

THE PHOENIX

FATHER HARDING'S MUSINGS

It is finally beginning to look like Spring. Some of the flowers are beginning to show their heads and soon Linda and her cohorts are going to have to do some clean up and planting. I have had people tell me that they enjoy driving by the church because of the flowers and the care the plants receive. Our thanks go to our chief gardener Linda and to all who contribute of their time and money to its up-keep.

I also want to say *thank you* to the "Hammer & Nails club" for all the work they do in the maintenance of the church building. I have found that it is in the little things, which we take for granted or just expect to be done, that really makes the building a joy to be in. Yes, the repair work done to the ceiling over the new organ looks very beautiful and took skill to make it so, BUT, it also took someone who cares to make sure the whole corner was clean and neat afterwards. That allowed the whole corner to look beautiful. Perhaps we want to call these things "thankless tasks" - but I don't!! I am very grateful that they are done because I know they make everyone more proud of their church buildings and would be glad to welcome anyone to come and worship with them.

I'm looking forward to our new parish directory. The methods in use to-day make this a very enjoyable task as well as letting us see immediately what we look like. The publication is of excellent quality and will be a big help in growing our parish.

It is noteworthy that 3 new families have made Resurrection their parish church. I know you will welcome them and invite them to take part in a ministry they feel called to.

By the time you read this we *may* have a new organist on board. I promise not to contaminate the person with too many Canadian hymns.

Summer is soon coming and golf will be in the air. However, I want you to know I do **not** accept this as an excuse from attending worship! SO THERE!!

My best to you all! Fr. Harding

P.S. *Welcome back Dina!*

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

The Transition Team continues to work diligently toward the selection of a candidate to present to the Vestry. We are actively interviewing. We appreciate all of your prayers and words of support as we continue the discernment process. As Spring brings new beginnings, so too will we enjoy new beginnings with our new shepherd in the near future.

DIGEST

VESTRY MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2008

Various and routine administrative matters were discussed. Minutes and Treasurer's Report were also discussed and approved.

Current use of the Toshiba office copier and volume of copies produced was discussed, as well as the upcoming contractual renewal.

Repair to the water damaged ceiling has been completed and no mold was found in the ceiling or supporting structure. Also, the Lawn sprinkler system has been repaired.

Candidates will continue to be auditioned/interviewed for the organist position.

Dates to note:

National Day of Prayer is scheduled for May 1st at St. Daniel's.

Church Directory photos will begin April 28th.

Ministry Fair will be held on May 3rd from 9:00am to 4:00pm at St. Paul's in Lansing.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Clark, Clerk

Thank You....

...to everyone who wrote a check for flowers for the front of our church! We continue to accept donations all season long (that means into the next blizzard). Thank you, Linda!

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

Pentecost on Mother's Day

By Pamela Todoroff

Because I feel that, in the Heavens above,
The angels, whispering to one another,
Can find, among their burning terms of love,
None so devotional as that of "Mother,"...

Edgar Allen Poe (1849)

'Tis a strange calendar we live under this year. First icicles landed in my Easter basket instead of daffodils and now the Day of Pentecost falls on Mother's Day. What is one to think?? To mix a few metaphors—and suffer the sacrilege twofold!!—one could infer that mothers are full of a lot of wind. Oh dear.

The images of motherhood abound on this day. Certainly we can acknowledge the smiling, caressing, Hallmark™ card mother-images that none of us really knew as children, but all of us recognize from our long exposure to marketing gurus. My own mother has frizzy hair and bad eyesight; yours may be short and have a big nose. Whatever they look (ed) like, most of us love our mothers and wish them well.

I love you, Mother, I have woven a wreath
Of rhymes wherewith to crown your honored name:
In you not fourscore years can dim the flame
Of love, whose blessed glow transcends the laws
Of time and change and mortal life and death.

Christina Rossetti (1881)

Each of us experienced a unique relationship with the woman we call 'mother.' Whether she nurtured and protected, or challenged and strengthened, or scolded and taught, our mothers molded each of us in a unique way that gives expression to our personalities. Perhaps they were perceptive enough to discern exactly what it was that we needed in order to become who we are.

