

The Messenger

February 2007

FROM THE
SEMINARY
STUDENT



Dear Friends,

In talking about religious pluralism in American society today, we are no longer talking about Protestants, Catholics and Jews. At a football game and in our schools, you may find yourself sitting next to a Muslim, a Hindu or a Buddhist. The founders of our nation established this as a country where participation in civic life would not be determined by religious affiliation. We met a new landmark in the 2006 congressional elections when Keith Ellison from Minnesota was elected as the first Muslim to serve in the United States Congress.

Mr. Ellison's announcement that he would take his oath of office on Islam's holy book, the Qur'an, was seized upon by some who insist that the Judeo-Christian tradition is the foundation of our national life. Thus the Bible, the sacred text of Christians, was relegated to being a battering ram in the culture wars of the religious right.

Christian Century Magazine reports that Mr. Ellison would not be the first member of Congress to forgo a Bible at the swearing-in ceremony. In 2005 the newly elected Congresswoman from Florida took her oath on a Tanakh, the Hebrew Bible. In 1825, John Quincy Adams took the presidential oath using a law volume instead of the Bible. Herbert Hoover affirmed his oath of office in 1929 without swearing on a Bible. Theodore Roosevelt did not use a Bible in his second oath of office in 1905.

We are secure in our religious freedom only so long as our nation respects the religious faith of every individual. Let us rejoice that we live in a nation that celebrates diversity as it honors the individuality of each person.

Yours in Christ,

Vicki

Dear friends,

Grace and peace to you in this Epiphany season! I hope all had a blessed Christmastide and a Happy New Year. I certainly enjoyed the time with my family, but I am now back at school and gearing up for the start of the spring semester. I'll be continuing some year-long courses in New Testament and Systematic Theology, and beginning the two semester sequence in Anglican Theology and History as well as perhaps another preaching course. And I'm very excited about a reading course on St. Teresa of Avila a few friends and I have organized with a professor of Medieval Theology. When I studied abroad in Salamanca, Spain during my junior year at the U of R I visited Avila where Saint Teresa lived and worked and I fell in love with the city and with St. Teresa's poetry and writings. In the course, we'll be reading her beautiful works in Spanish, something I haven't done in a few years now!

Last Sunday I also resumed my work at my internship at Trinity Church in New Haven. In the fall I had mostly been working with the Youth Group, but this week we finally have a new associate priest starting who will be working with the youth. So I am going to be able to work with a lot of the other ministries at Trinity. It is a blessing to be in a large parish where there are those kinds of opportunities. I'll work with the Altar Guild, the Choir program, the church school, even the treasurer and the vestry possibly. I will also fill my time doing some nursing home visits with the other associate priest (we now have 2) as well as facilitating some adult education courses. It will be exciting to get a feel for all of the ways that parishioners use their gifts to serve God, the church, and the community.

I am also looking forward to visiting Rochester in March. I will be in church Sunday, March 11th and in town through the 14th for further ordination interviews with the Bishop and the diocesan Commission on Ministry.

In the meantime, you all remain ever in my thoughts and prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Jen

GIFT SUGGESTION FOR CHRISTMAS 2007

Talk about rushing the season! But, seriously, we want to alert you to a great gift idea for friends and family. This spring "Creations Unlimited", a local photography studio, will begin photographing Incarnation's members, staff, vestry, committees, and church building for the 50th Anniversary Edition photo directory. Completion and distribution will be done in time for our 50th anniversary celebration, which will kick off in September. Christmas will be right around the corner from then. So, think ahead for gifts of individual and family portraits as well as commemorative copies of this great celebration. More information will be forthcoming. Stay tuned!

The Membership and Ministry Committee

DO YOU KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ANY FORMER INCARNATION PARISHIONERS?

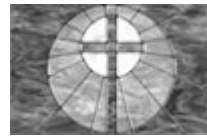
The 50th Anniversary Committee needs your help! They are looking for addresses of former Incarnation parishioners to invite to our gala in the fall. If you have an address of someone who used to attend here, please pass it along to Andy Johnson, either via email at lindandy@rochester.rr.com, or by mailing it to the church, to the attention of Andy Johnson. Thanks!!



AND THE WINNER IS...

The drawing for the Quilt Raffle took place at the potluck brunch following the Christmas Pageant on December 17. After being displayed for more than a year, the raffle made over \$ 750 in profits for the church.

