



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 ...FEEDING ALL IN BODY, MIND AND SOUL

# The Trinity Church Newsletter

Trinity Episcopal Church  
 44 East Market Street  
 Bethlehem, PA 18018

From the Rector, written the Sunday following General Convention

## That they all may be One

I am seeing an increasingly common meme being voiced – that the Episcopal Church (perhaps even the Anglican Communion) is one body of two minds which can no longer be joined together and therefore must effect a divorce from each other. I want to make a couple of points about why I reject it.

I was first drawn to the Episcopal Church because it was the only church I knew where the altar and pulpit were the same size. It was the one place where I saw people taking both Word and Sacrament seriously at the same time. Of course there are people in the Church who emphasize the Word to the diminution of Sacrament and vice versa, but the Anglican ethos states that an either/or position is wrong. It must be a both/and. That is at the core of what we commonly call the Elizabethan Settlement.

Today the question isn't one of Word versus Sacrament, it is, as our present Presiding Bishop has pointed out, Justice versus Holiness. There are voices claiming the overriding need for Justice in this world precedes any concern for Holiness, and there are voices claiming that we need to first focus on the internal transformation of our lives that will lead to true Holiness and then to heavenly justice. Different melodies, but it's the same harmony. And our ethos insists that once again, it is not an either/or question, it is still both/and.

Is it possible to hold these two views at the same time? Of course. Many, if not most of us do just that. But there are those in the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church who grow weary of the tension that comes from such striving.

I think it is these voices, the weary and heartsick (and justifiably so), which are the ones ultimately calling for the separation in such a way that we need to hear them. But hearing them, and recognizing the real pain that is motivating their call, I can't agree with what they ask.

I believe the Anglican Communion is the truest example of what it means to be a Catholic (universal and comprehensive) Church. We do not claim a single way or belief brings us closer to Jesus. Rather that there are many paths inside our faith in Christ Jesus, and all of these paths lead us closer to the center where there is the presence of the living God and simultaneously closer to each

(Continued on page 10)

VOLUME IV, ISSUE 7

JULY/AUGUST, 2006

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Rector	1
The Prayer List	
Sunday Readings	
From Mother Laura	3
Children & Youth	5
From the Music Office	8
Calendar	9

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *“fruitcake reporting in...”*,  
from Joan Sheldrake  
—see pg. 6
- *“Where is the Love”*, from  
Pam Giordano  
—see pg. 7
- *“On Tour with Jack  
Vickrey”*  
—see pg. 7
- *Musikfest Parking*  
—see pg 8
- *“Some thoughts about  
General Convention 2006”*  
from the Rector  
—see pg. 10
- *“General Convention  
Impressions”* from  
Hillary Dowling Raining  
—see pg. 11



# The Prayer List

*Here are the names of Trinity people who have health problems or personal problems and who wish to be remembered in our prayers. If you or a loved one has health problems or other problems, and if you would like the prayerful help of Trinity friends, you are invited to add your name to the list. Please contact the office, 610-867-4741.*



Trinity is a praying church. We love to pray for people...and we keep on praying for them. But sometimes, people get "parked" on the

parish prayer list. The policy is to put people on the Prayers of the People list and to read their names for two weeks in a row, **UNLESS** you ask us to keep them on. They will also be put on the prayer list in the Bulletin. We keep them on the Bulletin list for two months, **UNLESS** you ask us to keep them on. We are very happy to keep people on either or both lists, but please do tell us. Call the office or give a note to one of the clergy.

