

Sunday Readings

February 7 Epiphany 5

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 14 Last Sunday after

Epiphany

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

February 21 Lent 1

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 28 Lent 2

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Luke 13:31-35

Sunday Worship Schedule

7:30 am Traditional Eucharist

8:45 am Childcare, 2nd floor

9 am Bible Study; Adult Forum

10 am Choral Eucharist,

Child & Youth Programs

Noon Worship Schedule

Healing Eucharist

every Wednesday

Friday Requiem Eucharist

the last Friday of each month

Monday Evening Prayer

5:30 pm In the Chapel

Haiti Matters

By The Rev. Dr. Randal Gardner

Pat Robertson's rather cruel assessment that the Haitians were responsible for the earthquake that destroyed their largest city was predictable. He has previously blamed the victims of other disasters, attributing the destruction to God's punishment. Robertson sees the world as a battlefield between the devil and God, and so presumably the destruction of innocent ones is on the order of "collateral damage." It is puzzling to me that only God seems to have all the destructive weapons in these battles; so far as I know Robertson has never attributed a hurricane or earthquake to the devil's control.

Robertson can excuse some of his judgmentalism with scripture. In Isaiah God claims to, "bring prosperity and bring disaster." In Job God's answer for the injustice of Job's suffering was a refusal to give an answer: "Who are *you* to question me?" Jesus challenged the Jews with the observation that a great tower of stone collapsed on both the just and the wicked.

Far more prevalent in scripture, though, are indications of God's companionship with humanity in times of crisis. At the end of Job God condemned those who argued that Job would not be suffering if he hadn't deserved it. Elijah was sent by God to a widow in a foreign land to share the suffering of a great famine with her and her people. Jesus rejected the idea that a blind man was being punished for some sin, arguing instead that the man's blindness was for the sake of having an encounter with God.

Robertson clings to those aspects of scripture that link all suffering to some fault or failure on the part of the one who suffers. We all recognize that there are consequences for our behavior. But it is also true that we may suffer without any discernable cause, without any sin that would explain the crisis. Sometimes the earth shakes. Sometimes weather systems build up more energy than we can survive. Some people get cancer without ever having been "guilty" of setting the stage for it.

Our faith in Jesus Christ reminds us that God is always close at hand. Christ's teaching also makes it imperative for us to act compassionately toward our neighbors in need. These two realities – one spiritual and one interpersonal – give us an ability to cope with times of trouble. In some cases we draw upon spiritual strength, and that will be sufficient. Usually we find our spiritual strength increased when the care of others reinforces the reality of God's love for us.

We can trust the Haitians to find and deepen their spiritual reliance on God. Haiti is one of the most predominantly Christian nations in the world, far more devout in the practice of the faith than we are in this country. The faithful in Haiti have sent their thanks for the prayers the rest of the world is offering, and it is in-

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The Women's Dinner Group

"Traveling Alone in North Korea"

The "Hermit Kingdom"

6 pm, Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Everyone is invited to join the Women's Dinner Group on Tuesday evening, February 9th for an intriguing and informative presentation by Rosemary Straley. She traveled alone, inside North Korea, enroute to her home, from the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Rosemary will share her insights and images from the journey. As she says, "It was amazing. Unlike any country I've visited."

Rosemary Straley holds a B.A. and M.A. from Stanford and a Ph.D. in administration from Harvard University. Her career in international development, with the U.S. government based in Washington, DC and with the United Nations based in Paris has taken her to 148 countries. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana, served as Peace Corps Director in Cameroon, and has carried out projects for agencies including the World Bank and UNICEF. Now she will share about her time in "The Hermit Kingdom."

Make your reservation for this informative evening by signing up after church on Sunday or by calling the church office at (858) 459-3421. The event begins in the Van Schaick Room at 6 pm, with dinner catered by Girard Gourmet at a cost of \$15 per person.

Again, all are welcome. . .women and men!

Lunch Bunch

presents

"Symbols, Images & Songs of Transformation"

The Rev. Dr. Randal Gardner

What does it mean to be transformed? Being transformed is central to the focus of Lent, yet what does transformation look like? Fr. Gardner will use images of art, symbols, and the words and sounds of music and song to invite us to recognize or pray for transformation in our own life.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 AT NOON

Come and to hear our rector, the Rev. Dr. Randal Gardner for a thought-provoking presentation. In these very troubled times, we need worldly wisdom and spiritual guidance. It will be very good to have Randal give us his insightful views.

Remember to make your reservation no later than noon on Monday, February 8th by calling the church office (Tel: 858-459-3421). Lunch will be served at noon in the Van Schaick Room by Girard Gourmet (\$7.00). This will be a great time to bring a guest to hear Dr. Gardner, a superb speaker and theologian!

