



**JANUARY ~ FEBRUARY 2009**

The Rev. Richard A. Maxwell, Rector  
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# DEAR FRIENDS

By Fr. RICHARD A. MAXWELL  
Rector

## Happy New Year! I hope that 2009 Is filled with blessings for you!

Not only do I wish you the very best, I am absolutely filled with hope. Even though today – a wet, cold December day – began with a very sad funeral, I am filled with hope. It's very dark outside now as I write, and the rain water I hear coursing through the eaves trough and pouring out the downspout reminds me of the tears that were spilled this morning . . . and I'm filled with hope.

News reports today were dominated by stories about our collapsing economy, which seems to threaten all of our futures. Some parishioners are in danger of losing their jobs. News reports that were not about the economy were about political scandals in Illinois and, while I'm very much looking forward to a change of administration in Washington DC, I'm reminded that politicians are . . . well . . . "politicians." And people are . . . well . . . "people." And . . . well . . . who knows what the future will bring? And I'm filled with hope.

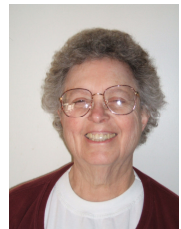
I'm filled with hope because Jesus Christ is our hope. The truth is that we never know what the future holds . . . except in one matter: we know that God's love is steadfast and that God is true to God's promises. We know that through loving God and each other, we can weather any storm. We know that in Christ, all will be well. And we know that we are called to share this sure knowledge by word and example with everyone we encounter.

St. Paul wrote: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us." (2 Cor. 5:17-20a).

So . . . keep the faith! Be filled with hope! And have a blessed, joyous New Year, oh ye ambassadors for Christ!

Max+

## FINANCIAL CORNER



By ELAINE PHILLIPS  
Treasurer

Well, as I write this, we are in the middle of the stewardship drive and the budgeting process -- and there is little new that I can tell you about either one.

For the last newsletter, I covered the expense items that will have the greatest effect on the budget next year -- salaries, insurance, utilities, diocesan pledge (the usual suspects). The amount we will have to spend depends on the final results of the stewardship campaign.

About the only helpful things I can say are (a) if you haven't turned in your pledge, please do so as soon as possible, and (b) come the annual meeting on January 25 to see how things have turned out. See you there!

# Stewardship Campaign

By Bill Pascucci  
2009 Stewardship Chairman

The 2009 Stewardship Campaign is now completed. At the time of this writing, about half way through the campaign, we collected pledges from half of our parishioners and friends of Grace that total 50% of our goal of \$125,000.

The pledges we receive from our parishioners and friends fund many ministries. The expenses to support our liturgy and other programs have risen. Programs funded by Grace are carefully reviewed by the Vestry to ensure the charity of our parishioners is carefully spent.

We are aware of the difficulties that our fellow parishioners and neighbors face. The outpouring of your generosity is felt by all. If you have not had the opportunity to complete your pledge card, please do so as soon as you can. This will allow the Vestry to finalize the 2009 budget. The results of the Stewardship Campaign will be presented to the parish during our Annual Meeting in January.

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January 6, 2009

## The Feast of the Epiphany

We will celebrate Epiphany at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2009. The choir will sing the Solemn High Mass, complete with a Procession and the Pageant of the Kings presenting the Offertory gifts. At the conclusion of the Mass, the choir will sing the Farewell to Christ (“Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling”) from Berlioz’s *L’enfance du Christ*. A potluck supper will follow in Nason Hall.

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January 11, 2009

## Deacon Gary Mongillo Joins Us

Our new deacon, The Rev. Gary Mongillo (pronounced “MAHN-jeh-low”) will join us for the first time on Sunday, January 11, 2009. Deacon Gary was previously assigned to St. James Church in Glastonbury. He lives in Southington.

Starting January 18, 2009

## Fr. Max to Lead Inquirer's Class

There will be a class beginning on Sunday, January 18, 2009, which Fr. Richard A. Maxwell will lead. This is an "inquirer's class," that is, a class for people new to the Episcopal Church OR for long-time Episcopalians who have questions about some of the "basics" or want a "refresher." Attending the class does not commit anyone to anything, and people may pick and choose, coming to classes which interest them and not to others.

