

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

July 2011

Volume 51 Number 7



Church life here at Advent has been described as 'relentless' for a variety of reasons. One is the liturgical calendar, which plods on through the year with feast following feast in a truly 'relentless' procession. Another is the liturgical schedule, which calls for two liturgies on every day of the year and three or more on major feast days. Finally there is a phenomenon not unknown in the Eastern Churches that seems to have become a part of the spirit of Advent that one can always add more to our outreach and liturgy but one cannot take anything away. If this all sounds somewhat exhausting – it is!

One of the difficulties of being a Christian community with a passion for the Gospel is that often our vision of what we should do is so far ahead of what we can reasonably do. This can lead, as it has in recent years, to burn out. People find it increasingly difficult to fulfill the tasks they have volunteered for, feel guilty about letting the Church down, and then start to resent other members of the congregation who do not seem to be doing as much. In these circumstances it sometimes leads to people leaving because they feel unable to meet the obligations they perceive to be a part of belonging to this Church. That in turn places an even greater burden on those left

behind which starts to become something of a downward spiral.

To anyone reading this not intimately involved in the life of Church of the Advent of Christ the King, the answer will be obvious; to those of us inside the system there seems no way out! The obvious thing to do is do less and do it better. The problem is, it is hard to stop without feeling that somehow we are failing. Better to stop now and take a breath than to crash and burn later. We have already taken a first step by taking a break from the Latin Mass for this summer. That has given those most intimately involved a chance to plan a new and exciting program to begin with the first Saturday in October. In a similar way Daily Evening Prayer has been a struggle for those who lead it and so this August we will be taking a break with the idea that we rethink how we do this so that folk are not burdened by a commitment they find difficult. We are committed to a Mass at the Episcopal Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday, which provides a stimulating option for those who desire an early Mass on Sunday. As we consider our Sunday morning pattern we will stop having a sermon at 9 a.m. during August and September and consider the very best use of the personnel deployed to proclaim the Gospel early on Sunday mornings.

Most importantly of all, we need to take care of each other as we look forward to growing as a community both in numbers and in our passion for bringing the Good News of God in Jesus, the Incarnate Word.

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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.

News Briefs

Help fight poverty in the San Francisco Bay Area:

Each year, Episcopal Charities Action Networks seek out and select projects to support that are working to address the root causes of poverty. We also hope our regional Action Networks will help connect congregations to local projects in need. We are currently seeking tutors, mentors, résumé coaches, grant writers, event specialists, and more. Volunteering

is very flexible with no minimum number of hours. For more information, contact: the Rev Justin Cannon, Episcopal Charities Program Manager, (jcannon@episcopalcharities.org, 415-869-7810) or see www.episcopalcharities.org.

Fr Jack Fredricks will do the Aids Walk for the 21st time on 17 July in Golden

Gate Park. Although it is only 10 kilometers (6.3 miles), he isn't as spry as he used to be, but with his "wheely," he manages. If you could help sponsor him please send checks made out to AWSF to him at P.O.Box 296 San Mateo, CA 94401 or hand him checks or dollars at Church. Remember: no donation is too small and every dollar goes to a great cause.

Advent History...continued

The Obituary of Fr. Lathrop

The Rev. Charles N. Lathrop, D. D., executive secretary of the Social Service Department of the National Council, died suddenly in St. Luke's Hospital, San Francisco, January 29.

Dean Lathrop had completed a strenuous schedule of speaking engagements in the West when he arrived in San Francisco on January 25. He attended the meetings of the Synod Counsel and was taken ill with influenza, developing into pneumonia, which proved fatal.

Funeral services were held in the Church of the Advent, Monday, February 2. Mrs. Lathrop and their son were notified by telegram but did not arrive before the dean had passed away.

Dean Lathrop's death closes a career of great service and outstanding achievements. His first work was as rector of Church of the Advent, San Francisco. By the strange coincidence his first and last celebrations of Holy Communion were held in the Church of the Advent. Dean

Lathrop served in many capacities, in California as a social worker. His chief interest was in improving the conditions surrounding those incarcerated in jails, reformatories, and penitentiaries.

