

The Messenger

April 2008



Dear Friends,

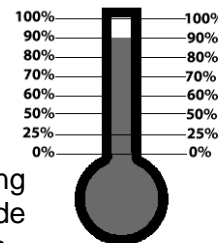
During the first week of April I traveled to the Aspen Wye Conference Center in Maryland along with five other people who were in my seminary class at Union Theological Seminary in New York City in the mid 1970's. The six of us were part of a study undertaken by the seminary at that time. Each of us was interviewed twice a year for the three years of seminary. The director of the study, Dr. Mac Warford, also interviewed me here in Rochester last year.

In preparation for that gathering, I was asked to review the transcripts of those interviews and to write a 10 page paper reflecting upon my life at the present time in reference to my seminary experience. The exercise has allowed me to trace some core issues that have run as a thread throughout my ministry. In the variety of ministries in which I have been engaged and in the different places I have lived, the question of how the life of the soul is shaped by our engagement with the issues of our time has guided my reflection and my work. I was intrigued to see how little that had changed over these many years.

Religious life has to do with how we live in the world and how we cultivate the inner life. The two are inseparable. At times we may put more focus on one than on the other, but in the large picture of our lives, the wellbeing of the soul and our response to the needs of others are inseparable. Our ministry as a parish is shaped around both of these. I cherish the journey that we share.

Yours in Christ,
Vicki

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CORNER



The Capital Campaign is moving forward and the committee has made some real progress over the last month.

I would like to share with you what we've done and layout the strategy so you know what to expect over the next couple of months.

We first met with all the committee leaders to explain to them the purpose of the capital campaign and we wanted to solicit their feedback on what they felt the church building needed to better serve the community. This information along with our other financial commitments was used to establish the capital campaign goal of \$275,000.

Our next steps are to design a brochure that will provide all the details to the capital campaign. This will include the objective of the campaign, the plans on future building updates and list ways you, as a church member, can do to help achieve the objectives.

The committee is also working on selecting and training canvassers or people who will be contacting church members to discuss the campaign in detail and answer any question you might have. That way you will be able to make the right financial commitment to help Incarnation reach its' goals.

The capital campaign is schedule to officially start in early April and run through the end of May, wrapping up everything by early June before summer gets into full swing. This is when you can expect to be contacted by someone from the church. I hope everyone can be flexible in finding time to meet with the canvassers and be thoughtful in giving to the need.

To help demonstrate their commitment to this cause, several of the church leaders have already made their pledge to the capital campaign. Please join them when the time comes!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Mike Povia, Committee Chair

SAVE THE DATE

We are pleased to announce the upcoming Ordination & Consecration of

The Reverend Dr. Prince Singh

as the eighth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

Saturday, May 31, 2008 at 11 o'clock ~ Eastman Theater – Rochester, NY



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- May 31 Bishop-Elect Prince Singh's Consecration
- June 6, 7 Flower Festival & Afternoon Tea
- June 14 Jennifer Zogg's Ordination at Incarnation
- June 22 Church School Recognition & Picnic



We often take for granted the preparation that goes into Sunday morning worship. The freshly pressed linens, the shining chalice, the flame on the altar candles, the wafers and wine at the back of the church are all in place when we arrive Sunday morning. It is through the ministry of the altar guild that we are able to enter into the grace and dignity of our liturgy week after week.

Mrs. Rita Dobbin has been the head of the altar guild for many years. She has decided to transfer the leadership to Lyn Omphroy and Chris Evans as co-chairs. She will remain active on the altar guild and will offer advice and assistance to Lyn and Chris as they assume this responsibility.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to Rita for her leadership in this ministry. It is work that is often done quietly in the background, but which we depend upon as a central part of our life in community.

Vicki



GAME NIGHT DATES

We're on a roll!! All adults are welcome! We ask that you bring your own beverages and a snack to share. Game night starts around 7:00 p.m. and usually lasts until 11 p.m. or so. Upcoming dates & locations are as follows:

- April 19 – Scott & Janet Seabridge's home
- May 17 – David & Sherry McCarthy's home
- June 21 – Peter & Heather Melnick's home
- July – No game night
- August 16 – Pool Party at Mike & Tracey Povio's

If you are interested in hosting a game night at your home or at the church, please contact Tracy Povio at 872-7431 or tap55@rochester.rr.com.

