

# **THE CROSS**

Volume 30

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March 2009

St Helena's Episcopal Church  
7600 Wolf Rd, Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
630-662-5660 [www.sthelenaschurch.org](http://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

## **SERVICES**

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

## **Holy Week services:**

April 5: The Sunday of the Passion or Palm Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

April 8: Stations of the Cross at 5:30 p.m., Taize Eucharist at 6, and simple Lenten supper at 6:30.

April 9: Maundy Thursday Eucharist, Washing of the Feet, and Stripping of the Altar, 7 p.m.

April 10: Good Friday, Stations of the Cross at noon; Veneration of the Cross and Mass of the Presanctified at 7 p.m.

April 11: Great Easter Vigil at 8 p.m.

April 12: Easter Day Mass at 9:30 a.m.

And remember that the Triduum, the "three day" sequence of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil are THE most important service of the church year. And I meant "service." The liturgical format is one service spread over three profound days. Blessings.  
Robert O. Wyatt

## **By Popular Request...**

In the temple Jesus found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple. He also poured out the coins and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

I know I did it when I was a kid. I bebecome righteously indignant, yelling you did. In Sunday School, in real school and gesturing with my hands and – oh my as well as at home, I was taught that gosh – suddenly realizing that I have my when I lost my temper, I was a sinner. And clerical collar on and am doing because I could lose my temper at the something unbecoming the dignity of a drop of a pin, I knew that I was a very man of the cloth. great sinner indeed.

These days, it takes something more like the drop of a 10 pound barbell to send me into a tantrum. But never mind.

Then came deliverance from my sin: The first time I remember hearing a preacher assaying on this very text, I knew I had a trap for father and mother and teacher and preacher. If it's a sin to lose your temper, wasn't Jesus sinning when he drove the moneychangers out of the Temple with a whip? When he overturned their tables, wasn't that a sin?

Of course, they had a ready answer for me: "No, Jesus was not sinning. He was not really angry. He was full of righteous indignation." Whoa, righteous indignation. If Jesus was filled with righteous indignation, then I was not a sinner either, for I had plenty of indignation to go around. "No, you are a sinner, my mother repeated." And I was. Indeed, sometimes I did get mad for just cause. But most of the time, I got made because, because, well, because I got mad. And I'm betting that most everybody in this room is a bit like me. So, what makes you mad? What makes you mad, and why does it matter?

Here are a few things that make me mad:

Tripping over a table leg can send me into a mini-tantrum that I'd be embarrassed for you to hear.

People who don't use their turn signals. It's bad enough here, but in Nashville, if you see a car with a turn signal on, you know it is a factory defect. And, I, I

- I get mad at an overbearing Church hierarchy that excommunicates a 9-year-old girl impregnated by her step father when she gets an abortion on the advice of her mother – also excommunicated – and her doctors – also condemned. All while the abusive stepfather remains in the good graces of the Church.

- Politicians make me mad, politicians who don't agree with me; they makes me very angry, and I start yelling at the TV screen.

- Evangelicals make me angry, particularly Evangelicals from the religious right, who pervert the Gospel so that the words of Jesus become their guarantee to happiness and wealth and a big, narcissistic family, with multiple McMansions, and gas guzzlers galore.

- People who think my Southern accent is amusing or charming or incomprehensible, and deduct 10 points from my wife's IQ because she was born in Dixie, those people make me mad.

O, I could go on, but you get the point. And, as you can see, my anger is a mixture of sense and nonsense, of righteous indignation and plain old out-of-control passion. So is yours, if you're normal. And make no mistake about it, an irrationally angry or habitually mean or chronically out-of-control person can cause great damage. She or he can damage children and spouses and friends. He or she can cause all kinds of physical

and psychological harm. And it is this kind of anger that we should repent and ask God to deliver us from as we examine our consciences this Lent. And it is this kind of anger that we should pray to God to deliver our friends and family and coworkers and nation from. It is this kind of anger that we should pray God to protect us from.

But – and this is dangerous, very dangerous – but I will say it anyway. Let us also pray that God gives us the gift of grace to be angry at those things that anger God. Not vengeful or spiteful or violent anger. But anger that propels us to do God’s work in the world when our anger is provoked by the very things that provoke God and we respond with justice and equity.

Today’s lesson from Exodus shows us a few things that provoke God: people who kill or steal or commit adultery. People who use God’s name as a way to secure favors for themselves. People who fail to honor their parents. People who do not love God with their whole mind and soul and strength. People who do not stand up for the poor, the needy, the homeless, and those damaged by war. People who see a great injustice perpetrated against a whole people – be they Jews or Palestinians or Hispanics or African-Americans or rednecks or farmers from downstate – and do not speak out and act. People who do not honor God and God’s house.

