

# THE PHOENIX

## FATHER HARDING'S MUSINGS

It is hard to believe that I have been with you for six months and you still speak to me! It has been a great time and I want to say thank you for the wonderful support you have given me.

I say thank you to the Vestry and wardens for their hard work in seeing that the bits and pieces of the parish are kept in sync with one another. This demands some very real dedication and a great sense of humor.

I say thank you to the Altar Guild for putting up with my idiosyncrasies. A great thanks to Judy and Dianne for their magnificent work in creating the Lenten array. The Guild keeps the altar immaculate along with all the various vessels we use in worship. Any priest would be pleased to worship in this sanctuary.

I say thank you to Nita Dorman for the wonderful home-made soup she made for the "Wednesday Evenings in Lent." Everyone who came and shared the evenings felt very satisfied when they had finished eating. The dinners were an intricate part of our meditations.

I say thank you to Pamela for seeing that the Parish Paper was put together in time so that you all would have a complete listing of events and services throughout this period. *The Phoenix* is an important tool in the life of the parish and it needs all the support it can get to keep it alive and well. Pamela does a tremendous job but she is calling for an editor to take over. Is there someone out there who would step up to the plate!!!?

I say thank you to the choir and the organists (David and Caryle) for their support in worship and going along with me in the changes I sprang on them from time to time. I know they would like to have more people join them so they can make a bigger noise unto the Lord, as our new organ does, so who out there would like to join them????

And last but not least I say thank you to the two L's (LYNDA & LINDA). Every Sunday morning Lynda opens the church and greets you at the door with bulletin in hand. She also makes sure I know of any birthdays, anniversaries, or if someone needs special prayers, and anything else I need to be aware of. As a new kid on the block, she makes me look like I really know stuff! The other Linda keeps me organized and running in the right direction. Linda Cornelli, the parish secretary, is the best of the best. The work she accomplishes for the three days a week she works is amazing. She is an integral part of the workings of the parish and we are fortunate to have such a competent person working for us. What you see in bulletins is a small part of what she looks after, but which demands a lot of time to manufacture. I am very grateful for her work.

It is my continual prayer that you find a full-time priest soon. You have a fine Transition Committee who I know will do the best for you. Pray for them always.

Thank you for a wonderful six months!!

Father H.

# TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

We want to thank everyone for your prayers. We feel them and know that God hears our pleas for answers. It would be very easy to try to hurry God's plan along, but as you know if you have ever tried to do this, it usually doesn't turn out very well. And so we wait upon the Lord.

This doesn't mean, however, that we are idle. We will begin interviews in April, but I would caution everyone to remember that this is an ongoing discernment process for us and for the candidates, and this does not necessarily mean that we are close to concluding our process and making a selection.

We will keep you informed with as much as we can share. A new shepherd is coming in God's time.  
Candy Philbrick

## VESTRY NEWS

### Church Directory Planned

Universal Church Directories is tentatively scheduled to be at Resurrection through the afternoon and evenings of Monday and Tuesday, **April 28 and 29**, to take photos of you and your family. The resultant directories will be distributed to all parishioners free of charge, and you may purchase your family photos. Universal offers the unique service of taking the photographs and providing high quality, color proofs in one sitting. You will be notified when the dates are confirmed, and alternate times will be available for those parishioners who can't schedule appointments on the designated dates. If you are interested in more information on the company, you can find them at [www.universalchurchdirectories.com](http://www.universalchurchdirectories.com)

### Clarkston National Day of Prayer 2008

The National Day of Prayer Breakfast will be **Thursday, May 1**, from 7 – 9 a.m. at St. Daniel's Catholic Church in Clarkston. Daphne DeMaris, a licensed professional counselor and clinical pastoral counselor, will speak on "Prayer: It Does a Body Good". The Clarkston High School Madrigals will also perform. Tickets are \$7.00 and include a full breakfast. For more information, call (248) 625-3288 or (248) 625-1482.

*Please go to the VESTRY PLANNING article on pages 4 and 5 for important information.*

## Thank You....

...to everyone who submitted articles to this issue of The Phoenix; special blessings to those who beat the deadline!!!

# AN EASTER PRAYER

By Pamela Todoroff

Help us, Save us and Keep us, Oh God.