During the World War, Dean Lathrop served in the Belgian relief work. He was later called as dean of All Saints Cathedral, Milwaukee, and was elected as secretary of the Social Service Department of the National Council in 1920. His work in that capacity was marked with wisdom, devotion and courage. His last message on the problem of unemployment was printed in Church papers the same week in which he died. It was one of the most penetrating and courageous prophetic utterances ever made in our church.

Many glowing tributes to the work and character of Dean Lathrop have appeared in both the religious and secular press. His personal character of winsomeness, gentleness and frankness won for him a large following of devoted friends.

Jennifer Usher, assisted by Michael Stroup and Suellen Thompson

Bishop Burleson has summed up the work and character of Dean Lathrop in these strong words: "To know Charles Lathrop was to love him. His genuineness and simplicity, together with a sort of shining youthfulness, made him a most attractive personality. Strong and steadfast in his Church convictions, he was nevertheless able to come into close and helpful relations with people of every class and kind. He as a genuine lover of men, courageous and high-minded and devoted. He was also a humble Christian who lived out his faith. The achievement of Dean Lathrop in the field of Social Service can scarcely be over-rated. At the difficult time when the Church was very doubtful concerning this new 'fad' he came into leadership and so embodied the cause in which he believed that he made it a vital factor in the Church's life. His wide contacts with the Church were of great value and he everywhere won confidence and support. We have lost a real leader, a lovable personality and a loyal soldier of Christ."

Latin Mass

Exciting plans are being made for the improvement of our monthly Latin Mass at Church of the Advent as a way to make use of this as a tool for evangelism and the growth of our Church. The Rector convened a group comprising of Fr. Rod Thompson, Paul Ellison, and Susan Hendricks to consider how best to promote this unique offering. The Mass will return to our regular schedule on Saturday, October 1, 2011, and will be held on the first Saturday of each month. In conjunction with the Mass there will be a Pot Luck Supper following the Mass in Lathrop Hall which Susan has graciously agreed to coordinate, and a program of insightful offerings to help us all better understand and appreciate this Mass. Here is the preliminary plan for 2011/12:

October 1: "why Latin" to include consideration of the Baptism of Clovis by St. Remigius -

November 5: The Chant "Gaudeamus" - development and elaboration of chants - the use of the Litany of the Saints.

December 3: The great "O" antiphons and the Latin pun the underlies them -

January 7: Epiphany Party - the tradition of the King Cake and the connection to "Mardi Gras"

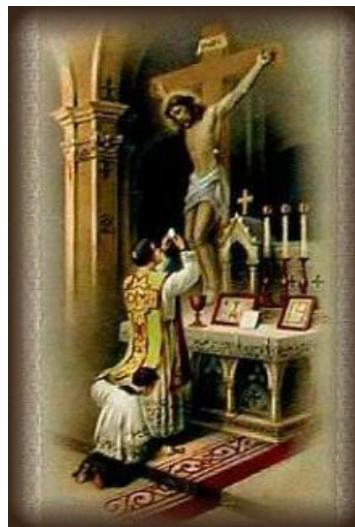
January 7: Epiphany Party - the tradition of the King Cake and the connection to "Mardi Gras"

February 4. The use of Latin poetry in the liturgy. The sequences and other tropes on Latin texts.

March 3. "To veil or not veil" Lenten traditions and the placement of the Altar.

April 4: The Easter Vigil -

May 5 "Ego sum pastor bonus" Latin as a common tongue bringing together divergent traditions i.e. Tazie and St. Mark's Seattle



Bishop Gene Robinson at San Francisco Pride



Photo by Sam Leite



Photos from Jude Morton

Thoughts...

Janet LaRue

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Psalm 126:5-6

I hold my grief close. Always aware of how I am perceived I hide what could be seen as frailty even while preaching the Pauline doctrine of strength in weakness. As someone involved in ministry and a self proclaimed Jesus Freak I tightly hold and encourage the perception that I am a rock. I welcome the distraught and tired and sad and lonely and angry to lean on me and I think I must show joy, outward and visible joy, to be the witness that I am commanded to be. "How can I claim to be full of the spirit if I am not full of happiness?" I have often asked. You will know them by their fruits. Mathew 7:16 This verse from Mathew and the list of the fruit of the spirit in Galatians (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) kept me in check. Where in all of this was sadness, grief, longing? No, I would hold my grief close.

