

The All Souls' Message

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church • Volume 109, Issue 1 • February/March 2009

From the Rector

After the Epiphany

Sometimes a song stays in our head. Sometimes that song can influence how we think, how we act, and how we believe. I remember such a song from a Christmas Eve service I attended in 1988. I was serving as a seminary intern at a church that had an early service that night. This meant that after our service, I could go across town to attend at least part of the Midnight Mass at the Episcopal Cathedral. I don't remember the details of how the liturgy flowed, but I do remember a recurring musical refrain that we sang several times through the service. The tune is still in my head, and the words are from Isaiah 60:1: "Arise, shine, for your light has come. And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." And then we sang a series of alleluias. It was (and continues to be) one of the most joyful musical responses I know. Especially at Christmas, with visitors and non-Christians coming in and out of that great cathedral, it seemed like the perfect song for the Church to be singing. It was filled with joy. It proclaimed scripture. And it welcomed all people into the life, the fun, and the love of faith in Jesus Christ.

It is no accident that the Christmas tune I learned that night is actually part of the scripture read on January 6, for the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Epiphany refers to the "showing forth" of Jesus, to his manifestation to all the world, as symbolized in the visit and worship of the three Wise Men. At great risk, but in

“
*Are we willing
to pursue the love
of God, even when
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our safety,
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”

even greater wonder, they followed the star to Bethlehem. The church calendar names the Sundays of January and February as "Sundays after the Epiphany," and in many ways, we use those Sundays to reflect upon what it means that God has come into the world for all people.

As we move through the season after the Epiphany, we continue to reflect on what it meant that God has become flesh. But we also explore the ways in which God becomes flesh in us, through our own words and actions, through our own lives. Do we live out our faith with Christmas joy during other times of the year? Are we able to be a little like the Wise

Men, pointing to the star, leading people to the manger, helping others to worship Jesus? Are we willing to pursue the love of God, even when it may jeopardize our safety, our confidence, our wealth?

There are some very practical ways that we can explore and practice our "showing forth" of Jesus to the world. We are blessed with many visitors at All Souls. Each Sunday, on weekdays, and at such places as the farmer's market, we have the opportunity to greet people simply and honestly with the love of Christ. This might mean a simple "hello." It might mean a question or two. Or it might mean a conversation and an attempt to introduce the newcomer to others. Our Newcomers' Ministry is filled with energetic volunteers who are committed to welcoming visitors, explaining our parish, and helping to connect newcomers with people and ministries, but we are all a part of this ministry.

As we move through the winter months, may we allow God to show us more fully what it means to know the Word made Flesh, and may God show us new and creative ways to welcome others into Epiphany light.

John Beddingfield ♦

In This Issue is on page 2.

This is the time of year that I “think” about things. The weather is usually cold and gloomy, so it affords a lot of “thinking” time. I’ve never considered myself to be a rebellious person (although my Mother may have had another opinion as I was growing up). My husband thinks that I tend to be “opinionated.” Thinking these things over, I have decided that:

1. There are a few things worth rebelling against (like injustice).
2. It’s okay to be “opinionated” but not strident, unpleasant, or generally cranky.

I don’t like feeling that I am being controlled by people or things. This probably explains my aversion to email and voicemail and other technology that I feel invades my space and privacy (although sometimes this stuff is handy and time-saving).

I am now going to reveal my secret and personal form of rebellion—I never wear a watch, and none of the clocks in my house show the correct



time. THERE! I’ve come clean. Now you know I AM REALLY QUIRKY. I’m also not a morning person—I can’t keep appointments scheduled prior to 10 a.m., and I do my best work between 4 and 11 p.m.

I’m resistant to much of the new technology. I like to keep things simple. For instance, I just need a phone that I can use to call people—it doesn’t have to take pictures and give me the weather report and latest stock market update. I don’t like appliances that talk to me—I just need them to work. I really like talking to a live person and not just pushing buttons that never get the problem resolved and end up increasing my level of stress. And oh yes, if it comes with an instruction book more than one page long, I’m done for!

I don’t want to be jerked around by “stuff.” I know we’ve arrived in the 21st century. I don’t want to go back to the 1950s. I just want things to work, not be complicated, and come with simple instructions. Maybe if I still had my old Mickey Mouse watch (didn’t light up or talk and wasn’t battery operated, you actually had to wind it up; and Mickey’s hands pointed to the correct time) I’d wear it!