However, this IS the class that will prepare those baptized in other faith traditions for Reception into the Episcopal Church. It also will prepare Episcopalians who have not yet been confirmed for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is timed to prepare individuals to qualify for the spring Confirmation/Reception service for the Hartford deanery which is currently scheduled for April 25, 2009, at St. James' Church in West Hartford. Fr. Max asks that anyone interested in Confirmation or Reception to speak to him before these classes begin.

Fr. Max plans to conduct the class in his office following coffee hour on the dates listed below. However, if another time — between masses, for example — is better for the majority of people interested, he is open to changing the time. Each class will take approximately one hour and will be largely a "lecture" class and not a discussion hour. He will try to make time at the end of each session for questions. This is the schedule for the classes:

January 18 ~ Introduction, General Information, and Questions

February 1 ~ The Bible

February 8 ~ Church History

March 1 ~ Episcopal Church structure

March 8 ~ The Book of Common Prayer

March 25 ~ Anglo-Catholicism and Contemporary Church Issues

March 29 ~ Wrap-up

PARKVILLE CLASSICALS presents

*The Adaskin String Trio*

Saturday, January 24, 2009

7:30 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church



The Adaskin String Trio (left to right) **Emlyn Ngai** (violin), **Mark Fraser** (cello), and **Steve Larson** (violin). Formed in 1994, the trio performs extensively throughout the United States and Canada, and has appeared at Merkin Concert Hall in New York, the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington DC, and in Boston, Los Angeles, Montreal, Nashville, Pittsburgh, Santa Barbara, and Chicago. In addition, the trio's concerts have been regularly recorded for broadcast by CBC Radio, Radio-Canada, and National Public Radio.

Reception in Nason Hall  
Follows the Concert

***Grace Episcopal Church***  
***55 New Park Avenue***  
***Hartford, CT 06106***

Sunday, January 25, 2009

# Annual Meeting

By Fr. Richard A. Maxwell

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2009, following the 10:30 Mass. Lunch will be provided. (In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on February 1, 2009.) It is important that parishioners attend to receive the reports of the various ministries at Grace and to be informed about the 2009 parish budget. Parishioners will also vote on the following positions:

Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Treasurer  
Assistant Treasurer  
Parish Clerk  
Delegate to convention and deanery  
Alternate Delegate to convention and deanery  
Vestry Members

Two positions on the vestry are also open for election every year, each for a three-year term. All other positions are for a one-year term.

Information on the meeting, along with a proposed list of voting members of the parish, is required to be posted publicly 6 weeks before the annual meeting in accordance with the parish by-laws. Parishioners are then invited to nominate people to fill the openings. Nominations are closed on the 12th day before the meeting, and all those nominated are asked if they will run. Eight days before the meeting, the names of those nominated and qualified, and who have agreed to run, are publicly posted.

All positions are important, but it might be of interest to note that because Bishop Smith is retiring, the 2009 diocesan convention is scheduled to elect our next diocesan bishop, and our delegate to convention will vote in this election. This is an important and relatively rare opportunity.

# Contemplative Prayer Program

By Lawrence C. Malick  
Of Christ Church Cathedral

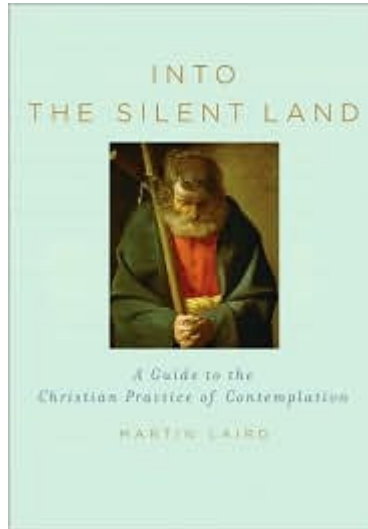
Contemplative prayer, also frequently referred to as silent prayer, centering prayer or prayer of the heart, is the Christian practice of meditation. Contemplative prayer dates back to the desert fathers and mothers and has come to us through monasteries and mystics of the Middle Ages. Today, through the efforts of Fr. Thomas Keating, a Trappist Monk, and others, the practice has spread to congregations world-wide.

The practice is simple and requires only that a person sit quietly, focus attention on the breath and a prayer word or phrase, such as the Jesus Prayer, be aware of the thoughts, sounds and feelings that come and go during the period of meditation and descend softly into the deep silence of God. Such meditation can bring clarity, centering, healing and stability to one's daily life.

