

ST. AIDAN'S



TORCH

*St. Aidan's Mission:
Spread the promise of Jesus Christ in and beyond our
community through worship, education, and outreach.*

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GRESHAM OREGON
NEWSLETTER:
DECEMBER 1, 2009

Christmas Meditation

From The Very Reverend David Bird, Ph.D., Dean and Rector of Trinity Cathedral, San Jose, December 2007

Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to witness to our belief. Yes, people are in a hurry. They have no time to chat. But wherever they go, especially when shopping, they seem to encounter Christmas music. Much of this music, of course, has little to do with the kind of carols that many of us grew up with or have come to know through the life of the Church. Yet Christmas, carefully explained, points to a discussion of Christian essentials, especially after a performance of Messiah.

Christmas is a time for giving, and not just shopping. It's a time to contact people we have neglected or missed over the last year. It's a time when many of the great stories we hear stress the fact that it is better to give than to receive; that people matter more than things.

During World War I, the Great War, Christmas Day was a day when troops on both sides put down their arms and ceased fighting. They realized there was a deeper message than war at the heart of world.

The celebration of Christmas for believers is a celebration that points way beyond Jesus' birth to his character. If we would be fully human, we need only look at him and model ourselves on him.

All of us, as a necessary consequence of surviving our birth and early infancy, have imbibed a spirit of selfishness. Becoming more fully human involves moving beyond a preoccupation with self to focusing upon other people.

No life better exemplifies that crucial transition than that of Jesus of Nazareth. Let us take the opportunity, during the Christmas season to make people aware by our words and actions of the centrality of the Christian message in our lives. (Remember that at one point in history Christmas included the four weeks before Christmas, the two weeks of Christmas and all the weeks leading to Ash Wednesday.)

If you have friends who love Christmas carols or Christmas music but who do not have a church to go to, bring them to church. You will be doing them a favor—one which invariably brings added joy to one's life.

Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas.

A warm Welcome at

SAINT AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL Church

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2009-2010

Sunday, November 29, Advent Sunday

The Holy Eucharist.....8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 6, Advent II

The Holy Eucharist.....8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 13, Advent III

The Holy Eucharist.....8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Lessons and Carols.....5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 20, Advent IV

The Holy Eucharist.....8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

The Greening of the Church.....11:45 a.m.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

December 24, Christmas Eve (Thursday)

Vespers of the Nativity & Midnight Mass

..... 10:30 p.m.

December 25, Christmas Day (Friday)

Said Mass.....10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 27, 1st Sunday after Christmas

The Holy Eucharist.....8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 3, 2010, 2nd Sunday after Christmas

.....(Epiphany anticipated)

The Holy Eucharist.....8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 10, The Baptism of Christ

The Holy Eucharist.....8:00 a.m.

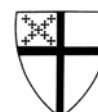
The Holy Eucharist & Renewal of Baptismal

Vows.....10:00 a.m.



SAINT AIDAN'S MISSION

Spread the Promise of Jesus Christ in and beyond
our community through
worship, education, fellowship, and outreach.



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November 24, 2009

Special Message to our Diocesan Family



This Sunday, the children of St. Christopher's parish will gather around me at the chancel steps for a "children's sermon". In my lap will be a basket with a set of twelve-inch tall wood and paper Mary and Joseph statues. I will be inviting the children to open their homes during Advent to Mary and Joseph as they prepare for the birth of Jesus.

We hope the children will be interested in taking the statues home for a few days, setting them up in their homes, and spending some time as a family to remember the holy family's journey so long ago and how that journey is connected to our own. It is our hope that their time with Mary and Joseph will help prepare their hearts and homes for the coming of the Christ child.

Standing on the edge of my own journey to Oregon, I feel the excitement of adventure and the anxiety of a journey not yet taken. I look forward to this time of preparation. This entire time of discovery and discernment has felt like a time pregnant with possibility. I have learned much about the Episcopal Church in Oregon and I have seen you in action. You are an incredible people. I am deeply grateful to all of you who have made this journey so blessed.

There is much to accomplish before the van and the cars are loaded and the trip begins in earnest. Time to spend saying goodbye to the wonderful people of Minnesota and to St. Christopher's Church; time to prepare for the journey itself and time to rest our bodies and souls.

