

The Fisherman's Net

"Catch the Spirit"

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Highway 83
North Lake, WI 53064

FEBRUARY 2010
2009

Pastor's Pen Fr. Jim Kaestner, Vicar

LENT HOLY WEEK EASTER

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter come together because one telescopes into the other creating the one story of the Mighty acts of God and a metaphor of our own life.

John Gaden was a priest, theologian, and Classicist. Even though he was born in England, his family moved to Australia when he was only 13. He trained for the priesthood there but earned his Ph.D. at General Seminary in New York City. He died in his early 50's but by then had already opened theological issues that are still being debated. However in one of his treatises called, "The Experience of Easter Mystery" he writes in part:

"Night. All is dark. I can see no sense to things. Thousands are dying of starvation, thousands drowned in floods for no reason. Nations promise one thing and do another. Our leaders mislead us I feel repressed, restricted. All is dark. The darkness is outside and is inside, too. In myself I see darkness, failures. I hurt those whom I love. I shout and scream at them. Is there any light?"

Look! A light, but it is so faint. And there is another, and another. All through the world, and the history of humankind, I see lights. Where does the light come from? Is it a reflection? This man's life, this hero, his life stands out like a light. Or this woman, she reflects a bright spot in the gloom. This man, this woman, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, Desmond Tutu, that mother who gives herself to her family. All these and many more appear to shine with a light that is not their own. As I look now, I can see the light behind them, brighter than the rest, which all others reflect. This light shines in the darkness, and is not put out. "This light shines

And is not put out. This Light is the life of all human beings. I turn to the Light, the Light of the world, Light of Christ, shine through my life too. Bright Sun, let me shine with your light, as the full moon now shines in the bright sky."

Some people are gifted in writing that lives from generation to generation to generation because they express the wholeness of the embrace of the Christian Life. Our Lent, Holy Week and Easter is the story of Christ living in us who are called to be "Lights of the world in our generation." (Preface of A Saint, Book of Common Prayer, p. 380)

LENTEN CUSTOMS

VEILED CROSSES – The reason behind the veiled crosses is to distract our attention from everything but Jesus and his offering of himself. It also reminds us of the ability of our Lord to hide his glory and

submit himself to the sacrifice he was to make on our behalf.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (MOTHERING SUNDAY) In the Middle Ages it was required that those who were in apprenticeships or “in service” be released from their duties in order to visit their mother on this day and if possible take them a little gift. This Sunday is also referred to as “Refreshment Sunday”. It is also the Sunday when the Gospel focuses on one of feeding miracles.

PRETZELS Not many people connect pretzels with Lent but here it is. The pretzel has been around for over 1500 years as a reminder of the way we hold our arms crossed in prayer. It has special significance in Lent when we focus harder on our prayer life. The simple fact that pretzels are made of basically bread, water and salt draws us into the Lenten Fast.

HOT CROSS BUNS In the 12th century a monk began to put frosting on buns in the shape of a cross to honor Good Friday. He invited his fellow monks to eat them after Sundown when they broke their fast. As time went on various customs grew around them. Some people tied them up in the rafters of their homes to protect them from evil while others used them for healing. On occasion they were ground up and taken to the sick as a palliative. During the Reign of Elizabeth I the anti-Papists tried to forbid the preparation and eating of them but like everything else, if you want forbid someone from doing something make a law forbidding it. Hot cross buns are still popular. They even made it into the Nursery.

Hot cross buns

Hot cross buns

One a penny, two a penny,

Hot cross buns

Hot cross buns

Hot cross buns

If you haven't any daughters

Give them to your sons!

One a penny, two a penny

Hot cross buns

Hot cross buns

Hot cross buns

If you haven't a penny

A ha 'penny will do

If you haven't a ha'penny

Well God bless you.

