

SAINTS ALIVE!

Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 20th 2008

Volume 3 Number 3

FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

Dear Parishioner,

A blessed, prosperous and spiritual year to you. This is the season of the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is season of the statement to the world that what God has done is for all people for all time. Further it is about the breaking down of barriers thereby giving value to all humankind. Consequently, 'he maketh wars to cease in all the world.' However, the evidence of the present time does not present a picture of congruency with the statement and the thinking above. The trouble in Kenya, Pakistan and in our own country indicates that many have not absorbed the message of the gospel. Similarly, there seems to be growing denial of and declension from God. Christians then need to hold fast to the teachings of the faith and proclaim in word and deed the principles of such teachings.

Epiphany challenges us to abandon our deep inclination to tribalism and to expand our boundaries to include even those we do not like. Therein lies the recognition of God's creative act of humanity as a valuable and honourable entity. The honour we give to God is meaningless if we do not honour each other and the institutions which give us dignity. Consider the magi travelling a long distance, following a star just to worship some foreign God! Yes, you have it right; it must be more than that. It must be what God was doing to remind his people to love one another, to honour one another and that all belong to him.

In the spirit of manifestation, (of showing), the parish intends to provide opportunities for a meaningful response. On Saturday 9th February, there will be the Vision and Mission workshop at the Chapel of Ease,



Maraval. This is intended to produce the outstanding vision and mission statements which under-gird the Vision 2010. One of our parishioners has consented to serve as facilitator. All Champions and their teams, all parishioners and interested persons are invited. Also, the Teen Discovery Retreat is carded for February 14th -17th. Canon Neil Roach of the Diocese of the Bahamas is the facilitator. Teen Discovery aims to provide a life changing spiritual experience for the youth of our parish and invitees. Additionally, ALPHA will begin on Tuesday February 19th. Registration will begin right away. This is a flurry of activity and manifestation can be adequately demonstrated by keen participation in one or all of the activities. There is room for everyone.

Our church development projects were halted for the Christmas/year-end holiday. Work has re-commenced but the usual challenges remain. Our project manager has been negotiating among contractors, occasional services, TTEC and other stakeholders to keep the work going with a view to a speedy conclusion. May I thank you for your continued patience and goodwill.

Finally, a new curate in the person of Rev Shelly Ann Tenia is expected to assume duty in the parish from February 1st. Preparation for her arrival has begun. It is expected that Fr Ackbarali, who is still away from the parish, will be deployed elsewhere, in addition to his substantive position as Chaplain to Seafarers. Do keep him in your prayers.

May God continue to keep us in His marvellous light.

Canon Claude Berkley.

ALL SAINTS' TEEN DISCOVERY 1

The Parish of the All Saints' will be hosting All Saints' Teen Discovery 1, a residential weekend event for young persons, between the ages of 15 to 20 years. The weekend is intended to build community whilst developing each candidate's relationship with God, self and others, within in a safe group environment. The programme will take place from Friday 15th February 2008 to Sunday 17th February 2008.

The Discovery programme was introduced to the Diocese of The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos by Trinidad-born Canon Neil Roach. He will serve as Facilitator of All Saints' Teen Discovery 1. The Directors for the weekend are Mrs. Betsy Ann Peterson and Ms. Jacqueline Richards, and the Youth Directors are Tonya King and Gyasi Adams.

The programme of activities is intended for Christian formation and development of the participant. As such, Canon Berkley is the Spiritual director, ensuring that the information disseminated during the weekend is acceptable. The theme for this year's Teen Discovery is 'Walk in the Light'.

The participants and chaperones will sleep at the Community Education Centre, La Fantasie Road, St. Anns. All other activities will take place at the All Saints' Memorial Hall and the All Saints' Church. The weekend begins promptly at 6:00pm on Friday evening and concludes on Sunday with a 'closing out' Church service at 3:00pm at which parents, guardians, godparents, sponsors and well-wishers will be present.

Parishioners are invited to support the youth of All Saints' by

completing the forms found in today's bulletin and submitting them to the Directors, Youth Directors or the Church Office. You will soon be advised of the cost of sponsoring a candidate and if you would like to assist in any other way, please do not hesitate to approach us.

The weekend will provide the young people of our parish with an opportunity to participate in group activities within a supportive parish community, experience music, friendship and prayer. Throughout the weekend we will invite God's presence in everyday situations. Please pray with us that each person will experience God's love and mercy, and discover his/her God-given gifts and how to use them in a positive way.

SAINTS ALIVE! thanks Betsy Ann Peterson for this information.

