



THE PARISH VISITOR

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CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

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From the Dean...

“Did not our hearts burn?”

By now, you may know that my favorite Easter story from Scripture is the Road to Emmaus story. It is my favorite because in my mind, it reveals so much of the truth of what it is to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Like the followers of Jesus whose hopes for a new world order were seemingly dashed as they watched their leader be tortured and killed, we have experienced disillusionment, disappointment, grief and helplessness as we sometimes struggle to be hopeful in a difficult world. Like the followers of Jesus, we sometimes find ourselves walking a familiar path trying to re-discover passion and purpose. Like the followers of Jesus in this story, our struggle has more often than not been met in unexpected ways by reminders of God’s redemptive and hopeful presence for our lives and for this world. Our hearts have literally been broken open and burned in moments of recognition that God is present and the Kingdom he promises does bring hope not only for our lives, but for the whole of the world! Easter stories are stories that wake us from a slumber with real hope! We are awakened to hope especially because to live in an imperfect world we need to know of God’s care and empowerment. We need to give our hearts to the knowledge that we are never ever alone in our struggle. We need to give our hearts to the belief that God is especially present in our darkest hour just waiting to redeem it. We need to give our hearts to burn that as followers of Jesus Christ we cannot give in to the world’s wants for power, injustice, inequality, war, poverty, and despair. We let our hearts burn first for our own inner healing by making peace with ourselves and those we need to make peace with. We let our hearts burn by reaching out to neighbors in need. We let our hearts burn by visiting the sick and the infirmed. We let our hearts burn by helping to dig wells in the New Sudan, which literally provide life for thousands! Easter stories! “Did not our hearts burn?”

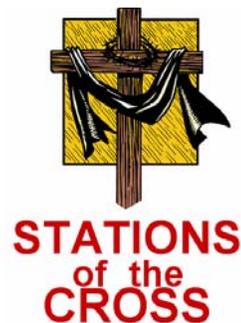
What are the three most important things I can do to begin the work of developing new possibilities, new potential?

Who are the people who could be of most help to me as I seek to live into the newness I feel growing within me?

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All youth grades 1–12 are invited to participate in creating and presenting this dramatic presentation of the Way of the Cross for the Good Friday service at 5:30 pm on March 21. Rehearsals will be Sundays, March 9 and 16 at 12:30 pm, as well as Maundy Thursday, March 20 at 10:30 am. For more information or to sign up, speak to Barbara Iannelli, Mary Ann Lynn or Canon Anne Kitch.



Flowering of the Cross Sunday, March 30

Youth are asked to bring their Heifer project donations on this day.

CANON'S CORNER—ANNE KITCH

The Great Feast of Easter

During the forty days of Lent, we prepare for the great feast of Easter. We engage in spiritual disciplines such as prayer, study, giving to those in need, and fasting. As Lent comes to an end, we increase the intensity of our devotion though the final week: Holy Week.

Holy Week and the Triduum

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. With the reading of the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we begin a week devoted to remembering the last days of Jesus' life on earth. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week are days of special devotion leading us to the Triduum, the three great holy days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter. On Maundy Thursday we remember when Jesus gathered with his friends for the last supper. He washed their feet, offered them bread and the cup and told them, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." The Latin for "new commandment" is *mandatum novum*, so this is where we get the name Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday we remember the death of Jesus on the cross. Although this is a very sad day for all who love Jesus, we call it good because of the ultimate good that triumphs over evil in the death and resurrection of Christ. Without death, there is no resurrection. On Holy Saturday we live into that death and the emptiness. Then, as evening falls, we celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter. We kindle a new fire, light the Paschal candle for the first time, tell the ancient stories of our tradition, and celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter.

The Great Fifty Days

The Easter Season begins with the Great Vigil of Easter on Easter Eve followed by Easter Day, or the Sunday of the Resurrection. Easter is easily the biggest feast on our calendar, so we celebrate Easter for fifty days, called The Great Fifty Days! On the fortieth day of Easter we celebrate Ascension Day. This is the day when the resurrected Christ ascended into Heaven. After being raised from the dead, Jesus spent some time with his followers. We have a few of these stories in scripture. Then, as Luke tells us in his gospel and in the Book of Acts (Luke 24:50-53, Act 1:6-11), Jesus was lifted up into heaven.

