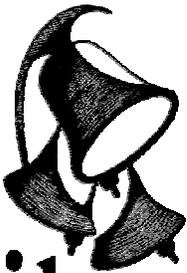


The Bells of St. Giles



St. Giles
Episcopal Church
Northbrook, Illinois

Volume 58 Issue 3
March 2012

Focus on March

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on Monday, March 26, at 7:00 p.m. in the chancel in observance of the Annunciation of Our Lord to Our Lady. Join us as we mark the visit of the archangel Gabriel to Mary, “most highly favored lady”!

RETREAT: THE VESTRY GOES TO TECHNY TOWERS

Members of the vestry and clergy staff will spend Saturday, March 3, at nearby Techny Towers for a program of prayer, reflection, team-building, and leadership training. Our facilitator will be the Rev. Jim Steen, Director of Ministries for the Diocese of Chicago. As per custom, the weekend begins with dinner and meditation the evening before in the undercroft. Please keep the vestry in your prayers.

INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST FOCUS FOR SECOND SUNDAY

From time to time it's helpful to remind ourselves why we do what we do in our liturgy. On March 11 we'll do just that. A narrative explanation of the parts of the Eucharist will take the place of the sermon. Please plan to be there!

From the New Junior Warden

Thank you to all of you for your support and affirmation of my becoming Junior Warden. This is a role that I never envisioned for myself, but I enter into it joyfully and prayerfully. I am already learning new ways of seeing the work and life of the parish, and I sense more than ever the vitality and commitment to love and serve Christ in this place. I do feel humbled. I know that expression can be trite and overused, but it is the truth for me. I value this opportunity to serve and to help St. Giles grow in all the ways that are already life-giving for this community and to discover new ways that will deepen our love of God and neighbor and enable us to strengthen, support, and challenge one another. As I have already said to some of you, I will do my best — and in the spirit of our Baptismal Covenant, I add “I will, with God's help!”

— Linda Williams
Jr. Warden

Looking for the top “Ten” Reasons
for being an Episcopalian?
See page 5!

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Our Schedule

Sundays

Holy Eucharist — 8:00 AM

Christian Formation 9:00 AM

Holy Eucharist — 10:15 AM

3rd Sundays of the Month

Healing & Anointing

at both services

Thursdays

Evening Prayer — 4:30 PM

(prayer room)

**St. Giles
Episcopal Church**

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Northbrook, IL 60062
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www.saint-giles.org

Office Hours

Monday: By appointment
Tues-Thurs: 9 AM - 2 PM
Friday: Office closed

Diocese of Chicago

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee,
Bishop

The Rt. Rev. C. Christopher
Epting, Assisting Bishop

Vestry

George Miller,
Senior Warden

Linda Williams,
Junior Warden

Ellie Bonebrake

Jim Brooks

John Hanzel

Martha McGuire

Steve Maroulis

Pat Miller

Mike Piskel

Gloria Simon

Nancy Stoddard

Tracey Solano, Clerk

Gloriann Harris, Treasurer

Ned Libby, Bookkeeper

Tom Page, Parish
Chancellor

Staff

The Rev. Cynthia J. Hallas
Rector

The Rev. Lee Gaede, Deacon

The Rev. Belinda Chandler
Priest Associate

Jim Brown
Director of Music

Esther Freilich
Parish Administrator
admin@saint-giles.org

Rector's Reflection: "Mulberry Days"