**KEEP ON PRAYING!**

- |                 |                        |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Ed Atkinson     | Mary Harris            | Matthew Post           |
| Al Barr         | Nancy Hofmann          | Katie Reynolds         |
| Bud Barr        | Jo Anne Hornyak        | Gwendolyn-Jane Romeril |
| Lois Black      | Ed Huff                | Sean Romeril           |
| Jane Breininger | Stevie Jones           | Joan Sheldrake         |
| Edna Chase      | Steve Jones            | Gwen Singer            |
| Edna Cieply     | Leigh Leming           | Dennis Taylor          |
| Dorothy Comegys | Robert Lukens          | Pat Talijan            |
| Sara Creech     | Fr. Mac                | Mackenzie Updyke       |
| Kim Cseh        | Elizabeth Miller       | Shelby Vliet           |
| Karen Duh       | Terry Miller           | Edith Wilson           |
| Fr. Ed Erb      | Margorie Miller Bergey |                        |
| Lois Frederick  | Marge Muran            |                        |
| Eleanor Graber  | Joe Palmeri            |                        |



## **JULY Birthdays**

- 1 Sally McIntosh
- 2 Sheree Stampfel
- 3 John Kerr  
Elizabeth Gee
- 4 Domenic Salerno
- 5 Tracy Roeder  
Margy Segaline
- 11 P. Gavin Ferriby
- 12 Nancy Krauss  
Andrew McIntosh
- 14 Linda Henry
- 15 Gwendolyn-Jane Romeril  
S. Kenneth Tarby  
Alan Gentry
- 16 Lucas Vitalos
- 19 Vincent Garcia
- 21 James Niemeyer
- 22 Edith Wilson  
Dawn Winterburn
- 25 Susan Becker
- 26 Jackson Marvel
- 27 Roger Walter  
Robert Deets
- 28 Robert Mickus  
Garry Applegate
- 29 Pamela Vail

- 30 Lynn Malok
- 31 Meri Dickey  
Sheri Majczan  
Gabriele Whittier

### **Anniversaries**

- 2 Jeanne & Robert Deets
- 12 Jill & Gerald Long  
Ellyn Siftar & Andrew McIntosh
- 13 Karen & Timothy Brion
- 17 Carole Gorney & Michael Bryant  
Sara Phillips & Nelson King
- 22 Muriel & G. Steward Parlin
- 26 Clarann & Stephen Filko
- 29 Janice & Nelson Squires



## **Birthdays**

- 1 Sadie Hornung  
Steve Jones
- 2 Wendy Lega  
Alexander Robertson
- 3 Irene Harding  
Nicholas Knisely  
Nelson Squires, III
- 5 Miranda Bradley  
Loretta Brobst
- 7 Lisa Medeiros
- 8 Eleanor Vatouios
- 10 Evelyn Kondash
- 11 Michael Muzyka  
Matthew Todaro
- 12 Anne Fodor  
Lillian Hornung

- 13 Tom Bradley  
Terry Miller
- 14 Louis Fodor
- 15 Pat Patterson
- 16 Benjamin Hornung  
Marcie Lightwood
- 17 Philip McIntosh
- 18 Doris Schofield  
James Dickey
- 19 Rochelle Stackhouse  
William Latshaw  
Peter Lega
- 23 Lillian Lewis
- 24 Dorothy Drusba  
John Vickrey
- 25 Michael Bryant
- 27 Eleanor Graber  
Candy Barr Heimbach  
John Hornung
- 29 Susannah Wolfe  
Brendan Cleary  
Francis Frey
- 30 Karen Vitalos

### **Anniversaries**

- 3 Laura & David Howell
- 12 Karen Ernst & Bruce Reiner
- 13 Pamela & Kenneth Vail
- 15 Carol & Eugene Propsner
- 20 Candy & Mark Heimbach  
Carol & John Vickrey
- 21 Virginia & Francis Gress  
Rheta & F. Richard Matthews
- 25 Phyllis & Dennis Douvanis
- 27 Mary & Ed Schatkowski
- 28 Karen & Nicholas Knisely
- 30 Doodie & Dan Genthner



## Begging him to leave or stay?

Sermon by Mo. Laura

Job 38:1-11,16-18  
 2 Corinthians 5:14-21  
 Mark 4:35-41;(5:1-20)  
 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading describes one of the more unsettling events of Jesus' ministry.

It's a macabre scene. Jesus has just triumphed over the storm on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples' responded with wonder, "Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?" Now, Jesus' boat comes to shore in a part of the country that is primarily a Gentile area. He steps out near a cemetery. And Mark says, immediately a man possessed by demons rushes out of one of the tombs.

