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February 20, 2010

Rector's Annual Report

This is the weekend of our Annual Parish Meeting. It's a time to take stock — to take a long, close look at ourselves. Who are we? What do we stand for? What do we do?

Perhaps the simplest answer is this: We are people who sing the Sanctus. When we gather for worship, in the depths of the holy mysteries of the Eucharist, we “join our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven,” and we sing [or say]: “*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.*”

Perhaps we're a bit daft! The cynic might say we are even certifiably so. We join our voices with “Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven??”

This is what we dare to do! By doing so, we center ourselves in the mystery of our faith — the mystery and majesty of God's abiding, eternal love for us, and for all whom God has made.

The song was first sung to the prophet Isaiah in the Temple in Jerusalem. His immediate response in the face of the mystical majesty of the Sanctus was one of utter inadequacy: “*Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips.*”

But the mysterious vision and the Sanctus was not all that Isaiah encountered in the Temple that day. He also heard God's haunting question, “*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*”

We share the mystery of the Sanctus with Isaiah. We share that question, too. It is asked of each one of us personally. It only remains — for each of us — to discern if we can also share the response that Isaiah made: *Here am I; send me!*”

That question has been answered in the affirmative for hundreds and hundreds of people at All Saints!

When I look at the people of All Saints, I see folks who have heard and heeded this call in unprecedented and glorious ways. Your response to the call to ministry has revived and renewed our parish. Your ministries have borne fruit in a multitude of ways that have led us to truly “expect the miraculous.” We are all witnessing the fruits of the Spirit — what God can do when God's people respond to God's call.

We witnessed a tangible sign of this outpouring of the Spirit just a week ago at our annual Spaghetti Dinner. Over 300 folks poured into the undercroft to sample a sumptuous dinner and support our Christian Outreach ministries. A record crowd!!

But wait!! I misspeak. Please allow me to correct myself. The people didn't just pour “into” the Undercroft. They also poured “out” of it. Many of those in attendance were forced into classrooms

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because of the overflow crowd. There simply wasn't room for the people of All Saints to share a meal together, nor to sit together in order to share the message of a speaker.

Which brings me, on this weekend of our Annual Parish Meeting, to perhaps our primary priority — our primary *calling* — in 2010.

That priority — that calling — comes from Jesus. It comes to us, actually every year, every month, every moment. It comes to us this morning in the words of St. Luke's Gospel: "*Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.*"

Peter and the other fishermen had been fishing all night long and had caught nothing. They had fished along the safe and secure, shallow waters of the shore.

Jesus called on them to try something different, something seemingly "dangerous" — to let go of the security of what they knew and try something frighteningly different, something new: "*Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.*"

This is exactly where we are at All Saints early in our passage through the year 2010. I am absolutely convinced that this is exactly the message that we need to hear, and to heed: *Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.*"

It would only be natural if our first inclination were to resist this call. But what opportunities for spiritual growth we would miss in the process!

Peter complained when he heard Jesus' call into unknown waters. He attempted to resist the call. But when he followed Jesus' suggestion, St. Luke tells us "they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break." Then Jesus said to Simon, "*Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.*"

The call comes to us as we face the facts regarding our facilities. The needs of our existing facilities — and our need for new facilities — call us "out into the deep water" in 2010.

After a year of waiting as the economy appeared to be in free-fall, the Master Site Plan Mission Team is ready to resume its work. Last year, a Facilities Audit undertaken by an architectural firm uncovered several hundred thousand dollars of deferred maintenance necessary in our existing facilities.

And we are in desperate, immediate need for additional space. Last Sunday night at the Spaghetti Dinner we received a clarion call. I dare to say, even an admonition. For a parish of our size, our spiritual vitality, and our potential, our gathering space is nothing more than an unhealthy, unfunny joke.

We have no space for even the most routine parish gatherings. We lack adequate, inviting, centralized space for adult and children's Christian Formation. We cannot offer conferences and workshops to the public that attract new people to our parish. It has been years and years since a couple married at All Saints even considered holding their wedding reception here.

We must not let ourselves fall prey to the dangerous comfort that doing nothing and making do and just getting by is good enough for us, and for the world we serve. The world is passing us by!

Look around this city! See if you can find a church that even approaches our size with facilities that are so limiting of congregational growth. You will not be able to do so!

The visionary, courageous members of All Saints in the early 1960s knew this. When they heard and heeded the call to "put out into the deep water" and moved from 26th and Dewey to this oasis that was then on the edge of the city, even then they had a vision for a parish center. But the acquisition of property and the building of our beloved church exhausted their resources, and the parish center had to wait.

In the mid-1990s, under the stalwart and visionary leadership of Father Michael Tan Credi, the people of All Saints tried again. That two-phase effort led to the expansion of the narthex, and has made possible the building of community and the welcoming of newcomers in ways that were unimaginable before. But the second phase of that effort, the construction of a parish center, could not be accomplished at that time.

The call now comes to us, in 2010: "*Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.*"

Over the coming months, we'll be involved in a comprehensive, **and very inclusive** conversation about our facility needs. I call on every member of the congregation to join the conversation: To speak your mind, and to listen with the ear of your heart. Listen to one another. Listen also to the professionals — the experts — who know what we know in our heart of hearts: The health of our parish depends on our having the facilities that allow us to continue to attract folks in the environment that is the reality of the 21st century.

Listen!

