

The GRAPEVINE

February 2011

TOP 10 REASONS TO BE AN EPISCOPALIAN

(from the comedian Robin Williams, who is an Episcopalian, on a recent HBO special)

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is color-coded.
4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry - none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.



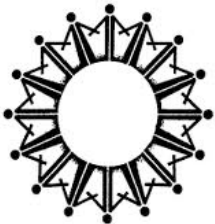
And the Number One reason to be an Episcopalian:

1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

When I first heard this list – I laughed out loud! Robin Williams certainly found a grain of truth in each of these! This list led me to wonder... if someone asked us for our top 10 reasons to be Episcopalian – would we tell them?

Sometimes I think that the Episcopal Church is the best-kept secret out there. Many of us are quick to recommend to our friends a great restaurant we found, a good hairdresser, a place to get a good deal, a nice gym, or even a good taxperson. However, as Episcopalians, we tend to be tight-lipped about our faith.

We want to respect people's beliefs and where they are. We don't want to appear pushy. We certainly don't want to seem like the judgy-holier-than-thou Christians. So, our default setting is often polite silence. However...



There are people in the world longing for what we have found at St. Matthew's.

There are people in this world who believe in God but yet search for a meaningful way to connect to him. There are people out there who really like what this Jesus guy seems to be all about, but are looking for help in following him. There are people who feel isolated, alone, scared and confused who are looking for good, kind people with whom to walk this journey. When we keep our faith, our church a secret – we could be withholding from them the very thing which they seek.

Sharing our faith isn't about filling our pews – it's about using what God has given us: our experiences, our voice, our example, our stories to share God's Good News in the world.

We don't have to do much – there are no tricks or secrets to learn. We're just called to share our own experience with someone who seems willing to listen. That's all. No need to try to be persuasive, charming, clever or brilliant – just honest and open.

We know how powerful stories are. We are moved by stories all the time.

You have a story too. Be brave and share it!

In Peace,

WEEKLY WORSHIP
AT ST. MATTHEW'S, LIVERPOOL



8:00 AM SUNDAY: HOLY EUCHARIST
10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST

NEW SERVICE:
SUNDAY 5:00PM HOLY EUCHARIST

12:00 NOON WEDNESDAY:
HOLY EUCHARIST

“REAL LIFE” BIBLE STUDY

Put **Wednesday, February 2nd** on your calendar. We'll meet to discuss the previous Sunday's lessons 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 month's discussion can stand alone, so please join us when you can. Contact Courtenay McKeon at 214-9276 or Mother Carrie if you have any questions.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who donated to the Military Courtesy Room in December. I had one large box of items and it was very much appreciated.

Lisa Sager

GARDEN UPDATE

It is January and most likely no one is thinking much about gardens with all of the snow, wind, and ice. However, in a little bit, the weather will improve and we will be looking forward to seeing our first robin and looking for tulips, iris and daffodils. Please take a look at the garden plan and see if you would like to purchase a brick, tree, bush or plant in thanksgiving for a loved one.



MADISON JEAN PALMER

JANUARY 9, 2010

May God bless her and strengthen her in faith and love always.





You are Invited
to
A Spaghetti
Dinner February
12, 2011
5-7pm.

Bring your Valentines out to dinner to celebrate Valentine's Day! Avoid the crowds, super busy wait staff, expensive restaurant prices, and support the church.

Menu: Pasta & Sauce; Meatballs, Sausage; Salad; Bread and Butter; Dessert; and Beverage. The price for: adults is - \$7.00 and children under 10 - \$4.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

For those interested in Confirmation, or being sacramentally received into the Episcopal Church, please know that we are offering a class for adults as well as a course for teens in 2011. The plans are still being worked out, but for now it looks like for the adults, we'll offer the Via Media course on Wednesday nights beginning in Lent and extending through the season of Easter. **The youth class will meet on Sundays after the 10:15 service beginning on February 6th.** We're looking to present both youth and adults before the Bishop this spring for Confirmations, Receptions and Re-affirmations. If you're interested, please contact Mother Carrie or Deacon Shelly and look for more information to come!

BLOOD DRIVE

The first of our six scheduled blood drives for 2011 is now history. At our drive of January 8th, there were 42 pints of blood collected. This is a good solid result. At this time of year, the snow nullifies our advertising and we lose "walk-in" donors that pick us up and tend to balance the effect of the "no-shows." The amount of "no-shows" was, in my opinion, fairly high, but, at this time of year, the number of those on antibiotics is at an elevated level. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope to see their name on our upcoming drive of March.



