



The Tablet

St. David's Episcopal Church

90 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512

609-655-4731 www.stdavidscanbury.com FAX 609-655-4732
office@stdavidscanbury.com

March 2006

Vol. 37, Number 3

Sunday Morning Services:

**8:00 Eucharist I
9:45 Eucharist II**

Wednesday Morning Service

**9:15 Holy Euch.
And Healing**

**Rector: The Rev.
Karin R. Mitchell**

**Associate: The
Rev. Richard
Cromwell**

**Deacon: The Rev.
Robert W.
Thomas**

**Pastoral Care:
Brother John
Baptist, OSF**

**Office Assistant:
Debra Ribardo**

**Musician:
Camilla Jarnot**

Dear Friends,

Lent is upon us. This coming Wednesday we will come to church, and with the smell of pancakes and sausage still present in the hallways and kitchen, begin our observance of a good and holy Lent as God's people. We will be marked with a sign of our own mortality, marked with black ash in the sign of the cross. I hope that many of you will include our Lenten Series beginning March 8 and the Stations of the Cross beginning on March 3 in your Lenten discipline.

How *do* we as Christians observe a Holy Lent? I think that that answer varies according to time, culture, and learned tradition. In our lifetime this has often meant "giving up" various extras from our daily lives, fasting, penance and/or attending daily worship services to name a few traditions.

Lately the emphasis has shifted somewhat from "giving up" to "taking on". By that I mean taking on an additional observance in Christ's name. This observance could be the daily reading of sacred texts, such as the Bible or the Daily Office, or spiritually challenging/uplifting materials such as Forward Day by Day, religious websites or other writings. This observance could be volunteering your time to help others or saving your extra change to donate to a worthy cause such as Episcopal Relief and Development or the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. This observance could be attending your church Lenten series, the Stations of the Cross and/or making sure you are in church every Sunday. This observance could be spending time in prayer every day.

I am sure that each of you could add to this list if asked, I am equally sure that each of you could include something from this list to your daily lives this Lent. Try something and if it doesn't work, try something else, but don't give up. Start small, but by all means start somewhere. Our God does not give up on us, and through Jesus Christ we are given the grace and the strength not to give up on ourselves.

My prayer for each of us is that we are given the gift of time and perseverance so that we may make a commitment to God and to ourselves to make this Lent truly holy.

God's blessing,

Karin+

Wizened Webcherub

If you stop by the St. David's web site (<http://www.StDavidsCranbury.com>) you'll find a growing amount of information there. The Tablet is available (in COLOR) as a PDF file, as is the calendar for the month, and the lay participation schedule. They can be viewed on-line or printed using the free Adobe Reader. The usher's schedule is also available on-line. Thanks to Harry Ruhl, Charles Fischer, and our Tablet editor and Kalendar-Keeper, Debi Ribardo for providing me the info in a suitable electronic format. John Aveni has the job of keeping the J2A section updated. Thanks, John!

If you would like to see a new feature added to the web site, drop me an email at WebCherub@StDavidsCranbury.com and we can discuss how we can work together to publish it. If you have either digital pictures, or scans of the old-fashioned film pictures of a St. David's event, send the best ones to me, along with a description and I'll try to format it for the web.

St. David's Webcherub

Scouts Reminder

Don't forget that Sunday, March 5th is Scout Sunday! We will celebrate and honor the scouts and scout leaders of St. David's at the 9:45 service. Please remember to wear your uniforms with all your regalia!

Ash Wednesday Services

March 1, 2006

7:00 am

12:00 Noon

7:30 pm

What is J2A up to?

The most recent accomplishment of J2A was raising over \$600 dollars at this years Souper Bowl! We would like to thank the parish for their help and for their generous donations.

On February 28, 2006 the church held the annual pancake supper and J2A helped out with the event.

We will be doing a major project on the nursery this March. It will include re-painting the room and replacing some of the toys. Everyone that participates in J2A have signed up to help; we are hoping for a huge improvement in the nursery. The dates we will be doing this work are 3/5, 3/10 and 3/11.

A major event is coming up in May; junior high will be having their Rite 13 service. They are beginning to prepare for that now.

Senior High is discussing important issues from the curriculum and will be helping the Junior High group with their Rite 13 service.

Samantha Doult



During the season of Lent the rector will be offering the Laying on of Hands and Anointing with oil before each Sunday worship service. At about five minutes before the service begins, an announcement will be made that "all those who wish to receive the Laying on of Hands please come forward" to the altar step. The sign of the cross will be made on your forehead and the following prayer will be said over you; "I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with his grace, that you may know the healing power of his love (BCP 456). It is hoped that you will find this to be a source of spiritual and physical healing and renewal as you journey through Lent.