The same can really be said of the Holy Spirit. There are numerous images of the Holy Spirit that permeate the prayers and lyrics of our hymns during this season. Many refer to it as flame or wind or speaking different tongues or the breath of God:

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life a-new,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Edwin Hatch (1835-1889) Hymn 508, verse 1

Yet consider the commonalities of our mothers and the Holy Spirit for a moment. Both give us life, provide what we individually need when we need it, and both are part of a divine plan to bring us to maturity as children of God. They protect us and strengthen us and offer us what we need to "do the work you have given us to do." And, well... sometimes they both create a mighty sound.

A mighty sound from heaven at Pentecost there came,
and filled the place of meeting with rushing wind and flame:
what Christ had promised now occurred
as each Apostle spoke the word
beneath the Spirit's thunder,
and to the ears of all who heard
proclaimed salvation's wonder.

George B. Timms (b. 1910) Hymn 230, verse 1

Bible Study News

Join the interesting discussions on Wednesday nights at 7pm, as we continue to explore Paul's Letter to the Romans.

The "S" Word and a Birthday

During our recent Vestry retreat we had a conversation about stewardship. Yes, the Dreaded "S" Word! We discussed that we have fallen into the annual thing where that word starts with a \$ and is only heard in conjunction with a pledge drive.

Our facilitator shared what our retired Bishop McGehee had to say about the subject:

"Stewardship is what you do, with all that you have, all of the time."

Ponder that for a while. "...all that we have.." Well, that could mean money, and it certainly includes that, but it is much more than that. Perhaps ALL is what we are referring to in the Eucharistic prayer: *"And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice unto thee..."* (Rite 1). That is pretty much all. It is from that, that we have our being, our abilities to work and be creative, to love one another as He loved us. So what we do with all of that *is* stewardship. How good of a steward we are is all up to us and our choices. Do we use all that God gives us, our very being, to serve him? Well, we try!

Then a short while after the retreat, came Palm Sunday and a birthday for the Church of the Resurrection, 43 or 44 years. That birthday made me think of another example of stewardship. Where were you when Resurrection was "born." Just a lad, in my case, growing up in New England, with nary a thought that I would ever live in beautiful Clarkston, MI. But for some reason, a group of people decided to start a parish here. Those founders were stewards, they sacrificed to start a new parish. They probably gave up some comforts of their home church. They were a small group, so everyone had several jobs. Do you think they did all that just for themselves? No, they did it so that others they did not even know would have a place to worship, well into the future. So this is a gift to us, from them. Is all that we do here today just for us? I prefer to think not. It is now our opportunity to give a gift to all those who come after us. That happens in all the little (and big) things that so many people here do everyday, giving something of themselves to our parish, to each other and to those outside our little community. More than four decades have passed since Resurrection began. Imagine what it could be after four more, or ten more! We are the stewards of Resurrection for now. What we do today, *with all that we have*, will have a lot to do with what gift we pass on to those we do not yet know!

Submitted by Russ Philbrick

Lay Ministry Schedule

Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors

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

May 4 -- Russ Philbrick
May 11 -- Michele Peters
May 18 -- Patience Beer
May 25 -- Vic Peters

Greeter

Lynda Forbes

Altar Guild

Lynne Spillum

Bits 'n Pieces

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE ECW Historical Outing

On Sunday, May 18, 2008, ECW members, and anyone else who is interested, is invited to sample some of Clarkston's history. We will begin at the Independence Township Library's historical museum to view the exhibit, "Dearly Beloved: Clarkston Courtships & Weddings", followed by a tour of two historical homes, and a visit to historical graves at Lakeview Cemetery. In true ECW tradition, food and drink will follow at Deer Lake Racquet Club. A menu will be available to view, along with a sign up sheet, on the ECW board in Stewart Hall, or call Nickie Wyckoff at 248-625-1857.

Choir Practices

Voices raised in song and praise, and willing hands to chime their way into our musical devotions are still, and always, desired. Please consider this ministry as your own. Contact Father Harding, Cristal Martin, or any member of the choir for more information.



Sunday School

The Sunday School Adventure trip in May will be to the Detroit Science Museum. We'll learn about treasure and pirates. Date and more information to come later.