In the first three centuries the period of fasting before Easter did not, as a rule, exceed two or three days. The first mention of a period of forty days occurs in the Canons of Nicaea, 325 A.D., suggested by the forty days' fasts of Moses, Elijah and especially Jesus. In the Eastern Churches the Lenten Fast was observed during seven weeks, exempting Saturdays and Sundays. The Western Church fasted during six weeks, exempting only Sundays. The fast was very strict in the early centuries allowing one meal a day, towards evening. From the 9th century on, the practice began to be relaxed. In modern times Lent is normally observed as a time of penance by abstaining from festivities, by almsgiving, and by devoting more than the usual time to religious exercises.

Calendar & Times

| | | Scheduled Reader |
|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Feb. 7, Sunday | 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist | Rick Luedke |
| Feb. 14, Sunday | 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist | Steve Marks |
| Feb. 17, Wednesday | 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service | Volunteer |
| Feb. 20, Saturday | 9:00 AM-4:00 PM Godly Play Workshop (see article) | |
| Feb. 21 Sunday | 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 1 Lent | Helen Ackley |
| Feb. 28, Sunday | 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 2 Lent | Kathy Marks |
| March 7, Sunday | 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 3 Lent | Mary Buerosse |

Lessons for January

| | <u>1 Lesson</u> | <u>Psalm</u> | <u>2nd Lesson</u> | <u>Gospel</u> |
|---------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Feb. 7 | Isaiah 6:1-9 | 138 | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | Luke 5:1-11 |
| Feb. 14 | Exodus 34:29-35 | 99 | 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2 | Luke 9:28-36 |
| Feb. 21 | Deut. 36:1-11 | 91:1-2, 9-16 | Romans 10:8-13 | Luke 4:1-13 |
| Feb. 28 | Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 | 27 | Philippians 3:17—4:1 | Luke 13:31-35 |
| Mar. 7 | Exodus 3:1-15 | 63:1-8 | 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 | Luke 13:1-9 |

Remember in Your Prayers

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” (1John 5:14-15)

- *Pray for Wally Dryburgh’s family. Wally died January 2. He will be dearly missed.
- *Pray for the people of Haiti after the devastating earthquake: for the caregivers, doctors, search teams; for families torn apart by death.
- *Pray for the homeless and those without jobs during these cold days of winter.
- *Pray for our leaders, both national and local, that they make good decisions for our economy.
- *Pray for peace in the world, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran. Pray for our soldiers.
- *Pray for the Millennium Goals, especially to eradicate hunger and poverty.
- *Pray for St. Peter’s and its family, for the present and the future, that we may grow in Christ and be his light to the world.

Let’s Celebrate!

Happy Birthday

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| February 5 | Eily Brumder |
| 5 | Kate Brumder |
| 6 | Diane Olson |
| 26 | Darcy Chester |
| 27 | Cheryl Claude |
| March 3 | Stephanie Naze |

Happy Anniversary

March 3 John & Sheila Campbell

Valentine’s Day

The commemoration of February 14 refers to two Valentine’s, a Roman priest martyred on the Flaminian Way under Emperor Claudius (c.269) and a Bishop of Terni who was taken to Rome and martyred. Classic historians agree, however, that the holiday dates back to the early Roman festival of the Lupercalia, a lovers’ festival when names of young women were put in a box and were drawn by young men. Christian clergy tried to substitute the names of saints as examples to be imitated by those who drew them, but the young people, not pleased, continued the old pagan custom.

The Spirit at Work!

- *The March issue of St. Peter’s Newsletter will be available on March 7.
- *Have you marked your calendar for *Joseph and Magic Technicolor Dream Coat* at the Fire side on April 24, 2010? See the “Go, Go, Go Joseph.”
- *Don’t forget to put your food items in the basket in the Narthex for the North Lake Food Pantry, housed next door at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

St. Peter’s Rummage Sale to Benefit Children’s Hospital

St. Peter’s Rummage Sales to Benefit Children’s Hospital has been scheduled for Saturday, May 22! Mark your calendars—save your unwanted treasures! It’s time to do your spring cleaning now! Sort your items now—baby, children, men’s, women’s clothing, house wares, Christmas/Holiday, books, textiles (towels, sheets, bedding, fabric, etc). It will make sorting at the time of setup easier!