Bits and Pieces

It is not too late to sign up for our Lenten Soup Supper Series which **begins on Wednesday, March 8**. We will be using a series entitled "Blessed are You: Overcoming Evil with Good" written by Joan Chittister, OSB. We will meet in Bishop Croes Hall at 6 pm for a simple supper of soup, bread, salad and dessert and will discuss the weekly readings from scripture and from Sister Joan. Please bring bread, salad or dessert to share if you are able to. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex or you may email or call the office to register.



The rector will be away on Silent Retreat beginning **Tuesday, March 7 through Thursday, March 9**. During this time, Brother John Baptist (609-936-0149) and The Rev. Linda Carlson-Scholer (609-306-6614) will be on call for pastoral emergencies or you may leave a message on the office voicemail. The Rev. Carlson-Scholer will be the celebrant at our Wednesday morning Eucharist and Brother John Baptist will be leading the soup supper discussion on Wednesday evening in the rector's absence.



There will be a meeting of all Church School teachers on **Sunday, March 11** after the 9:45 service. Lunch will be provided. Please speak to our superintendent, Gwen Lockhart or the rector if you have any questions.



On **Sunday, March 19**, the Diocesan Youth Director will be joining us at our worship services as our guest preacher. Our young people will be providing special music in his honor and you are invited to stay for coffee hour to meet him and hear about his plans for the youth ministry of our diocese.



On **April 2, 2006** The Right Reverend G.P. Mellick Belshaw will be with us for a service of Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation with the Holy Eucharist at the 9:45 a.m. service. We have a large class of young people from our J2A program that will be confirmed by the bishop. If you are over 16 years of age and would like to be confirmed, received or make a reaffirmation of your faith, adult inquirers classes will be held on two evenings; Wednesday, March 15 & Tuesday, March 21 at 8 pm. Please call the office or speak to the rector if you are interested in finding out more about our church and exploring a new commitment to it.

Our Gracious Thank You to...

Russell Beaulieu for the beautiful paint job in our women's restroom and for the additions to our sign out in front of the church.

Angela Holman and Camilla Jarnot for all their efforts to be sure our St. David's Day celebration was full of grace and beauty.

Gioia York, Marcia Ruhl and Marilyn Fischer for their work organizing and sorting our library books.

The vestry for their time away at what we hope will be the first of many annual vestry retreats.

Dave Miller and Rex VanVeldhuisen for accompanying our acolytes to the Diocesan Acolyte Festival.

Greta VanVeldhuisen, Adjani Crosley, Elizabeth Kelly, Catherine Peters, and Sam Mitchell who attended the Acolyte Festival on February 4.

The Altar Guild for their care of the acolyte and Eucharistic minister vestments.

The Reverends Linda Carlson-Scholer and Susie Norris for their invitation to join the women of Grace St. Paul's, St. James' and St. Andrew's at their Women's Lenten Retreat Day.

Outreach at Trinity Cathedral Academy

Did you know that our Cathedral facility in Trenton houses the Trinity Cathedral Academy School?

I was completely unaware of this important educational initiative supported in part by our own diocese until the Reverend Mitchell asked me to consider making an Outreach donation to this organization.

What is Trinity Cathedral Academy School and whom does it serve?

Trinity Cathedral Academy provides preschool through 6th grade education to 100 students. The Academy is affiliated with the accredited Trenton After School Program based at the Cathedral that extends the school day to provide enrichment experiences for its students and meet the needs of working parents.

How was the Academy founded?

The Academy was founded in 1965 through the generosity of the Very Reverend Frederick Adams and the vision of the Very Reverend Lloyd Chattin. Both Deans of the Cathedral, they believed not only in the value of excellent education, but also believed that Trenton's children had the potential to excel and thrive if they were in an academic environment that embraced and supported that potential. The school that began as Trinity Cathedral Day School nearly 40 years ago is now known as

Trinity Cathedral Academy.

How does the Academy serve its' students?

The Academy prepares the students of promise from the greater Trenton area for academic excellence, by educating and nurturing the whole child, based on the Episcopal Christian tradition.

The Academy fills an important need for residents of the Trenton area for an affordable, high quality educational environment. Evidence of this is the rapid increase in number of students over the past several years, as the Academy has made a concerted effort to reach out into the community. Generous contributions have enabled the Academy to offer financial aid to about half of its students.

