

The Sceptre

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING

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

The Sceptre is Back!

Jennifer Usher

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After almost a year, the Sceptre is finally back. I have agreed to take on the position of editor, and I certainly solicit your prayers.

It has been a while since I was a journalism major at the University of Alabama, but I think I can remember a few things. In the meantime, I hope you will bear with me as I learn while doing.

I want everyone to remember that the Sceptre is your newsletter. I want to invite anyone who is interested to submit articles, poetry, photographs, artwork, etc. I would like to see our monthly paper reflect the diversity of our faith community.

When I was in journalism school, computer were just beginning to make their first appearances in newsrooms. I was a writer for the school paper, the Crimson-White, and my articles were written on my electric typewriter and delivered to my editor by hand. He would then go over it with the dreaded red pencil, making corrections. If they were few, the

article would go on from there to be typeset and added to the next edition.

Sometimes, more often than I care to admit, I would wind up finding an available machine to do a quick rewrite.

Now, I can do everything on my trusty Macbook Pro, using a program that is free software. I am still having to learn all the features, and it can be a bit frustrating. It is a very powerful program, but that means even more to learn.

It was after college that I learned a bit more about the mechanics of putting something together for printing. I learned about fonts, and typesetting. For me, modern desktop publishing software is an incredible luxury. I can produce a professional looking (I hope) newsletter, quickly, without having to go to the typesetter, and without spending hours with scissors, special pens, and rubber cement.

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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

A crucial letter about the Anglican Covenant from the Presiding Bishop has been posted to our web site (www.advent-sf.org/rectors-corner.htm), which we are all bidden to read. If we wish to be part of the Anglican Communion, we will want to meet and discuss what the conditions are. The Anglican Covenant proposes that the Communion be limited by subscribing to a set of beliefs and to a system that will determine (outside of our own structures) whether we meet those conditions. Advent will hold a series of forums to debate a response to this proposal during Lent next year.

Reading the documents and thinking about them ahead of time will help us have a fruitful debate.

Help prepare for the upcoming holidays and feast days by participating in a silver-polishing party Sat, 13 Nov, at 10am, in Lathrop Hall, when we shall be cleaning all the reception silver. If able to help, inform Suellen Thompson. [Thompson\(suzannethompson@earthlink.net\)](mailto:Thompson(suzannethompson@earthlink.net)).

The sign-up sheet has been posted for the Advent Parish Family Thanksgiving Day Dinner on Thu, 25 Nov:

Turkey and ham are being donated; all else is potluck. Drinks and nibbles will begin around 1pm; dinner, around 2pm. All members of the parish are invited. Please sign up in Lathrop Hall if able to attend.

From the Rector's Desk

Father Paul Burrows

The time has come for Church of the Advent of Christ the King undertake a whole parish Mutual Ministry Review.

This will start this Advent and will look at who we are, what gifts we bring to the work of ministry, and how we can best utilize our resources for the mission of the Church in the Bay Area.

The exact time table has yet to be determined but it will involve a half day of training, open to all, to prepare us for honest and open dialogue to determine the challenges that face us and to begin to work out strategies to deal with them. We

will need to take time to listen to each other and not rush toward a quick fix for the problems that emerge.

We will also need to take the time to generous in accepting our differences and rejoicing in our diversity allowing divergent views to stand alongside each other. And we must root all that we do not just in prayer but in a radical surrender to God's will seeking not what we want but what God wants for us.

For this process to be successful it will need the participation of you all; and know that it will be a challenge. Many of you, like me,

will be reluctant to talk about difficulties and problems, and many of you, again like me, will see exactly how to move forward if only everyone else would jump on board.

But for that to happen we will have to listen to each other and agree upon what is the best for the good of the whole. May God, who has called us into this community of faith, give us the courage and grace to do this work.

Religious Knowledge Varies

Atheists and agnostics, Jews and Mormons are among the highest-scoring groups on a new survey of religious knowledge, outperforming evangelical Protestants, mainline Protestants and Catholics on questions about the core teachings, history and leading figures of major world religions.

On average, Americans correctly answer 16 of the 32 religious knowledge questions on the survey by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. Atheists and agnostics average 20.9 correct answers. Jews and Mormons do about as well, averaging 20.5 and 20.3 correct answers, respectively. Protestants as a whole average 16 correct answers; Catholics as a whole, 14.7. Atheists and agnostics, Jews and Mormons perform better than

other groups on the survey even after controlling for differing levels of education.

On questions about Christianity - including a battery of questions about the Bible - Mormons (7.9 out of 12 right on average) and white evangelical Protestants (7.3 correct on average) show the highest levels of knowledge. Jews and atheists/agnostics stand out for their knowledge of other world religions. Atheists/agnostics and Jews also do particularly well on questions about the role of religion in public life, including a question about what the U.S. Constitution says about religion.

The Lunch Bunch Needs You...

Every Tuesday, a dedicated group of volunteers gathers in Lathrop Hall to provide the poor and homeless with a hot meal. Usually somewhere around 30 or 40 guests show up for both food and fellowship. Most are regulars, but we also get some new people from time to time.