Please bring along a friend. Costs will be \$15.95 for Parents and \$13.95 for children, but if there is at least 20 in our group, we will qualify for a discount rate. Please contact Miss Dina for additional information.

The Sunday School Outreach Project is a very special one. Armed Forces families are hurting with the increase of food and gas prices. They can use coupons for food, etc. The Military Stores will honor coupons six months after the expiration date. So the children will cut up donated coupons and sent them to the appropriate facility for distribution to the families of our servicemen and service women. Please help us by donating coupons from newspapers or magazines. Check your cupboards and drawers for those coupons that are NOT store-specific, even if they are expired. Have your youngster bring them with them to Sunday School or you can bring them to the church office. Thank you!!

Flower Power

Keep the flowers blooming! Donate to Church of the Resurrection's garden fund!



*Spring is Christ,
Martyred plants
Rising up from
Their shrouds. ~Rumi*

Submitted by Judy Sensency

ECW News

SUNDAY JUNE 1 12 - 3 ANNUAL PARKING LOT SALE & BAKE SALE

- Tailgate or car boot sale with everyone selling their items out of their own cars.
- Profits go to the ECW for designated outreach, including anti-malaria bed nets for children in Africa
- Bake sale tent
- Rain or shine (remember last year?)
- Another opportunity to promote our church!

Save the date and start gathering your stuff!

►VOLUNTEERS NEEDED◄

Call or email patiencebeer@gmail.com

We have several exciting and worthwhile events in the works for this spring and summer. They just need some planning! Please join us for a planning meeting on Sunday May 4 at 11:30 in the conference room. On the agenda will be the Parking Lot/ Bake Sale on June 1, the annual ladies' night out dinner in June, a proposed prayer maze walk during the summer, plus possible fall events.

Also a reminder to bring your pillowcases to church for Tina Allison to convert into dresses for little girls in Haiti.

Cheers, Patience

FACING TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES WITH FRIENDS AND FAITH

Seven men and women of the parish got together with facilitator Bob Inskeep on Monday evening, April 14, for the inaugural meeting of this new support group. Sitting around the table in the conference room, we shared our experiences with this tough economy. Sharing our stories in an open and honest way with people we trust lifted a weight off our shoulders. Emphasizing that this is more than a "jobs club" and that our focus will be on identifying the positive things we each have to offer, Bob's insights helped us decide to keep the group going. We invite any others in the congregation who would like to join us to attend our next meeting on MONDAY, MAY 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Bob gave each of us a "homework assignment" consisting of self-assessment worksheets. If you would like more information or to join the group, call or email Bob Inskeep, inskeep@ltu.edu to get your own copy of the self-assessment materials.



SALON CONCERT AND HIGH TEA

at

CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK

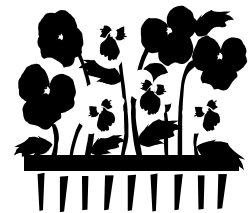
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Wednesday, May 14 from 4pm to 5:30pm

This popular monthly comes to a seasonal close when the talented Christ Church Cranbrook Staff Singers present vocal selections from theatre, stage and screen. Seating is provided for the first 100 attendees, so arriving early is highly recommended. There is no charge.

Judy's Garden Corner

By Judy Roeser, Master Gardener



While you are waiting to plant your spring annuals (remember not to plant them until Memorial Week-end to make sure they will not be killed by a late spring frost) edge your gardens and pull those pesky weeds. Your gardens will be ready and waiting for the beautiful color that annuals bring to your garden. Spring is also a good time to divide and/or transplant your fading perennials. If your perennials have fewer blooms and look sad, it is time to divide them and give them space to grow. Spring is also a good time to give all your gardens a dose of fertilizer. Having a soil sample done is the best way to know what nutrients your garden needs, but a 5-5-5 fertilizer spread and worked into the soil will work wonders for all the plants you grow in your garden. With good spring preparation you will be ready to plant all those beautiful garden vegetables and flats of annuals that are so colorful come May 24th.

...excerpts from
THE RECORD
 (May 2008)

Tracey Lind, dean of Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, was the speaker and preacher at the annual **Becoming the Household of God** stewardship conference, at St. John's, Royal Oak, on April 4-5. In her two-day presentation, she introduced the 200 assembled to the idea of piazza.