Oh dear, I can see Father Beddingfield’s eyes rolling back in his head.

Nancye Suggs ◆

In this issue

From the Rector: After the Epiphany	1	Foyer Dinners 2009: Hear the Dinner Bell Ringing?	5
From the Senior Warden: Musings	2	Fridays in Lent: Stations of the Cross	6
Sunday School: Looking Back & Forward	3	2009 Lenten Series: Windows on Mission	6
Episcopal Men’s Fellowship Event	3	Liturgical Corner: Two Upcoming Feast Days	6
Submission date for articles in the next issue	3	The Parish & Beyond: A Grant, A Mission, A Dream	7
The Adult Forum: Anglican Explorations	4	Baptism Dates	8
Feb. Activities: Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday	4	Parish register	9

The Message is published every two months except for a June/July/August issue and a single issue in September.

The first three months of Sunday School have been busy ones.

Our annual Halloween Party was a success with lots of Princesses, Cats, and Jedi in attendance. The Christmas Party had a wonderful visit from Saint Nicholas, who read *The Night Before Christmas* to the children.

The children also participated in the Bishop's Advent Project raising funds for bed nets for children in South Africa. The children learned a lot by participating in this project like what causes malaria and how it can be prevented. They were more than ready to answer questions during coffee hour. Tristan Brady did a fantastic job as our spokesperson during the coffee hour presentation with the rest of the children lending their voices singing "Jesus Loves the Little Children." They raised \$380 which will provide bed nets for 38 families. By your generosity and our children's participation in this project, more than 38 lives will be touched. Something for all of us to be proud of.



In the coming months we will have a "Church Exploration Night"

This night, February 28, will allow the children to explore the church. They will learn about how the bells are rung, what the animals on the carpet represent, and other mysteries of our church. We hope this will give them a greater understanding of the church, and some fun too.



With Easter comes the Easter Egg Hunt, always a fun time on our front lawn.

If you have ever entertained the thought of teaching, we really need you to teach the upper class. We have an easy curriculum that takes about 30 minutes of preparation a week on the part of the teacher. If you are interested in teaching, please send me an email at marcia51@rcn.com or speak to me at coffee hour. I think you will find that teaching children increases your knowledge of the Bible stories and gives them new meaning.

Marcia Anderson ◆

The Episcopal Men's Fellowship will be meeting on Thursday, February 19th in the church undercroft at 7 p.m. Ed Perlman will be discussing the life and works of George Herbert, a 17th century Anglican minister and poet. Herbert's best-known poems remain with us today as the lyrics to many of our most enduring hymns, and his book *The Country Parson* is still in publication, considered to be a valuable instruction manual for new priests as well as a guide for living applicable to any Christian.

Dinner and drinks will be served for the low price of \$15. Please RSVP by sending an email to Ike.brannon@gmail.com or by signing up at the table by the front of the undercroft.

Ike Brannon ◆

Copy deadline for articles for the April/May 2009 issue of The Message is March 1, 2009

Please have your articles in George Barnum's hands by that date. Electronic submission preferred at message.allsoulsdc@gmail.com. Call George with story ideas, questions, and comments at 202/986-2998. ◆



The Adult Forum for the second half of the program year will explore the perennial moral questions about mortal life that confront us as human beings: What should I do? What should I not—perhaps never—do? What sort of human being should I aspire to be? What traits of character, what virtues should I seek to cultivate in myself and encourage in others?

We will also explore the ways in which “progress” in science and technology and political, cultural, and religious pluralism complicate the traditional options for responding to these questions.

Finally, we will map out the “controversies” that we will explore throughout this series. We will, in a somewhat simplified way, explore the dominant secular and faith-inspired—especially Christian and particularly Anglican—ways of thinking through and attempting to resolve moral controversies.

This series is coordinated by parishioner Dan Davis, who serves as executive director of the President’s Council on Bioethics. If you are interested in raising a question or presenting an issue, please speak with Dan Davis or Bob Publicover. ♦

February Activities

The End



The Beginning

Shrove Tuesday—Mardi Gras

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

EVENING PRAYER

*Burning of Palms
and Pancake Supper*

5:30–8 p.m.

