

# The Sceptre

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING

*An inclusive parish of The Episcopal Church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition*

## From the Rector



With Easter over and Corpus Christi not until the end of next month we can all now take a deep breath and just be for a while. The liturgical life of Church of the Advent of Christ the King has been described as “relentless” and there is some truth in that. So it is all the more important for us to seize this opportunity to put into effect what we all know we need to do: get the message out there! There has been an assumption, for several centuries now, that if we are welcoming and have beautiful worship and high quality music people will be drawn to the Church, and once there will join. If madness is to do the same thing over and over expecting a different result, then mainstream churches have gone collectively mad and are getting worse. For few new people come into our churches and even fewer stay despite the beauty of what we do, the value of our message, or how sublime our music is. We keep on doing it not because we are mad but because the alternative is to do something we shrink from: tell our story to people we do not know.

When I was growing up there was still an assumption that one never conversed with anyone until one had been introduced. While I may, when on a long plane journey,

## News Briefs

The final Third Sunday Series concert of the season will be May 15th at 4 PM with Gilbert Martinez, harpsichord.

Volunteers are needed to help with the following tasks:

- ushering and collecting donations
- setup and cleanup for a simple reception
- donation of simple snack items

wish that were still the case, in the world in which we now live communication is at the heart of life and even intimate details are shared with a recklessness that would have made my parents blush. Today social media like “Facebook” and “Twitter” are essential to the human enterprise so that even the Queen of the UK “tweets”. Advent has come so far as to develop a “Facebook” page (to some demonstrable success I might add) but we need now to go a step further and discard our comfort zone and step into the new (and very ancient) Christian discipline of Evangelism. For that is the thing that we, and nearly every other mainstream church, lack: the courage to share our compelling story with strangers.

During my sabbatical in 2006 I studied the Rule of St. Benedict and its application to parish life. One of the discoveries I made, thanks to the insights of Sr. Aquinata Bockmann, was that at the heart of the Rule was the principal that we are to welcome the stranger and make them our friend. This might well be the motto for the Church in the 21st Century. We can no longer look to recruit from the diminishing pool of those who are already Christian; we have to reach those who have yet to hear the Good News of Jesus, or even those who have rejected all religion as the root of evil in the world. We have to make the case for God compellingly and from the heart so that we can welcome those estranged from God and make them friends not only to us but to their creator.

Happy Pascaltide, and happy hunting!

Cate Gregory and Katharine Favret will be riding in the AIDS LifeCycle in June to raise money for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Please consider sponsoring them by donating to this wonderful and necessary cause. Donations may be made by check to “AIDS LifeCycle” or online by visiting <http://www.aidslifecycle.org/> - click on “Donate”, and search for either of their names.

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The Sceptre is the monthly newsletter of Church of the Advent of Christ the King, a parish of the Episcopal Church. We are an Anglo-Catholic church, that is, one with a strong emphasis on worship and the life of prayer. Here, in addition to a warm welcome by a diverse group of people, you will find an atmosphere of quiet reflection on the presence of God, great beauty in the visual aspects of corporate worship, and music that inspires and transforms. Here, through our life of prayer, you will find people committed to bringing the love of God, Incarnate in his Son, into the lives of all. I hope that we can touch your life with that love as you join us in worship of the Creator.

## The King James Bible is 400 Years-Old

It may be dated, archaic, not as easy to read, and even less accurate than newer translations, but for some, it is still the Holy Bible.

The King James Bible, also known as the Authorized Version, was first published in May of 1611 with the title, *THE HOLY BIBLE, Containing the Old Testament, AND THE NEW: Newly Translated out of the Original tongues: & with the former Translations diligently compared and revised, by his Majesties special Commandment.*

The KJV was the third official English translation. The first being the *Great Bible*, which was commissioned by Henry the VIII and the second being the *Bishop's Bible* of 1568.

# Advent History...continued

Jennifer Usher, assisted by Michael Stroup and Suellen Thompson

There are a number of small plaques around the Church of the Advent that commemorate past members. If you are like me, you may wonder who these people were, and what led to them being honored.

