



GLAD TIDINGS



St. Mary's in-the-Hills
Episcopal Church

May 2010

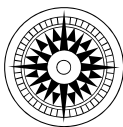
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|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| ✠Chris' Corner | ✠Book Club |
| ✠Vestry Reconfiguration | ✠Via Media Congrats |
| ✠Crossroads | ✠Haiti |
| ✠Church School | ✠Ministry Fair |
| ✠National Day of Prayer | ✠Fellowship Events |
| ✠Career Help News | ✠I'll Sing you Four, Ho! |
| ✠Love INC News | ✠The Very Last Page |



Chris' Corner

Sunday, April 18th was a wonderful day as you shared with me the anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. (The date is April 20th) As I reflected on that day all those years ago, I realized what a blessing this parish is in my ministry. I have spent most of my years as a priest with you. We have discovered together what shared ministry is and how life giving it is to us. As I reflect on my life as a Christian I am always drawn to the prayer I use at the end of the service. For me it sums up the Christian life. A life of hope, of joy, of meaning; but a life also with pain, difficulties, and challenges. Many of you have asked for a copy of the prayer and I am including it with this newsletter. The Vestry has adopted a new way of working together, one which puts the business of running an organization secondary to searching and visioning where God is leading this parish. I am excited about this and am honored to be a part of this new venture in our life. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months and will find yourself invited to be a part that visioning process. That's another great thing about the Christian life--there are always new opportunities and new things to learn and share. May God bless each of you this Easter season.

*Also, Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd is the birthday of the church and everyone is invited to **wear red to church that day.***



Vestry Re Configuration

Recently our Vestry attended a workshop at St. Stephen's in Troy with other Oakland County parishes to learn better ways of using our time to handle church business. The plan establishes sub-committees that meet prior to our regular Vestry meeting

to do some of the "hard work" of a particular area and then report at our general Vestry meeting, and vote where needed. We are just beginning to try this out and hope that it will free us up during regular monthly Vestry meetings to do more forward visioning and planning.

The sub-committees are:

Stewardship & Evangelism

Pete Trumbore

Leanne Balten

Mike Tyler

This group will oversee our stewardship and encouragement of new members.

Property

Viki Toll

Sara Munro

Janice Dalgliesh

Sue Sanna

This group will oversee our physical property.

Administration/Finance

Tony Pelc

Maxine Henderson

Melissa Breckenridge

This group will oversee our administration and financial issues.

Please note: If you have any concerns in any of these areas, please contact a representative of one of these groups well in advance. The sub-committees will discuss all matters prior to any Vestry decision.



Crossroads

By the time you read this, Crossroads Sunday (June 13th) will be just around the corner. (Well, maybe it's the NEXT corner!). The food supplies are being rounded up, so all we need is workers. We need about 30 people in total. 15 for the morning shift and the same for the afternoon shift. You are always welcome to stay for the whole day too! The sign-up sheet should be in the Fellowship Hall no

later than the end of this month. If you have never done Crossroads and have questions, please feel free to call me (248)628-4428 or Kathy Pelc (248)321-3133. Keep in mind that this is GREAT community service time for the kids. (Bobbi Patton)



News from the Sunday School

Corner...

The Sunday School students worked on a fundraiser during Lent for the Oxford High School students (Ashley Felder, Sy'mone and Brianna Johnson) who were killed on Joslyn Road on January 11, 2010. A check for \$150.00 was sent to the memorial fund established by O.H.S.

We began a new unit from the Join The Circle series on April 25th. We are in need of volunteers to work with our Preschool to 5th graders. Contact Cathy Flanders at 248-969-918 or email flandersc@aol.com

The 2nd annual Church Family School picnic will be held on June 6th at Keating Beach Association. A sign up sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall.



National Day of Prayer 2010

Prayer for Such a Time as This
7:30-8:30 a.m. Thursday, May 6th

Christ the King Church, Oxford

Each year, on the first Thursday of May, our nation observes a "National Day of Prayer." This year, the National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 6th. There is power in joining our hearts and voices together in prayer to God! On the National Day of Prayer, people will gather all across the nation, in churches, city halls, schools, parks, and other venues --- to pray for our nation and our world. These are very difficult times, and the challenges we face have no easy

answers. And so we must pray... for conversion of hearts, for charity and civility among people, for deeper faith and hope, for peace, and for greater love to reign in this world. We must pray for divine guidance and help, for wisdom and courage in the face of all that is not right with this world, and for humble hearts that can receive God's wisdom and guidance, and act accordingly.

