



THE GOOD NEWS  
OF  
ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL

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### *Rector's Thoughts*

#### Epiphany

To me the Christmas message of new born salvation to the world can never be complete without the Epiphany. We know the story so well we could just take it for granted. The Christ Child is born and gentile wise men or astrologers or "kings" are given revelations of his birth. They come to worship the new king, only to encounter Herod who immediately feels threatened.

God intervenes and continues to speak to the magi as they meet the baby king with precious traditional royal gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Warned to avoid grumpy and dangerous ol' Herod, they return to their eastern homes by going another way.

Herod has, of course, tried to decrease his chances of being overthrown by killing young boys in the hopes of eliminating the new king. Familiar, huh?

With Epiphany, the manifestation of the Christ Child to the Gentiles, the message of God's gift of love in the package of his son has been symbolically told to the world...It shadows the end of Mathew's gospel which has Jewish followers make disciples of all nations.

The Epiphany shadows our Christian practice as well. We are now the message of God's love and desire for reconciliation. We are a method of manifestation of Christ's love on earth. This is our purpose for being followers. To be Christ carriers to the world.

It may sound daunting at first to take on a world of bloody war, starvation and prejudice. But if we look at the life of Christ he sent simple consistent examples. This man-God who continually asked folks to repent for the kingdom was near, was himself part of the gentle and joyous takeover. He demonstrated what the takeover looks like when he healed those who were hurting, bodily and spiritually, fed the hungry, and he offered his body as bread for our souls. His was a mission of reconciliation and healing to the world.

When he told us to make disciples of all nations, I don't think he was saying to just get as many baptized as possible. I believe he was first asking us to penetrate and minister to the world as he did; to ease the suffering of others. And to

understand that personal suffering and sacrifice was part of the price of being his follower.

Seeing reconciliation and healing as our mission of world wide Epiphany, has life and perhaps world-changing implications. I mean that we are to take the hunger and pain of others very personally. It means that we are to be instruments of reconciliation in our church and in our community and much more. It means that as Christ was manifested as the lover of mankind, so must we continue that love as a manifestation of the Christ. ja+

#### WINTER FLING MEMORIES

This will be my third year to travel to the retreat center at Metigoshe. The Slangers have been gracious enough to organize this weekend trip every year for a very long time. I add my personal thanks to them for this great recreational tradition.

I remember Metigoshe as a wonderful time of relaxation, great hospitality and winter sports. After our arrival Friday night, I spent a long time just visiting with All Saints' folks by a roaring fire following Evening Prayer. Later, I had a great time in the Swedish style sauna... Lordy, I love to sweat! Saturday I rose early to stroll around the grounds and pray in the soft, dark morning. Later we celebrated Eucharist together and I left for Minot to continue my duties as rector. But most folks in the group stayed for Saturday night and Sunday morning. What a great break for our Church!

I cannot possibly recommend this fun time enough. I surely hope that all who can go-- will go. This year the cost remains around \$60.00. Please do ask the rector about possible scholarships.

**AND DON'T JUST SIT THERE ...SIGN UP!** ja+



*New Years creates in me a sort of reflective time. At my desk this New Year's Eve I found myself thinking about world hunger for God and for food. Now, I am still thinking on the former, but I wanted to share some thoughts and information on the latter.*

### Hunger: 3 myths

We have a hard time facing world hunger in our society. It seems so like some ancient bleeding wound that will not heal. We give to world hunger organizations, but still our national news is annually invaded with the faces of dying children from the third world, and the frustrated, near helpless medics who tend them.

I suppose part of our uneasiness rests on the fact that the developed west generally has too much food. Here in the land of plenty, many of our health problems involve our obesity, not our underweight. It is embarrassing, I know. Many do not want to be reminded that we have so very much, while much of the world has so very little. We wind up buying into some handy myths that give us guilt-free explanations for the hunger of the third world, because if we looked closer we would have to consider some responsibility for the suffering.

While searching through a 1990s text on social problems I came across some familiar claims about world hunger and starvation. The article referred to publications by two hunger researchers. Years ago (early 1980s) Francis Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins wrote of their research on world hunger. They did some myth busting that I think is still relevant today. I would like to share with you 3 common myths and their rebuttals:

#### Myth 1: People are hungry because of scarcity.

This concept is challenged because enough food to nourish the people of the earth is being produced. The problem is distribution-- Inadequate distribution among nations and inadequate distribution within nations. Elite classes and political power structures often determine the conditions for and amount of food distribution from within hunger tormented countries.