The Feast of Pentecost is the last day of the Easter Season. On this day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is told in the second chapter of Acts. The color for the Feast of Pentecost is red, representing fire and the Holy Spirit. The Sundays after Pentecost until Advent are called the Season after Pentecost. The color for this season is green (for growing and new life).

Devotions and activities

Easter Garden Book, C. E. Visminus, Morehouse 2001. An activity book to create the garden of Jesus' burial.

Easter Mural Book, C. E. Visminus, Morehouse 2001. A beautiful mural to decorate

Through The Cross, Helen Barron, Candle Press 2007. Family activities for Holy Week

The Garden of the Good Shepherd, illustrated by Tomie dePaola, Liturgical Training Publications, 2000. A sticker calendar to count the 50 days of Easter.

Books

At Jerusalem's Gate: Poems of Easter, Nikki Grimes and David Framptom, ill., Eerdmans 2005

The Easter Story, Brian Wildsmith, Eerdmans 2000

Love on Another: The Last Days of Jesus, Lauren Thompson and Elizabeth Uyehara, ill., Scholastic 2000.

Sitting in the machine room, that's the room with the mail boxes in the Cathedral's office area, people come and go and people transit down the hall. I'm constantly interrupted, but this is one of my favorite places to be. Why is this? I've asked myself frequently. There's a multiplicity of response I could give, but I'll not lengthen this monthly article needlessly.

Only one will I mention in the space I have today. It's a safe place to be for those whom I meet and for me. Just minutes ago a friend came to see me with a great problem. The zipper on her pants had broken and she was cold and disturbed concerning this enormous interruption to her life. The receptionist and I walked with her to the Thrift Shop and in a short matter of time, we left with another pair of pants – her problem resolved. Oh, if only all our problems could be resolved so easily.

Earlier today at the Drop-in Center at New Bethany, I heard the words "Father Joel." With these familiar words, I stopped and met a woman whose husband was in a Halfway House. She'd just moved into an apartment and complained of a landlord who was not providing sufficient heat and of not having a bed in which to sleep. Then as we moved more deeply into our new relationship, I discovered she had many other needs. Before returning to Nativity she learned that at New Bethany she can eat five days a week, take extra food home after lunch, obtain a food basket, and procure sheets, blankets, eating and kitchen utensils, bath and cleaning items, and all sorts of wonderful things.

Now I hear a shout, "James is here to see you." He's sixty-five years old and until I cajoled him into doing something about his serious on-going medical problems, had not seen a doctor since the 1950's. The outcome was about two weeks ago he asked to be taken to the Emergency Room at St. Luke's. He spent five days as an inpatient. Today he needs a ride to St. Luke's to follow up on his medical condition.

It's not lunch yet. The day has just begun and I'm still working on my newsletter article. Such is the life of this wondrous Canon Missioner job Nativity has placed me in...I love it. It seems I am destined to live my life in the interruptions. Hence, the best description of my job encompasses only four words -- "a ministry of opportunity." Wow! They are out there.

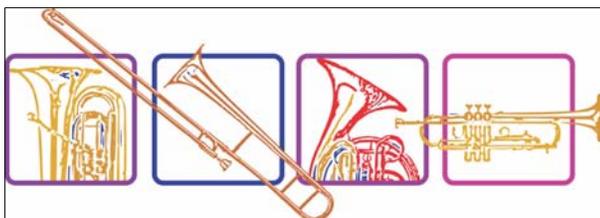
IEWS FROM YOUR CANON MISSIONER

PARISH REGISTER



DEATHS

Alice DeBerardinis February 18, 2008



MAINSTREET BRASS

March 16, 4 pm
Cathedral Classics
 is proud to present
MAINSTREET BRASS
 Join us for exciting music,
 good food and company
 Donation \$5 at the door

Vestry Versicles

Your Vestry launched the new year by reviewing the final December 2008 budget which showed a marked increase in pledge income over estimates and a cash balance of \$56,000. Treasurer Bill Yale recommended transferring a portion of this to special accounts to pay for the 1) audit, which had not been completed until the end of December, 2) Advertising and Altar Flowers (both over budget), and 3) 2008 Confirmation Expenses. The balance of the surplus will be kept in the General Account to reduce withdrawals from the DIT. The 2007 Treasurer's Report was approved pending audit. Both Advertising and Altar Flowers will be on the Vestry agenda soon.