Come and pray with us at this year's National Day of Prayer Breakfast on Thursday morning, May 6th. The Oxford-Orion Ministers' Association will host an ecumenical community prayer breakfast from 7:30-8:30 a.m. on Thursday morning, May 6th, at Christ the King Church, 1550 W. Draher Rd., in Oxford. Several local Christian churches will be represented as well as civic officials, community leaders, and local residents. We will pray and sing together, be inspired by a message from Pastor Gregory Guice of the Unity Church of Lake Orion, and enjoy continental breakfast and fellowship. A freewill offering will be taken up that morning for the Problem Pregnancy Center of Oxford. Please come and join us!



Career Help & News

New Directions

The unemployment support group, New Directions Career Development, meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Round table discussions in the past have centered around what each member has been doing to enhance their personal job search. Each group member has been interviewing lately, so there are some positive things happening for the unemployed. We have noticed many of the jobs are out of state.

The group has also discussed unemployment trends, tricky interviewing questions, different

websites to explore when researching companies, and job search habits to break so you can find a job.

Future topics will include:

- Which Jobs Will Add the Most Workers in the Next Decade?
- The Right Words to Use to Get the Job You Want

Invite your friends and neighbors to the next meeting. Unemployment support and a lively discussion are always offered. (Deb Lunney)

**Christ the Redeemer
Career Mentoring Ministry**

Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church
2700 Waldon Rd Lake Orion

Our faith community can be a source of tangible help during this time when many of us face challenging choices due to uncertain job tenure, career changes, pending retirement or overall economic uncertainties. The Office of Christian Service would like to offer spiritual support and practical guidance if you are facing these life-changing opportunities. This ministry group is not only for the unemployed, but also for those who want to expand their "life skills" and attend programs to enrich their lives. We will host an evening workshop on April 29th at 7:00 p.m. in Bethany to formally introduce these programs and discuss requests for future events. Our presenter has been instrumental in helping to start similar ministries. We will discuss the level of interest in topics such as resume writing, starting your own business, interviewing skills, networking, money management and budgeting, and other value-added educational workshops. We are also looking for parishioners who are working/retired as Human Resource Managers, Career Coaches, Life Coaches, Recruiters, and volunteers who have gone through career transitions. You can be a valuable support to your community by being present at the workshop and offering encouragement. Please contact Mike Luna, 248-933-0568 or

mikeluna91199@yahoo.com, if the ministry is of interest to you.

Transitions

Employment Networking and Career Guidance Program (Press Release)
Oxford, Michigan – Love In the Name of Christ, or more commonly Love INC, is a nation-wide, non-denominational, faith-based organization. Sandy Weaver, Executive Director of the North Oakland County Love INC affiliate, announced today that the organization, in collaboration with Orion-Oxford area churches, will support an employment networking and career guidance program. Ms. Weaver emphasized that this effort will be entirely run by volunteers.

The assistance program, called "Transitions," is a faith-based employment networking group being offered to all Oxford-area individuals who have found themselves without work during these difficult times. Area pastors have offered to be a part of the group on a rotating basis. They will offer spiritual guidance and support to all who participate in the group.

"Transitions" will be moderated by Jeffrey M. Davidson, former chairman, president and chief executive officer of Oxford Bank and Oxford Bank Corporation. Mr. Davidson served with Oxford Bank for over 24-years. Pastor Doug McMunn of the Oxford United Methodist Church noted, "We are blessed to have an individual of Jeff's integrity and business experience to volunteer for this very important endeavor."

"I am honored, and humbled, to have been invited to lead this program. There is no doubt that I will learn as much, or more, from those who participate, as I hope they will from me," Davidson stated. "After all, I am looking for work as well. My role is to keep the group discussion going in the right direction, offer advice and assistance when needed, and to identify and invite outside



experts to attend, from time-to-time, who can offer tools for us (the group) to use in our job search.”

Davidson went on to say, “This is a tremendous opportunity for anyone in the area looking for employment . I attended a similar program in Rochester with several others from Oxford, and found that the “give-and-take” is invaluable.” For example, one individual may have applied to ABC Company, and another will offer that they know someone at ABC Company who could be a valuable contact . It is an opportunity to share ideas and compassion with others facing the same hurdles you face. I am extremely excited about the possibilities.” Davidson concluded; “There is one rule. If a member lands a job between one meeting and the next ... they have to show up with coffee and doughnuts for everyone at the next meeting.”

“Transitions” will meet each Friday morning, beginning on February 5, 2010, at the Oxford United Methodist Church, located at 21 E. Burdick Street. Meetings will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and conclude no later than 10:30 a.m.



Love INC News

Loose Change for Life Change?