HERITAGE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Heritage Christian Services is currently running a program through "Imagine it...Fundraising through Recycling". For every empty inkjet cartridge we collect we will receive \$1.00; and for every empty laser cartridge we will receive up to \$5.00. The money raised from this program will go to our International Ministries Program. Please bring in your empty cartridges (from work or home) and drop them off in the box outside the church office. A volunteer will bring the cartridges to HCS. Once a month someone from Imagine It will come and pick up the empty cartridges and issue Heritage Christian Services a check.

It's easy, protects the environment and creates funding for Heritage Christian Services. Thank you for your kind participation!

Did you know... every second, 3 printer cartridges are thrown away? The plastic in these cartridges never decompose and they release harmful toxins into our environment.

PATCHWORK WOMEN

Patchwork Women will meet at church on *Wednesday, April 16, 2008*. Your hostesses this month are Nancy Dinan and Marge McClenahan. Here is the schedule for the remainder of the year:



- May 21 Rose Marsden, Anna Bingham
- June 18 Pam Simmons, Linda Nicodemus
- July/Aug Gay Sedor's cottage (date TBD)
- Sept 17 Jane Reeve, Peg Squire
- Oct 15 Hostess TBD
- Nov 19 June Monks, Rose Marsden
- Dec 17 Betty Quinn, June Harvey

EGG HUNT THANKS



I want to thank everyone who donated to the Easter Egg Hunt this year. We got over 700 eggs for the kids to find. That is an amazing response! I especially want to thank *Joel Maness, Scott Seabridge, John Marshall, Mhorag Hay, and Laura Leeper* for helping me count, decorate bags, and hide eggs on, what I am sure, was a very busy Saturday. The kids had a great time! Thank you for helping to put smiles on their faces.

Have a blessed Easter season,
Tracey Povio

*From our
Seminary Student*



Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Even if Easter was early this year, by now in April there are certainly signs all around us witnessing to the Resurrection. If nothing else, Rochester itself is a living sign of it – after gray and messy winters the sun returns and spring always blooms beautifully.

In my recent pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral in England in mid-February I was a witness to their resurrection work as well. Each year Berkeley Divinity School at Yale takes their senior class (can't believe I'm among them this year – how time flies!) to visit the center of Anglican faith at this great cathedral. On one of our tours, the cathedral's master stained glass craftswoman told us how some of the now empty windows had been shattered either during the 16th century by reformers wanting to destroy the "Roman" images of Mary and the saints or during the bombings of World War II. How tragic that such holy and inspirational art which had once flooded warm light into a space of worship and prayer for centuries of faithful Christians lay today in shattered pieces of medieval glass, their value seemingly destroyed. Yet Resurrection hope springs eternal! She happily informed us that her team was designing new windows for those empty spaces to be constructed using the fragments of old glass. What was cast down in fear and violence is today finally being made into a new and beautiful creation in Canterbury Cathedral! I hope you can see signs of the resurrection in your own life, places where God might be doing a new and unexpected thing with what we think are our broken failures and fragments.

As I begin to close this chapter of my life at seminary, the transition is bittersweet. I will miss the dear friends and community that I have come to love and that have taught me so much. Yet I also look with anticipation to sharing my ordination with all of you in June and beginning my ordained ministry. Pray for me in the next few months as I make these big transitions in my life.

May we all feel more deeply in these Easter days the great gift of hope we have in Jesus' living presence among us!

Thanks be to God!

Jennifer

*Save the date!
Jennifer will be ordained here
on Saturday, June 14*

PARISH & COMMUNITY NOTES



- ✓ Ayden Gray is proud to announce the birth of his baby sister, Mia Elisabeth! Mia was born on February 25th at 12:34pm. She weighed in at 6 lbs, 15 ounces and is 20 inches long. Ayden is a VERY proud big brother! He loves to give Mia kisses, hold her, and help with her diapers and baths. Ayden's Mommy and Daddy are doing well too, despite adjusting to the little sleep they get. Welcome, Mia!
- ✓ Congratulations to Cathy Dobbin and Andy Drum, who announced their engagement on Easter Sunday. The wedding is set for May of 2009. Of course parents Bob & Rita Dobbin are quite happy about it all.

SHEPHERD HOME ANNUAL GALA

Tickets are now on sale for The Fourth Annual Shepherd Home Spring Gala dinner dance and auction to be held *Saturday, April 26, 2008* at the Penfield Country Club. The Gala and auction are key fundraisers for the Shepherd Home, a non-profit comfort care facility for the terminally ill that operates under the "Hospice Care" philosophy. Shepherd Home provides its services at no cost to its residents and without any reimbursement from insurance companies or Medicare, so it relies heavily on community support.

