

# The Grapevine

January 2009

## WHAT CAN ST. MATTHEW'S LEARN FROM A FISH MARKET IN SEATTLE?

When I think of Seattle, Washington, I think of overcast days and plenty of rain. When I think of fish markets, I think of gruff men hauling slimy fish around in a cold, poorly lit, lonely dock. If you would have asked me what is one of the most energetic and positive work environments around, I probably would not have thought about the fish market in Seattle, Washington. Joke's on me.

Once at a clergy gathering, we watched a video called "Fish!" which chronicles the Pike Place Fish Market, a workplace where each employee chooses to bring energy, passion, and a positive outlook to work every day. Fish playfully fly from booth to booth, caught by impressive one-handed catches, while the workers shout orders enthusiastically. They fool around with customers, tell jokes, juggle crabs, poke fun at themselves and involve passers-by. The fish market has become a tourist attraction in and of itself because the positive energy that the staff exudes is attractive and contagious. Dressed-up business folk bring their lunches to the pier and eat while Salmon fly in front of their faces and fish mongers quiz them on fish trivia.

But, more than just a powerful story about a fish market; more than just an inspiring story about workplace cultures; Fish! Is really a parable about life.

The Fish! Philosophy: <><

1. **CHOOSE YOUR ATTITUDE** We may not always have a choice about what we're doing or about our circumstances, but do have a choice about the *way* we do things.
2. **BE THERE** Being present in the moment, being internally focused, allows us to live each moment and experience all life has to offer, instead of constantly trying to relive the past or worrying about the future.
3. **MAKE THEIR DAY** Look for ways to create great memories. Seeing people as individuals, with their own stories and special gifts helps us to relate on a more meaningful, personal basis.
4. **PLAY** The business may be serious, but there's always a risk of taking ourselves too seriously. Playing is about letting things flow and not getting too uptight.

What can St. Matthew's learn from a fish market in Seattle? Which attitude do we choose to bring to church? What attitude do we choose to take from church and bring to our work? How are we fully present in the moment and enjoy what's in front of us? How can we "make peoples' day?" both within our walls and beyond? How often do we allow ourselves to play? Of course, St. Matthew's knows how to let our hair down – but how often do we do it?

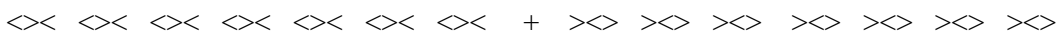
Let's play some more!

Let's make a difference in the lives of people we meet!

Let's allow our selves to enjoy the abundance and grace that surrounds us every minute of every day!

Let's show our unrestrained joy about the abundant life we experience through the love of God, the Body of Christ, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

In ancient times, during Christian persecutions, Christians used to identify themselves to other Christians by using the symbol of the fish <><, which is rich with Christian meaning. The symbol of the fish continues to be an important symbol of our faith. And I think the Fish Market in Seattle has helped enrich our understanding of the link between Fish and Christianity.





## ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flower Book for 2009 is in the coatroom at the front of the church. If you would like to give flowers in memory of a loved one or as a thank offering, please sign up. The cost of flowers is \$25.00. Please note that flowers are not given during Lent.

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## FAMILY RETREAT

Mark your calendars: Another Family Retreat is being planned for **Saturday morning, January 10<sup>th</sup>**. This year's retreat is entitled "**We Are Bold to Pray: A Retreat about the Lord's Prayer for Families.**" The retreat is planned for 9:00-12:00 noon that day, and geared toward participation by youth and their grown-ups as well. Please sign-up on the sheet near the kitchen.



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*Many thanks to Ballantyne Gardens for their generous gift of landscaping around our new sign. It looks nice now; and will look incredible when the bulbs come up in the spring!*



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## THE HOUSE AT 807



St. Matthew's has been asked to serve Sunday lunch to the residents at The House at 807 during the **month of January**. We will need **two volunteers for each Sunday during the month, (January 4, 11, 18, 25) from 11:00am to 1:00pm**. The meals are prepared and we only need to warm and serve to the residents. During the meal, we sit and enjoy fellowship with them. Afterward, we clean up, put away leftovers and start the dishwasher. Please plan to help out by signing up on the up on the bulletin board next to the kitchen. Thank you.

