

Good News from St. John's

From the Desk of Mother DuBose



It is hard to know how to write about the past few months, except to say that the time has been a lesson that we are not in control of the Created World. I write on February 18, 2010, and one month ago today, an earthquake devastated the Island of Haiti, and rocked the world.

It is a blessing to record that the congregation of our small church sent more than \$500 to Episcopal Relief and Development.

We continue to pray for Haiti, in our personal devotions, in

Sunday worship, and at Compline on Thursday evenings. (We will have a reminder that we are praying for Haiti on our bulletin until Easter.) We are also praying for people affected by the devastating mudslides in Peru, and for the Sioux Reservation on the Cheyenne River in South Dakota, overwhelmed by flooding. In all these places, Episcopal Relief and Development is working to alleviate the suffering. We are also praying for the people who are doing that work.

Margie and I attended the "Transforming Church" Workshop with Canon Donald Vinson in January. We were very impressed with his ideas, and will be sharing them with you at the Annual Meeting—rescheduled date to be announced.

Bring someone new to church next Sunday. Let them know the Jesus that lives in you—and in the congregation at St. John's.



SNOW

SNOW—our regularly scheduled events, such as Lessons and Carols, Sunday worship, and our Annual Meeting have been disrupted time and again by an unprecedented amount of snow. Now, more than a week after the last heavy snowfall on February 9, 2010, we have more than a foot and a half of snow on the ground. Lessons and Carols became a wonderful Epiphany Festival, complete with the visit from Three Magi, but the annual meeting has not happened yet, and we have an ice pond for a parking lot, and no place to park on the streets yet.

Despite these conditions, we have managed to shovel out the church doors, and to worship God. There is simply no way I can thank Senior Warden Marjorie Yoe, and vestry members Bob DuBose and Robbie Stout for all the work they have done for St. John's in the midst of challenging conditions. God bless all of you.



Lenten News



Last night, Ash Wednesday, we worshipped with Methodist Pastor Luther Osment and his wife Barbara, who joined us for our service. Altogether, seven people made it through snow and ice to begin Lent together. We have invited the Methodists to join us and Zion Episcopal Church of Charles Town for our Lenten Program. See the home page for news about that program.

This year, we will be doing Vacation Bible School with the Methodists again. Nancy Cummings of Camp Hill-Wesley UMC will be our VBS director, with back-up from Miggs Dotson and Carole Carter. Pastor Osment's grandson Joe is coming from Georgia again to help with the music. The program will be "Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace."

Take a look at our pictures of snow and celebration, and stay warm—and grateful to have a place to stay warm in. If you want to go to our Lenten program at Zion in Charles Town at noon on Wednesdays, call me for a ride. Or come to see the same program and share a meal at 7 p.m. at St. John's. Following are some questions our Bishop suggests we ask ourselves as we journey through Lent with Jesus.

Haiti

Facts about the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti and the aftermath of the earthquake

The world continues to watch after a devastating 7.0 earthquake destroyed much of Haiti, with the death toll mounting each day. The Episcopal Church and Episcopal Relief & Development responded immediately. The following fact sheet will assist in your continued reporting of the Haiti earthquake.

Updated information available from The Episcopal Church Office of Communication, including items from across the country on missionaries, church responses, persons in Haiti, etc. can be found at: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/haiti.php>

Facts:

The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti is part of The Episcopal Church. <http://www.egliseepiscopaledhaiti.org/>

The Rt. Rev. Zache Duracin is Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti. He is unharmed; his wife suffered an injury to her foot.

The Episcopal Church in Haiti has lost a cathedral, convent, Holy Trinity Complex, College St. Pierre, and a Jubilee Center.

The Episcopal Church's three missionaries who were in Haiti are all accounted for - Mallory Holding, Jude Harmon, and Oge Beauvoir, who is the dean of the Theological Seminary, along with his wife Serette.

The Diocesan offices are located in Port-au-Prince. Episcopal Relief & Development has disbursed emergency funding to the Diocese of Haiti to help meet critical needs such as food, water and shelter for those affected.

Haiti Donations can be made to Episcopal Relief & Development by calling 800-334-7626 ext 5129. <https://www.er-d.org/donate-select.php>.

Episcopal Relief & Development has a four star rating on Charity Navigator and meets all 20 standards of the Better Business Bureau.

Haiti is the largest and fastest growing diocese in The Episcopal Church. There are over 83,000 Episcopalians in Haiti.

There are 97 Episcopal churches in Haiti. We are in the process of ascertaining their status; updates will be posted on the Episcopal Church Haiti page: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/haiti.php>

In 2008, the diocese celebrated over 200 child and adult baptisms, and over 700 child and adult confirmations. There are over 200 Episcopal schools with more than 6000 students

SOME THOUGHTS FOR LENTEN EXPLORATION FROM OUR BISHOP—AND THE WESLEY BROTHERS.

John and Charles Wesley, Anglican priests educated at Christ Church, Oxford University, gathered a few friends to join in their strict adherence to the worship and discipline of the Book of Common Prayer. Listed below are the questions they asked themselves in their daily devotions. How would **YOU** do?

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am a better person than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habits?
6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Did the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give it time to speak to me every day?
9. Am I enjoying prayer?
10. When did I last speak to somebody else with the object of trying to win that person for Christ?
11. Am I making contacts with other people and using them for the Master's glory?
12. Do I pray about the money I spend?
13. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
14. Do I disobey God in anything?
15. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscious is uneasy?
16. Am I defeated in any part of my life? Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?
17. How do I spend my spare time?
18. Am I proud?
19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
20. Is there anybody whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
21. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
22. Is Christ real to me?

"The Holy Club," as they became known, were willing to take responsibility for their spiritual development. Are **WE**?

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
Bishop
