

THE GOOD NEWS  
OF  
ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL



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### *Rector's Thoughts*

#### **Lent: An invitation to intimacy, honesty and renewal**

Ash Wednesday begins a spiritual journey of 40 days that is intended to ask us into a deeper realization of Christ in our lives. Now, we are working in a number of ways to help us in this deeper realization. In this same Good News you can read about our Lenten offering regarding A Rule of Life. Living a Rule of Life helps one to answer and live into a YES to those Lenten invitations and more, on both a private a corporate level.

But for now let us look at the 3 invitations that I associate particularly with Lent. The first invitation is to a deeper intimacy with our Lord. During Lent we are invited to witness his suffering as he surrendered his life, as well as the motive that led him.

It's not good enough to simply acknowledge his execution. Lent asks us to enter into his last weeks, days and hours as we would for our most treasured loved one. Don't remain outside the story of his death; come in and stand close to him in his passion, look into his eyes and see the gift of life ebb away as it becomes his sacrifice. "God so loved the world that he gave his only son".... The son so loved the world that he gave himself. During our Wed. Eucharist this Lent, we shall be praying and meditating on the Stations of the Cross to help us become closer to the passion, death and incredible love of Jesus Christ.

The second invitation is to a holy honesty. This sort of honesty leads to heart-felt repentance and reconciliation. We are asked to review our own suffering, and understand the contributing role we have in it. We are asked to understand the role our sins have played in the suffering of others.

This invitation begs that we look at how sin hurts and dehumanizes us as sinners. It calls us to examine our lives in the light of Christ's example of unselfishness. This honesty about our souls is the vehicle to true repentance--sorrow for our sins. Yet repentance means more than just sorrow for sin. It means to turn around—to get realigned. To begin again to try to reflect Christ in our lives is the point of repentance. Repentance also leads to a warm reunion and reconciliation with God and our neighbors. To this end we will offer two dates for the

sacrament of reconciliation. To this end I encourage you to do some honesty work with yourself every day.

It seems so natural to me that if we are becoming more intimate with our savoir and we are engaging in honesty, repentance and reconciliation that one outcome is assured: RENEWAL. We also can rise from the grave on Easter because we have allowed God to renew our lives that were cold, separated from the love of Christ. Renewal allows us to go forward from the tomb of spiritual death, rededicated to private and corporate expressions of our new life in Christ. New life and renewal in Christ is the natural result from intimacy and honesty with our Lord.

Have a blessed journey ja+



**VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

At its monthly meeting on January 19, the All Saints Vestry:

1. Heard Margi Lee report that the new set of purple (Advent) altar vestments, authorized last month would soon be ordered, with the color to match the chausables if possible, and authorized the money to come from the Doris Kemper memorial bequest.
2. Noted that A.M./P.M. carpet cleaners (who won the low bid) had done a good job on the carpet, successfully removing the stain downstairs.
3. Heard Kathy Hintz and Jackie report that a new nursery attendant had been hired. She is Nicki Fischer, a nursing student at Minot State.
4. Heard Jackie report that she has taken over leadership of the Youth Group temporarily, assisted by Mo Parrish. Jon Bovia and Vicki Lokken resigned because of work commitments.
5. Heard the clergy's plan to offer study groups which would meet regularly to study the relation of the gospel to topics such as social justice and a Rule of Life.
6. Discussed and fine-tuned the system for volunteer Greeters. Kathy Hintz will update the list the vestry uses to solicit those volunteers.
7. Noted that some pews, especially in front on the south side, were cracking along the glued joint, and made arrangements to solicit recommendations for a cabinet maker to look at the problem.
8. Heard Kathy Fillmore's report on possible candidates for the four vestry vacancies that will exist at the time of the Annual Meeting. As outgoing vestry member, Kathy serves as the nominating committee.
9. Decided not to produce a professionally produced pictorial directory at this time, but to update the bulletin board directory. gs+

