



The Congregation of  
Saint Saviour at the  
Cathedral Church  
of Saint John  
the Divine

## Education for Ministry meeting

The EfM study and discussion group will begin its regular meetings on April 15. Anyone interested in further information and/or joining us may contact Camille Ryan at 646 240-0682 or Sister Donna Martha at 212 666-8249 ex.304. They are also available to meet at the Congregation table on Sundays after the 9 and 11am services.

*Editors note: EfM teaches its students how to think theologically, deepen their faith and understanding of our Christian heritage, and provides them with a new confidence to be Christ's minister.*

# Crossings

The Cathedral Congregation's Newsletter

April 2007



On Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> over 45,000 men, women and children of diverse cultures, spiritual beliefs, and socio-economic backgrounds will come together for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Aids Walk New York, sponsored by GMHC ([www.gmhc.org](http://www.gmhc.org)). Last year, the Aids Walk raised a record-breaking total of \$6,473,108.00. Once again, our congregation will participate in the Aids Walk. This year, however, the Mission and Outreach committee is happy to announce that the congregation walkers will walk with Episcopal Response to Aids.

Episcopal Response to Aids is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help support and finance HIV ministries that are affiliated with Episcopal faith communities in the Greater New York Area. ([www.erany.org](http://www.erany.org)) ERA has developed a special relationship over the years with GMHC that allows a portion of the money collected by ERA walkers to go directly back to ministries financed by ERA.

Two members of the Mission and Outreach Committee, Harry

Johnson and Matthew Pritchard, will help coordinate this year's congregational effort with ERA. Signing up is a simple process that one can do online. Simply go to the [www.aidswalk.net/newyork/](http://www.aidswalk.net/newyork/) to sign up with ERA. Once at the page, click on the register link and sign up with ERA. When signing up with ERA, please remember to type "Congregation of St. Saviour" as the company under which you are walking. This is the only way to keep record of our group's total donations within the ERA umbrella organization. The day of the walk we will meet with others ERA walkers in Central Park for morning breakfast and a Eucharist before setting out on the 10-kilometer walk. We hope to have you join us as we walk with fellow Episcopalians who share a similar call to ministry as living members of the body of Christ.

If you have any other further questions, please do not hesitate to ask either Harry or Matthew at the congregation table after the 11 am service or you can email us at [20s30s@saintsaviour.org](mailto:20s30s@saintsaviour.org).

Matthew Pritchard



## Letter from the Vicar

My Dear Friends,

*Jesus Lives! To him the throne over all the world is given:  
May we go where he has gone,  
Rest and reign with him in heaven. Alleluia!*

*Hymn 194, vs. 4*

It had never happened before, so nobody could expect it. Not even the disciples of Jesus could have expected it. They were certainly not ready for what was taking place, as they spent the Sabbath in misery, compounded by fear, behind closed doors.

Yet a new day was dawning, and Mary Magdalene was the first to have a glimpse of this new day. She braved all and headed for the garden, the location of Jesus' burial place. The stone was rolled away, the tomb created within her an empty heart. Reeling from the emptiness, hurriedly she returns to tell the other disciples. Mary persists as she turns to the keeper of the garden, sharing her empty heart and distressed spirit.

Than it happens. Jesus calls her name. Mary hears the voice, the voice that spoke her name so many times. Mary recognizes the gift of her Lord and Savior. In her persistence the recognition of Jesus fills her empty heart.

These Easter days will testify to the fact that the stone in front of the tomb of our lives is rolled away, filling the emptiness with the voice and direction of our Risen Christ. No matter what we think or feel, the message and truth of Easter is clear. Jesus Christ is Risen! Love's redeeming work is done! Jesus Lives! We Live! Death has no sting!

In her detailed and fascinating book, *Southwest Gardening*, Rosalie Doolittle, in a concluding chapter, entitled, "Reaping Rewards." Has this to say:

"Finally comes the thrill of the use of flowers beyond their beauty of growth and maturity in the garden... my own experience has taught me a bouquet coming at a dull hour will lighten the entire hospital day. Flowers on the Church altar are admired, and a comfort to those who stop for a casual visit. The practice of taking altar flowers to the sick or bereaved after the service is a beautiful one."

I think that Mrs. Doolittle understood something about resurrection! She communicates in detailed and practical tones that there is indeed life beyond the tombs of Mother Earth and indeed beyond the tombs of our lives as we know them.

Resurrection is about emptying, in order to know the fullness of life. Resurrection is about the voice of the Holy One calling us by name. Resurrection is about reaching out and touching the lives of those around us with renewed grace.

I pray that these days from Easter to Pentecost will be an opportunity for all of us to hear the voice, know the voice and proclaim in clear and certain tones that Jesus Christ is Risen indeed!