Help for the People of Haiti

In a recent message from Bishop Miller he wrote: “At present we do not know the status of the facilities in Jeannette. We have received an unconfirmed report that the nearby town of Leogane was less severely

affected. I pray that is the case for the people of Jeannette.” Information is available through the website of the Diocese of Milwaukee’s Haiti Project, located at <http://www.haitiproject.org>. You may send a donation through Episcopal Relief and Development, P. O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

“Go, Go, Go Joseph”

Our trip to the **Fireside Theater** in Fort Atkinson on Sat., April 24 is getting closer and closer. We have had a good response, and have acquired the minimum number of ticket holders required to take advantage of the group package benefits. As of this writing, there are still 6 spaces available. I will be required to submit our "final count" in mid-March. Again, tickets are \$63.95 for adults, and \$42.95 for children 14 and younger. This is an all-inclusive price which includes the show, meal, tax, and tip. Arrival time is 10:30 am (we must all arrive and enter together as a group, as there are no paper tickets); we dine at 11:15 am; and the show is at 1:30 pm. I am suggesting that we all meet at the Naga-Waukee Ice Rink parking lot (NW corner of the Hwy 83 and I-94 interchange) at 9:25 am, and drive up from there, with any car-pooling pre-arranged. This will help assure that we all arrive together. I will start collecting payment for the trip now. Please make your checks payable to St. Peter's Episcopal Church, however **TURN THEM IN DIRECTLY TO SHEILA!** Please write "**Fireside Trip**" in the memo area. Feel free to call Sheila (262-691-4857) should you have any questions about the trip.

Godly Play Workshop—Camp Webb Info

Whether you are a teacher, clergy, mentor, parent or simply curious about Godly Play, you are invited to the Godly Play Workshop at St. Alban’s, Sussex, Saturday, February 20 beginning at 9:00 AM. Cost is \$25. More information and registration form is on the bulletin board in the Narthex or you can find information at www.diomil.org/christian-formation. Information is also available on the bulletin board about Camp Webb’s Schedule. Camp is held at Lutherdale Camp in Elkhorn.

Great to “Good” Churches

For those who find trying to be great isn't good enough; - by Eric Swanson

excerpted from: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/outreach/articles/greattooodchurches>

Jim Collins's book *Good to Great* has inspired both business and church leaders. It is a study of 28 good companies that became great as measured by their outperforming the stock market by at least seven times over a 15-year period. Likewise, many churches are seeking to become great churches. Entire ministry industries exist to help that process—from fund raising, to church building programs, to worship resources, to programming. And in nearly every community, there's at least one great church, as measured by numbers and facilities. But large churches discover a troubling secret. Size alone isn't good enough. Great or small, churches need something more than bigger numbers.

Bob Buford, author of *Half-Time*, notes that at midlife, many people discover they've built their lives around "success" only to find it empty. So they reinvent themselves to build the second half of life around "significance." Similarly, Christian Washington, former investment banker and current director of Leadership Network's MC2 (Missional Church) Network notes that many "successful" churches are now in "half-time" mode and want to move "from success to significance." What's that look like?

The Bible says, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and ... he went around doing good ... because God was with him" (Acts 10:38). Wouldn't you expect more superlatives to describe his greatness? Yet Jesus' ministry is summed up, "he went around doing good." Maybe from God's perspective, the greatest thing we can do has more to do with goodness than greatness. **Some churches follow that pattern—trading "greatness" in numbers for doing the "good" that Jesus modeled.** These are the "Great to Good" churches.

And this isn't just about big churches. Two-thirds of America's churches are either plateaued or declining. Not all churches are destined to become "great." But regardless of size, they can go about doing good. "Good" churches are those that do good things. The good that Jesus did can point the way.