Listen most of all to the voice that Peter heard, the voice that the brave folks at All Saints in the 1960s heard: "*Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.*"



January Financial Report

	January	Year to Date	Budget
Pledge Contributions	136,604.00	136,604.00	139,447
Other Contributions	42,543.43	42,543.43	42,730
Endowment Fund	<u>15,333.35</u>	<u>15,333.35</u>	<u>15,331</u>
Total Income	194,480.78	194,480.78	197,508
Total Expenses	79,129.07	79,129.07	89,049

Opening Hymn

Meditation – by Gayle Smith

Fr. Tom introduced Todd Engle, Diocesan Treasurer and member of the Executive Commission. Todd explained that The Executive Commission is for the Diocese what the Vestry is for the parish. In an effort to enhance communication between parishes and the diocese, members of the Executive Commission will be liaisons to parishes. Todd went over the Diocesan Treasurer's report with the vestry. He praised All Saints for being one of the few parishes who are able to consistently accept the full asking every year, which is critical in sustaining the work of the Diocese. As a member of the Executive Commission, Todd will be our liaison.

Approval of minutes of November meeting.

Paul Prentiss moved to accept the minutes as mailed out, Sooz Edwards seconded the motion and it carried.

Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's Report, was presented by the Treasurer. Doug Lacey reported 2009 income exceeded the budget and expenses were below the budget. We ended the year with a surplus. David Linberg moved to accept the report. George Rood seconded the motion and it carried. Doug presented the proposed budget for 2010, which includes the Diocesan asking for 2010. Bob Morley moved to accept the proposed budget and Diocesan asking, David Linberg seconded the motion and it carried.

Report of the Senior Warden - Craig O'Connor

Craig reported on the Adult Forum on the Annual Council. There was a good turnout for the meeting and Ann Olmsted and Gary Tesar did a great job reporting on the Council. It is hoped to encourage more "visitors" to Annual Council in the future.

He reported on the Youth Ski Trip – everyone had a good time.

He reported receiving a "Thank You" from Liz Easton for her ordination gift.

He reminded members that Vestry has the WOW duty on February 10th.

He thanked retiring members: Dave Linberg, Bryan Peterson and Gayle Smith for their service on the Vestry.

He announced candidates for election at the Annual Meeting: Becky Connors, Sue Fisher, Bob Morley and Matt Payne. He encouraged all members to attend the annual meeting.

Report of the Junior Warden - George Rood

George asked the Vestry to designate the plate offering on February 21st to Episcopal Relief & Development. February 21st is ERD Sunday, and the Presiding Bishop will visit on that Sunday. Members voted to designate the plate offering on February 21st to ERD.

Information

The Rector encouraged members to attend WOW on Wednesday to hear the guest preacher: Mark Johnson. He reminded members to encourage people to sign up for Feast & Fellowship. He reported the Nicaraguan Craft Sale will take place on February 7th in the narthex between services and the Annual Parish Meeting. He announced that the Planned Giving Team will display the Legacy of Love plaque at the meeting.

He reported confirmation preparations for youth and adults will begin in February.

He reported on plans for the Presiding Bishop's visitation on February 21st. Sooz Edwards of the Welcoming & Evangelism Team showed what will be in the "Welcome Bag" for our distinguished visitors that Sunday.

The Rector asked members to consider the agenda for the Vestry Retreat. The Master Site Planning Team reports that the architects will submit their final report later this year and they (the architects) recommend a Capital Campaign follow shortly thereafter. It would be beneficial for the Vestry to begin planning for this with a consultant from the Episcopal Church Foundation. The retreat is scheduled for April 16-17.

The meeting stood adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Norman,

Secretary to the Vestry



Mark & Sarah Fredrickson at work finishing the Welcome bags prepared by the Welcoming & Evangelism Team for the Presiding Bishop and Executive Council's visit to All Saints



Sr. Warden Craig O'Connor looks on



Praying in Lent

Lenten Devotional Booklet!

Sometimes daily prayer without a little bit of guidance can be difficult. This year, we invite you to “Pray Lent” alongside the All Saints community. We have gathered together a collection of reflections on the gospel of Luke and are publishing them in a booklet to help guide your scripture reading during this season of reflection. Members of our own parish family have contributed their words and insights to the book, which stands as a beautiful testament to the spiritual depth and vitality of this community. Keep an eye on your mailbox—the devotional book will arrive shortly!

Daily Morning Prayer

Daily Morning Prayer takes place each weekday morning at 8:30am in the Chapel. Consider signing up to lead Morning Prayer once or twice during the season. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross (also called the Way of the Cross) is a traditional liturgical devotion commemorating the last day of Jesus’ life. Please join the officiating deacon at 6:30 PM each Monday, beginning February 22, in the main sanctuary.

Healing Prayer Ministry

Looking for a powerful way in which to live into a *Praying Lent* this year? Become a member of the on-line All Saints Healing Prayer Ministry. Members simply lift up in private prayer those in the parish family who are suffering. Coordinators Jeff and Heidi Wilke keep members informed of those in need of prayer. Participants in the All Saints Healing Prayer Ministry will be commissioned by the Presiding Bishop when she is with us at the 10:30 service on February 21st. Contact Jeff at jwilke@jelecos.com to join.

Musical Reflections for Lent

“...God gave us music that we might pray without words.”

Beginning February 28, we will have a series of musical reflections every Sunday afternoon in Lent at 3pm. These are wonderful opportunities to invite a friend or neighbor to join you.

Worship in Lent

When we gather for the First Sunday in Lent, we’ll find our services reflecting the change in liturgical season.

A Penitential Season

Our services will begin with a silent procession and the Penitential Order as we recite the Ten Commandments and begin our worship with Confession. Alleluias disappear, and a plain wooden cross leads our procession.