One such person is Anna Hammond Hall. Here is the story from the *Pacific Churchman* issue from November 1952:

### Memorial Dedicated to "Miss Anna"

On Sunday, October 26, the Feast of Christ the King, a memorial to Miss Anna Hammond Hall who died February 18, 1949, was dedicated in her parish church, the Church of the Advent of Christ the King, San Francisco.

Miss Hall is one whose memory will long be revered by the Church in California. She was born in San Francisco on August 19, 1871, the daughter of Kate Fitzhugh Hall and William Hammond Hall, who was the first State Engineer of California.

She was educated in California and her whole life was spent here. She was a woman

of discriminating taste and artistic skill which found its outlet in the hand-weaving of beautiful fabrics. She was a member of the Society of Women Artists of California, and the proprietor of the Home Hearth Looms. Among the prized possessions of the Church of the Advent is a hand woven red and gold chasuble which she made.

A woman of deep Christian piety, Miss Hall was a member of the former St. Stephen's and later came to the Church of the Advent when the Rev. Charles N. Lathrop was rector. Together with Mrs. Lydia Williams, she was one of the founders of the Diocesan Altar Guild of California and she served as its president for many years. Her term in this office included the years of World War II and during this time she was of immense help to Army and Navy chaplains of all faiths, supplying them with religious articles necessary in their ministry to service men.

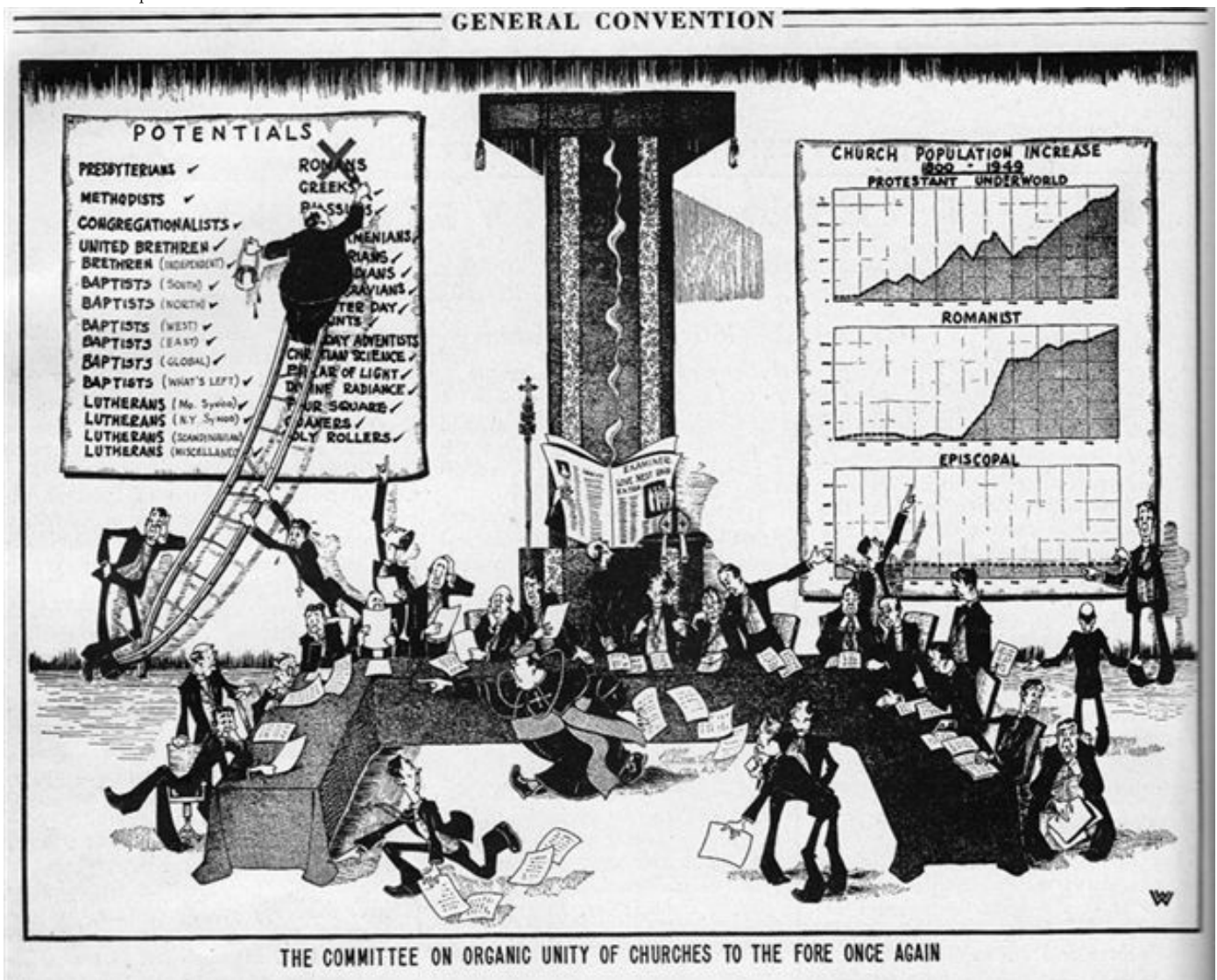
In 1946 Miss Hall was sent Bishop Block to the Philadelphia General Convention to represent our Diocesan Altar Guild, to stimulate