Reminds me of an old horror movie I once saw: a spooky boat is moving slowly across a misty lake, with haunting music in the background—the theme from Swan Lake, I think. It lands quietly at a dark and mysterious shore, and the people in the boat step out. SUD-DENLY a naked, bloody madman erupts from the ivy-covered mausoleum, shrieking and howling, raving and raging, like a werewolf. He leaps at the startled people who have just disembarked... and now we switch back to the Gospel.

Jesus, seeing this nightmare appear before him, recognizes that the poor man is possessed. He says, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" In response, the man flings himself violently down on the ground in front of Jesus—or maybe the demon throws him down—and they hear the demons screaming at the top of his lungs:

"What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" The demons recognize Jesus. Jesus wants to be clear who he's dealing with, so he asks calmly: "What is your name?" The answer: "My name is Legion; for we are many."

That is the scene that the Gospel sets for us. And in case we still don't get it, Mark goes on at some length to describe the bad shape the man is in: not only is he suffering terribly, deliberately hurting himself with stones—he is living among the dead and howling in the fields and mountains like a wild beast. And he is very dangerous: he is so strong that he even breaks the handcuffs and chains they use to restrain him.

Like he did in the middle of the storm, Jesus stands there quietly, focused and collected. He doesn't seem to be startled or afraid. He has a rational conversation with the demons who don't want to leave the area. He agrees to send them into a herd of pigs, which immediately run amok and throw themselves off a cliff and drown.

The demons are not very smart, are they? They are hoping to maintain a foothold on earth, and are willing to settle for living in animals for a while. Presumably until they can find another human host. You will recall that for the Jews, pigs are one of the most unclean animals. Apparently, these

demons are so vile, that even the pigs can't stand their presence. The implication is that in losing their human and animal hosts, the demons will either die or go back to hell where they belong. But at any rate, they won't trouble that area any more.

The demoniac was unclean inside and out—he had evil inside of him, and he was also living among the tombs, which to Jews were unclean. In ridding the man of his demons, Jesus allowed him to become clean: restored him to his right mind and sent him back to live with his family and friends. Proximity to uncleanness contaminates everything, so in destroying the demons, Jesus allowed the entire neighborhood to be cleansed. I suspect that to a Jewish audience, the destruction of pigs would particularly underscore the cleansing theme.

Let me also acknowledge that a modern interpretation of this story would be that the man was schizophrenic, rather than possessed. Today, Jesus might treat him with medication and healing, rather than exorcism. But we need to understand the Gospel on its own terms, and the point remains the same: Jesus can control the forces of chaos: whether they are forces of nature or forces of evil.

But there is one thing that Jesus cannot control: human will. What happened as soon as the man was



## Celebration of Saints During July & August

*Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*

### July

- 11 Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c.540
- 17 William White, Bishop of Pennsylvania, 1836
- 19 Macrina, Monastic and Teacher, 379
- 20 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Ross Tubman, Liberators and Prophets
- 22 Saint Mary Magdalene
- 24 Thomas á Kempis, Priest, 1471
- 25 Saint James, the Apostle
- 26 Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 27 William Reed Huntington, Priest, 1909
- 29 Mary and Martha of Bethany
- 31 Ignatius of Loyola, 1556

### August

- 1 Joseph of Arimathea
- 7 John Mason Neale, Priest, 1866
- 8 Dominic, Priest and Friar, 1221
- 10 Laurence, Deacon and Martyr at Rome, 258
- 11 Clare, Abbess at Assisi, 1253
- 12 Florence Nightingale, Nurse, Social Reformer, 1910
- 14 Jonathan Myrick Daniels, Seminarian and Witness for Civil Rights, 1965
- 15 St. Mary the Virgin, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- 18 William Porcher DuBose. Priest, 1918
- 24 St. Bartholomew, The Apostle
- 25 Louis, King of France, 1270
- 29 Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 430
- 31 Aiden, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 651

## Sunday Readings During July & August

*Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### July 2—4th Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 15:7-11  
2 Corinthians 8:1-9,13-15  
Mark 5:22-24,35b-43  
Psalm 112

### July 9—5th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-7  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-6  
Psalm 123