And let me be clear about his. Christ was a good Jew; he was not attacking the Temple or the Jewish sacrificial system when he knotted up his lash and drove the merchants and moneychangers out of the Temple. He was simply attacking commerce within

the walls of the Temple – commerce that used to be outside the Temple until Pontius Pilate forbade the selling of sacrificial animals on the Mount of Olives and relocated the merchants.

Yes, anger is an emotion, for good or for ill. It often seems to descend on us from outside and possess us. Anger is powerful; sometimes it is overwhelming. Used properly, anger can be the agent of godliness. Used wrongly, anger can do great damage. In a way, anger is a lot like love. Love can drive us insane or over the edge; love can motivate us to commit adultery or fornication or even to kill. A misguided or out-of-control love is surely the agent to Satan. But love divine is the greatest of Christian virtues, and righteous anger is a gift from God. Both love and anger are as dangerous as they are beautiful – beautiful as in the love of a Desmond Tutu, the anger of a Martin Luther King. Pray God for that kind of love and that kind of anger. And pray God to protect us from that other anger in this holy season.

### **And now a word from your Senior Warden**

Dear Fellow Parishioners

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the McAuleys' departure from St. Helena's. As of May 1st, I will be the Associate Dean for Information and Education Technology at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine in Rochester Michigan. This is a brand new medical school and a career opportunity I can not pass up.

We have many happy memories associated with St. Helena's. As new members we were warmly welcomed. It is the church Kay and I attended when we were first married and the place where Eric was baptized and confirmed.

We wish you all well and will keep St. Helena's in our thoughts and prayers.

Unfortunately, my departure will leave a vacancy on the vestry. Daryce Hoff-Nolan has kindly agreed to share the duties of warden with Caroline Goldthorpe for the remainder of my term. With all that is going on, Daryce and Caroline will be busy. The vestry has decided to move forward with establishing a satellite collection point for the Hinsdale Food Pantry and are currently in the process of refining the logistics.

Also you may have noticed that part of our driveway the bridges the creek is collapsing. We have spoken to both the county and the village. Both have made it clear that it is our problem. If there is a complete collapse and the creek is blocked, the village will repair it at our expense. We are in the process of collecting estimates. We will provide additional information as it becomes available. (Bob McAuley)

## **CALENDAR**

REMEMBER, our calendar is now on the web [www.sthelenaschurch.org](http://www.sthelenaschurch.org)

## **What are the Millennium Development Goals?**

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges, drawn from the **Millennium Declaration adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000.**

The eight MDGs:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

It is the specific wish of our presiding Bishop, that the Episcopal Church adopt these goals and act accordingly, and so you will see more about them in the coming months as the Vestry seeks to use them to guide us our ministry and mission.

Part of this project will be supporting the ONE project – ONE world what can ONE person do

## In Memoriam

### **The Rev. William Gros**

Rector Emeritus of St. Helena



## **24/7 Canned food Drop-Off**

(Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger)

The Vestry has been discussing some form of greater involvement in the Food Pantries in our area, and at the March meeting it was decided that we will be a 24/7 drop-off point for Canned Goods. These can be left by anyone in the community in a closed, shelved plastic closet, the sort which many of us have on our back-decks, and from there will be distributed to our local food pantries.

Once the "shed" is in place we will promote the drop-off through the local press and nearby schools and other centers and we will have appropriate signage directing people. This is a project that in some form has been very dear to Bob McAuley's heart, so it is particularly fitting that he should get to see it through to fruition.

## **Condolences**

We offer our condolences to Joan Patterson, on the death of her nephew Robert who passed away in February after a long battle with his health, even from his youth. We ask you all to keep Robert in your prayers

## **Harp Concert**

The St Patrick's Day Dinner served over 60 people and raised over \$800 to be spent on urgent repairs for the organ. This was followed by a particularly beautiful Harp Concert in the Nave

## **WHO is MY Vestry-Rep ?**

In the March Vestry meeting, it was decided to try "Vestry-Reps"

Each of the Vestry and Wardens will act as a specific contact person for 6 constituent families in the Parish. Each family will see (next to their name in the Directory), their go-to person for church-related matters. What you would like more of, what you would like less of, a good idea you have that you don't know what to do with .

