

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29
FOLLOWING 10:15 SERVICE
Christian Formation @ 9 AM
Holy Eucharist, Rite II @ 10:15 AM
(followed by Annual Meeting)
All-Parish Potluck
Men's Culinary Competition

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Our Schedule

Sundays

Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:00 AM

Christian Formation 9 AM

Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:15 AM

3rd Sundays of the Month

Healing & Anointing
at both services

Diocesan Convention

It was once again my privilege to represent St. Giles at the recent Diocesan Convention. So much happened: I was delighted when Bishop Lee asked us to sing a hymn — in a tango beat! I also appreciated the more visible role of the deacons and their upcoming project of providing warm clothing to those in need. Later, we passed a resolution to continue the relationship with our companion dioceses of Southeast Mexico and Renk, South Sudan. I spent my educational time discussing the role of small congregations. "It's not about us but about the Kingdom of God." We discussed ways to take our outreach efforts into the community and ways to build fun, functional, interactive programs — and then invite others to join us .

— Mary Reid

**St. Giles****Episcopal Church**

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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

Bill Perley,
Senior Warden

George Miller,
Junior Warden

Ellie Bonebrake

Jim Brooks

Cindy Conrad

John Hanzel

Curt Jones

Martha McGuire

Gloria Simon

Nancy Stoddard

Linda Williams

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
Assisting Priest

Jim Brown
Director of Music

Esther Freilich
Parish Administrator
admin@saint-giles.org

Rector's Reflection: It's All Good!

I could feel the warmth of the welcome I received when I returned from my sabbatical on Sunday, December 4. It has been good to reconnect with you over the last month, and I've been gratified by the interest in my sabbatical journey(s). Thank you! I was grateful to be back in time for most of Advent and to celebrate Christmas here among you. At the same time, I was delighted (and not at all surprised) to hear from so many of you about the good, solid ministry of the sabbatical leadership team: Belinda Chandler, Lee Gaede, Bill Perley, George Miller, Virgil Robinson, and our staff and vestry. I am grateful to them for their fine work in my absence. Nothing was left wanting, and new ideas and enthusiasm are springing up. It's all good!

It's all good. We hear that phrase frequently, in different and often superficial contexts. Yet that's the way I feel about St. Giles right now, and not in any kind of superficial way. Attendance at Sunday morning liturgies has edged up and remains consistent. As I write this, financial giving for the year 2011 is higher than was budgeted, and promised giving for 2012 includes six new pledges, with another 16 persons increasing their pledge over last year's. The financial operation of St. Giles is not without its challenges, but how much better it is to be facing those challenges in the spirit of confidence indicated by increased generosity and investment in the parish. It's all good!

The Spirit clearly is moving here. The renewed interest in Bible study and personal and corporate spirituality is palpable. **The St. Giles Virtual Bible Study** that began in early fall engages participants in group reflection of the coming Sunday's scripture readings, via email. Anyone can sign up and needn't be a parishioner to do so. Contact Margaret Pearson and she'll be happy to add your email address to the group. **The Prayer Room**, a quiet and peaceful haven at the south end of the education building, was set up early in 2011 by the Rev. Belinda Chandler; this room is available to individuals and small groups for meditation, prayer, and spiritual direction and conversation. Belinda has also guided attendees at the Adult Forum through the process of developing a personal **Rule of Life**. In mid-September, St. Giles was awarded a **grant of nearly \$5,000** from the Congregations Commission of the Diocese for the development of an outdoor meditative space that will include a labyrinth and other features. As the weather begins to improve in the coming spring, I expect that we will see the fruits of this wonderful affirmation from the diocese begin to take shape. In addition, response to the **mission and outreach advocacy** offered by our deacon, the Rev. Lee Gaede, has served to keep St. Giles's passion for such ministry strong and visible. **The Bells** has been reenergized by the regular contributions of a number of parishioners whose passions, expertise, and interests are reflected in the columns they write.

What else can we expect? In the coming weeks you will hear more about the Episcopal Spiritual Life Renewal program, described in an article on page 5. We will offer up our own notions of what it means to be an Episcopalian through your contributions to the "Top Ten Reasons for Being an Episcopalian" (see page 6). There's so much more. And it's all good!