### July 16—6th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15  
Ephesians 1:1-14  
Mark 6: 7-13  
Psalm 85 or 85:7-13

### July 23—7th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 57:14b-21  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-44  
Psalm 22:22-30

### July 30—8th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-15  
Ephesians 4:1-7,11-16  
Mark 6:45-52  
Psalm 114

### August 6—The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Exodus 34:29-35  
2 Peter 1:13-21  
Luke 9:28-36  
Psalm 99 or 99:5-9

### August 13—10th Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 8:1-10  
Ephesians 4:(25-29)30-5:2  
John 6:37-51  
Psalm 34 or 34:1-8

### August 20—11th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 9:1-6  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:53-59  
Psalm 147 or 34:9-14

### August 27—12th Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-2a,14-25  
Ephesians 5:21-33  
John 6:60-69  
Psalm 16 or 34:15-22



**Bishop's Day with Youth  
grades 7-12\***



**SUMMER SPLASH!**

**Saturday July 15, 2006**  
Spruce Lake Retreat, Canadensis  
10 am – 3 pm

*come and bring a friend to this day of cool fun  
right in the middle of summer!  
we'll swim, drink fruit smoothies, eat great food,  
do a simple work project, play games, worship,  
and just enjoy hanging out together*

(\*includes youth entering 7th grade this fall & 2006 graduates)

**Early registration deadline:**  
**June 15 (free CD of pictures from the event!)**

**Late registration deadline: July 1**

see your rector or youth leader  
for a registration form or go to  
[www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth\\_newsipin](http://www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newsipin)

**NARNIA**

**The LION,  
The BISHOP,  
& The WARDROBE**



**Bishop's Day with Kids 2006**  
*Open to Kids—Grades 1-6*

July 22, 2006	OR	July 29, 2006
Nativity		St. Luke's
Bethlehem		Scranton
9 am — 3:30 pm		9 am — 3:30 pm

**Register by : June 15, 2006 for Narnia  
T-Shirt! (NO WALK-INS!)**

**For Registration and Medical Forms  
see your rector or go to  
[www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth\\_newsipin](http://www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newsipin)**

**A LESSON FOR  
CHILDREN**

I turned my soul to listen,  
to hear what I should do,  
and asked God's help with  
people,  
to find which way is true.  
He said, "You know I love  
them,  
they're special, every one,  
so seek what's good within  
them,  
that way your work is  
done."

—Sue Wolfe

**From the Communications  
Committee**

**Deadlines:**

**Weekly Bulletins—Wednesdays  
at Noon**

**Newsletter—The Monday before  
the last Friday of the month  
at Noon**

**Help Needed:**

**Thursdays**—To collate and fold the  
Sunday Bulletins

The last **Friday** of every month—to  
collate and get the Newsletter  
ready to be mailed.

**Please note:** Volunteer help on  
a regular basis would be greatly  
appreciated in order to keep  
bulletins and newsletters com-  
ing! Please contact the office at  
610-86704741 or [gaby@trinitybeth.org](mailto:gaby@trinitybeth.org)

## **"fruitcake reporting in..."**

*-- Note from editor: This email from Joan Sheldrake to Mtr. Laura is re-printed with permission from both. Joan, a long-time, active member of our Trinity family, retired to Florida several years ago to be near one of her daughters and her family (and away from our icy winters). She has recently been diagnosed with several benign brain tumors and is reporting in. Please keep her in your prayers.*

Dear Laura,

I know some people at Trinity are asking about me and, although I am in touch with several, I thought I'd get you up to speed for anyone else who is interested. My second MRI showed that the meningiomas are the same size as three months ago which is good. I know they will never get smaller or disappear so my prayers are concentrated on not getting any bigger.. Since I have several, 1 orange, 3 figs, 3 grapes and 8+ little raisins, if they grow, particularly the orange, they can press on parts of the brain and cause stroke-like symptoms. Fortunately the brain is pretty flexible and I'm hoping mine is extremely so. The rest of me is quite flexible and I hope the brain follows suit. I want to thank the people of Trinity, Bethlehem, for their supportive prayers and also for cards received from them. I would like it if you could give a general thanks to anyone who cares about me.