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Again this year, Maurer Funeral Home, Inc. has generously underwritten the cost of the 2009 Ashby Calendars for St. Matthew's. You will find them on the tables in the hall and in the coatroom. Please take one home and enjoy it throughout the year. Give one to a friend! Many thanks to Maurer Funeral Home for their continued support.

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## A REMINDER

The first St. Matthew's sponsored Red Cross Blood donation day of 2009 will be held on **Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**. The location will be in the church Parish Hall and

hours will be from **8:00am until 1:00pm**. Please consider a donation for this most worthy cause.

Thank you.

Milt and Bill

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## SOUP 'N' SOCKS

Huh? **January 24<sup>th</sup>** marks the date of our first Samaritan Center dinner for 2009. No, we're not making sock soup! But we are asking for donations of warm socks – mostly for men, but some for women and children, too – to help keep the Samaritan center guests warm through the winter months.

This particular date presents a challenge for us in terms of volunteer help, because it coincides with St. Matthew's blood drive, and a lot of the people who help out with the blood drive also typically help with the dinner. So, if you've never done it before, and you think it's something you're interested in, please consider helping out on the 24<sup>th</sup>. It does take some time (approximately noon – three on a Saturday), but guaranteed, if you do it once, you'll be hooked! It really is very rewarding, and fun. The people at the Samaritan Center are great to work with, and the guests are soooo appreciative.

Here are some things you can do to help out:

Help with coking, serving and cleanup on the 24<sup>th</sup>: there will be a sign up sheet at church

Bake (or purchase) a dessert to serve: cakes, cupcakes, pies, brownies, cookies are all appreciated

Donate money to help pay for the meal. We can expect to serve close to 200 meals, at an approximate cost of \$300. Drop your donation in the collection plate on Sunday – be sure to mark it "Outreach," or put it in the little church bank.

Donate socks: there will be a box available to hold your donation.

Several people have asked for upcoming dates in order to plan ahead. We will be serving on the following dates in 2009: January 24<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>, and November 7<sup>th</sup>.

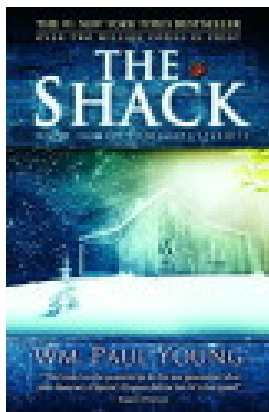


*The habit of giving only enhances the desire to give.*

*Walt Whitman (1819 - 1892)*

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## ST. MATTHEW'S BOOK CLUB



**On Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**, we'll gather to discuss the best-selling book, *The Shack* by William P. Young. The book is available almost everywhere. If you've ever wondered, where's God in the midst of suffering? this book is for you. Feel free to invite your friends!

*"The Shack is a one of a kind invitation to journey to the very heart of God. Through my tears and cheers, I have been indeed transformed by the tender mercy with which William Paul Young opened the veil that too often separated me from God and from myself. With every page, the complicated do's and don't that distort a relationship into a religion were washed away as I understood Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the first time in my life."* --Patrick M. Roddy, ABC News Emmy Award winning producer.

*"Finally! A guy-meets-God Novel that has literary integrity and spiritual daring. The Shack cuts through the clichés of both religion and bad writing to reveal something compelling and beautiful about life's integral dance with the Divine. This story reads like a prayer--like the best kind of prayer, filled with sweat and wonder and transparency and surprise. When I read it, I felt like I was fellowshiping with God. If you read one work of fiction this year, let this be it"*. --Mike Morrell, zoecarnate.com

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## LESSONS & CAROLS FOR EPIPHANY

Tuesday, January 6, 2009 - 7:00pm

Trinity Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, NY

106 Chapel Street, Fayetteville New York

315-637-9872 . [trinityc@twcny.rr.com](mailto:trinityc@twcny.rr.com)

If you've never been to a Lessons & Carols, this is a very welcoming service open for the greater community, consisting of readings, alternating with our music, to help illuminate the reason-for-the-season. Epiphany's medieval and traditional songs of the Three Kings are stunning, and performing this service at Trinity has been a longstanding tradition for us. Carols about the Three Kings will be abundant, and can range from mysterious, to exalting, to very detailed and intimate stories about their activities. A good will offering will be taken for the Bromkas.

### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS...**

"Bells & Motley's gift is their ability to connect with audiences of all ages & levels, to ignite a love of history, arts, ideas, and traditions." Sondra & John Bromka's versatile accomplishment in European and American historic music, dance, & literary traditions have inspired audiences for over 25 years. Theirs is an extensive collection of historic & folkloric instruments and resources, and of finely-honed concert performances and coordinated workshops. Programs are rich with artistry, spirit, and authenticity, demonstrate a masterful command of their music, and are presented with finely honed performance and teaching skills.

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## DISTRICT MISSION COUNCIL

At our last District Mission Council meeting, we all agreed that it's time our gatherings take on a different shape. We spent the past year building relationships, getting to know one another, and establishing better connections between our parishes. Now, we felt it was time to move on to "the next level." One person suggested that each District Mission Council meeting focus on a particular topic that would be of use to our parishes and parishioners. Suggestions included: Vestry ministry, Outreach, Communications, Stewardship, Children's Ministry, etc. All who were there agreed that we would try that. So, we're shifting our next meeting back a week. Our next District Mission Council meeting will be on **Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30pm**, at All Saints', Fulton. The session will be led by the Rev. Holly Eden; rector of Resurrection, Oswego and president of our diocesan Standing Committee. We extend this invitation to all is our district parishes, and especially to the people who serve on vestries. Please don't hesitate to contact Mother Carrie or Penny Dugas if you have any questions.

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### SAVE THE DATE.....

#### **A Two-Day Workshop with Diana Butler Bass**

**April 27-28, 2009**

Downtown United Presbyterian Church

121 N. Fitzhugh Street

Rochester, New York

Dr. Diana Butler Bass An expert in American religion who works as an author, speaker and independent scholar, Bass adopted the title of her recent book -- *Christianity for the Rest of Us* -- as the theme of her lectures.

Theologian Marcus Borg referred to her work as "the most important book of the decade about emerging Christianity and the renewal of mainline congregations."

The author of six books on American religious practice, including *The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church*, Bass earned the Ph.D. degree in religious studies from Duke University. She was project director of a national Lilly Endowment-funded study of mainline Protestant vitality from 2002 to 2006. Senior fellow at the Cathedral College of Washington National Cathedral.

Bass is currently working on a new book -- *Episcopalians in America* -- slated for publication in late 2008. Part of Sojourner's Progressive Religious Communicators Group, she is a regular contributor to the group's God's Politics blog.

Sponsored by: The Gene Bennett Program for Life Long Learning @ CRCDS, American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region, Episcopal Dioceses of Rochester and Central New York, Presbytery of Geneva More details to follow shortly. If you would like to get on our mailing list for this event, please send your request to the Rev. Dr. Denise Yarbrough @ [dyarbrough@crcds.edu](mailto:dyarbrough@crcds.edu) or [LLL@CRCDS.EDU](mailto:LLL@CRCDS.EDU)

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## SOUND BITES

**SYMBOLS** are capable of expressing things which empirical terms are not. To know the chemical formula for a perfume or a fine wine is not to know all there is to know about it. Laboratory analysis can describe things in one way but poetry, metaphor, images, and music can say things which science cannot.

Symbols measure things which cannot otherwise be measured. There is no sense to a quart of love, or a furlong of beauty or a nanosecond of truth. While we can say descriptive things about love, beauty and truth in empirical-sounding words, they are best described symbolically.

A flower pressed in a scrapbook may say more about a first date with a lover than all the descriptions possible — elapsed time, geographical location in longitude and latitude, ambient air temperature, and so on.

Symbols are not true in the same way as other statements. That one hundred pennies make a dollar is true. That Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God is also true. Each of these is subject to verification, one by calculation and law, the other by inspiration and faith.

It is a foolish person who attempts to kidnap a symbol from its proper realm and transport it into the realm of literal truth. Thus when one says that “my love is like a red, red rose,” it is foolish to inquire if the beloved has thorns and petals. To remain sensible, the symbol must remain in its proper frame.