Of course, gratitude for all these blessings we enjoy must be offered in humility to the One who is **all good, all the time**. So with deep thanks to God, and with thanks for all of you, I remain —

Your servant in Christ
Cynthia+



January Birthdays/Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 8 Jon Hallas
- 10 Polly Hastings
- 15 Ed Archibald
- 16 Mike Piskel
- 18 Brad Howard
- 19 Betty Jean Weidaw
- 26 Pam Zadigian

Anniversaries:

- 17 John & Elizabeth Hanzel
- 29 Chuck & Millie Kolar



January Lectionary Readings

January 1 (The Holy Name)

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:15-21

January 8 (1 Epiphany)

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 15 (2 Epiphany)

I Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)
Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17
I Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 22 (3 Epiphany)

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62: 6-14
I Corinthians 7: 29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 29 (4 Epiphany)

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
I Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Junior Warden's Year-End Report

As I write this, I am simultaneously reading our time and talent pledge cards. If you ever need encouragement for our future, you should read them too. Some people run out of room on the space we've provided and have to continue on other paper. Why do they want to do so much?

Imagine a parish so wealthy that all of the "work" was done by others. We would pay employees to prepare the altar, sing the music, cater the food, mop the floors, wash the dishes, read the readings, usher, decorate, teach, visit the sick, post the bulletins, collect the donations, serve at the altar, garden, paint, keep the books, and all the many other jobs we volunteer to do.

But in this parish, volunteers couldn't give up these jobs. I am sure there are some days when we wish we were the imagined wealthy parish, employing people to do everything. But if we were, what would become of those generous people who fill out and fill up their time and talent pledge cards? Do they only offer to do so many things because we ask them to? I don't think so. I believe there is something inside of them they hope to share.

— George Miller
Jr. Warden

November Treasurer's Report

Pledge and other income for the month of November was \$23,147.69. Total expenses for the month were \$13,418.52 resulting in a surplus of \$9,729.17 for the month and a year-to-date surplus as of November 30, 2011, of \$5,902.23.

— Gloriann Harris
Treasurer



Books with a St. Giles Connection

There are seven titles in our St. Bede's Library that have a direct connection to St. Giles Church. Two of them are by a current parishioner, Jim Rigas. One was written by a former assisting priest, J.V. Langmead Casserley. And four were written by visitors – Kenneth Leech (two titles), Benedict Reid, and Sam Portaro.

Jim Rigas's books are *Christianity Without Fairy Tales: When Science and Religion Merge* (published in 2004; call number 261.55/RIG) and *The Way of the Butterfly: A Scientific Speculation on God and the Hereafter* (2007; 211/RIG). In *Christianity Without Fairy Tales*, Jim examines Scripture in its historical setting and notes how modern science evaluates its assertions. In *The Way of the Butterfly*, he presents his personal conclusions about God, life, and death.

Father Casserley came to the United States from Britain in 1952 to teach at the General Theological Seminary in New York and later became a professor at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston. During the 1970s, he frequently assisted at St. Giles and delivered cerebral sermons in his delightful English accent. His *Graceful Reason* (1954; 230/CASG) was acquired by our library when the church was still on Chapel Court. The topic, not for casual readers, is a field called natural theology – the relationship between religion and reason. (But it's not that easy; Chapter I begins with "What is natural theology? There is no simple answer.")

Kenneth Leech's two books are *Soul Friend: The Practice of Christian Spirituality* (1977; 248.2/LEEC) and *True Prayer: An Invitation to Christian Spirituality* (1980; 248.3/LEE). As the titles indicate, they both deal with spirituality; *True Prayer* is aimed at laypersons, *Soul Friend* at clergy and others with specialized knowledge. Father Leech is a Church of England priest who visited St. Giles on several occasions. On one of them, he stayed with Anne and me and proved to be a very witty and down-to-earth gentleman.

Benedict Reid served for many years as the abbot of St. Gregory's Abbey in Three Rivers, Michigan – an Episcopal abbey. His book's title is *A Spirit Loose in the World* (1994; 269/REI) and its subtitle reveals its content: *The Extraordinary Journey of a Beloved Benedictine Abbot in Search of Man's Place in the World and His Relationship with His Creator*.

Sam Portaro was the Episcopal chaplain at the University of Chicago for 22 years. With Gary Peluso, who is now president of Phillips Theological Seminary in Oklahoma, he wrote *Inquiring and Discerning Hearts: Vocation and Ministry with Young Adults on Campus* (1993; 259.24/POR), which examines Protestant campus ministries. The church and the academy, they point out, were once closely related but after World War II they drifted apart and in some cases became, in effect, rivals. The authors offer ways to overcome this and to strengthen the ministries.

— Doug Downey

Recent Scenes from St. Giles





Parish Devoted: “Happy New Ears”!

“For everyone who asks receives,
everyone who searches finds,
and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”
— Luke 11:10

At Diocesan Convention last month, the keynote speaker was Stephanie Spellers* and her task was to describe something called “radical welcome.” She began with that public speaker’s tool that so often makes me squirm: the icebreaker. She asked that we stand and stretch our arms wide open.