For my birthday last month our daughter, Louisa, gave me a DVD of one of my favorite (though not widely known) "Britcoms." *Mulberry* was filmed in the early 1990s and starred the wonderful Geraldine McEwan as Miss Farnaby, a resentful, unhappy spinster who lived with two grudgingly faithful servants in her ancestral manor house and who, due to her ill temper and demanding nature, could not keep a paid companion on staff. One day a young man shows up at her door, identifies himself simply as "Mulberry," and insinuates his way into the household as her new companion. Miss Farnaby and her servants, accustomed as they are to their depressingly dull existence, don't quite know what to make of Mulberry initially; his zany sense of humor and enthusiasm for life are completely foreign to them. Eventually, however, his infectious energy causes them to begin to see themselves and their world differently. Always lurking in the shadows outside the manor house, though, is an old man dressed in black from head to toe. As the story unfolds we learn that the old man is in fact the Grim Reaper and that Mulberry is his son, sent as an "apprentice reaper" to usher Miss Farnaby to her demise. But what Mulberry has learned is that his employer has never really lived, and he wants her to enjoy herself before she departs this life. Thus he keeps putting off the deed he has come to do, much to his father's dismay. And there's one more catch to the story, as we learn why Mulberry is so conflicted about his job. At one point the Grim Reaper confesses to him, "I fell from grace with your mother." "Who is my mother?" Mulberry asks. His father answers, "Her name is Spring."

I think the season of Lent is a little bit like *Mulberry*. There is a sense in which both death and rebirth coexist. We begin the season still in the cold and dark of winter, with a substantive reminder of our mortality: ashes on our foreheads in the shape of a cross and the solemn words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." It is a time of austerity, simplicity, and surrender to God. Always looming at its conclusion is the passion of our Lord. But the word "Lent" originates with Anglo-Saxon and Germanic words referring to longer days — in other words, "spring." As we move through Lent, the days lengthen and the earth begins to warm. New growth appears. Finally, the tomb empties. Death does not, in fact, have the last word. The resurrection of Jesus ushers in the season of rebirth.

As we continue on our Lenten journey, I pray that we may all be able to live into the ambiguity that this season brings: solemnity tempered with joy, intentionality interrupted by surprise, death to an old way of life for the sake of transformation and resurrection.

*...a whisper of spring is near,
Can you hear it say,
"These are Mulberry days"?*

Mulberry is available on Netflix. I highly recommend it!

A blessed Lent to all,

Cynthia+



March Birthdays/Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 1 Nell Thomas
- Nancy Schultz
- Jim Kraus
- 6 Tracey Solano
- 15 Harrison Solano
- 16 Dean Schwartz
- 18 John Hanzel
- 20 Nancy Stoddard

Anniversary:

- 7 Tom & Diana McCluskey



March Lectionary Readings

March 4 (Lent 2)

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Psalm 22:22-30
 Romans 4:13-25
 Mark 8:31-38

March 11 (Lent 3)

Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19
 I Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22

March 18 (Lent 4)

Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 John 3:14-21

March 25 (Lent 5)

Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 119:9-16
 Hebrews 5:5-10
 John 12:20-33

Music Notes

CANTICLE 14: KYRE PANTOKRATOR

(A Song of Penitence)

During March, this ancient canticle will be sung at the opening of the Eucharist each Sunday. It is placed by its author in the mouth of King Manasseh, who is described in the bible as one of the wickedest kings Judah ever had. The point is not that Manasseh repented (he surely did not), but that this is the sort of prayer he should have prayed, and that God surely hears such prayers of ours.

This canticle is found in the bible as a separate book in the Apocrypha. The version here is that used by the Episcopal church, which is a bit shorter than the biblical text.

○ Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven,
 God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
 and of all their righteous offspring:

You made the heavens and the earth,
 with all their vast array.

All things quake with fear at your presence;
 they tremble because of your power.

But your merciful promise is beyond all measure;
 it surpasses all that our minds can fathom,

○ Lord, you are full of compassion,
 long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

You hold back your hand;
 you do not punish as we deserve.

In your great goodness, Lord,
 you have promised forgiveness to sinners,
 that they may repent of their sin and be saved.

And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart,
 and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned,
 and I know my wickedness only too well.

Therefore I make this prayer to you:
 forgive me, Lord, forgive me.

Do not let me perish in my sin,
 nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.

For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent,
 and in me you will show forth your goodness.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
 in accordance with your great mercy,
 and I will praise you without ceasing
 all the days of my life.

