

SAINTS ALIVE!

Pentecost 3, May 25th 2008

Volume 3 Number 7

Dear Parishioner,

I greet you in the power of the Holy Spirit. Last Sunday, May 11th, the Day of Pentecost was observed by the Christian Church across the world. It was also Mother's Day and due recognition was given to mothers, in many cases at the expense of the encounter and experience of the Holy Spirit. I mention this in an effort to keep alive the importance of the Spirit in the life of the church and in our individual circumstances. The catechism (BCP pp. 398-399) gives an outline of our thinking of the Holy Spirit, but there is much more. We are a Holy Spirit people, having been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and having had a strengthening of that same Spirit in us through the laying on of hands at confirmation.

The Spirit is God, in 'Macquarrien' terms, a mode of being of God – same substance, different person in respect of the role. But, one does not exist without the other and so we have a mystery. The Spirit maintains, strengthens and where need be, restores the unity of God with His people. This is crucial since such unity is always under threat. So the Spirit empowers, enables, distributes gifts and works for the building up of the community. Pentecost then is a good time for renewing this presence within and among us so that we can continue God's mission with boldness. Many years ago, this parish of All Saints developed this Day of Renewal to ensure that the observance of the Day of Pentecost would be purposeful. The Day of Renewal is now a diocesan event which brings this emphasis to a wider community. The renewal Committee works hard and we must congratulate them for another fulfilling

event. We must also continue to pray for them and for those who would like to be a part of this life giving group, bearing in mind that the renewal of the church is imperative and must not lose momentum. This year they asked us to consider that 'Our God is an AWESOME GOD.' Certainly, we can do awesome things through him who strengthens us.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Special Events Committee for their work in putting together the Family Day. Thanks also to all parishioners for your support in terms of time, talent and treasure. It was a splendid effort by the entire parish family.

I drew to your attention in the last issue, that there were some challenges in respect of the rebuilding of the Parish Hall. We have since received formal notice of refusal to grant permission to develop land because of limited parking and facilities for physically disabled employees and visitors – ramps, access to upper floors, washrooms, corridors and doorways by wheel chair users. Also, a survey plan is needed; along with a deed; a record of all existing development on the proposed plot for calculation of floor area ratio and so on.

A team of parishioners have taken up the matter and have begun to look at various strategies for bringing a speedy, inexpensive resolution to this challenge. Please lift up the proposed plans for the new hall in your prayers. Similarly, twenty nine newly confirmed parishioners should be added to your prayers and your care and nurture.

We look forward eagerly to Bible Month and our sharing in the Word.

Yours respectfully,
Canon C. Berkley.



TO LOVE GOD AND TO USE HIS GIFTS TO HIS GLORY

Letter from the Editors.

Dear Fellow-Parishioners,

Last month was our first attempt at the Saints' Alive journal and we anticipated some form of feedback, especially since we made a deliberate and very obvious mistake on the very first page of the Journal. Only one person mentioned it and we want to congratulate Miss Gabriella Thomas for noticing that the date was duplicated. We hope that this is an indication of the congregation's generosity of spirit in overlooking our novice attempt rather than an indication that no one has bothered to read it. It is our intention to include a deliberate error in each issue of the Journal. The first person who draws it to our attention by submitting it to our e-mail address or to the office will be publicly congratulated and receive a small token of appreciation. We hope that we shall be inundated with entries this month. We are also inviting more contributions and suggestions from the members of the congregation.

*This is **our** Journal and we need to make it relevant to us and the only way that will be achieved is if we all contribute in some fashion: recipes, upcoming events, profiles of our groups*

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*and members of the congregation, articles about events which have occurred – Family Day, Day of Renewal, a particularly stirring sermon. Send your contribution / suggestion to our email address **sajournal@hotmail.com** and please ensure that you include your name and a contact number.*

Finally, we are inviting you to send us your email addresses and we will email you a personal copy of the Saints Alive. You can also include addresses for family and friends abroad who may wish to keep up with all the ongoing activities here at the All Parish. Let us do our part to conserve the rainforest by reducing the number of print copies we need to produce and using the technology available to us. This is the age of the computer and we should make full use of it.

SAINTS PASSAGES APRIL 2008

Baptisms:

6th: Elijah Sterling Chandra BOODHU -
27th: JeanMarc ROUSE

Weddings :

19th: John Elli MOTTLEY & Natalie Ann SMITH

Funerals :

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1st: Erie DEMAS
24th: Trevor CARRINGTON
28th: Cassandra CHOW
29th: Gilbert WELLS-BAIN

the Father's will. And the Spirit sustains and empowers us as we strive to do just that.