The Dean announced that the Re-Visioning process will start at the Wednesday night Lenten suppers. Our consultant Rae Booth will direct the program.

Our new Facilities Manager Keith Painton (a real Mr. Fixit), has been hard at work. A profile of him is in the February PV.

Distribution of our Easter offering was discussed and Laura Drum outlined a program, *Hallelujah Housing*, which is a partnership of the Episcopal Relief and Development and the Diocese of Mississippi to build houses for working people who can afford to pay rent, but because of inadequate insurance payout, cannot afford to buy or build houses similar to those they had. The Vestry agreed that interest would be sought in the parish to find a group who would travel to Mississippi to help with the building. Part of the Easter offering would be earmarked for travel expense. James Vorosmarti is heading the "parish search" and Laura Drum will be the liaison with the Hallelujah Housing project organizers. You will hear more about this plan and timetable soon.

What's Your Story ?

Here is a story from one of your fellow parishioners:



Upon moving to the valley some years ago we went church shopping. We had always belonged to small churches and never a cathedral. However, Nativity called to us so we put a completed form from the pew in the collection plate. Although we did not hear from anyone the Holy Spirit encouraged us to try again. This time we gave the completed form to an usher who certainly took ushering to a new height! Our Nativity community has deepened our faith and done much to hold us upright through life's storms. My "spiritual winters" have been much less cold because of my church family with all of its love and prayers. Our son was in a serious car accident and his friend who was with him sustained life threatening injuries including damage to the top vertebra just beneath his brain. Upon his complete recovery the doctor said, "You have defied medical science." Our son said, "What an interesting way of defining a divine miracle." I am blessed and thank God for my church home. At the same time I remember the prayer "And that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom. Amen."

How does your story fit into the community of Nativity? If you would like to share a story (great or small) about being thankful for something that has been done by this church, its people, or its ministries, please forward it to Jeff Bernardino at 4jeffmk@gmail.com or call 610-559-9735. Unless requested, all stories will be printed anonymously.



Thank You!

Cathedral Church of the Nativity raised \$493. Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the entire community

has seen the good that happens when we all work together to help those in need. Together we are transforming Super Bowl weekend into an unprecedented time of giving and serving.

Rev. Dr. Brad Smith
 Founder/Executive Director
 The Souper Bowl of Caring

Note: Nativity youth have decided to donate the money raised to Victory House.



2 a.m.

Sunday, March 9



**CHOIR
 DINNER DANCE**

Annual Fundraiser and Auction
 Saturday, April 12, 2008
 6 PM
 Sayre Hall

Inquiring Minds Want to Know

Are you new to the Cathedral Church of the Nativity?

Are you new to the Episcopal Church?

Do you wonder how you "join" the mission of the Cathedral?

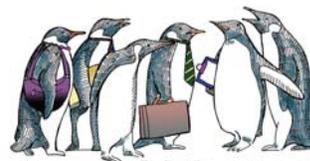
Do you wonder what we "believe in"? Why we pray the way we do? What in God's name we are up to as a congregation? How we make corporate decisions in our faith journey? What matters to us?

Please join the Dean and Rector, Tony Pompa for a journey of inquiring and learning more about the Episcopal Church, the mission of this Cathedral, and how you might "plug in"!

Sundays 9 am – 10 am in the Dean's Office
 March 30, April 6, April 13 and April 20

**Hallelujah Housing and the Mississippi Gulf Coast:
 An opportunity**

The vestry at its February meeting voted to dedicate this year's Easter offering to the Hallelujah House ministry in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region. Many know that the Gulf region continues to struggle in its recovery from Hurricane Katrina. The vestry has voted to send the offering to this ministry that builds and rehabs homes and businesses in the Mississippi Gulf coast region. The vestry also extends an invitation to tie our human resource to our financial resource by inviting those who feel called to coordinate this effort with a mission team who would go and work with the ministry in helping to rehab or build in the region! Do you feel so called to give a week of your time sometime in the late spring or early summer to this important work? Please contact James Vorosmarti if you have interest in being part of the team!
 jvorosmarti@gmail.com



**Sunday
 April 20,
 2008
 after 10:30
 service**

**About South
 Bethlehem
 March 3
 7 p.m.**

Habitat for Humanity:
 A program concerning the planned 40-unit development in South Bethlehem — How we can help, who qualifies for housing, and the cost of sponsoring a home.