The Old Rugged Cross

Bob Morley has crafted a powerful symbol of the season which you will find standing in the Narthex upon your arrival and around the cross you will find Prayer Stones. We invite you to take one to carry during Lent as a reminder of the season’s call to repentance and prayer. Episcopal Relief & Development Hope Chests will be available at the foot of the Cross. Your daily contributions to your Hope Chest will allow you to participate personally in the disaster relief work of ERD.

Healing Prayer Stations

Healing Stations will be located in the back of the church during Communion for those with special requests for prayers for healing. Healing stations will be carried out by the laity of the church, each Sunday at the 10:30 service, beginning February 21st.

Presiding Bishop’s Visit

Sunday, February 21st, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, will visit All Saints. The Presiding Bishop will celebrate and preach at the 10:30am service and offer a forum for parishioners during Christian Formation at 9:45am. The Presiding Bishop will be in Omaha for a meeting of the Executive Council.

Evensong

with All Saints Episcopal Church and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

The joint choirs of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and the All Saints Chancel Choir will be presenting a service of Evensong on the first Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. The service will take place at All Saints and feature choral music by T. Tertius Noble and Ned Rorem. Please join us for this special musical event as we begin the Lenten season.

W.O.W! Parishioners Preach on Prayer

At each Worship On Wednesdays during Lent we will have special guest preachers—members of All Saints, who will preach on their personal experience with prayer. Our Holy Eucharist takes place at 6pm in the Activity Room in the undercroft and is followed by a home-cooked meal.

Spiritual Growth in Lent

Sunday Morning Adult Offerings – 9:45 AM

Forum with the Presiding Bishop. (Feb 21) – Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will offer a forum for adults during Christian Formation in the sanctuary.

Prayer Heroes. (Feb 28, Mar 6, Mar 14, Mar 21) - Meredith Bacon will lead a riveting four-week journey alongside some of the Church's most inspiring heroes of conscience. Learn more about some of our modern saints and reflect on the consequences of living one's faith when "the rubber hits the road."

Praying Sudan. (Feb 28, Mar 6 & 14) - Members of the All Saints Sudan Mission Team invite you to consider "Praying Sudan" Adult Forums during Lent. Inspiring and informative presentations by Tammy King (February 28), Robin McNutt and Claudiana Todd (March 7), Jim and Judi Yeates (March 14) will provide insightful understanding of God's call to mission in south Sudan. The forums will culminate with Sudanese Lost Boy Jacob Atem's personal accounting of the strength found in partnerships and faith based missions (March 21).

Gospel Café. (Feb 28, Mar 6, Mar 14, Mar 21, Mar 28)- Gather in the Undercroft for Starbucks coffee and an informal conversation on the Gospel reading of the day. Bring your newspaper and discuss ways that the stories from Luke's Gospel intersect with current events. Kristen Hosman and Chris Fassero will facilitate the casual conversation throughout Lent.

Discovery: A Christian Journey

"The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and by word."

The Episcopal Church is blessed to call itself home to folks from a wide variety of religious traditions and backgrounds. Our members bring with them the richness of their diverse religious histories and the wisdom of the spiritual journeys that they have travelled. We will explore what it means to be broadly Christian and uniquely Episcopalian, journeying through our history, traditions, and place within the wider Body of Christ. These sessions will be an especially great opportunity for those considering joining the Episcopal Church and those interested in Reaffirming their Baptismal Covenant as Christians when Bishop Burnett visits us on Sunday, April 25th. Join Tom and Liz on this journey through Lent on **Wednesdays, February 24 through March 24 at 7:00pm.**

Children's Communion Class

The Rev. Tom O'Dell will offer a Communion Class for elementary age children on Wednesday, March 10th from 5-6pm. We invite the families to join the 6:00pm Eucharist that night where we will share a special prayer with these young people. We also invite each of the children to attend the 9:00 am AxS service on March 14th and come forward to be a part of the altar party during the Eucharist. Children are welcome to participate in this class to help prepare them for partaking in the Eucharist, whether or not they are already receiving communion.

Adult Retreat at St. Benedict Center

The retreat will begin with supper at 6:15 pm on **Friday, February 26th** and continue through lunch on Sunday, February 28th. The retreat will be facilitated by the Rev. Liz Easton. We will be using the book, *Praying Lent* by Andy Alexander SJ and Maureen McCann Waldron Books are \$5 each and will be available in the narthex soon. Rooms for this retreat are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and usually fill up quickly. Cost for the retreat is \$115 for single occupancy and \$110 per person for double occupancy. Please reserve your room by giving your check—payable to All Saints—to Dn. Bob Henrichsen. Deadline is February 10th.

Forward Day by Day:

This wonderful publication provides daily devotions that can augment your Lenten experience. Available in the narthex in a small, easy-to-carry form. Suggested donation is \$1, but never let that get in the way of your taking one home with you.

Reaching out in Lent

Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday:

Special Offering

All Saints is participating in ERD Sunday, February 21st, in conjunction with the visitation of our Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori. Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday is a special opportunity to live out the promises made in our Baptismal Covenant, by demonstrating our commitment to care for people who are hungry, sick or living in extreme poverty.

Please give generously. Your offering will go to Episcopal Relief & Development's Area of Greatest Need fund, which enables us to help those most in need around the world, including the earthquake victims of Haiti.

ERD Hope Chests

Hope Chests (mite boxes) will be available for individuals and families on the first Sunday of Lent, February 21st. Carrying with the theme "Healing ourselves and a hurting world," this devotional will inspire members of your congregation to reflect on their own lives and their relationships with a world in pain. These hope chests are a particularly powerful experience for children and youth. Each day in Lent, you will have the opportunity to pray for those that your donation will help. Please return your Hope Chest on Easter or the week following.

Youth Events in Lent

Middle School Retreat:

"Do the Right Thing!"

