hall from 5.30-6.30 on Tuesday, Feb. 24. There will be more information about sign-up, tickets & cost in the Sunday bulletins.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, the traditional liturgy will be held twice -- once at Noon and again at 7.00 p.m. Canon Newman will be the preacher. Following the service, there will be a short introduction to our Lenten Study: "What Anglicans Believe in the 21st Century" by David Edwards. This class will focus on core Anglican/Episcopal beliefs and will be as relevant for newcomers to the Church as "long-timers". The class will run on Wednesday nights in Lent which will begin with a soup dinner at 6.15 pm, Eucharist & Healing at 7 pm and the class at 7.45 pm.

For those seeking confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church, this Wednesday night series will be supplemented by an informal discussion to be held on several Mondays beginning on March 1 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

Later in Lent, our annual Quiet Day will be held on Saturday, March 6 from 9 am

until 2 pm. Our guest will be the Rev. Canon John Rettger, St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis. Canon Rettger will speak on "The Paradox of Authority" He described the topic as follows:

"What are the keystones in our relationship with God? What is the bedrock that helps us walk in the way? How do we know which are the core values we need in order to lead the Christian life? Historically the authority of the Church is most clearly seen in Roman Catholicism, while Protestantism prizes individual faith (and sometimes individual doubt). In the Episcopal Church we see the importance both of the church's teaching and also of the individual's conscience. The *Middle Way* that Anglicans embrace holds the importance of the individual's discipleship and personal faith, as well as the tradition of the Church and the authority of its official documents and its ordained ministers. This is its tradition. But how does it work out? We know that things are changing. Some are calling for more church authority, more rules and punishments for those who break them. Others are wary of the Church pretending to have power that it does not have; they would urge it to be faithful to the prophetic rigor found in the teachings of Jesus. Still others say prayers, sing hymns, and in general wonder what all the fuss is about."

Lent cometh...plan ahead !!

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THIS MONTH

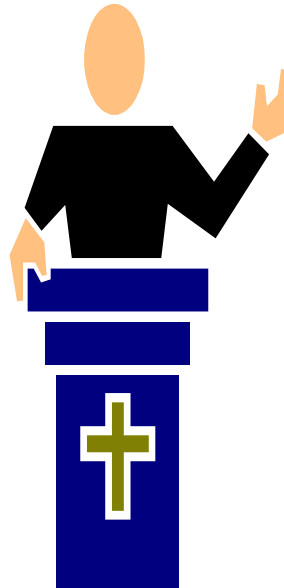
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CANON JIM'S JOTTINGS

Well, I am finally getting used to the title "Canon". Not that I do not like it, but I have always used it for priests who were either elderly, my mentors or both. I guess, having reached the quarter century mark of priesthood, I am one of the "older guys" I saw shuffling around the Virginia Seminary campus while I was at Seminary in the mid-70's.

One of the issues that has been with us since that time is the issue of the blessing of relationships that fall into categories other than those mandated by "The Celebration & Blessing of a Marriage" in the Book of Common Prayer. There are many couples of may years standing who are invisible to the official church. Certainly gay and lesbian couples fall into that category. That is the one group which gets the most press coverage. What about older men & women who cannot marry lest it lessen their social security income? What about a second marriage for a spouse who is divorced and Roman Catholic? There are more scenarios that I can think of.

At this point in my life, I am contemplating a decision that many of my colleagues across ecumenical and interfaith lines have made. It is to decline to sign marriage licenses for anyone....period. It is a legal document and



the state should do it. "Marriage" is a legal contract between two people. It is established and regulated by the state. Heterosexual couples can easily have a civil marriage in a judge's chambers. Older couples dare not follow suit because of their SS benefits. Similarly, gay & lesbian couples can become "domestic partners" under the laws of the state. After the legalities, then the Church can bless the Covenanted Relationships of those in whose relationships is seen a faith commitment and an intention to serve a beacons of faith within the Body of Christ.

The Church is not and should not be a "marriage mill". Too often we are simply for sale to the highest bidder. Marriage and covenanted relationship is a special calling. There are many people who should not get married. There are many marriages (& relationships) that have been ill-thought out in the end do not represent light and love. The recent "marriage" of singer Britney Spears was more detrimental to the traditional institution of marriage than the blessing of thousands of gay & lesbian couples. Why? Because she is a role model for many young people and her actions said to them that marriage is something to be taken "unadvisedly or lightly."

