



CCA TODAY

sharing the news of
Christ Church Anglican

December 2008

From the Rector's Desk

'A Long time ago, in a galaxy far away' I was assigned to a submarine that was headed north to terrorize the Russians . . . we broke and had to divert into Holy Loch, Scotland to be drydocked at the Submarine Support facility there. For any of you who have not been to Scotland, the Latitude is roughly that of Moscow . . . cold, miserable, windy and wet.

One evening, I was walking along the drydock wingwall . . . it was sleeting, not coming down, but sideways with the wind . . . I was hunkered down in my foul weather jacket . . . my left ear was filling with sleet . . . I was cold, wet, and unhappy.

All of a sudden, it came to me that I was in Scotland . . . a foreign country . . . I had never been there and simply being there was a God given opportunity. From that moment, I decided to enjoy Scotland . . . the weather, the cold, the sleet, all of it . . . I learned that happiness is a choice!

Today, the weather is cold, the leaves fill the yard, the stock market and the economy are going to hell in a handbasket, but as I sit here contemplating my naval, I realize that I have a lot for which to be thankful; I thank God for each one of you . . . I thank God for allowing Pam and me the opportunity to be with you.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Chraitmas

— Gil

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Services:

Sunday

8:00 am, 10:00 am

9:00 am Sunday School &

Adult Christian Education

Rector

Reverend Gilbert Wilkes

Assistant Rector

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LOOKING TOWARD OLIVET (PART 1) *by Ed Wood*

The Season of Advent is not only a time of reflecting upon the miracle of Jesus' first coming, but also for looking ahead to the certain hope of his second. Perhaps a good way to begin to do just that would be to look toward Olivet.

The first chapter of Acts relates the story of the last time the apostles saw Jesus after his resurrection, at the conclusion of which they watched him as he ascended upward and into a cloud. No doubt they were dumbfounded until "two men in white apparel" asked them why were they standing around looking into the sky - perhaps intimating that there was a lot of work for them to accomplish - and that Jesus would one day return in like manner.

Luke tells us that this occurred on the Mount of Olives (Olivet), a place of remarkable significance. Located east of Jerusalem, it overlooks that city and not only was the place from which Jesus left almost 2000 years ago, but is also the place to which he will one day return in great power, as the prophet Zechariah revealed around 500 years earlier (Zechariah, chapter 14).

It is also the place where Jesus spoke of the things to come (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 24) shortly before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Widely known

today as the Olivet Discourse, it provides a stirring, and, at times, unsettling look of the events which must occur between his First and Second Advents.

First, before we begin, let me say that there are various points of view concerning the events Jesus described. Some people believe all the prophecies he made were fulfilled around 70 AD with the destruction of the Temple by the Roman General Titus, son of Emperor Vespasian. Others believe most have yet to take place. I subscribe to the latter position.

Next, I do not consider myself a prophecy expert - merely someone with an interest in the subject. I therefore encourage you to do your own research and feel free to disagree with me!

Last, I personally believe the events Jesus related are very much relevant to our present time - and to what very well may be the near future.

Next month, we will begin with the first event Jesus mentioned, one, I might add, occurred almost 40 years after - and in the exact way - that Jesus said that it would!

God's Work in Progress

ANGLICAN AWAKENING NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE *by Vickie Manfredi*

A MESSAGE OF PRAYER

On the weekend of November 13th, All Saints' Anglican Church of Amesbury, MA played host to hundreds of Anglicans who came together in unity for the mission of the Gospel. The Rt. Rev. William Murdoch welcomed attendees in a moment when the historic movement of Confessing Anglicans which started in Jerusalem this past June stepped across the threshold of a new Anglican Church in North America. We are witnessing the coming together of nine jurisdictions of Anglicans from across North America in one new church now referred to as the Common Cause Partners.

The program included three teaching tracks including: Church Planting, Evangelism and Prayer. For me, the most stirring of all presentations was given by Archbishop Nzimbe when he addressed the need of the church to embrace the life of spiritual discipline. It was difficult to hold back the tears that came with his exhortations of self indulgence and apathy and even more difficult not to respond the call to awaken to the voice of God echoed in Isaiah 6:8 whom shall I send? He concluded his sermon by telling us to be a RAT—Reliable, Available and Teachable.

The final service was a celebration of worship with the ordination of two and commissioning's. The blessing for me came in the final minutes of that service when all those who attended the teaching tracks were asked if they felt called to answer, "Here I am Lord, send me." I found myself rising to my feet for the call of intercessory prayer. All those who stood were then commissioned by the bishops to sign our names in a book that could be used for follow up on our progress. I know in my heart that a prayerless church is powerless. Without Jesus in my life as Lord I am powerless to pray. But I sanged my name and will be a—RAT—for Jesus and His Gospel.

Early in December a meeting will take place in Chicago. At the end of it the New Province in America will be announced. All are invited to attend. Congratulations Church! We have given birth. You did not labor in vain.

Dear friends,

Whitney and I just returned from Freeport, Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas where we vacationed and spent time with my sister, Jeanne who is a cancer out-patient at the IAT (Immuno Augmentative Therapy) clinic there. The clinic is the place where we took Torrey for her cancer therapy just under thirty years ago and where Whitney was treated for his cancer five years ago.

