



the Belltower

Mar
2009

"To grow as disciples in Christ, prayerfully opening our hearts and minds to joy and service."

This month I would like to reprise a Lenten article from a few years past:

My dear Christ Church family,

When we were in Israel in 1999, we were asked by our guide: "What is your favorite tree?" My response was, "The oak tree". "Why?" I was asked. "Because its leaves are so unusually-shaped, and they turn such a flaming red in the fall; because it is majestic and strong." "What a different response," said the teacher, "to that which First-Century people would give! Ask them what their favorite tree was and they would say, 'The olive tree, because of what it gives us: olives to eat; oil for cooking, filling our lamps, and anointing our bodies; wood for furniture and for our fires.' The significant thing about a tree, for a First-Century person, was the question, 'What is it for?'"

It was an insight which is so telling! We modern Americans pay a lot of attention to the appearance of things – the beauty of trees in the fall, the physical attractiveness of movie actors, the sleek lines of that new automobile. And this is extremely important! God created beauty, and wants us to appreciate beauty! But sometimes we must ask, "What is it for?"

I often hear people say, "I love Lent! The ashes of Ash Wednesday, using Rite I, the solemn prayers, the deep purple of the altar hangings, the coverings over the crosses, the Stations of the Cross..." And certainly there is a sense in which the aesthetics of our worship during Lent – or at any time of the year, for that matter! – are magnificent.

But there is a great danger which we Episcopalians face, and that is that we come to value our worship for the aesthetics and familiarity of the liturgy alone, and not for the purpose to which all these things are subservient – namely, to draw us closer into relationship with God, and correlatively with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

You see, if we want beauty, we can visit a garden, or an art museum, or attend a concert. If we want intellectual stimulation, we can attend a lecture, enroll in a course, read a non-fiction book, watch The Learning Channel. If we want fellowship, we can go down to the Golden Age Center, join the Country Club or a bridge club, go to a dance. If we want to serve our fellow man, we can join a service club or PEO (and get fellowship to boot!). And there is certainly much to commend any of these activities or organizations!

But they are not Church. They are not Church.

Listen to the invitation to Lent from our Prayer Book: *I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.* (Book of Common Prayer, p. 265)

In a sense, then, to say "I love Lent" is to say "I love self-examination, repentance, reading and meditating on Holy Scripture, fasting, and self-denial," rather than "I love Rite I and purple hangings." Not that I want to give up the aesthetics of our liturgy! But if they ever get in the way of – or take precedence over – the worship of God, then by all means, let us give them up! Jesus once told some folk, "You abandon the commandments of God to follow human traditions (Mark 7:8)" – and boy, am I guilty! Give me what is traditional, what is familiar and comfortable – *not* self-examination, repentance, fasting and self-denial!

Do I love Lent? No! I dread giving up eating on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, dread the extra work which comes with Lent, dread having to examine my life and repent. Do I love Lent? No. But do I love what it gives me – a closer relationship with God? Absolutely!

What is your favorite tree?

Yours in Christ's love and service,

Mark[†]

Senior Warden
John Merriam
Junior Warden
Earl Baird
Treasurer
Walter Roche
Vestry
Cy Armstrong
Bob Barnhill
Donna Cooper
Shirley Finger
Ken Gordon
Sally Merriam
Shirleen Sabatino
Barb Smith
Linda Tipton
Acolyte Director
Shirley Tuttle
Altar Guild
JoAnne Nelson, Dir.
Child Care Attendant
Michelle Cook
Christian Education
Carrie Shaefer
Columbarium
Gordon Mack
Director of Music
Barbara Kohl
Muriel Stavers, Asst
Episcopal Church Women
pb Walsh
ECW Thrift House
Lois Kitchell
Eucharistic Visitors
Merle Harrison
Jocie Rohde
Library
pb Walsh
New Child Montessori School
Carol Ann Gentry
Judy Weyenberg
Michelle Cook
Operation Christmas Child
Ann Roche
Organist
Barbara Kohl
Parish Administrator
Becky Jamison
Pastoral Care
Barbara Smith
Prayer Center
John Rohde
Prayer Chain
Donna Cooper
Readers
Marie Carpenter
Sangre de Cristo Region Rep.
Lois Kitchell
Joanne Nelson
St. Gabriel's Guild
Sarah Baxter
Sexton
Larry Jamison
Stewardship
Kay Bevens
SWEEPS Council
Ken Gordon
United Thank Offering
Audrey DeBekker
Ushers
John Merriam
Youth Group
Marti Ropp

A Job and a Ministry

Do you have a job in this church and this community . . . or do you have a ministry? There is a difference!

+ If you are doing it because no one else will, it's a job. If you're doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

+ If you're doing it just well enough to get by, it's a job. If you're doing it to the best of your ability, it's a ministry.