The winner of the quilt was none other than *Scott Seabridge*, vestry member and husband of our own parish administrator! Rumor has it he was considering selling the quilt on Ebay, but his wife quickly put a stop to that! She made sure they will enjoy the quilt for many years to come.



ASK THE RECTOR

Whether we grew up in the Episcopal Church or are new to the traditions and rites, there are things we don't always know or understand. If you have a question or something occurs to you that you would like clarified, write it down and we can "Ask The Rector." Questions can be submitted to the Rector, left in the offering plate or emailed to the church.

Q I notice that during the service, people make the sign of the cross, but people do it at different times in the service and some people do not do it at all. When should we be making the sign of the cross and what does it mean?

A The Episcopal Church relies on ritual and ceremony to honor the holiness of God. The ceremonial acts are meant to speak to us, but are also a means through which we communicate with God. The sign of the cross is one ceremonial gesture that many people use. It is not required and is only useful so long as it feels natural.

How do you make the sign of the cross?

Holding the thumb at the tip of the fingers, you move your hand from your head to your heart, then from the left shoulder to the right shoulder.

When should you make the sign of the cross?

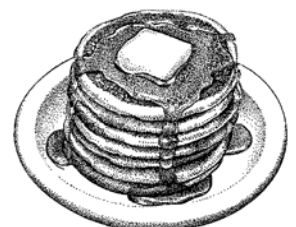
It is generally done at the end of the creed, at the time of the forgiveness of sins (absolution) and as a response to a blessing. People often do it before and after receiving communion.

Where did this custom originate?

It can be traced back to Tertullian in the second century. At that time it was used as a sanctifying act to recognize every action of daily life from rising in the morning to retiring at night. From early times it was also employed in Baptism and Confirmation and as part of the liturgical blessing.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Save the date! The Vestry is once again hosting Incarnation's **Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on February 20th from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Great Room. Don't miss this great event!





LENTEN SERIES WITH REV. MIRIAM OWENS

The Rev. Miriam Owens, retired priest and former Rector of the Church of the Ascension will lead us in our Lenten Series this year. She will guide us through a six-week study of Nouwen's book THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON. We will especially study Rembrandt's painting of the same name. This is one of the great works of art of the Western World. Miriam is an artist and a docent at the Memorial Art Gallery and will provide her artistic insight into the study.

The series will start on *Sunday, February 25, 2007* and run through *Sunday, April 1, 2007* at 8:45 AM in the Josie Dewey Lounge next to Vicki's office. Books will be on sale at the church in January.

If you have any questions, talk to Miriam at church or call her at 338-3463.

IMPORTANT PARISH DATES:



- Feb 4 Scout Sunday & Installation of new Vestry
- Feb 20 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Vestry Meeting immediately following
- Sep 28 Incarnation 50th Anniversary Dinner
at Penfield Country Club

PARISH AND COMMUNITY NOTES



- ✓ Congratulations to the following students who made the first quarter honor roll at PHS:
 - David Evans**
 - Zack Evans**
 - Kelsey Evans**
 We're proud of you – keep up the good work!!
- ✓ Congratulations to **Roberta Susan Avery** for being named to the fall 2006 dean's list at St. John Fisher College. Roberta is the daughter of Mark and Mary Avery. She is a junior and a sociology major.

PAGEANT THANKS

We would like to extend a huge, heartfelt thank you to everyone who was involved in the Christmas pageant! To all the kids who did such a great job acting and singing; to all the parents who helped out with rehearsals, costumes, and props; to all who helped with the lovely brunch afterwards; to the clean-up crew; and to everyone for the very thoughtful gift cards you gave to us: Bravo, and thanks so much for making this such a fun pageant! We were thrilled to see so many people involved, and to see the kids having so much fun. We're looking forward to next year!

Sincerely,
Sherry & David McCarthy, and Sara Cegelski



**FOOD
FOR
THOUGHT**

Blueberry Squares

by Diane Rossi, former parishioner

- 1½ cups sugar
- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup shortening
- 1 ½ tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. almond extract
- 4 eggs

Mix all above well with electric mixer at low speed. Beat 3 min. at high speed. Stir in 3 cups of flour. Spread batter in a greased jelly roll pan. Put tablespoonfuls of blueberry pie filling on top of the batter, 5 across and 7 or 8 the long way so there are 35-40 squares with fruit in them. Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes. Drizzle with powdered sugar glaze or sprinkle with powdered sugar while still warm.