February 26-27, 7th & 8th Grade Youth are invited to journey out to Camp Kitaki for an overnight event. We have fun, food, and fellowship planned. The cost is \$50 per person. We will meet at the church at 5pm on Friday and return around 4pm on Saturday. Please contact Linda Rafael at lindar@allsaintsomaha.com to let us know that you are coming.

Tween Retreat: "Journey to Holy Week"

The 5th & 6th graders will have a retreat March 12th -13th at the Retreat Center behind the church. We have lots of fun and activities planned. Parents are invited to attend this

retreat also. The retreat will begin at 6pm on Friday and end at 10 am on Saturday morning. Please contact Linda Rafael at lindar@allsaintsomaha.com for more information and to RSVP. The cost is \$8 per person.

Bread & Chili Sunday

Bread Sunday, March 14th, is the fourth Sunday in Lent. It marks the halfway point between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Traditionally this day interrupts our Lenten penitence with joy and consolation. Our choir and clergy will be vested in rose. This expression of joy is introduced into this day's liturgy is to encourage us to persevere fervently to the end of this holy season. We will continue to celebrate the day with our traditional lunch of Bread & Chili, which will be provided by the youth who are making their pilgrimage to NYC this June. The luncheon will begin at 11:30pm in the undercroft. The cost will be \$5 per person and \$2 for children. (We will have hotdogs, too!!). We also continue our remembrance of the needy and hungry in Omaha with our bread sale. Please bake bread to be sold on Bread Sunday and help feed our hungry neighbors. We will sell the bread following the 10:30 service.

Youth Experience Story of Sudan

On Sunday, March 21st, Tom O'Dell invites all Middle School and High School youth to stay for a pizza lunch following the 10:30 service and meet Jacob and Lual, our visitors from Sudan. These men who were two of the Lost Boys, will talk to the youth about their experience and the process of establishing a clinic in Maar.

Youth News

by Linda Rafael

More March Youth Events...

Wed. March 3- J2A (9th & 10th graders) meet from 6-7:30 pm in Retreat Center

Sun. March 7 – Middle School (7th & 8th graders) – Scavenger Hunt for Omaha Food Pantry- 2-4pm

Sun. March 14 – High School – Go-Carts in Council Bluffs 2-4pm

Wed. March 17 – Rite-13 (7th & 8th graders) meet from 6-7:30pm in Retreat Center

Programming News

by Linda Rafael

Each season of the church year brings new possibilities in programming. We hope these Lenten offerings are diverse enough that they will challenge you, strengthen you and bless you in this season. Please make note of the offerings we have that are especially appropriate for the theme, "Praying Lent." There is a section on "Worship in Lent" that explains ways that our liturgy changes and grows to draw us into a deeper spiritual journey. There are several wonderful opportunities to experience growth in Christian Formation. Please make note of the adult offerings on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. There is a Communion class for elementary ages, Confirmation classes for youth and Retreats offered for all ages too. Possibly most important, is the opportunity to be involved in reaching out to others. We will celebrate Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday on February 21st. That Sunday, there will be "hope chests" available for individuals and families to take home. These serve as mite boxes that can become the vessel for your own contributions and prayers for our neighbors throughout the world who are suffering. Please return them on Easter and the proceeds will go to ERD.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about any of these offerings at lindar@allsaintsomaha.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: VBS dates have arrived!!



Come join us on an adventure to Ancient Egypt! Vacation Bible School 2010 will be July 18th-21st. As we travel alongside Joseph on his journey from prison to palace, we will discover the presence of God's love and that He never leaves us alone through life's trials and triumphs. We will have dinner and then the curriculum will be from 6PM-8PM. There will also be an adult program offered that will be led by Father Tom. Registration forms will be in the May *Witness*.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Tori Rafael at victoriacarmela23@gmail.com.



A "Note" from Music Ministries

by Dr. Laura Palmer

Musicians over the centuries have noted the capability of music to express the greatest testimonies of faith. Hymns and anthems are especially meaningful during the season of Lent as we reflect on the agony of Christ's betrayal and crucifixion. You are invited to All Saints each Sunday afternoon to *pray with music* as we contemplate the themes of this liturgical season. These are wonderful opportunities to invite a friend or neighbor to join you!



Musical Reflections for Praying Lent

"...God gave us music that we might pray without words."

Sunday, February 21, 4:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong

**Choirs of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and
All Saints Episcopal Church**

Sunday, February 28, 3:00 p.m.

Musical Reflections

Grace Lyden, piano

Sunday, March 7, 3:00 p.m.

Musical Reflections

Laura Palmer, organ

Sunday, March 14, 3:00 p.m.

Musical Reflections

Sally Hodges, piano

Sunday, March 21, 3:00 p.m.

Musical Reflections

Linda Shirck, organ

Praying Sudan

By Robin McNutt

Maar: A Sudan Village's Past

Three years ago, my first day in Maar, Southern Sudan, I noticed Michael. He scared me. He stood out, was very tall, stoic, deliberate, deep-set piercing eyes, didn't speak any English, and was always walking back and forth to the compound, hand-in-hand, with women of all ages. I thought, "I don't want to be alone with that guy."



The first Sunday when I walked the short distance from my hut to the church, I was greeted by hundreds of villagers, all wanting to shake my hand. It was a very hot day and even though I was overjoyed with the reception, I started feeling short of breath from the crowd and the lack of fresh air. Upon reaching the church entrance, I was met by a five year old girl holding her baby sister.