The Day of Renewal

The speaker at the Anglican Day of Renewal this year was our own Canon Berkley, who dealt with the theme "*Our God is an awesome God*" in three talks focussing in turn on the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This article will be coming out on Trinity Sunday and if some of what follows is duplicated in the sermon this Sunday, so much the better – it bears repeating.

Canon Berkley started out by making it clear that "awesome" here is not the "cool" of youth-speak but has to do with the attitude of respect and reverence with which we should approach God. Yes, he is the God who loves us and reaches out to us, but for all that he is not "mi pardner". Immanent and transcendent, he is here but we can't grab him. Mysterious, tremendous and fascinating, the face of God the Father is shown in the Old Testament as a radiance too bright to look at (Exodus 33). And yet he is a God who cares and provides for his people (Exodus 16 & 17) and empowers them to do His work. We saw how in Judges 6 Gideon, cowering in the wine-press and full of excuses as to why he could not save Israel from the Midianites, was nevertheless empowered to do God's work.

And as with the Father, so also with the Son and the Spirit. They are the same God, you don't get one without the other two being there also, but they have different roles or modes.

The Father is the creator. The Son is the redeemer, who shows us also by example what it means to be a disciple and committed to doing

Or do we? Too many people are happy to complain without doing anything about it, or are too busy, or think that in doing work for the church they are doing God and the priest a favour. Or they come to church for entertainment, not realising that if they came to worship God and focus on Him they would get far more.

We all laughed as Canon spoke of such things, recognising the portrait of the people in the next pew in our home churches. But to look in the mirror? Later that very day I started to complain that the closing Mass had run over time – and had to catch and stop myself right there!

Because the renewal that the Anglican Church needs is for us to return to true worship, not thinking we are doing God a favour. The church needs Anglicans obedient to God and committed to doing His work. None of us can hide; we are all expected to bear fruit. And each of us can do it, the Lord being our helper. And those last five words are important. It is no good being "mannish" and thinking we can do it ourselves. Faith is an attitude of acceptance, commitment and striving, attuned to the God who created, redeems and empowers us. Let us open ourselves to the Spirit so that breath of God can blow fresh air through our church. He certainly blew through the hall at Bishop Anstey East last Saturday. At one point the lady sitting next to me delved into her bag and came up with a tambourine, whereupon the friend who came with me turned out to have been walking with a concealed chac-chac. You never knew Anglicans could be like that? Come next year and see for yourself.

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revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

Answers to last month's Quiz

1 - Genesis 4 : 20-23 Goldfish

2 - Genesis 8 : 4 Ararat

3 - Genesis 3 : 24 Cherub# 4 - Genesis 17 : 5 Abram

5 - Genesis 35 : 23-26 Hezekiah

Mother's Day Humour

Things My Mother Taught Me

- My mother taught me RELIGION - "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
- My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL - "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
- My mother taught me LOGIC - "Because I said so, that's why."
- My mother taught me FORESIGHT - "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
- My mother taught me IRONY - "Keep laughing and I'll give you something to cry about."
- My mother taught me about WEATHER - "It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."
- My mother taught me THE CIRCLE OF LIFE - "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."
- My mother taught me about ENVY - "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do!"

White Hair

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this

Famous Mothers in the Bible - Quiz

1. Ruth has her own book in the Bible. Who was her mother-in-law?

- Orpha
- Naomi
- Esther

2. John the Baptist - He prepared the way for the Lord. Who was his mother?

- Mary
- Elizabeth.
- Bathsheba

3. Cain killed his brother Able. Who was their mother?

- Hannah
- Sapphira
- Eve

4. Abraham is called the father of the Jewish nation. Who would be the mother?

- Sarah
- Miriam
- Hagar

5. Who was the mother of Solomon, the wisest mortal who ever lived?

- Daniel
- Bathsheba
- Priscilla

6. What famous mother is known, among other things, for her answer to the angel Gabriel. 'I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.'

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- ☐ Jezebel
- ☐ Mary of Nazareth
- ☐ Bathsheba

Answers posted online.

We asked some of our 9-11 yr. olds what was the best thing about their mothers and this is what they had to say:

Denisha (9) - *My mother loves me no matter what even when I get her mad. She is the best mom in the world.*

Aurora (10) - *My mother is loving and also very hardworking.*

Jessica (10) - *My mother is a loving person who cares for me.*

Stephon (10) - *My mother is the greatest thing in the world nothing can replace her.*

Kyron (10) - *My mom is fun and she buys a lot of stuff for me that is why I love her.*

Kyle (11) - *My mother is very loving and helps us when we are in need*

Blessed is the mother who guides by the path of righteousness, for she shall be proud of her offspring; Blessed is the mother who teaches respect for she shall be respected; Blessed is the mother who emphasises the good and corrects the bad for in like

manner her child shall make wise decisions

Blessed is the mother who answers directly the startling questions for she shall always be trusted

Blessed is the mother who has character strong enough to withstand the thoughtless remarks and resentments of the growing child; for again in due time she shall be honoured.

