



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

Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch

Sunday
February 18, 2007

Right after the 11AM
Service

In
Cathedral House

For more information,
please contact
Lisa Chin at

events@saintsaviour.org

Crossings

The Cathedral Congregation's Newsletter

February 2007

Congregation holds its 15th Annual Meeting and Elections

On Sunday, February 4th, your Congregation held its Annual Meeting in Cathedral House. The leadership of your Congregation presented a report on our work during the year, and a picture of our excellent financial position. We also got to elect some new officers for the coming year. The meeting contained sufficient members to constitute a quorum.

By all accounts, 2006 was a successful year, with many wonderful activities, growing membership, growing pledges, and a growing Christian community through real fellowship.

To see our Annual Report, you can pick up a copy at the church office, or you can go online at www.saintsaviour.org

All of us would like to thank the members of the Vestry who are stepping down this year, including Sandy Schubert, Bill Cassarini, John Felbinger, Sonia Omulepu and Peter Ross. We are grateful for your time and commitment, and are aware of the sacrifices made in the interest of

servicing your Congregation. Our sincere thanks!

We would also like to congratulate the newly elected officers of the Congregation, who join the continuing members in making up the Vestry for 2007. The following new officers have been elected (or in some cases re-elected);

Warden

- Chris Johnson

Vestry Members

- Cecilia Andrini-Nwufoh
- Lisa Chin
- Charles Jamison, Jr
- Matthew Pritchard
- Nathaniel Queen

For a complete list of Vestry Members, see the congregation web page at www.saintsaviour.org

We thank God that he brought us so many good candidates, and compliment all who stepped forward to offer their services.

The Vestry



Letter from the Vicar

My dear Friends,

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return

Book of Common Prayer

Turn away from sin, and believe the Good News

An Anglican Prayer Book

On my return from a conference last year, I arrived home to find a precious gift on my desk in our study. It was a book entitled *A Prisoner in the Garden*, photos, letters and notes from Nelson Mandela's twenty-seven years in prison, published in 2006 by the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

My suitcases remained unpacked for more than an hour as I scanned the pages, remembering and recalling much of my own experiences. In the opening lines of the forward Dr. Mandela writes,

"In the life of any individual, family, community, or society, memory is of fundamental importance. It is the fabric of identity. This is something those who devised and imposed apartheid in South Africa knew well ... the struggle against apartheid can be typified as the pitting of remembering against forgetting. It was in our determination to remember our ancestors, our stories, our values and our dreams that we found comradeship."

As we prepare for Lent, as the marked and the sealed of God, we are challenged to remember - remember that through our mortality we long to draw close to our Holy God and each other. Take this time to remember - remember when, remember who, remember how.

You see, Lent calls us into relationship. All of our Lenten celebrations and acts of

love and sacrifice, coax us toward a deeper relationship with God in Jesus Christ and with one another. While the symbol of ashes on Ash Wednesday remind of our mortality, it is however a visible sign of our call to celebrate the Good News as a visible witness.

The words, "turn away from sin, and believe the Good News," (these words from *An Anglican Prayer Book*, replace "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return") epitomized the central message of our Lenten celebration. It is indeed prudent to "remember." It is equally as important to turn "from", toward God as bearers of the Good News.

Take time to pray, study the scriptures, worship and journal this Lent. Take time to remember. Take time to turn to God. Take time to share the Good News. Take time to seek the positive in life. Take time to alleviate poverty. Take time to make peace. Take time to give of your resources and gifts to bring joy and hope. Take time to be occupied with being willing to be an agent of transformation and reconciliation in our day.

I pray that the Holy Season of Lent will enrich your soul.

Every Blessing,

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

Angels Gone Wild - Living large and creatively in the Big City

We had a great fall session! Join us for the spring when we continue to live large in the big City.

The Wild Angels begins a new season exploring ways to take our creativity to new levels. What does an Angel Gone Wild do? Join us and find out.

Our Instructors for this series will be Sandra Lee Schubert and Patrick Hammer. Included in this season will be some special guests to enlarge our creative vision.