Ministries of mercy

What did Jesus do? He did "good" through his ministry of mercy. Mercy is "God's attitude toward those in distress." Mercy is giving a person a fish so he can eat today. It's not attacking problems at the systemic level. It's just making someone's life better, if only for today. It's why Jesus so willingly fed the five thousand (the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels). He didn't give them a lecture on planning ahead, or how to plant wheat for a future harvest. No, he said, "I have compassion on these people ... I do not want to send them away hungry" (Matt. 15:32). He did not solve the world's hunger problem, but he did make these people's lives better for that afternoon. And that was good. Sometimes we are paralyzed by inaction. With the overwhelming problems that people have, we often think, *What good will this little act of kindness do?* But Jesus said, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

Eric Swanson is associate director of Leadership Network's MC2 (Missional Church) Network. Originally published in Leadership Journal, April 1, 2003.

Submitted by Paul Citerony

Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks **Never in Doubt**

What would it be like to lose everything, or almost everything? A few weeks ago an earthquake devastated the island of Haiti, and in one dramatic shift of the earth's plates, millions of people in Haiti experienced unspeakable losses. Estimates have the death toll at two hundred thousand. And the ones who survived woke up to a nightmare that continues to this day. People who had very little to begin with, lost it all. In the face of unimaginable pain and suffering, many stories emerged of courage and sacrifice. One story that aired on ABC news showed an upbeat prayer service in which the participants formed a circle where they sang and danced giving praise to the Lord. After living through something so horrific, how could anyone possibly be singing songs of praise? How is it possible to rise above the complete devastation and suffering all around, and not be angry with a God that seems to have abandoned you. What would it be like to wake up one day and find yourself alone after having lost all family, relatives, and friends? It would be hard to imagine wanting to join in song giving praise to the Lord. Understanding the desire of these people to praise God at this time was as difficult for me, as trying to imagine their circumstances. Is it possible they were celebrating something that transcends the entire tragedy? Were they celebrating the fact that they didn't lose everything? That, in fact, their greatest treasure was not taken from them. That which guides them, comforts them, gives them strength and courage to go on, was still in tack. Their *faith!* Wouldn't it be nice to know that God is always with you? Not in some abstract sense, but really with you. I think that is true faith and definitely worth striving for.

Goodbye

Just before Christmas, I received a phone call from Wally Dryburgh's neighbor and friend, informing me Wally was still in town recovering from an illness. Wally and his wife Jane were long time members at St. Peter's. Roughly 5 years ago Jane and Wally were in a tragic accident which Jane did not survive. Typically, this time of the year was spent in sunny Arizona. Shortly after the call, I went to visit Wally and spent a nice afternoon watching a Packer game with him. During our visit Wally told me that his doctor informed him he had a weak heart. Two weeks later Wally was in hospice care and died shortly thereafter. Wally and Jane were very generous and instrumental in helping to maintain St. Peter's. The custom-made beautiful cabinet in the sacristy was donated by Wally in memory of Jane. The light just outside the sacristy that indicates the presence of the Eucharist was Jane's doing. And some of the outside lights, in particular the lamp by the sidewalk, was a gift from the Dryburgh's. Talking with Scott Dryburgh, Wally's son, I learned that Wally was prepared for the end. He had no reservations. Wally was very thoughtful and considerate. We will miss him at St. Peter's as we continue to keep him in our prayers.