Mothers Union Prayer Book

Questions Children ask about the Bible.

Ascension

Q. Why did Jesus go up to Heaven instead of staying here on Earth?

A. Jesus is the Son of God, and His home is in Heaven. He left His Father (and His

home) to become a human being and live on the earth, so it's quite natural that Jesus would leave the earth and go back home. Jesus also went to prepare a place for us. Although He left us, He sent the Holy Spirit to take His place and stay with us. Reference: John 14: 2-3

Pentecost

Q. Why didn't the tongues of fire on the Apostles' heads burn them?

A. The tongues of fire that appeared on the heads of the disciples (after Jesus had gone back to heaven)

symbolised the Holy Spirit who had come into their lives. The "tongues" weren't mouth-tongues, but tongues of fire. This "fire" wasn't real fire that burns things; it looked like fire, so that's how people described it.

Everyone watching knew that something very special was happening. And when they listened, they heard their own language being spoken by people who hadn't learned the language. It was obvious that God was speaking through these people.

Reference: Acts 2:1-13

A Mother's Beatitudes

Blessed is the mother who understands her child, for she shall inherit the kingdom of memory

Blessed is the mother who knows how to comfort for she shall possess a child's devotion;

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Common sayings from the Bible



Someone is said to go through "a baptism of fire" if they're launched into a new job or a new situation in a very abrupt way. To change the metaphor, they're thrown in at the deep end. So where does the original baptism of fire come from?

John the Baptist was a fiery preacher who was active right at the start of Jesus' public ministry. He baptized people in the River Jordan, and famously predicted that someone even more fiery than him was about to arrive on the scene...

I am just baptizing with water. But someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will **baptize you** with the Holy Spirit and **with fire.**"

Luke 3:16

Bible month is almost here, so break out the vitamin and other health supplements, increase your fish consumption and sharpen both your pencils and your wits in preparation for it. To further help your preparation, the Bible Month team has provided the following information.

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life.
Book of Common Prayer (1662), Collects

Word Search

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Acts | A S K T A N D P E T E R L |
| Colossians | I T S H I S E M A J W U H |
| Corinthians | A P C E L M A R K E K L B |
| Ephesians | H H O S E G O I H E V E S |
| Galatians | E I L S N A I T A L A G N |
| Hebrews | B L O A N Y T O H U S J A |
| James John | R E S L E A E K A Y N U M |
| Jude | E M S O M D N H O J Y D O |
| Luke | W O I N O I T A L E V E R |
| Mark | S N A I H T N I R O C E A |
| Matthew | S S N A I P P I L I H P C |
| Peter | H A S N L L S U T I T F T |
| Philemon | I N D S E P H E S I A N S |
| Philippians | |
| Revelation | |
| Romans | |
| Thessalonians | |
| Timothy | |
| Titus | |

Find the Bible books that have been hidden in the grid, **then** read the quotation from Matthew 7:7

This year we will be doing a bible study—*De-mystifying The Revelation to John.*

A Daily bible readings guide will be provided and there will be an opportunity for sharing during “Revelation Time” in the Sunday services.

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To get you started here is the overview of the book—please try to read the entire book before the Bible Study starts.

An Overview

Title: “Revelation” is from the Greek word apokalupsis which means, “a disclosure, an unveiling.” The book of Revelation is an unveiling of the character and programme of God.

Author: The author of Revelation called himself “John” (1:4, 9; 22:8). He was a prophet (22:9) and a leader who was known in the churches of Asia Minor to whom he writes (1:4). Revelation indicates a similarity with the Gospel of John, employing words that are common to both: word, lamb, witness, true, overcome, dwell, fountain of living waters and others. Life revealed

The Purpose: The stated purpose of Revelation is to reveal Jesus Christ (1:1): His person, His power and His plan for the future.

The Theme: Central to the book is the existence, power, sovereignty, justice, wisdom and goodness of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Date and Origin: The traditional view for the date of Revelation is during the reign of Emperor Domitian (A.D. 81-96). The early church fathers affirmed this and most scholars since have agreed. The date has been traditionally set at between A.D. 94-96 (during the final and most severe years of Domitian’s reign). It is likely that John wrote Revelation during his exile on the island of Patmos.

