

Lent begins February 22

ASH WEDNESDAY

“Remember you are dust. ...” With these solemn words, ashes are imposed on the foreheads of the faithful as we begin the penitential season of Lent. This year St. Giles will offer the Ash Wednesday Proper Liturgy on February 22 at 9:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Note that the evening liturgy is later than in years past.) The 7:00 p.m. service will include music. Please join your fellow pilgrims as we begin the Lenten journey. (And once again, look for the Rector and the Deacon “where cross the crowded ways of life” in Northbrook, as we distribute *Ashes to Go!*)

SUNDAY MORNINGS IN LENT

The first Sunday in Lent, February 26, we begin with the Great Litany at both services — at 10:15 sung in procession to a setting by Peter Hallock. Because the Litany contains both prayers and confession, the Prayers of the People and Confession of Sin are omitted that day. For the remaining four Sundays, the ministers enter in silence from the sacristy at the 10:15 service, emphasizing the more somber nature of the season.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

A special Lenten program is being planned for Wednesday evenings — February 29, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 7:00 p.m. Designed to complement the Episcopal Life Spiritual Renewal project, these sessions will be based on your very own “Top Ten Reasons for Being an Episcopalian” (it’s not too late to fill out your form; look in the narthex!) and will take an engaging and not-too-academic look at what it means to be an Episcopalian. More information will be forthcoming.

Prayer Room to be Blessed

The Prayer Room at the south end of the hall in the education building has been in use for nearly a year. It’s a place for spiritual direction, private prayer, and small group reflection. The Prayer Room will be blessed and dedicated on Sunday, February 19 — the last Sunday after the Epiphany. More details to come. Please plan to join us!



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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

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

3025 Walters Ave.
Northbrook, IL 60062
Phone: 847-272-6622
Fax: 847-272-7664
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

Following is a condensed version of the sermon preached at last month's Annual Meeting. The full text and video are available on our Website; printed copies are in the narthex.

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation. I feel as if the Psalmist is speaking for me this morning, because I am so thankful to God, right here in this assembly, right here in this wonderful congregation!

Giving thanks to and assembling in order to praise God, celebrating who we are as a community and what God is allowing and enabling us to do – isn't that what an Annual Meeting ought to be? I stand up here right now giving thanks to God with my whole heart for what's happening here.

- For the strength of this parish. We are a small parish, but the strength of a faith community is measured first of all by faith and commitment, and we have that in spades.
- That this is a community of generosity. And it's not all about money. You also give of your time and you give to provide for others — not just to keep our parish going.
- For the staff of this parish – paid and unpaid; for the members of the Vestry, and for others who have taken on specific tasks necessary to our ministries; for those who serve not just as mentors and teachers to our young members, but as living, breathing examples of what it means to be a Christian among the particular challenges of today's world; and for those who, every Sunday, prepare the elements and vessels for communion, serve in the liturgy, and sing in the choir.

Look back at what's happened in the past year, so much of which allowed us to open our doors to the wider church and community: In March we had the joy of celebrating Belinda Chandler's ordination to the priesthood and in July the formal installation of Lee Gaede as deacon. So much of the energy around ministry that currently exists in the parish is due to the gifts of these women. We also hosted a wonderful concert by two rising stars of the opera world, held the 3rd Annual Harvest Festival, and offered a beautiful Lessons & Carols service. But ... something else is going on here, something less tangible perhaps but still noticeable: a reawakening in this parish. Others have commented on it too. There's increased energy, more passion for new ministries or the renewing of old ones. Think of what we have now that we didn't have a year ago: Bible Buddies; the Prayer Room; the Good News Team; the Walking Club; monthly after-church lunches at Butterfield's; yoga sessions on Mondays in the undercroft; and monthly House Eucharists, which several of you hosted and which I hope to get going again soon. All those — and they are surely not all — make me want to shout "Hallelujah!" right along with the psalmist of long ago.