I love it down here and the hot weather doesn't seem to bother me---everything is air-conditioned. Most of my close friends have flown north but I spend special occasions plus other times with my daughter and her husband. I takes me about 8 minutes to drive to her place but I try to live an independent life and not in her hip pocket.

I am in contact with Liv Garcia and recently Jody Miller and of course Twila who did wonders for me she was down here. The stress of hearing about the fruity state of mind caused my BP to shoot up causing a lot of symptoms. Twila had a calming effect and I'm so grateful. Please take care--I read my Trinity newsletter with interest--and have a wonderful summer.

Remember keep the "DO NOT GROW' prayers coming.

Peace and love,  
Joan Sheldrake



## WHERE IS THE LOVE?

The yard sale was a bit of a disappointment. Our St. Brigid's group had worked feverishly for several weeks collecting, sorting, carrying, marking our goods, and carting tables from all over town. The two days after the sale were spent getting rid of all that remained. We had pretty good stuff as "stuff" goes and we were sure to bring in a bundle of money. How could we know that there would be three pages of ads for yard sales that weekend? At the end of the day and the end of a glass (or two) of wine, we did our tallying. The wine helped us to decide that this would be our last yard sale. As good businesswomen, we did the calculation. It came out to about thirty cents per hour for several hours a day for two weeks. We were exhausted. What was the good of all of this? We began to wonder.

I recalled one of Mother Gwendolyn-Jane's sermons and the words haunted me. She once said that when things go awry – when we are hurt, disappointed, or angry we need to stop and ask ourselves, "Where is the love in this?" That's what was wrong. We were looking for the *good* in the situation when we should have, in fact, been looking for the love.

And love did come. It came in the form of camaraderie. It came from faithful Trinity friends who donated goods and time to the cause, and a few good souls who ventured out to buy. But, mostly, it came in a note from Joe Ruggiero, my ten-year old neighbor and good friend. I had allowed Joe to set up a table in his yard, as I knew he was anxious to get rid of some of his old toys and games. In what must have been his best handwriting, my friend Joseph wrote,

*"Dear Mrs. Pam,*

*Thank you for letting me set up a table and for running the ad in the newspaper. I promised that I would give half of what I made to charity, but I'm giving it to your church instead."*

Enclosed was thirty-four dollars. Love was found.

—Pam Giordano

PS – Isn't it good to know we're not "charity"?

PPS – We were able to turn over \$400.00 to the fund. Not bad, after all!

### **On Tour** with Jack Vickrey

Would you like to visit a place you've heard of, but probably never before actually gone to? How about Hell? Next fall, in October and early November, Jack Vickrey will escort a group of tourists assembled Wednesday evenings in Mo. Laura's Soup and Bonaventure group through the Dante's *Inferno*, as translated by Dorothy Sayers.

We will go with Dante as he awakes to find himself in a dark wood, meets his ghost-guide, the poet Virgil, and goes with Virgil down, down, down--through Hell Gate and Upper Hell (Francesca da Rimini, the curiously unrecognizable Hoarders and Spendthrifts, the Wrathful, and others), into Nether Hell (the Circles of the Violent and then [depths below depths] the circles of Simple and Complex Fraud, with their wretched sinners and dire afflictions--Ulysses and Guido and Ugolino and all, but we can add our own ["I've got a little list"])--and finally Satan himself, the great prince-prisoner of Hell. Then, out, "to look once more upon the stars."

There are in the *Inferno* spectacles aplenty to behold. But as tourists we will try also to grasp the order and system of "the City of Desolation" (it is a Model community, efficiently managed, where the punishment always fits the crime) and to grasp some idea of Dante's vision of how a just world would be ordered.



# CHIMES FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE

Dear Friends and Members of Trinity:

Our 2005-2006 *Music and The Arts at Trinity* concert series came to a close with a recital by the theatre organist, Lew Williams, on Mothers' Day. Mr. Williams played a varied program that ranged from Bach to Gershwin to Jerome Kern. We had a wonderful reception afterwards, put together by Trinity choir members. The choir helps so much throughout the year with such events, and their contribution to the church is tremendous. I don't know what we'd do without such loyal members, who give so much of their time, work and talent. Thank you choir for a wonderful year, which included performances of works by Faure, Langlais, and Vivaldi, in addition to other new anthems and canticles for the morning service and evensong.