Gather in the undercroft for something to drink and then join us in the lower garden for the burning of the palms. A pancake supper follows in the undercroft.

ASH WEDNESDAY The First Day of Lent

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

LOW MASS

*with Imposition of Ashes
at 7 a.m., noon, and 7 p.m.*

You are being called to dinner—
an All Souls Foyer Dinner, that is. It is time to sign up for our foyer dinner program. All are welcome to participate. At the beginning of the new year we form new foyer dinner groups of about 10 people that rotate hosting the dinners in their homes, at restaurants, in the church undercroft, or in homes of All Souls parishioners who offer their homes for the dinners. The groups meet a minimum of four times through the year. Many groups like to gather more frequently and often try to meet once a month.

“
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”

The size of the groups depends on how many people sign up and the number of foyer dinner group captains who volunteer. The captains usually host the first dinner for the group and shepherd the group throughout the year to make sure that dinners continue to take place and to maintain communication of the group.

To participate all you need to do is to sign up on the foyer dinner form that is available in the undercroft on the newcomers table. Please check the appropriate boxes indicating if you need transportation, live near a Metro station, and are willing to provide transportation for members of your group to the dinners. As many of you

know, last year we had one large group of parents with the young children. We do not know if that group (it had a total of 30 adults and little ones) will continue or need to be allocated to the regular groups. So please mark the form if you have children and their ages. If you do not have children, please indicate if you are willing to have young children in your home.

This is an important program at All Souls and one of our largest activities throughout the year. It is one of the activities that co-mingles those who worship and the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Butch Bradburn and Kathleen Scholl are co-coordinators of the foyer dinner program. Please contact them if you have any questions.

Butch Bradburn & Kathleen Scholl ◆



Foyer Dinners 2009

Sign up any time during the year using this form and place it in the Foyer Dinner box on the greeter's table in the undercroft.

Name(s): _____

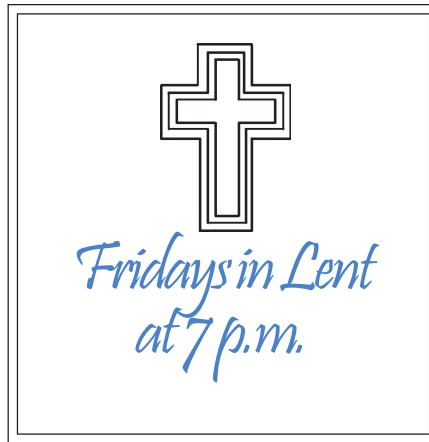
Address: _____

Phones: _____

Email addresses: _____

- I have _____ children who may attend dinners. Please give ages _____.
- I need a ride. I can provide a ride for someone. I prefer a group that meets along metro stops.
- Yes, I will volunteer to be a group captain, too.
- Are you willing to host a dinner that includes under-school-aged children? Yes, No,
- Maybe

All Souls is blessed with beautiful Stations of the Cross, made especially for our church in the 1990s. Of the fourteen stations, eight are based directly on events recorded in the Gospels and six are based upon traditional stories about Jesus making his way through Jerusalem to Calvary. The simple weekly service on Friday nights allows us to walk to each station and pause for a reading from scripture and a prayer. We sing a verse of a traditional hymn between each station.



This is a wonderfully quiet and simple service. When we walk Stations of the Cross, we are given an opportunity to see each station with new eyes. The more one looks, the more one sees. We are invited to hear the scripture with new ears. We are invited to respond to the Way of the Cross, and indeed, to the Way of Christ, with new hearts. ♦

2009 Lenten Series
Windows on Mission

Wednesdays, March 11, and 18
join us in the undercroft at 7 p.m.
for a light supper with program and discussion to follow.

For two Wednesday evenings in Lent we will explore Christian missions through a particularly Anglican lens. We will view short videos that introduce the work of Episcopal missionaries around the world. Did you know that there are Episcopalians in Myanmar and Sudan? Bring your stories of encoun-

tering Anglican churches around the world as we continue to ask God how we might be a mission-minded parish.