The girls' eyes, ears, nostrils and mouths were covered with sedentary flies...sitting, not moving. I said "hello", shook their tiny hands, then walked to the side of the building and threw-up. As I was thinking "God, what am I doing here," I felt a gentle tap on my shoulder. It was Michael, giving me a leaf upon which to wipe my mouth, motioning to drink water, and get out of the sun. Once inside the church, I realized, robed in an alb and sitting by the altar was...*Michael, the lay-leader.*

During the Sunday announcements, each tribal chief introduced himself to me. You can imagine my surprise when I was warmly welcomed by...*Michael, the assistant tribal chief.*

Cattle are the Dinka's wealth and are kept together in camps overseen by professional and trustworthy herdsmen. One day I decided to take pictures. I slowly worked my way in, stepping around dung, over calves, snapping pictures of these magnificent creatures. Just about the time I realized I was totally surrounded by cows with very large, pointed horns, I felt a firm grip on my right hand. I was being strategically led out by...*Michael, the cattle camp herdsman.*

Maar had one doctor, several medical assistants and midwives, but they were limited by their lack of a functional clinic, diagnostic equipment, ongoing training, and medicine. One day when I was trying to find aid for a young man with a bullet wound, I was led to the cattle camp to get...*Michael, the medical assistant.*



Covered with dust, Michael and I walked to the small, yellow clinic, riddled with bullets from the 21 year war, where he poured hydrogen peroxide on his hands before tending to the bullet wound with the grace of a flawless surgeon. Over the next several months, I watched Michael remove fish hooks from children's feet,

sterilize used needles shared by families, administer shots, lacerate flesh wounds the size of oranges, cleanse puss-filled eyes, stitch gaping holes with old needles and worn thread, wrap skin diseases with torn rags, oversee comatose malaria patients, calm those bitten by scorpions, assist mothers through childbirth, and provide sensitivity to those he could not help in other ways.

The day I left Maar, In January 2007, Michael asked me if I had any medication for his wife who had worms and was suffering severe stomach cramps and bloody diarrhea. I did not. *Michael, the man that cared for me when I was sick, received me into his village, the first Dinka to hold my hand, who came to help his people every time I asked, the man I had come most to admire...needed me...and there was nothing I could do.*

In January 2009, I returned to Maar with fellow All Saints parishioner, Claudianna Todd. Our mission was to obtain up-to-date information pertaining to health care, education and agricultural needs. When I saw Michael, we started laughing, hugged, patted faces, shared through interpreters, like no time had passed...literally, in the way of medicine. Though the village had more schools, water wells, grinding mills, and a compound for visitors and work teams, the little bullet ridden, yellow clinic remained without equipment or supplies for the people. The medical personnel live every day with the knowledge of what could be, but isn't.

Maar: A Sudan Village's Potential



Recently, the Diocese of Nebraska announced it will become Global Partners with the Diocese of Twic East in Southern Sudan, with a special emphasis on Maar. All Saints is now able to concentrate on a specific village with specific needs in health care, agriculture and education.



Sudan Adult Forums: Praying Sudan

Over the next several weeks, you will have the opportunity to hear from All Saints parishoners, representatives of the Diocese of Nebraska, and Lost Boys of Sudan. We hope you will join us at 9:45:

February 28:

Faith, the Millennium Development Goals, and Sudan
Tammy King, All Saints

March 07:

The Episcopal Church: Global Partners in the Sudan
Jim and Judi Yeates, Diocese of Nebraska

March 14:

Maar: A Sudan Village's Past and Potential
Claudianna Todd and Robin McNutt, All Saints

The forums will culminate with:

March 21:

Health Care in Maar, Southern Sudan
Jacob Atem and Lual Awan,
Southern Sudan Health Care Organization (SSHCO)



SSHCO is a non-profit organization co-founded by Jacob Atem and Lual Awan on March 27, 2008. Jacob and Lual are two of the Lost Boys who came to America in 2001. Jacob is a graduate from Spring Arbor University and is currently enrolled in the Masters of Public Health degree program in at Michigan State University. Together, they drive the vision and message of a safer Southern Sudan through healthcare and education.

In December 2009, Jacob and Lual traveled to Maar and reported to the villagers that to date, SSHCO has raised the \$100,000 needed to begin Phase I of the Health Care Clinic in Maar; 50% of the funding coming from SSHCO fundraisers in the United States and 50% of the funding coming from Sudan individuals and businesses. The building materials are in the process of being delivered to Maar.

Youth Experience Story of Sudan

On Sunday, **March 21**, Tom O'Dell invites all Middle School and High School youth to a pizza lunch following the 10:30 service to meet Jacob and Lual, our visitors from Sudan. These men who were two of the Lost Boys will talk to the youth about their experiences and the process of establishing a clinic in Maar.

Be a part of the miraculous!

ALL SAINTS' LEGACY OF LOVE SOCIETY

Honoring parishioners who include charitable gifts to All Saints in their estate plans, we created a Legacy of Love Society as our way of offering sincere appreciation.

A variety of giving techniques qualify for your membership in the Legacy of Love Society, including any of the following: Bequests in your will or revocable living trust, beneficiary designations for your life insurance policies or qualified retirement plans, a lifetime gift annuity and other deferred gift arrangements.

In passing away, we lose the ability to give of our time and talent. At that moment, our final treasure (what we leave in our estate) takes on special significance. Our own legacy for All Saints is witness to our faith, strengthens our spiritual relationship with God, and helps All Saints to achieve God's work for generations to come..

End-of-life giving meets many important and spiritual needs. Some use the opportunity to be more generous than they felt they could be during life. Others who are used to giving proportionately from their income find it makes sense to do the same from their estate. Some discover they have enough for a charitable legacy while still providing well for children and grandchildren. (In some cases, heirs can

actually receive a larger inheritance when a charitable gift is part of the estate plan.)

