

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

August/September 2011
Volume 51 Numbers 8&9



Siena in Italy is one of those cities that give us a glimpse of a past age. In this beautiful place the organization not only of the city government but also of the considerable social welfare is centered on the contrade or districts of the city. This is, today, of enormous benefit to those living there but leads, inevitable, to great rivalry between the districts. In ages past this was not a good thing since it led to riots and killings on a scale difficult to imagine today. A Franciscan Friar, a native of the city, came up with the solution: the twice annual horse race around the campo the city square on the two great summer feast of our Lady. These are August 16, the day after the Assumption, and July 2nd, which until the liturgical reforms of the 1960's was the Feast of the Visitation. Of course the horse race itself can bring its own problems but on the whole it has helped keep the citizens of Siena from killing each other.

I wonder if the choice of the Feast of the Visitation might be one of those happy chances that give an insight into how we deal with internal strife. For the very nature of the Feast of the Visitation is evangelistic.

News Briefs

Evening Prayer has returned.

It will be held, Monday through Friday at 6:00 p.m.

**Third Sunday Series Sunday
Afternoon Concerts
Music in Honor of St. Peter**

Sunday September 18, 4 PM

Upon hearing the extraordinary news that she is to be the mother of her creator Mary does not run away and hide, something most would be tempted to do, but instead heads off to share the good news with her cousin. Not for Mary the doubts, internal conflict, and problem solving that is so much part of the response of Joseph as reported in Matthew's Gospel. Mary's instinct is to go and spread the good news, bringing the Lord into the world even before he is born.

Churches everywhere are about as conflicted as the City of Siena in the middle ages. We band into factions thinking that if only our pet project were to be the focus of our ministry all will be well. We need more children, more hospitality, more music, more outreach. All of that is true, but it is the entire ministry not just the one we happen to like most. Dwindling resources both in terms of finance and personnel make setting priorities more difficult and so we begin to lose sight of the underlying reason for our being here; for we are to be like Mary not in the sense of being passive, for she was not that in my view. We are to be active participants in bringing the Word into the world; we are to be evangelists, sharing the Good News that we have received.

Palestrina: Missa Tu es Petrus
and music by Byrd, Guerrero and
Morales Schola Adventus directed by
Paul M. Ellison
Jennifer Ashworth, soprano
Rebekah Wun, soprano
Lauren Carley, contralto
Kevin Baum, tenor
David Alban, tenor
James Monios, bass

Admission by donation.
Please join us for a post-concert
reception in Lathrop Hall and
Hardcastle Garden.

Hope to see you there!

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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.

An Apology...

As you may have noticed, there was not a Sceptre in August. This was not my plan, but circumstances arose which resulted in my failing to produce one.

My original intention was to have it out at the first of the month. Unfortunately, I was first beset by a rather significant financial blow when my unemployment ran out. Because of that, I decided to return to school. Things have become so bad that trying to find a simple administrative assistant position turns up more and more jobs requiring, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree, which sadly I lack. The ironic thing, is, if I had a bachelor's degree, I seriously doubt (or at very least, hope) that I would be seeking such a position. And I seriously doubt most places would be willing to pay me at an appropriate level for someone with such a degree.

I decided to do what I should have done a long time ago. So, I started back to school,

studying computer science. Unfortunately, my financial situation was still very bad. That was the first major blow.

On a Wednesday that had been a particularly rough day, I got a phone call from my daughter. She informed me that my granddaughter had set fire to a toy dinosaur I had bought for my oldest grandson at Christmas. It was a relatively expensive toy that responded to commands and such.

Worse, was the reason she had burned the toy. She had hoped to set the house on fire, and take her own life. My granddaughter is seven years-old. My daughter explained that she was in the hospital, on a locked ward, and would be there until for an indefinite period of time. Needless to say, I was devastated. And I went into a very serious round of depression. I came very close too simply giving up, and returning to Alabama.

And an Appeal....

When I volunteered to be editor for the Sceptre, it was to be just that...the editor. I did not plan to be pretty much the sole person writing and contributing to the *parish* newsletter. Unfortunately, that is exactly what has happened.

Simply put, I need help. I cannot do this alone. It was hard enough before, but now I am in school. I have homework, and reading, and other stuff. I don't have as much time as I did to put this together.

Believe me, it is not easy filling up the pages every month. I want to produce a quality newsletter, but without input from you, the members of the Church of the Advent of Christ the King, I won't be able to. As it is, we are pretty much at a minimum. I would very much like to return to having more pages, but I struggle to fill what we have now.

So, what can you do to help out? Well, you can submit articles. You can provide photos. Poetry would be good. If you can draw, perhaps you might want to consider doing a monthly cartoon. A regular column would be nice.

What should you write about? Anything, everything.... If you have been a member of Advent for a long time, then tell us about how things were in the past. If you are a newer member, then tell us what brought you to Advent.

You might want to consider writing about some aspect of the liturgy that interests you. I would love to have articles explaining why we do things the way we do. This could be useful to new members, and it might prove educational to some who have been here a while, but never thought ask.

Or maybe you might like to write about some point of theology. I am sure many would find that interesting.

Articles about your study of the Bible could also be interesting. What is your favorite verse? Which book means the most to you? Who is your favorite person in the Bible?

Do you have a hobby you would like to write about? Or do you have an interesting collection. Others would enjoy learning about them.

Do you have some interesting experiences? Have you been some place exciting? Have you met someone famous?

Another possibility would be to share your favorite recipes. I know we have some very good cooks here. Tell us how to make something special.