This is a gas can ministry of Love INC and Seymour Lake United Methodist Church. Funds go to purchase gas card/ vouchers, so our neighbors in need can:

- Get to their jobs or interviews
- Get groceries
- Get to Medical appointments

Please donate your loose change to this much needed ministry. A red gas can will be conveniently placed near the coffee urn at coffee off to accept your donations. Donations will be given to Love INC who will purchase gas card/vouchers which will be avail-

able for screened and approved clients.

Clearinghouse Statistics for First Quarter 2010

Total phone calls: 1,043

Total number of families helped: 162

Love INC met 453 needs for those
162 families.

Only 12 needs went unmet.

We referred families to a church 79 times.

We referred 77 families to a Love INC Ministry.

We made 294 referrals to agencies.

72 New families contact Love INC

99 Repeat families contact Love INC.

Total Clearinghouse Volunteer hours: 649

Free Meals

The Love INC free meals program has been very successful at two area churches and they are seeing a good turnout. Two additional churches soon will be offering meals also. If you have an interest in donating your time or food to any of these churches please contact Love INC at 693-HELP or to the church it self. They would gladly accept your help!

Free meals are currently offered on:

Tuesdays at Immanuel Congregational Church/United Church Of Christ 5:30 to 6:30

Wednesdays at Oxford United Methodist Church 5:30 to 6:30

In development:

Mondays at Lake Orion Methodist Church 5:30 to 6:30 beginning in mid-May

Thursdays at Christ the King Church partnering with Christ the Redeemer Church starting in September.

Clothing Donations for the St. Mary's Clothes Closet

Love INC is in desperate need of spring and summer clothing of all types and sizes. Please remember us when you are getting your wardrobe changed over for the season. We also take jeans and pants all during the year. Do-

nations are accepted at St. Mary's In the Hills Episcopal Church (2512 Joslyn Ct. Lake Orion -- next to Canterbury Village) on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-Noon. For further information, please call the Clear-



Via Media &

I Am Episcopalian

Those of you who have just completed the Via Media program, I dedicate this to you. It is a succinct reminder of who we are in its text (below), why we believe what we do, and how we came to the faith (see the videos -- they are poignant, diverse, and a rewarding way to spend a few minutes). Congratulations on finishing Via Media! Wasn't it wonderful? Check this out: <http://www.iamepiscopalian.org/>

Our core beliefs:

- As Episcopalians, we are followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The Episcopal Church has members in the United States, as well as in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Haiti, Honduras, Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Venezuela, and the Virgin Islands.
- We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves and respect the dignity of every person.
- The Episcopal Church is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, and traces its heritage to the beginnings of Christianity. Our liturgy retains ancient structure and traditions, and is celebrated in many languages.
- We welcome men and women, married or celibate, to be ordained as bishops, priests, and deacons.

- We believe in amendment of life, the forgiveness of sin, and life everlasting.
- Lay people exercise a vital role in the governance and ministry of our Church.
- Holy Communion may be received by all baptized Christians, not only members of the Episcopal Church.

○We uphold the Bible and worship with the Book of Common Prayer.

○We affirm that committed relationships are lifelong and monogamous. Episcopalians also recognize that there is grace after divorce and do not deny the sacraments to those who have been divorced.

○We affirm that issues such as birth control are matters of personal informed conscience.

○We celebrate our unity in Christ while honoring our differences, always putting the work of love before uniformity of opinion.

○All are welcome to find a spiritual home in the Episcopal Church.

See also the installment below for yet another nice take on Anglicanism—there are just so many! I just love that. (This list is truncated from the original.)

1. "God is closer to us than we are to ourselves" --St. Julian of Norwich. God is also "wholly other", beyond our knowing. We live in this paradox.
2. God is manifested vividly, fully, compellingly, in Jesus of Nazareth, who lived, taught, healed, proclaimed a new commonwealth, was killed, and was raised to life. He is God's "Word" made flesh.
3. Jesus remains among us to invite resurrection from the many forms of death around us and in us, and to offer us the gift of life.
4. Community with Jesus as the center, grounded in the life of God, enlivened by the Spirit, is a gift. The institutional church is a major way that community is accessible to us.
5. Christian community becomes what it is in sacramental acts -- specific, tangible, material things in which the mystery of God's love is made known to us, especially in Baptism and

the Lord's supper.

6. We strive to be a community in which we have "in all things essential, unity; in all things non-essential, diversity; in all things, charity."

7. The full participation of women in all aspects of the church and the honoring of their gifts is something the Spirit requires of us. There is no place in the church which is not women's place.