We began each class with a short lecture, looking at some piece of writing, our homework and then workshopping as the center of all creative writing courses.

When: Thursdays - 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22,

May 17 (Mark your calendars is the date for the annual reading of the Wild Angels collected works)

Time & Place - 6:45 to 8:30 P.M. in room 118 of the Cathedral House.

There is a \$40 suggested donation for the eight-week series. Proceeds benefit and support the work of the congregation.

To register: 212-642-5042. For more information- email us at wild_angelsgroup@yahoo.com or call (212) 316-7483. Visit the Wild Angels



Letter from the Warden

Remembering Dr. King

by Robert B. Carey, Ph.D.

Every celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day makes me wonder about the quality of American memory.

I served as an assistant pastor in Ebenezer Baptist Church from 1963 to the summer of 1965, when I left, first, to get married to Ms. Patricia Morris and then for the both of us to return to New York City where I finished the senior year of my M.Div. program and began working in East Harlem with the City Society of the United Methodist Church. We are still married and we still live in East Harlem.

Part of the difficulty in talking about Dr. King and those times is conveying to someone what that time felt like; what it meant to work in the South, to be arrested, to be held in a holding tank, to be surrounded by people with guns who could "loose" you and not be held accountable. That was the shadow side of the dream, but it was also an incredibly hopeful time, a time of awakening into a thinkable future. Dr. King's speech gave new meaning and luster—since considerably diminished—to the idea of the city on the hill, to America as a beloved community.

I first experienced the problem of remembering him when our children were growing up and had to do a report for school, so they interviewed my wife and me about our lives. Their great organizing question was: "When you were alive..... " We have always treasured that moment, but it made very vivid the difference between the history that I had experienced and can conjure up even now—dinner at the King house just around the corner from where I lived, talking with Daddy and Mrs King about programs for the young people at Ebenezer, prayer meetings, paying visits at

Grady Hospital and on and on—and the history our children had to get at through texts, pictures, television news clips. All very vivid but just a tad distant. Someone else's history and historical moment.

And accompanying that and shadowing that growing sense of distance is the shaping of Dr. King into a "comfortable saint," the preacher of love and reconciliation. But what could be wrong with that? someone says. The difficulty with that is what falls away in the American haste to "move on" to come to "closure" over things. What falls away was remembering that he was going deeper and farther at the time he was killed. He was beginning to link racial and economic justice, getting down to the deep disenfranchisement that haunts this country.

We get comfortable in our discussions of diversity at our peril and we bend, fatally, the trajectory of his thought if we settle for simply celebrating the fact that you look like you look and I look like I look—rather an acid way of thinking about diversity. But, alas, it can come to that and no more—everyone comfortably encased in agreed upon labels. But the deep question of Who Gets What? of Who is not at this table? gets too easily swept away when we settle for a group photo reading of diversity.

That is where the permanent radicalism of Dr. King's idea of reconciling love insists that we go. Everyday. All days. Not just his day.

Robert B. Carey, Ph.D.
Warden
wardens@saintsaviour.org

EfM is coming to the Cathedral Congregation of St. Saviour!

EfM?...

... Are you curious?

We are excited to announce that EfM, Education for Ministry, is coming to our congregation. EfM is a distance learning program for laity created and administered by the School of Theology, University of the South in Seawane, Tennessee. "And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord," we pray at the end of the Eucharist. The purpose of EfM is to prepare us to better fulfill the ministry to which each of us is called. It is a four year program (of which you commit to one year at a time) where we will meet weekly with a seminar group of 6-12 students. The course of study covers the entire sweep of the Christian tradition, from the earliest period to the present. Each year a new content area will be examined: the Old Testament, the New Testament, church history, and systematic theology. While the academic material is substantial, the focus of the program is on life as ministry and understanding that ministry.

...Are you curious?? Mark your calendars! All interested are invited to attend the Introductory Session, March 11, 2007, at 1:30PM. (Place to be announced in the next Crossings.)