The Gala begins with cocktails at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner, a live auction, and dancing. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be Penfield resident and WROC-TV Channel 8 Sports Director John Kucko. Dance music will be performed by the band Nostalgic Reunion.

In addition to the live auction at the Gala, Shepherd Home is running an **on-line auction** open to anyone from *March 24 to April 20* at www.shepherdhome.cmarket.com. Donations for both the live and on-line auctions are still being accepted.

Information about purchasing tickets, donating or bidding on items for the auction, and sponsorship opportunities are available at Shepherd Home's website: www.shepherdhome.org or by calling Kathy Averill, Gala Co-chairwoman, at 585-704-5241.

FROM OUR DEACON-IN-TRAINING

On Saturday, March 29, I was privileged to be part of a standing room crowd of over 600 present at St. Peter's Memorial Episcopal Church in Geneva to watch Bishop McKelvey ordain seven new deacons for the Diocese of Rochester. It was a gorgeous service with music provided by the choirs of St. Peter's exceptional music program enhanced by singers from the deacons' home parishes and accompanied by the Finger Lakes Brass. The new deacons are not the kind of deacons that we have been used to in Rochester – "transitional" deacons who will go on to be priests; they are "vocational" or permanent deacons. They will remain deacons serving in the parishes and communities from which they have come. They are from six different parishes in our diocese and represent four of the five districts.

The seven people who were ordained became close friends of mine as I made my way through the first year of the education and formation program which should lead to my ordination as a deacon just about a year from now. The course is a two-year commitment that involves four weekends each year at Bexley Institute, which is located on the ground floor of The Inn on Broadway in Rochester. On those weekends, we meet early on Saturday morning with the Bexley faculty member(s) who will lead us through two days of that particular instructor's area of expertise. We stop only for meals (which are brought in), Morning and Evening Prayer and to attend Sunday morning Eucharist together across the street at Christ Church. We spend Saturday nights at the Inn, so not a minute is lost from our opportunities to be exposed to these gifted and dedicated teachers. We go home, usually suffering from informational overload, late Sunday afternoon.

These weekends are not events where we just show up and absorb knowledge – reading assignments, for me at least, run 40 – 50 hours of preparation for each weekend. In addition, we always have a paper to write and submit to our instructors within a few weeks of each class; these tend to run between eight and twelve pages each. This year, with our seven "graduates" gone, there are five of us entering our final year of formation. Of these five, three are from parishes in the Rochester District, the only district not to have a deacon in the first group. We also have a classmate who is on track to become a priest raised up by the Total Common Ministry program of the churches in Allegany County. Our first weekend for this year was early in March so now I am down to only three more: late April, September and November.

In each of the eight months when there is no class, we meet once as a group for dinner and a mentoring session. Ordained deacons as well as those in the formation process are a part of this ongoing group. For my first year, our mentor was the Rev. Canon Steve Lane, who has recently been elected Bishop of the Diocese of Maine. What a privilege it was to learn from this knowledgeable, experienced priest! Our new mentor is the Rev. Al Keeney, Rector of St. John's Church in Canandaigua.

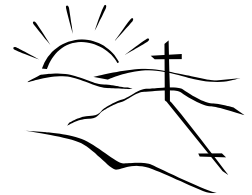
Please keep my classmates and me in your thoughts and prayers as we head into the final stretch of our formation for the diaconate.

Faithfully –
Andy Johnson

(Next issue: *What is a deacon, anyway?*)

IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Incarnation family expresses our condolences to the families of: **Bishop Robert Spears**, former Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester; and **Pat Parkhurst**, stepmother of Rita Dobbin.



By the Grace of God
And the people consenting

The Right Reverend Jack M. McKelvey
Bishop of Rochester
will ordain

Ralph M. Peter Harter

to the Sacred Order of Priests
in Christ's Holy Catholic Church

Thursday, the tenth of April
Two Thousand and eight
at seven thirty in the evening

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
3825 East Henrietta Road

Your prayers & presence are joyfully requested

...When my faith limps, I lean on the faith of the church, letting "our" faith suffice until "mine" returns. Later, when I am able to say "We believe..." with renewed confidence, I know that I am filling in for others who are indisposed for the time being, as they filled in for me. My decision to say the creed at all is a decision to trust those who have gone before me, embracing the faith they have commended to me.

– Barbara Brown Taylor in *The Preaching Life*