Please continue to hold Marla and me in your prayers as we hold you in ours. Pray also for the faith community of St. Christopher's as it prepares for its own journey in faith. Pray also for the transition committee and your diocesan staff as they work to prepare a place for us.

With a deep sense of God's goodness and the knowledge that God will make a place for all of us, whether there is room in the inn or not, we wait with eager longing for the coming of Christ.

Blessed Advent,
Michael Hanley

**Flowers for the Altar and
Flower Memorials in the Sunday Bulletin**

Donations for flowers are appropriate as memorials to loved ones or as thanksgivings marking significant life events, such as birthdays, baptism, wedding anniversaries, etc. The Flower Fund is the only source of funding for flowers used in the church on Sundays, reminding us of God's handiwork in creation.

Please notify June Day or Byron McKinlay at least one week in advance of a flower memorial. Information needed is whether for a male or female, flower and color preference. You can see June or Byron at church or call them at home. It is critical that they know far enough in advance, so that accommodation can be made for your preferences.

Flower Memorials should be turned in to the Church Office Thursday, ten days prior to the Sunday you have signed up for, and must be on hand no later than Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. five days prior. You may place your Flower Memorials in the office mailbox (by the kitchen in Murdock Hall), or email the office at staidans@pacifier.com or call the office at 503-252-6128.

**SAINT AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Weather-related Church Policy**

Generally, on weekdays when the Portland Public Schools are closed, our office will be closed, staff will not report, and services will not be held.

We will make every effort to conduct the regularly scheduled celebrations of the Eucharist (on Sundays and Wednesdays) during weather emergencies (though some events may be scaled back or cancelled).

We will try to update the church voicemail announcement as soon as we can. We will send out email announcements (which of course only go to those who have given their email addresses to the office). Further, we will update the home page of our website.

In some instances, extreme weather conditions may cause a delay in attending to these duties.

Please use care and discretion in problematic travel conditions. God wants you healthy and happy and so do we!

—Resolution passed by St. Aidan's Vestry,
June 15, 2009

Diocese of Oregon Convention Report, 2009

The Rev. Michael Hanley is elected Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Oregon!

The election of the Tenth Bishop of Oregon highlighted the diocesan convention that took place at the Eugene Hilton, November 19-21.

“By the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, the Diocese of Oregon, meeting in Convention in Eugene, Oregon, on the 20th day of November in the year of our Lord 2009, has elected The Rev. Michael Hanley as the tenth Bishop of Oregon. Father Hanley has been serving as rector of St. Christopher Episcopal Church, Roseville, Minnesota since 1998. He was one of three nominees selected by the Search Committee to stand for election. Provided a majority of bishops with jurisdiction and a majority of diocesan Standing Committees give their consent, he will be consecrated on April 10, 2010 by The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The Standing Committee is profoundly grateful to the Search Committee for the time and energy they invested in selecting our three nominees, to the nominees themselves for being willing, once chosen, to stand for election, and to the Holy Spirit for guiding our diocese through our search and election process.”—*Sharon L. Rodgers, President for the Standing Committee*

Delegates and Hanley “met” in video conference format the next morning as the convention continued. Delegates sang a Celtic alleluia and then “Happy Birthday” to Hanley whose birthday is Nov. 26.

“You have all done such fine work over the past two years [since Itty’s departure] and taken on so much leadership,” Hanley told the convention. “I have a sense of giddy expectation and hope for the future. Thanks for letting us [him and wife, Marla] become part of what will be many happy years to come.”

In addition to electing a new bishop, the Ingathering for *Episcopal Relief and Development’s NetsforLife* program was more than \$24,000.

Assisting Bishop Sanford Hampton presided at the convention’s opening Eucharist. He was assisted by Diocese of San Joaquin Provisional Bishop Jerry A. Lamb. The Rev. James Kegel, pastor of Central Lutheran Church, Eugene, where the Eucharist was held, welcomed the convention to the church.

The delegates approved a 2010 budget of \$2,068,217 that is \$200,000 less than the 2009 budget; and capped the Diocesan Program Assessment at 18 percent, a two-percent reduction. They also passed a canonical change allowing lay members of the diocesan council, board of trustees and standing committee to be voting members of subsequent conventions.