At times, it can be frustrating. But there are moments that are priceless. One guest, an elderly woman who appears to live on the street, and who pushes a cart full of belongings brings a small donation of money each week. We have told here it is not necessary, but it obviously means a

lot to her, and it is always gratefully received. It makes one think back to the widow who gave all she had and who was praised by Christ.

Our menu is mostly comfort food. Popular items include various pasta dishes, chili, sloppy Joes, and chicken and dumpings.

About once per quarter we try to do a special meal, such as turkey and all the fixings at Thanksgiving, or ham at Easter. For Saint Patrick's Day we had corned beef and cabbage.

So, how can you help? Well, first off we need volunteers. Whether you want

to cook, or just be there to help serve, we can use you.

Or you can donate money. It costs about \$80 a week to feed our guests. Or, you could help with a special meal like Thanksgiving, or Christmas.

Finally, we need certain items for the kitchen. You might consider donating things like a large, clad bottom stock pot. The ones we have tend to scorch the food too easily.

For more details, and to learn more about how to help contact Deacon Michael Schreiber.
(m_schreiber@sbcglobal.net)

Questions From the Religion Quiz

Here are some of the questions from the Pew Research Center's quiz. See how well you do.

Which Bible figure is most closely associated with leading the exodus from Egypt?

- a. Job
- b. Elijah
- c. Moses
- d. Abraham

What was Mother Teresa's religion?

- a. Catholic
- b. Jewish
- c. Buddhist
- d. Mormon
- e. Hindu

Which of the following is NOT one of the Ten Commandments?

- a. Do not commit adultery
- b. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
- c. Do not steal
- d. Keep the Sabbath holy

When does the Jewish Sabbath begin?

- a. Friday
- b. Saturday
- c. Sunday

Is Ramadan...?

- a. The Hindu festival of lights
- b. A Jewish day of atonement
- c. The Islamic holy month

Which of the following best describes the Catholic teaching about the bread and wine used for Communion?

- a. The bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
- b. The bread and wine are symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

In which religion are Vishnu and Shiva central figures?

- a. Islam
- b. Hinduism
- c. Taoism

Which Bible figure is most closely associated with remaining obedient to God despite suffering?

- a. Job
- b. Elijah
- c. Moses
- d. Abraham

What was Joseph Smith's religion?

- a. Catholic
- b. Jewish
- c. Buddhist
- d. Mormon
- Hindu

According to rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court, is a public school teacher permitted to lead a class in prayer, or not?

- a. Yes, permitted
- b. No, not permitted

What religion do most people in Pakistan consider themselves?

- a. Buddhist
- b. Hindu
- c. Muslim
- d. Christian

What was the name of the person whose writings and actions inspired the Protestant Reformation?

- a. Martin Luther
- b. Thomas Aquinas
- c. John Wesley

Which of these religions aims at nirvana, the state of being free from suffering?

- a. Islam
- b. Buddhism
- c. Hinduism

Which one of these preachers participated in the period of religious activity known as the First Great Awakening?

- a. Jonathan Edwards
- b. Charles Finney
- c. Billy Graham

Answer Key: c,a,b,a,c,a,b,a,b,a,c,a,b,a

This Month's Celebrants and Preachers at High Mass

Monday, November 1, 2010

All Saints

Celebrant: Robyn Arnold

Preacher: Paul Burrows

Tuesday, November 2, 2010

All Souls

Celebrant: Paul Burrows

Preacher: Ricardo Avila

Sunday, November 7, 2010

Celebrant: Paul Burrows

Preacher: Irene Tenabe

Sunday, November 14, 2010

Celebrant: Paul Burrows

Preacher: John Porter

Sunday, November 21, 2010

Celebrant: Robyn Arnold

Preacher: Paul Burrows

Sunday, November 28, 2010

Celebrant: Paul Burrows

Preacher: Rod Thompson

November Anniversaries

- 1 Mary Hudak - Reception
- Sally Mccloughrie - Birthday
- 4 Loren Lejeune - Confirmation
- 5 Jack Jensen - Confirmation
- Reese Probst - Baptism
- 6 Cheryl Parker-Matthews - Confirmation
- 7 Ricardo Avila - Confirmation
- Alex Martin - Birthday
- 9 Norman Mcknight - Baptism
- John Pitoniak - Confirmation & Reception
- 10 Paul Burrows - Baptism
- Heidi Edson - Reception
- Michael Stroup - Confirmation
- 11 Eric Clark - Confirmation
- 12 Jennifer Usher - Birthday
- 14 Jennifer Usher - Confirmation
- 17 Anna Mchargue - Confirmation
- 18 Bob Kerr - Birthday
- Jon Kouba - Birthday
- 23 Cort Cortez - Reception
- Cate Gregory - Reception
- Reese Probst - Confirmation
- 26 Bob Kossler - Reception
- Lee Ryan & Nancy Aalberg - Marriage
- 29 Martha Smith - Birthday
- 30 Lër Nelson - Birthday

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