Blessings of Hope and Joy;

The Rev. Canon. Alan G. Dennis  
Sub-Dean & Vicar  
[adennis@stjohndivine.org](mailto:adennis@stjohndivine.org)

The very first issue of the St. Saviour's Children's Abbey newsletter is now out!

It's called *A Voice in the Abbey*. Each child in the church school classes was given one to take home and there are copies available on the congregation table. *A Voice in the Abbey* will be printed once a month and copies will be available for anyone who is interested. The newsletter is for parents, children, St. Saviour's congregation and anyone else who has an interest in what's happening in our children's program. Each issue will highlight activities in the classes and talk about projected plans. There will be information about programs, places, books, activities and other things of interest and value to parents and children. At the back of each issue will be things to engage parents and children together — mazes, word finds, quizzes, coloring activities — in ways that support and enhance the program.

Plans are currently being shaped to promote this year's observance of Earth Day which falls on a Sunday for the first time in a while. Read more about that in the April issue.

If you have ideas and/or suggestions for projects or activities, please mention them and get involved with the program in what ever way you feel comfortable. Parents, and anyone who is interested — are always welcome to sit in at any of our classes. Bring along your voice and some energy — we will be singing and jumping and doing all sorts of action things. Projects are on display in the rooms where we meet and you may stop in and see some of the things that we're working on.

Please pray with and for the children of St. Saviour's Children's Abbey and support us with your presence and your interest. Our children are the Church.

Donna Devlin,  
Director of Christian Education/  
Formation



# Letter from the Warden

by Chris Johnson

I read two articles recently which involved our church; one in the Post and the other in the Times. I'm a Wall Street Journal type, so these were OPP (other people's papers). And I almost felt compelled to write the editors in each of them. But I'll quench my compelling need to comment here, where I already am the editor, if that's OK.

The first article was a review of the current debate in the Anglican Communion over human sexuality and its relation to appointing Bishops and offering liturgy for same sex unions. The other was about Elton John's 60th birthday party at the Cathedral, despite his oft quoted comments against organized religion.

Each article tried to break down complex issues into two simple camps; for and against. To me, that is both too easy and too wrong. What neither paper picked up on is, that in the US Episcopal Church, and certainly in this Cathedral, there is a wide spectrum of opinion on these and many other issues. No one could ever say we fall into one camp on anything. And that is how it should be.

For a fundamental part of our policy of radical inclusivity is to make sure people we disagree with feel welcome at the table. It is a fallacy, I think, that one can "solve" differences, like you can fix a leaking pipe. Well intentioned, smart people can look at the same set of facts, and come to completely different conclusions. Certainly, scripture falls into this category.

Why is it that we can live in a grey area where scriptural interpretation is never really locked down, but left fluid and open to revelation over time? And why are we happy to continue our financial support of many charitable programs in the Global South *despite* our differences, yet they feel compelled to refuse it *because of* our differences?

It isn't that we interpret scripture differently than the global southern bishops do. It is that we refuse to set in stone any one interpretation at all. I don't mind if we have members of our congregation, or even the vestry, who think that homosexuality is contrary to scripture as long as they are willing to sit down at a table with people who think the opposite, and that the two can work together to do the Lord's work. We are not gatekeepers, and the very notion of an acid test for coming to our table is an anathema to us.

So if Elton John wants to question organized religion, no problem. I've probably questioned it a few times myself. (At a lunch line at a Warden's Conference once, I heard someone quip we practice disorganized religion).

But seriously, at the very core of Welcoming, in my opinion, is to invite those who believe we are wrong in what we do. And to create a space in which we can agree to disagree, and still work together in Christ's name. It is, after all, His life and ministry we are promoting, not our own.

This need to break every problem we have down to two opposing sides, where each is trying to win, is not what is happening here. Or at least, not with us.

Prior to The General Convention of 2003, our Congregation sent a letter (with over 200 signatures) to Bishop Sisk with our thoughts on the subject of the new Bishop-elect of New Hampshire. We wrote to Bishop Sisk our hope that the Convention would vote for or against Gene Robinson on his qualifications for Bishop, *regardless* of his sexual orientation. It was not a pro Gay agenda, but an inclusive and non-judgmental agenda which allowed all persons to participate.

I wish this subtlety would find it's way

## About Us

The Congregation of Saint Saviour at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine offers events, classes and programs that benefit the spiritual growth and formation of the community at the Cathedral and neighborhood.

We are a family of Christians, drawn together by a common mission: "To build and nurture an active Christian community; to support the mission of the Cathedral; to offer opportunities for exploring and expressing spirituality, affirming the diversities that exist among us; above all, through worship, service, and example, to bear witness to Christ's healing and reconciling love to neighbors, pilgrims, and visitors.