and to assemble an exhibit of ecclesiastical art for the San Francisco Convention. For many years Miss Anna was the president of St. Monica's Altar Guild of her own parish church.

The memorial is a tribute to her memory given by many friends both within and without the Church of the Advent. It takes the form of a jeweled bronze, silver and gold tabernacle for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament on the high altar of the church. It was designed in Italian Renaissance style by Mr. Jorge Wilson-Walker, an artist of the local parish. It was made in London, and is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful in America.

The memorial was blessed by the Bishop of the Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Karl Morgan Block, at a Solemn Eucharist on the Feast of Christ the King, which is also the patronal festival of the parish.

Note: Jorge Wilson Walker is the artist who did the cartoon below as well as the one from last month.





# Not Just Another Wednesday...

Jennifer Usher

It started out like most Wednesdays. I was checking my email. My phone rang, and I was surprised to see that it was my daughter. I had spoken to her earlier and she had said she was not feeling well.

I could hear the fear in her voice as she asked me if I could access alabamawx.com, a web site I was not familiar with. It is a blog site for one of the local TV station's weather department. Channel 33/40 (they have two transmitters) is the ABC affiliate, and is the current local home of James Spann, who has been covering weather in Alabama since 1978.

People joke that you can tell how bad the weather is by how loose his tie becomes during a forecast. During severe weather outbreaks, normal programming is suspended and the coverage becomes continuous. First the suit coat comes off, and then he starts loosening his tie.

My daughter needed my help because her power was out, and so she had no way of knowing what was going on. I brought up the requested web site and several others and I was shocked at how many warnings were in effect. Northwest Alabama was facing a major outbreak of tornadoes. And on top of that, my son-in-law was driving through and area that appeared to be in some of the worst of it.

For the next few hours, I checked radar, and

read updates from the national weather service. And I watched in horror as my home state was devastated. At one point, a warning was issued for the area where my daughter lives, but fortunately, nothing actually materialized.

When I was younger, a tornado warning meant that an actual tornado had been spotted, either on the ground, or in the air. By the time people got the word, it was often too late. Now, with weather radar, a possible storm can be identified and tracked. Often, the storm passes over without doing any damage, but better safe than sorry.

But several of the warnings turned out to be deadly storms. One of the worst turned out to be a long track EF4 or EF5 (enhanced Fujita scale) tornado. That means it traveled for many miles, and resulted in a massive amount of damage. An EF5 is strongest on the scale, which starts at EF0. An EF4 is considered devastating, and an EF5 is considered extreme.

It finally became obvious that the danger had passed for my my family. I kept following the stories online and I learned that places very familiar to me were hit.