+ If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job. If you're committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

+ If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it was a job. If you stay with it even though no one seems to notice, it's a ministry.

+ If you do it because someone else said that it needs to be done, it's a job. If you are doing it because you are convinced it needs to be done, it's a ministry.

+ It's hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.

+ If your concern is success, it's a job. If your concern is faithfulness, it's a ministry.

+ People may say "well done" when you do your job. The Lord will say "well done" when you complete your ministry.

+ An average church is filled with people doing jobs. A great church is filled with people involved in ministry!

+ If God calls you to a ministry, for heaven's sake (literally) don't treat it like a job. If you have a job in the church, give it up and find a ministry! God doesn't want us feeling stuck in a job, but excited, fulfilled, and faithful in a specific ministry.

Michael D. Powell

The Ministry of Listening

The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them. Just as love to God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them...

Listening can be a greater service than speaking... One who cannot listen long and patiently will presently be talking beside the point and be never really speaking to others. Anyone who thinks his time is too valuable to spend keeping quiet will eventually have no time for God and his brother, but only for himself and for his own follies.

We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945),
Life Together [1954]*

Loaves & Fishes

Please remember Loaves & Fishes of Fremont County when you do your grocery shopping. Just bring your donations to church on Sunday and we'll get them to Loaves & Fishes. Thank you!

Courtyard Ministries

Courtyard Ministries is now ready to provide emergency housing to those who need it. At our ECW meeting last week, Kurt Zerby told us that this ministry is always in need of non perishable items and bedding. Ramen noodles, tea, coffee, instant soups and fruit are all items that the people at the shelter can easily eat for breakfast. Also, there is a need for volunteers to finish some minor projects like touch up painting at the Courtyard. Dan and Father Mark go to the Courtyard on Tuesdays so if you want to help in any way or donate items, please contact and/or leave them in the office. Call Ann 275-8788 to arrange for pick up.

Christ Church 2009 Fellowship Host Schedule

Date	Host	Phone
Mar 1	Conley	275-4248
Mar 8	Crossman	275-0376
Mar 15	McQueen	275-5965
Mar 22	Sabatino	275-6713
Mar 29	Mack	276-3242
Apr 5	Merriam	784-4133
Apr 12	Nelson	276-0770
Apr 19	Olson	276-3446
Apr 26	Roche	275-8788
May 3	Rohde	275-2254
May 10	Squier	269-3455
May 17	Tipton	275-2355
May 24	Tuttle	275-5198
May 31	Abbott	269-1046
Jun 7	Baird	275-0703
Jun 14	Banker	275-9163
Jun 21	Blackwell	269-9924
Jun 28	Armstrong	372-3513
Jul 5	Gordon	275-4354
Jul 12	Bevens	275-1863
Jul 19	Cogdill	275-2058
Jul 26	Collins	276-9100
Aug 2	Conley	275-4248
Aug 9	Crossman	275-0376
Aug 16	Gordon	269-3455
Aug 23		
Aug 30	Mack	276-3242
Sep 6	Merriam	784-4133
Sep 13	Nelson	276-0770
Sep 20	Olson	276-3446
Sep 27	Roche	275-8788
Oct 4	Blackwell	269-9924
Oct 11	Squier	275-2355
Oct 18	Tipton	275-2355
Oct 25	Tuttle	275-5198
Nov 1	Abbott	269-1046
Nov 8	Baird	275-0703
Nov 15	Banker	275-9163
Nov 22	Armstrong	372-3513
Nov 29	Barnhill	275-6320

Date	Host	Phone
Dec 6	Blackwell	269-9924
Dec 13	Cogdill	275-2058
Dec 20	Roche	275-8788
Dec 27	Sabatino	275-6713

I have essentially followed the Barnhill 2008 Coffee Hour schedule to set up the 2009 schedule. If you're unable to serve as host on the indicated date, please contact one of the other hosts to arrange a trade-off arrangement. Email addresses are available on the list on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Coffee: Ken and I typically attend the 5pm Saturday service so it will be no problem for us to set up the morning coffee after that service

Thanks for serving as 2009 Fellowship Hosts.

Judy A. Gordon, Coordinator
275-4354

judyagordon@hotmail.com

Bag Sale!

The Thrift House of the Episcopal Church Women, located at 1027 S. Tejon, is holding their semi-annual **BAG SALE** on Friday, March 6 from 10am – 4pm. Fill an \$8 bag with as much gently used clothing, shoes, house wares, gifts, décor, toys, and more. Come early for the best selection – but even late comers will be surprised by the values!

The Thrift House will be closed on Saturday, March 7 for restocking. Come back Monday, March 9 between 10am – 4pm for a first look at spring merchandise.