SAINTS' PASSAGES

DECEMBER 2007

BAPTISMS

Katherine Julia Ann Skinner	December 2
Aaliyah Melodie Daphne Duke	December 2
Kimberly Aimée Jessica Morais	December 2
Nicholas Noreiga	December 2
Cassie Akeisha Browne (Adult)	December 9
Osaye Ezekiel Zion Wikson	December 16

WEDDINGS

Josonia Cabral + Floyd Lashley	December 9
Janine O'Neil + Eron Hackshaw	December 23
Velma Beache + Andrew Cummings	December 29
Denise Peters + Kurline Bridgewater	December 29
Carlason Catterson + Kevin Carlow	December 29
Sarah Jane Peterson + Musheer Kamau	December 30
Kathy Ann Phillip + John Gloud	December 31

FUNERALS

Harold Macintyre	December 11
Elijah Javan Jonathon	December 18
Terry Roger Ali	December 18
Marjorie Mottley	December 22
Ena Theodora Parris	December 28

MEMORIAL

Sylvia Eleanor Beckles	December 28
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EDUCATION SUNDAY



WHAT IS 'EDUCATION SUNDAY'?

Each year, the ninth Sunday before Easter which, this year falls today, January 20th, is celebrated as Education Sunday in England and Wales. Education Sunday is promoted by an ecumenical steering group in association with the Churches' Joint Education Policy Committee and most of the main Christian Churches, including Anglican, are associated with this national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR EDUCATION SUNDAY

'Follow me', is the call of Jesus to every one of us, to be shaped by the values of God's kingdom and to become new people. In responding to that call, we learn about the world and our place in it, who we are now and what we might become. And beyond the roles we may have in the home or workplace, the call to us as followers is always to something greater, to share in God's plan for redeeming the world.

Teachers offer particular gifts to the world. In committing themselves, in their chosen field, to nurturing and realising the potential of people of all ages, they echo Jesus' own ministry of teaching and service – informing, as he did, but also affirming, challenging and even provoking. Teachers not only accompany us on journeys of discovery about the world, they help us deal with the things we discover about ourselves as we travel.

For Christians, teaching can be a particularly fulfilling way of following Christ's call, in which faith can be truly integrated into a professional role. Teachers have the privilege to be a power for good in society, developing understanding of ourselves and the world, celebrating the wonders of creation and exploring the whole range of human experience and cultural difference.

Learning about ourselves and the world leads us to a clearer understanding of our divine origin and destiny. Teachers who have faith can be assured that they are working to show God's glory to the world.

On Education Sunday, we celebrate all teachers and the ways and the ways in which we all teach and learn. As we learn and grow, we are being called by Christ into fullness of life.

SAINTS ALIVE! asks if it would be useful to set aside one Sunday each year and celebrate it as 'Education Sunday' in our Diocese? Would it find resonance with other denominations? Perhaps All Saints' might wish to pilot such a project? Or are these rhetorical questions?

SAINTS ALIVE! is grateful to the Education Sunday Steering Group for this information.

SAINTS ALIVE! comes to you from the Anglican Parish of All Saints', Port of Spain & Chapel of Ease, Maraval, Trinidad. Reach us at 868-627-7004 and visit our website – www.allsaintschurchtt.org

BEATITUDES FOR TEACHERS

Blessed are you who are called to teach, for you walk in the footsteps of the Master.

Blessed are you who sow peace and harmony in the staffroom, yours will be the joy of the Lord.

Blessed are you who plant seeds of hope in youthful hearts, for you will inherit the dawn.

Blessed are you who are sensitive to the cries of youth today, for they yearn for the coming of the Kingdom.

Blessed are you when you anguish now because your students are difficult, for one day they will thank you for your loving concern.

Blessed are you when efficiency is moderated by compassion and empathy, for the deeper secret of education is yours.

Blessed are you when you reach out to me in your students, for you will surely find me and rejoice.

Blessed are you who lead young people in the paths of justice and peace, for you will shine like stars for all eternity.

A PRAYER FOR WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING

Teach me, O my Lord Jesus, instruct me that I may learn from Thee what I ought to teach concerning Thee.

*Anglican Archbishop William Laud
(1573-1645)*

THE APOSTLES CREED - IN PICTURES
TEACHING THEOLOGY THROUGH ART

When a priest led a four week Lenten Bible study at his church using fine art to illustrate the Passion story he was taken aback by the response—those who usually talked fell silent while those who were usually quiet, talked.

We all have different learning styles and many of us are visual learners. Certainly even auditory and print learners probably appreciate some visual reinforcement. A leader should use various methods to teach the faith. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" after all. Here are several examples of how art can reinforce the text:

A weekend retreat stressing God's mercy and forgiveness was more powerful after a large poster of Rembrandt's The Return of the Prodigal Son was displayed behind the speaker.