While in Freeport I went to the Anglican Church as I always do. Church of the Ascension is a beautiful church with lovely stained glass windows. The people are primarily Bahamian and a very friendly congregation. And can they sing! Oh my! I shared with several of the folk the situation of our church, Christ Anglican. Our church will now be on their weekly church prayer list.

Through the years Whit and I have seen many changes in the Bahamas. The two hurricanes, Jeanne and Francis of 2004 did much devastation to the island so that the economy has not been good. This trip however was encouraging as the island has cleaned up well and many buildings rebuilt. All the islands could use our prayers as they continue to heal from these major natural storms.

The IAT clinic could also use prayers as new changes are being made with staff and organization. The primary therapy which Torrey, my sister and Whit all received for their different cancers will continue to be given. However, decisions concerning new offered therapies are being made as well as new people being brought in as staff. I would ask prayers for this situation at the clinic and for the cancer patients many who come from the United States but also from all over the world. All the churches in Freeport have the IAT patients on their weekly lists and we would appreciate that the IAT clinic and patients would be on our church list and in all of your prayers as well.

Whit and I are glad to return to worship with our church family of Christ Anglican.

Joy and peace to all!
Margaret and Whitney Morse

CCA TODAY

Birthdays

Ed Wood	12/02	Joan Vulte	12/15
Diane Spadacenta	12/10	Ryan Perez	12/21
Karol Ann Shalvoy	12/11	Jeanette Davis	12/22
Torrey Morse	12/14	Joe Perrone	12/31

Anniversaries

Gil & Pam Wilkes	12/28/1962
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GIVING OPPORTUNITY

In case anyone is interested in making an outreach donation as a Christmas gift, Heifer International is a good way to do so. A person can give a donation of any amount and print off a gift card. All contributions are tax deductible. This kind of giving is a good way to share Christmas with those less fortunate around the world. The gift card makes a great stocking stuffer. Any and all information, how to donate can be found on their web site: www.heifer.org.

PARISH DIRECTORY COMING SOON

Nancy Perez has been hard at work. Look for the first ever CCA directories as you enter the church. Nancy has compiled family photos and events of the past year.

HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED

Bet, Elaine, and Joan Frost, along with Kate Hermanns are spearheading an effort to help local families in need. CCA is working with the Social Services Director of East Haven to direct our parish donation to support the East Haven Town Outreach program. How will our contribution be used? Here is a list provided by the Director about their specific needs now and throughout the year:

- Cash and check donations are accepted and used for various holiday occasions, summer camp, heating needs, medication, food, etc.
- Gift cards for Wal-Mart, Stop & Shop, TJ Maxx, A.P Super Foodmart & local laundry facilities are accepted and distributed to those in need. Gas cards are also accepted.
- 'Secret Santa' gifts for children & adults
- Backpacks for 'Back to School'

We will be sure to keep you informed of our outreach efforts and how CCA is making a difference in the community.

ON A MISSION *by Vickie Manfredi*

I have never considered myself a person who is mission minded. But, there was a day when the Lord changed that. That change came in the visit of a Tanzanian bishop to Grace Church in 2003. He gave a simple witness about his acceptance of Jesus as Savior and how his life changed. His testimony was powerful because it was full of hope, full of encouragement and turned my heart upside down and inside out.

So you might ask yourself, how do I know? What do I do? I can tell you this, if you have the slightest stirring, a twinge here or there or even a curiosity ... then begin to move on it. God cannot direct a sitting volunteer. Take some action to discover if it is really the Lord moving your heart, because if it is, He will open doors for you.

I have asked God to give me a heart for missions and a vision to bring to Christ Anglican. I hope in the weeks to come to network with our outreach committee and to offer ideas about projects that have come to my attention in Uganda.

At Grace Church I became the chairman of the missions committee because I was the only one who showed up for a meeting! I was just interested in hearing about the possibilities! God can use you if you are the only one interested. He will volunteer you into a venture you will never forget and you will never be the same again. You will grow and stretch and yell "ouch" a few times but the joy of it no other can ever know.

NOTES

- If you have not yet provided evidence of Baptism, please do so. Remember that without it you cannot vote in parish elections.
- Remember this is your newsletter so, voice your opinion, write your stories, tell us what you like or don't like; your options are unlimited.
- Next vestry meeting will be December 16
- We will have a Christmas Eve service at 4pm (no service on Christmas Day)
- Bishop David Bena will be visiting CCA on February 1, 2009
- Annual Parish Meeting will be held on February 8, 2009

PRAYER LIST

Myrtle Cunningham; Anthony Bates; Jill St. Germaine; Edith Ferrailo; Bobbie Buckley; IAT cancer patients; the homeless, hungry and spiritually needy; President elect, Barack Obama and his decision making of cabinet, and Congress as the new regime begins.

"Each religious tradition has its own approach to divine reality, and it takes the form of a communal service in which all present forget who they are or where they are going and instead give themselves fully to the moment at hand. The importance of a set liturgy is that it is of no earthly use. Therefore nothing personal is to be gained from it. Instead the mind is released for a period of time from material considerations, and can pause before the mystery of creation in awe in the fellowship of other believers."

—*from Smoldering Fire by Martin Israel*