The Legacy of Love Society reflects All Saints' unique heritage, continuing and expanding its good works and programs within our parish family and outreach to the greater community.

Any individual who informs All Saints that it is named in his or her estate plan or who has made a deferred or planned gift arrangement is eligible. You may choose to be listed by name or remain anonymous, and, of course, the terms and value of your charitable plans will remain confidential.

Members of the Legacy of Love Society also are automatically eligible for membership in the Bishop Clarkson Legacy Society, subject to your consent and approval.

Regardless of our financial success, each of us has the opportunity to allocate our estate in a manner that reflects the faith, Christian values, and interests we embraced during life. The Legacy of Love Society allows us to recognize your good stewardship, the result of life-long and even longer-than-life practices.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

- I have established a gift to All Saints in my charitable estate plans.
- Please add my name as a member of the Legacy of Love Society, or ...
- Please add me as an anonymous member of the Legacy of Love Society.
- Please send me language for adding a gift to All Saints in my estate plan.
- Please contact me by phone. The best time to call me is: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____, NE Zip: _____

Phone: _____

email _____

PLEASE TAKE TO THE PARISH OFFICE OR MAIL TO:

Planned Giving Team at All Saints Episcopal Church
9302 Blondo Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68134
office@allsaintsomaha.com

MAKING ‘A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD’



For 42 years John Bower has been singing in All Saints Chancel Choir. The Omaha native has logged the most years of all choir members.

John and his wife Dorothy joined All Saints in 1966. They had previously been members of St. John’s, now Church of the Resurrection. Their two children Bob and Susan sang in the choir right away, and several years later John and Dorothy joined the choir. Dorothy passed away in 2002. Tragedy came again when son Bob passed away in 2005. John and Dorothy were married for 56 years. In his home is a plaque Dorothy had made, it reads: **“He who sings prays twice.”**

Being a choir member is more than the joy of singing. John says it is something special, warm friendships, social get-togethers and pulling through life’s most difficult times. He says the choir is truly a family and cares for each other. He emotionally talks about when Dorothy was in hospice care at home. Members of the choir, the director and past directors visited and sang for her. Then shortly before her passing the entire choir came and did a musical service for her.

He recalls how fellow choir member and long-time member of All Saints Dr. John Gedgoud would have a party for the choir following the Christmas night service. “It was always really late,” John says. Other social activities included the pool parties Buzz and Elizabeth Wells gave at their home. More recently it is open houses like the ones at the home of Gayle Smith and Bryan Watkins.

Gayle says ‘Doc’ Gedgoud recorded the choir at many of the Christmas and Easter services. She says she can recognize individual voices when choir members walked by the microphones.

John talks about the excellent singers in the choir, many either professional or who became professional singers. One voice inspired several visitors to make All Saints their church home. Fellow choir member Claudianna Todd affirms his story that she and husband Gordon were visiting All Saints and were so moved when soprano Elaine Spire sang that they stayed. John says, “Elaine, who had a magnificent soprano voice, was singing ‘O Devine Redeemer’ and Claudianna said I want to be a part of this.”

That was in 1973. Claudianna soon joined the choir and has been a faithful member since. She describes John as faithful and positive, characteristics John also attributed as typical of each member.

According to John and Claudianna, all choir members are faithful to the music ministry of All Saints. The choir works with the rector and congregation, and its goal is that everything be liturgically sound.

John has worked with five choir directors and describes each as being compassionate and caring. Cecil Neubecker was director when the Bower family came to All Saints. Cecil’s wife Virginia not only sang in the choir but was a partner in assisting Cecil. This was like the music partnership of Dr. James and Karen Johnson. James was director from 1995 to 2008.

At the time of the Neubeckers, John, who sings bass, says there were at least 30 choir members and each section had a leader. He recalls with a smile how at Easter service Virginia Neubecker would put black jelly beans on the music shelves for choir members.

John fondly remembers each director, their styles and special talents. He says current Director of Music Ministries Dr. Laura Palmer “is young, talented and very well accepted and loved by the choir.”

Besides the many hours he devotes to choir, John is a Minister-of-Care making weekly pastoral visits to hospitals, homes and nursing facilities. He is also a member of the Healing Prayer Ministry and the Worship Mission Team.

In 1988 John retired from the Legal Department of Central National and Protective National Insurance Group. Since then he works nationwide testifying as an expert witness on insurance and reinsurance, bad faith matters.

During the summer John plays golf and vacations in the Lake Huron area with family members. He has six grandchildren and occasionally drives the 2200 miles roundtrip to family cottages there.

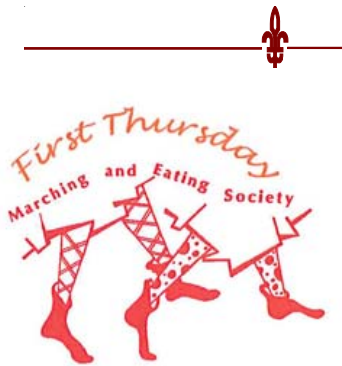
Current Chancel Choir participants are: *Sopranos*: Lynne Bacon, Carye Fassero, Sue Fisher, Mary Gittings, Millicent Long, Ali Olander, Gayle Smith, and Claudianna Todd. *Altos*: Kay Clark, Kyoko Fuller, Linda Hall, Sally Hodges, Wendy Perry, Jo Anne Peterson, Jan Rowley, and Mary Sue Sturgeon. *Tenors*: Joe Barker III, Jerry Gray, Jack Kouth and David Rubio. *Basses*: John Bower, Jonathan Fuller, Geof Heiden, Joel Perry, Bryan Watkins, Rob Williamson and Jim Yeates.