For all the powers of heaven sing your praises,
 and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

— Jim Brown
 Director of Music

Source: Thomas, bsg
 an Episcopal friar in southern California



Lent in St. Bede's Library

Our St. Bede's Library contains eight books devoted to the subject of Lent. Several of them, however, are showing their age (they date from Father Badger's days) — in both physical condition and writing style. But some of those older books still have something to offer. One of these is James Kennedy's *Holy Island: A Lenten Pilgrimage* (call number 263.9/KEN). The book was published in 1958 by Morehouse-Gorham and was purchased that year with funds from the St. Giles Greeting Cards Sale. The author was the rector of the Church of the Ascension in New York City.

Holy Island of Lindisfarne is an island in the North Sea connected to mainland England by a causeway that disappears at high tide. The island was an early center of Saxon Christianity and was ravished by the invading Danes in the late ninth century. It serves as a metaphor for Lent, a place where we retreat for contemplation and soul refreshment — separated from the world, but, because of the causeway, not too separated.

The book has daily readings from Ash Wednesday through Easter Monday. For each day, the author has a comment on the human condition and offers suggestions for spiritual enrichment; an appropriate prayer ends each entry. In the entry for the First Monday in Lent, Kennedy notes "The monkish saints who dwelt on and peopled Lindisfarne gave themselves regularly to the discipline of prayer, as well as fasting. They prayed at set times in their thatched cathedral ... [and] also prayed at odd moments, each in his favorite cave or on his favorite rock. ... The atmosphere of prayer can be discovered on a visit to Lindisfarne or by a walk through the quiet ruins of a holy place like Fountains Abbey." I know what he means; about 20 years ago, Anne and I stumbled onto Fountains Abbey when we were trying to find the Yorkshire city of Ripon. We were the only people there, but we could feel the presence of the monks who had lived there centuries ago. I'm sorry now that we never reached Holy Island.

Another book that has aged well is Eugene Fairweather's *The Meaning and Message of Lent* (263.9/FAI), published in 1962 by Harper & Brothers. Fairweather was a theology professor at the University of Toronto and editor of *Canadian Journal of Theology*, but don't be intimidated by those credentials: his writing is down-to-earth. He covers the celebrations, features, and symbols of Lent with their meanings for Christians today.

Lift Up Your Hearts: An Anthology of Lenten Essays (263.92/CAL), edited by Martin Caldwell and published by Morehouse-Gorham in 1956, was also purchased with funds from that Greeting Cards Sale. It contains 10 essays written by a collection of clergy — three rectors, a curate, two theology professors, a diocesan official, and a bishop — and two lay college professors. One of the professors was Ursula Niebuhr of Barnard College, wife of the theologian Reinhold Niebuhr.

Next week I'll look through our library's archives to see if I can find some greeting cards.

— Doug Downey

Hello from Florida

Hello, to my St. Giles friends who, as it turns out, have not suffered the brutal winter from which I intended to escape.

When I'm in Florida, I occasionally visit St. Hilary's, the Episcopal church in Ft. Myers that seems most similar to St. Giles — including their focus on choral and organ music. Like St. Giles, it is a friendly parish. It also benefits from an influx of snowbirds during the winter months.

My emotional connection to St. Giles this season has been easier to maintain because of the Virtual Bible Study Group. I am blessed daily by the email conversations from this group, and my interest and knowledge of the scriptures has likewise been expanded. The format of discussing the readings for the upcoming Sunday adds greatly to their meaning for me.

If you are not currently taking advantage of this unique outreach of St. Giles, you should. If you're like me, your spiritual life will be enriched by simply being exposed to the daily comments and questions. Just ask Margie Pearson or George Miller for information.

Enjoy God's Blessings (and the rest of your mild winter).

— Lyle Dean Lebsack



Top “Ten” Reasons for being an Episcopalian

In no particular order ...