**Those who are prepared to die are the most prepared to live.*

**Every loss leaves a space that can be filled by God's presence.*

What We Sing: # 401 The God of Abraham Praise

Many Christian hymns have been inspired by the first songs of praise to God, sung by the Hebrew people, the Psalms. This hymn derives both its inspiration and its tune from modern Jewish synagogue worship. It was written by Thomas Olivers (1725-1799). His parents died when he was four and he grew up with little supervision or education. He was converted to Evangelical Christianity by the preaching of George Whitefield who is regarded as the father of the Evangelical Revival. While staying in London in 1770, Olivers visited the Jewish synagogue at Duke's Place in Westminster. There he heard the Yigdal, a paraphrase in metrical form of the thirteen articles of the Jewish faith sung antiphonally by the congregation and a chorister. He was much affected by the music and resolved to write a Christian text to fit it. He himself is reported to have told a friend: "Look at this; I have rendered it from the Hebrew, giving it, as far as I could, a Christian character." The twelve verses were first published in a pamphlet around 1770 and are made up almost entirely of either direct quotations or close paraphrases of passages from the Hebrew Bible, the Christian Old Testament. Olivers thoughtfully produced references for virtually every line of his text. The striking tune in the minor key is a traditional Jewish melody. This was the music to which Olivers heard the Yigdal being sung. He named it Leoni after the chorister who was singing the solo part, Meyer Lyon. Here are the first two verses with quotation references.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|
| The God of Abrah'm praise | <i>Ex.3:6</i> | He by himself hath sworn | <i>Gen. 22:16-17</i> |
| Who reigns enthroned above; | | (I) we on his oath depend, | <i>Rom. 4:20-21</i> |
| Ancient of everlasting days, | <i>Dan. 7:22</i> | (I) we shall on eagle's wings up-borne | <i>Ex. 19:4</i> |
| And God of Love; | <i>2 Cor. 13:11</i> | To heaven ascend; | |
| (Jehovah) the Lord, (the) Great I am | <i>Ex.6:3; 3:14</i> | (I) we shall behold his face | <i>John</i> |

17:24

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| By earth and heav'n confest; | <i>Rev.4:8-11</i> | (I) we shall his power adore, | <i>Ex. 15:2</i> |
| (I) we bow and bless the sacred Name | | And sing the wonders of his grace | <i>Ps. 145:1; 146:2</i> |
| For ever bless'd. | <i>Rom.1:25</i> | For evermore. | |

Thank you from Saint Vincent de Paul (edited)

Dear Friends, The Saint Vincent de Paul Conference of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish gratefully acknowledges your generous gift of \$250.00. It seems like every time I sit down to write thank you's I need to include one to our loving next door neighbors. We truly appreciate your kindness in helping us perform God's work... rent assistance, a space heater, milk and desserts besides serving a supper meal to street people and other needy souls in the city of Waukesha... about 75. We are signed up to do that again in June, along with a playground lunch program for hungry Waukesha inner city youth this summer. The different SVDP conferences in our county take turns for a week at a time during the summer providing around 200 bag lunches each day to hungry kids. We worked with Okauchee's St. Joan of Arc SVDP last August "learning the ropes." This year we'll try it ourselves doing everything from planning, buying, making and bagging the meal to delivering, serving, and cleaning up. Cost is about \$1000 which we have set aside already. So you see, we don't let our monetary donations gather much interest in the bank, love spending the stuff! Thanks again for helping us help our less fortunate brothers and sisters. We love you all.

Mary Clark, Corresponding Secretary, SVDP

Note: St. Peter's budgets this amount yearly

Be still, then, and know that I am God. —Psalm 46:11

Life is full of choices, small and large. We might simply be trying to determine how to spend a day, or we might be making a major life decision. Our lives can be so full of activity, so full of possibilities, or our minds so full of thoughts and worries, that we find it hard to know what to do. We need to be still and

listen for God's voice in the midst of it all. Few of us have literally heard an audible voice from God. Instead, God speaks to us through our lives, through others, and through creation. God speaks to us in our own hearts and desires.

Often, in order to hear this voice, we need to begin by being still. *The Message*, Eugene Peterson's rendering of the Bible in contemporary language, translates Psalm 46 as "Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God." Step out of the traffic. Isn't this often what we need most? We need to pull off the noisy highway and spend time in silence. We need to step aside from the activity of our lives and *be still*.

It is in stillness, through taking a long, loving look at God, that we are reminded that it is God who is in control, God who is God. We can be so consumed with our busy lives and our own efforts that we forget this.

Jesus' time in the wilderness was a retreat, a precursor to his life's work. But even in the midst of his public ministry, Jesus often went away by himself to pray. In silence and solitude, he was able to listen to God, to receive the strength and the direction he needed for his next step on the way. So it is for us. Even if we cannot find the time or means to take longer days of retreat, we can try to step out of the traffic for a few minutes each days.

40 Days of Lent, by Nancy Hopkins-Greene & Noel Julness-Dehner [2010 Forward Movement](#)