**Election of the Bishop of North Dakota slated for Feb 7**

Next weekend the delegates and the Clergy of All Saints' will be traveling to Fargo to elect the new Bishop of North Dakota. George and I met with the delegates last weekend at a luncheon meeting to discuss the qualities and issues involved in the Bishop selection. We all believed it was vitally helpful to have met the 6 candidates the night before (Friday, Jan. 23), and to have asked them questions. Our questions mostly reflected the same concerns as the Search Committee defined. Here are some of the core qualities we are looking for in a Bishop of North Dakota:

- A Bishop who is a good pastor to lay and ordained folk;
- Who will support and help us continue to develop Total Ministry;
- Who is a good educator and will actively promote and support Diocesan and Congregational education;
- Who is a good conflict resolver;
- Who will overcome the geographical spaces between our Churches with well planned visits;
- Who will support and help us grow both Non Native and Native Ministries;
- And, who will honor and work with lay and ordained folks on both sides of the gay issue, helping to keep us together as a Diocese and as the larger Church.

Please pray for our Delegates, JoAnn and Paul Buriak, Jim and Sandi Myers, and Kathy Fillmore. Please also pray for George and me and, for that matter, all the voting delegation both lay and ordained. ja+

The publication of our new phone directory gives us a chance to talk about membership. In the Episcopal Church, membership has been less carefully defined than it is in those denominations that pay their regional assessment on the basis so-much-per-member, rather than as a percentage of total income, as we do.

It's important to note that the phone directory is not a membership list, but an office convenience. It lists those people that are likely to get called on church business. The Parochial Report, that we send to the National Office in March, DOES require us to classify people as "active members," "inactive members," or "members in good standing," and it gives us definitions for each of those categories. This information is confidential and we keep it in our computer data base, password protected.

Inactive members are those who have ANY kind of relationship with All Saints, but who have not been in church in a year and who do not give regularly. We remove people from that list only at their request, when they move, or if we know they are going to church elsewhere. Active members are those we see at least occasionally but who do not give regularly. Members in good standing are those who attend regularly AND who pledge or give regularly. If you are uncertain of your status, we can look it up for you. Within reason, classifications are negotiable.

The way to "become a member" is just to start attending and become active. There is an optional public declaration that we do a couple of times a year. People who were once active members of another denomination can be "received" by the Bishop at his or her visitation. If you have questions about membership, talk to one of the clergy persons. gs+

**Lenten focus: Rule of Life 101**

Several weeks ago I wrote a brief introduction to a Rule of Life and its importance. I said we would be talking more about it, and well we will. During Lent we will be learning about a rule for our lives and how the holy disciplines can change us inwardly, outwardly and corporately. A rule of life can help us become more honest and intimate with Christ and, of course, it ultimately leads to spiritual renewal. Now the end product is often more than private renewal. You see, because we most often embrace a rule as a group, the group experiences a re-energizing renewal!

And please do be at ease, because though our education will be based on established rules such as the Benedictine Rule or the tradition of the Little Gidding Community, a rule can pretty well be designed for any individuals who would like a little more Christ in their lives.

The rule reaches into our daily practice of devotion. A typical rule asks us to commit to daily prayer. It goes further to ask for Christian action in our lives, such as hospitality, serving the poor and helping the aged. Your custom rule may involve a Christian discipline such as fasting or the practice of simplicity. And, yes, the rule reaches also into our corporate lives of prayer, worship and Christian practice, enriching it and giving it fresh dedication.

Our course will begin on Ash Weds. and continue every Wed. in Lent. We are truly excited about this offering and its potential to encourage and challenge us to add more God to our lives and commit more of our lives to our God. ja+ /gs+

Watch your mailboxes as a more complete description will be sent soon!

**T h a n k s a M i l l i o n . . .**

Thanks so much to everyone who came last Friday night to meet our Bishop Candidates. It was so good to share a meal with them and, then, listen as they answered several important questions. I especially thank the Evening Guild for all their great help.

With a grateful heart, ja+

**LIST OF CHURCH NEEDS**

Once in a while we get a call asking just what the Church might need.