Please visit our website for updated information and schedule of events [www.saintsaviour.org](http://www.saintsaviour.org) or email: [information@saintsaviour.org](mailto:information@saintsaviour.org)

into the press and the public debate on many issues. But certainly, I think this is critical to understanding the debate over the role of human sexuality and all its diversity, and the relation it has to membership and practice of a church.

If you build any institution around its power to divide, then division will be its permanent characteristic. The Global South doesn't see this. If they succeed in throwing out everyone they disagree with, what will they have left? Their apparent unity will evaporate unless they find a new issue to divide over.

It seems to me a church built on its power to invite all persons to the table will always grow. And be a lot more in line with Christ's life and ministry.

Chris Johnson, Warden  
[wardens@saintsaviour.org](mailto:wardens@saintsaviour.org)

## The Commission for Congregational Development by Sandra Lee Schubert

**Vision:** We have been called together by God to prayerfully act as catalysts in the transformation and growth of congregations and/or regions in The Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Just about three years ago I was appointed to the Commission for

Congregational Development. As part of the Commission I participated in our first technology conference, along with Chris Johnson who sat on a panel of other web masters. We meet regularly either in person or on the phone. Since the group is made up of both clergy and lay people we each bring a unique perspective to the commission.

Most recently we endeavored to create an annotated bibliography that covered the following topics:

- Evangelism,
- Leadership Development,
- Advertising/Publicity/Communication,
- Financial Resources.

This is considered a living document that will evolve, change and be added to as the information is updated. Currently this document lives on the web but will be distributed to congregations that are not able to get online. Since this document is meant to be for congregations we appreciate your feedback.

Please visit-  
<http://www.diocesenyny.org/index.cfm?Action=Programs.CongregationalDevelopment>

Or write Sandra Schubert at  
[communication@saintsaviour.org](mailto:communication@saintsaviour.org)

## Bible Study:

The 20/30s Connection and the Education Committee are happy to announce a six-week long Bible Study beginning on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and ending on May 27<sup>th</sup>. We will meet every Sunday at 12:45 p.m. in the Cathedral House's Dining Hall for refreshments and fellowship, followed by a study of the Gospel According to John.

The format of the study will be informal, group-centered, and led by different members of the congregation each week. All members of the Congregation and their friends are invited to attend. There is no admission charge.

Also, we will not meet the Sunday of the 20<sup>th</sup> in order to allow congregation members to participate in this year's congregational effort for the Aids Walk. If you have any further questions about this, you may contact either Matthew Pritchard at [20s30s@saintsaviour.org](mailto:20s30s@saintsaviour.org) or Shawn Dean at [education@saintsaviour.org](mailto:education@saintsaviour.org).

## Ushers Needed:

Ushers will be needed for Holy Week and Easter: Palm Sunday (April 1, 11 am), Holy Tuesday (April 3 at 10:30 am), Tenebrae (April 4, 7 pm), Maundy Thursday (April 5, 7 pm), Good Friday (April 6, 12 noon, 2 pm, 7 pm), Easter Vigil (Saturday, April 7, 7 pm), and Easter (April 8, 11 am). Please contact Ruth Mueller-Maerki if you can serve, via e-mail by phone at 917-270-2848 or [ushers@saintsaviour.org](mailto:ushers@saintsaviour.org)

### The Wild Angels Poets and Writers Group Annual Reading!

Join us on Thursday, May 17, 2007 as the Wild Angels read from their collected works.

7 - 9 PM – Please arrive by 6:45 PM

### The Cathedral House dining room

There is a \$5 suggested for the reading which includes the 7h edition Wild Angels anthology, **ANGELS GONE WILD: LIVING LARGE AND CREATIVELY IN THE CITY.**

Proceeds benefit and support the work of the Congregation. Checks can be made payable to: Congregation of Saint Saviour.

For more information, please email us at [wildangelsgroup@saintsaviour.org](mailto:wildangelsgroup@saintsaviour.org) (212) 316-7483.