I sheepishly complied, as did the hundreds of others assembled, and watched as the Westin ballroom became a field of crosses. It was a moving sight to see. We were told to hold that position ... and wait ... and wait ... for whatever comes. And then? Embrace it all.

“All” meaning “everyone.” Not just the people like us. Not just the well-to-do, highly-educated, WASPy people that fit the stereotype of Episcopalian (and quite deservedly so given the demographic data shared with delegates!) Spellers challenged us to think about those “others” who are *unlike us*, who we’ve yet to embrace let alone meet, and the *mutually transformational relationships* we are missing.

At St. Giles, we welcome and are blessed by the newcomer who “drops in” on Sunday, but standing in church with arms open wide, waiting – even embracing all who enter – is not enough. For us *radical welcome* takes place elsewhere – Monday through Saturday – and requires listening as much to others speak of their faith as to telling them about our own.

Bishop Lee’s charge to us this year includes: **“Have one meaningful conversation with someone about their life and God.”** Who knows how that might transform us? If it is scary, perhaps we need an icebreaker! Here’s one great conversation starter – listen to the other person.

Thanks,
Tracey Solano
trsolano@comcast.net

* Stephanie Spellers is a priest, author, and lead organizer for *The Crossing*, the emergent Christian community rooted at St. Paul’s Episcopal cathedral in Boston. She will conduct workshops in our diocese this spring.

Mind- and Soul-Expanding Diocesan Convention

It was with pleasure that I served St. Giles as part of the recent Diocesan Convention. This was my first for St. Giles, but I go every year for my parish, wherever that may be. At St. Giles the following Sunday, those of us who attended all said a few words about our experience.

This was my sixth convention in a row, and I believe one of the most soul-fulfilling and expansive of them all. The Eucharist on Saturday (the pinnacle of the Convention for me) was even more meaningful for me than it had been in past years — partly because of the participation of the children and partly because of the upbeat celebration that this Eucharist was indeed!

There is nothing more mind- and soul-expanding than being part of a Eucharist with 1,000 Episcopalians — clergy and lay alike — being led by one of the most extraordinary bishops I have ever had the pleasure to meet. (And I have known quite a number of bishops!) Bishop Lee guided us all through a soul-expanding, exciting service. Imagine: A Eucharist that was fun, exciting, warm, loving, and Episcopal all at the same time! Wow!

— Kathie Heidenfelder

Episcopal Spiritual Life Renewal Project

St. Giles has been asked to participate in an exciting new venture in the Diocese of Chicago! Along with other parishes, we will take part in the Episcopal Spiritual Life Renewal project. Supported in part by the Lilly Endowment and Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, the project seeks to measure the level of spiritual engagement and growth that a parish offers its members individually.

Results of the survey will help parish leadership as they seek to provide authentic and meaningful ways for parishioners to continue to deepen their faith experience and relationship with God in Christ. At its December meeting, the Vestry of St. Giles enthusiastically endorsed our participation.

More details will follow in the near future. In the meantime, please visit <http://www.episcopalchicago.org/our-work/at-work-in-the-church/episcopal-spiritual-life-renewal> for more information.



Top-Ten Reasons

You may have heard about actor/comedian Robin Williams's "Top Ten Reasons for Being an Episcopalian."

He originally presented them on an HBO special, and they are now all over the Internet* and have been printed on t-shirts sold at General Convention and various diocesan gatherings.** This humorous, and for the most part accurate, list includes Number Ten: no snake handling; Number Eight: male and female God created them/male and female we ordain them; Number Five: church year is color-coded; and reason Number One: No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you. (Not exactly sure what that one says about us, but there it is!)

Williams's list inspired several participants in a recent Anglican ethos course at Seabury to come up with their own lists. Why shouldn't our parish do the same? So with that in mind and during January and early February, St. Giles will work to come up with its very own Top Ten (number negotiable) Reasons for Being an Episcopalian. Don't worry, you needn't think of ten of them. Two, three, or even one will be sufficient. There will be a box and forms in the narthex for you to fill out, or you may email your reasons to rector@saint-giles.org. Remember: These are reasons that you like being an *Episcopalian*. We are all thankful to be part of the St. Giles community, but a wider net is being cast here. Please think about what it means to you to be part of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, and make those reasons known in humorous or serious ways.

