

# THE QUILL

Volume 17, Issue 9

September, 2004

## FRIENDS OF MUSIC TO HAVE BUSY YEAR

As this issue of the Quill goes to press, Music Director Frank Basile is completing work on the specifics for the Friends of Music at St. Bede's ninth season.

The 2004-2005 Schedule is as follows:

- October 24: Concert*
- November 21: Evensong (Christ the King)*
- December 12: Lessons/Carols of Advent*
- December 24: Christmas Eve*
- January 30: Concert*
- February 13: Lenten Evensong*
- March 27: Easter Vigil & Easter Day*
- May 22: Evensong & Patronal Festival\**
- June 26: Summer Concert*

(\*separate charge for dinner)

The Sunday events are at 6 p.m.

Watch for the FoM materials which will invite your participation for the 2004-05 season. The categories will remain the same prices. Invite your friends!!

## THE HOMECOMING

**September 12 is our annual HOMECOMING SUNDAY!!!**

What does this mean? Well, it is the start-up for our fall activities.

\*\*Mthr. Golie and folks from the Christian Education department will be registering church-school students. \*\*Frank will be encouraging people to become involved in the music program or with the Friends of Music.

\*\*The SJG, the SoB's and the BoB's will be telling of their fall activities.

\*\*Fr. Jim will preview the Wednesday Adult Forum subjects.

\*\*We will be collecting rummage for Pueblo Nuevo and books & magazines for the Book table & cart.

\*\*Vestry committees will seek help in spreading the mission of the parish.

\*\*The Parish outreaches will be asking for your help to reach out to those in need

All THIS and a Bar-B-Que!!  
Cost: \$3/person-\$10/family.

Morning Prayer at 8 —  
ONE EUCHARIST at 10 a.m.

### Inside this issue:

Canon Jim's Jottings:	2
Vital Statistics	2
September Birthdays	2
September Lessons	3
The Presiding Bishop	3
Contact Information	4
Class & Service Schedule	4
Staff/Vestry Directory	4

### THIS MONTH

- Friends of Music
- 2004/05 Schedule
- The Homecoming
- Rector's Column
- Da Vinci Code !!
- The State of the Church
- News Briefs-Around the Parish

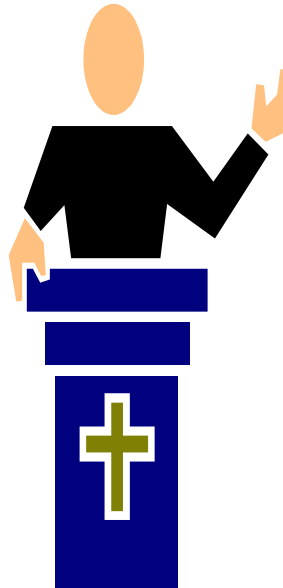
# CANON JIM'S JOTTINGS

I am not sure how many months it lasted, but for quite a while, I was barraged with questions about Dan Brown's mystery, The Da Vinci Code. Had I read it? Was its theology correct? What about Mary Magdalene?

My to-read pile is about a 5-year wait at this point. However, at some point, I realized that I needed to read this book. I bought it and quickly devoured not only that book but Brown's other three mysteries, one of which has the same hero and also dwells on religious themes.

So, call me a sucker for religious fiction, but I thought that they were great fun. Both The Da Vinci Code and to a lesser extent Angels and Demons raise questions about theology, the state of the Church and its relation to the larger society. But The Da Vinci Code has caused the greatest stir because of its focus on Jesus.

As far as the general populace goes, anything that mentions Jesus must BE Jesus. Look at all of



the hype and emotion about Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ. In both cases, one may say — this is fiction. Or, this is fiction based on a truth — a great truth.

In both cases, the movement of the fiction has been toward either a popular kind of spirituality (in the Passion) or toward a popular kind of heresy (in Da Vinci).

On September 15 & 22, we will look at the Da Vinci Code and some of the issues surrounding it. Please read the book before that — it is a quick read and relatively inexpensive. I am not going to de-bunk the book, just raise some issues worth considering.

Also, we will start our September Wednesdays on the 8th with Movies & Theology — looking at the movie Tootsie (available on DVD in the Library).

*Canon Jim*

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Visitors:

### September Anniversaries:

Russell & Elizabeth Harter	09/13
Donald & Charlotte Thomas	09/16

### September Birthdays:

Alex Hornof	09/01
Tammis Biraben	09/04
Katherine Russell	09/05
Ina Klem	09/06
Brian Byers	09/07
Brice Martin	09/07
Andrea Bolden	09/10
Steve Vielhaber	09/10
Matias Biraben	09/12
Peggy Levenstein	09/21
Tori Hisserich	09/21
Connor Jackson	09/24
Phillip Schultz	09/24
David Toy	09/30

## THE PRESIDING BISHOP ON THE CHURCH (cont'd)

There are many challenges to the life of communion God so deeply desires. One of these is the inherent tension between the call to embody the gospel locally and the need for sensitivity to the perspectives and understandings of the wider church. At this time we would do well to remind ourselves that none of us stands alone, and our struggles in the Episcopal Church to discern the mind of Christ have profound ramifications in other parts of our Anglican Communion. While ours, I believe, is a church genuinely seeking to be faithful to the motions of the Spirit, we are obliged constantly to examine ourselves and ask God, and our brothers and sisters in other parts of our Communion, to forgive us for ways in which we may be insensitive to the realities they live and the burdens they bear. We must also continually seek to be mindful of the weight our actions can have in contexts quite different from our own.

