



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

Bible Study Continues . . .

The 20/30s Connection and the Education Committee continue their Sunday Bible Study ending on May 27th. We will meet every Sunday (except May 20th) 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.

If you have any further questions about this, you may contact either Matthew Pritchard at 20s30s@saintsaviour.org or Shawn Dean at education@saintsaviour.org.

Crossings

The Cathedral Congregation's Newsletter

May 2007

DONATE LIFE – are you with us?

The Episcopal Church passed a resolution in 1982 that recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ, blood, and tissue donation. All Christians are encouraged to become organ, blood and tissue donors "as part of their ministry to others in the name of Christ, who gave his life that we may have life in its fullness."

As a three-time kidney recipient and a one-time pancreas recipient, I am alive today thanks to the exceptional generosity of others and their families. In 1985 when I first received a life-saving kidney transplant, the average waiting time in NYC for a kidney was 1 ½ - 2 years. Today, a person on the list might expect to wait as much as 5 - 8 years while on dialysis.



However, much progress has been made on organ donation recently. In 2006, a record number of New Yorkers in the greater metropolitan area said "yes" to organ and tissue donation. That means that more lives were saved or improved during 2006 than ever before.

After years of trailing behind much of the nation with organ donation consent rates well below 50 percent, a record number of 319 people in the greater New York metropolitan area became organ donors upon their death in 2006, elevating the consent rate to 56 percent. Accord-

ing to data from the New York Organ Donor Network, the unprecedented rise in the number of deceased organ donors reflects an increase of 22 percent compared to 2004, the previous benchmark year.

There are more than 400,000 organ transplant recipients in the United States while thousands of others benefit from the donation of eye and tissues such as corneas, skin, bone and heart-valves. Despite the success rates of life-saving transplants, nearly 95,000 people still need organ transplants in the U.S., and thousands more need tissues. In New York State alone, approximately 8,500 people await organ transplants. As many as 6,000 New Yorkers need kidneys; 2,000 need livers; and 260 New Yorkers are clinging to life, waiting for hearts.

Because of the urgent need for more donors, New Yorkers are strongly urged by the New York Organ Donor Network to enroll in the New York State Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. Please contact www.donatelife.org or call 1-800-GIFT-4-NY. There are many whose lives you might save.

Thank you.

Brian Nelson
Mission & Outreach Committee &
Vestry Member
missionandoutreach@saintsaviour.org



Letter from the Vicar

My Dear Friends,

“And though he tried to look properly severe for his students, Fletcher Seagull suddenly saw them all as they really were, just for a moment and he more than liked, he loved what he saw. “No limits, Jonathan?” He thought, and he smiled. His race to become had begun”

Jonathan Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach.

A re-read of Richard Bach’s ‘Jonathan Livingston Seagull,’ challenged me yet again to work tirelessly for the acceptance of all persons, so wonderfully created in God’s image. These closing words have certainly caused me to search my soul as I seek to live a life worthy of the Risen Jesus.

We live in a society and a church, so often wrought with the judgment, of who is right or who is wrong, who is in and who is out. Yet during these days and weeks of Easter, we too stand before the empty tomb, and as we gaze, we recognize that the Christ is indeed risen within each of us.

Surely our hearts, too, could burn as we recognize the Christ beside us, in the gift of others, as we walk together and break bread together.

You see, the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull is your story and mine. It is an Easter story of coming as we are before the empty tomb, and being filled and empowered by the Christ for Mission and Service.

So it is, as the Risen Christ within me greets and meets the Risen Christ within you, together we are able to soar!

Resurrection is about recognizing hope, and living into it. Resurrection is about recognizing an empty tomb, and celebrating the glorious gift of the Risen Jesus in each and every person. Resurrection is about recognizing that in Christ there is no limit to Hope, Reconciliation, Justice and Peace.

May the Risen Christ encourage us on our journeys, and may we recognize the Risen Jesus as we journey.

Every Blessing!

The Rev. Canon. Alan G. Dennis
Sub-Dean & Vicar
adennis@stjohndivine.org

AIDS Walk New York

On Sunday, May 20th over 45,000 people will come together for the 22nd Annual Aids Walk New York. 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.

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 the 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.

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

Editors note: 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)



Letter from the Warden

by Robert B. Carey, Ph.D.

Earth Day seems an entirely appropriate time to look at Creation stories. They make interesting reading and can be summarized in the phrase: "All worlds are local." The stories invariably tell us a lot about the people who told them—how they saw the world, the issues they were sorting out (why there is death, why childbirth is painful, why people can be so nasty.) The world is in a kind of "beginning" shape—not really up and running but almost there needing a few touches to bring everything up to speed.