Yep, that's right, our second blood drive of 2011 has been scheduled for March 5, from 8:00am until 1:00pm. All of our drives are on Saturdays and take place in the Parish Hall of our church.

A special amount of thanks to Andrea Brown for her dedication of her time and talent to the January drive. Andrea alone, manned the Canteen from 8:30am until 12:15pm. Andrea adds class to this operation by her friendliness, humor and diligence. Our thanks also to Bob Smith for his part in unloading the Red Cross van at 6:30am. And, a very special thanks to those have recently joined our family. Welcome and bless you.

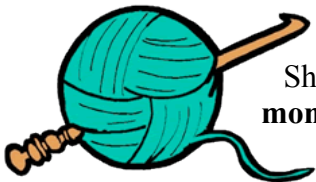
We need help:

- To unload the Red Cross Van starting at 6:30am, lasting for about one hour
- To reload the van at the end of the drive, and then help the Sexton with the chairs and tables, starting about 1:00pm.
- To help with the Canteen (furnish the donors with water, coffee, etc.) after their donation (about two hours of time from 8:00am until 1:30pm.
- To join us in this outreach ministry and its administration and workings.
- To become a blood contributor as you are able.

If you wish to join us and participate at any level, please contact Bill Boylan at 454-0451 or Milt Oatman at 457-9578 or at our church. Join us! See you in March at the Blood Drive.

Bill and Milt

YARN GATHERING



Some of us thought that it might be fun to get together and work on our Prayer Shawls and Baptismal Blankets together. **So, starting on the second Wednesday of the month (February 9th), some of us will gather at church for an hour or so of together time working on this in/out-reach project.** Please feel free to join us. We have plenty of yarn so bring your knitting needles and/or hooks and yarn on February 9th and join us.

Don't know how to knit/crochet? Come along and I will teach you. I also have a pattern for a Chemo Hat we could do. Interested but have questions? Ask Penny at 652-3989.

SERENITY BRACELETS

In addition to the prayer beads and Anglican Rosaries, the youth will also begin selling Serenity Bracelets for \$20.00. Each Sterling Silver and Swarovski Crystals bracelet is presented with an explanation of the bead colors meaning in an organza pouch. Orders will be taken for the bracelets which come in two sizes – 7" or 9". Please help the youth raise money for their adoptive children. For additional information, contact Karen Stace or Penny Dugas.

PILLOWCASES

Would you like to learn to sew a simple pillowcase? I will help those who would like to make up some pillowcases to give to a shelter, hospital or Vera House. I have purchased clearance Christmas fabric for us to use. I will bring my machine and if anyone else has a portable sewing machine please bring it. If you want to pick your own fabric, you will need to bring 1-1/4 yards of colorful fabric and thread to match. Kids like bright colored fabric with designs on it. When? **February 5, 2011 at 10:00am.** Yes, kids can come too, if accompanied by an adult.





CANDLES: Burning candles are a symbol of joy and festivity both within and without the church, whether on an altar or a dining room table. Burning candles remind Christians that Jesus described himself as “the light of the world” (John 3:19, 8:12). The wax of the candle may symbolize the humanity of Christ and its flame his divinity. Lit candles remind Christians of the parable of the prudent virgins (Matthew 25:1-12) and may be a symbol of prayer and sacrifice.

Candles (or other burning lights) have been used in Christian worship since at least the 4th century. Presently, candles are used as processional torches, as Eucharistic lights or altar candles, as pavement lights, as candelabra, as the paschal candle, as baptismal candles, in an Advent wreath, in a sanctuary lemp, as votive lights and at special services such as Tenebrae.

Processional candles preceded the ministers into the church in the 4th century. These lights were placed around the altar and are the origin of both altar candles and pavement lights. Candles were first placed on Christian altars around the 11th century and became universal in the Middle Ages. Too much ado has been made about the correct number of altar candles. In most Episcopal churches, two candles are placed on the altar for use at the Holy Eucharist.

The use of the paschal candles at the Great Vigil of Easter and at Holy Baptism and burials is described in the American prayer book (pp. 285, 313, 467). Since the 12th century, a baptismal candle has been given to the newly baptized or to a godparent. This practice continues. The use of an Advent wreath is mentioned in the American prayer book (p. 143). A light which burns in many Episcopal (and Roman) sanctuaries signified that the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. Votive lights are small candles, often in tiny glass containers, which are lit by individuals with prayer before icons or statues or side altars.

