

*The Mars Hill*  
**PROCLAIMER**  
February 2010

*A newsletter  
by, for and about the people of*  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
DeKalb, Illinois

This month:

- Special Dates to Remember
- Program & Committee Reports
- Palm Sunday Traditions
- Transitions

All submissions to the *Mars Hill Proclaimer* should be sent to  
[parishoffice@stpaulsdekalb.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpaulsdekalb.org).  
The next deadline will be March 15, 2010.

## **Upcoming Events at St. Paul's**

Lenten Quiet Day, Saturday, March 6, 9:30-2.

Sunday March 7: Bowl for Kids' Sake.

Saturday, March 13: Diane Butler Bass at St. Paul's 10-2

Wednesday, March 17: Bishop Jeffrey Lee at UCM. Meal at 7:30 P.M., service at 9 P.M.

Sunday, March 21: St. Paul's Annual Chili Cook-Off! More info to come!

Sunday, May 9: Recognition Sunday, Mothers' Day

Saturday, May 15: Lobster Boil

## **HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

Sunday of the Passion, March 28: Services at regular times

Maundy Thursday, April 1: Service at 7 P.M.

Holy Friday, April 2: Services at 12 noon and 7 P.M.

Easter Eve, April 3: The Great Vigil of Easter at 7 P.M.

Easter Day, April 4: The Holy Eucharist at 9 A.M.

**Our Lenten Reflections Series** is based on readings by Blessed Julian of Norwich. We meet on Wednesdays following the 9:30 A.M. celebration of the Holy Eucharist. See Mthr. Gwynne for more information.

**IMAGINING with Diana Butler Bass:** Imagine spending time with Diana Butler Bass, the author of such insightful books as *The Practicing Congregation* and *The People's History of Christianity!* Saturday March 13, Butler Bass will give a presentation centered on her latest work, *A People's History of Christianity*, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The session begins at 10 a.m. and is intended for all members of the diocesan community and the public. The day includes lunch and ends at 2 P.M. Registration fee is \$20. Copies of Butler Bass's works are available at And All Angels bookshop at St. Michael's, Barrington. Visit Diana Butler Bass's website to learn about her work: <http://www.dianabutlerbass.com/>.

## Program & Committee Reports

### Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The ECW held its monthly luncheon in the Parish Hall on Feb. 20. The meeting, hosted by Marilyn Cleland, included a business meeting where we had a lively discussion about the 2010 budget. The decision was made to change a few of the charitable organizations to whom the 2009 Lobster Boil proceeds are donated; the American Red Cross of DeKalb County and Community Coordinated Child Care were added.

We had a delicious lunch of chili and salad and dessert prepared by Marilyn Cleland, Rosemary Ostberg and Marilyn Sjöholm. Thank you!

In response to Mother Gwynne's wonderful sermon on Sunday February 14, Marilyn planned a discussion where we would think about and talk about one of the questions Mother posed to us from the Gospel Reading: *what journeys do we still have in front of us; what work do we still have to do?* Marilyn felt it would be wonderful to use our time together -- to let our comradeship help each of us -- to become more conscious of and creative about our own individual personal journeys, and also felt that this question would resonate for us as the women of St. Paul's.

Unfortunately we ran out of time and had to postpone our discussion until our March luncheon, which will be on Saturday March 20 at 12:30 in the Parish Hall. It is a brown bag luncheon so grab a sandwich and join in the discussion! Remember- the ECW is an organization of all the women of St. Paul's so please join us!

### What is Love INC?

You may have noticed several articles in the Faith Section of the *Daily Chronicle* about other churches' projects with Love INC (In the Name of Christ). Love INC is a national volunteer organization whose goals are to serve our neighbors in need by helping them identify and utilize appropriate resources.

Love INC has an office in DeKalb and St. Paul's is a partner church, along with 29 other churches. We have made monetary contributions to them via the Discretionary Fund as they "vet"

community members who have financial needs, so that when we provide help we know the need is legitimate.

People seeking financial assistance are guided to participate in budgeting and financial counseling. Some of the churches have adopted specific ministries, for example Hillcrest Covenant Church has a furniture ministry, First Lutheran Church has a Linen Closet. Both accept gently used donations.

Love INC is a wonderful organization that has become a clearing house for those who need assistance.

Currently their “Needs and Wants List” includes clean furniture, a good refrigerator, bikes in good condition, gas cards, Aldi cards, and a projector to use for PowerPoint presentations. They have volunteer opportunities available and welcome monetary donations. Look for their newsletter on the bulletin board for more information.

### **Want to be a Host Family?**

April 11-22, 2010 NIU’s Center of Southeast Asian Studies is hosting 30 secondary school students (15-17 years old) and educators from Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand for a 3-week training program. The program is designed to promote high quality leadership, civic responsibility and community activism among the countries’ future leaders and prepare them to conduct projects at home that serve their communities. Host families offer an invaluable mutually beneficial learning environment by opening their homes and hearts. For more information contact Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 or lshive@niu.edu.

### **Magnetic Church**

The Magnetic Church Committee is looking for gently used rocking chair or glider that does not squeak! See Ellen Anderson or Jane Torma.

### **Fellowship Events**

It’s the Great Annual Chili Cookoff! March 21! Rochelle Cripe is coordinating. You can talk to her at bradandro@comcast.net or 815 901 0047. The sign up sheet is in the parish hall. Get your recipes ready!! Some of us are staying afterwards to play cards/games - join us!