Pictures of Albert Durer's woodcuts on Revelation were used successfully to hold the interest of both teens at a Christian camp and adults in a Bible study group.

Some clergy use fine art power-point presentations for their sermons, helping their congregations 'see' Jesus. It will also seem less business-like or academic for those who have plenty of wordy power-point presentations during the week.

A developmentally delayed student in a class happily added

fire to a chalk board illustration of tabernacle sacrifice and smoke to the pillar that led the Israelites by day.

An Advent workshop included not only Advent hymns and prayers and how-to-build an advent wreath, but also Russian icons of the Virgin of Tenderness and the Nativity of Christ. It was noted that even though the Virgin Mary did not seem to make eye contact with her child, it was not out of disinterest but because she was caught up in wonder and contemplation, pondering what his birth meant. In the Nativity icons instead of a wooden stall for the animals we see a cave. Animals were not kept in buildings until the Middle Ages. The cave with its black centre foreshadows Christ's burial, while his swaddling clothes remind us of his burial shroud. So in contemplating Christ's birth we are also enabled to contemplate his burial and eventual resurrection.

The traditional approach to the Passion is to use the Stations of the Cross, a series of 14 pictures or carvings which depict incidents in the last journey of Christ before his death. They are commonly arranged around the interior walls of a church so parishioners can pray or meditate at each one during Holy Week. The devotion arose out of the practice by pilgrims to Jerusalem of following the route from Pilate's house to the garden tomb. If your church does not have such stations perhaps the Sunday school or youth group or

artists in the congregation could be commissioned to create them during Lent. You might want to add images of the Resurrection and Ascension as well and even of Pentecost.

When teaching older children or teens, have two or three who are good artists or who like to draw illustrate your lesson. Give them large flip-chart-sized poster paper and good pencils. This is doubly effective if they are students who are prone to acting up. Entrusted with a real but enjoyable responsibility, they will win the admiration of their peers and enrich your theme. Even though they are busy drawing they can still take in what you are saying.

The Apostles' Creed can be taught, in part, by illustrating each phrase by a work of art. I used this approach with some young Cubs as they worked on their Religion-in-Life badge. The boys were nine and ten-year-olds, some churching, some unchurched but all keen to earn the voluntary badge. First I colour-photocopied about twenty images which the boys had to match with the correct printed phrases and put in the right order. Some phrases like "born of the Virgin Mary" or "crucified" were easy to find illustrated in Sunday school art and children's story Bibles. These pictures were easy to grasp. For "I believe in the Holy Spirit" we used an image of a dove; for "the forgiveness of sins," the prodigal son being embraced by his father. However, illustrations of 'was buried'

TO LOVE GOD AND TO USE HIS GIFTS TO HIS GLORY

'descended to the dead' and 'seated at the right hand of the Father' were much harder to locate. I had to search fine art books for images but when I used them the children still responded positively. Even though we had to work a bit harder in decoding them, they generally offered more detail than the Sunday school images and so became more rewarding. We discovered in Johanne Koerbecke's fifteenth century painting of the Ascension that Christ's footprints were still fresh on the hill. When we looked at an icon of the Descent into Hell we saw not only Christ pulling Adam and Eve out of their graves but we could also detect the devil bound with numerous locks and chains beneath Christ's pierced feet.

The badge work occurred over four weeks so I gradually introduced more complex artwork for each phrase, using both classical and contemporary art. This helped the Cubs understand that there was not one hard and fast way of portraying an event or concept, no

one culture or style that was right. I would sometimes ask which image they preferred, but I didn't suggest that one was necessarily better than another--just different.

The same set of art reproductions were also used to teach the Apostles' Creed to a grade 5 & 6 Sunday school class as well as with teens in a confirmation class and by other teens at a summer camp.

Look around your Sunday school classrooms. If the only

visuals are signage about fire exits, food allergies and what to do when someone chokes, your students are being visually deprived. Certainly some of their own art work should be displayed but go further and display not only the visuals that the curriculum supplies but also some fine art reproductions as well. And change them at least each season. Even if you are in temporary quarters, try to create an interesting visual impact on a portable board or table.

You don't need a degree in art history to use art to supplement Christian teaching, but it would help to do a little reading on the imagery ahead of time. Most Western Christians will need to brush up on icons, especially. However, you and those you teach will all be the richer for it.