This outreach and growth represent a major turnaround for the Academy. To further meet the needs of young people in Trenton, the Academy plans to add a 7th grade class in the fall of 2004, followed by expansion to the 8th grade in 2005.

How will St. David's \$500.00 donation help?

Trinity Cathedral Academy depends on the support of many people to fulfill its mission. Trinity Cathedral provides substantial support. About 20 percent of the Academy's annual budget – with another 30 percent coming from individuals, parishes and groups in the form of contributions or grants.

Carol Rodgers

Holy Week Calendar

Friday, April 7, 7:30 pm — J2A lock in weekend begins

Sunday, April 9, 8:00 am; 9:45 am — Passion Sunday, Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 12, 9:15 am — Holy Eucharist and Healing

Thursday, April 13, 6:30 pm — Maundy Thurs. Dinner & Footwashing

7:30 pm — Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 14, 12:15 pm— Good Friday Services, Cranbury United Methodist Church

Friday, April 14, 7:30 pm— Proper Liturgy for Good Friday and Vigil at the Altar of Repose

Saturday, April 15, 6:00 pm — Easter Vigil

The following article has been reprinted with permission by the author, The Reverend Frank Boyd Crumbaugh III, and was first published in the February 2006 Parish Post of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, Beach Haven.

Dear Friends:

The *Constitution and Canons* of the Episcopal Church state that any time a diocese elects a Bishop, it must obtain the consent for the person elected from the Bishops Ordinary of a majority of the dioceses of the Church, and similar consents from a majority of the diocesan standing committees. Any Bishop-elect failing to obtain a majority of both the Bishops' and the standing committees' consents may not proceed to ordination. You may ask, "So what?!?" Fair question.

The *Constitution and Canons* of the Episcopal Church *also state* that in years when there is a General Convention (*like this one, 2006*), any Bishop elected within 120 days of the beginning of the General Convention (*this year, our 75th General Convention, 13 – 21 June 2006, in Columbus, Ohio*) does not obtain consents from the several Bishops and standing committees, but instead receives the canonical consents from the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops of the Church when they all are gathered at the Convention- this, a lovely vestige of frontier days when electronic communication was confined to the telegraph, and it was expedient to wait until the gathering occurred to ask the question. Once again you may remark, and wonder why such arcane minutiae are being discussed here. Fair question.

In 2003, among the several consents given for elections falling within the canonical shadow of General Convention was consent to the election of our Bishop, The Rt. Rev'd George E. Councill. The Convention gave that consent, [*and aren't we glad?!?*] Also in that group of consents was the election of The Rt. Rev'd V.G. Robinson as Bishop Coadjutor of New Hampshire. Bishop Robinson is a gay man living in a committed, monogamous relationship. Consents to his election were attended by heated discourse at the 2003 General Convention in Minneapolis, and the consents *were given*.

Since General Convention 2003, there's been a fight brewing. Those opposed to Bishop Robinson's consecration and those in favor of it have been beating each other over the head with the Bible, and their particular versions of the received Tradition of the Church. There has been more than enough acrimony and bad behavior from *all* sides of the conversation. Our national media has taken note of it in sound-bite journalism that inevitably has made The Church seem petty and foolish, no matter the slant of the reporting. The controversy entered a larger arena when some other Anglican Churches throughout the World were disturbed enough that they refused any longer to be in Communion with the American Churches, or at least some of its dioceses....to a point that when our Primate, The Most Rev'd F.T. Griswold III attended a meeting of the Primates of the several Anglican Churches around the World, some Archbishops absented themselves from Liturgy, or, remaining in the Liturgy, would not receive Communion with our Presiding Bishop. Posturing and angling for position have formed separatist groups- parishes, and in a few cases dioceses, that would "leave" The Episcopal Church. There has been wrangling over money and real property. In some cases, that's gone well, and others it has not. In some cases, parishes have attempted to align themselves with another Church (ie, *The Church of Rwanda*, or *The Church of Nigeria*). In still other cases, clergy have been deposed for abandoning the ministry of this Church. A Commission of Bishops has written and disseminated *The Windsor Report*- a document in response to the action of our Church, containing a suggested set of guidelines by which the American Church could demonstrate its *bona fides* to remain a part of the Anglican Communion. The American Church has complied with every action suggested in that report. Our House of Bishops imposed a voluntary ban on any further episcopal elections until after GC '06. (con't on page 7)

Stewardship Notes: THANK YOU!

Despite a willing spirit, my weak flesh has kept me from thanking each of you individually! Before any more time passed, however, I did want to extend my thanks, along with those of the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry, to each and every one who answered the call for a Stewardship Commitment for the year 2006.