Our next event will be the annual "Beinema" Concert next Fall. Watch for details in the coming months.

I would like to thank all of you who have made financial contributions towards the concert series at Trinity. Your support has been wonderful, and we could not present these concerts without your help. All the concerts are paid for from these private donations, and we are very grateful for your generosity. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Lorenz Maycher  
Organist-Choirmaster



## Musikfest Parking

Trinity will once again be using its parking lot for Musikfest. This is one of our best fundraisers and we shall soon be looking for volunteers to monitor the lot. If you want to sign up for a shift or several shifts, look for the signup sheets which should be posted around July 9. It is not difficult work and you will enjoy meeting people plus you can have fun squeezing as many cars as possible into our little lot!



**We're a Friendly  
Bunch!**

### **Please note:**

The Animal Food Bank collection box is now located in the front entrance vestibule of the church.



## Weekly Schedule

<b>Sundays</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	Holy Eucharist (sermon, no music) (Church)
	<b>9:30 am</b>	Holy Eucharist (sermon, summer choir) (Church)
<b>Mondays</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	Morning Prayer (Chapel)
	<b>Noon-1:00 pm</b>	Soup Kitchen
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	Morning Prayer (Chapel)
	<b>10:30 am</b>	Yoga (Chapel)
	<b>Noon-1:00 pm</b>	Soup Kitchen
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	AA Meeting (Parish Hall)
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	Morning Prayer (Chapel)
	<b>9:30 am</b>	Holy Eucharist w/Healing (Chapel)
	<b>Noon-1:00 pm</b>	Soup Kitchen
	<b>3:00 pm</b>	Yoga (Chapel)
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	Morning Prayer (Chapel)
	<b>Noon-1:00 pm</b>	Soup Kitchen
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	Yoga (Chapel)
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	Morning Prayer (Chapel)
	<b>Noon-1:00 pm</b>	Soup Kitchen
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	AA Meeting (Parish Hall)
	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Holy Eucharist and Sermon (Chapel) (1st Saturday - Holy Eucharist w/Healing in the Church)

*(Continued from page 3)*

healed and the demon-possessed pigs were destroyed? People heard about it and came to gawk. This was a spectacle—the monster that had terrorized the countryside was tamed and turned back into a human being. The pigs were gone. They had heard the rumor, but needed to check it out for themselves. When they saw with their own eyes that it was true—not just gossip—they were afraid. Like the disciples who wondered who the person controlling the storm could be, these neighbors must have wondered: “Who is this, that even the demons obey him?”

They were Gentiles, maybe they didn’t know anything about the Messiah. Maybe they thought Jesus was a powerful magician. Clearly, whoever he was, he was dangerous to their way of life. So they begged him to go away. There is a crescendo in the text—wonder after wonder—a build-up of suspense—what is Jesus going to do next? The answer is: nothing. He’s simply going to go away. He simply turns away to get into the boat. Amazing that someone of such power would be so meek!

But then the man who was healed began begging to go with him. To emphasize the contrast, the same verb is used both times in the original text: the neighbors are begging Jesus to leave; the healed man is begging to leave with him.

What’s going on here? I doubt that the villagers are simply worried about losing more of their property if Jesus stays around. Certainly, a criticism of Greed may be one thread, but hardly the most important of this whole very detailed story. I think the interaction between the villagers and Jesus speaks volumes to us. They **must** know the truth of who he is—perhaps they heard the demons acknowledging him as Jesus, Son of the Most High God. Or they know

*(Continued on page 11)*



(Continued from page 1)

other. This comprehension for the sake of Love is in my mind the true mark of Catholicism.

I claim to be a moderate. By that I mean I believe that the sacred center (as opposed to a political one) is where we will find the most authentic expression of the Catholic faith. It is in the fullness of the Anglican Communion that I find the truest expression of this idea.