Tenebrae is an ancient liturgy, often scheduled during Lent and especially Holy Week, which involved the progressive extinguishing of candles. The Order of Worship for the Evening (BCP p. 109) contains numerous suggestions for the use of candles. Many Episcopal churches enjoy candlelight at Christmas Eve services in keeping with the birth of the Light of the World.

Only candles should be used where candles are called for, and these are traditionally of beeswax, if it can be afforded.

There is a tradition of blessing all of the candles to be used in a year on Candlemas (the Feast of the Presentation, February 2).

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FEBRUARY

Bayless, Ed	01	Kreis, Rachel	11
Bennett, Nancy	26	Lee, Winona	02
Boutwell, Nancy	11	Mathews, Kimberly	27
Bradshaw, Christian	14	McKeon, Connor	26
Bradshaw, Colin	29	Murdock, Robert	17
Brown, Madeline	16	Pestle, Haley	28
Catera, Tom	13	Rill, Patricia	24
Cerio, Halle	07	Sees, Duane	19
Coleman, Peg	09	Sees, Kasey	28
Conover, Sara	12	St. Denny, Jeffery	23
Gates, Jacquelin	07	St. Denny, John	16
Harvey, Judith	15	Stace, Matthew	04
Herrmann, Barbara	26	Stevens, N. Jane	24
Hines, Collin	05	Therre, Genevieve	06
Hurlburt, Teagan	23	Townley, Mary	06

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Joan Amerman | Marietta |
| April | Helen McGaffick |
| Baby Anthony | Kim McMaster |
| June Balduf | Paul Reynolds |
| Eleanor Duke | Susan Reynolds |
| Yvonne Eames | Paul Rill |
| John Foley | Shirley Shepard |
| Marie Hammond | Jean Stearns |
| Ellie Hillers | Fred Steul |
| Sadie Jammen | Jane Stevens |
| John L. | Edwin Thayer |
| Marion Magee | Clemente Vigliotti |

 <p><u>SHOPPING CART SUNDAY</u></p> <p>February 20th</p> <p><u>THANK YOU!</u></p>	 <p>March Grapevine Deadline</p> <p>February 20th</p>
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FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:00-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga 8:00-9:15pm Yoga	2 12:00 Noon-HE+ 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm "Real Life" Bible Study	3 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	4 Parish Office Closed	5 10:00am Let's Make Pillowcases New Beginnings Team Meeting (2-5 & 6)
6 8:00am+HE 9:15am – Sunday School 9:30am-Adult Forum 10:10am-Nursery 10:15am-+HE Church 12:00-1:00pm Youth Confirmation Class 5:00pm-+HE	7 Rector's Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	8 11:00-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga 8:00-9:15pm Yoga	9 12:00 Noon-HE+ 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal Knitting & Crocheting	10 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Ephphatha	11 Parish Office Closed 7 th -12 th Grade Youth Event	12 5:00-7:00pm Spaghetti Dinner
13 <u>Youth Sunday</u> 8:00am+HE 9:15am-Sunday School 9:30am-Adult Forum 10:10am-Nursery 10:15am- +HE 12:00 Noon-Worship Committee Meeting 12:00-1:00pm Youth Confirmation Class 5:00pm--+HE Happening Team Meeting	14 <u>Valentine's Day</u> Rector's Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	15 11:00-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga 7:00-9:00pm Vestry Meeting 8:00-9:15pm Yoga	16 12:00 Noon- HE+ 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	17 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Ephphatha	18 Parish Office Closed 7:30-9:00pm Cursillo	19 9:00-2:00pm Cursillo
20 8:00am+HE No Sunday School 9:30am-Adult Forum 10:10am-Nursery 10:15am-+HE 12:15pm-LEM Meeting 12:00-1:00pm Youth Confirmation Class 5:00pm-+HE Shopping Cart Sunday Grapevine Deadline 1:00-5:00pm Horton Shower	21 Rector's Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers Mother Carrie Out Winter Break	22 11:00-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga 8:00-9:15pm Yoga	23 12:00 Noon –HE+ No Choir Rehearsal	24 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	25 Parish Office Closed 8:00-5:00pm Life Line Screening	26
27 Holly Eden, Celebrant 8:00am+HE 9:15am-Sunday School 9:30am-Adult Forum 10:10am-Nursery 10:15am-+HE 12:00-1:00pm Youth Confirmation Class 5:00pm-+HE	28 Rector's Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	+HE: Holy Eucharist °HB: Holy Baptism ^WS: Worship Service				