Delegates affirmed General Convention Resolution C056, acknowledging work during the past year in the diocese to create “full dialogue regarding access to... all the rites and sacraments of the Episcopal Church... [including] access to blessings of relationships and unions.” The resolution also requests the Bishop of Oregon to provide the “generous pastoral response” allowed in the resolution by authorizing the blessing of such partnerships by clergy who choose to do so.

The convention also adopted the church’s *Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation*. The diocesan resolution requires every congregation to read and study the charter “and attempt to live it out locally.”

This year’s convention Eucharist offering of \$2082 will go *Youth Ministries*. As with all of the program groups in our diocese, the Youth Ministries budget was cut by 50% midyear because of the economic shortfall. In addition to the program budget cut, the Youth Missioner position was eliminated. This convention offering will provide some funding for our diocesan Youth Ministries Commission (YMC) to make various youth events available to the young people in our diocese.

Bishop Hampton and his wife, Mari, were honored during the convention and received gift baskets from each of the diocese’s seven convocations based on themes specific to local geography and culture. Hampton has served the diocese since April 18, 2008.

The bishop-elect, Fr. Hanley, was born in 1954 and grew up in Oklahoma and in New York City. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1976 and a M.Div. from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, in 1981. He also holds a D.Min. in Congregational Development from Seabury-Western (2005). He has served parishes in Oklahoma, Missouri, and, for the past nineteen years, Minnesota.

In the Diocese of Minnesota he has served in a variety of elected and appointed leadership positions and is currently a trustee of Seabury-Western.

He is known as a supportive mentor to people of all ages and stages of life, with a deep spiritual center. He is married to Marla Martin Hanley, an associate academic dean at St. Catherine University in the Twin Cities. They are the proud parents of two adult daughters.

The Convention closed on Saturday morning with the Renewal of Baptismal Vows. Immediately before imparting his blessing, Bishop Hampton led the assembly in the following prayer, written by Rob Stoltz, Parish Administrator:

Prayer for the Bishop-Elect

Almighty God, who sent your Son Jesus to shepherd your people, and the Holy Spirit to make your people one: May your Holy Spirit be present with our Bishop-Elect, Michael Joseph Hanley, that he may unite the Diocese of Oregon in love, truth and wisdom. Give him a true shepherd’s heart, like that of Jesus, that he may give strength to the weak, heal the broken-hearted, console the lonely, and bring back the wandering. May our bishop-elect teach all members of this diocese, to sanctify them in the truth, and nourish them with your Word and Sacraments. And grant that we may all be lead in hope, challenged to ever greater faithfulness, and equipped with love for mission and ministry in the church and in the world. All this we ask, in the Name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

THE CHURCH MOUSE

December 2009



We've had the Rummage Sale, Halloween, Wintergarden and Thanksgiving. It's time for Advent. There are flyers on the windows with the Advent schedule. Would you believe I noticed Gloria and Mary sorting through a basket of green tomatoes — they are still ripening and are quite edible.

WE HAVE A NEW BISHOP! The **Rev. Michael Joseph Hanley**, rector of St. Christopher Episcopal Church, Roseville, Minnesota, elected Tenth Bishop of Oregon at the 121st Diocesan Convention in Eugene. He was elected on the second ballot with 132 clergy and 198 laity voting. He received 104 clergy votes and 146 lay votes. Thanks to our convention delegates, **Fr. Scott, Mike Vidito, Rob Stoltz and Bill Pratt. Byron and LindaCarol McKinlay and Shirley Bush** were elected alternates. Bill was not able to attend so **Byron** as first alternate was promoted to delegate. We thank God for the leadership in this election, and pray that the transition will be one of positive growth for us all.