FOR FEBRUARY ONLY, THE LUNCH BUNCH IS SCHEDULED FOR THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.

St. James Gift Shop News



By Karen Fast

St. James Gift Shop has wonderful ideas for Valentine's Day presents. Starting at \$2, we have a little treasure for your special someone. From great inexpensive cards to

hearts galore, come by and make your selection today.

Have you received your book catalog? The Gift Shop is a member of the Episcopal Booksellers Association, and we have published a catalog of best selling books. Come in and ask for your complimentary copy today.

Join the "Soul Searchers" book club in the St. James Gift Shop

February 12, 2010, the St. James Gift Shop hold's another meeting. Now named "*Soul Searchers*," we encourage you to choose books and share your thoughts. Becoming excited about books and engaging in thought-provoking conversation is our purpose.

Soul Searchers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 9 am in the Gift Shop. We invite you to attend! Feel free to come by the Gift Shop and browse through our bookshop section. You might find your next great literary adventure!

260th Anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's Death

A Concert to Benefit Episcopal Community Services (ECS)

By Eleanor Ellsworth, Sr. Associate Rector



For weeks you have seen "SAVE the DATE" for Anthony Newman's Benefit Concert to be held on Sunday, February 21st at 4 pm.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for St. James and St. James' friends in the community to experience a world class musician: organist, harpsichordist, conductor and composer, Anthony Newman. Mr. Newman is offering this organ performance *pro bono* and for that we are extremely grateful.




"The High Priest of Bach"

Anthony Newman is without question America's foremost Baroque interpreter. Described by Wynton Marsalis as "The High Priest of Bach," and by Time Magazine as "The High Priest of the Harpsichord." Newman has maintained a 40 year career as America's leading organist, harpsichordist and Bach specialist. His prodigious recording output include more than 170 CDs.

St. James is dedicated to supporting our local diocesan Social Justice arm, Episcopal Community Services. We have designated ECS as the sole recipient of this benefit concert. We have the privilege of hearing the majestic music of Bach in person, through Anthony Newman's exquisite talent, as we provide support for the poor and dispossessed in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego.

No tickets will be sold in advance. Come early and get your seat. Please bring a generous heart and your check-book! Make out your checks to St. James—memo line BACH:ECS.

If you cannot come to this concert, and wish to contribute, please do. I urge you to share this announcement with your friends and neighbors, and invite them to be part of this experience. 

Chanticleer

"An Ocean of Voices"


Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 4 pm

We are honored to close our 25th annual St. James Music Series with a performance by a cornerstone of our series and one of the most acclaimed choral ensembles in the world, Grammy Award winning Chanticleer. This concert features Chanticleer's lush signature sound in their program titled "In Time Of....Songs of Love and Loss, War and Peace," Chanticleer will reflect on the most profound experiences touching all of us - singing some of the choral repertoire's most beautiful music.

Tickets are still available for the remaining concert in the 2009-2010 Series. Call Steven Townsend at 858 459-3421 X109 for information or you may order tickets on line at www.sjbts.org



Evensong

Evensong continues on February 14th at 5 pm on the campus of The Bishop's School in St. Mary's Chapel. The remaining Evensong date this season is March 21. 

Advertise in the Chimes!

This publication is mailed to almost 700 homes each month, and viewed online by more. It is a great opportunity to advertise and expand your business within a supportive community.

We are, for the very first time, selling business card advertisement for \$30 per month, or \$300 per year. Call Sue Adams to set up your account at 858 459-3421x110.



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Haiti Matters, continued

dicative that they consistently express thanks for prayers before they express thanks for material help. We become part of the ministry of grace through prayers and through our generous support of the work done in our name to comfort and recover in that land. We ought not to look for some reason to explain this disaster, but we are able to be part of God's grace in a terrible time.

Bishop Duracin, the Anglican Bishop of Haiti, writes: "Please tell our partners, the people of The Episcopal Church, the people of the United States and indeed the people of the world that we in Haiti are immensely grateful for their prayers, their support and their generosity. This is a desperate time in Haiti; we have lost so much. But we still have the most important asset, the people of God, and we are working continuously to take care of them."

Checks payable to St. James by-the-Sea with "Haiti" on the memo line will be forwarded to Episcopal Relief and Development for their work in the disaster recovery. Donations to Episcopal Relief and Development can also be made directly online at WWW.ER-D.ORG.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper by the Youth of St. James!

February 16, at 6 pm



Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper

February 16, 2010

6:00 - 8:00 PM

St. James Hall

Donations Gratefully
Accepted