And, what is it that binds us together across our many differences and our varying ways of reading and interpreting the gospel as we seek to live it faithfully and forthrightly in our various circumstances? It is nothing less than "God's love which has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

When we read the Book of Acts it becomes clear that the Holy Spirit is always somewhat ahead of the community, turning things upside down and expanding the apostles' understanding of the ways of God. The account of Cornelius the Centurion comes to mind. Cornelius is told by an angel to send to Joppa for Simon Peter. Meanwhile, in Joppa Peter is praying on a rooftop and, in a trance, he sees a sheet being let down from heaven filled with unclean animals. He then hears a voice saying "Get up Peter. Kill and eat." To which Peter replies "I've never eaten anything profane or unclean." "What God has made clean, you must not call profane," the voice answers. This happens three times and Peter is left wondering what this all means. Messengers then arrive from Cornelius and Peter returns with them to Caesarea. While he is preaching, the Holy Spirit descends upon Cornelius and his family. At that moment, I can imagine Peter exclaiming in confusion: "I thought the Spirit was only for us. These Gentiles are outsiders and the Spirit has descended upon them as it did upon us!" The apostolic community then had to catch up with where the Spirit had revealed its presence. God was up to something they did not comprehend. They were obliged to return to their Scriptures and reread them and interpret them in new ways. They were led to see new levels of meaning and application in passages that heretofore may have seemed peripheral. References to the Gentiles being under God's care suddenly became relevant and alive because of what the Spirit had done.

There are times when something that seems to contradict what we understand as God's will and intention is precisely the way in which God's deepest desire is seeking to make itself known. Each one of us lives with particular images and understandings of the church, many of which strengthen, console and challenge us. In some instances, these images make it difficult to recognize the presence of God's larger purposes and radically reordering love. Here I am put in mind of a verse from the book of Ecclesiastes: "Consider the work of God. Who can make straight what he has made crooked?"

I believe that deep within the strains and tensions we are experiencing God is profoundly present, and it is our task, aided by the Holy Spirit, to live the present moment in all its fullness--confident that we will come to a place of deeper communion. If we allow that same Spirit to pour the love of God within our hearts without measure, we shall certainly find the way forward and become a source of blessing, not only to ourselves but to a fractured and fearful world around us. God's power working in us, as we are told by St. Paul, can do more than we can ask or imagine. That spirit of hope and confidence, which we see writ large in the lives of Anglican brothers and sisters in other parts of the world who live with crushing burdens of poverty, war, disease and religious persecution needs to become our own. Our affluence and self-sufficiency beguile us into believing that ours is the power. When we find ourselves in difficult situations, rather than collapsing in despair let us trust in the One who is our true source of strength in whom "we can do all things." Let us look ahead, bound together in Christ, with love and hope and courage in our hearts.

During this season of Pentecost we ponder the continuing activity of the Spirit in the life of the church, both past and present. Let us seek to make ourselves more profoundly available to the Spirit who draws us out of the confinement of our limited worlds of self-preoccupation and invites us, as terrifying as it may seem, to yield ourselves to the fullness of God's mystery as it overtakes us in ways both strange and familiar.

It is my hope and prayer that the present season, in all its challenge and hidden potentiality, will draw out of us--with the help of the Spirit--those energies of love which make for communion and therefore healing and reconciliation in our broken and divided world.

Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Yours in Christ, Frank T. Griswold, Presiding Bishop

## SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY LESSONS

### SUNDAYS

**September 5: Proper 18** (Canon Newman)  
Jeremiah 18.1-11; Ps. 139.1-6, 13-18; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

**September 12: Proper 19** (Canon Newman)  
Jeremiah 4.11- Ps. 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

**September 19: Proper 20** (Canon Newman)  
Jeremiah.9.1; Ps. 79.1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

**September 26: Proper 21** (Mthr. Haynes)  
Jeremiah 32.1-3a, 6-15; Ps. 91.1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

### WEDNESDAYS

**9/1: David Pendleton Oakerhater** (Mthr. Haynes)  
Ps. 96.1-7; Isaiah 52.7-10; Luke 10.1-9

**9/8: feria** (Canon Newman)  
Ps. 47; 1 Corinthians 7.25-31; Luke 6.20-26

**9/15: Ember Wednesday** (Canon Newman)  
Ps. 99; Numbers 11.16-17, 24-29; 1 Cor. 3.5-11; John 4.31-38

**9/22: feria** (Mthr. Haynes)  
Ps. 24.1-6; Proverbs 30.5-9; Luke 9.1-6

**9/29: St. Michael/All Angels** (Fr. Hancock, cel.)  
Ps. 103.19-22; Genesis 28.10-17; Rev. 12.7-12; John 1.47-51

# 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](http://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.*

September 7 — NO CLASS  
September 14 (L. Beitzel/E. Harter, hosts)  
September 21 (J. Dahler/A. Haynes, hosts)  
September 28 (J. Fox/H. Haddad/M. Kosinski, hosts)

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM**

9/1: NO CLASS  
9/8: Movies & Theology: "Tootsie"  
9/15: The Da Vinci Code pt. 1  
9/22: The Da Vinci Code pt. 2  
9/29: —no class —

## ***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)