The "world" that creation stories describe is "back there," some time ago: way back when, a long time ago. That really isn't the point of the stories. The age of things isn't what is at issue. The world is, the stories agree, an old and busy place, but mostly the stories are about us—about how we got to be in the world that the stories are talking about. Creation stories, in sum, are not about the earth; they are about us. I know we have presentations that describe human history as sort of the last coat of paint on the top of the Eiffel tower. We have all, I expect, our "Wow" moment. But, I think, just for the moment.

It takes awhile to begin to hear the story of the earth, the sheer scope of the thing, the staggering numbers associated with the ages that have come and gone on this earth in which we make our home. If you

want to enjoy getting dizzy trying to imagine spans of time that can somewhat numb the mind, read Denis Wood, *Five Billion Years of Global Change: A History of the Land*.

Wood writes in a kind of blistering forward lurching style that takes a bit of getting used to. But after awhile you do begin to get it; that we are very recent, very new, hardly a major moment compared to all that has gone before. It is all that has gone before that has the affect of making one finally begin to hear the history of the land, of how it has come to be, of the forces that shape it and reshape it even as we read. As you read this, the Himalayas are still getting higher. Not on our scale of speed, but on the earth's. I find that fascinating and calming. What should I do as a child of the earth? First of all, don't confuse its history as being in the service of my history. The world wasn't created for me to simply say, Thank you very much; I'll take it from here. I think that puts the matter exactly wrong. Our history is so dependent, so intertwined with what the earth has been and is, that it really does fall to us to listen, really listen to hear its voice. Maybe for the first time

Bob Carey, Warden
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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 or email: information@saintsaviour.org

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

The Congregation of St. Saviour proudly announces that it has joined the international community of Episcopal Churches who enjoy the presence of the EfM program on their site. We have a full complement of 12 members who meet Thursday evenings to study, reflect, worship and share each other's company with food and friendship. We are grateful to be able to make this life journey together and thank Canon Storm for initiating the idea and Canon Alan for providing his care and support.

Camille Ryan and
Sister Donna Martha CHS

Report on the Lenten Retreat



Arriving at Holy Cross Monastery

Canon Tom Miller led the Lenten Retreat March 23 -25, 2007 held at Holy Cross Monastery at West Park, NY on the banks of the Hudson River where Brother David Bryan, the superior along with the other Benedictine Brothers provided warm hospitality. Twenty-two people from the Cathedral attended.

The Retreat focused on "Advancing the Imagination: Creative Contemplation of Biblical Text". Under the guidance of Canon Miller, we were encouraged to reflect upon different scriptural passages from St. Luke that he handed out and then read aloud, usually three times. We contemplated how such applied to our own lives and then shared our thoughts with the other participants. Through these exercises, we were free to explore new insights into the application of each of the scriptural texts to our own personal lives.

Throughout the weekend, we attended the Monastery's daily offices, and observed their periods of silence. On Saturday evening, we joined with the mo-

nastic community in the celebration of Jim Dowd's Clothing, a ceremony which signified the completion of the first six months of his two year strenuous discernment process. It was with great pride that he received his habit following the completion of his vows. We celebrated with Jim, and expressed our appreciation to all of our hosts for the fabulous cuisine they provided for us throughout our Lenten Retreat.

Muriel Kneeshaw



Preparing to dine with the Brothers.

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 7th 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

(212) 316-7483.

Workshops and Tours

by the Cathedral's Public Education Department

Highlight Tours

The Public Education and Visitor Services Department offers Cathedral Highlight tours for the public. For more information and reservations please call (212) 932-7347. All tours meet for registration at the Visitor Center inside the Cathedral entrance, at 112th Street & Amsterdam Avenue. \$5 per person, \$4 per student/senior.

Tues. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 12 noon; Sun. 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Explore the Cathedral's newly cleaned and magnificently restored East End, Crossing, Great Choir, and seven Chapels of Tongues. Learn about the art, architecture and history of this great sacred space from 1892 to the present. No prior reservation necessary.

Vertical Tours

The Public Education and Visitor Services Department offers Vertical tours of the Cathedral for the public. For more information and reservations please call (212) 932-7347. All tours meet for registration at the Visitor Center inside the Cathedral entrance, at 112th Street & Amsterdam Avenue. \$15 per person; \$10 per student/senior.

Saturdays, 12 Noon – 1 p.m. & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Climb 124 feet through spiral stone staircases to the top of the Cathedral. Get a look at the huge scale of the nave restoration and study the grand architecture while standing on a buttress. The tour culminates on the roof with a wonderful view of the Morningside Heights area of Manhattan. Space is limited to 10 people, and reservations are recommended. Bring a flashlight.