Be sure to check out the congregation table on Sundays for more information or contact one of the mentors for our program - Camille Ryan at 646-240-0682 or Sr. Donna Martha at 212-666-8249 ext. 304. You can also find out more about EfM at their website: <http://www.sewane.edu/EFM/index.htm>



Advancing the Imagination: Creative Contemplation of Biblical Text A Lenten Retreat to be led by Canon Tom Miller

Canon Tom Miller will lead this year's Lenten retreat **March 23-25** at Holy Cross Monastery in lovely West Park, NY on the banks of the Hudson. This year Canon Miller plans another quiet, scripturally based weekend which will help prepare us for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. The retreat fee (\$145) includes two nights at Holy Cross and all meals. Rooms are private with shared bath. (There are also a few double rooms that can be shared, but the price is the same per person.) Check-in is any time after 3:00 on Friday. The retreat ends with lunch on Sunday. In describing the retreat he has planned for us Canon Miller writes:

"In some denominations, retreats are called advances, which is a creative spin on what we do when we retreat from the routine patterns of life so that we can contemplate matters of the spirit. Retreats are almost inevitably advances in some spiritual sense.

"The power of the imagination has informed traditional Christian spiritual practices, including the visioning exercises of Ignatius and the monastic forms of lectio divina. When activated for contemplation and study of the Bible, the imagination can help to open the way into deepening person engagement with the divine reality revealed through scriptural texts.

"Over the course of several sessions, participants use the Lenten lectionary from Luke as a focus for bringing the imagination into play for Bible study. Through exercises familiar to actors as well as contemplatives, new insights might be gained and a useful way of enlivening texts for daily mediation established.

"For some, the exercises may lead to a more active presentation of the text through improvisation or creative writing, but as we in the Anglican tradition might put it, "All may, some should, none must." The keynote for the retreat will be ease and freedom to engage with transformative Bible texts. "

Holy Cross is a quiet and beautiful monastery on the banks of the Hudson easily reached by Metro North (get off at Poughkeepsie) or by car. Their website, www.holycrossmonastery.com/ provides information on the monastery, photographs of the grounds and chapel, as well as driving directions. Holy Cross is a place where you will learn the true meaning of Christian hospitality. It is a warm, safe space to just be yourself. The monastery has recently undergone renovation making it more accommodating to the disabled. Those attending the retreat are free to participate in any or all meditations led by Canon Miller, attend the monastery's daily offices, take walks along the river or just sleep! Pictures of past retreats are available on the Congregation Website www.saintsaviour.org We have reserved 20 spaces. Reservations are required by February 23; payments are required by March 16. For more information, call Marsha Ra at 212-865-9246. To reserve your space, fill out the form below and send to Congregation Office with your check.

Retreat at Holy Cross, March 23-25

Name(s) _____

I am willing to share a room: _____ I require vegetarian food _____

I require elevator access to my room _____ I will arrive after 8:00 p.m. on Friday _____

Phone numbers: Day _____ Evening _____

e-mail: _____

_____ I plan to drive and have room for _____ passenger

_____ I plan to take the train

Enclosed is my check for (\$145 per person (payment due no later than March 16)

**Return to Congregation of St. Saviour, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue,
New York, NY 10025 with your payment. Thank you!**

Manhattan North Interparish Council Lenten Fellowship

The schedule for Lent is as follows:

7:00 pm Evening Prayer followed by a light fellowship meal of soup and sandwiches. Join us, along with the other parishes of Manhattan North, to a Lent of worship and fellowship.

- Feb. 28: Church of the Intercession, 550 West 155th Street
- March 7: St. Philip's Church, 204 West 134th Street
- March 14: St. Martin's Church, 230 Lenox Ave.
- **March 21: Cathedral of St. John the Divine**
- March 28: Church of the Crucifixion, 459 West 149th Street

BOOK SIGNING

Monday, February 5, at 7pm in St. Paul's Chapel, Columbia University

The Episcopal Lecture featuring
The Right Reverend Gene Robinson
"The Religious WRONG: finding an appropriate religious voice in public life."

Book signing immediately afterwards
Hosted by the Episcopal Campus Ministry and the Canterbury Club

The book will be available for purchase that evening. Some details below.