Working the other way, look to hear from your vestry-rep to check in with you from time to time hear any thoughts you might have, or just for a chat. It would be good to know each other better, given that we are such a small parish, and hopefully this will be a start towards putting more names and faces together for everybody. (CG)

## A GOOD Story

Ruth went to her mail box and there was only one letter. There was no stamp, no postmark, only her name and address. She read the letter:

Dear Ruth:

I am going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon and I'd like to stop by for a visit..

Love Always,

Jesus

Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. 'Why would the Lord want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer.' With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. 'Oh my goodness, I really don't have anything to offer. I'll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner.'

She reached for her purse and counted out its contents. Five dollars and forty cents. Well, I can get some bread and cold cuts, at least..' She threw on her coat and hurried out the door.

She bought a loaf of French bread, a half-pound of sliced turkey, and a carton of milk...leaving Ruth with grand total twelve cents to last her until Monday. Nonetheless, she felt good as she headed home, her meager offerings tucked under her arm.

'Hey lady, can you help us, lady?' Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans, she hadn't even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway. A man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags.

'Look lady, I ain't got a job, you know, and my wife and I have been living out here on the street, and, well,

now it's getting cold and we're getting kinda hungry and, well, if you could help us . Lady, we'd really appreciate it.'

Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they smelled bad and frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to.

'Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to Him.'

'Yeah, well, okay lady, I understand. Thanks anyway..' The man put his arm around the woman's shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley.

As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart. 'Sir, wait!'

The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the alley after them. 'Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest.' She handed the man her grocery bag. 'Thank you lady. Thank you very much!' 'Yes, thank you!' It was the man's wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering: 'You know, I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one.'

Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over the woman's shoulders. Then smiling, she turned and walked back to the street...without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest.

'Thank you lady! Thank you very much!' Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door, and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn't have anything to offer Him.

She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox.

'That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day.'

Dear Ruth:

It was so good to see you again.

Thank you for the lovely meal.

And thank you, too, for the beautiful coat.

Love Always,  
Jesus

(Marilyn E.)

### Prayers Please

Please keep Stan and Donna Watson and their family in your thoughts and prayers. Stan has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. He will meet with his oncologist Monday to establish a protocol for chemotherapy.

Stan understands that his condition is serious but he is filled with hope and so grateful for the support that we all have given him in this difficult time.

Cards and calls are appreciated. We all love him so, and he we can't remind him of that too often.

Peace and prayers for us all as we walk with him and Donna.

Here is contact information:

10414 W. 134th Street

Palos Park, IL 60464

Stan: 630-334-0456

(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 [robertow Wyatt@gmail.com](mailto:robertow Wyatt@gmail.com)

### Mail for Jonathan Knudsen

Jonathan Knudsen, Kay Knudsen's grandson, aged 20, was deployed to Northern Iraq towards the end of last year. **what he would really like is mail.** It is very easy, and only requires a domestic stamp and treat it like domestic mail:

CPL. KNUDSEN J. D.

2nd PLT TASK FORCE NPS

1st BN 12 MAR DELTA CO.

Unit 44121

F. P. O. AP. 96607-4121

### Contemplative Prayer

Contemplative Prayer/Centering  
Prayer/Meditation

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 8:30am

Church of the Transfiguration 8600 W.

McCarthy Rd, Palos Park, IL

please contact: Ann (630-257-5826)

AnnGaston@sbcglobal.net

### St. Helena's Book Club

St. Helena's book club meets the **second MONDAY** of each month, 7:30 p.m., in the Church. Anyone high school age or older is welcome!

Joanne S

## Garage Sale

To be held by Scout Pack 69 as a fundraiser for **St. Helena's: May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**

The Scouts will be accepting donations at St. Helena's on **April 24<sup>th</sup> 10-12, May 9<sup>th</sup> 10-12 (please drop off by the shed) and May 14<sup>th</sup> 5-7 (drop off at the Rectory Garage)**. If you would like to drop off earlier, or have larger items and need help moving, please contact

Jennifer Rohrbacher @ 708-246-3437

or cell 630-768-0554

(A HUGE thank you to Jennifer and all Pack 69 for this)

## Do You Facebook?

St. Helena's now has a group page on the hottest site on the web: Facebook. Join "The Friends of St. Helena's" Facebook group and we'll see where it takes us! (Peg M.)

**In an emergency:** Leave a recorded message at 630-662-5660, then press # 1 and follow the instructions. This will page Father Wyatt, and only he can listen to the message.

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT EDITION OF THE CROSS:**  
**GoldthorpeC@aol.com**

*Deadline for next edition of The Cross is April 20 . The Cross will hopefully come out on April 25. Thank you to everyone who sent in things for this edition.*