




NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE HILL

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection



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From the Senior Warden

Another summer has come to an end. I just didn't have enough warm weather to suit me. I never do. The pool's covered, school's started, fall schedules keep us running, the heat has been turned on, plants are brought inside, leaves are turning color, and the pumpkin is on the front steps... ready or not, change. It's always happening. We, as a parish have had our share of changes this year. We have many ahead. Through it all, I am in constant awe of how God has taken such wonderful care of us here at Resurrection. What an awesome God we serve. How blessed we are!

The Weiler's arrival is one such blessing. Having Fr. Matthew and Janna join us in our common lives here has brought great joy to our parish! I thank you all for welcoming them with such love. The "pounding" went splendidly, with the help of many. Please introduce yourself to the Weilers, if you have not done so already.

And while we're on the subject of blessings, though on a sadder note, the Lofmans will soon begin their new journey. It has been a great pleasure for all of us to come to know Deacon Don and Lola. They have each brought their special gifts to Resurrection and have shared them with all of us selflessly and always with a smile. We will miss them tremendously and wish

them the very best. I have faith that God has a great plan for them.

As you will read in the following pages of this newsletter, the Search Committee is preparing a survey for our parish with which to create a profile for our church. Who we are, where we're going and the kind of priest we need to lead us there. I cannot stress to you enough the importance that each of us play in completing these surveys. It needs to accurately depict our parish. We need to "own" it. It is a duty and honor for each of us to be involved in this process.

In the time ahead of us, I ask that everyone be especially mindful of all of our many blessings and gifts from God. Our family, friends, our parish family, all creation, the beauty of this world. In our Book of Common Prayer we have a wonderful prayer of General Thanksgiving. (Pg. 836) It is as important for us to be thankful as it is for our asking God for the other things that we need. Perhaps more so. It is with this in mind that I want to share the following observations and suggested guidance to the members of Resurrection at this time of confusion and change within our diocese.

The decisions made at General Convention have made divisions within the

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From the Senior Warden

(Continued from page 1)

Episcopal Church. This fact is truly saddening. However, we must keep our focus on the importance of why we come to church. We come to worship God, to be filled with the Holy Spirit and be faithful followers of Christ and His teachings. We have

much to be thankful for. People come for different reasons. But, we do come together as one body. Therefore, it is important that we listen to one another. Learn. We may not agree, but we may learn by listening. The greater the difference, the more important the issue. Talk to each

other face to face. Talk with Father Weiler. Though we want to define our personal position, we must avoid labeling others and ourselves. We are members of the same family. Let us continue to care for one another.

In closing, I'm re-

minded of some good advice a dear friend recently told me. He said, "This is the time to love harder and pray more." This parish is close to my heart and I pray for God's guidance and grace in each of us.

Theresa Simone
Sr. Warden

Notes from the International Missions Committee

Archbishop of Canterbury Becomes Patron of Five Talents International

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Rowan Williams, has reaffirmed his commitment to the poor in developing nations by accepting an invitation to become the principal patron of Five Talents International. He acted in response to the persistent poverty that continues to affect and devas-

tate millions of families around the world.

Five talents was launched as a grassroots effort to affirm the dignity of the poor, to address the root cause of poverty, ill health and illiteracy, and to bring economic justice. It was originally commended at the 1998 Lambeth Conference, a once-a-decade worldwide conference of Anglican bishops, and Archbishop Williams was one of its staunch supporters

even then.

Since its inception, Five Talents has helped more than 3,000 poor entrepreneurs and their families in five countries begin to break the cycle of poverty through small micro-credit and savings programs. Micro-credit loans as small as \$50-\$200 make an enormous difference in the lives of subsistence entrepreneurs, and the average Five Talents loan recipient is supporting 4-6 other

people (family members and employees). New programs in Bolivia, Honduras, Kenya, Tanzania, and Indonesia are augmenting existing programs in India, Uganda, Nigeria, and the Philippines.

The Church of the Resurrection has been supporting Five Talents through the missions budget for several years.