Piazza is the Italian word for place or plaza, said Lind, adding, "it's what the British call 'the commons.'" Although the definition carries something of a tidy municipal tinge, which wasn't out of line for Lind who was trained as a city planner, when the Cleveland dean wrapped her theology and practice around the theme, piazza took on a larger dimension.

Lind urged the 200 assembled to look at piazza as a metaphor for life in the 21st century: to search for a piazza-place "where you live, work, worship and have your being [and then to] translate it as a way of life."

"Your image of the household of God is too small. Piazza and the household of God is about the dignity of all creation.

~Dean Tracey Lind

"Every piazza has a distinct personality, but all have essentially the same characteristics. Piazza represents the coming together of our contextual aesthetics, of our entrepreneurial spirit, and of the public expression of community," she said. "The characteristics are open, inviting, restful, playful, refreshing, and yet filled with energy.

"Piazas are centers of commerce, of culture, of charity, of conversation, of celebration, of civility, of cooperation and even of competition," Lind added, explaining that the Cleveland cathedral has transformed its religious grounds into a piazza, which is "by its very nature, public space." "You never know what will happen in a piazza, rather you must always come to expect the unexpected, the serendipitous, the spontaneous," Lind said.

Lind bases the depth of her reflection on piazza-living on the practice of Saint Angela Merici, a 16th-century woman religious from northern Italy. A third-order Franciscan sister, Merici lived in the world and remained within her family and community, a trait of the Ursuline religious order that she founded. Lind's vision is for a piazza church is a church at the center of a chaotic community, not removed from it. As a result, piazza living calls on a potent element of environmental stewardship. "Angela understood this and promoted this in all of the work she did. She said 'find these places of piazza where you can talk about and live out the things that matter to the common good,'" Lind said.

But Lind expanded the theme of piazza to include personal and religious transformation as well. For her Italian mentor, Lind proclaimed that piazza is a life of standing at the cross. "For Angela, the crucifixion is where it all came together," Lind said. "It was at the cross where Jesus fully accepted his humanity. It was there where Angela fully accepted her own limits. She saw the cross as the place where our brokenness is acknowledged. She believed the cross is where our brokenness can heal. "She also saw the cross as the great place of interconnection, the cross as the great intersection," Lind added. "Think about the image of the cross as an intersection in the midst of the city."

Many thanks to The Record editor & author, Herb Gunn

Whitaker School of Theology Oakland Deanery Offering

Pilot: Exploring Your Spiritual Journey Program



**EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF MICHIGAN**

Whitaker School of Theology is offering the *Exploring Your Spiritual Journey* (EYSJ) program through one of our congregations, St. Andrew's in Waterford. This is a pilot program bearing all the earmarks of Whitaker's regular EYSJ program except that it is coordinated, facilitated, and administered by the parish. It is also open only to people in the Oakland Deanery. What changes is the distance people will drive to attend the program sessions and the cost. The sessions will be held at St. Andrew's, Waterford, or other parishes in the Oakland Deanery. The cost is \$275 (reduced from \$1400; the difference being underwritten by a special grant from Whitaker). The program is limited to 12 participants.

Participating in any EYSJ program means one commits to attending 15 sessions and a retreat over a period of eight months. This is a serious commitment that one makes to him or her self. During the time set aside, there is opportunity to read, study scripture, reflect on one's relationship with God, examine one's gifts, and discern how one is being called to serve and love the Lord, and all of this is done in a community of people walking pretty much the same road. The first session is scheduled for August 20, 2008, at St. Andrew's.

Facilitators for this pilot EYSJ program are Mrs. LouAnn Leonard, The Rev. Bob Wollard, and The Rev. Deacon Marlyn Stroud.

An informational meeting will be held for those who have questions on May 21, 2008, from 7-8:30 p.m. If you plan to attend this meeting, call the parish office (1-248-673-7635). If you cannot attend, call the parish and one of the facilitators will contact you directly. On the other hand, if you already know you want to participate, simply register by contacting the Whitaker School of Theology at 313-833-4412 or thorough the website at www.whitakerschool.org. Registration and tuition are handled through Whitaker.

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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.*

Email your contributions to this newsletter: newslettercor@gmail.com!



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