Other than convention, our most recent event was Wintergarden, and there are still on-going sales, although most of our stuff was sold or taken back home by its creators. We decided to open the day to a few vendors from outside the parish in addition to our own people who have special skills. We welcomed **Marlene Lucas and Pat Ferguson** sponsoring Alex's Photography booth again. There was one beautiful picture of the walk near our memorial garden. Simply beautiful! **Charlene Ferguson** made a hit with her beef jerky. **Jackie Goodnight** and mom, **Sharon Barney** had a booth that included great goat's-milk soap. It not only smelled good, but had very nice designs. Then we had a couple of other business vendors of jewelry and scrap-booking. **Mike Vidito** made a wonderful Santa once again, and we thank **Mandy Crawford** for being the photographer this year. **Tammie Sartwell** played a great Mrs. Santa, accompanied by elf, **Donovan**. They lent atmosphere and extra hands with the raffle and other business throughout the day. Two of our Shirley's were also very present with **Shirley Vidito** keeping track of the bookstore and **Shirley Bush** acting as cashier all day. **Fr. Scott** made bread-and butter pickles and chutneys. **Wynema Gerba and June Day** added to the variety with more pickles and apple butter. It's almost all gone by now. Thanks to **Bonnie Buckmann and Sharon Weese** for maintaining sales to parishioners in the narthex. The *Sleighbell Café* did a booming business under the careful leadership of **Chuck and Julie Kyer, Jeanne Pinkerton, Janice Erickson, Charlotte Dennett, and Colleen Hatala**. (Hope I got everyone). Julie's mushroom soup and Italian wedding soup are to die for; the sandwiches were great too. I bought several

emergency meals, both lasagna and noodle kugel. It was also very clever of **Colleen Hatala** to make those great cinnamon rolls and other goodies available on individual plates with a plastic fork so people could buy just enough to have a snack. There were quite a few baked things, brought by lots of people, and that makes for a great exchange for us, because everybody eats! It was a good day. Thanks to all who came and brought things and to all who came and bought things.

Our church was honored to be one of the locations for the Bishop candidates' WALKABOUT. This was very well received. Big thanks to **Julie Kyer, Cathy Hoye, June Day and Janice Erickson** for providing a great meal for the clergy and other attendees. **Fr. Scott** managed to sell a couple of our cookbooks to people from other churches — he's hoping we can issue a new cookbook next year. Two of our parishioners also made a wonderful contribution to the diocese by providing tabulated information about each candidate. **LindaCarol McKinlay** did an extensive tabular layout, and **John Gurney** made a similar video. The video was very well received — John put it together in one weekend, providing 26 copies to spread throughout the diocese. It's wonderful to have such talent among us. **John Gurney** and his camera and **Patrick Hoye** are working with our Sunday School kids, filming the Christmas Story, including the Annunciation, shepherds, etc. for showing at the *Wigglers' Mass* (4 p.m. on December 20.)

Coleen Howard has recently been endorsed to postulancy to become a deacon. She is now eligible to attend Vocations Conference for next year. Her support team includes **The Rev. Dr. Caroline Litzenberger, Judie Cox, Diane Parker, and Mike Vidito**. She was encouraged in this quest by **Deacon Jean**.

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to our treasurer, **Janice Erickson** at a going-away party, December 6. She will be leaving for Florida to be with her daughter who lives there. All are encouraged to sign her card. **Lorraine Crawford** will be leading the new treasurer team, which will also include **LindaCarol McKinlay. Cathy Hoye** just finished signing the sales papers on her former home. Big thanks to **Sharon Alexander**, her realtor.

I read in the Forward Day by Day about a person who somehow expected her priest to automatically know about her hospitalization. It doesn't work that way. I remind all to let the office (and/or the prayer chain) know when we have unusual health problems. We are to pray for **Lori Swan, Elise's** daughter who has been hospitalized with fainting spells and general undiagnosed weakness. **Marion Treviso, Bill Pratt and Lyman Houk** are all on the current sick list. **Marilyn Grendele's** mother **Adrienne Baggenstos** recently passed away.

Please support the children's store — where our youth can buy inexpensive gifts for their families. December 6.

Well, gotta run. Stay in touch. - CM

On Selecting Hymns

Mark Jones - St. Aidan's Choirmaster and Organist

As the story goes, the parish priest received a call from an irate parishioner. "I have a complaint about the music at the church," said the parishioner. "What's that?" asked the priest. "Your organist plays the same two hymns over and over, and we are getting tired of them," complained the parishioner. Perplexed, the priest asks, "What hymns are these that have you upset?" "Joy to the World and Jesus Christ is risen today."