Pleasant Grove, Tuscaloosa, Pratt City, Concord, Cullman...the list grows. At this time, the death toll in Alabama is 264 and growing. I was in Tuscaloosa less than two weeks before, and a place where we ate is now gone, as are



Milo's Hamburgers in Tuscaloosa. I ate there less than two weeks before this photo was taken.

places I know very well. The University of Alabama campus was spared, but many students lost off-campus housing.

I ask your prayers for those who died, and especially for those who must now rebuild their lives. So far, I have not heard of any friends or family among the dead, but that could change. I am thankful to God that my daughter, my son-in-law, and my grandchildren are all safe. And I am thankful for the technology that allowed me to share information with my daughter. There was a time when such was not even dreamed of.

## This Month's Celebrants and Preachers at High Mass

**Sunday, May 1, 2011**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
Celebrant: Br. Jude Hill, SSF  
Preacher: Fr. Paul Burrows

**Sunday, May 8, 2011**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
Celebrant: Fr. Paul Burrows  
Preacher: Mth. Robyn Arnold

**Sunday, May 15, 2011**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
Celebrant: Mth. Robyn Arnold  
Preacher: Fr. Rod Thompson

**Sunday, May 22, 2011**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
Celebrant: Fr. Louis Newton  
Preacher: Fr. Paul Burrows

**Sunday, May 29, 2011**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Celebrant: Mth. Robyn Arnold  
Preacher: Fr. Paul Burrows

## May Anniversaries

- 1 Don Fisher + - birthday
- 4 Brittany Kim Andree - birthday  
Alex Martin - confirmation
- 5 Heidi Edson - baptism  
Mark Rose - confirmation
- 6 Rod Thompson + - baptism & confirmation
- 7 William Bonnell - confirmation
- 8 Paul Burrows + - birthday  
Mary Hudak + - confirmation  
Ron Eaton - confirmation
- 10 Mary Hudak + - birthday  
Johannes Stahl - confirmation
- 11 Alex Martin - diaconate
- 12 Loren LeJeune - baptism  
Ian McCloghrie - birthday
- 13 Nancy Eswein - birthday  
Lër Nelson - confirmation  
John Porter + - diaconate
- 14 Ron Eaton - birthday  
Geoffrey Glaser + - reception  
Jean Wright - birthday
- 17 Mary Hudak + - baptism  
Lër Nelson - baptism
- 18 Mark Eriksson - confirmation  
John Klopacz - birthday
- 19 Don Fisher + - baptism & diaconate  
Bob Kramish - birthday  
Louis Newton + - birthday  
Pamela Vaughn - birthday
- 20 Mark Stanger + - reception
- 21 Wayne Fry - reception
- 22 Elizabeth Easton - baptism
- 24 Adrienne Radkoff - baptism
- 28 David Alban - birthday  
Lee Francke - confirmation
- 29 Ed Gabet - confirmation
- 31 Wade Dowdell - confirmation  
Mark Stanger + - birthday

## Latin Holiday

In June, July, and August, the Latin Mass will be taking a much-needed break. This service, which began at St. Cyprian's and moved here with Fr. Rod in 2003, has been a feature of our worship since then. Originally on the first Sunday of the month, it has expanded in the last few years to first and third Saturdays - demanding more in the way of volunteer help from the Altar Guild, Acolytes, Ushers, and Singers. Hence, with Fr. Rod being on sabbatical this summer, seems a good time to step back, take a rest, and recruit, recruit, recruit for our next venture: the outreach possible through this unique form of worship.

Our Latin Schola will continue to hone their skills by taking on the minor propers on Sunday morning while the Schola Adventus are on their summer break. There are plenty of opportunities for acolytes and ushers on Sundays and during the week. As for Saturday evening Mass, we are all invited to support our Franciscan brothers at San Damiano Friary - and indeed they will be calling on the services of our priests during these months. Thank you to Fr. Rod and to all those others who have made the Latin Mass so much a part of our tradition. We look forward to a new season beginning in the fall.

# The Sceptre

May 2011

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