8. On the whole, truth is likely to be found more in what is affirmed than in what is denied and more in "both/ands" than in "either/ors". So black and white thinking and thinking dominated by negations is often resisted as unhelpful.

10. The Scriptures speak God's truth with special power and are God's Word. Simplistic and literalistic interpretations may miss the point of what God says to us.

11. Tradition is a treasure through which we can discern God's future, not something with which to enshrine our past. There is much rich insight in the tradition which helps us to look forward to God's future.

12. Reason is a gift. We should accept it even in religious matters. We affirm the importance of an ongoing conversation between the voices of faith and those of science, art, culture, economics and public life.

13. Friendship with God is acted out mostly in our daily lives in what we do, with few pronouncements.

14. Anyone who claims to speak for God should do so only after listening in much silence.



This statement is a revised and edited form of a statement first written by the Rev. Canon Ronald Osborne of Des Moines, Iowa, who we thank for his contribution.

Book Club



Our next book discussion will be May 18th, Tuesday, at 12:30-2:30pm. We will discuss "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett. This is a great book - you won't want to put it down! Come join us. Bring your lunch - coffee/tea are provided.

Haiti

Hygiene Kits

Thank you so much to everyone who assembled and donated hygiene kits for Haiti relief! St. Mary's has donated a total of 66 kits to Church World Services who will in turn add a tube of toothpaste to each kit and then distribute them in Haiti. As we continue to see the news clips on the slow recovery of Haiti, I am sure the kits will be very needed and appreciated! Thanks, Kathy Pelc

Dear Kathy

Thank you so much for leading us in the charge. As the world's attention begins to stray, it was a good and joyful thing to be reminded of how *simple* help can improve the lives of others dramatically. I believe there was some expense born on your part in order to sponsor these kits. Many thanks for your help and any others' help in supplying the funding for the postage on this and any other efforts you made to deliver the kits! Love, Kristin Kahrs

Didn't Even Think of This One

A recent *Time* magazine (April 6, 2010) article quoted the Haitian Chief of Police, Mario Andresol: "It's like we turned back the clock." There are probably lots of reasons why he would say this, but *Time* explains that "4,500 inmates slipped out of a damaged wing of the National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince during January's earthquake and are now terrorizing neighborhoods with their turf wars and stealing aid supplies." By the way folks, this is not to suggest our own contributions would get looted (I don't think these guys are after toothbrushes), just a reminder that the



suffering is sometimes beyond our feeble imagining. I'm sure there are thousands of other ways that Haitians are suffering that we've yet to imagine. Can we imagine, however, what may be the next right thing to do? (Kristin Kahrs)

Spring Clean Up!

Saturday, May 1st, at 11:30-1:30pm, we will meet at church for our all church Spring Clean Up. (Rain date will be Saturday, May 8th, 11:30-1:30pm) Please come and help clean up the inside and outside of our wonderful building. Bring rags to dust the church, rakes to work outside, & tarps if you have them. We will also have things to help clean. Garden gloves might be helpful too. A light lunch will be provided with *refreshment!*



Please sign up on our Gathering Space Bulletin Board so we can plan for the lunch. Teens can earn community service hours too! See

Viki Toll, Janice Dalglish, Sara Munro or Sue Sanna questions.

Ministry Fair

And speaking of May 1st...you can get out of doing *Church Clean-up* by going to Ministry Fair...with me! (Really, If you'd rather not, I understand, but go anyway.)

You can bring your own lunch or get it there (but you'll have to register by April 26th). Feel free to decide to go at the last minute, walk-ins are welcome, and its only 15 bucks. Ministry Fair is at:

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church
218 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, Michigan 48933*

There are sessions on discernment, bullying, parenting in the Internet Age, vestments, vestry help, youth program, Millenium Development Goals, pastoral care, church school curricula, gender issues, and more! Plus, I could use the company in the car.



Contact Beth Rowley at the diocese (313) 833-4421, or log on to the diocesan website www.edomi.org for more

information:

<http://www.edomi.org/weeklyconnection/pdf/MinistryFairBrochure2010.pdf> (K. Kahrs)

Fellowship

Committee News

Upcoming Meeting

The Fellowship Committee is always looking for new members to help plan fun-filled events for all members of our St. Mary's family and beyond. Our monthly meetings are usually the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Our last meeting before a brief summer break is Monday, May 10th at 7:00 pm at St. Mary's. Please consider joining us. During this meeting we will be finalizing details of our Progressive Dinner and planning a Tigers Game Outing this summer.