As you organize your spring cleaning, please consider making a donation of your unwanted items to The Thrift House. We are especially in need of house wares to restock our shelves after the bag sale. The Thrift House continues to provide a tax valuation service for your convenience, or you can determine the value of your donation on your own.

Stories from The Thrift

House of the ECW

There is a sizable group of women whom I have observed toiling in the back work room of The Thrift House. Their hours are different from those of us who volunteer in the retail areas. At my own work in the children's section, I have witnessed the easy way in which they spend their time together. While their hands filter and price all manner of donated household items, books, clothing, electronics, and toys, they banter freely about health issues, family, church, the weather, current events, and food. There is boisterous laughter and supportive murmurings, and I have often thought that their work seems joyful.

This week I had an hour between appointments and decided it was time to learn the art of pricing. The Thrift House is unique in that it offers a free, tax-itemization service upon request. Last December, the back work room was filled from floor to ceiling with bags and boxes of donations that required sorting, valuation, itemization, cleaning, and pricing by these dedicated women. In my limited time, I only managed to work through a small box of household items with Nancy Logan's gentle guidance, but still felt pleased to have put my time to good use. Pricing is an adventure that, in some ways, reminds me of the magic of Christmas; you never quite know what a box or bag will reveal. By the hands of devoted volunteers, the piles of donations ebb and flow, allowing the Thrift House to replenish its inventory. More importantly, these donated items are sold at reasonable prices to generate the proceeds that can, in turn, be channeled into organizations that do good works in the region. Joyful, indeed!

Hendrika Layton, Chapel of our Saviour, Vice Pres. Advertising, Thrift House of the ECW

To my dear Church family, my friends in Christ, the members of the most loving church in the world,

I owe my life to your overwhelming giving of your prayers. I have received food and offers of rides, wherever I need to go. I feel unworthy but how can we explain God's Love.

Our Priest and Deacon have been with me in the Emergency Room more than once. Never have I needed them that they have not been there.

Sheila Banker, you brought food and flowers and loving care to the coldest room in the hospital. I could name so many by name, but I will say I love you all and know I am saying this badly, but my heart is full.

Clydia

Christ Episcopal Church

"To grow as disciples in Christ, prayerfully opening our hearts and minds to joy and service."

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Cañon City, CO 81215-0028

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Let us remember in our prayers

PEOPLE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Christopher G. Abbott
Robert Abbott
Lt. Col. Mark Crossman
Joshua Eck
Lt. Col. Mark Gruber
Andrew Hoffman
Ens. Ethan Jayson
Lt. Col. Andrew Kerkman
Yale Blake King
Lt. Col. James Kricker
Ellen McCormick

1st Lt. Benjamin Nichols
Spec 2 Jesse Painter
Jared Pollock
Rob & Joel Sears
GSgt. Paul Spaulding
SSgt. Michael Paulding
Sr. Master Sgt. Ronald K. Price
Spec. Christopher Sainsbury
SSgt. Chris Thomas
Travis Tipton
Maj. Brian Weyenberg

Please pray for Christ's love to engulf our Parish, Diocese and our National Church
Bishop Rob O'Neill, Christ Church family, The Rev'd Mark D. Meyer, Prayer Center

PRISONERS: Those in prison and those who care for them; Southern Colorado Prison Ministries, Jubilee Center, Robert

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING: Flo, Thelma, Tom, Coeta, Glen, Herb

REGIONAL: St. David's Church, Woodland Park; St. Benedict's Church, LaVeta; Mt. Matthias, Monument; Church of the Good Shepherd, Briargate

HEALING, COMFORT, PATIENCE & HOPE: LuAnn, Ernie, Chad, Hayden, Edna, Cody, Tim, Danny+, Sarah, Clydia

GOD'S PRESENCE IN TIME OF SPECIAL NEED: Virginia, Al, Mike, Jennifer, Linda, Brittany Jo, Chris, the Fire Victims in Australia

HEALTH & SAFETY: Karen & Shannon, Clint & Carrie

THANKSGIVINGS: Our Children & Our Youth Group

Thank you, Ken & Bryan!

As the first step of our "Year-'round Stewardship Program", Ken Gordon and Bryan Fredrickson will be visiting with many of the groups of our parish to explain what this program is about. I am grateful for the countless hours that both of these faithful members have already invested, and continue to invest, in this wonderful program. Please welcome them warmly when they come to speak with you, give them your input, and please keep an open mind and teachable spirit regarding the exciting

It's Picture Time

Once again we have the opportunity to have a Pictorial Directory prepared for our parish. The Olan Mills Studio will be here to take portraits:

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Thursday, April 16, 2009

3:00—9:30 pm

More information will be forthcoming in March.