* See, for example, <http://stpaulcathedral.blogspot.com/2010/04/top-10-reasons-to-be-episcopalian-by.html>

** You can buy a shirt at www.episcopalbookstore.com

A Meditation for the New Year

Our life is a journey. We are always "on the road." Each time another new year begins, we have an opportunity to pause, to see where we have been, to ponder how that journey has been for us, and to anticipate the road ahead. Each new year is also a time to clear our vision, to take stock of our resources, and to refresh our dreams and hopes as we set out once more on the journey that is ours. This January, take some time to reflect on the year that has just ended and look toward the year ahead. Use the questions below to guide you in your meditation. As you look back on 2011:

- What name would you give to your journey of the past year? Describe it to a friend? What image or metaphor would you use to talk about it?
- What were some of your "epiphanies" of the past year? (These might be your discoveries of the Holy One in your midst.) How did you grow because of them?
- Who were your wise persons? What did they reveal to you? How did this influence your life?
- Did any of your hopes and dreams become a reality?
- What was most satisfying about the year? What was least satisfying?
- How did your experience of the past year affect the world in which you live?

As you look to the year ahead of you:

- What name would you give your new year's journey? What gifts do you bring with you into the new year?
- Do you find any resistance within you? Of what are you most afraid as you enter the new year?
- What is your greatest need for the coming year?
- Who do you bring with you for support and strength as you begin to journey through the year?
- How is your relationship with the Holy One as you pause on the threshold of the new year's vast landscape? What is at the heart of your new year's prayer?
- What do you hope to contribute to society in this coming year?

May your inner vision be transformed so that you can see more clearly your own journey with all humankind as a journey of peace, hope, and bondedness.



ST. GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH ~ JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 The Holy Name 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II	2 Office Closed	3 Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	4 Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	5 No Choir Rehearsal	6 Office Closed	7 Campanella Choir 9 AM - 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 - 11:45
8 1 Epiphany 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Second Sunday Breakfast 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II	9 Office Hours by Appointment Coffee with the Rector, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM Yoga Class, 7 PM	10 Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM Cathedral Shelter Pick-Up Vestry Meeting, 7:30 PM	11 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 AM-2:45 PM Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	12 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15-Noon Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM	13 Office Closed	14 Campanella Choir 9 AM - 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 AM-1 PM
15 2 Epiphany Healing & Anointing 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II	16 Office Hours by Appointment Coffee with the Rector, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM Yoga Class, 7 PM	17 February Bells Submissions Due Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	18 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 AM-2:45 PM Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	19 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15-Noon Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM	20 Office Closed	21 Campanella Choir 9 AM - 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 - 11:45 AM
22 3 Epiphany 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II	23 Office Hours by Appointment Coffee with the Rector, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM Yoga Class, 7 PM	24 Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	25 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 AM-2:45 PM Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	26 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15-Noon Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM	27 Office Closed	28 Campanella Choir 9 AM - 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 AM-1 PM
29 4 Epiphany Parish Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch 9 AM, Formation 10:15 AM, Holy Eucharist, Rite II One Service Only	30 Office Hours by Appointment Coffee with the Rector, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM Yoga Class, 7 PM	31 Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	<i>Campanella Choir uses the church Sundays, 5 - 8 PM</i>			



St. Giles Church
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www.saint-giles.org

Look for us on Facebook!

Time-Sensitive Material



From the Deacon's Desk



On the Feast of Christ the King, I spoke of the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, a young priest from Boston, who was the keynote speaker at Diocesan Convention. She is one of many calling the Episcopal Church to go beyond “welcome” to “radical welcome.” To that end, she has written *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation*. In the preface to the book, Bishop Steven Charleston also calls the church to understand and embrace radical hospitality:

It is the presence of The Other within the pastoral neighborhood: that group of persons who stand just beyond the social/cultural threshold of the congregation. Engaging them honestly will not only expand the horizons of the congregation but revitalize it in ways that could never be realized otherwise. In simple language, radical welcome shows us how we need one another, and even more importantly, how we translate that potential into the blessings of a church renewed.

To make a commitment to explore the depth of what radical welcome means, we are asked to confront how we all “participate in systems of inclusion and exclusion.” We are asked to deal with the fact that in practicing radical welcome “there is no such place as a neutral space.”

Radical welcome is a process. It is a process by which isolated parts of a whole community are brought together in creative and compassionate ways to generate a more integrated, balanced and dynamic mixture. Not a melting or a stew of differences, but a community that works well, prays well and plans well together.

In the next several months, I plan to explore this concept in more detail on a personal basis. I will be spending time with Stephanie’s book, hope to attend workshops she will be doing here in the diocese later in the spring, and seek out other authors. Anyone want to join me?

In Christ’s Service,
Lee Gaede
leegaede@aol.com or 847-702-0891