Betty Richter

Angels Anonymous

"Bill and I want to thank the 'Angels' who sent us the beautiful plant. It is so pretty and we want you to know how much it means to us and the love and prayers that come with it. We really appreciate it." Bill and Marion Crow-

foot

"Dear Angels, Thank you, thank you for the kind thoughts and the beautiful greenery. The 'white coat' who orders my days has pretty well ruled out outdoor activities at summer

temperatures so it is refreshing to have some leafy indoor companionship ... a little water and air conditioning keeps us all happy." Gladys McNerney

"Thank you so much for the lovely dish garden." Bill

Bond

"Thank you for the basket of fruit - all of which made us feel a bit more comfortable here more quickly." The Austins

Memorial Donations: Change in Policy

Resurrection is a parish that works to do God's will. We worship and praise Him collectively and independently, we thank Him for our blessings and work to feed and care for our neighbors, we try to reach out to others and welcome those who join us as Christians, and we try not to spend too much time fussing about money. Unfortunately, money is a reality that we occasionally have to deal with.

Some of you may remember being concerned at this time last year when you heard in the stewardship talk that our financial picture was not as pretty as it should be.

Through your generosity we were solvent through the end of the year, but we were also faced with a new budget for 2003, which was almost nine thousand dollars out of balance. We vowed to watch income and expenses diligently and to pray for assistance. While any vestry member can bring you up to date on these matters, I need to inform you of a change I asked them to make concerning certain special donations.

In the past, donations put in the plate at a funeral or made "in memory of" a deceased member of the parish were placed in a special

"Memorial Fund" and were then used to purchase items for the altar or major expenses like the sound system or St. Joseph's altar. This fund now contains over sixteen thousand dollars.

We also have an "Endowment Trust Fund" (containing almost seventy-one thousand dollars) that, at some point, will be able to assist us with our operating expenses. The policy change the vestry approved is to place these undesignated memorial donations in the "Endowment Trust Fund" rather than the "Memorial Fund."

Gifts that are designated "**Memorial Fund Donation**" will still be routed to the "Memorial Fund."

Any vestry member can further clarify this change or answer any questions you may have about it.

Fred Frost

Christmas Shop Online, Support the Church

As Christians, we are frequently reminded that Christmas is about God's gift of his son to us, not about shopping for two months while baking hundreds of cookies. However, chances are that many of you will do a considerable amount of Christmas shopping anyhow. When you do, please consider doing some of it through iGive.

You may not think too much about it, but each time you purchase a nonfood item, you make a donation to the state government. Wouldn't it be neat if you were also supporting the church when you buy that new digital camera for your husband? You can, but you need to invest a few minutes

of your time first.

iGive.com is a gateway to more than 425 online stores, each of which will donate a percentage of your purchases to the charity you designate. The rules are fairly simple: you need to register with iGive, and access the store through the iGive web site. The rest is transparent. iGive accumulates the donations to the charity until they reach \$20, and then send a check. In addition to a percentage of your purchases, iGive will also make a donation to the church when you register and make a purchase (within 45 days of registration).

The collection of stores is quite good. Last Christmas,

for example, we "eshopped" at Lands End, The Palm Store, and Barnes and Noble. Each resulted in a donation to the Church of the Resurrection. If you booked a trip through Expedia, the church would enjoy a donation while you were off seeing the Virgin Islands, or whatever. One of our members even earns donations when they win a bid on e-Bay.

To get started, visit the Church web site [<http://nyresurrection.homestead.com>], and click on the "Resurrection Today" button. On the bottom left, you will see the iGive logo. Click it, and follow directions. Go ahead - visit the mall without the hassle of

traffic. You could have flowers sent to your mother, select a Hickory Farms package for your cousin in Tacoma, or get the aforementioned digital camera. I note that there are currently 99 merchants that offer clothing, and 43 offering electronic products - you should be able to find what you are looking for.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to me about the program.

Tom Crisman

Search Committee

"O Lord, you have taught us that, as members of your Body using the gifts you have given us, we all have our part to play in the whole life of your Church. We thank you for this work which you have given us to do together and we pray that you will give us the grace to persevere in it with patience, strength, and wisdom that, through it, we may faithfully serve you and do your will to the honor and glory of your name."

Thus begins each Search Committee meeting. We have already met numerous times - as a whole and in small groups - to begin the process with which we have been charged - that of finding a new Rector for Resurrection.