I realize some people will have a variety of feelings

FROM THE RECORDS

VISITORS:

Merry Strahan; Marvin Surr;
Robyn Walters; Ralph & Diane Powell;
Brad, Kaitlyn & Brenna Thomas;
Lane & Ruth Woolery; Helen & Ed Vaughn;
Mary Ellen Pinto; Juliette & Webster Tan;
Alan Walls; H. Jeremy Bockholt; Corliss Doyle;
Nancy Elwood; Madeline Short

TRANSFERS IN:

Nancy Ellwood
Andrew & Pammela Jackson

FUNERAL:

Nancy Howe (1/11/2004)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jim Kelley 2/02
Devon Jackson 2/03
Mary Peppers—2/13
Frances Knight—2/14
Joanne Atkinson—2/21
Taylor Martin—2/21
Marian Leng—2/24
Charles Raef, II 02/29

on this subject. This is not about whose relationships could/might/may/will be blessed at St. Bede's. My positions in that area are quite well known and the Vestry has already approved a policy of inclusion and openness. It is about what will (or might) not happen -- that is the legal part, which some people cannot and/or should not be involved with at this point.

I would love to hear your thoughts and reactions. To that end, I will be setting a time for a forum on this subject which will be announced in the Sunday bulletin.

Canon Jim

HEALING & WHOLENESS ALWAYS OUR FOCUS

For the last year, the focus of the services of Evening Prayer on the last Sunday each month has been "healing and meditation" through the 12 steps. It is been directed toward, but not exclusively for, people from various 12-Step groups. The turnout for these services have ebbed and flowed but always has been basically the St. Bede's core and several others.

Canon Newman & Michael Gallagher have consulted on this issue and decided that the meditation on the last Sunday will continue to emphasize one of the 12 steps but that the message will broaden to how that step leads to wholeness for all members of the community.

"The Sunday services are a time when we gather to meditate on God's Word for us without the busy-ness of Church School, coffee hour or group meetings, said Canon Newman. "I am hopeful that it will continue to grow and adjust with its constituency. We can be informal, we can use the rosary, we can use Taize music because God is in charge of speaking through whatever liturgy to the gathered community."

WHAT IS A PRAYER BREAKFAST

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that the purpose of prayer is not to turn God into some cosmic bellhop that we ring for whenever we want something. The purpose of prayer is to remind us of our oneness with God, that we are all made in God's image, each of us as a channel for divine influence, creativity and power.

At 9 am, on February 7th, in Luther Hall, to highlight Black History Month, you have the chance to open the channel for prayer. Prayer is more than praise and petition. We will listen and let the Holy Spirit speak through our prayers and time of praise.

The theme for this first annual Prayer Breakfast is "Sing A New Song." Our guest speaker is The Rev. Zelda Kennedy, new to our Los Angeles Diocese. She is a priest at All Saints' Church, Pasadena. She will guide us in praising God with a new song.

Come join us in breakfast, singing and praying as God's beloved people. As we gather, we will pray for clarity and see life as a most miraculous gift. Join us! If you cannot attend, pray that this morning will be one of love and blessing.

Mother Golie Haynes

FEBRUARY LESSONS

SUNDAY LESSONS

February 1: The Presentation: Canon Newman:

Malachi 3.1-4; Ps. 84; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40

February 8: 5 Epiphany: Canon Newman

Isaiah 6.1-8 (9-13); Ps. 138; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11

February 15: 6 Epiphany: Mthr Haynes

Jeremiah 17.5-10; Ps. 1; 1 Corinthians 15.12-20; Luke 6.17-26

February 22: Last Sun. after Epiphany: Canon Newman:

Exodus 34.29-35; Ps. 99; 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2; Luke 9.28-36 (37-43)

February 29: Lent 1: Canon Newman

Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Ps. 91.1-2,9-16; Romans 10.8b-13; Luke 4.1-13

WEDNESDAY LESSONS

February 4 (Cornelius the Centurion): Fr. Hancock

Ps. 67; Acts 11.1-18; Luke 13.22-29

February 11: Canon Newman

Ps 37.1-7,32-33,41-42; 1 Kings 10.1-10; Mark 7.14-23

February 18 (Martin Luther): Canon Newman

Ps 46; Isaiah 55.6-11; John 15.1-11

February 25 (Ash Wednesday): Canon Newman

Joel 2.1-2,12-17; Ps. 103.8-14; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

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

Emergency Pager: 310-915-3848

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.*

WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM

February 4: The Old Testament: - "The Conquest"
February 11: The Old Testament- "The Book of Judges, 1"
February 18: Movies and Theology: Tender Mercies (moved)
February 25: Ash Wednesday: Introduction to Lent Book:
"What Anglicans Believe in the 21st Century"

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

MSY INTERN: Ms. Vicki Mouradian

SEXTON: Mr. Masoud Jamneshan

VESTRY

Ruth Nicastro ('04) - Senior Warden
Paul Thompson ('05) - Junior Warden
Kyle Ferstead—Clerk
Tom Ledsam—Treasurer
Gordon Fuglie ('05) Karen Kuchel ('04)
Mike Olsen ('06) Mark Scott ('04)
Samira Tamer ('05) Joelle Underwood ('06)

DELEGATES/ALTERNATES TO CONVENTION

Dennis Winston (D)/Angus Mackay (A) - ('04)
Annette Graw (D)/Kyle Ferstead (A) - ('05)