**If we shrug our shoulders and agree that it would be better to walk apart, what message do we send as the Bride of Christ to a world that is fragmenting before our eyes?**

When a couple comes to me and tells me that they have decided to divorce because they grow weary of the bickering – I ask them if they have gotten to the point in their marriage where there can be no hope, no sign of God's love among them. I work with them to try to answer that question. If the answer is no, and it almost always is, then I work even harder to help them find the resources they need to recapture the selfless love for each other that they once had.

So what of our Church? Is there any sign of God's love among us? Are the starving being fed? Are the ill be cared for? Are new people hearing the Gospel? The answer to all these questions is yes. We heard this at General Convention from both inside the Episcopal Church and from the whole of the Communion. So, since we still have hope, I can not agree that the time has come for "divorce" from one another in the Church.

There are better ways to address the real tensions among us right now. Ways that perhaps we have finally found the political courage to start taking seriously. This seems to me to be the first step we take rather than jumping all the way to the end of the process and acting in such a way that we may never be able to go back.

+Nick

## Some thoughts about General Convention 2006

A friend asked me to write up a short summary of my thoughts about General Convention, and another suggested I make a list of five things that could be listed in a bulletin...

So, what can I say about General Convention in summary?

- **Reconciliation can not happen via a legislative process. But reconciliation is possible for us.** Look at the difference between the discussions on the legislative floor where we hurled debating points at each other, but didn't have the time or the space to listen and carefully respond - and the way the Special Committee, chosen to represent the breadth of our Church, was able to do the opposite. They managed in the course of their two weeks of work to come to a common mind because they came to trust each other and to know each other. That fact is what gives me hope for the Church.
- **We have a new Primate for the Church whom I think has just the right gifts for the coming nine years.** +Katharine is no stranger to conflict or to controversy, and her background in reconciliation is going to be a real asset. I'm of course delighted to learn that she is a scientist, comfortable with technology and committed to openness in the Church.
- **The Episcopal Church is struggling to find a way forward that will bring as many as possible of us into a place where we can find the healing we need so that we can do the mission work we have been given.** I think all of the events of the past week need to be viewed through that perspective.
- **We all agreed that what we really want right now is to put the fighting behind us and to focus on things like the Millennium Development Goals.** The extraordinary excitement and unanimity about this is stunning.

**There is a great deal of thoughtful and dedicated work being done in the name of Jesus in thousands and thousands of places in the Episcopal Church.** We tend to lose sight of that sometimes, but hearing the testimonies that we did at Convention, we were forced to remember that what we were fighting about is something worth fighting for. We Episcopalians are bearers of Good News to people who need to hear and experience it. Don't let the rhetoric of the loud voices caught up in their struggle let us ever forget that. *Perhaps now that the Windsor Process belongs to Canterbury, we can back to doing that work again.*

+Nick



## General Convention Impressions

by Hillary Dowling Raining

Three years ago, when I first served as a deputy, I truly learned what the meaning of the phrase "baptism by fire." Working on the Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music Committee and experiencing the election of the Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson was a lot to take in at one time. This convention was certainly just as important to the history of our church, but I felt more secure having some experience to draw from.

I was privileged to again serve on the Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music Committee where we spent the bulk of our time working on the new "Rites of Passage" liturgies that we composed during the last triennium. These rites will help families and communities celebrate important milestones in individual's lives. They include prayers for everything from learning to ride a bike to honoring the anniversary of a loved one's death

I think that the most exciting part over all was the Church's embracing of the Millennium Development Goals and the election of the first woman Presiding Bishop. The Millennium Development goals were a refreshing change from the sometimes disheartening politics of the extreme factions on the floor. No matter what a person's agenda may have been, all members of the House came together to embrace the MDGs and to truly change the world we live in for the better. It is a wonderful feeling to be a part of a church that is willing to be a relevant example of Christ's love to the world.