**Crepes on the Patio...** Terry Dickow will coordinate this evening social event for adults on Friday, April 23rd. A sign up sheet will be out soon. There will be a charge for this event, \$10 per person, payable in advance.

Thanks to Rosemarie Ostberg for coordinating the Ash Wednesday soup supper.

**Report on Winter Afternoon Crafts & Snacks Event:**

We held a very successful winter afternoon craft/refreshment family event on February 13th. Terry and Jackie Dickow led us through several crafts for young and old. We enjoyed our time together!

Thanks to everyone who helps with the Fellowship Events. Many hands make light work!

**Palm Sunday and Its Traditions**

Palm Sunday is the sixth and last Sunday of Lent and beginning of Holy Week.

According to the Gospels, before entering Jerusalem, Jesus was staying at Bethany and Bethphage, and the Gospel of John adds that he had dinner with Lazarus, and his sisters Mary and Martha. While there, Jesus sent two disciples to *the village over against* them, in order to retrieve a donkey that had been tied up but never been ridden, and to say, if questioned, that the donkey was needed by the Lord but would be returned.

The Gospels go on to recount how Jesus rode into Jerusalem, and how the people there lay down their cloaks in front of him, and also lay down small branches of trees. The people sang part of Psalm 118: “ *...Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father, David...*”

It is customary in many churches for the worshippers to receive fresh palm leaves on Palm Sunday. In parts of the world where this has historically been impractical substitute traditions have arisen.

In England the day was called Olive or Branch Sunday, Sallow or Willow, Yew or Blossom Sunday, or Sunday of the Willow Boughs. In many parts of England a large and beautiful tent was prepared in the churchyard. Two priests accompanied by lights brought the Blessed Sacrament in a beautiful cup or pyx hung in a shrine of open work to this tent.

A long-drawn procession with palms and flowers came out of the church and made four stations in the church yard. At each of these stations Gospels were sung. After the singing of the first Gospel the shrine with the Blessed Sacrament was borne forward. On meeting, all prostrated and kissed the ground. The procession then continued. The door of the church was opened, the priests held up on high the shrine with the Blessed Sacrament, so that all who went in had to go under this shrine, and thus the procession came back into the church.

Since the celebration recalled the solemn entry of Christ into Jerusalem people made use of many quaint and realistic representations; thus, a figure of Christ seated on an ass, carved out of wood was carried in the procession and even brought into the church.

In the Greek Orthodox Church it is celebrated with great solemnity and is called Lazarus Sunday, because on the day before they hold the feast of the resuscitation of Lazarus. One of the prayers recited in the Greek Orthodox Palm Sunday service indicates that the resurrection of Lazarus is a prefiguration of Jesus' own Resurrection:

*O Christ our God, when Thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the resurrection of the universe.*

*Wherefore, we like children, carry the banner of triumph and victory, and we cry to Thee, O Conqueror of Death, Hosanna in the highest!*

*Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.*

In the Philippines, there are some places where a re-enactment of Jesus' triumphal entry occurs. The priest rides a horse and is surrounded by the congregation, bearing palms. Sometimes women spread large cloths or aprons along the procession route. Palm branches, called *palaspas*, are taken home after the Mass and are hung beside, on or above doorways and windows.

After the blessing of the palm branches, the people put them in front of their houses. Although the real objective of placing the leaves in front of houses is to welcome Jesus Christ, some Filipinos say that the palm leaves turn away evil spirits.

In Jordan, Palm Sunday is perhaps the best attended service in the Christian Calendar, among the Orthodox, Catholic(Latin Rite &

Eastern rite), and Anglican Churches, perhaps because it such a family occasion. On this day children will attend church with branches from olive and palm trees. Also there will be carefully woven crosses and other symbols made from palm fronds and roses. There will normally be a procession at the beginning of the service and at some point the priest will take an olive branch and splash holy water on the faithful.

In Latvia, Palm Sunday is called "Pussy Willow Sunday," and pussy willows - symbolizing new life - are blessed and distributed to the faithful. Children are often woken that morning with ritualistic swats of a willow branch. People also catch each other and spank each other with the branches.

### TRANSITIONS February and March

#### February Birthdays

Maureen Gerrity Feb. 3	Kurt McMahon Feb. 17
Roy Mason Feb. 6	Blythe Stason Feb. 17
Sharon Downen Feb. 6	Tyson Fogel Feb. 19
Maura Sikorski Feb. 8	Gretchen Schlabach Feb. 25
Bobby Russell Feb. 12	Freyja Rasmussen-Johns Feb. 26

#### February Marriage Anniversaries

Robert and Audrey Brown, Feb. 10, 1946  
John and Carol Krusbe, Feb. 15, 1958

#### March Birthdays

Norma Fitzgerald, March 6	Lindsey Anderson, March 14
Jimmy Russell, March 6	Miles Guiborat, March 15
Emily Russell, March 8	Steven Sue Roberts, March 23
Jane Nenonen, March 9	Jim Torma, March 24
George Anderson, March 10	Jackie Dickow, March 27
Danny Russell, March 10	Mary Lincoln, March 27
Julie Stubblefield, March 11	Gail Sitzes, March 28

#### March Marriage Anniversary

George and Rita Anderson, March 17, 1962

Gail Sitzes has informed the parish office that she will be married to Lonnie Piper on November 12, 2010.

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**900 Normal Road**

**Dekalb, IL 60115**