*From Sue Careless, 'The Anglican Planet' (January 2008). Once again, **SAINTS ALIVE!** records its gratitude to 'The Anglican Planet'.*

This article will surely resonate with our teachers who, these days, are steeped in **Multiple Intelligences theory!**

'The Anglican Planet' recommended www.lectionarycentral.com for links to religious fine art. However, on visiting this site, **SAINTS ALIVE!** discovered so much more there, in a very user friendly format and on a Sunday by Sunday basis. There are the lectionary readings, the collects, commentaries and further reading and visual material. We now wish to recommend this as our **WEBSITE OF THE MONTH.**

LOVE...

If there could be one thing in life for me to teach you,
I would teach you to love...
To respect others so that you may find respect in yourself;
To learn the value of giving,
so that if ever there comes a time
in your life that someone really needs,
you will give;
To act in a manner that you would wish to be treated;
To be proud of yourself;
To laugh and smile as much as you can,
in order to help bring joy back into this world;
To have faith in others;
To be understanding...

To stand tall in this world and learn to depend on yourself
To only take from this earth those things you really need,
so there will be enough for others.

Do not depend on money, material things for your
happiness,

But learn to appreciate the people who love you,
the simple beauty that God gave and to
find peace and security within yourself.

To you, my child, I hope I have taught
all of these things,
for they are love.

*SAINTS ALIVE! acknowledges with
thanks the anonymous author of this lovely verse.*



THE BLUE RIBBON - WHO I AM MAKES A DIFFERENCE

A teacher decided to honour her High School students by telling them the difference each had made. She called each student to the front of the class, one at a time. First, she told each of them how they had made a difference to her, and the class. Then she presented each of them with a blue ribbon, imprinted with gold letters, which read, *'Who I Am Makes a Difference'*.

Afterwards, the teacher decided to do a class project, to see what kind of impact recognition would have on a Community. She gave each of the students three more blue ribbons, and instructed them to go out and spread this acknowledgement ceremony. They were to follow up on the results, see who honoured whom, and report to the class.

One of the boys in the class went to a junior executive in a nearby company and honoured him for helping him with his career planning. He pinned a blue ribbon on his shirt. Then he gave him two extra ribbons and said, 'We're doing a class project on recognition, and we'd like you to go out, find somebody to honour, give them a blue ribbon, then give them the extra blue ribbon so they can acknowledge a third person, to keep this acknowledgment ceremony going. Then please report back to me and tell me what happened.'

Later that day, the junior executive went in to see his boss, a grouchy fellow. He sat his boss down, and he told him that he deeply admired him for being a creative genius. The boss seemed very surprised. The junior executive asked him if he would accept the gift of the blue ribbon, and would he give him permission to put it on him His surprised boss said, 'Well, sure.' The junior executive took the blue ribbon and placed it right on his boss's jacket, above his heart. As he gave him the last extra ribbon, he said, 'Would you take this extra ribbon, and pass it on by honouring somebody else. The young boy who first gave me the ribbons is doing a project in school, and we want to keep this recognition ceremony going and find out how it affects people.'

That night, the boss came home to his 14-year-old son, and sat him down. He said, 'The most incredible thing happened to me today. I was in my office, and one of the junior executives came in and told me he admired me, and gave me a blue ribbon for being a creative genius. Imagine! He thinks I am a creative genius! Then he put a blue ribbon that says *Who I Am Makes a Difference*, on my jacket above my heart. He gave me an extra ribbon and asked me to find somebody else to honour. As I was driving home tonight, I started thinking about whom I would honour with this ribbon, and I thought about you. I want to honour you. My days are hectic and when I come home, I do not pay a lot of attention to you. Sometimes I scream at you for not getting good enough grades in school, and for your bedroom being a mess. Somehow, tonight, I just wanted to sit here and, well, just let you know that you do make a difference to me. Besides your mother, you are the most important person in my life. You're A great kid, and I love you!'

The startled boy started to sob and sob, and he could not stop crying. His whole body shook. He looked up at his father and said through his tears, 'Dad, earlier tonight I sat in my room and wrote a letter to you and Mom, explaining why I had taken my life, and I asked you to forgive me. I was going to commit suicide tonight after you were asleep. I just did not think that you cared at all. The letter is upstairs. I don't think I need it after all.' His father walked upstairs and found a heartfelt letter full of anguish and pain.

The boss went back to work a changed man. He was no longer a grouch, but made sure to let all of his employees know that they made a difference. The junior executive helped several other young people with career planning, and never forgot to let them know that they made a difference in his life...one being the boss' son. In addition, the young boy and his classmates learned a valuable lesson, 'Who you are DOES make a difference

***TO ALL OUR TEACHERS, BELIEVE THAT YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
MAY GOD BLESS, GUIDE AND STRENGTHEN YOU!***