

The Grapevine

February 2010

Flickering Mind

Lord, not you,
it is I who am absent.

Not for one second
will my self hold still, but wanders
anywhere,
everywhere it can turn. Not you,
it is I am absent.

You are the stream, the fish, the light,
the pulsing shadow.
You the unchanging presence, in whom all
moves and changes.
How can I focus my flickering, perceive
at the fountain's heart
the sapphire I know is there?

-- *Denise Levertov* (Source: from the book *Door in the Hive*)

There were a few times in seminary where we used this poem as a prayer at the beginning of a small-group prayer service. It's almost a foil to the way our Eucharistic service usually starts out with the Collect for Purity: "*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*" (which, by the way, dates back to the 11th century!). The Collect for Purity reminds us of how truly present God is, and the poem reminds us of how absent we can be.

How can we know God's presence?

Sometimes I think the bar has been set way high on this one. Art depicts mystical ecstatic unions with God, charismatic preachers talk about being struck mute by the awesome presence of God, stories are told about miraculous appearances and signs. Well, the presence of God, at least for this Christian, is not usually found in such block-buster ways! Others describe feeling the presence of God as the stirring of the soul, as an awareness, a nudge, or even a still, small voice. Sometimes the presence of God is felt, not in individual moments of solitude and prayer, but rather with others, in community. Of course, many of us experience God in the ordinary made extraordinary, in the Sacraments, in nature, and the relationships with those we love.

How can we be more present to God?

Being present to God doesn't necessarily require devoting hours upon hours a day to a vigorous prayer discipline. (Although, if that's your thing – have at!) Becoming more aware of the never failing presence of God can come in little steps: but taking a minute or two at different times of the day to relax, clear the mind of clutter, and focus on the presence of God. We can also be more mindful throughout our day, asking ourselves as we walk through our day about the ways that God may be present: God's love for the people we meet during the day, God's care and concern for the other drivers on the road, God's delight in the wonders of nature, God's joy in the blessings of relationships, forgiveness, and healing.

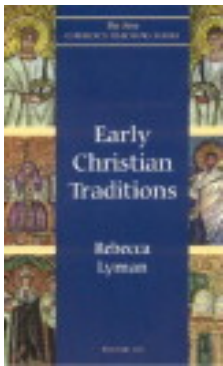
As we enter the final months of winter, as depression sinks in for so many Central New Yorkers, we can hold Levertov's poem as a traveling companion with us. That even in those moments when we wonder if God is absent, perhaps we can remember the God is always present, always here – it is us who are absent from time to time. May we have the grace to turn toward God's presence, even in small and subtle ways, to behold the sapphire that lies in the fountain's heart.

ST. MATTHEW'S WILL BE...



“OPEN FOR PRAYER”
Wednesday, February 3rd
6:30-8:30pm

EARLY CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS BOOK CLUB



Please join us for a book study on Early Christian Traditions. We will be reading *Early Christian Traditions* by Rebecca Lyman (the *New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. Six*). Books in this series attempt to encourage and respond to the times and to the challenges that will usher out the old century and bring in the new. Whether a “Cradle Anglican,” from another religious tradition, or from no tradition at all: come join us and discover what Anglicanism has to offer. This exciting volume will include topics like Anglican Identity and Christian Traditions, The Early Church, Apostolic Christianity, Christianity and Social Crisis, Who is Jesus? and Who is God? Please contact Stacey Balduf at staceybaduf@gmail.com or 254-9825 if you have any questions or wish further information. **We will meet on Wednesday, February 10th, 7:00-8:30pm.** Please feel free to join us even if you have not attended in the past.