Contemplative prayer is a valuable component of any spiritual discipline. It is not an intellectual exercise. Rather, the practice seeks to still the busy, all-controlling intellect of the mind so that the intuitive wisdom the heart or soul can emerge into consciousness in order to deepen an individual's understanding of and personal relationship with God, the Holy Spirit, or, if you prefer, the Great Mystery. Far from being an escape from life, Christian meditation develops compassion, caring, and listening skills that benefit the practitioner which can dramatically improve relationships in the family, among friends, and in the community.

In order to encourage individual contemplative prayer as a spiritual practice, Grace Episcopal, in collaboration with members of Christ Church Cathedral, has established a program to bring people together to engage in silent prayer, share experiences of the journey, and encourage regular daily practice. The sessions are bi-weekly on alternating Wednesday evenings here at Grace from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The gatherings will include periods of meditation, some instruction, readings from scripture, mystics and poets or anything of spiritual interest to participants, and the sharing of experiences during the meditations or arising from the daily practices.

If you would like to develop a practice of contemplation or learn more about Contemplative Prayer, please come join us. There are excellent resources available. We recommend a marvelous little book by Fr. Martin Laird entitled *Into the Silent Land: A Guide to the Christian Practice of Meditation*, as well as material found at the Empty Bell website at [www.emptybell.org](http://www.emptybell.org).



Note: Fr. Maxwell has a small number of copies of this book available for purchase. The cover price is \$18.95, but he got them on Amazon for \$13.00, which is what he is asking people to pay.

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February 20, 2009 through February 22, 2009

## Annual Parish Retreat

The annual Parish Retreat will take place from Thursday, February 20, through Sunday, February 22, 2009, at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York. Members of the Grace parish will join parishioners from St. James' Glastonbury and Trinity Collinsville. The retreat program will be led by one of the monks.

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February 24, 2009

## Fat Tuesday

Fat Tuesday is February 24, 2009. It will be observed with the burning of the palms and our annual Pancake Supper in Nason Hall.

February 25, 2009

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 25, 2009. There will be Masses and distribution of ashes at 7:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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February 26, 2009

## First Lenten Evening

During the Thursdays in Lent, there will be Mass at 5:30 p.m., followed by supper at 6:00 p.m., and the Lenten program at 7:00 p.m.

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Each Thursday during Lent

## The Consideration And Development of a Rule of Life

By Fr. Richard A. Maxwell

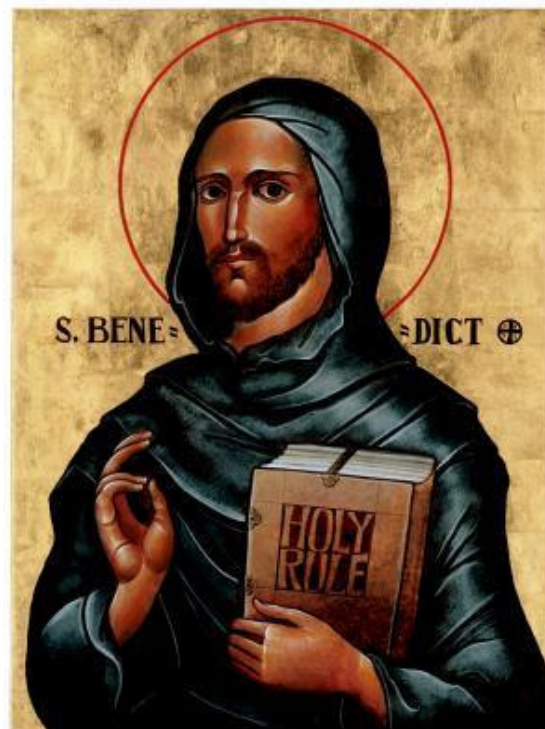
In the sixth century St. Benedict wrote a “rule of life” for monks living in the community he led. Benedict viewed the monastery as a “school for the Lord’s service,” and the rule he created was a guide book of sorts . . . a guide book not only instructing its users about how to live together harmoniously, but also instructing them about how to serve God ever more deeply. Benedict begins his rule with this: “Listen carefully, my son, to the master’s instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart. This is advice from a father who loves you; welcome it, and faithfully put it into practice.”