# Holy Week and Easter Service Schedule 2007

## Palm Sunday 1 April

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer  
and Holy Communion  
Officiant: Cn. Tom Miller

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Celebrant: The Sub-Dean  
Preacher: Rev. Patti Welch

9:30 a.m. Spanish Language Service  
Celebrant/Preacher:  
Cn. John Luce

11:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist and  
Procession  
  
Celebrant: The Bishop  
Preacher: The Dean

6:00 p.m. Evensong  
Officiant/Preacher:  
The Dean

## Monday and Tuesday in Holy Week 2 and 3 April

Usual schedule of daily services

## Wednesday in Holy Week 4 April

Usual schedule of daily services PLUS

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae

## Maundy Thursday 5 April

Usual schedule of daily services PLUS

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy  
Celebrant: The Bishop  
Preacher: Cn. Tom Miller

9:00 p.m. The Dante Reading

## Good Friday 6 April

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (no  
8:30 or 12:15 Eucharist)

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy  
Officiant: The Bishop  
Preacher: The Sub-Dean

2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

## Holy Saturday 7 April

No regularly scheduled services UNTIL

7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter  
Celebrant: The Bishop  
Preacher: The Dean

## Easter Day 8 April

8:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist  
Celebrant: The Dean  
Preacher: The Sub-Dean

11:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist  
Celebrant: The Bishop  
Preacher: The Bishop

6:00 p.m. Evensong  
and Holy Communion

Officiant: Cn. Tom Miller  
Celebrant: The Sub-Dean  
Preacher: Rev. Patti Welch

The Rev. Cn. Tom Miller  
Canon for Liturgy and the Arts  
[miller@stjohndivine.org](mailto:miller@stjohndivine.org)

## MAUNDY THURSDAY VIGIL - APRIL 5TH

A traditional Holy Week observance by members of the Congregation. Please come watch and wait with us on Maundy Thursday. Stay for a short time or all night. We are asking people to commit to 2 hour intervals starting at midnight until Morning Prayer. Please join us in meditation and prayer. Stay for 2 hours or all night! Please Choose from Times Slots: 12-2 am, 2-4 am, 4-6 am, 6-8 am. SIGN UP SHEET AT CONGREGATION TABLE ON SUNDAYS.

Easter Eggs: A Family Eggstravaganza - Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m. - Noon

Our annual egg workshop is back! Families can create colorful patterns on their eggs with tissue paper, glitter, glue and paint. Build a nest for decorated eggs with twigs, feathers, and clay. Please bring two hard-boiled eggs per child. Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$5 per child, with adult. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. For more information on Family Programs, call 212.932.7347

## Easter Dinner to the hungry and the homeless

The Cathedral Soup Kitchen will be serving Easter Dinner to the hungry and the homeless on Sunday, April 8, 2007. In order to make this dinner special for the families we serve, we need 20 smoked hams. Please deliver to the undercroft of the Cathedral on Sunday, April 8th between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Blessings and Peace.

Catherine Scott  
catherine235@rcn.com

# Crossings

A newsletter published monthly by  
the Congregation of St. Saviour at the  
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## Vestry Members:

Cecilia Andrini-Nwufoh, Lisa Chin, Vaughn Folkert,  
Charles Jamison, Jr., Harry Johnson, Brian Nelson,  
Matthew Pritchard, Nathaniel Queen, Marsha Ra,  
Elizabeth Salzer, Carole Wilkins and Wayne Yankus

## Committee Chairs:

Stewardship: Co-Chairs;

Marsha Ra, [Marsha.Ra@rcn.com](mailto:Marsha.Ra@rcn.com)

Phyllis Murray, [pjmrm@aol.com](mailto:pjmrm@aol.com)

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Events: Bill McCadden and Lisa Chin,  
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Welcoming: Co-Chairs;

Joan Ogden and Peter Christensen

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*Where on earth are we going? What can we do about it?  
Please join us for a **Symposium on Sustainability***

The Cathedral School

Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

1047 Amsterdam Avenue (bet. 111th & 112th Streets)

Saturday, April 21, 2007

From: 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Registration & Coffee: 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Tuition: \$25. *Scholarships available.*

Includes Lunch for Pre-Registered Participants, Beverages & Snacks

The Symposium explores the link between three of humanity's most critical concerns: environmental sustainability, social justice and spiritual fulfillment. Using video clips from some of the world's most respected thinkers, along with inspiring short films, leading edge information and dynamic group interactions, the Symposium allows participants to gain a new insight into the very nature of our time, and the opportunity we have to shape and impact the direction of our world with our everyday choices and action.

The aim of the Symposium is not merely to learn more about the world, but to grapple and come to grips with the very assumptions that underlie the way we ourselves see the world and our place in it, and with what each of us can do - both individually and cooperatively - to move the world in this new direction.

If you are ready to be disturbed, inspired and moved to action, if you are ready to be introduced to a thriving community of like-hearted, deeply committed cohorts who are actively engaged in awakening from and changing the dream of our modern industrial culture, we invite you to come to the next Symposium.

To reserve your place and lunch:

Please send contact information with check made payable to

"The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine,"

Attn. The Rev. Patti Welch, Minister for Education

The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine,  
1047 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10025

For further information contact Rev. Welch at 212-316-7474 or  
[pwelch@cathedralnyc.org](mailto:pwelch@cathedralnyc.org)