Progressive Dinner

The Fellowship Committee is planning a progressive dinner on Saturday, May 22nd at 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm. What is a progressive dinner? It's dinner party in which each successive course is prepared and eaten at the residence of a different host. We are looking for three volunteers to host either salads/ soups, a main course or dessert at their home. Participants are invited to visit each of the homes in succession and bring a dish to pass for one of the courses. All ages are invited. If more than 20 people sign up for the event we will enlarge the dinner to six homes (two houses



serving salad/soup, etc.). Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall by May 9th if you are interested in hosting or attending this yummy event. Consider car pooling if possible since parking may be

limited. (Stacy Tines)

I'll Sing

you Four, He!

This is the fourth in a series about numbers in the Bible. Numbers 1 through 9 have already been covered.

TEN: The number **ten** seems to have several meanings. One of them is *law and government*. There are the **ten** Commandments. Another is *temporary difficulties that are overcome*. Noah completed the flood in the **tenth** generation of God, according to Genesis. Jacob's wages were changed **ten** times. There were **ten** plagues of Egypt in Exodus. In a time of difficulty, a person is considered to have a double portion of God's Grace (5 (God's Grace) x 2 = **10**), and thus in the end will earn victory. **Ten** also signified *ordinal perfection or perfection of Divine order*. (Reminder, 3 was divine perfection, while 7 was spiritual perfection). **Ten** starts a new series of numbers, so can signify *end of a cycle*. The Lord's Prayer has **ten** clauses, of which the **tenth** completes the eternal cycles (for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever). The decimal system is based on **ten**, and affords a precise measurement. We are also told to tithe to the church (10%).

TWELVE: When you multiply 3 (divine perfection and heaven) with 4 (earthly number), you get **twelve**. Multiplying makes the number more powerful than just adding (4 + 3 = 7 (completeness)). **Twelve** is another perfect number (see explanation in **ten**), meaning *governmental perfection*. **Twelve**, and its multiples, are associated with rules. The sun and the moon rule the day and night, through the **twelve** signs of the Zodiac or the **twelve** months of the year. Jesus was **twelve** when he first appeared in the temple and spoke to the elders (Luke 2:42). **Twelve** can also mean *family*. There were **twelve** patriarchs from Seth to Noah, the **twelve** Tribes of Israel, and the **twelve** apostles.

ELEVEN: If **ten** is *divine perfection* and **twelve** is *governmental perfection*, then **eleven** is 10 + 1, or 12 - 1. Thus **eleven** is *incomplete, disorganized*. It represents undoing of perfection, or *imperfection*. Jacob had **eleven** sons, and his family disintegrated. The **eleventh** hour is waiting until the last possible moment (in other words, before twelve), just before perfection.

THIRTEEN: Means *rebellion, evil*. **Twelve** was considered a perfect number. **Thirteen** is 12 + 1. It is thought that it means 12 (family) + 1 (God), or trying to put God and Man on the same level. The number thirteen first appears in the Old Testament in Genesis 14:4, where it talks for the first time about a war, and the people who were subjugated under Chedorlaomer who was king of Elam. "Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the **thirteenth** year they rebelled." Cain slew his brother Abel, and Cain's history given in Genesis extended for 130 years (13 x 10). In the New Testament, there are **twelve** apostles plus **Jesus**, who is never included in the number. When Jesus is included, this makes 12 + 1 = 13, and Judas is said to be the last (**thirteenth**) person seated at the Last Supper.

- Thirteen is the age at which a person becomes a teenager
- The last thirteen Templar knights from the last crusades were ordered killed by the pope on Friday 13th
- Triskaidekaphobia is the fear of the number thirteen

Friday the 13th is considered by some to be a bad luck day, because of the number thirteen and Friday (another bad day, as Jesus was thought to be crucified on a Friday). Did you know that there can be anywhere from 1 to 3 Friday the 13 in any year (2010 has only one



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 Rev. Christine Humphrey, Rector



Why do you hasten to remove anything which hurts your eye, while if something affects your soul you postpone the cure until next year?
 ~Horace



The Very Last Page

in August), and that any month that starts on a Sunday will have a Friday 13? (Peggy Wenk)

Peggy's Disclaimer: I don't believe in numerology, but that the writers of the Bible did put special meanings on numbers, and by knowing some of these meanings, we can get a little more of the flavor of their writings.

You Can't Get to Heaven on Roller Skates

A man dies and goes to heaven. Of course, St. Peter meets him at the pearly gates.

St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the

same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart."

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth three points!"

"Three points?" he says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service."

"Terrific!" says St. Peter, "that's certainly worth a point."

"One point? Golly. How about this; I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says.

"Two points?!!" the man cries, "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God!"

"Come on in!"