Since the time of Benedict, religious communities have lived together under a “rule.” In a monastery, each morning the brothers or sisters gather in the “Chapter Room.” The name of the room comes from the practice of listening to chapters of the community’s rule being read aloud. Each morning a new chapter is read to remind the community of how they have contracted to try to live individually and

collectively. A chapter on food, a chapter on sex, a chapter on money, a chapter on prayer, etc., is read one after another in rotation.

Remembering that a monastery can be viewed as a school for the Lord's service, each chapter of the rule can be viewed as a primer of sorts, created to express in writing what the community's hopes are for living life. It is assumed that at various times, various members of the community will fail to live up to the ideal of the community's hope. The reading of the rule of life over and over again then serves as a reminder of how the brothers or sisters intend to live out their Christian vocations.

The creation and use of a rule need not be limited to religious communities. Anyone can create and use this tool for Christian living. In the diocese of New York when I was discerning a call to the priesthood, for example, one step in this process was to create a rule of life for myself, which was reviewed and commented upon by the bishop. Although we do not live in a cloister, any of us here at Grace could create a series of "chapters" to recall ourselves to our hopes and longings for living the life we are called to as Christians.



This Lent I will lead a program to help individuals consider where they are in their Christian walk. We will examine the five promises we make at every Baptism and consider how they might guide us in creating rules of life for ourselves. Although everyone will be encouraged to begin crafting a rule, no one will be required to write anything, nor to share what they have or have not created: an honest and effective rule is intensely personal. Rather, this program is offered as an opportunity during Lent for each of us as individuals to consider how we live our Christian lives and to remind ourselves of our "holy hopes."

We will meet every Thursday evening during Lent beginning at 7:00 p.m. The program will be preceded by mass at 5:30 and supper at 6:00. As always, everyone is invited to attend any or every portion of each evening.

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Each Friday during Lent

## Stations of the Cross & Benediction

By ELIZABETH MIEL

Stations of the Cross and Benediction are two simple and beautiful meditative practices that many people find helpful in their Lenten observance. At Grace Church we will have Stations every Friday during Lent at 6:00 p.m. and on most Fridays the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will follow.

### The Way of the Cross

From very early in the history of the church pilgrims made the journey to Jerusalem during Holy Week and tried to walk the Via Dolorosa (“the Sorrowful Way”) at the actual sites of Jesus’ passion. (Egeria, a 4<sup>th</sup> century woman from Gaul, wrote a fascinating diary of her trip to the Holy Land and described some of these early practices.) During the Middle Ages, the devotion called the Stations of the Cross or the Via Crucis developed and became a popular way for Christians at home who could not go to the Holy Land to follow the path to Calvary and take part in a pilgrimage of meditation.

(Continued on Page 14)





# January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> 1 <b>New Year's Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass	 2 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	3
<b>Christmas II</b> 4 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass	5	<b>EPIPHANY</b> 6  6:00 p.m. Solemn High Mass Potluck Supper AA	7 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and 4:30 Pantry Food Packing	8 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Gathering	9 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	10
<b>Epiphany I</b> 11 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass <b>Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ</b>	12  AA	13 5:30 p.m. Healing Mass AA	14 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and 4:30 Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group	15 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Gatherings	16 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	17
<b>Martin Luther King</b> 18 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass ~12:00 noon Enquirer's Class	<b>Confession of St. Peter the Apostle (tr. from 1/18)</b>  <b>Martin Luther King Holiday</b> <b>Office Closed</b> AA	20 5:30 p.m. Low Mass AA	21 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and "Breakfast Club" 4:30 Pantry Food Packing	22 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Gatherings	23 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	24  <b>7:30 p.m. Parkville Classics Adaskin String Trio</b>
<b>Epiphany III</b> 25 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>Conversion of St. Peter the Apostle (tr. from 1/25)</b>  AA	27 5:30 p.m. Low Mass AA	28 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and "Breakfast Club" 4:30 Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group	29 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Gatherings	30 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	31
	<b>January Notes – Happy New Year!!!</b> Holy Name (Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> ) ~ Mass 5:30 p.m.      Baptism of Our Lord (Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup> ) Feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup> ) ~ Mass 6:00 p.m. followed by Potluck Supper <b>DEACON GARY MONGILLO'S FIRST SUNDAY ~ Jan. 11<sup>th</sup></b> Martin Luther King (Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup> )      Contemplative Prayer Group (Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>Parkville Classics (24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.): Adaskin String Trio</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Enquirer's Class (Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup> ~12:00 noon)      Education Hour (Sundays, 9:30 a.m.) Healing Mass (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.)      Thursday Gatherings (Thursdays, 7 p.m.) <b>Grace Church Annual Meeting – Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> following Mass (Lunch provided)</b>					

