

THE CROSS

Volume 30

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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

With Liberty and Discernment for All

*I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends.
(John 15:15)*

Our friend Sam Portaro, in his timely new book, *Transforming Vocation* (Church Publishing, 2008), complains that vocational discernment – a corporate process by which congregations and dioceses assist someone to hear God's call – is reserved almost exclusively for those entering ordained ministry (and, I might add, congregations seeking a minister).

And this despite the fact that our Baptismal Covenant makes it very clear that we are all called to ministry, and the Canons of this Church, further, require that each Diocese make provision for the "development of the

SERVICES

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

ministry of all baptized persons, including...assistance to identify their gifts with the help of the church and to serve Christ's mission at all times and in all places."

But the sad fact is that, in congregation after congregation, a consumer model has been adopted where the clergy and full-time employees – aided by a few committed laity – do the ministry of the church whereas most of the baptized show up on Sunday and pay the bill. Thanks be to God, this is not the case with St. Helena's.

During my three rich years here, I have watched parishioner after parishioner identify a passion for ministry – feeding the poor, children's education, adult formation, caring for buildings and grounds, spirituality, hospitality ministry, visiting the elderly and infirm, and countless other ministries.

But, almost as often, when I casually observe that such passions may call from God, they seem surprised: as if God speaks out of the cloud or the burning bush to the ordained but merely tugs at the heart of all the baptized. (And, no, I heard no voice from a cloud calling me to the priesthood; it was a matter of listening to the heart and the gut.)

Lately, in adult formation after Sunday mass, we have been discussing ways by which all Christians may attend to God's call for each of us – a call that is sometimes subtle, sometimes overwhelming, sometimes confusing, a call that we can pray about and listen to each other about and hear in ourselves and each other. We have become more conscious of how the Holy Spirit moves among us and within us, sometimes by planting an idea or a desire or indeed a revelation that seems to speak to the very center of our being and help us fulfill who we are.

A few Sundays ago, a half-dozen of us sat with Dick Mulder and prayed with him and asked him important questions and listened with him as he moved toward making a decision about a promotion. For me, that session was one of the most important moments during my tenure at this wonderful parish. For we were all gathered as a circle of love, a circle of friends, supporting our friend as he made a major life decision. And now I continue pray for him as his life moves forward, knowing that God loves him and created a unique human being and wants Dick to be his minister in the world and in the church. May we continue and enrich this ministry so

that all the baptized in our parish will be able to receive the gift of mutual discernment from their friends.

Portaro – who has been in our midst both as a supply priest and a worshipper – sees three BIG questions at the heart of vocational discernment:

- Why did God make me?
- What am I to do with my life and love? How do I fit in here?
- What and where will I be tomorrow?

If these questions are your questions (and they are mine), let us pray and meditate and sit with one another and discern God's call for each of us, for this parish, and, most importantly, for ministry in the world.

|Fr Bob

In Loving Memory

Stan Watson

1-4-41 to 4-22-09

**Husband, Father,
Grandfather, Brother,
Uncle, friend, leader.**

Beloved of Christ.

Memories of Stan (called Nick by his family)

In the few days since Donna called to tell us that Nick had died my head has been reeling with memories of him. There are many, but I'll just tell you about a few. These are not selected to prove what a fine man he was, those of you who knew him do not need that. These are glimpses that float to the top...the first is Nick in a high chair, his round face just bubbling with glee over something...his angelic mop of blond curls made him so photogenic that pictures had to be sent to all the distant aunts and uncles.

Then fast forward and he has been joined by Don, and they're both sitting in the red fire engine, which I'm pushing down the sidewalk at 82nd and Dorchester, 'faster, Skip... nooo, that's tooo fast!' The two of them had many adventures that the big brother wasn't involved in, but only caught the fall-out... like hearing mother's response to the snake in the laundry basket.

Then all of a sudden Nick had finished the Navy and came home with great stories of learning to fly in an old tail-dragging trainer. The summer after his discharge he showed up at our place in Austin Texas, looking for something to do while waiting to re-start college and he offered to paint the house... did a good job and he worked cheap! Paid him a little and he got to drive the Austin Healy.

Next, I remember a trip to Chicago to see him when he was in his hippy phase, complete with guitar and bell-bottoms. And cute girlfriends... but he

had the sense to wait for Donna, one of his very best moves. Fast forward to their wedding... a great affair that got us all to dress up, even our usually staid step-father, Howard Frazer.

Now comes grown-up time and the speed of the memories flying by begins to be too great to focus on individual ones. There were conversations about his work as the administrator of a center for persons with developmental disabilities, but more vivid in my mind is the trip we made to the flying field, where he laid out on the ground several hundred feet of flexible cable, attached to a drum on a car with a starter motor at one end and to a radio-controlled glider at the other (with about a ten-foot wing-span). He held the glider in the air, pushed a foot-switch to run the starter motor, and as the plane soared into the air he grabbed the radio control and pushed the button that disconnected the cable. Doesn't matter if you followed all that... but it was glorious, as was his smile when the glider approached a half mile or so of altitude. His glee was pretty close to that back in the high chair, but by then the blond curls were long gone.

Next I have a sense of images of Nick at family get-togethers, where he made a point of talking to the kids. He really listened to what they had to say, seemed to think it might even be important... and, perceptive kids that they were, they could tell. Yesterday our daughter Beth told me that when she spoke to him by telephone, while he was in the hospital, he reminded her about a college paper she had asked him to read, over ten years ago...he had liked it back then and

was pleased that she had continued to work on the sorts of problems that paper had dealt with. She was amazed he remembered. But of course you remember things you honestly care about.

