

The Cathedral Call

February 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

Throughout history, human beings have been ostracized, persecuted, penalized, denigrated, marginalized, and even put to death on the basis of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, and gender. Jews faced over nineteen hundred years of persecution, largely in “Christian” Europe, culminating in the Holocaust of the 1930’s and 40’s. Black Africans were sold and held in slavery in America from the early seventeenth century until the end of the Civil War. Following that, African Americans continued to live under legal racial discrimination well into the twentieth century. Women have historically been seen as lesser human beings when compared to men, and still in many places in the world they must deal with social, legal, and religious prohibitions. And, even as I am writing this, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009 is before the Parliament in Uganda. The Minister of Ethics and Integrity in Uganda is quoted by “The New York Times” as saying, “*Homosexuals can forget about human rights.*” The bill would make homosexual behavior a capital offense.

In all these examples, by being denied their dignity and humanity, people have been subjected to demeaning and abusive treatment. Often they are portrayed as anti-God/anti-Christ, enemies of the Holy, and such treatment is deemed sanctioned by God, even demanded by God. And, if God is not only not on your side, but actively opposed to you, what worth do you have? You have the proverbial target perpetually on your back.

But are those who find it acceptable and indeed gratifying to dehumanize and even demonize whole categories of people, really on the side of angels as they would like to believe? The great hymn of creation found in Genesis chapter one proclaims that God created humanity in the image of God, male and female. At the time of Baptism, those being Baptized affirm, and others reaffirm, that they will *seek and serve Christ in all persons and respect the dignity of every human being*. With such a high doctrine of humanity, and with such a calling to honor that doctrine, we have an alternative to what is all too often the denial of human worth and the plundering of the human spirit.

It is not our ethnicity, gender, race, sexual orientation, or religious claims that mark us as children of God and inheritors of the kingdom of heaven; it is our just

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behavior, our love of mercy, and our humility before our creator that does so. As the Prophet Micah put it: *He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).*

The Psalmist long ago raised the question with the Holy: *What are human beings that you are mindful of them, and mortals that you care for them? And then added: Yet you made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor (Psalm 8).* Those created in the image of God are not to be dehumanized, they are not usable and disposable things. Those who do so, no matter the rationale or claim of authority, dehumanize themselves and deny the holiness of their creation.

Bill

LENT 2010

Wednesday the 17th of February is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. There will be three services that day: 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. in Saint Mary's Chapel, and 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral. On the Wednesdays in Lent and Holy Week, there will be a 7:00 a.m. service in the Chapel.

LENTEN PROGRAM

Beginning on Wednesday the 24th of February and continuing for the next four Wednesdays, we will have a Lenten Program. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a light supper. *Please bring a covered dish to share with the group.* The Program will close at 7:30 p.m. The sign up for this is on the sheet provided on the table in the Great Hall. A minimum of ten people is required for this Program to take place.

The Program will focus on places Jesus visited and lived in during his ministry:

- The Judean Wilderness and Nazareth*
- Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee*
- Mount Taber and the Mount of the Beatitudes*
- Caesarea Philippi*
- Jerusalem*

We will examine the Biblical material about each, their place in the ministry of Jesus, and their contemporary importance.

Stewardship News

Thank you to all who have pledged to the financial support of the life and work of Saint John's. **With the 74 pledges received and a special gift of \$10,000, we are at \$199,567 which is \$1,270 more for 2009.** A few of you have not returned your pledge commitments and a reminder will be sent to you. If you submit your pledge before the reminder reaches you, thank you.

For 2009, on an actual pledge of \$198,297, \$191,850 has been received as of the end of December. Thank you.

Also, at the beginning of 2009 it was projected that it would take \$134,549 from reserves to balance the budget. The good news is that the draw was only \$58,390. Of course, even this much-reduced amount cannot continue for the long term.