“REAL LIFE BIBLE STUDY”

Our “Real Life Bible Study” is changing location and name in February! **Every Wednesday night at 7:00pm (beginning on February 5th), the “Real Life Book and Bible Study” will meet at Café at 407 (407 Tulip St. in the village of Liverpool).** We'll discuss scripture and other spiritual writings and talk about how our common sacred story connects with our real lives. This group is open to all – regardless of faith tradition or background. Each week's discussion can stand alone – so no need to worry about having to miss a week. Please join us when you can. In Lent, we'll begin a book study about the Benedictine Way. St. Benedict exhorted Christians to "prefer nothing whatever to Christ," to place God at the center of all daily activities - from prayer itself to dining to working to picking out which clothing to wear on a journey. The first step in the Benedictine Way is a daily attentiveness to God, listening through prayer and the Scriptures, guided by the Rule and the spiritual tradition that has grown out of it. This attentiveness can take many forms: Benedictine monks hold formal prayer services many times each day, while people following the Rule in "the real world" find different, more pragmatic prayer practices (many use the Daily Devotions for Families and Individuals section of The Book of Common Prayer!). Benedict writes that God is waiting for each person to stop running and to listen: "once you have done this, my eyes will be upon you and my ears will listen for your prayers; and even before you ask me, I will say to you, here I am." This simple commitment is what begins every person's living of the Benedictine Way and a whole new experience of life.

Please contact Courtenay McKeon or Mother Carrie if you have any questions – and please plan on joining us on Wednesday nights!



Parish-wide



Mardi Gras

Pot-luck Party

6:00 pm Tuesday, February 16th

Bring a dish to pass and be ready to party!



After dinner, while the grown-ups are partying in the parish hall, I'll lead the kids (and whomever else wants to come) into the church for a **"Farewell to Alleluia" service** – where we'll transition from the party of Mardi-Gras into the season of Lent.



Look for a sign-up sheet coming soon!

3rd – 5th GRADE YOUTH GROUP

Officially known as “International Fun Group” are having our third meeting, **Sunday, February 21st, 3:00-5:00pm** in the Parish Hall. Our theme for this meeting is **CREATIVE GAME NIGHT**. We are also going to be working on a children’s bulletin. There will be snacks and spiritual refreshment. Please sign-up on the sheet near the kitchen. Lots of fun and games. Bring a friend!



LENTEN SERVICES AT ST. MATTHEW’S

Shrove Tuesday, February 16th

6:00pm Festive Mardi Gras pot luck dinner for the whole parish
 “Farewell to Alleluia” Service with Imposition of Ashes (This will be geared toward children, but all are welcome)

Ash Wednesday, February 17th

7:00am Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

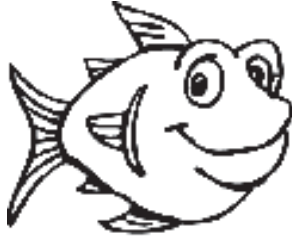
12:00 Noon Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

ST. MATTHEW’S MEDITATION GARDEN

There will be a mediation garden at the St Matthew’s this spring. Please indicate where you believe the garden should be placed. There is a drawing in the hallway leading to the parish hall to indicate your choice. The committee has marked four possible locations on this drawing. Indicate your choice by putting your initials on the line that corresponds with the numbered location. If you have comments please feel free to put them on the comment lines after the numbered line.

Lastly, there will be an additional sign-up sheet for those who want to explore the option of a columbarium with the committee. At this time we have a number of members who are very interested in building a columbarium here at St Matthews.



LENTEN FISH DINNERS

(Available: fried or broiled fish, french fries, cole slaw, beverages & desserts)

**ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
904 VINE STREET, LIVERPOOL
457-4633**

**EVERY FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 19TH – MARCH 26TH
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

\$9.00

\$8.50 SENIORS

ALSO AVAILABLE:

**TAKE-OUT
FISH SANDWICHES
CHILDREN'S MENU**

PLEASE JOIN US!!

SAMARITAN CENTER DINNER – FEBRUARY 20, 2010

Mark your calendars and get out your baking pans. On **Saturday, February 20**, we will be hosting our first Samaritan Center dinner of 2010. The first of four this year!

At the end of the month, when money has run low, we often see many more guests at the Samaritan Center, and we especially see more children. Please consider helping out in one (or all!) of the following ways:

- * Sign up to help cook and serve the meal
- * Sign up to bake a dessert – the guests really LOVE our freshly baked desserts!
- * Donate money to the cause.

In addition to making the meal that day, we will be happy to take any socks, gloves, mittens or scarves you would like to donate.