I remember lots of evidence of Nick's accomplishments, beautiful airplane models, great Spanish trills on the guitar, but I never had the impression he did any of these things to impress us or anyone else... he simply found pleasure in doing interesting things well.

The only thing he bragged about to me were Jessica's accomplishments. He was terribly proud of her self-reliance, her development of skills that (to me at least) seemed to show a shared gene pool with her dad, and her business acumen... which must come from Donna's side of the family, since it is not very apparent in ours. And then recently, of course, he did carry on a bit about their two fine grandsons.

I can hear Nick saying, "Skip you promised to be brief... wind it up for heavens sake. Remember that mother always told us that Episcopalians celebrate life at times like this, no wailing or gnashing of teeth". Yes, I know that and I will do my best, but surely it is OK to say that you made our lives better. You were a wonderful brother, husband, father, uncle, grandfather and friend. Thank you all at St. Helena's for this chance to share some thoughts about our brother Nick. I know he loved this church.

Chuck Watson (aka Skip)

Letter from Glenn Chalmers

Dear Members of St. Helena's
I honestly don't know how to thank you for the wonderful farewell lunch, kind words and gifts. Please know how much they meant to me as I prepare to move on to a new ministry.

My time with you 'off and on' as supply priest helped convince me that I wanted to return to parish ministry. If the Church of the Holy Apostles in Manhattan is half as kind as you have been, I will consider myself a very fortunate Rector.

Thanks again for your support and friendship over the years. My time with you will never be forgotten.

Yours in Christ

Glenn

The Rev. Glenn Chalmers

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.

Update from Kay

Kay Knudsen's grandson Jonathan will soon be coming home from the Marines in Iraq to the States for a few weeks! While we probably won't see him in Illinois this time, he sends his thanks for our cards, letters and packages. Jonathan expects to be redeployed soon to Afghanistan. Keep the prayers coming!

St. Helena's Book Club

St. Helena's book club is on break

CANTICUM NOVUM

As some of you know, I have recently joined a vocal group called *Canticum Novum*. There's a dozen of us and we sing sacred and not-quite-so-sacred music for masses, weddings, etc. Check the web-site for upcoming concerts.

(<http://www.myspace.com/canticumchoir>)
Ron F.

Pet Blessing

We had a very successful pet-blessing service on Sunday May 3rd, with 14 dogs, one gerbil and one virtual cat.

Marilyn's cat does not travel well, so she had brought in a photo of the cat via her mobile phone and so I guess more accurately it was a real cat which received a virtual blessing, rather than a virtual cat.

Two of our visitors that day, Joy and Tom Koukol were featured on the front cover of The Doings with their poodles: Grissom and Merlin. (Caroline G)

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 robertowiyatt@gmail.com

Garage Sale

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

The Scouts will be accepting donations at St. Helena's on **May 14th**. 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)

24/7 Food-Pantry Drop-Off

We are installing an all-weather cupboard that will be chained to the lamp post at the bottom of the steps to church, to accept canned food for the local food pantries. The donations will be divided between Cook County and DuPage County services.

We will have a sign at the front of the grounds encouraging the community to use the drop-off.

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

Support Saint Hel.'s Angels

Relay for Life is an important part of our community. It is a sponsored walk for the American Cancer Society **Friday June 19th-20th 6pm to 6am.**

There will be games, competitions, snacks, and prizes for those who walk the most. There will be tents for those who plan on staying all night. For those who cannot, please come for at least part of the evening. I really appreciate your support.

We have paid a very high price to cancer at church this year, but we don't just have to sit idly by. I know that you care about finding a cure for cancer, and I hope you will join the St Helena's team: *Saint Hel.'s Angels*.

The Relay really brings the cancer fight close to home. The American Cancer Society starts the night with a ceremony to celebrate cancer survivors and caregivers from our area. There's a ceremony to honor and remember those who have fought the disease. And before the night is over, we'll have a chance to make our own personal stand against cancer. It's a night full of fun, hope, and remembrance.

If you are not able to come or walk as part of our team, please support *Saint Hel.'s Angels* with a donation. That way you'll walk with us in spirit!

Thanks,

Edward Goldthorpe
Team Captain 2009

www.relayforlifewestcook.com

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.

U2Charist Comes to Oak Park

Saturday May 16 2009

Grace Episcopal Church - 924 Lake St., Oak Park

- **4:30 Pre-event**

Local Bands play on the Church Lawn.
Food and Beverages available

- **6pm Service begins**

- **U2Charist** is a liturgical service (including communion) that features the music of the rock band U2 and a message about God's call to rally around the **Millennium Development Goals**

- **Guest Preacher - Mike Ivers**

A native of Chicago, was ordained a Catholic priest in 1974 and spent most of his active ministry in Chicago's African American community. For twelve years he was Pastor of St. Agatha Church in the North Lawndale area. Mike left the priesthood a few years ago and for the past seven years has been president of

Good City Chicago, an organization that builds relationships among people, churches, non-profits and Chicago's civic community. Mike was appointed by Mayor Daley to serve on the board of the Chicago Housing Authority and is a board member of the Chicago Communities in School.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT EDITION OF THE CROSS:

GoldthorpeC@aol.com

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

- The U2Charist is a great opportunity to reach out and share U2's messages of global reconciliation for the poor and oppressed, and the importance of caring for your neighbor.
- Visit <http://u2-charist.com/> for detailed information about U2Charist Services all over the country and a video from ABC news.
- Music will be performed by infamous U2 Tribute band, elevation.
Visit <http://www.tribute2u2.com/>
- A free will offering will go to Grace Church's partner parish St. Luke's in Renk, Sudan. See <http://www.graceoakpark.org/outreach.htm> for more information about Grace Church's outreach to this parish and more.