THANK YOU--THANK YOU--
THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who turned out on Sunday, December 6, to celebrate the ministry of the Next-to-New Shop. Special thanks go to **John and Sherry Goodill** and the Vestry for hosting the reception, to **Al Weber** for the flowers and to **Charlie Gibb** for capturing the day on film. We appreciate the guidance and support of **Dean Lane, Nick Orlando, Brian O'Connor** and Cathedral Community Services. *We are grateful to all the volunteers, donors and customers who made this ministry such a significant part of the Brandywine Village community. Many, many thanks to all!*

“MOVIE NIGHT”

You are invited to the next “Movie Night”. On Friday, March 19, join your friends in the Great Hall of the Cathedral for a covered dish supper followed by the movie, “Waking Ned Divine”. Because this event is so close to St. Patrick’s Day, the food theme will be “Irish cooking”. Please contact Anita Manning to let her know what food you will be bringing, or if you have any questions (302) 762-4170.

The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware cordially invites you to attend

**Fortissimo: Song, Spirit & Mind
Our 4th Annual Concert to
Benefit the Piano Program on
Sunday, March 7, 2010
at 4:00 p.m.**

**First and Central
Presbyterian Church
1101 Market Street,
Rodney Square
Wilmington, Delaware**

FEATURING

**The Choir of Adults, Boys and Girls of
The Cathedral Church of Saint John
And Cathedral Choir School of
Delaware**

SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY

**Matthew Boatmon, organist
Hiroko Yamazaki, pianist**

**Please join us for a reception
following the concert.**

All proceeds benefit the piano program, which provides free private lessons for Wilmington-area youth who attend the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware.

**For more information, please call
302-654-6279, ext. 2. To purchase
tickets online, please visit
www.cathedralchoirschoolde.org**

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE- Thank you for Christmas Giving

With the generosity of St. John's and Christ Church, Christiana Hundred's congregation, 36 families celebrated Christmas holiday dinners and 45 children awoke on Christmas morning with Santa "Dove" gifts. The Neighborhood Assistance Program extends a "thank you" to our congregation for their continued support. Our Neighborhood Assistance Outreach Program is in many ways, the 'face' of St. John's in our neighborhood and serves the greater Brandywine Village. We must remind ourselves that our outreach programs are not faith-based and all are welcome. We open our doors to all who find themselves living on the "edge", defined as living below 135% of the Federal Poverty limit, which is the requirement for food stamps. We provide emergency bags of food. In addition, Neighborhood Assistance is a referral agency to food pantries (e.g. St. Stevens Lutheran Church). Currently the N.A.P. provides ongoing assistance to 80 families and single adults, some of whom are homeless. In addition to food we provide transportation through a bus ticket program at a cost of \$.80 per ticket for medical needs, education, social services and personal needs (e.g., released from jail, rehabilitation support meetings and job interviews). With the closure of the Next-to-New Shop, we now refer those who need clothing to other local support agencies such as St. Patrick's, Delaware Social Services, the Sunday Breakfast Mission, Hanover Food Pantry and others who are supported by the Delaware Clothing Bank.

Ben Knox

SHROVE TUESDAY

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on **Tuesday the 16th of February from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** in the Great Hall. All are welcome, but to help with planning, please phone the Cathedral office if you know that you'll be attending. A free-will offering of \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children and young people ages 7 - 19 will be taken. All proceeds above the cost of the meal will go to the Cathedral's Neighborhood Assistance Ministry. The Supper is the project of the men of the Cathedral. If you would like to help, please see Rich Wadman or Joe Tatnall.

February Birthdays

Charles Frampton	2/4
James Wormley	2/6
Hyacinth Amore	2/7
Michael Shaw	2/7
Brandon Parris	2/8
Patrina Higgins	2/10
Nehemiah Winder	2/10
Allen Muller	2/15
Kevin Kelso	2/17
Julian Benson	2/17
Yau-Sehnleseh Boayue	2/19
Nancy Hillyard	2/20
Bertha Fisher	2/20
Timothy Shaw	2/23

February Anniversaries

Las Celles and Hyacinth Amore	2/9
David and Cynthia Sardo	2/12
Ed and Trudy Cook	2/14
Errol and Lorraine Pringle	2/14
Jeff and Patti Van Voorhis	2/18

People and Places

Mildred Clifton died January 10, 2010.