- March 11
The Church in Myanmar
- March 18
The Church in Sudan

Liturgical Corner
Two Upcoming Feast Days

Even though it's Lent, there are two important Feast Days in March:

March 19: Saint Joseph's Day

We commemorate the foster father of Jesus with our usual Matins at 7:15 a.m., followed by the Low Mass at 7:30 a.m.

♦ **March 25: The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary**

• March 25 is the day for celebrating the Angel Gabriel's message to the Virgin Mary and our learning from her response and her faithfulness. There are several opportunities for worship this year:

- At noon, Low Mass at All Souls
- 6:30 p.m. High Mass at St. Paul's K Street.

(Father Beddingfield is the preacher.) ♦

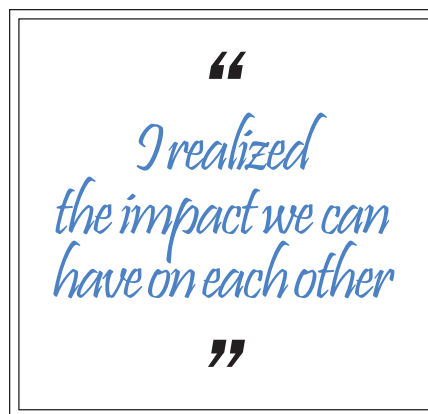
I had the opportunity to fulfill a dream that has been growing in my heart for some years thanks to the All Souls Endowment Fund, which provided me with a grant in spring 2008.

I believe the first seed was planted many years ago, but didn't truly take root until 1999, when I was in graduate school. I attended an informal program led by one of my professors related to her work with Operation Smile. This inspired a desire to participate in an international medical mission. Last May, after several false starts, I finally joined a team of other committed health care professionals on a medical mission to the Dominican Republic (DR). This would not have been possible if it weren't for the financial support from the Endowment Fund.

For one week we provided free eye care and eye surgery to children and adults who have no other access to this type of healthcare. What is considered standard treatment in the United States is nearly impossible in certain areas of the Dominican Republic.

Although the DR is only 2 hours from Miami by plane, much of the population is extremely poor. This lovely country shares an island in the Caribbean with Haiti. Unlike Haiti, it has had a relatively stable government for the past 30 years, as well as more stable agricultural resources. But like Haiti, corrupt political leaders in the past resulted in a great deal of poverty that will affect many generations to come. Those who have money have access to health care. But no money means absolutely no access, and there are no government programs to help the poor.

This was the third annual trip for the



team, so I had some idea of what to expect through them. The hospital had obviously seen better days: conditions were dismal. It was very hot and humid, even in May. We were dripping with sweat constantly. Plumbing provides running water for only an hour twice a day. Walls, halls, and rooms were dark and filthy. Windows have no screens, even in the operating room. Beds and bedside tables looked like they were over 50 years old, in need of serious repair. There were no sheets or linen available except for what little we were able to bring with us. One day I arrived in the morning to the recovery room where I had been assigned, to find the beds full of patients from admissions over night. We were able to have them relocated, but the resulting mess was mine to handle. Some mattresses had disappeared overnight. There was blood on the floor, IV catheters hanging from hooks on the walls, and no house-keeping staff to clean. There were plugs for us to use some of our equipment because there is typically electricity, but every time I plugged something in I feared electrocution.

Hundreds of people with cataracts, severely crossed eyes, and other vision problems were screened the first day. Some waited for hours on end in

a very hot, very small corridor to see the Americans, to find out if they could have surgery. Those chosen were then screened further, for risks for complications during anesthesia. Some people were rejected if they had even the slightest risk, as we were helpless to intervene if anything went wrong.

Over the next 5 days, four surgeons did the best they could in difficult circumstances. Equipment broke, supplies ran out, patience was tested. Spanish-speaking mothers willingly handed over their children to us, without even an explanation of the procedure about to be performed. As I was at the end of the line in the recovery room, the Spanish interpreters often left me. I was attending several people (adults and children) as they came out of anesthesia that we don't even use in the US anymore owing to unpleasant side effects, without the assistance of adequate communication. In spite of this, they were grateful. They thanked us profusely. Despite their poverty, some people gave us small tokens of their appreciation. Everyone was so unbelievably kind. I hardly know Spanish, they hardly know English, but I was blessed with a very clear "God Bless You" more times than I could count.