One of the highlights of my year was the sabbatical that I took in October and November. I'm very grateful to the parish, to the Vestry and especially to the sabbatical leadership team that was in place while I was away for allowing me to have that time of rest and refreshment. Another highlight was coming back to St. Giles in December and seeing just how well you all had gotten along during those two months. You didn't just maintain; you initiated! All these things illustrate that this is a very hopeful time for St. Giles. One of the distinctive elements of Christian hope is that it is grounded in faith: faith in the love of God who is always present with us. Such faith sustains us both in times of blessing and in times of challenge. I do not want to ignore the challenges. As a small parish, we can feel ourselves stretched to the max or beyond; there is continuing concern about what the future might bring. I can't predict that; none of us can. But as Christians we always live in the certainty that God is with us, every step of the way; we don't go into that future by ourselves. We are a creative, committed, prayerful parish. We're a happy and blessed parish. Clearly, the Spirit is at work in this community and this community is paying attention. So let's keep on paying attention. For all of this I give thanks to God with my whole heart! I hope, and trust, that each of you will do the same. Hallelujah!



February Birthdays/Anniversaries

Birthdays:

6 Jean Berkenstock
10 Cynthia Hallas
17 Ngozi Okoli
Solomon Okoli
22 Ronnie Seiler-Raskin
23 Tom McCluskey

Anniversaries:

1 James & Marlea Robb
14 Nancy & Ray Stoddard
15 Bob & Nancy Schultz

Planned Giving

It's been some time since we last discussed planned giving, an important element in creating sustainable good works within our St. Giles family. Planned giving can be simple or complex, depending on the situation. Many simple options exist:

A **bequest** takes a designation in your will or trust, and it costs nothing during your lifetime. We can provide you with model amendment language for those documents if need be. Since one never knows how much will be left in his or her will or trust upon death, a gift of a percentage of assets may be better than a set dollar amount.

A **living trust** avoids probate, and St. Giles can be named as a beneficiary.

A **life insurance policy** can be donated, with future premium payments deducted, or St Giles can be named as a beneficiary of a current policy.

Charitable gift annuity: A lump sum is invested, with cash flow to the individual donor and remaining principal to St. Giles upon death. Rates vary. This is heavily promoted by institutions of higher learning.

Charitable remainder trusts & lead trusts are complex and can be structured to provide tax benefits to the donor.

Real estate: Rather than incur capital gains on appreciated property, it can be donated to St Giles. Prior consultation is required.

Art, collectibles, etc., operate as real estate above.

Gifts of securities: We maintain an investment account to accept gifts. Rather than sell appreciated securities and incur capital gains, securities can be transferred. If they have depreciated, the donor is better off selling them in their own name to garner the tax loss.

The Diocesan Web site (www.episcopalchicago.org) has more information on the topic. We are here to help, so please let us know if it's needed.

Gratefully,
George Miller, Sr. Warden

February Lectionary Readings

February 5 (5 Epiphany)

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-12, 21c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 12 (6 Epiphany)

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

February 19 (Last Epiphany)

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 22 (Ash Wednesday)

Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 103:8-142
Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

February 26 (1 Lent)

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Cook-Off Winners!



Proudly clutching their prized big spoon & spork awards are the winners of this year's annual men's culinary competition, with presenter Mary Reid (from left to right): Rob Boverie, Mitch Schwartz, and Jim Brooks. First-place winner (and missing from the picture): Bill Perley. The cook-off is held each year as part of the pot-luck lunch following the Annual Meeting.



So, What's New Down There in the Undercroft?

Early this year, an unidentified parishioner stacked some books on the desk in our library, and St. Bede quickly scooped them up to add to our collection. Here they are:

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (call number 241.5/BON). Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran theologian who was executed by the Nazis in 1945, outlines what it really means to follow Christ.
- Tony Campolo, *Speaking my Mind: The Radical Evangelical Prophet Tackles the Tough Issues Christians Are Afraid to Face* (270.8/CAM). Tony Campolo, according to this book's back-cover blurb, "shatters the stereotype of evangelical Christians as a monolithic mass of social conservatives. [He] takes issue with the public image of evangelicals as right-wing hardliners and claims a place at the table for socially liberal viewpoints. ... Depending on your point of view, Campolo's prophetic look at the evangelical movement will either fill you with hope or scare you to death."
- Roger Ferlo, *Opening the Bible* (220.6/FER). This tells you why you should read the Bible, how you should go about it, and what you should know about the various translations.
- Bill Hybels, *The God You're Looking For* (231/HBY). The author, founding pastor of Willow Creek church in South Barrington, discusses, in a readable, down-to-earth style, the characteristics of God.
- Garret Keizer, *Dresser of Sycamore Trees: The Finding of a Ministry* (283/KEI). The author, a high school English teacher and a frequent contributor to *Harper's* magazine, is a lay vicar at an Episcopal church in northeastern Vermont. The title refers to the prophet Amos, whose full-time job was tending to trees rather than preaching.
- Eugene H. Peterson. *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology* (248.4/PET). Peterson, a professor and a Presbyterian pastor, is known for *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* (found in our library at 220.5/PET), his translation of the Bible. In *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places* he turns to spirituality — what it is and what it should be.
- William C. Placher, *A History of Christian Theology: An Introduction* (230/PLA). Despite being designed as a textbook, this is thoroughly readable account, taking us from the Israel of the Old Testament to the end of the 20th Century.
- Gary Wills, *Saint Augustine: A Life* (270.2/WIL). The author of this biography of the theologian St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430) is a Pulitzer-prize-winning retired professor from Northwestern. The following three titles are also his: *What the Gospels Meant* (226/WIL) places the four Gospels in their historical and cultural context; *What Jesus Meant* (232/WIL) is, to quote the *New York Times* review, "like a long, rich conversation with a learned friend [that] cuts through cant, piety, and political exploitation to bring Jesus alive in all his urgent significance;" and *What Paul Meant* (255.9/WIL) tells it like it is. "If you think you know Paul," says the *Los Angeles Times* review, "get ready to have all sorts of cherished preconceptions exhilaratingly stripped away."

— Doug Downey, Assistant to St. Bede

New Assisting Bishop for the Diocese of Chicago

At the Diocesan Convention in November, Bishop Lee announced the appointment of the Rt. Rev. C. Christopher Epting, former Bishop of Iowa and Presiding Bishop's Deputy for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, as Assisting Bishop in the Diocese of Chicago. Bishop Epting has already begun parish visitations and has attended several diocesan events. Read his blog, "That All May Be One" at <http://ecubishop.wordpress.com>.

How Do You Get an Elephant out of the Theatre?

... "You can't, it's in his blood!"

Now that we have your attention, we invite you to channel your inner Meryl Streep or Alan Rickman and help us form a Readers' Theatre group for St. Giles. Readers' theatre allows for more expressive and dramatic presentation of stories or plays without the added burden of memorizing text or staging. The intention for the St. Giles group is twofold: to enhance the proclamation of scripture from time to time, especially on occasions like the Great Vigil of Easter; and to present public readings of literary and dramatic pieces for a broader audience. You needn't be an experienced actor or public speaker to participate. Interested? Speak (expressively and dramatically, of course!) with Cynthia.



Parish Devoted: Present in the Psalter

O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come. Your power and your righteousness, O God, reach the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like you? You who made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again. You will increase my honor, and comfort me once again.

— Psalm 71: 17-21 NRSV

A friend in Adult Forum shared with the class a dream he had the night before. It was a nightmare really and in it he was losing his home. It touched me how this secure “senior,” solid survivor of many of life’s usual-but-never-easy losses, seemed troubled by a dream.

Days later I visited my much older (94-year-old) aunt, who no longer leaves her house for anything but doctor appointments — no shopping, no church, not even Thanksgiving Day dinner at her niece’s. I brought her our *Readings for Advent* and *Forward Day by Day*. She thanked me and suggested that next time I bring a Sudoku puzzle.

Another pastime for her is the serious study of grocery store circulars so she can tell her shopper exactly where to purchase each food item at rock-bottom price. She needs to save every penny, she says, so she won’t run out of money and be forced from her home. It is a dream of hers to die there.