# 2009



# February



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<b>Epiphany IV 1</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass ~12:00 noon Enquirer's Class	<b>The Presentation 2 of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple</b>  AA	<b>3</b> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass AA	<b>4</b> 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and <b>February 11</b>	<b>5</b> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Gathering	<b>6</b> 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b>
<b>Candlemas 8</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass ~12:00 noon Enquirer's Class	<b>9</b> AA	<b>10</b> 5:30 p.m. Healing Mass AA	<b>11</b> 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and <b>4:30 Pantry Food Packing</b> 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group	<b>12</b> 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Gatherings	<b>13</b> 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>St. Valentine 14</b> 
<b>Epiphany VI 15</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass	<b>President's Day 16</b>  AA <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>17</b> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass AA	<b>18</b> 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and "Breakfast Club" <b>4:30 Pantry Food Packing</b>	<b>19</b> 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Gatherings	<b>Parish Retreat 20</b> 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>Parish Retreat 21</b>
<b>Epiphany Last 22</b> <b>Parish Retreat</b> 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:30 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass	<b>23</b>  AA	<b>Shrove Tuesday 24</b> <b>St. Matthias the Apostle</b> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 6 p.m. Mardi Gras & Pancake Supper AA	<b>Ash Wednesday 25</b> 7:15 a.m. Low Mass And "Breakfast Club" <b>4:30 Pantry Food Packing</b> 7 p.m. Solemn High Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group	<b>26</b> 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 6 p.m. Supper 7 p.m. Lenten Gatherings	<b>27</b> 6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	<b>28</b>
<p align="center"><b>February Notes</b></p> <p>Shrove Tuesday (Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>) ~ Mass 5:30 p.m. followed by Mardi Gras Party and Pancake Supper  <b>Ash Wednesday</b> (Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>) ~ Mass at 7:15 a.m. and Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 7 p.m.            Parish Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery (Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> - Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>) <b>Valentine's Day</b> (Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>)            Thursday Gatherings in Lent (begins Feb 26<sup>th</sup>): <i>Developing a "Rule of Life"</i> ~ 5:30 p.m. Mass followed by Soup &amp; Bread Supper at 6 p.m., and discussion at 7 p.m.            Stations of the Cross and Benediction ~ Fridays in Lent at 6 p.m. (no Benediction 2/8)  <b>Contemplative Prayer Group</b> (Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>) <b>Enquirer's Class</b> (Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> ~ 12:00 noon)            Education Hour (Sundays, 9:30 a.m.) <b>Healing Mass</b> (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.)</p>						

# 2009

## **The Way of the Cross**

(Continued from Page 11)

These are the 14 Stations of the Cross:

Jesus is condemned to death.  
Jesus takes up his cross.  
Jesus falls for the first time.  
Jesus meets his afflicted mother.  
The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene.  
A woman wipes the face of Jesus.  
Jesus falls a second time.  
Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.  
Jesus falls a third time.  
Jesus is stripped of his garments.  
Jesus is nailed to the cross.  
Jesus dies on the cross.  
The body of Jesus is laid in the arms of his mother.  
Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Each of these is represented by a sculptured plaque on the wall. We sing a stanza of the *Stabat Mater* (“His Mother was Standing”) looking at Christ’s Passion through the eyes of the Blessed Virgin, as we walk between the stations and turn our attention one by one to the stages of Jesus’ journey to death. Traditional meditations and prayers are read at each station.

Although this is a sad contemplative exercise, most people who attend it find it a consolation to realize that in His incarnate life on earth Christ himself shared all the sufferings of humankind: the loss of power, the abandonment by friends and family, the physical dissolution and ultimately the death, that in one way or another we are all subject to. He has shared our weakness and sorrow and pain and death and has overcome them.

### **Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**

This devotion is based on the practice of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and includes a blessing of the congregation with the reserved sacrament. At Benediction, the consecrated host is carefully placed in a glass case (a lunette) and set in a monstrance on the altar (see the photo at the right). The priest, with his

hands encased in the humeral veil, picks up the monstrance containing the host and solemnly blesses the kneeling congregation. Incense is used and traditional hymns are sung at Benediction, including these verses from the *Pange Lingua* that express the mystery of the real presence of Christ in the sacrament which is not perceptible to ordinary senses.

