

THE CROSS

Volume 30

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June/July 2009

St Helena's Episcopal Church
7600 Wolf Rd, Burr Ridge, IL 60527
630-662-5660 www.sthelenaschurch.org
ALL WELCOME ALWAYS

MISSION STATEMENT:

To come together through Jesus Christ for spiritual growth, in a loving community that reaches out to others

From the Rector:

Our bishop, Jeff Lee, is encouraging parishes like ours to embrace what is called Total Ministry or Total Baptismal Ministry or Mutual Ministry: a way to make the church less clergy-centric and to see if there is a different way to "do church," given that most of church funds are spent on the staff and the building. In many ways, we at St. Helena's are already part-way there; during the interim period before I was called as rector, the parish got along quite well with the volunteer efforts of incredibly loyal parishioners and the ministry of a group of able supply priests who mainly appeared on Sundays.

Total Ministry is a response to our baptismal covenant, in which all Christians are called to ministry in the church and in the world -- a calling "to seek and serve Christ in all people" it is not a way to persuade or coerce or cajole a congregation's members into performing free labor just to keep the parish doors open.

SERVICES

Sunday 9:30 am
Wednesday Morning Prayer
& Breakfast
9:00 am
Wednesday Eucharist
6:00 pm

But what is a calling from God?

Certainly a calling is something we discern because it gives us life and light and joy and peace and pleasure. A calling does not come out of guilt or obligation or duty. Something that is dark or distasteful or repulsive or stressful or boring is not a calling, for such things do not come from God.

A calling comes out of a love deep within the heart: a love of gardening or keeping the boiler going or visiting shut-ins or teaching art to the impaired or collecting food for the poor or helping the church gather and manage money wisely or celebrating the Eucharist or proclaiming the Gospel or anointing the sick or rearing children or teaching school or doing a quality job in labor.

And, no, we clerical types are not the only people with a calling; each Christian has a calling discerned by

listening to God in the heart, in the mind, in the gut. (No, even saints rarely hear God whisper into their ears.)

One perceptive spiritual writer, Frederick Buechner, puts it this way: "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet" (Wishful Thinking).

And the equally talented Parker Palmer, paraphrases him: "True vocation joins self and service; it comes from the place where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need." (Let Your Life Speak: Listening to the Voice of Vocation).

In the coming months, let us pray God that the Lord will make clear where the deepest gladness lies in each of us.

Or, as the first Book of Common Prayer (1549) directs us to pray in this prayer dating from the 8th Century:

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified; Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all estates of men in thy holy Church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today we continue to pray this prayer on Good Friday, on the Ember Days devoted to the increase of the ministry, and as one of the collects for

mission in daily Morning Prayer. Here is the current version:

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

May we pray this prayer each day for ourselves and for our church.

Fr. Bob

To Reach Fr Bob

Please phone church (630-662-5660) and leave a message, which will e-mail him an alert, or e-mail him directly at [**robertowyatt@gmail.com**](mailto:robertowyatt@gmail.com).

In an emergency: Leave a recorded message at 630-662-5660, then press # and follow the instructions. This will page Father Bob, and only he can listen to the message.

A HUGE thank you to Pack 69

The Garage Sale held by the Cub Scout Pack 69 raised almost \$1,000 towards our deficit this year and will go specifically to repairing the driveway. The very hard work of a lot of Cub-Scout and Scout Families overcame one of the wettest Fridays of the month and we are particularly grateful to Jennifer Rohrbacher for making this happen.

Volunteers needed at Cathedral Shelter thrift store

Second Chance Thrift, located at 1674 West Ogden Avenue, Chicago, needs volunteers to help in sorting, stocking, pricing, selling, and displaying thrift store merchandise. Volunteers must be able to lift up to 20 lbs. Hours are flexible: Sunday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Tuesday through Friday, 11:00 am - 7:00 pm, and Saturday, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. Store proceeds help support the programs and services of Cathedral Shelter of Chicago to prevent homelessness and restore hope for over 10,000 people each year.

Contact Jason Jones at (312)997-2222 ext. 238 or jjones@cathedralshelter.org. You can learn more at www.cathedralshelter.org to sign-up or learn more about volunteering at Second Chance Thrift.

Contemplative Prayer

Contemplative Prayer/Centering Prayer/Meditation
2nd Saturday at 8:30am
Church of the Transfiguration 8600 W. McCarthy Rd, Palos Park, IL
please contact: Ann (630-257-5826)
AnnGaston@sbcglobal.net

Last Edition from Caroline

This will be my last effort as Editor of The Cross. From now on we will be sending our articles, thoughts, prayers, reports etc to John Stachniak:
jstachniak@careered.com

Episcopal Day at Six Flags

The Diocese of Chicago's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is co-sponsoring Episcopal Day at Six Flags Great America **Tuesday, August 11** with the Dioceses of Fond du lac and Milwaukee. A ticket booth for Episcopalians will be staffed from 9 am to 11 am in front of the park entrance at the Great America park in Gurnee. A Eucharist will be celebrated at the park's Wilderness Theatre at 5 pm. Tickets are only \$30 per person, a \$25 savings over the general admission price at the gate. Children under age 3 are free. A meal deal may be purchased ahead of time for \$10.50, or \$11 on the day of the event. Deadline for ordering tickets is August 1. For more information call Sue Cromer 312-751-6722 or e-mail:

ec/mailtoscromer@episcopalchicago.org or Barbara Rasero at 312-751-4206 brasero@episcopalchicago.org

24/7 Food-Pantry Drop-Off

We have installed an all-weather cupboard to accept canned food for the local food pantries. The donations will be divided between Cook County and DuPage County services. The box itself was generously donated. We have a sign at the front of the grounds encouraging the community to use the drop-off, that was very kindly made for the Church at no cost by Larry Guenther of Better Signs and Graphics in La Grange

There was a great photo in the TribLocal.