All Saints Disaster Relief Team Meets to Plan Strategy



All Saints Church is a partner with the American Red Cross in providing disaster relief to victims of a disaster in our surrounding community. All Saints was selected in 2009 for the Community Awareness Award given annually by the Heartland Chapter of the Red Cross.

The All Saints team is looking for additional volunteers to join them in providing aid and comfort to those in need. If interested or would like more information regarding their mission please contact Doug Hokenstad at 496-7726, email doughok@cox.net or Dn Robin McNutt at 651-6662, email mcnuttrobin@yahoo.com.



The Thursday, March 4th meeting of THE FIRST THURSDAY MARCHING & EATING SOCIETY will offer a second attempt to escape the cold and snow. We almost made it to the Panama Canal in February but had a pleasant detour to learn about the Volunteer Nurses' Association. **Join us March 4th in the Retreat Center at 6:30** for food and fellowship. The Panama Canal and other Caribbean sites with their warm sun beckon. The warm food you bring to share, the warm smiles and friendship you bring and the warm photos will help us weather the winter weather. Bring your table service and warm thoughts.



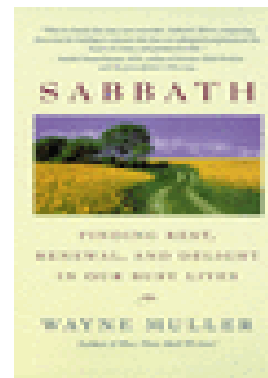
Library News

by Florence Shelso

Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives

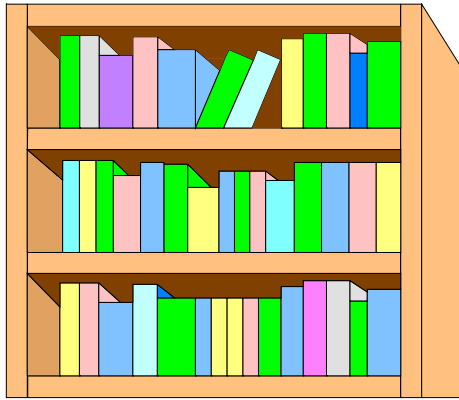
by Wayne Muller

If you have ever longed for a simpler, less structured time, Wayne Muller's *Sabbath* should be at the top of your reading list. In a wise and soothing way, Muller teaches us why a Sabbath in our weekly life is necessary. The author explores the concept of Sabbath in all faiths, notes their similarities, and makes practical suggestions we can all use to "find rest, renewal, and delight in our busy lives".



Congratulations to Barbara Coffey!!

Our own Dr. Barbara Coffey has received a high honor! At the 25th Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in January, Barbara was honored for being the community leader who organized the first such celebration in Omaha in 1985. She was also recognized for her contributions to the growth and development of Metropolitan Community College, which hosted the celebration.



BOOK SALE IN THE NARTHEX COMING BEFORE AND AFTER SERVICES THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 20th & 21st

St Margaret's Guild is honored to continue a book sale in the narthex that our dear friend Debbie Klein started several years ago. This effort raises money for the Episcopal Church Periodical Club. CPC provides grants to small parishes for church school materials, sends money for books to seminarian students, and provides new prayer books and Bibles for parishes just starting up. In 2009 ECW contributed \$800.00 to national for these purposes. So scan your bookshelves, coffee tables and closets for books you would like to donate to the sale. We are interested in hardcover books, paperback books, audio books, CDs and DVDs, grownup books, teenage books and children's books alike. We will have a designated area for collecting your donation beginning February 21. Don't delay in seeing what you might have to offer.

We have pick-up service available. Refer any questions or schedule a pick-up by calling Nancy Wulf at 551-8066.



Via Media Calendar

Feb. 21st: Evensong Service with choirs of Trinity and All Saints at 4pm

Feb. 22nd thru end of Lent: Walking the Stations of the Cross on Mondays in the main sanctuary at 6:30pm

Feb. 26th: **A LESSON ON KAIROS-THE APPOINTED TIME OF GOD** led by Rachel Cary in the Retreat Center at 6:30pm.

Feb. 28 thru Mar. 28: Gospel Cafe discussions in the Undercroft on Sundays at 9:45a.m.; hosted by one of our very own (Chris Fassero and Kristen Hosman)

Mar. 12th: **UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH THE ALL SAINTS ORGAN** conducted by musical director Laura Palmer. We will start in the Undercroft at 6:30pm then move to the sanctuary as appropriate.

Mar. 14th: Bread and Chili Sunday luncheon at 11:30am in the Undercroft

Mar. 26th: **GAME NIGHT** sponsored by Rachel and BJ Cary in the Undercroft at 6:30pm.

Apr. 9th: **AN EVENING OUT WITH FRIENDS** hosted by Lindsay and Brandon. Place to be determined.

Apr. 23rd: **"THE BRAVE ONE" MOVIE AND DISCUSSION** directed by Christopher Fassero in the Retreat Center starting around 6:30pm.