“Therefore we before him bending,  
This great sacrament revere;  
Types and shadow have their ending  
For the newer rite is here,  
Faith, our outward sense befriending  
Makes our inward vision clear.”

The adoration of Christ in the reserved sacrament – a Catholic devotional practice – was reintroduced into Anglican worship by the 19<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Catholic movement and encountered very serious opposition in the Church of England. Catholic-minded English clerics fought hard for the privilege of reserving the sacrament and venerating it.

Bishop Frank Weston, in a famous quote at the Anglo-Catholic Congress in 1923, reminds all of us who profess to be Anglo-Catholics that the real presence of Christ is to be found both in the sacraments and in the human faces of our neighbors especially the poor. He says:

“But I say to you, and I say it to you with all the earnestness that I have, that if you are prepared to fight for the right of adoring Jesus in his Blessed Sacrament, then you have got to come out from before your Tabernacle and walk, with Christ mystically present in you, out into the streets of this country, and find the same Jesus in the people of your cities and your villages. You cannot claim to worship Jesus in the Tabernacle, if you do not pity Jesus in the slum.” (Frank Weston, Bishop of Zanzibar.)





By ROB DUNCAN  
Senior Warden

# SENIOR WARDEN'S CORNER

## The Strategic Plan Update Near Completion

In the Sept. / Oct. edition of Grace Notes, I mentioned that the Vestry was discussing the Strategic Plan that was created in 2007, in order to breathe new life into it. I'm happy to report that several Vestry members stepped forward to take ownership for the individual goals and objectives. The Vestry decided in the fall that the best way to approach the update of the plan was to discuss one to two objectives at each monthly vestry meeting over a four month period. This would allow a thoughtful discussion of each section and provide ample time for whoever volunteered to update the plan. One objective from the original plan involved a review of the "A Place of Grace" food pantry program which was met and did not require an update.

Here's a recap of the other objectives:

- In November I presented an updated marketing plan to the Vestry which they accepted, and I have been implementing since that time. The major changes to the marketing plan included returning to The Hartford Courant for our advertising needs and reducing our overall budget for marketing in light of the budget constraints we are facing. Fortunately, we will still be getting comparable exposure in the media for Grace since we will be taking full advantage of free public service announcements whenever possible. In addition, we will be on the lookout for events which Grace can participate in for nominal fees.
- In December, Carol Larco-Murzyn presented an updated plan on hospitality which we will use all year long to make sure Grace is a welcoming place for newcomers. Carol's plan is a multi-step action plan that calls for each vestry member to share in the responsibility of not only greeting newcomers but also getting to know them and assist in integrating them into the parish.

This will be one of the starting points for our efforts to grow our membership over time.

- In January Elizabeth McKiernan Miel will discuss her revision of the Pastoral Care Team plan. The Pastoral Care Team will work to increase its effectiveness and to include more parishioners in our broadened care for one another.
- Finally, in February we expect to discuss the outreach plan for Grace, and we plan to include our new Deacon, The Rev. Gary Mongillo, in that discussion. Considering Gary's experience in community outreach, Grace is sure to benefit from his input.

The Strategic Plan is only one item on the Vestry agenda each month. I look forward to sharing some of the other items we discuss in the next edition of Grace Notes.



By BILL PASCUCCI  
Junior Warden

## JUNIOR WARDEN'S CORNER

### The Saga of the Floor

The most noticeable recent improvement to our church property was the refinishing of the floor in Nason Hall. It had been many years since the floor was previously refinished, and the toll of the weekly traffic for more than a decade resulted in a much more difficult project than we originally contemplated. Adding to the complexity of this undertaking was the need to coordinate the work with the many groups and organization that utilize Nason Hall weekly.

The first week in November was selected for this task since the Food Pantry does not operate at that time. Mike Jantzi and his crew moved in at 8:00 a.m. on the Wednesday morning following All Souls Mass and dinner on Tuesday evening. Since Bethany Bouchard, our able sexton, removed all of the books from Nason Hall earlier, Mike and his crew were able to move the large pieces of furniture and begin the work right away.