Key Ideas: The book opens and closes with similar ideas and phrases, among them are the words of Jesus, “I am coming soon” (1:1-8; 22:12-21). In between, the book deals with vivid descriptions of God’s judgments on sin.

Key Verses: Revelation 1:7: “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen” (cf. Revelation 19:11-16). Revelation 1:19: “Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.”

Key Words: Two key words are repeated throughout the whole letter. They are “lamb” (29 times) and “throne” (47 times). The dual ideas of sacrificial atonement and God’s sovereignty and judgment dominate the letter. Four numbers also play a significant role throughout Revelation: “seven” (55 times), “four” (29 times), “twelve” (23 times) and “ten” (9 times).

Key Note:

There are no formal quotations from the Old Testament, however there are many allusions. Bible students have found between 250-550 Old Testament allusions in the book of Revelation.

Nutshell Outline:

Introduction (1:1-20)

Letters to the seven churches in Asia (2:1-3:22)

Visions of the end of this age and the new heaven and earth (4:1-22:5)

Conclusion (22:6-21)

Importance:

Revelation, like all Scripture, is “profitable” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Revelation reveals Jesus Christ like no other book (Revelation 1-22).

Revelation deals with “things, which must soon take place” (Revelation 1:1).

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Revelation is the one book that promises a blessing to all who will read it (Revelation 1:3).
Revelation contains unique warnings and challenges to the church (Revelation 2:1-3:22).
Revelation discloses conditions that will be present in the end-times (Revelation 6:1-19:21).
Revelation is NOT to be sealed up (Revelation 22:10)

Christ In Revelation:

Since Revelation is “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” it demonstrates His glory, wisdom and power (1:1-20), and portrays His authority over the church (2:1-3:21) and His power and right to judge the world (5:1-19:21). But as the revelation of Christ, it is loaded with descriptive titles. In particular, it describes Jesus Christ (1:1) as:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| The faithful witness (1:5) | He who is holy, who is true (3:7) | The Word of God (19:13) |
| The firstborn from the dead (1:5) | The Amen (3:14) | King of Kings and Lord of Lords (19:16) |
| The ruler over the kings of the earth (1:5) | The Beginning of the creation of God (3:14) | The Alpha and the Omega(22:13) |
| The Son of Man (1:13) | The Lion that is from the tribe of Judah (5:5) | The beginning and the end (22:13) |
| The first and the last (1:17) | The Root of David (5:5) | The bright morning Star (22:16) |
| The living One (1:18) | The Root of David (5:5) | The Lord Jesus (22:21). |
| The Son of God (2:18) | A Lamb (5:6) | |

The Chapel of Ease

*The road to the chapel is icy.
So is the road to the tavern, but I shall walk carefully.*
Russian proverb

Those from Port of Spain and points east and west who think that the Chapel of Ease is inaccessibly distant would do well to consider that it is, after all, only a fraction of the way to Maracas. It’s on the bend before you get to the Morne Coco Road gas station, which for many is the last stop for ice on the way to the beach.

If you would rather spot your landmarks in advance, the Chapel is the building like a jelly mould with a cross on top which you glimpse behind the cell tower shortly after the WASA reservoir. The gateway is round the next corner.

Once through the gateway, the stress of the twisting road is over and you are in another world. The driveway ahead of you runs straight up towards a towering wall of hills, while the Chapel lies off to your right, set amid flowering shrubs and a lawn which is green even in the dry season. This is a church which gives new meaning to hymns like “*I come to garden alone*” and “*Morning has broken*”.

And if the church is in a garden, the garden is also in the church. On most Sundays, thanks to Winnie Bowen, Lucille Walker and Mary Noel, you would think that there was going to be a wedding. Even in Lent and Advent it is bright with variegated foliage. “God doesn’t stop the trees growing” says Winnie, and His house reflects her love of His handiwork.

Built in the early 1970’s, the Chapel was designed for the 21st century. Instead of the traditional nave and chancel, it is almost circular (in fact, a ten-sided polygon) with a kitchen opening through a broad hatch directly onto the central area. The intention of the architect was that if necessary the altar and rails could be whisked away into the robing room behind the curtain, leaving the main area free to serve whatever purpose the community needs. Chairs rather than pews mean that the seating arrangements are also potentially flexible.

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The potential is still unrealised. The heavy weight of Anglican tradition lies on the congregation. Instead of facing each other with the altar in the middle, we all sit facing forwards. And on social Sundays after the service, instead of gathering round the kitchen counter and passing each other whatever comes to hand, we all stay sitting in our own little seats, waiting to be served a pre-packed plate.

Isn't it time we were forward-looking instead of forward-facing? Perhaps we should go Gospel on Youth Sundays. What do you think?

Roberta White