Ordinary Time

(From the Sermon by M. Dwyer)

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, The Triduum, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Holy Trinity—these are the special times and now we are in ordinary time where all we've celebrated in the first half of our liturgical year can be put into practice in the second part of our liturgical year.

This is the part of the year where our everyday life comes to the forefront. This is the part of the year where, if we let ourselves, we can become complacent and settle in to comfortable ways because it's easy, it doesn't take much effort

So, before we all get too comfortable, permit me to scatter some seeds, and perhaps they will sprout and grow into new insights and understandings about why we come here each and every Sunday.

We come here to celebrate the Eucharist, we come here to be a part of the Liturgy, we come here to be Church, we come here to encounter and to experience God.

All this begins, not when the bell rings and shakes the building. It begins when we decide not to have that second cup of coffee, to put the now much thinner Sunday Trib aside and get ready to come here.

When we arrive here, we enter a ritual act, we enter a mystery, and the giving and receiving of a *sacramentum*. In sociological terms, a ritual can aid in creating a firm sense of group identity. In a religious sense, ritual action is a way to ensure that we are orthodox: our actions are an expression of our beliefs and our beliefs are expressed in our actions.

What is our belief? We believe that when we come here we will encounter and interact with God through his Son Jesus, The Christ. We believe that Jesus is present here with us. There are many ways that Jesus is present. First and foremost, the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer are present here when we come together as the Body of Christ. We've been told that this is so in Scripture—"wherever two or three of you are gathered in my name, I am there also."

In the early Church, the term, Body of Christ did not mean the bread and wine but referred to the People of God. It wasn't till much later when people tried to get their arms around this mystery that the term Body of Christ began to mean the bread and wine. Christ is also present to us in the words of Scripture that we hear—Scripture is the voice of God that comes to us through human words.

Jesus lives beyond the words we hear and resides in the meanings that we ascribe to those words. Words of love, mercy, compassion and words of salvation, words that direct us to a future that awaits us beyond time and space. All this sounds pretty mysterious doesn't it? That's because it all is a mystery—something that we cannot rationalize or fathom but yet put our trust in it as real because we put our trust in God.

As Paul told us, "we walk by faith, not by sight." So when we come here we enter and become part of the mystery of God. We become the visible sign of God's invisible grace.

Another way of putting this is that we become a sacrament. We the People of God, a sacrament,

come together to make real the presence of Christ among us—the visible sign is through the bread and wine.

From the Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I am sure you have been following, as I have, accounts in the media of the budget negotiations going on in Springfield. Many things being considered, such as an increase in the state income tax, will be felt by each of us. Other things, like proposed cuts of millions of dollars in state funding for vital social services, will devastate the people who depend on those services as well as the agencies who need that funding to employ the frontline staff serving the homeless, the mentally ill, the uninsured, and thousands of other women, men, children, and families who live unnoticed in the shadows of our society.

Myriad stories and admonitions in the Bible instruct us in why this matters to you and me. From the instructions in Deuteronomy to always be open handed to the poor to the many acts of Jesus demonstrating special concern for the poor, our faith is rooted in the understanding that our common life requires action on behalf of the suffering, the impoverished, and the needy. . .

As Christians, we must take seriously the Gospel imperative to care for – even defend – those who depend on the many social services funded by the State and who will be disproportionately affected by the proposed budget cuts.

As Episcopalians, you and I cannot sit

on the sidelines waiting for someone else to help. Today, there are many opportunities for us to answer with bold action the last question in our baptismal covenant: “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?”

I am asking you to join me in responding to this crisis in the following ways:

First, find out what these cuts will mean to agencies in your community. Contact your local senior center, food pantry, foster care provider, or other social welfare agency and learn what the impact will be on them, their program participants, and their staffing.

Second, help your congregation consider actions that might help address this crisis. Prayerfully consider volunteering, providing financial resources, or organizing a campaign to influence your legislators in Springfield to help your local service providers.

Finally, take action to demonstrate your faith commitment to the poor, the needy, the marginalized. . .

I have already contacted our legislators, urging them to act quickly to end the budget impasse, and to make funding decisions that will not jeopardize the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of people least prepared and privileged to afford adequate food, housing, education and medical services.

Your servant in Christ,

Jeffrey D. Lee
Bishop of Chicago

Saint Hel.'s Angels

Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society was held overnight **Friday June 19th**. Despite some very severe weather, at this year's event a total of 20 teams came together, with over 200 participants and raised over \$70,000.

Thanks to all who contributed: St Helena's raised over \$750 this year

Edward Goldthorpe
Team Captain 2009

Become and Believe

172nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago will be held Friday November 20 and Saturday November 21, 2009. The convention will again meet at the Westin Hotel and Conference Center, 70 Yorktown Rd, Lombard. Early Bird Registration in effect June 1 through September 18. Nominations and resolutions are due September 25. See the Diocesan Convention webpage for more information.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT EDITION OF THE CROSS: Remember to send your information to John Stachniak, our new Editor: jstachniak@careered.com

Thank you to everyone who sent in things for this edition, and all the many editions over all the years, when I have been Editor, when Carol Partsch was Editor, when Margaret La Barge was Editor and beyond.

We now have an electronic version for the Parish that is equipped with computers but still copy and mail print editions to those who prefer their news the traditional way.

The Cross has a value in connecting us all together, even when we cannot physically be together, and I am proud to have been a part of that communion, and will be happy to still participate as an occasional contributor.

Many thanks to John for taking this over.

Caroline