Their plan was to sand the floors on Wednesday and Thursday, and then apply the finish on Friday, to allow ample time for drying before the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

By Thursday evening, however, the sanding was not complete. The condition of the floor proved much worse than originally thought. In fact, we soon learned that the sanding would have to continue on Friday and the floors would also need to be stained in order to mask areas that had become permanently damaged from several years of wear.

Luckily, we obtained a commercial grade sealer that would dry within 2 hours of application. Mike Jantzi and his crew worked past midnight on Friday, all day Saturday, and up to 3:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. When worshipers arrived for the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, everything was restored to its original location, and the transition of Nason Hall was complete. Richard Kandetzki and Leo Snow celebrated the new look with wonderful food and snacks for the Coffee Hour that followed the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Special thanks to Mike Jantzi and his crew, and Bethany Bouchard, for a great job. Thanks also to each of you for being patient and understanding throughout this complex project.

## Our Other Projects

**Fence Repair** - We have contracted for the repair of three ten-foot sections of the iron fence along New Park Avenue and Grace Street. The fence was given to Grace Church in memory of Edward J. "Pop" Klemonski. It is scheduled to be fully repaired before Christmas and should be back to normal by the time this Newsletter has come out.

**Grace Street Entrance** - The metal door at the Grace Street entrance, which was damaged earlier this year, is also scheduled to be replaced by time this Newsletter is published.

**Broken Stained Glass Window** - The stained glass window behind the altar that was vandalized will also soon be repaired. We are in negotiations with a contractor for this project. The window will be restored off-site in Massachusetts, and a solid piece of mahogany plywood will replace it during the restoration. The work will be done after Christmas in the hope that it can be completed and the window fully restored by Easter.

**Basement Cleanup** - The basement of Nason Hall has been cleaned and is currently being restored to a more open and useful space thanks to Ellen Morse, Tom Phillips, Elaine Phillips, Betsy Rose, and Cornelia Hamilton.

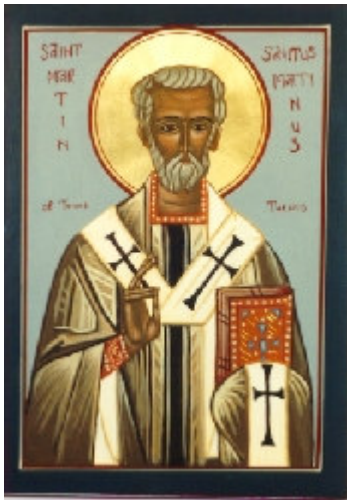
**Snow Removal** - A new snow removal contract with Trent Landscaping has been negotiated. We do not expect any difficulties getting in and out of church this winter season.

I ask anyone who wishes to serve on the Projects Committee or who has suggestions for other projects to please contact me.

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### ST. MARTIN OF TOURS (316 AD - 397 AD)



As most of our parishioners are aware, St. Martin of Tours, a city located along the Loire River in France, is the patron saint of our church. His feast day, November 11, is celebrated as the Feast of the Dedication of our church. What some may not know is that in olden days in England, St. Martin was an extremely popular saint, and his feast ushered in the great fast before the Nativity. When St. Augustine of Canterbury arrived in Kent around the year 595, he found in Canterbury a Christian church, ancient even then, dedicated to St. Martin. The location can still be seen in modern-day Canterbury. St. Martin died Nov. 11 and July 4 is kept as the feast of his ordination, consecration, and translation (that is, the transferal of his holy Relics).

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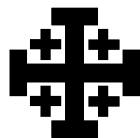
### MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to Tori Burns, Fr. Carroon, Rob Duncan, Fr. Max, Elizabeth Miel, Bill Pascucci, and Elaine Phillips for their help and suggestions with this issue of "Grace Notes."

EDWARD S. KLEMONSKI, Editor.

January ~ February, 2009 Issue

**GRACE  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**



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If you are receiving this newsletter in error or wish to be taken off the mailing list, please notify the Church office.

**PARKVILLE CLASSICALS**

All concerts are on Saturday evenings in the church. They are free and start at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited and on a first-come basis. A reception in the Parish Hall to meet the musicians follows each concert.

**January 24, 2009 ~ *Adaskin String Trio***

**April 25, 2009 ~ *Novi Cantori***

**June 20, 2009 ~ *Musical Friends***