Mission Trip to Kajo Keji

Many thanks to those of you worried and prayed for me during my trip to Kajo Keji, Sudan in early January. It was a strange set of coincidences to be safe in the most *scary* part of Africa and then to cancel my trip to Kenya, the “safest” country in Africa. The most striking thing about this part of the world is how hot and dry it is (in January) and how hospitable and joyous these folks can be. It is confusing to consider the problems Americans have today: a key locked in a car, a slow computer, waiting in line at the mall to return something, a teenager begging to use a car, and then to share time with these people who have never visited a dentist, who can’t see because they don’t have glasses, who eat potatoes at every meal to fill up their bellies, and then I wonder how they can smile so much.

The dedication of the Tailoring Center occurred during our visit and a new class of students began on January 21. Thirty women from around the county live at the tailoring site for nine months (with their children in tow) and learn to sew. (The women can’t afford fabric and thread so they use paper). The building is sparse but very neat and holds about 20 pedal sewing machines. The building was constructed to handle electricity but there is no power. Crafts are also made at this site, as well as soap. The women have big plans to start a poultry farm, a guest house, and a literacy center and involve many more women.

The well digger appeared on our last day, with his heavy equipment and a reasonable quote to begin the well in Romogi. I’ve learned that wells can’t be dug from June to September because of the rain; in the fall you then wait for the mud to dry from the roads (the equipment is very heavy), and then wait in line for the bore hole diggers to get to you. Construction for the college has started: new dorms, new classrooms and a library to hold the books, tables and chairs Nativity sent money for last summer. You can’t purchase interior supplies until you have a very tight exterior to keep out the rains and insects. I think these new dorms will expand opportunities for people from our diocese to visit and consider mission opportunities there.

Nativity has also supported the Loopo Primary School. Although I did not get to the Loopo School this time, I did meet the pastor of that town and the Archdeacon of their deaconry (neither speak English). Their school begins again in February and the donations you contributed flow through the education system and begin to buy supplies, books, blackboards and maybe a small honorarium to teachers.

You have made a difference in the life of this county. Education will release Kajo Keji from extreme poverty. As Trip and I are now kid-less, we float between the services. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you any time.

Jo Trepagnier

March Lectionary

March 2

I Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 9

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

March 16

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

March 23

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18

March 30

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
I Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Thrift Shop Sale

The “Better Buy” Thrift Shop sponsored by Southside Ministries will hold a bag sale on March 18, 19, and 25. On March 26 and 27, all remaining merchandise will be given away at no cost. Plan to stop by for great end-of-season bargains — and tell your friends! Spring and summer merchandise will be available beginning on **Tuesday, April 1.**



SSM “KIDS”

The planning has begun for Southside Ministries “KIDS – 2008.” Please spread the word to friends and neighbors with elementary school-aged children, and mark your calendar, too. We will again meet at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity from 6 to 8 PM. This year the sessions will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 1 through July 24. The closing program is scheduled for 7 PM on Friday, July 25. Each evening session will feature music, a Bible Story, crafts, games, snacks, and devotions. There are groups for children age 4 through those in 6th grade. Registration forms will be available from the Church Office in March. Come join the fun on a “Rainforest Adventure”!

PALM SUNDAY

March 15 – 5 pm Holy Eucharist, Sayre Chapel

March 16 – 8 am* & 10:30 am* Holy Eucharist

HOLY MONDAY –

HOLY THURSDAY

7:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Good Shepherd Chapel

HOLY WEDNESDAY

March 19

9 am – Holy Eucharist

7 pm* – Tenebrae

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 20

7 pm* – Maundy Thursday Liturgy,

Holy Eucharist and Stripping of Altar

8:30 to 11 pm – Prayer Vigil

GOOD FRIDAY – March 21

6:30 am to 7:30 am Prayer Vigil

7:30 am – Holy Communion

Noon-3 pm – Good Friday Liturgy
and Holy Communion

5:30 pm* – Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY

March 22

8:30 am – Morning Prayer

7 pm* – Easter Vigil,
Baptism and Holy Eucharist

EASTER SUNDAY

March 23

8 am* & 11 am* – Holy Eucharist

* Childcare for infants and toddlers is
available during these services.



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**TO KNOW CHRIST, TO MAKE HIM KNOWN, AND
TO SERVE ALL PEOPLE ACCORDING TO HIS EXAMPLE**

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