That being said, and having introduced two new hymns a few Sundays ago, I though I should take some time to explain the hymn selection process and factors involved in choosing certain hymns over others. I don't intend to give you too much information at one time, so I will be making these installments over the next few months.

First, I need to give you some information that you may or may not be aware of.

As you know, the 1982 Hymnal is divided into two sections. The first section contains music whose numbers are preceded by "S." The "S" stands for Service Music, meaning the ordinary parts of the mass that are specific to some action or event, and have a specific location within the service. For example the Gloria, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei. These are the three key sections of the ordinary of the mass. Certainly, there are others - Fraction Anthems, Canticles, and the Psalms (although not set in the 1982 Hymnal). Some are for specific services and are written for specific times of the year - the most obvious deviation from the norm is during Lent when Alleluias are not sung except if the music is to be used at a funeral during that period. A whole dissertation could be written on Service Music, but I am not going to bore you with that.

Next is some technical information you might want to learn. You will need a hymnal for reference.

Open to the Contents page at the beginning of the book. The hymns are first listed as part of the Daily Office by time of day - morning prayer, noonday, evening and compline. Next is the church year section - Sundays, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost - followed by others depending on how they may and can be utilized based on the text of the hymn (Holy Days, the Common of Saints and Various Occasions, etc.). There are 720 hymns in the 1982 Hymnal. That's a lot to choose from. By far, the largest section is the group of General Hymns - numbers 362 through 634. Take a look at the list, it makes sense once you understand the numbers of hymns available in this great book.

Now I would like us to look at some of the more technical aspects of the hymns. Please turn to hymn #66, Come, thou-expected Jesus. As you can see, the top left of the hymn gives the season for using the hymn - Advent. At the bottom is some more mysterious information. The text was written by Charles Wesley. The name of the tune (melody) is Stuttgart (more about the tune name in a bit). The tune comes from a collection of music called *Psalmodia Sacra, und Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge* (the translation from German is "Sacred Psalms, and Prayerful and Beautiful Songs"). The collection was published in 1715. Composer William Henry Havergal (born in 1793 and died in 1890) took the tune (the melody) harmonized it, and made certain unnamed changes to make it fit the text. The numbers at the bottom right side (87. 87) indicate the numbers of syllables in the text per phrase. Do not be confused, kind reader, it does not mean there are eighty-seven syllables in the first phrase. It means that the first half of the phrase has eight syllables, and the second half phrase has seven syllables. The second whole phrase contains the same numbers and dispositions of syllables. More about these syllable numbers and other abbreviations in a later article.

More about the tune name. In the back of the hymnal on page 949 there is a list of all of the tune names published in this book. Find the tune name Stuttgart. See that there are three numbers following the name - 66, 127, and 414. This means that there are three different hymns using the same tune. Take a look at each of the three hymns. Each of the texts is by a different author. The second two hymns have the same harmonization that is different from the first. The second and third hymns name KD Smith as the composer who extended and modified Havergal's harmonization - there are even slight differences between the harmonizations of the latter two. The final of the three also has a descant by yet another composer.

Some of the names are of unknown origin. Other tunes are named by their composers. If you were in attendance the Sunday when Fr. Patrick Tomter celebrated mass, you will recall Fr. Tomter explained that the music for hymn #442 (In the cross of Christ I glory) was written by composer Bruce Neswick. Neswick and Fr Tomter are friends. Fr Tomter was honored by having the hymn tune named after him. Bruce Neswick found that the old chestnut that we all know needed an optional setting. The editors of the Hymnal 1982 printed both hymns with the same text but different music. This happens many times in the hymnal.

Some composers name their tunes after countries, cities or towns where they live or work - Russia, Geneva, Bangor, etc. They might be named after saints or other things that are significant to the composer. The concept is to keep each tune unique by name so that there is a formalized way of keeping track of the tunes. This is a difficult task considering the thousands of tunes in the myriad of different hymnals out there in the world. The tunes, depending on the syllable numbers discussed earlier, could be used with different texts if they fit.