1. The Book of Common Prayer
2. The Eucharist
3. The Prayers of the People, both their content and the fact that they are spoken by one or more of the people
4. Preachers who don't rant and rave
5. Rite I allows us to speak in Elizabethan English
6. The vocabulary
7. We are allowed to make jokes (We are, aren't we?)
8. Responses help us feel closer to worshipping
9. Being raised as Roman Catholics from childhood to adults, the Episcopal Church seemed a bridge with Protestants
10. The friendships, both human and divine
11. 17th and 18th century poets are heard here
12. There are 20 sides to every story
13. I'm expected to keep my brain engaged at all times
14. Children are cherished and accepted
15. The liturgy – you can find it anywhere in the world when traveling
16. God always seems to be present
17. There are many ways to grow spiritually – adult classes, projects to take part in
18. Knowing there is a global church
19. Participating at the diocesan level
20. Using what God has given me to help others
21. Women in the priesthood
22. All people accepted
23. Beautiful music
24. Part of a family
25. The Eucharist and Baptism
26. I love the worship – the breadth and depth of worshipping/praising God
27. I love being part of a church that is moving toward inclusivity and great and greater respect for the earth and creation

28. I love that I can use my brain
29. All people welcome at our table – “Come as you are”
30. God presents herself to many religions, which is why we respect all of God's children
31. We have freedom to learn about our faith and experience personal growth
32. We are allowed to believe (or, if we so choose, not to believe) in evolution
33. Women can be bishops; men can knit.

January Treasurer's Report

Pledge and other income for the month of January was \$22,490. Total expenses for the month were \$13,345 resulting in a surplus of \$9,145 for the month.

— Gloriann Harris
Treasurer

It's All Good News

One of our shared duties as a parish family is to run a sort of dating service for God — to help find people for God to love. The Good News Committee, by inviting and welcoming newcomers, attempts to fulfill this responsibility. Thanks to Monique Howard, Mary Reid, Martha McGuire, John Hanzel, Jim Brooks, Jan Hutchins-DeWitt, Chris Dewitt, Cynthia Hallas, and Lee Gaede for their continued effort in spreading the good news. They have been busy mailing invitations, creating gift bags, and planning events. Baseball caps, coffee mugs, and balloons are in our future!

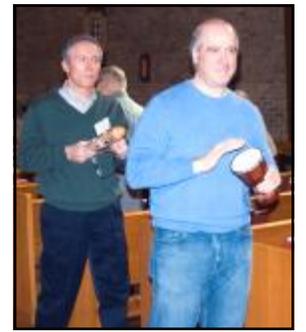
The whole parish can get in on this. Please pick up one of the gift bags (the little white ones on the ledge in the narthex) and drop it off at the home of a friend or neighbor as a way of introducing them to our parish. If you see someone new in church, greet them and make sure they leave with a gift bag in hand. It's our way of saying "we're glad you came!" Inside the bag you'll find the ever-present St. Giles cookbook – literally bookmarked with important parish information – refreshing "testamints," and the pamphlet "Discovering the Episcopal Church" (extra copies of which are available in the narathex).

If you would like to join the Good News Committee, let us know. It's one more way we can thank God for what we've been given. Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 6, at 7:30.

— George Miller
Sr. Warden



Thank you once again to John Hanzel for capturing these moments at St. Giles.



Poetry Musings: A “True” Lent

Robert Herrick was a 17th-century poet best known for his light-hearted, witty love poems full of the imagery of the English countryside — “I sing of brooks, of blossoms, birds, and bowers.” His most familiar lines are “Gather ye rosebuds while ye may/Old Time is still a-flying.” But Herrick was also an Anglican priest, and he wrote religious poetry.

In “To Keep a True Lent,” note that Herrick skillfully weaves together regular rhyme, irregular rhythms, and unusual stanza structure to convey what he understands as a “true Lent.” As you read, notice also his uses of the word fast in stanzas 1, 3, 4, and 5.

Each of the first three stanzas of the poem is a question, and the tone is ironic and witty. The speaker in these stanzas exposes the hypocrisy of those who observe outward signs and practices of Lent while not entering into a spirit of repentance and renewal of a godly life. The word “No” at the beginning of the fourth stanza signals a shift. The last three stanzas offer answers to the questions asked in the previous stanzas. The speaker tells the reader that a true Lent involves responding to those in need of food and attention, ending bitterness and strife, and being deeply and genuinely repentant — “to show a heart grief-rent.” Herrick maintains his witty tone in these stanzas as well, ending with the pointed admonition, “to starve thy sin, not bin.”