May: **TBD.**

June: **MAHONEY STATE PARK FAMILY FUN DAY** date TBD

for more information about Via Media, contact Carrye Fassero at carryefassero@gmail.com

Parish Calendar

Monday through Friday – Morning Prayer 8:30 AM

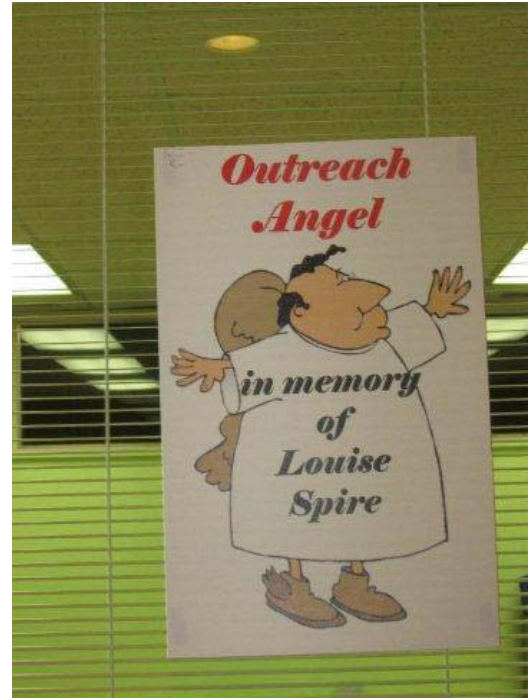
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>February 21</p> <p>8:00 AM Rite I Eucharist 9:00 AM AXS Eucharist 9:45 AM <i>Christian Formation</i> 10:30 AM Rite II Eucharist 2:00 PM HS Event 4:00 PM Evensong</p>	<p>February 22</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 6:30 PM Stations</p>	<p>February 23</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Vestry [L] 7:00 PM C Nurture Team</p>	<p>February 24</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:00 AM EFM [7] 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist Choirs 4:30 - 5:00 - 5:30 - 6:30 - 7:30 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM WOW Dinner 7:00 PM Discovery 7:00 PM EFM [L]</p>	<p>February 25</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 4:30 PM Confirmation Class 5:30 PM Sudan Mission Team 5:45 PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>February 26</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 6:30 PM Via Media [RC]</p>	<p>February 27</p> <p>5:00 PM Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>February 28</p> <p>8:00 AM Rite I Eucharist 9:00 AM AXS Eucharist 9:45 AM <i>Christian Formation</i> 10:30 AM Rite II Eucharist 3:00 PM Musical Reflections</p>	<p>March 1</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Stewardship Team 6:30 PM Stations 7:00 PM Worship Team</p>	<p>March 2</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Adult CF Team [L] 7:00 PM Mom's Group [RC] 7:00 PM Israel Pilgrimage [L]</p>	<p>March 3</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:00 AM EFM [7] 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist Choirs 4:30 - 5:00 - 5:30 - 6:30 - 7:30 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM J2A Meeting [RC] 6:30 PM WOW Dinner 7:00 PM Discovery 7:00 PM EFM [L]</p>	<p>March 4</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 4:30 PM Confirmation Class 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM 1st Thursday M&E</p>	<p>March 5</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>March 6</p> <p>5:00 PM Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>Adult Retreat in Schuyler</p>						
<p>Middle School Retreat at Camp Kiraki</p>						
<p>March 7</p> <p>8:00 AM Rite I Eucharist 9:00 AM AXS Eucharist 9:45 AM <i>Christian Formation</i> 10:30 AM Rite II Eucharist 11:30 AM St. Margaret's Guild [RC] 2:00 PM Middle School Event 3:00 PM Musical Reflections</p>	<p>March 8</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 6:30 PM Stations</p>	<p>March 9</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Vestry [L]</p>	<p>March 10</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:00 AM EFM [7] 12:00 PM St. Mary's Gld 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist Choirs 4:30 - 5:00 - 5:30 - 6:30 - 7:30 5:00 PM Communion Class 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM WOW Dinner 7:00 PM Discovery 7:00 PM EFM [L]</p>	<p>March 11</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 4:30 PM Confirmation Class 5:30 PM Welcome Team [L] 5:45 PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>March 12</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 6:30 PM Via Media [RC]</p>	<p>March 13</p> <p>9:00 AM Men's Club [L] 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>March 14</p> <p>8:00 AM Rite I Eucharist 9:00 AM AXS Eucharist 9:45 AM <i>Christian Formation</i> 10:30 AM Rite II Eucharist 11:30 AM Chili & Bread Sunday 2:00 PM HS Event 3:00 PM Musical Reflections</p>	<p>March 15</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Planned Giving Team 6:30 PM Stations</p>	<p>March 16</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 12:00 PM Altar Guild 6:30 PM C. Outreach Team [L] 6:30 PM Child CF Team [RC] 7:00 PM Mom's Group [RC]</p>	<p>March 17</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:00 AM EFM [7] 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist Choirs 4:30 - 5:00 - 5:30 - 6:30 - 7:30 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Rite-13 Meeting [RC] 6:30 PM WOW Dinner 7:00 PM Discovery 7:00 PM EFM [L]</p>	<p>March 18</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer 4:30 PM Confirmation Class 5:45 PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>March 19</p> <p>8:30 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>March 20</p> <p>5:00 PM Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>Tween Retreat</p>						

Spaghetti Supper 2010

Outreach Angels



Mark Johnson cooked the spaghetti



Silent Auction



Savannah Farrens served the spaghetti



Charlie Baguyos ate the spaghetti.



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Sharing God's Word – Showing Christ's Love – Serving All People
Deadline for the next issue is March 15th

Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday Special Offering

All Saints is participating in ERD Sunday on February 21st in conjunction with the visitation of our Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori.

Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday is a special opportunity to live out the promises made in our Baptismal Covenant, by demonstrating our commitment to care for people who are hungry, sick or living in extreme poverty

Please give generously. Your offering will go to Episcopal Relief & Development's Area of Greatest Need fund, which enables us to help those most in need around the world including the earthquake victims of Haiti.

The plate offering on Sunday, February 21 will be designated for ERD.

Red Envelopes will be available for your contribution to this worthwhile program. (Please make checks to Episcopal Relief & Development Fund)

*for additional information visit www.er-d.org or call
880.334.7626 ext 5129*