I will admit that I never expected the election of Katharine Jefferts Schori. After reading her biography and watching an interview with her and the other nominees, I felt that she would certainly be one of my top choices for Presiding Bishop. However, I assumed that she, being a woman, would not be elected. I truly had my eyes opened by the Holy Spirit when I learned how delightful wrong I was. I do not think that I am the only person who learned that while things may be unexpected in our limited human understanding, nothing is impossible for God. What a wonderful lesson to learn on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's ordination!

*(Continued from page 9)*

the truth of who he is by seeing the deeds he has done. Or they have heard from the cured demoniac's own lips who Jesus is. They know the truth and refuse to acknowledge that it is truth. Or, they know the truth, but they don't want to have to deal with its demands on them.

Jesus' presence changes the neighborhood—cleanses it. There isn't room for both the unclean and diabolical, and holy Jesus. The villagers just want Jesus to go away, so everything can return to the way it always was. Jesus' presence changes what we value. The healed man's priorities suddenly shift: he wants to be with Jesus.

This is our challenge: how much do **WE** want to be with Jesus? He will heal us. He will keep us safe and centered even while we go through the storms. He will send evil away. But then things will change. We can't have it both ways. We can't keep everything the way it always was and still be close to the source of power and creation. Creation is constantly growing and changing.

The power absolutely lies in us to send Jesus away. Like the villagers in today's Gospel, if we ask him to leave, he will. And he will leave us to our own devices. Scary thought! But if we ask to go with him, he will tell us what we need to do to further the reign of Christ. Some of us may be called to great deeds—like becoming a missionary or changing the world on a big scale. For most of us, our orders are found right in this text: "Go home. Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." Amen.

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...Feeding all in Body, Mind and Soul

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## Important Dates to Remember

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Monday, July 3 - 6:00 pm - "Going Deeper: A Contemplative Community" - Chapel  
Tuesday, July 4 - 6:30 pm - Daughters of the King - Library  
Wednesday, July 5 - 10:30 am - Daughters of the King - Library  
Tuesday, July 11 - 8:00 pm - Outreach Committee - Library  
Wednesday, July 12 - 7:00 pm - Post General Convention Meeting - St. Anne's, Trexlertown  
Saturday, July 15 - 10:00 am - Bishop's Day with Youth - Spruce Lake Retreat, Canadensis  
Sunday, July 16 - 10:30 am - Farewell Reception for the Hornung Family - Parish Hall  
Monday, July 17 - 6:00 pm - "Going Deeper: A Contemplative Community" - Chapel  
Monday, July 17 - 7:00 pm - Stewardship Committee - Library  
Tuesday, July 18 - 2:30 pm - Pastoral Care Committee - Library  
Tuesday, July 18 - 6:30 pm - Daughters of the King - Library  
Wednesday, July 19 - 10:30 am - Daughters of the King - Library  
Wednesday, July 19 - 5:30 pm - Prayer Beaders' Gathering - Whittier home  
Saturday, July 22 - 9:00 am - Bishop's Day with Kids - Cathedral Church of the Nativity  
Tuesday, July 25 - 5:30 pm - Soup Kitchen Board Meeting - Library  
Tuesday, Aug 1 - 6:30 pm - Daughters of the King - Library  
Wednesday, Aug 2 - 10:30 am - Daughters of the King - Library  
Monday, Aug 7 - 6:00 pm - "Going Deeper: A Contemplative Community" - Chapel  
Tuesday, Aug 8 - 8:00 pm - Outreach Committee - Library  
Monday, Aug 14 - 7:00 pm - Stewardship Committee - Library  
Tuesday, Aug 15 - 2:30 pm - Pastoral Care Committee - Library  
Tuesday, Aug 15 - 6:30 pm - Daughters of the King - Library  
Wednesday, Aug 16 - 10:30 am - Daughters of the King - Library  
Wednesday, Aug 16 - 5:30 pm - Prayer Beaders' Gathering - Whittier home  
Monday, Aug 21 - 6:00 pm - "Going Deeper: A Contemplative Community" - Chapel  
Monday, Aug 21 - 7:00 pm - Vestry Meeting - Library  
Tuesday, Aug 22 - 5:30 pm - Soup Kitchen Board Meeting - Library

### September Newsletter Deadline

Monday, August 21, 2006