Here is a prayer for us and for those we serve at the Samaritan Center:

Dear Lord, we are all so fortunate to have warm clothing, shelter and food. It is something we sometimes take for granted. Please help us to share our bounty with those less fortunate. Let us not pity those people who are dear to your heart, rather let us bend down to give them a hand up so that we all may stand proudly side by side in your sight.
Amen

St. Matthew’s parishioners are truly the most generous group of folks I’ve ever come across. God bless us all!

Vivian Silliman

FISH DINNERS START FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19th

Fish Dinner Committee meeting 9:15am Sunday, February 7th.

Just a reminder:

The prices for dinner will now be

- \$9.00 for a dinner
- \$8.50 for senior (over 65) dinner
- \$5.00 for children (6 and under)

- We will be asking commissions; groups; committees to help serve dinners each week
- We will be continuing to ask for “homemade” desserts each week. We no longer have our grocery store source as we have had in the past.
- We are discontinuing serving soup; grilled cheese sandwiches, rolls and butter.

Sign-up sheets are by the kitchen. This one of our major fund raisers, so please support your parish by inviting a neighbor, co-worker or friend to have dinner with us on Friday.

CHURCH KNEELERS

We have invited Grace Church’s “Tuesday Night Work Crew” to help re-cover our Kneelers. Look for an announcement in the bulletin as to the date and time. Call me if you want to help at 652-3989 or email me at penny.dugas@verizon.net.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!



There was a very good response to the Red Cross Blood Bank of January 9th, sponsored by St. Matthew's. A total of **49** units of blood were collected. This was our first blood drive of 2010 and started our year in fine fashion. We give thanks and pray that your caring and concern will continue to be reflected in your participation at our blood drives.

Our next blood bank has been scheduled for **Saturday, March 6th**, at our church. This is a great opportunity because of the tragic events of Haiti. We are being constantly reminded of the massive amounts of need for the Haitians. And all the millions of monetary aid can supply many things; yet cannot supply one drop of blood that will be needed in ever increasing amounts. Only you can give of this precious fluid by your donation.



Register to donate at the blood bank of March 6th. You say that this date is over four weeks in the future and the need is now. The Red Cross will be greatly depleting or even exhausting their supply of blood. The need for a source will not diminish by March 6th and the contribution of blood for storage as a supply is a necessity.

Schedule a donation at our March 6th Blood Bank. You can reach as deeply into your pockets as you wish, but you will not pull out one ounce of blood. Only by your contribution of your God given gift – your blood – can you show that you care.

See you on March 6th.

Bill and Milt

If you wish to give Easter flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or as a thank offering, please complete the form below and either put it in the collection plate or return it to the office. **All forms must be turned in by March 28, 2010.** Thank you.

EASTER FLOWERS



I wish to contribute \$ _____ as a memorial in memory of: (please use given names)

or as a thank offering for: _____

Given By: _____

Deadline: March 28, 2010



LAVABO: It must appear strange to the uninitiated when the celebrant at Holy Eucharist pauses between the Offertory and the Eucharistic Prayer and washes his hands. The practice, known as the Lavabo, is of great antiquity and serves practical as well as spiritual ends.

There is an ancient tradition of ministers washing their hands before vest, which was largely practical (to keep the vestments clean). The first mention of the celebrant washing hands before the consecration is found in the 4th century. This is described as an act of piety, symbolic of the cleansing of one's self before approaching the altar of God.

The ceremony may derive in part from the Old Testament where the Jewish priests were required to wash their hands before going into the Tent of the Presence or approaching the altar to make a sacrifice (Exodus 30:19-21). Or it may derive from the first century Jewish practice of ritual hand-washing before meals. St. Mark explains that the Jews always washed their hands before eating, in obedience to a long-established tradition (Mark 7:3-4).

Some authorities believe that the practice arose during that ancient time when the celebrants received all sorts of gifts at the offertory and needed to wash their hands before the consecration.

The ceremony normally involves the celebrant stepping near the credence table. A deacon or acolyte holds a lavabo bowl in one hand and a cruet of water in the other. The server pours the water over the celebrant's hands so that it falls into the bowl. The celebrant then takes a towel from the server's wrist, dries his hands, and returns it.