Two very important weeks are coming up in November. Please mark your calendars and make a special commitment to come to church! This will be your best opportunity to express your feelings and give us your opinions about our parish!

As you already know, we are in the Self Study period of our Search process. Our committee has carefully created written survey questions as well as verbal discussion questions designed to give us a comprehensive accounting of our parish - Who are we? Where are we going? What are our strengths? What are our goals? What are our needs in a new Rector? Your thoughtful input is very important to us!

November 9th and 16th have been designated as Survey Sundays. On those Sundays, the surveys will be explained and distributed in church with opportunity given for completion at that time. In addition, during that two week period, members of the Search Committee will meet personally with the numerous small groups in our parish to address the discussion questions. For those of you not in any of Resurrection's small groups, there will be a discussion corner available at Coffee Hour on those two Sundays.

I cannot say strongly enough how vital it is for everyone to take an active part in this process - what you think and what you share is important! The surveys are anonymous - you can express yourself freely. We will solicit input from Youth Group age and up. If you haven't already, it would be good to begin talking about this within your families ahead of time.

For those unable to get to church, you may obtain a copy of the survey by calling me at 831 - 7057 and one will be mailed to you. I also enclose a list of the Committee members and their phone numbers - we all wish to invite you to feel comfortable in calling any of us during this Search process.

Dannielle Beitzell 226 - 2926
Tom Crisman 226 - 8079
MaryBelle Duvivier 226 - 5079
Jackie Frost 452 - 2266
Richard Hadad (914)248 - 6863
Anne Kasin 831 - 7057
Bert Mazzuto 463 - 2969
Marie Metzger 221 - 9412

Liz Pavelka 297 - 4907
Gayle Rhodes 227 - 9683
Deke Rothacker 226 - 1083

Each meeting is closed with the parish prayer for our search period:

"Almighty God, we pray for the guidance of thy Holy Spirit as we seek a new Rector for the Church of the Resurrection. Thou knowest our special needs and the task that lies to our hand. In our search direct us and give us insight to perceive the leader thou wouldst chose for us. And we further pray, O Lord, that in this time of waiting, we may all devote ourselves afresh to thy service, so that nothing be lost of the faithful work of the past, but rather that it may be brought to a rich harvest in the years to come. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

Anne Kasin,
Search Committee Chairperson

News From the Undercroft

Our Church School is off to a good start. We began with a Potluck Church Picnic on September 14th, with classes starting the following week. As the year progresses, we have several other events to look forward to.

Our annual craft fair will be

on November 1st with the young people helping in the Café. They always do a wonderful job.

For the fourth year in a row, we will be making Family Advent Wreaths on Sunday, November 30th, immediately following the service. This

is always a fun event for the whole family with donuts and cider provided by the Church-School Teachers.

The Epiphany Pageant this year will be held Sunday January 4th, immediately following the 9:30am service. As always happens, the

"Wise Guys" will be handing out presents to all church school students after the conclusion of the pageant.

Hope to see you all at church.

The Church-School Teachers.

Men's Bible Group

The men's group met for the first time since the summer on Monday, September 29th. We do not meet in the months of July and August. We now meet every last Monday of the month at 7:00pm from September to June. Our get together is usually done by 8:15-8:30 all the time. It still gets us

home early enough for Monday Night Football or Everybody Loves Raymond.

There is still plenty of time to join us. Our next meeting is October 27th at 7:00pm in the Undercroft.

This, our third year, is going to be an exciting year.

We decided in September to do a series entitled "Journey in Faith." It is a short 10-chapter book, which covers very interesting topics for conversation. Some of them are: humanity, sin, church, prayer, and Christian personality to name a few. This will take us from October to June.

The guys are excited about this new year and look forward for some really good time friendship, conversation and the like.

Join us!! That's every last Monday of every month at 7:00pm in the Undercroft.

Joe Haubrich

From the Recovery Advocate

School has started again and parents aren't able to watch their children for long hours each day. There is always the worry in these troubled times about substance abuse.

There are signs to look for, both physical and behavioral.