The number of pledges was at or near an all time high. Most of those who renewed their pledge found it possible to increase pledge about 5% over 2005. Thank you for the increased commitment!

Our thanks also go to everyone who pledged for the first time. If you recently joined our congregation, thank you for making the commitment to the support of God's work through St. David's. If you are "an old-timer" who has supported St. David's in the past, but not pledged, thank you for the commitment and for adding to the count.

If you are new to the congregation, or you lost your pledge card, or just never got around to it, FEAR NOT! We have an ample supply of Stewardship Commitment Cards! You can pick one up in the Narthex. You can also leave a message in the church office, or drop me an email at Stewardship@StDavidsCranbury.com and I'll get one mailed out to you. If you need envelopes for 2006, they are available in the Narthex also!

March Lord's Pantry Items: Pasta and Sauce



Episcopal Life is Available!

Do you miss reading *Episcopal Life*, the national newspaper for Episcopalians? Good news! For a special group subscription rate of \$8.50 per year, you can have it delivered to you again at your home address.

In order to qualify for this special rate, we need to have at least ten people sign up for subscriptions. A sign up sheet will be available on the bulletin board in the narthex. We will need to hear from you no later than **April 3**; you can make your check out to St. David's Church for \$8.50 and indicate in the memo section "For *Episcopal Life*."



More Stewardship Notes: An Epiphany-ette

I'd like to share a little epiphany (an "epiphany-ette") that came to me New Years Day.

This year is special since Jan. 1st was a Sunday. As I was getting ready to leave for church, I opened my brand new box of 2006 envelopes and started to write out a check. Midway through I realized that this was my first check of the new year, 2006, and it was my offering to God. "Maybe," I thought, "maybe this year I should work at putting God first."

From October through December we focus on Stewardship as gifts of "Time, Talent, and Treasure," with an emphasis on Treasure and the Church Budget. Stewardship is more than that. It is part of our Covenant with God. It is "an outward sign of an inward commitment" as our Bishop said. And it's relevant 12 months of the year.

Bob Rodgers, Stewardship Coordinator

Overcoming Racism: An Art Exhibit

A series of six oil paintings by Corinne Peters and Ruth Councill will be on exhibit at Synod Hall in Trinity Cathedral from March 5 to 31. Synod Hall is open during regular cathedral hours, but since it is occasionally occupied, phone the cathedral at 392-3805 before visiting.

Overcoming Racism: Blacks in America

Overcoming Racism: Asians

Overcoming Racism: Jews

By Corinne Peters

Overcoming Racism: Latinos

Overcoming Racism: American Indians

Overcoming Racism: Blacks in South Africa

By Ruth Councill



In these large-scale oil paintings, the artists combined historic images of racism with well-known heroic images of racism with well-known heroic resisters, activist, and martyrs in the struggle against it. They have also depicted individuals who quietly overcame the obstacles that racism imposed and made significant contributions to the common good.

The artists say: *We lift up the ongoing struggle against racism, and those who gave their lives to it, so that we may be inspired and strengthened to build upon what they have accomplished. The artists, one black and the other white, are grateful for the opportunity to work together in this cause, and for the deepening of their understanding and friendship through this process.*

The paintings were commissioned especially for **No More in My Church!** A diocesan anti-racism conference held last November at the cathedral. They will be on display at Diocesan Convention.

(con't from page 5) *Article by the Rev. Frank Boyd Crumbaugh*

Sex will be very much a part of the Church's discourse this summer, as it was three years ago at our last General Convention. *You need to care about this, friends.* There are those who already have left The Episcopal Church over this issue. There are others who wish to leave, forming a more organized exodus than mere rhetoric or withheld pledges. Some respond "Don't the door hit you...." while others wring hands and weep for the future of the Anglican Communion. There is a mood of sage resignation among some that believes schism is inevitable, understanding that there will be a "new" Church of some form or other; such political observers have moved on to the second-tier questions of "What now?" and "What next?"

You need to do whatever homework you need to do to be informed about this. The Internet is a great resource for that research. You need to know what you think about these issues- one way or the other. You need to hear what others are thinking and how they're feeling.

(Information can be found @ www.anglicanlistening.org or a copy of *The Windsor Report* can be found in the St. David's church office, as well as copies of "To Set our Hope on Christ".)

When You Find a Penny

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, & cars costing more than her house. The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely. As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband.

He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value. A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it!" He said. "Read what it says. "She read the words "United States of America." "No, not that; read further." "One cent?" "No, keep reading." "In God we Trust?" "Yes," "And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold.! I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient & pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful!

And, God is patient...