Going to Heaven: The Life and Election
of Bishop Gene Robinson
by Elizabeth Adams

An Exciting Development in Children's Education By Shawn Welton Dean

It's a new year, and with it the congregation has a new face in a new position at the Cathedral! So please join me in welcoming Donna Devlin, who has been hired as the first Director of Christian Education/Formation for Children's Ministry. Starting this month, Donna will bring her expertise in both education and the creative arts to benefit the congregation's families as she begins as her tenure teaching at the Children's Abbey.

Hailing from Freehold, New Jersey, Donna brings with her a laundry list of experiences not just in teaching, but in building, directing, and consulting on religious educational programming for all ages—Donna's leadership in this area is just what we need after a long season (spanning years!) of change and tumult in our children's ministry.

A creative soul, Donna enjoys incorporating all methods of artistic expression into religious education—she's done interactive storytelling at St. Peter's Church in Freehold, taught drama and crafts at Trinity Episcopal Church in Asbury Park, sings for the Chamber Singers Choir in Ocean Grove, and writes poetry and essays that have appeared in multiple publications. Donna's strengths aren't just limited to the arts—she also brings with her a solid grounding in theology and

an active involvement at the local, diocesan, and provincial levels. She completed her Education for Ministry (EfM) mentor certification through the University of the South's School of Theology and has studied at General Theological Seminary and Drew University School of Theology.

I've just touched on some of the many talents and skills that Donna offers to the Cathedral and Congregation—you can find out more when she joins us on the 4th, and brings with her an invaluable dedication to children's ministry. So, welcome, Donna! We are blessed to have you here!

20s/30s Connection Event

Sunday, February 25th, the 20s/30s Connection will be going ice-skating at Wollman Rink. Everyone is invited to join us, regardless of age.

If you'd like to join us, please meet us at the congregation table after the 11am service. If you have questions about the event, please contact the 20s/30s Connection at 20s30s@saintsaviour.org or talk to Matthew Pritchard at the congregation table.

Matthew Pritchard

The Reverends Storm Swain & Stephen Harding
1047 Amsterdam Avenue New York, New York 10025

January 17, 2007

Christmas came a little late this year: our son, Theodore Riker Swain-Harding, was born on January 4, 2007 at 10:35am! Born on the 11th day of Christmas, Theo weighed in at 5lbs 9oz, with a length of 50 cm or 19 1/2 inches. Many prayers from our families, friends, congregations, and colleagues sustained us through the times of pregnancy and birth; they continue to sustain our new life as a family, and we thank you for your generosity and good wishes.

After almost two weeks of being with him we can tell you that when we hold him, everything else recedes and the outside world seems far removed. It's a peculiar sensation... Being with Theo has led to our house being full of wonder and joy and a sense of everything being new.

We hope that you had a good Christmas. We hope that your New Year is going well, and we send you our blessings and our thanks. In this season of Epiphany, we hope that 'the light may scatter the darkness from before your path' and that you and your family may experience the joy and wonder of all that life offers in this New Year!

Much love, and
God bless you,



Storm, Stephen, and Theo



AT THE CATHEDRAL

Public Education and Visitor Services

Family Programs

Kids' Cathedral

Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22; 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

A series of morning programs designed for young ones and their caregivers that explore the shapes, colors and patterns 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, and reservations are recommended. \$5 per class.

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.

Paper Making Workshop

Sat. Feb. 10, 10 a.m. - Noon

John Currie, teaching artist and paper maker, will lead this hands-on paper making workshop, just in time for Valentine's Day. Make the paper and learn how to add finishing touches to create cards to share with family and friends. For ages 4 and up. \$5 per child, with adult.

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 112th Street & Amsterdam Avenue.

Spotlight Tours

\$10 per person; \$8 per student/senior. Register at the Visitor Center inside the Cathedral.

How Did They Do That? Spotlight on Architectural Innovation

Sat. Feb. 3, 12:45 p.m.