#### Myth 2: Hunger results from overpopulation.

The relationship of hunger and overpopulation is not simple. Lappe and Collins cited that highly populated China had (at least at one time) been able to bring hunger under control by utilizing existing food resources in more effective ways of distribution. In more effective ways of distribution. In addition, a false scarcity is created by poor distribution practices. Land use for food is an issue. Often existing cropland is underutilized or utilized inappropriately for the needs of underdeveloped nations...why? Lapp and Collins believed the problem was involved with land ownership.

#### Myth 3: To solve the problem of hunger we must grow more food.

The two researchers pointed out that the problem of per capita hunger can grow simultaneously with per capita food production.

How can that happen?

First, Major land ownership in underdeveloped countries is usually concentrated in the hands of a small wealthy class. Through inheritance and gifts the land usually stays in this class as generations pass.

Second, The decision of crop is crucial. These decisions tend to be made with profit in mind. Chemical crop treatments and machines are purchased from developed countries and are used to increase production while reducing labor costs. Workers are usually underemployed as modern methods replace traditional farming.

Now, back to the decision for a profitable crop. Often times the best cropland is used for specialty foods (cocoa, tea, coffee etc.), which are designed for export. That growing practice uses good land for the luxury of developed nations. Locally needed foodstuffs remain under produced. Another familiar example is that the grain grown for beef production and export does not feed local families. Neither the grain nor the exported meat will ease the hunger of people. In fact, the grain growers have often become importers of food that could have been grown on the land for the people.

Small farmers in undeveloped countries get squeezed out. The larger landowners tend to acquire more land for more profitable crop use. The price of fuel tends to make farming with machines more difficult for the small poor farmer. Often the small landowner winds up selling land to survive. Large farms grow larger and more profitable, while often hunger increases in the agricultural third world nations.

It was clear to me that researchers, Lappe and Collins believed that population and food quantity took a back seat in this issue. They pointed out that production and distribution for the elimination of hunger vs high profit luxury food production for export were major players.

Now, more than questionable farming practices and local third world politics surely contribute to starvation. But it is good to question all those near slogan explanations of world hunger that tend to let us off the hook and place responsibility for hunger on the underdeveloped countries. The wealthy west has contributed substantially to the demand and profitability of crops and meat that use valuable land in other countries for our specialty foods.

We are not off the hook, not by a long shot.

**MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR N.D. BISHOP**

For further information on the candidates log onto [www.episcopal-nd.org](http://www.episcopal-nd.org)

**The Rev. Christopher J. Chornyak**

**Present position:** Rector-St. Dunstan's, Ellsworth, Maine

**Biographical Information:**

**Date and place of birth:** July 28, 1951, Boulder, Colorado

**Marital status:** married

**Name of Spouse:** Joyce

**Children's names and ages:** Dominique, 23  
Brooke, 21  
Anna, 20

**The Rev. Dr. George Martin**

**Present position:** Writer and Evangelism/Congregational Development consultant, Trained Interim, and self-employed, part-time associate, St. Stephen's, Edina, Minnesota

**Biographical Information:**

**Date and place of birth:** August 24, 1942

**Marital status:** married

**Name of Spouse:** Caroline

**Children's names and ages:** Katherine, 37  
Susan, 35  
Time, 33  
Mike, 32

**The Rev. Canon Michael Smith**

**Present position:** Canon Missioner/Director of Department of Indian Work, Diocese of Minnesota and Vicar of Breck Memorial Church, Ponsford, Minnesota, and St. Columba of Iona Church, White Earth, Minnesota

**Biographical Information:**

**Date and place of birth:** September 5, 1955, Purcell, Oklahoma

**Marital status:** married

**Name of Spouse:** Lisa

**Children's names and ages:** Hannah, 21  
Luke, 19  
Mary Beth, 16

**The Rev. John Holland Shepard**

**Present position:** Rector, St. Stephen's Church, Spokane, Washington

**Biographical Information:**

**Date and place of birth:** August 3, 1944 in Spencer, Iowa

**Marital status:** married

**Name of Spouse:** Sheryll E. Shepard

**Children's names and ages:** Thomas, 35  
Amanda, 31  
Marcy, deceased in 1996  
Dennis, 32  
Christopher, 31

**The Rev. Canon Peter A. R. Stebinger**

**Present position:** Rector, Christ Episcopal Church, Bethany, Connecticut and Visiting Priest/Summer Supply, Rosebud Episcopal Mission, Rosebud, South Dakota

**Biographical Information:**

**Date and place of birth:** October 14, 1954; London, U. K.

**Marital status:** married

**Name of Spouse:** Caron Robichaud Stebinger

**Children's names and ages:** Katharine, 22  
Ian, 19

**Vestry Highlights:**

At its monthly meeting December 15th, the All Saints Vestry:

1. Approved the TV commercial prepared by KXMC for broadcast about 17 times per month over the next year. The vestry raised some questions about the "tag line"--We do church a little differently--but thought it justified in light of 1) our unique position as a "bridge" church between Protestantism and Catholicism, 2) our female/male sharing of ministry, 3) our ministry to Native Americans. The cost of the ad will come from development funds received from the Diocese.
2. Approved cleaning of upstairs as well as downstairs carpets in connection with working on the carpet spots resulting from the asbestos removal. (Note We later accepted the low bid for this work \$360.00 from A.M. & P.M. Advanced Carpet Cleaning.)
3. Approved the mitten ministry for White Shield.
4. Accepted, with regret, Jon Bovia's resignation as Youth Group Leader. Vickie Lokken will resign in January. Jackie will keep the group going until we find new leadership.
5. Noted that we have 24 pledges in and more expected, so the total will be about the same as last year, in both dollars and numbers.
6. Noted that the new Directory is about to be published.
7. Noted that minor discrepancies revealed in the annual Fire Marshall's report have been corrected.
8. Noted that all discrepancies revealed in last year's audit have been corrected.
9. Approved purchase of new purple altar hangings from memorial funds.

**Reminders:**

- ◆ The annual meeting will be held Sunday, January 25th. All reports are due in no later than Monday, January 5th.
- ◆ Fargo will be hosting the Bishop election on Saturday, February 7th. Walk-Abouts will begin January 21st and continue through the 24th.
- ◆ Will be cleaning the carpets in the Church on Friday, January 9th, and Friday, January 16th.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

# January 2004



NOTE: Calendar items are subject to possible changes. Please, check bulletin boards in the Parish Hall, or website for any updates.

[www.minot.com/~allsaint](http://www.minot.com/~allsaint)

1  
10:00 AM  
Eucharist

No Soup Kitchen

2

3  
4:30 PM Eucharist

4  
No Sunday  
School  
  
9:00 AM  
Christian Ed  
  
10:00 AM  
Eucharist  
Unhang Greens  
  
**Epiphany  
Celebrated**

5  
Annual Reports  
Due  
  
Rector's Day Off

6  
12:00 PM Lunch  
& Bible Study  
  
5:30 PM Evening  
Prayer

7  
5:15 PM  
Eucharist/ Soup  
Supper/ Bible  
Study  
  
6:30 PM Youth  
Group  
  
7:00 PM Choir  
Practice

8  
8:00 AM Morning  
Prayer  
  
11:30 AM - 12:30  
PM Soup Kitchen  
  
Rector in Devils  
Lake in the  
afternoon

9  
Church carpet  
cleaning (10:00  
a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

10  
4:30 PM Eucharist

11  
9:00 AM  
Christian Ed  
  
10:00 AM  
Eucharist

12  
  
Rector's Day Off

13  
12:00 PM Lunch  
& Bible Study  
  
5:30 PM Evening  
Prayer

14  
5:15 PM  
Eucharist/ Soup  
Supper/ Bible  
Study  
  
7:00 PM Choir  
Practice

15  
8:00 AM Morning  
Prayer  
  
11:30 AM - 12:30  
PM Soup Kitchen  
  
6:00 PM Native  
American  
Talking Circle

16  
Church carpet  
cleaning (10:00  
a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

17  
4:30 PM Eucharist

**St. Paul**

18  
9:00 AM  
Christian Ed  
  
10:00 AM  
Eucharist

19  
6:00 PM Vestry  
Meeting  
  
Rector's Day Off

20  
12:00 PM Lunch  
& Bible Study  
  
5:30 PM Evening  
Prayer

21  
5:15 PM  
Eucharist/ Soup  
Supper/ Bible  
Study  
  
6:30 PM Youth  
Group  
  
7:00 PM Choir  
Practice  
  
7:30 PM Evening  
Guild

22  
8:00 AM Morning  
Prayer  
  
11:30 AM - 12:30  
PM Soup Kitchen  
  
Rector in Devils  
Lake in the  
afternoon

23

24  
4:30 PM Eucharist

**St. Peter**

25  
9:00 AM  
Christian Ed  
  
10:00 AM  
Eucharist  
  
Annual Meeting

26  
  
Rector's Day Off

27  
12:00 PM Lunch  
& Bible Study  
  
5:30 PM Evening  
Prayer

28  
5:15 PM Healing  
Eucharist/ Soup  
Supper/ Bible  
Study

29  
8:00 AM Morning  
Prayer  
  
11:30 AM - 12:30  
PM Soup Kitchen  
  
6:00 PM Native  
American  
Talking Circle

30  
6:00 PM  
Chowder &  
Marching Society

31  
4:30 PM Eucharist  
with Native  
American  
Expressions

**All Saints' Episcopal Church**

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