The modern mind rebels against the unknowable. Thus we use microscopes and telescopes to see what the unaided eye cannot. We use computers to count what we cannot count on our fingers and toes. We climb to the top and dive to the bottom to see what is there. When faced with the truly unknowable, we resort to symbols.

God is unknowable, and truth about God must be expressed in symbolic language. It makes no sense to ask the size or weight (or age) of God, just as it makes no sense to ask what is the meaning of sodium chloride. When Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of Heaven, he frequently resorted to symbols — a mustard seed, a pearl, a buried treasure.

To be a Christian is to live in a world filled with symbols in scripture, art, music, architecture, liturgy and prayer. Just as an immigrant must learn to speak the language of her adopted country, so the Christian must learn the language of the symbols which abound in the Church.

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**JANUARY**

Bradshaw, Maria	11	Noyes, Duane	07
Brown, Jessica	25	Palmer, Gus	18
Cripe, Ruth	29	Piraino, Joseph	23
Croyle, Kate	05	Sees, Susan	02
Greco, Chad	21	Senecal, Meg	18
Greco, Daniel	05	Smith, Deborah	25
Marks, Virginia	05	Stearns, Alec	18
McClellan, Bob	25	Vigliotti, Dale	03
Muller, Robert	24		

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

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*In Our Thoughts and Prayers...*

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Isabel Alamond        | Virginia Marks |
| Dawn Arnold           | Bob McClellan  |
| Elaine Beyer          | Joan Oksa      |
| Melanie Clay          | Blaine Pelkey  |
| Eleanor Duke          | Ellen Pugsley  |
| Jodi and Amelia       | Charles Roach  |
| Charles & Rose Katura | Victoria Roach |
| Bobby Kayne           | Shelly         |
| Samuel Kovac          | Herb Smith     |

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**SHOPPING CART SUNDAY**

*January 18<sup>th</sup>*



**THANK YOU!**



**February Grapevine**

**Deadline**

**January 18<sup>th</sup>**

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# JANUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*A.A. Meets Monday – Friday – 6:45 – 7:45am in the Conference Room +HE: Holy Eucharist °HB: Holy Baptism ^MP: Morning Prayer				1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 Parish Office Closed	3
4 8:00am-HE+ 9:15am – Adult Forum & Sunday School 10:10am - Nursery 10:15am-HE+ 11:00-1:00pm The House at 807 Meal 1:00pm De-greening of the church 3:00pm S.M.I.L.E.S. After New Year's Eve Party at the Davis Home	5 *6:45am-AA 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	6 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00-10:00pm Creative Memories I	7 12:00 Noon HE+	8 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers 6:30pm Outreach Commission Meeting	9 Parish Office Closed	10 9:00-12:00 Noon Family Retreat
11 <u><i>Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord</i></u> 8:00am-HE+ 9:15am- Adult Forum & Sunday School 10:10am-Nursery 10:15am-HE+ 11:00-1:00pm The House at 807 Meal 12:00 Noon Worship Commission Meeting	12 *6:45am-AA 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	13 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Vestry	14 12:00 Noon HE+	15 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers Prayer Night	16 Parish Office Closed	17
18 8:00am-HE+ 9:15am – Adult Forum & Sunday School 10:10am - Nursery 10:15am-HE+ 11:00-1:00pm The House at 807 Meal Shopping Cart Sunday Grapevine Deadline	19 <u><i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i></u> *6:45am-AA 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers 7:00-9:00pm Cursillo Meeting	20 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	21 12:00 Noon HE+	22 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers Community Eucharist	23 Parish Office Closed	24 8:00-1:00pm Blood Drive in the Parish Hall Samaritan Center Meal
25 8:00am-HE+ 9:00am – Annual Meeting No Adult Forum 9:15am -Sunday School 10:10am-Nursery 10:15am- HE+ 11:00-1:00pm The House at 807 Meal	26 *6:45am-AA 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	27 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	28 12:00 Noon HE+	29 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	30 Parish Office Closed	31 Ziti Dinner