Psalm 71 is described as “an elderly person’s” plea for help. In verse 9 the psalmist says, “*Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent.*”

In the psalms, our beautiful psalter, such a range of human emotion is expressed. Not only are there praises to be sung. There are beautiful lamentations. There are frightening dreams. There is comfort to be found in shared experience.

Is there a psalm or other Bible verse that especially comforts you? Please share it.

Thanks,
Tracey Solano
trsolano@comcast.net

Black History Month

The Northbrook Community Relations Commission presents “Tall, Dark & Handsome: The Evolution of the Black Leading Man” as part of its celebration of Black History Month. Join members of your community on Saturday, February 18, at the Northbrook Public Library Auditorium, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., to hear featured speaker Vaun Monroe, film-maker and professor at Chicago’s Columbia College. For more information see the flyer on either of the narthex bulletin boards or email Jason Batalden: batalden@northbrook.il.us.

Lent Madness



Are you a fan of college basketball? Do you wonder about all those folks on our calendar of saints?

What can these two categories possibly have in common? Lent Madness, that’s what! Join with Anglicans around the world for a Lenten discipline that’s both educational and fun. Learn all about it at www.lentmadness.org.

2011 Year-End Treasurer’s Report

Total revenues for 2011 were \$230,770, which was more than the budgeted amount by \$17,312. Total expenses for the year were \$221,825 or over budget by \$3,306.

St. Giles ended the year with a surplus of \$14,006.

— Gloriann Harris, Treasurer



Nancy Stoddard (left) and Bill & Barbara Perley celebrate at the Rector’s annual thank-you dinner for vestry and staff.



Music Notes

CHORAL EVENSONG

A Service of Sung Prayers & Scripture for a Winter Afternoon

Sunday • February 12 • 4:00 p.m.

The Choir of St. Giles

James R. Brown, organist/director of music

Evening Hymn by Henry Purcell

O nata lux by Morten Lauridsen

Magnificat & Nunc dimittis (Collegium Regale) by Herbert Howells

All wisdom cometh from the Lord by Philip Moore

An offering will be received to benefit EASING: Emergency Assistance Serving in Northbrook and Glenview.

SPECIAL MUSIC DURING LENT

On the First Sunday in Lent, February 26, the liturgy will begin with the singing of The Great Litany in procession. We will welcome David Fivecoate that morning, a professional saxophonist/teacher and a former tenor section leader at St. Giles, to play with the choir on Paul Halley's *Agnus Dei*. He will also offer solo improvisation on a variety of chant melodies for the prelude and postlude. The Sanctus for Lent will be the setting by David Hurd (New Plainsong) found in *The Hymnal 1982*, and the *Agnus Dei* will be from *Missa Appalachia* by Jonathan Dimmock. After the First Sunday in Lent, we will be singing the Lenten canticle, *Kyrie Pantokrator* (Hymnal S-237), at the opening of the Eucharist.

Poetry Musings: Thomas Merton's "St. Paul"

Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk, is well-known around the world for his many prose writings on religious life and experience. Merton was also a poet, however. In this poem, he imagines some of the feelings and thoughts of the Apostle Paul looking back on his life. Paul remembers the time when he was Saul, a relentless persecutor of Christians. As a young man, he had held the cloaks of the men who stoned the disciple Stephen to death. Paul then relives the harrowing but transforming event of being confronted by Christ on the road to Damascus. He was blinded for three days and was given his sight back only when Ananias laid his hands on him at the command of Christ. The poem is based on accounts of these events in Acts 7:57–8:3 and 9:1–22.

As you read "St. Paul," look for images such as "eyes were stones" (l. 2) and "tie up my breath" (l. 12) that Merton uses to portray the intensity of Saul's experiences. Think about the phrase "I saw the Voice that struck me dead" (l. 11). What kind of power might "seeing the Voice" suggest? Look also for details and images that reflect the burial and resurrection of Jesus.

And please remember that I am always happy to discuss or try to answer questions about the poems that appear in this column!

— Linda Williams

ST. PAUL

When I was Saul, and sat among the cloaks,
My eyes were stones, I saw no sight of heaven,
Open to take the spirit of the twisting Stephen.
When I was Saul, and sat among the rocks,
I locked my eyes, and made my brain my tomb,
Sealed with what boulders rolled around my reason!