May we ever bask in the light of your Risen Son, our Lord  
May we, like the Marys outside of the tomb, ever seek His presence  
and His love

And believe in the mysteries He represents.

May we remember that He gave everything He could possibly give  
So that all mortal men and women would know the love of God  
Even though we truly don't deserve such love and sacrifice.

May we act as though we are worthy of such love.  
May we remember that Christ was not a victim, but a victor  
And so can we be.

May we remember His trial as a sham of justice  
His torture as unwarranted  
And His death as an act of Divine Obedience.

May we see the Christ-light in a stranger's eyes  
And act toward that stranger as if we recognized it. Amen.

## Hymn #188

Love's redeeming work is done, fought the fight, the battle won.  
Death in vain forbids him rise; Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King; where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Once he died our souls to save, where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led, following our exalted head; made like him,  
like him we rise; ours the cross the grave, the skies.

*Charles Wesley*  
(1707-1788)

# Vestry Planning 2008

The Vestry and Transition Team met together on Saturday, March 1, to map out an initial plan to reach our 2008 – 2010 goals. The goals and next steps are listed below. We will be calling on parishioners to assist with this activity, pulling on the information submitted through the 2008 stewardship/pledge cards. Many of these items are ambitious, but they reflect what the Vestry, Transition Team, and parish have determined to be priorities for Resurrection.

**Christian formation and education for all ages:** This will require an active Children's Ministry, Youth Group, and Adult Education program, each of which will require space and a leader. Much of this is already in place, and includes the recent addition of Katie Nicosia as Youth Director. To keep these programs aligned and moving forward, the leaders will be asked for a work plan, will be invited to a regularly scheduled meeting with the priest in charge, and the church's leadership will make certain that the program leaders are appreciated for their contributions. Specific actions to be included in the plans are advertising and outreach, children and youth involvement with the service, planning child and youth events to draw in the community, and capitalizing somehow on the proximity of Clarkston High School. For adult education and Christian formation, specific actions include support activities from other parish groups (for example, the ECW's faith-based activities), assistance with sermon preparation, developing external activities (for example, the Baldwin Center's lunch program), and hymn sings. The adult portion of this goal will be further developed using focus groups, a short survey, and informal discussion.

**Stewardship-driven financial stability:** This requires ensuring that all parishioners understand stewardship to be what we do with all that we have all the time, with a good awareness of opportunities to contribute time, talent, and treasure. Teaching about stewardship will be year-round, including messages from the pulpit. Opportunities to contribute will be publicized, including the creation of a wish list for parishioners who want to contribute their talents, volunteer for activities, or donate items. In addition, diocesan resources will be tapped for the development of a legacy giving program, and both in-reach and outreach activities will be developed for parish involvement. The clergy and leadership will make certain that parishioners are appreciated for their contributions.

**Strong community of faith expressed through and in the dynamic/quality worship experience:** The elements discussed and planned were liturgy, music, and lay participation. Items to be further developed include choirs, such as a children's choir or men's choir, non-traditional services like a guitar mass, continuing education and licensing where necessary for all participants, hiring outside talent for specific programs, for instance, the "U2charist" or chancel dramas, and the recruitment of a Music Director and other lay participants. Any changes will be acknowledged to the parish with the reason for the change.

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## Lay Ministry Schedule

### Lectors

#### April lectors:

4/6	Russ Philbrick
4/13	Bob Simpson
4/20	Pamela Todoroff
4/27	Mike Spillum

### Eucharistic Ministers

*The Eucharistic Ministers for the Month will be announced at Sunday Services.*

### Greeter

Lynda Forbes

### Altar Guild

Elaine Hughes

## Vestry Planning Continued.....

**Pastoral care and support:** While the primary requirement here is a priest, the pastoral care and support duties also extend to lay participants and involve the whole parish. Specific elements discussed were hospital visitation, lapsed member contacts, a welcoming or newcomer ministry, visiting shut-ins, referrals to credentialed counselors, grief counseling, and continuation of and support for AA meetings. New elements discussed include establishment of a home visitation team, commissioning the lay Eucharistic visitors each week, parenting classes, networking and employment programs, kids' programs, and a future Stephen Ministry.