Some priests say a portion of Psalm 26:6 during this ceremony: "I will wash my hands in innocence..." The name lavabo comes from the first word of this passage in Latin: "Lavabo inter innocents." The Roman ritual appointed Psalm 26:6 for use during this ceremony until 1969 when it adopted part of Psalm 51 in its place. Howard Galley's Episcopal ceremonial manual recommends Psalm 51:11 for use during the lavabo: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

This ceremony is mentioned in the pre-reformation missals of York, Salisbury (Sarum), and Hereford Cathedrals. Some English church manuals call it "the lavatory" which carries an unfortunate connotation in modern American usage.

Marion Hatchett, in his manual of ceremonial for the 1979 American Book of Common Prayer, suggest that the ministers who will handle the elements wash their hands before the Eucharistic prayer. His suggestion includes those ministers other than the celebrant who will distribute communion.

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FEBRUARY

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Bradshaw, Colin	29	McClellan, Arlene	20
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Cerio, Halle	07	Murdock, Robert	17
Coleman, Peg	09	Rill, Patricia	24
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Gates, Jacquelin	07	Sees, Kasey	28
Harvey, Judith	15	St. Denny, Jeffery	23
Herrmann, Barbara	26	St. Denny, John	16
Hines, Collin	05	Stace, Matthew	04
Kreis, Rachel	11	Townley, Mary	06

(If anyone has been omitted from this list, please call the office)

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Mary Ahern	Nancy
Isabel Alamond	Don Noyes
Frances Brown	Linda Payne
Claire	Ellen Pugsley
Robert Coulter	Rahel Elmer Reger
Rev. Ralph Dipple	Paul Rill
Eleanor Duke	Herb Smith
Jack Foley	Jean Stearns
Michelle Fox	Edwin Thayer
Julie Good	Tricia
Charles Grover	Wayne Tullar
Mary Hastings	Clemente & Maria Grazia Vigliotti
Gail Knox	George Waelde
Pat and Rose Longarzo	Betty & Bishop Whitaker
Jared Miller	Thomas Zino

 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SHOPPING CART SUNDAY</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 21st</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>THANK YOU</u></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">March Grapevine Deadline</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 21st</p>
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FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Rector's Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	2 10:30-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga	3 12:00 Noon-HE+ 6:30-9:00pm "Open For Prayer" 7:00-8:30pm "Real Life Book & Bible Study" at the Café at 407, 407 Tulip Street	4 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers 6:30pm Outreach Commission Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 Parish Office Closed	6
7 8:00am-HE+ 9:15am-Adult Forum & Sunday School 9:15am-Fish Dinner Committee Meeting 10:10am-Nursery 10:15am-HE+	8 Rector's Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	9 10:30-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10 12:00 Noon-HE+ 7:00-8:30pm "Real Life Book & Bible Study" at the Café at 407, 407 Tulip Street 7:00-8:30pm Early Christian Traditions Book Study	11 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 Parish Office Closed	13
14 8:00am-HE+ 9:15am-Adult Forum No Sunday School 10:10am-Nursery 10:15am-HE+	15 <u>President's Day</u> Rector's Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers School Winter Break	16 10:30-1:00pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm-Parish Mardi Gras Party & Farewell to Alleluia Service	17 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 7:00am-HE+ with Imposition of Ashes 12:00 Noon-HE+ with Imposition of Ashes 7:00pm-HE+ with Imposition of Ashes	18 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19 Parish Office Closed 5:00-7:00pm Fish Dinner	20 Smaraitan Center Meal 1:00-5:00pm Atherton Baby Shower
21 <u>Lent I</u> 8:00am-HE+ 9:15am-Adult Forum & Sunday School 10:10am-Nursery 10:15am-HE+ 3:00-5:00pm 3 rd - 5 th Grade Youth Group Event Shopping Cart Sunday Grapevine Deadline	22 Rector's Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	23 10:30-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga 7:00-9:00pm Vestry Meeting	24 12:00 Noon-HE+ 7:00-8:30pm "Real Life Book & Bible Study" at the Café at 407, 407 Tulip Street	25 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 Parish Office Closed 5:00-7:00pm Fish Dinner	27
28 <u>Lent II</u> 8:00am-HE+ 9:15am-Adult Forum & Sunday School 10:10am-Nursery 10:15am-HE+ 3:00-6:00pm Safe Church Training	+HE: Holy Eucharist °HB: Holy Baptism ^WS: Worship Service					