

The Messenger

March 2007



Dear Friends,

Those who live in this part of the country cherish the changing of the seasons.

Yet when the temperatures drop and the snow begins to fly, most of us complain about the winter. In his novel entitled "Snow", the Turkish writer Orhan Pamuk refers to the "silence of the snow" that speaks to him. At one moment the snow speaks of purity. Another time it spoke to him of hopelessness and misery.

We know from our own experience and from the wisdom of the ages that silence gives voice to the deep places of the human heart. Ginger Cunes observes that "To concentrate without effort, to transform work into play, I must be still and hold a zone of Silence in my soul."

Seeking out silence requires entering into a place of stillness and calm. The winter months are a time when we can enter into a stillness that stands in contrast to many hours of activity that fill our days when the weather is warm and the sun dominates the sky for so many hours of the day. Winter is a season of the year that lends itself to introspection.

Lent comes upon us when we are in the depth of winter. The snow on the ground seems soft and gentle despite the harshness of the cold and the darkness of the days. It can be an icon onto which we gaze as we enter into the silence of our hearts and wait for God to speak.

Cunes says that "stillness is not a technique, but rather a lifestyle which arises from a personal commitment to take up citizenship in the internal world." Lent is a time when Christians look inward and listen for God in the silence of their souls.

May this be a holy Lent as we await the coming of spring and anticipate the newness of life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Vicki

WHAT IS A DEACON?

Most of us think of Deacons as those who are in the last phase of preparation to become priests. The Episcopal Church has begun to reclaim the historical role of the Deacon as one who is ordained to a ministry of service under the direct authority of the Bishop. In the past two years, the Diocese of Rochester has begun a Diaconal Ministry Program to prepare people for ordination to this order of ministry.

Persons identified as possibly having a call to the diaconate go through a discernment process with peers within the parish that is outlined by the diocese. They must have the approval of the Rector, the Vestry, the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry in order to enter training for this ministry.

The training involves a two-year program of study that includes theology, scripture, spiritual formation and worship. This program is offered by the Bexley Institute, a program of the Bexley Hall Seminary.

Part of the training program is a learning agreement that outlines the specific ministry of that the deacon in training will undertake in the local parish.

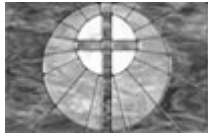
Andy Johnson has been meeting with a discernment group here in the parish since early this year. He has met with the Vestry on two occasions and is presently working with the Rector to identify responsibilities he would assume here at Incarnation in preparation for Diaconal ministry.

Please keep him in your prayers and he seeks to give new shape to his service in the Church.

FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE:

*The Standing Committee, with the Approval of Bishop McKelvey, has moved the date of the Electing Convention to Saturday, **February 2, 2008** (snow date: Feb. 9) and the date of the service of consecration/installation to Saturday, **May 31, 2008**. We are most pleased that Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will preside at the service of consecration/installation.*

*We encourage you to keep abreast of developments in the process of selecting the Eighth Bishop of Rochester by regularly visiting the Diocese's website at:
www.rochesterepiscopal-diocese.org*



ASK THE RECTOR

If you have a question or something occurs to you that you would like clarified, write it down. Questions can be submitted to the Rector, left in the offering plate or emailed to the church.

Q Why do Anglicans not honor Mary in the same way that the Roman Catholic Church does?

A Mary, the **mother of Jesus**, figures prominently in the stories of Jesus birth, particularly in the Gospel of Luke. She is mentioned only a few times in the Gospel writings about Jesus' public ministry. In the Gospel of John, she appears at the foot of the cross along with her sister and Mary Magdalene. (John 19:25)

The early Christian writers rarely mention her. Her perpetual virginity did not come to be generally accepted by the Church until the fifth century.

The development of Marian doctrine gained momentum at the Council of Ephesus held in 431 at which time she was given the official title of *theotokos*, **mother of God**.

In the present day, devotion to Mary is similar in the Roman Catholic Church to that of the Orthodox Church. The Anglican Church has traditionally forbade the invocation of saints, including Mary, but that has often been challenged. Beginning with the Oxford Movement in the 19th centuries, Mary has been given a more prominent place in Anglican devotion.

IMPORTANT PARISH DATES:



Mar 11 **FAMILY SERVICE**
Vestry meeting with Jennifer Zogg

Mar 18 12-4pm: Strategic Planning Session

PARISH AND COMMUNITY NOTES



✓ Congratulations to **Melissa Lehrbach**, daughter of *Phil & Jane Lehrbach*, for being recently hired by Costitch Engineering as a traffic and transportation engineer. She is responsible for traffic impact studies and the design of roadways and intersections.

FLOWER GUILD NEWS:

The Flower Guild met on Saturday, February 11, 2007 to plan Easter decorations. We decided that our theme would be "**HE IS RISEN**". We spent a great deal of time in deciding how we will decorate the Church and look forward to presenting it to the congregation.

The envelopes for *Easter donations* are included in this newsletter. Please write on the front of envelope or enclose a note with the wording that you would like to have included in the Easter bulletin. Please denote if your donation is in "**memory**" or "**thanksgiving**". Thanking you in advance for your support. Please place your envelope (with write-up and check) in the collection plate. *All envelopes must be received by Sunday, April 1.*

Also, at this meeting, we decided on the following:

- ◆ The 2007 Christmas theme will be "Old Little Town of Bethlehem".
- ◆ We will sponsor a Geranium Sale beginning April 29-May 13 and plants will be available for pick-up on Sunday, May 20.
- ◆ Began preliminary planning for a Flower Festival to be held in May 2008 in celebration of Incarnation's 50th anniversary.

On behalf of the Flower Guild, we wish to thank you again for your donations towards our 2006 Christmas decorations. We also wish to thank the donors who beautify our Altar on a weekly basis. As I mentioned in my annual report, we will no longer place single flowers - and encourage others not to do so - on the Altar as we feel it takes away from the flowers on the shelves, which have been specially arranged.

If you have questions/concerns regarding Flower Guild, please contact Terry Mitchell at 654-8296 after 6:00PM.

PHOTO DATES FOR NEW DIRECTORY

More information will soon be forthcoming regarding the new photo directory for Incarnation. Please check your calendars for the following opportunities to have your family photographed:

March 27	Tuesday	5pm-9pm
March 29	Thursday	5pm-9pm
March 31	Saturday	9am-6pm
April 10	Tuesday	5pm-9pm
April 12	Thursday	5pm-9pm
April 21	Saturday	9am-6pm