I had the opportunity to visit one of the villages where several patients came from. This trip drove home in my mind the extreme poverty of the region. Each family lived in a tiny two-room shack with a dirt floor, next to a hill filled with trash. Off in the horizon was the beautiful Caribbean. We brought photographs of some of the children from last year's visit, and the children were absolutely thrilled to receive these. They have nothing: no toys, no books, no

Continued on the next page.

running water. But their spirits shined through. It was uplifting to watch the delight they took in having their pictures taken this year, for us to bring back next year.

My team operated on 36 children and 20 or so adults. We helped bring better eyesight to those without it, and self-esteem to adults and children living with serious defects. It was amazing. One little boy who had a particularly difficult time awakening from anesthesia (combative, crying) saw me in a crowded hall of the hospital the next day. He ran towards me, beaming, gave me a great big hug, and his smile said everything. Even though his eyes were still very red and irritated from the surgery, you could see how happy he was to have normal eyes. He doesn't even know my name and may never see me again, but at that moment I realized the impact we can have on each other, sometimes not even knowing, but in this instance, I saw and felt God's grace.

After a week, I returned home with gladness, but also a heavy heart. I held my young daughter as she slept, so grateful to be home with my family in the comfort of my house (with running water). And I wept. I gazed around her beautiful, toy-strewn bedroom, thinking about how unbelievably fortunate I am to have a healthy child and the resources to fulfill her dreams. But I wept for the poor people in the Dominican Republic, and for the many injustices throughout the world. And I prayed to God that I stay grateful for all of the amazing blessings in my life. And I planned to go back to the DR next year.

Heidi Clark ◆

February

- 2 Norman Whitmire, Jr.
- 4 Lee Cohen
- 5 Lisa Zaina
- 6 Stu Edwards
Joanna Edwards
- 7 Barbara Menard
- 8 Keith Melchers
- 9 Andoni Barreto
- 10 Charles Johnson
- 15 Julia Preston
Bob Publicover
- 21 Ram Hansen
- 25 Tom Mabon

March

- 1 Christine Burkhart
John Coates
- 2 Clive Brady
- 4 Wes McCune
- 12 Barbara Brady
Josie Martin
- 13 Kevin LeGrand
- 14 Dale Lewis
- 15 Caroline Fernandez
- 18 Al Muller
- 19 Jim Rich
- 20 Claire Swain Payne
- 21 Roland Houle
- 22 Dilara Brannon
- 23 Linda Iverson
Richard McKewen
- 25 Beatrice Beardsworth-
Aguilar
Kathy Nelson
- 26 Annika Patricia Strandberg
Gulling
Karl Finn Strandberg
Gulling
- 30 Erin Piel

Honoring the Great Sacrament of Baptism If your name is missing from this list and you would like to receive a baptism anniversary card from the church, or if there is a mistake, please call the parish office at 202/232-4244, and ask for the membership secretary. ◆



From the Membership Secretary

The Parish Register (as of 01/23/2009)

Baptisms—None

Burials & Interments

December 23, 2008

Interment of

Mary Henly Blackwelder

Confirmations & Receptions—None

Marriages & Blessings—None

Transfers In

January 9, 2009

Edward C. Ramos

Transfers Out—None ◆

The All Souls Message

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James Solomon

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Nancy Suggs, *senior warden*

The mission of All Souls Church is to be a Christ-centered sanctuary where a diverse community worships and serves. We live this mission through faithful celebration of the Eucharist, Christian education, and loving nurture of both members and neighbors. ◆

The All Souls Message

February/March 2009

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church
2300 Cathedral Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1505



Holy Week & Easter at All Souls

Palm Sunday — April 5

Blessing of the Palms and Low Mass, 8:30 a.m.

Blessing of the Palms, Procession, and High Mass, 11 a.m.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week — April 6–8

Morning Prayer & Mass at 7:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday — April 9

Morning Prayer & Mass at 7:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Liturgy, 7 p.m., Washing of Feet and Holy Communion

Good Friday — April 10

The Good Friday Liturgy at noon

Holy Saturday — April 11

The Great Vigil of Easter at 7 p.m.

Easter Day — April 12

Low Mass with Easter Hymns at 8:30 a.m. High Mass at 11 a.m.