**Communication:** Communication is not one of the formal goals for 2008 – 2010, but several vital issues kept coming up during the discussions, and they all related to communication. The elements discussed and planned include the appointment of a volunteer Communication Coordinator from the vestry. This person will develop an information exchange map, and make sure that necessary, two-way communication occurs between the parish's groups, clergy, leadership, and parishioners. Other discussed and planned items include making better use of existing space for sharing and communicating, internal marketing (within our four walls), external marketing, coffee hour and newcomer support, and engaging consultants or external resources as necessary.

If your 2008 pledge included participation in any of the activities listed, you should expect to be contacted

*Cristal Martin, Senior Warden*

## Choir Update

Our dreams for a permanent Music Minister and parish organist continue due to the unfortunate departure of our previously announced hire. So, the search continues.

In the meantime, David Hottel has graciously agreed to play for our 10am Sunday services on an interim basis. Thank you, David!!



## Sunday School

Miss Dina is back!!! She and her wonderful team are planning wonderful activities for each Sunday, so bring the children and watch them grow in faith and fellowship!

## Flower Power



### **ALERT: DESPARATELY SEEKING FLOWERS**

Our own intrepid groundskeeper is virtually wringing her hands in anticipation of the growing season in Clarkston, planning beautiful color and arrangements for our church grounds.

Alas, there is barely enough in the Flower Fund for a few plants for our containers, much less for the yards, which have become so famous in our community for their annual display of beauty.

PLEASE write a small (or large) check with FLOWER FUND in the memo section and drop it in the mail, the offering plate, or on Linda's desk. PLEASE help us to bring color to our yard and joy to all passersby. (We need to raise \$500 in four weeks—can't you help??)

## *Interim Editor's Message*

Please read carefully and take to heart the message in Cristal Martin's Vestry Planning article on pages 4 and 5. You will note she mentions the need for a Communication strategy. Part of that strategy will be the installation of a volunteer Editor for this newsletter. I would encourage anyone—not necessarily just "writers"—to talk to Cristal and consider this opportunity to serve our parish.



~Pamela

# Congratulations!

## Lucille Marguerite Roeser

who was baptized on March 22, 2008 in our church.

May God grant you many years!!

The following is the transcription of a letter received recently:

February 27, 2008

Church of the Resurrection  
c/o Mr. Russell Philbrick  
6490 Clarkston Road  
Clarkston, MI 48346

Dear Members of Church of the Resurrection,

Thank you so kindly for your generous gift from the congregation to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund in the amount of \$100.00. It is gratefully received and I thank you for your thoughtfulness and continued support.

May God bless and keep you this day and always.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr.  
Tenth Bishop of Michigan

# ECW News

## **FACING TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES WITH FRIENDS AND FAITH**

**Monday April 14**  
**7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room**  
**Facilitated by Bob Inskeep**

Many of our parish family have been hit by the tough economy -- Job loss, businesses closing, early retirement, struggling to make ends meet. If you are feeling these stresses, there is practical, emotional and spiritual strength to be gained in joining together in an ongoing group.

Resurrection member Bob Inskeep will be facilitating the sessions that focus on careers, jobs and re-employment. Trained as a human resources professional, Bob's career has included over 35 years of career counseling, recruiting and training, and outplacement programming. Currently a professor of management at Lawrence Tech University, his experience has ranged from providing hands-on, one-to-one counseling, and group facilitation, through directing large scale employment and development programs as director of human resources for a variety of corporate, non profit and government organizations.

### **Other Upcoming Events:**

Mark your calendar for **SUNDAY, APRIL 20** for a trip to the newly renovated DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ART. Our own Dina Edwards, who is a docent at the DIA, will take us on a special tour of masterpieces of religious art through the ages. We will carpool from the church at 11:30, have lunch at the DIA Café, and then tour the museum. Feel free to ask your friends to join us. Sign up sheet on the ECW bulletin board.

Historic Clarkston tour –**Sunday May 18** - being organized by Nicki Wyckoff

Parking Lot sale - **Sunday June 1** – with all proceeds going to local, national, and international outreach

**CHRIST IS RISEN!!**  
**INDEED, HE IS RISEN!!**

# Lou Beer's Church Governance 101

This is the final installment in the series offered by our own Lou Beer.