Well...do we have a list for you!

And we will try to publish a list of needs in future newsletters. Thanks! ja+/gs+

**Things:**

1. Pick up at a garage sale or find in your basement a full-sized microwave for the kitchen to replace the two we have, one of which has approximately the capacity of a cigarette case, the other of which is marginally functional and operates according to a secret code known only the Archbishop of Canterbury, who always seems too busy with other things to stop by and operate it.
2. Purchase or recycle a dust-buster for the nursery, and if we could get two, a second for the sacristy
3. When you are shopping and you see coffee or sugar on sale, pick up an extra one and drop it by the kitchen.
4. Purchase one set of narrow shelving at Menards (About \$20.00. We'll reimburse you) and install it along the north wall in the food pantry closet. Then move the food in the paper goods closet up to the food pantry closet.

**Jobs:**

1. Brace up the sagging bottom shelf in the "paper goods" closet
2. Serve a six-month term as Kitchen Steward. (See clergy for job description)
3. Serve a three-month term as "light bulb steward," replacing light bulbs as needed, in kitchen and elsewhere
4. Bring a dish to Talking Circle, on second and last Thursday of the month.
5. Agree to serve on a regular rotation of Greeters.
6. Use wire brush or emery cloth to remove old paint from a section of kitchen shelving (start with places OTHER than sliding doors) and experiment with transparent coatings to rustproof it.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

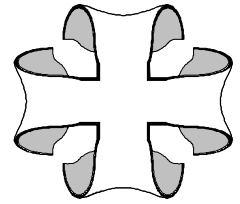
Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

# February 2004



<p>1 9:00 a.m. Christian Ed</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Eucharist</p> <p><b>The Presentation</b></p>	<p>2 Rector's Day Off</p>	<p>3 12:00 p.m. Lunch &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer</p>	<p>4 5:15 p.m. Eucharist, Soup Supper &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Youth Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>5 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer</p> <p>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>6 No Saturday Eucharist</p> <p>Bishop Election in Fargo</p>	
<p>8 9:00 a.m. Christian Ed</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Eucharist followed by Potluck</p>	<p>9 Rector's Day Off</p>	<p>10 12:00 p.m. Lunch &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer</p>	<p>11 5:15 p.m. Eucharist, Soup Supper &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>12 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer</p> <p>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Native American Talking Circle</p>	<p>13 <b>Winter Fling at Metigoshe Camp Ministries</b> →</p>	
<p>15 9:00 a.m. Christian Ed</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Eucharist</p> <p>-----/</p>	<p>16 6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting</p> <p>Rector's Day Off</p>	<p>17 12:00 p.m. Lunch &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer</p>	<p>18 5:15 p.m. Eucharist, Soup Supper &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Youth Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Evening Guild</p>	<p>19 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer</p> <p>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>21 4:30 p.m. Eucharist</p>	
<p>22 9:00 a.m. Christian Ed</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Eucharist</p> <p>Birthday Sunday</p>	<p>23 Rector's Day Off</p>	<p>24 12:00 p.m. Lunch &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Pancake Supper</p> <p><b>Shrove Tuesday</b></p>	<p>25 12:00 p.m. Eucharist</p> <p>5:15 p.m. Eucharist, Soup Supper &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> <p><b>Ash Wednesday</b></p> <p><b>Matthaias</b></p>	<p>26 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer</p> <p>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Native American Talking Circle</p>	<p>27 6:00 p.m. Chowder &amp; Marching Society</p> <p>28 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Private Reconciliation</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Eucharist with Native American Expressions</p>	
<p>29 9:00 a.m. Christian Ed</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Eucharist</p> <p><b>Clergy Retreat</b> -----&gt;</p>	<p>1 -----&gt;</p>	<p>2 -----/</p>	<p>NOTE: Calendar items are subject to possible changes. Please, check bulletin boards in the Parish Hall, or website for any updates.</p> <p><a href="http://www.minot.com/~allsaint">www.minot.com/~allsaint</a></p>			