The 1982 Hymnal is a great book for the musician. Most of the hymns show the full harmonization of the tune. Some show only the music of the tune along with the text. This is because the composer wrote an organ accompaniment that was not to be sung. There is a second edition of the hymnal for the organist containing all of the music - accompaniment and all. Most of the hymns have all of the stanzas of the text printed between the right-hand (top) and left-hand (bottom) musical lines. Occasionally the text or music is too long to allow this to happen. See hymn #284 where three of the eight verses are printed below the music.

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Intercessions	Lectionary Readings
December 6, 2009 The Second Sunday of Advent	
In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for the work of the Church in Western Mexico - (Mexico). In the Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer, pray for the work of the Churches in <i>Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal</i> . In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, pray for the congregations of: St. John, Toledo; the patients and staff of Meridian Park Hospital, Tualatin; St. Luke by the Sea, Waldport; St. Francis of Assisi, Wilsonville. In our Parish Cycle of Prayer, pray for the Healing Team.	Baruch 5:1–9 Canticle 16, Page 92, BCP, The Song of Zechariah (<i>Benedictus Dominus Deus</i>) Philippians 1:3–11 Luke 3:1–6
December 13, 2009 The Third Sunday of Advent	
In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for the work of the Church in Willochra - (South Australia, Australia). In the Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer, pray for the work of the Churches in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, pray for the congregations of: St. Mary, Woodburn; Companion Diocese of Madhya Kerala; St. Alban, Albany (<i>pray for guidance in their search process</i>); Trinity, Ashland. In our Parish Cycle of Prayer, pray for our Vestry.	Zephaniah 3:14–20 Canticle 9, Page 86, BCP, The First Song of Isaiah (<i>Ecce Deus</i>) Philippians 4:4–7 Luke 3:7–18
December 20, 2009 The Fourth Sunday of Advent	
In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for the work of the Church in Myanmar & Yangon - (Myanmar). In the Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer, pray for the work of the Churches in Ghana, Nigeria. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, pray for the congregations of: Grace, Astoria; St. John, Bandon (<i>pray for guidance in their search process</i>); St. Bartholomew, Beaverton (<i>pray for guidance in their search process</i>); Holy Cross, Boring. In our Parish Cycle of Prayer, pray for the Office Staff and volunteers.	Micah 5:2–5a Canticle 15, Page 91, BCP, The Song of Mary (<i>Magnificat</i>) Hebrews 10:5–10 Luke 1:39–45, (46–55)
December 24, 2009 Christmas Eve	
In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for the work of the Church in Yola - (Province of Jos, Nigeria). In the Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer, pray for the work of the Churches in Yokohama, Japan. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, pray for the congregations of: Church of the Good Samaritan, Corvallis; the patients and staff of Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, Corvallis; the residents and staff of Samaritan Village, Corvallis; and St. Anselm of Canterbury, Corvallis. In our Parish Cycle of Prayer pray for the Healing Team. (<i>Repeated for Christmas Day</i>).	Psalm 96 Isaiah 9:2–7 Titus 2:11–14 Luke 2:1–14(15–20)
December 25, 2009 Christmas Day	
In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for the work of the Church in Yola - (Province of Jos, Nigeria). In the Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer, pray for the work of the Churches in Yokohama, Japan. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, Pray for the congregations of: Church of the Good Samaritan, Corvallis; the patients and staff of Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, Corvallis; the residents and staff of Samaritan Village, Corvallis; and St. Anselm of Canterbury, Corvallis. In our Parish Cycle of Prayer pray for the Healing Team. (<i>A repeat of Christmas Eve</i>).	Isaiah 52:7–10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1–4, (5–12) John 1:1–14
December 27, 2009 St John, Apostle & Evangelist (The First Sunday after Christmas Day)	
In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for the work of the Church in Ysabel-(Melanesia). In the Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer pray for the work of the Churches in <i>Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories</i> . In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer pray for the congregations of: St. Andrew, Cottage Grove; St. Thomas, Dallas; St. David, Drain; and Church of the Resurrection, Eugene. In our Parish Cycle of Prayer pray for the Healing Team.	Isaiah 61:10–62:3 Psalm 147:13–21 Galatians 3:23–25;4:4–7 John 1:1–18

Continued from page 5

On Selecting Hymns

I have seen all sorts of hymnal layouts. The 1942 hymnal usually gave only four verses between the two musical staves with the rest of the verses following below the music. In some books I have seen only the tune printed with the text laid out below in poetry form. I have also seen hymnals where the text was printed and only the name of the tune was listed (the was in a little old parish church in England). The old Presbyterian Worship Book listed the hymns alphabetically. If you know the words to hymn but don't want to let your fingers do the walking through the hymnal to find it, there is yet another list in the back of the book giving the first line or few words of the hymns listed in alphabetical order. More to come in the next edition of *The Torch*.