## The World Church

This last point is especially important in understanding the issues that have arisen between our National Church and some other churches in what is called the Anglican Communion. The Anglican Communion is a community of national churches all of which have sprung from the Church of England. Such churches, including our own, are sometimes generically referred to as "Anglican".

The Church of England, during the reign of Henry VIII in the Sixteenth Century, affirmed that it did not recognize the authority of the Bishop of Rome, or Pope. Under Henry's direction, Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, produced the first Book of Common Prayer. Much of the organizational structure of the church was detailed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the daughter of Henry VIII.

The Church of England remains to this day an official state religion. The Queen of England is officially the head of the Church of England. The Archbishop of Canterbury is appointed by the King or Queen of England upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Thus he is an official of the British Government.

Of course, in the United States we have no established religion. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution specifically prohibits it. This is what we commonly refer to as "Separation of Church and State".

After the American Revolution in the 1780's there were many priests of the Church of England left in the United States, particularly in Virginia and to the south. (Almost all of the Anglican priests in New York and New England had fled to Canada, during or after the war.) They, and prominent members of their congregations, undertook to organize an independent American version of the Church of England, in which the priests were not required to pledge their loyalty to the King of England. This was done; in fact many of the founders of the American church who drafted its constitution were also members of the Constitutional Convention which drafted our nation's basic law. The use of the title "Presiding Bishop" is the product of the same thinking that titled the Chief Executive of the United State as "President". It was designed in both cases to reflect the representative and non-autocratic nature of the position.

Thus our church in the United States does not now and never has recognized the authority of any world-wide body over it. The Archbishop of Canterbury does not, and never has sought to, exercise any control or direction of our national church, or for that matter any other national church except the Church of England.

Our national church's structure is very different from that of many other national churches which make up the Anglican Communion. Some of those churches are unitary, with a single Bishop in authority, often referred to as a "Primate". Many of those primates have much more direct control

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## Lou Beer's Church Governance 101 continued.....

over the affairs of the church in their nation than is true of the Presiding Bishop here. Thus in some other national churches the primate could simply remove or prevent the investiture of a bishop found to be unsuitable. No bishop in our national church, including the Presiding Bishop, has such power.

In the last few years some primates, and members of their national churches, have sought to create a structure in which more authority over all of the national churches in the Anglican Communion is centrally held and exercised. Particularly the Primates of Nigeria and Uganda, both former British colonies, have sought to demand that our American National Church conform to their views, particularly as they relate to issues of human sexuality. Indeed Bishop Akinola of Nigeria has formed a non-geographic diocese in the United States under his supervision, called CANA. Some parishes have chosen to disaffiliate with their particular Diocese of The Episcopal Church, and accept the authority instead of CANA. This has led to disputes, many of which are not yet settled as to who has title to the real estate under the control of such a parish which has voted to disaffiliate.

As we go forward in the life of the Anglican Communion, it is important to understand that the issues are not just about issues of faith and morality. What is proposed by the Primates of Nigeria and Uganda, and others, is a fundamental change in the structure of the church. Our national church declared its independence of any control from outside of itself at the same time as our nation declared its independence from Great Britain. To recognize the authority of any organization greater than our own General Convention would be a major structural change. We need to carefully consider whether any particular issue deserves such a fundamental change in our historic direction.

### Conclusion

It is part of the nature of our church that we will always be in a process of debate and discussion as to what the will of God is for us. Certainly our present time is no exception. By setting up a structure which divides authority in so many ways, we recognize that none of us has a perfect vision of the will of God. As descendants of the British tradition of democracy, which began with the Magna Carta almost a thousand years ago, we recognize that our collective judgment is more valid than any one of our personal judgments as to what is right or wrong, holy or unholy.

So discussion and dispute, hopefully respectful of the differing views of others, and reverent as to our common purpose to serve God, is a good, healthy and historic part of our tradition. But in order for each of us to participate in this discussion in a productive way, we need to understand the process and the structure through which we attempt to live out the will of God.

All of this "church politics" is unimportant in and of itself. But it is important in helping you to be a part of the process. I hope these thoughts have been useful to you for that purpose.

*Lou Beer*

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Resurrection**

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We're on the Web!  
Clarkstonepiscopal.org

*Our mission is to proclaim  
the power and love of Jesus  
Christ, through our worship,  
fellowship and service to  
others.*

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