

GLAD tidings

ST. MARY'S in-the-hills
EPISCOPAL church

june 2011

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CHRIS' CORNER

I would like to thank all of you for the wonderful celebration of my 20th anniversary to ordination to the priesthood. The fellowship was wonderful and I realized that I was celebrating with the people I most wanted to celebrate with, you my church family. To you I owe a debt of gratitude for the opportunity to grow and to serve as your priest. You have supported me for most of my ordained years and have allowed me to be priest in this community. I know that our paths are about to lead us in separate directions, but April 21st was for me truly a celebration of my calling. The food was spectacular and I owe thanks to many of you for that and for all the work making the Fellowship Hall such a lovely setting in which to have this celebration. The gifts were fantastic and will be a treasure for each of us. Hopefully the Gospel Book will be a reminder of our journey together and of the bonds that will continue to tie us and form us in our walk with Christ. Added to that the Processional Cross and the clock made by our own Doc Dewey, are a celebration of the gift of handwork lovingly offered to God and to us all. The DVD of my actual ordination was a wonderful addition to the celebration. Hopefully it gave all of you a greater understanding of ordination and of the place of a priest in the community. In the coming months we will experience many "last times" and finally a good-bye, but this celebration was

filled with only joy for me and I hope for you as well. I thank you for that gift and will treasure the memory of our celebration for years to come..

Vestry Updates

Over the course of the next year, St. Mary's in the Hills faces a number of transitions. The most notable of these is the retirement of Pastor Chris Humphrey. During this time, the Vestry will use a number of communication methods to keep the parish informed of activities. Watch this space in future issues of the newsletter for additional information.

May Transition Meeting

On May 14, 2011 the Vestry met for an initial planning session. This extended Saturday meeting allowed the members of the Vestry to come together and focus their attention specifically on the transition needs of the parish. The first half of the meeting was set aside to allow members to express their concerns and sadness at the loss of our rector, as well as hopes and aspirations for the transition period and beyond. The second half of the meeting focused on starting the planning process. Specific tasks were identified that need to be addressed, and a time frame to accomplish specific goals was developed.

A second meeting was scheduled for mid-June. The next meeting will focus on the development of committees and planning for committee membership needs. Successful transition will require broad involvement of the congregation. Over the course of the next months it is anticipated that planning will continue with some activities occurring that will prepare the way for a search that will start in earnest in mid-fall. Any member of the congregation that is interested in participating is encouraged to speak to a member of the vestry. Everyone's talents are needed as we move forward.

Vacation Bible School

Another summer is approaching and that means another wonderful Vacation Bible School program is in the works at St. Mary's. We will once again be hold our Vacation Bible School in the evenings and include dinner at no charge. The program will be on August 9th and 11th (Tues. and Thurs.) and August 16th, 17th, and 18th (Tues, Wed. and Thurs). Each evening the event will run from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Our VBS is designed for children from birth through fifth grade. This years program, entitled Shake It Up, is cooking themed. In this kid-friendly café full of chef's hats and aprons, pots and pans, checkered tablecloths, and chalkboard menus, kids explore the Bible as a cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's word. Through interactive lessons, that are easy for kids to apply to their lives today, boys and girls will celebrate biblical festivals that reveal ingredients for being a follower of God.

If you are interested in registering your elementary, preschool or nursery aged child for this program please sign them up at <http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/shake-it-up-cafe/stmarysvbs>

If you are an adult or young adult interested in helping with the VBS program please sign up at <http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/shake-it-up-cafe/stmarysvbs> We are looking for individuals interested in helping with storytelling, music, crafts, recreation, cooking and with our nursery aged children.

Please consider volunteering to help with this ministry that continues to be such a vital part of our growing church family. We will hold our first volunteers meeting on Sunday, June 5th in the Hamm Room following the 10:00 service.

Questions: Please contact Stacy Tines at stacy@tines.net or at 248.464.0443.

CROSSROADS

For anyone who doesn't know, Crossroads of Michigan is a social service organization that helps poor and homeless people in Detroit. Every Sunday they operate a soup kitchen that has been known to serve as many as 1,000 meals. The meal usually consists of a bowl of soup, two sandwiches, a piece of fruit and maybe a treat for dessert.