Just send your articles, poems, photos, drawings, questions, ect. to the editor at jennifer.usher@me.com. The sooner you get them to me, the easier it will be to get them into the layout.

Jennifer Usher

Now, I love my daughter, and my grandchildren, but I also have a life here. The idea of moving back to Alabama has always seemed horrible to me. But I was also scared of being trapped here, unable to see my grandchildren.

I sought the counsel of some of our priests, and I spent time praying, and I shed a whole lot of tears, but I managed to pull through.

Amazingly, I have a good chance of getting more unemployment, plus I get help from financial aid. I am still dealing with the unemployment because of rules concerning being in school. But my granddaughter is doing better, and for the present, so am I.

So, that is why there was no Sceptre last month. I just didn't have the energy to sit down and put it together. After a point, it just made sense to wait and do a double issue.

The Lunch Bunch is Returning!

After being on hiatus for a month to provide a well deserved break for Deacon Michael, the Lunch is scheduled to return on Tuesday September 13.

But, we can still use anyone who is interested in volunteering. People are needed to help cook, clean-up, serve, provide transportation, or even just come and spend time talking to guests.

Every Tuesday, the Lunch Bunch provides a hot, nutritious meal for up to 37 guests, most of whom are homeless, and all of whom have expressed some need. And with the economy continuing to be in decline, that need is only growing.

Volunteers are primarily needed each Tuesday from around 9:00 a.m. until around 1:30 p.m. Of course, if you can only come for part of the time, we can still use your help. And if you wish, you can prepare food ahead of time, and drop it off.

So, please consider becoming a part of this very important ministry. You will meet some interesting people, make some new friends, and most important, will help extend God's love to those most in need.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Deacon Michael Schreiber. You can speak to him at church or contact him at: m_schreiber@sbcglobal.net

Remembering September 11th

I remember my mother telling me about how she would never forget where she was when she heard that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. I did not fully appreciate this until John Kennedy was assassinated. That was my first experience of having a day like that. Others followed... The day Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed, the day Bobby Kennedy was assassinated, the day that the Apollo 1 astronauts died, and the day that I saw Challenger explode. Those are all seared into my memory. And ten years ago, another memory joined those.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, I woke up early. I had a doctor's appointment that day, but I woke before the alarm. I got up, and did what I did every morning. I checked my email on my computer.

I heard the clock-radio come on to wake me up. I had it set to a Country-Western station because I knew that would prevent me from just lying there and drifting back off to sleep, rather than getting up. But since I was already up, I ignored it for a bit. Then a item on the news caught my attention. A plane had flown into one of the towers at the World Trade Center.

I remember assuming it was a small private plane, and that it was probably some

pilot doing something stupid, like trying to fly between the towers. I remembered that a plane had once hit the Empire State Building by accident. I started looking to see if any of the news sites had coverage of this "accident."

Then the radio informed me that a second plane had struck, and that this was definitely a passenger plane. I left the computer and headed for the living room and turned the TV on just in time to see footage of the second plane hitting .

I immediately knew it was not an accident, and that we were under attack. As the morning went on, I heard about the Pentagon and Flight 93. As I started out the door for my appointment, I could not bring myself to turn the TV off. As I was walking out, the second tower collapsed. I was stunned as I looked at the empty space where the two towers had stood....

The tenth anniversary of that day is this Saturday. In remembrance of this occasion, in honor of those who died that day, and in service to our community, it has been proposed that Advent keep its doors open to the community beyond normal hours that weekend - both Saturday September 10 and Sunday September 11. While we would not offer prayer services beyond what ordinarily

is scheduled, our neighbors and others may find solace, solemnity, and the comfort of community simply by being able to spend quiet time in Church that weekend. Also, we would be acting in solidarity with the larger Episcopal Church and Episcopalians nationwide in commemorating this anniversary.

The plan is fairly simple. The Church will be opened for Low Mass on both days by 9:00, and will remain open until 6:00 p.m. At least two people will need to be present in the Church at all times during these periods.

Specifically, from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 9:30 to 10:30 and 12:30 to 6:00 on Sunday. Except for the first morning shift at 9:30, the shifts would be for at least an hour and would start on the hour. If volunteers could stay longer, it would be appreciated.

If you're able to participate in this service opportunity, please either e-mail Cate Gregory catherine.gregory@hotmail.com back with the date and time of your availability, or sign up on the sheet that will be posted in Lathrop Hall.

This Month's Celebrants and Preachers at High Mass

Sunday, September 4, 2011
Twelve Sunday After Pentecost
Celebrant:
Preacher:

Sunday, September 11, 2011
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Celebrant:
Preacher:

Sunday, September 18, 2011
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Celebrant:
Preacher:

Sunday, September 25, 2011
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Celebrant: Paul Burrows
Preacher: Robyn Arnold

September Anniversaries

- 1
- 1 Stephen Rucker - baptism
- 3 John Pitoniak - birthday
- 4 Ricardo Avila - baptism
- 6 Lizette Larson-Miller + - priesthood
Lee Ryan - birthday
- 7 Sally Schweikert - baptism
- 10 Bob + & Carol Kossler - marriage
- 13 Claire Dodds - birthday
Christopher Fredricks - baptism
Bob Kelliher - baptism
- 14 Sam Cantin - baptism
- 20 Geoffrey Glaser + - birthday
- 21 Barrie Bates + - birthday
Anna McHargue - birthday
- 22 Jim Monios - birthday
- 26 Michael Dwyer - birthday
- 27 Basil Parker-Matthews + - birthday
- 30 Karen Johans + & Claire Dodds - holy union

The Sceptre

August/September 2011

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