— Linda Williams

TO KEEP A TRUE LENT

Is this a fast, to keep
The larder lean,
And clean
From fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,
Or ragg'd to go,
Or show
A downcast look, and sour?

No; 'tis a fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat
And meat
Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife,
From old debate
And hate;
To circumsise thy life;

To show a heart grief-rent;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin.

And that's to keep thy Lent.

— Robert Herrick



ST. GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH ~ MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Extraordinary Kids, 12 Noon - 2:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM Evening Prayer, 4:30 PM	2 Office Closed	3 Campanella Choir 9 AM - 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 11 AM - 12:15 PM
<i>Campanella Choir uses the church Sundays, from 2:30 - 8:00 PM</i>						
4 2 Lent 8 AM: Holy Eucharist 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist	5 Office Hours by Appointment Coffee with the Rector, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM	6 Campanella Choir, 5 - 8 PM Good News Committee Mtg, 7:30 PM	7 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 -2:45 Campanella, 6 - 8:30 PM Special Lenten Program, 7:00 PM	8 Extraordinary Kids, 12 Noon - 2:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM Evening Prayer, 4:30 PM	9 Office Closed	10 Campanella Choir 9 AM - 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 11 AM - 12:15 PM
11 3 Lent 8 AM: Holy Eucharist 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist Daylight Saving Time Begins — Spring Forward!	12 Office Hours by Appointment Coffee with the Rector, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM	13 Campanella Choir, 5 - 8 PM Cathedral Shelter Pick-Up	14 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 -2:45 Campanella, 6 - 8:30 PM Special Lenten Program, 7:00 PM	15 April Bells Submissions Due Extraordinary Kids, 12 Noon - 2:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM Evening Prayer, 4:30 PM	16 Office Closed	17 Campanella Choir 9 AM - 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 11 AM - 12:15 PM
18 4 Lent Healing & Anointing 8 AM: Holy Eucharist 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist	19 Office Hours by Appointment Coffee with the Rector, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM	20 Campanella Choir, 5 - 8 PM Vestry Meeting, 7:30 PM	21 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 -2:45 Campanella, 6 - 8:30 PM Special Lenten Program, 7:00 PM	22 Extraordinary Kids, 12 Noon - 2:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM Evening Prayer, 4:30 PM	23 Office Closed	24 Campanella Choir 9 AM - 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 11 AM - 12:15 PM
25 5 Lent 8 AM: Holy Eucharist 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist	26 THE ANNUNCIATION Office Hours by Appointment Coffee, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM Holy Eucharist, 7:00 PM	27 Campanella Choir, 5 - 8 PM	28 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 -2:45 Campanella, 6 - 8:30 PM Special Lenten Program, 7:00 PM	29 Extraordinary Kids, 12 Noon - 2:45 PM Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM Evening Prayer, 4:30 PM	30 Office Closed	31 Campanella Choir 9 AM - 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 11 AM - 12:15 PM



St. Giles Church
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Northbrook, IL 60062-4399

www.saint-giles.org

Look for us on Facebook!

Time-Sensitive Material



From the Deacon's Desk



One of the sacraments of the Episcopal Church is the Reconciliation of a Penitent. The Catechism says, "Reconciliation of a Penitent, or Penance, is the rite in which those who repent of their sins may confess them to God in the presence of a priest, and receive the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution." The catechism also makes clear that this is one of the non-Gospel sacraments and is not necessary for all persons. However, our two priests are always willing to meet with anyone who feels they will benefit from this form of unburdening and receipt of grace.

For most of us, we rely on the General Confession found on either page 331 or page 360 of the *Book of Common Prayer*. This is a corporate form of confession, with the liberal use of the pronouns "we" and "us," but it can be very personal. Since I have been at St. Giles, it has been my practice to wait only a few seconds after everyone has settled in following the Invitation to Confession to begin the Prayer of Confession. During Lent, I will be leaving an intentional and, hopefully, sufficient period of silence — in which time we may all gather our thoughts and center ourselves in preparation for confession and absolution.

May you have a blessed Lenten season.

In Christ's Service,
Lee Gaede
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847-702-0891