UpperWest Fest—Spotlight Tours

Apr. 28–May 19

A celebration of Manhattan's Upper West

Side diverse cultural and artistic richness. The Cathedral's Public Education Department will offer four Spotlight Tours on successive Saturdays, during the fest: Gateway to the New Jerusalem; The Pilgrim's Journey; Diversity United, and Revelations Revealed. For more information and reservations please call (212) 932-7347. All tours meet for registration at the Visitor Center inside the Cathedral entrance, at 112th Street & Amsterdam Avenue. Spotlight Tours are \$10 per person, \$8 for students and seniors.

Adult Workshops

The Public Education and Visitor Services Department offers the following program for adults. For more information and reservations please call (212) 932-7347. All Public Education programs meet at the Visitor Center inside the Cathedral entrance, at 112 Street & Amsterdam Avenue.

Stonemasonry Workshop

Saturday, May 26, 12:30 – 5:00 PM
Stonemason Chris Pellettieri, trained in the Cathedral Stoneworks Program, leads a one-day intensive introduction to stone carving. Participants will employ traditional carving methods and tools on a block of limestone. Space is limited to six participants. Reservations and advance payment required. \$100, materials included.

Family Programs

The Public Education and Visitor Services Department offers the following programs for families. For more information and reservations please call (212) 932-7347. All Public Education Family programs meet for registration at the Visitor Center inside the Cathedral entrance, at 112 Street & Amsterdam Avenue.

Medieval Birthday Parties

Saturdays & Sundays, by availability

Celebrate your child's birthday with a two-hour party in the Medieval Arts Workshop, where children sculpt gargoyles, weave, make brass rubbings, carve a block of limestone and much more! For children ages 5 & up. Call the Public Education & Visitor Services Department at (212) 932-7347 for more information and reservations.

Kids' Cathedral

Thursdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24; 10:30 - 11:30 am or 3:00pm – 4:00 pm

A series of programs designed for young ones and their caregivers to explore the shapes, colors and patterns found at the Cathedral. Using hands-on activities, arts and crafts and stories, children observe architecture, stained glass, and art and then create their own pieces to take home. For ages 2-4, with accompanying adult. Space is limited to 12 kids per session, and reservations are recommended. \$5 per class

Piecing it Together: A Mosaic Workshop

Saturday, May 5, 10 am – 12:00 Noon
Colors, shapes, tiles and more! After exploring the Cathedral's wonderful mosaics with an educator, children piece together their own mosaics using tile and found objects in this workshop. Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$5 per child, with accompanying adult.

Medieval Arts Family Workshop

Saturday, May 19, 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon
In our signature workshop, children carve a block of limestone; create medieval illuminated letters, design gargoyles, weave, and more! Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$5 per child, with accompanying adult.

Barbara Anderson
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Crossings

A newsletter published monthly by the Congregation of St. Saviour at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
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Ironing Out The Wrinkles

Retreat! Retreat!

The battle can't be won. At least not now. Pack up and back up!

Retreat!



Thoughts on handling "crisis times" by Donna Devlin the new Director of Christian Education.

one more minute! But I can't pack up and go away. Minor details of everyday life like lunch and laundry and walking the dog, and the major details, such as terminal illness and family disintegration that are, thankfully, not part of everyday life, preclude going away for rest and renewal. My spirit cries out for respite. There is nowhere to go.

But there is. For me. There is place of calm, of peace, of safety, within my reach almost anytime I need it. I have found, that when things get really hectic and hairy, when times are so dark, when I need to reach up to touch bottom, if I go iron altar linens for a while, the situation always becomes more endurable. So often now, I've turned to this that I've even developed a handy guide — just run-of-the-mill tough times can be handled with three corporals, a lavabo towel and 4 purificators; dark times take at least 5 chalice veils, 5 corporals, 7 lavabo towels and 10 purificators; a crisis situation calls for a fair linen, a dozen purificators, 7 corporals, a credence table cover, 8 lavabo towels, a chalice veil or

two, (2 fair linens can be substituted for three towels and 2 corporals), and so on.

Seriously though — for me, the spiritual space which is created by the act of ironing the linens frees my mind, heart, and soul to expand and drink in a bright and glorious open nothingness. I see no visions, I hear no voices, I don't pray in the conventional sense of that word. It's as though the warmth of the iron and the physical action of pressing and squeezing the cloth that has been used in the sacred rituals release a residual holiness which then surrounds and holds, renews and heals me within its space. This is my rest and retreat when there is no retreat, no rest, no place to go, nowhere to hide.

Donna Devlin
Director of Christian Education

Toward A Better Understanding of the Eucharist

1-2:30 pm

Sundays, May 20, 27, June 3

in Cathedral House Conference Room

A family-oriented program to help children better understand the symbols and parts of the Eucharist. Lunch and fellowship are part of each session. Pre-registration required for lunch.

For additional information, please contact Donna Devlin, 212-316-7593.