Last week my fiancé chose his ex-girlfriend over me and just like that, from being the most beautiful, wonderful, loving, kind, woman in the world, I found myself sitting on my front steps, his letter in my hands, and a

dull ache in my chest. We did not fight or have harsh words. It was just over. In a daze I walked to St. Anna's for 6pm mass. I cried. I cried hard. I let strangers pat my back, get me tissues, cluck their tongues. "My fiancé dumped me," was all I said. What more could I say?

But here is what was beautiful....my first thought was that I had loved Jeff fearlessly. I had done as my God had commanded. I had loved him and remained faithful and I saw it immediately for that...the fulfillment of the job I had been given to do. Even though I could not quite find the edges of my grief I found the solid ground of my faith.

When I cried I reached out not just to the community of the faithful but to my friends... my secular friends, my atheist friends, my work friends. Yes, I admitted this loner needed to embrace and be embraced by those who loved me. I have so often told those who grieved that their friends and family wanted to support and comfort them and to not give them that chance was selfish. Oh, what a hypocrite I was!

So in my mournful state I let people hug me

and watch me cry and buy me beers but I would not hear a bad word about Jeff. Don't be angry with Jeff, I pled. I was not angry, just sad for a little bit. I asked my friends who pray to pray for Jeff and my friends who drink to lift a glass to love and loss and to me. If you pray and drink both...welcome to New Orleans!

I gathered a couple of friends, made a paper boat out of the letter, put his ring in it and after setting it on fire pushed it out into Bayou St. John. It was far from an act of spite. It was a ritualistic sealing of the true love I had carried for Jeff, my great fulfilled commandment, and setting it into the heart of the city that I love. My city of water and spirits and gris gris. My heart has not been broken. My heart has been made stronger. I will not love less. I will love more. My God has no expected waiting period of healing. We are healed and redeemed at all moments past, present and future just as Christ died for us and continues to die for us for eternity. He is forever on the cross. He is forever risen. He never takes his hand from me. He will forever love me. Oh, that I could love so.

This Month's Celebrants and Preachers at High Mass

Sunday, July 3, 2011

Third Sunday After Pentecost

Celebrant: Paul Burrows

Preacher: Robyn Arnold

Sunday, July 10, 2011

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Celebrant: Ricardo Avila

Preacher: Paul Burrows

Sunday, July 17, 2011

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Celebrant: Paul Burrows

Preacher: Alex Martin

Sunday, July 24, 2011

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Celebrant: Paul Burrows

Preacher: Robyn Arnold

Sunday, July 31, 2011

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Celebrant: Robyn Arnold

Preacher: Alex Martin

July Anniversaries

- 1 Paul Burrows + - diaconate
- 2 Daniel Schwartz - baptism
- 4 John Pitoniak - baptism
Rod Thompson + - diaconate
- 6 John Porter + & Tom Veitch - holy union
- 7 Johannes Stahl - birthday
- 8 Mary Hudak + - priesthood
- 10 Basil Parker-Matthews + - priesthood
- 11 Michael Barlowe + & Paul Burrows + - marriage
Jude Morton - oblature to the Camaldolese
Benedictines
- 12 Renee Schwartz - baptism
- 17 Michael McGinley - birthday
Lauran Pifke + - baptism
- 19 Walter Ramsey - birthday
- 20 Kevin Baum - birthday
- 24 Lesley + & Keith McCloghrie - marriage
Keith McCloghrie - birthday
- 25 Renee Schwartz - confirmation
- 26 Jude Hill, SSF + - profession
Mary Hudak + - diaconate
- 28 Vincent Jang - birthday
- 29 Sally Schweikert - birthday
- 31 Jack Jensen - birthday

A Little Story

Fr. Paul Burrows

This is a story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was this important job to be done and everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was everybody's job. Everybody thought that anybody could do it, but nobody realized that everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that everybody blamed somebody when actually nobody asked anybody.

Another slightly different version:

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

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July 2011

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