Physical signs may include: change in physical appearance, fatigue, blood shot eyes, consistently run down condi-

tion, sudden gain or loss of weight, trouble sleeping, burn marks on the fingers.

Behavioral signs may include: a change in friends and dress, a sudden withdrawal from activities, school problems, mood swings, lack of honesty.

If your child is using drugs, it is difficult to solve the prob-

lem alone. Treatment is available in a variety of forms, including your child's school counselor, doctor or a local mental health center. Most local schools have student assistance counselors who are trained in the area of alcohol and other substance abuse issues.

The above information is from The Parent Institute. A

catalog of their pamphlets is available in the red Recovery Advocate's folder on the tract table. Remember that drug use is a preventable behavior and addiction is a treatable disease. Your loving vigilance now can prevent problems that could ruin your child's life tomorrow.

Susan Blodgett
Recovery Advocate

A Word from Father Weiler

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for all the many things you all have done to welcome Janna and me to this church. Time and again you have demonstrated, in very definite ways, your love for Christ, by showing love to us. You have prepared for us a house to live in. You have helped fill our cupboards. You have taught us about both the history and present state of this parish. Most importantly, you have, by all these means and more, welcomed us into your lives—both as in-

dividuals and as a Christian community—in imitation of the Holy Trinity, who has welcomed us all into the divine life through the life, death, and resurrection of the Son. Moreover, you have graciously accepted both my presidency over your worship and also my pastoral presence in hearts, all the while forgiving the many mistakes I have made in just a short time among you. In this way, you have been faithful to God as well, who has accepted and forgiven in the Gospel "all those who with hearty re-

pentance and true faith turn unto Him." Many months will pass between now and the time when a new rector is found for this church. In some ways, these will be difficult months as you mourn the loss of a beloved rector and, at the same time, search diligently for a new one. But, these can also be joyous months, if you used wisely: as a time of celebration for God's faithfulness in the past, as a time of reflection upon God's grace in the present, as a time of anticipation of God's work in the future. If

my experience in these past few weeks as a newcomer and as a stranger is any indication (and I think it is) then there is much wisdom in this place—and not only wisdom, but also faith, hope and love. With such virtues, this time of transition between rectors, though difficult, should prove to be a joyous one indeed.

Matthew Weiler, interim pastor

Annual Craft Fair and Café Saturday, November 1st

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Our raffles this year include:

American Girl Doll: American Girl Today comes beautifully dressed in green and purple. She has many other beautiful clothes and a fabulous bed for many hours of playing pleasure! Thank you to Lola Lofman and Jerry Richter for their donations to this raffle!

Live Christmas Tree Package: This year we have added a wonderful live Christmas tree with an assortment of fantastic decorations to our raffle. Thank you to Judy Willsey for the tree and to Ron Iarossi for the ornaments for this raffle!

Don't miss the food, the fun and the shopping!

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Ask A Priest

We recently received a question for the "Ask A Priest" column via the Internet dealing with the celebration of Halloween. The writer was concerned about his love for the holiday and his recent relationship with God. His fear of doing the wrong this enticed him to pose the question, and Father Weiler was kind enough to tackle the issue. -ed.

"I love Halloween too. At least, I used to, when I was

much younger. What child is likely to turn down the opportunity to receive bags and bags of free candy! Moreover, what child is not likely to enjoy the sheer sport of the whole affair: the struggle to find the right costume, the planning of strategies to "score" the most candy, the marathon-like walk from door to door in an ecstatic quest for sweet after sweet. Most costumes these days are rarely frightening (except when you look at the price tag). The one's that are usually

provide opportunities to mock and deride those things which cause us to be afraid, whether real or imagined. And yet, there can be a darker and more sinister side to Halloween. Neopaganism does seem to be on the rise and many neopagans look upon Halloween as an opportunity to celebrate that fact. Some others, while not giving any particular religious import to Halloween, simply use it as yet another opportunity to participate in a popular culture, which is increasingly

given over to senseless violence. Participation in Halloween, in other words, takes many forms. Some strike me, at least, as entirely harmless, perhaps even healthy. Others, I would certainly counsel against and even oppose. Without more information, it's hard to know exactly what kind of participation yours is, but your troubled conscience may be an indication."

Matthew Weiler