The construction of a stone structure as immense as the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine posed numerous challenges in the early 1900s. This tour will look at engineering and architectural secrets behind the enormous cathedral, especially the eight massive columns framing the high altar, whose voyage illustrates the imagination and "can-do" spirit of builders of that era. Binoculars recommended. Led by Cathedral Guide Lee Caron.

Brilliant Walls of Light: Spotlight on the Chapel Windows

Sat. Feb. 17, 12:45 p.m.

Each chapel contains a unique style of stained glass. Explore beautiful narrative and geometric windows by English and American firms and view the memorial to a stained-glass artist. Led by Cathedral Guide John Simko.

Revelations Revealed: Spotlight on the Sanctuary

Sat. Feb. 24, 12:45 p.m.

Journey toward the Heavenly Kingdom and ponder reflections of the wondrous creatures and fearsome landscapes that populate the dreams and visions of St. John the Divine. See how his Book of Revelation is rendered in the stained glass, sculpture, tilework, and vaulting of the East End, Great Choir and High Altar, the culmination of the Cathedral's splendid design. Led by Cathedral Guide Susan Chute.

Highlight Tours

\$5 per person, \$4 per student/senior.

Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 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

\$15 per person; \$10 per student/senior.

Saturdays, 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.

The Public Education and Visitor Services Department offers Cathedral Highlight tours, Vertical Tours, Spotlight Tours, Workshops and Family Programs 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.

Crossings

A newsletter published monthly by the Congregation of St. Saviour at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
1047 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10025

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Mission and Outreach Committee *called by Christ to offer ourselves in service to others*

Feed the hungry, slake the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the incarcerated, help the sick. What a tall order. What a privilege. What a grace!

There is a lot of discourse these days about benevolence and compassion. Especially at the start of a new year, many of us feel that we can and should do more to help out somewhere. But in truth, it can be difficult to find the time; intimidating to begin another task, another obligation. And yet, we are called by Christ to offer ourselves in service to others. And the real truth is that when we do reach out we are the ones who benefit most.

One of the things of which I am absolutely certain is that serving others is one of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves. This gift is not proportionate to the amount of time we give, or what we do. It is inherent in the act of service itself, whether we offer a glass of water, help to build a house, speak out for the oppressed, or escort someone in need to worship.

So many of you do so much already, but there may be some who are seeking to find a way to serve others in need. If you find you have been called to serve lately, the Mission and Outreach Committee invites you to join us in our effort to *undertake to provide opportunities where we can live out our faith in action through hands-on assistance, advocacy, and gifts of financial support.*

The Mission and Outreach committee is seeking willing participants. If you have a will to reach out to those in need, we will find a way for you to do so. We can use good organizers as well as those who want to work "hands on."

This coming year we hope to expand some of the ministries we already tend, including our Prison Ministry, our connection to Cathedral Community Cares

and the Soup Kitchen, and our Knitting Ministry. We are also exploring the possibility of expanding our Global Outreach and our Amsterdam House ministry, and beginning an environmental outreach project. There is much to do and many hands are needed.

The Committee meets on the first Sunday of every month at 10:00 am (between the 9:00 and 11:00 services) in room 118 of Cathedral House. Our meetings are open to all. Please contact us if you are interested in joining us, if you are interested in one of the ministries that we steward:

AIDS Walk, a fundraising walk on May 7 in support of AIDS assistance and advocacy

Prison Ministry, a hands-on mentoring ministry for incarcerated women

Tanganyika Carpenters Kids, a global outreach funding to AIDS orphans in Tanzania

Amsterdam House Escorts, escorting elderly residents of Amsterdam House to and from Sunday service

Cathedral Community Cares, preparing food and serving at the soup kitchen and advocating for fair housing among other things

Knitting Ministry, a knitting group – no experience needed

Habitat for Humanity, building homes and advocating for fair housing

Fair Trade, promoting fair trade

Organ Donation Ministry, supporting and advocating for organ donation

or if you have an idea for a ministry you have been thinking about bringing to the congregation.

"Happy are they who consider the poor and the needy!" Psalm 41

Diane Reiners

Co-Chair Mission and Outreach
missionandoutreach@saintsaviour.org