St Mary's has participated in this wonderful ministry for many years. It takes about 16 people on the morning crew to make all the sandwiches and the soup. Then it takes an equal number to pack and serve the lunches and, of course, clean up. Some people stay all day and that is fine too. This is a awesome opportunity for young people to participate and earn community service hours. We will be serving lunch on June 13Th this year. The sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

In a change from our usual procedure, this year we will be cutting up the vegetables at the church on Saturday, June 12 @ 10:00 in the morning. If you are unable to go on Sunday but wish you could participate in some way, this is your chance. Bring your favorite knife and a cutting board and we will make short work of the 50 lbs. each of carrots, celery, onions and potatoes that go in the soup.

As always, it takes money for this to happen. So, if you can't go on Sunday, don't want to cut up a bunch of potent onions on Saturday or are just inclined to not be involved, write a check or put some cash in an envelope marked "Crossroads" (no quotation marks needed!) and turn it in on Sunday or leave it on Janice's desk. It should take between \$700 and \$800 as we anticipate feeding 700 again this year.

If you have any questions, please contact Bobbi Patton or Kathy Pelc.

BUTTERFLY— by Peggy Wenk

I was serving up at the altar the other day, and was looking at the Easter banner, with the butterfly on it. The Sunday School made the banner years ago, showing a very small

cocoon, depicting that the tomb and the power of death was insignificant. There is a large butterfly, depicting the resurrection of Christ. The butterfly's wings are in stripes like a rainbow, reminding us of God's promises. Then I got wondering – where in the bible were butterflies mentioned? I couldn't find any passages. So I went home, and looked it up. Butterflies are NOT mentioned in the bible. Depending upon versions and interpretations of the bible, there are between one and two dozen other insects, but no butterflies. (And depending upon my interest in this topic, this might lead to a series on insects!)

So why are butterflies used as a symbol? In ancient Greek and Roman mythology, there was a very beautiful girl named Psyche. The goddess Venus (Aphrodite) was jealous of her beauty, so sent her son Cupid (Eros) to prick Psyche with his love arrow while she slept, and then Venus would put an ugly creature in her room, so that when Psyche woke up, the first thing she would see is the creature, and have to fall in love with it. However, Psyche wakes up, startles Cupid, who ends up pricking himself with his own arrow, and falls in love with Psyche. There are many versions of the story after that, but many of them revolve around Psyche having to do many tasks to prove her love for Cupid, before the gods take pity on her and allow her to marry Cupid. In Greek mythology, Psyche represents the human soul, and literally means "spirit, breath, life", and is where the word psychology comes from. The word psyche, in Greek, also means butterfly, so she is sometimes drawn with wings.

Butterflies have a life cycle (egg, caterpillar, pupa, butterfly). Some say that this represents the stages of people maturing. The transformation for a caterpillar to a butterfly, inside the pupa (cocoon) is called metamorphosis. Human life begins as an egg. The caterpillar eats (and eats and eats), and represents our time on earth. The cocoon is our death, just as Jesus was placed in a tomb. The butterfly is our souls rising from the grave and ascending into heaven, just as Jesus was raised from the dead.

Many other cultures (Asian, Mexican, etc.) also associate the butterfly with the soul. In some cultures, butterflies represent love (one of the reasons why butterflies are sometimes released at weddings). In other cultures, it represents death, particularly black butterflies, while in some cultures, white butterflies are thought to be the soul of a dead child. We say someone has butterflies in their stomach when they are nervous.

The word butterfly comes from the Old English *butterfleoge*, which means *butter fly*. Either because they believed that the butterfly ate milk or butter if it was left uncovered (insects flying around open food), or possibly because the wings of many butterfly species are pale yellow. The number of butterfly species is somewhere between 10,000-20,000, so we know not all of them are yellow!

Top Ten Reasons (from the comedian Robin Williams, who is an Episcopalian, on an HBO special)

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is color-coded.

4. Free wine on Sunday.
 3. All of the pageantry - none of the guilt.
 2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.
- And the Number One reason to be an Episcopalian:
1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

Jokes

Choir-- A group of people who sing loudly enough to enable the rest of us to lip-sync all hymns.

Recessional hymn-- The final hymn of an Episcopal Church service; this hymn is usually the quietest of all hymns because so many parishioners have already left before it is sung.

Favorite hymns of various occupations

Astronaut -- "Nearer My God to Thee"

Baker -- "I Knead thee Every Hour"

Dentist -- "Crown Him with Many Crowns"