When I was Saul and walked upon the blazing desert
My road was quiet as a trap.
I feared what word would split high noon with light
And lock my life, and try to drive me mad:
And thus I saw the Voice that struck me dead.

Tie up my breath, and wind me in white sheets of anguish,
And lay me in my three days' sepulchre
Until I find my Easter in a vision.

Oh Christ! Give back my life, go, cross Damascus,
Find out my Ananias in that other room:
Command him, as you do, in this my dream;
He knows my locks, and owns my ransom,
Waits for Your word to take his keys and come.

— Thomas Merton
Selected Poems of Thomas Merton



ST. GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH ~ FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Campanella Choir uses the church Sundays, 5 - 8 PM</i></p>			<p>1 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 AM-2:45 PM Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM</p>	<p>2 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15-Noon Feast of the Presentation Eucharist 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>3 Office Closed</p>	<p>4 Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 -11:45</p>
<p>5 5 Epiphany 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>6 Office Hours by Appointment Coffee with the Rector, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM</p>	<p>7 Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM</p>	<p>8 EKids, 9:15 -2:45 Campanella 6 - 8 Good News Committee Mtg, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>9 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15-Noon Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>10 Office Closed</p>	<p>11 Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 AM-1PM</p>
<p>12 6 Epiphany 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Second Sunday Breakfast 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II Choral Evensong, 4:00 PM</p>	<p>13 Office Hours by Appointment Coffee with the Rector, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM</p>	<p>14 Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM Cathedral Shelter Pick-Up</p>	<p>15 March Bells Submissions Due EKids, 9:15 -2:45 Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM Labyrinth Meeting, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>16 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15-Noon Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>17 Office Closed</p>	<p>18 Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 -11:45 AM</p>
<p>19 Last Epiphany Healing & Anointing 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>20 Office Hours by Appointment Coffee with the Rector, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM</p>	<p>21 Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM Vestry Meeting, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>22 Ash Wednesday Liturgies: 9:15 AM 7:00 PM (with music) EKids, 9:15 -2:45 Campanella 6 - 8</p>	<p>23 Extraordinary Kids, 9:15-Noon Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>24 Office Closed</p>	<p>25 St. Giles Parish Work Day 9 AM Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 AM-1PM</p>
<p>26 I Lent 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>27 Office Hours by Appointment Coffee with the Rector, Caribou, 1:00-2:30 PM</p>	<p>28 Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM</p>	<p>29 EKids, 9:15 -2:45 Campanella 6 - 8 Special Lenten Program, 7:00 PM</p>			



St. Giles Church
3025 Walters Avenue
Northbrook, IL 60062-4399

www.saint-giles.org

Look for us on Facebook!

Time-Sensitive Material



From the Deacon's Desk



In the last few weeks, I have been thinking a lot about Black History Month. There is often speculation as to whether it's time to do away with Black History Month. Each year, during the week of Dr. King's birthday, I find myself looking back over the last 40 or so years, and those memories are triggered by the events around his birthday.

In October 1972 my husband, Bruce, and I brought home our seven-month-old adoptive son. Steve is African American. Suddenly two 25-year-old parents were forced to learn about racism first hand. In those early years, we were refused meals in restaurants, denied housing, and followed around in stores by security guards — to name a few of the incidents. The discrimination was pretty blatant in those days. It's still there today, but in much more subtle ways.

Fast-forward 40 years. Our son is happily married to a woman that we cherish as our daughter, and we have two beautiful granddaughters, ages 6 and 4. The older is a kindergartner at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Lab School in Evanston. On January 20, she and her class participated in an all-school tribute assembly for Dr. King. Steve and his wife, Jennie, took the day off to attend. It was extremely moving to sit next to my son and watch scenes of Dr. King's life. It was even more moving to see these children of so many different colors reaching for Dr. King's dream.

A couple days after the assembly, our granddaughter Leela asked what "equality" means. This question triggered a long conversation culminating in Leela learning to spell it so she could write it in her journal.

Do we need Black History Month? Absolutely! At least until the dream is fulfilled in every country and society in our world.

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