Happy Birthday — Age is opportunity no less,
 Than youth itself, though in another dress,
 And as the evening twilight fades away,
 The sky is filled with stars, invisible by day.
 ~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Morituri Salutamus

- 6 Joyce Robinson
- 9 Patrick Hoye
- 16 Harold Fisher
- 20 Byron McKinlay
- 27 Darlene Dunning
- 29 Bob Pierik



Church Office schedules Holiday Closures

The Parish Office will be closed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, December 24 & 31, 2009. We will compensate for these closures by conducting work on some other days, but although we may be in and working, these will *not* be "open for regular business" days.—Rob Stoltz, Parish Administrator

Support the SnowCap Giving Tree

Help St. Aidan's give gifts to the needy this Christmas by participating in the *Giving Tree*. Simply take a gift suggestion (red and orange slips) from the tree, or choose your own thing. Then bring your unwrapped gift back to the Murdock Hall, and place an ornament on the tree to signify another gift has been made! In the past the Giving Tree has yielded about 140 lbs., and completely filled a car trunk and back seat with toys, games and clothing. Hurrah to every participant! Deadline is December 14.



What Does a Priest Do?

Our vestry asked me to write an article for **The Torch** that might clarify the role of a priest in the congregation. As you will see, a priest's work cannot be seen outside of the context of the work of the whole church.

The first place to look to answer this question is the "Catechism," also known as "An Outline of the Faith," found beginning on page 843 of the Book of Common Prayer. Leafing through to a section titled, "The Ministry," I am struck first by the position in which the four orders are listed. It is important to note that lay persons get top billing! To the question: "What is the ministry of the laity?", the Catechism answers: "The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church." To flesh it out a bit more, another question asks: "Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?" To that the answer is: "The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members." So we all share in that mission, lay and ordained, alike.

TEAtime:

TEAtime: A Cup of Friendship

Dear Ladies,

December's TEAtime will be held on Wednesday, December 9, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the kitchen of Murdock Hall. This is a time to just get together and chat, drink tea (or coffee) and enjoy each other's company. I'll bring some treats and the tea; feel free to bring a treat to share. How about a white elephant Christmas gift exchange? If you want to participate, just bring along a white elephant gift. We always have a good time with this. WE ESPECIALLY WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ANY NEWCOMERS TO ST. AIDAN'S TO JOIN US. Once again, thanks to all who have made this part of Parish Life a success! Any questions, please call Angie Groce at 503-665-8242.



*A woman is like a tea bag- you cannot tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.
 ~Nancy Reagan*

Continued on page 9

Annual Meeting for the year 2009

The Annual Meeting, wherein we review our works for 2009, has been scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2010. **Annual Reports are due in to the office by Wednesday, January 20, 2010. If you exercise any ministry in the parish, please turn in a report.** A Vestry Nominating Committee has been formulated, consisting of vestry members who will be concluding their ministry: Angie Groce, Betsy Berninghausen, and Marlene Lucas. If you would be interested in serving on the vestry or if you are aware of someone you would like to see on the vestry, please contact one of these three people. As is our custom, on Annual Meeting Day, we will have one service at 9 o'clock, followed by a brunch and meeting. Please set aside the date so you can participate in this **vital** part of our community life. For point of reference, the Super Bowl (when we hold our Souper Bowl) is the next Sunday, February 7, 2010.— *Rob Stoltz, Clerk of the Vestry*



Children's Store Coming Soon



The Children's Store will be open December 6 after the 10 o'clock Eucharist. This is a Ministry of our Church School, and provides an opportunity for children to make affordable purchase of items suitable for gift giving at Christmastide. You can help this ministry. Needed items are: gift bags, and children's and men's presents. Any one interested in helping with the store can contact Sharon Barney in person at church, or by phone or email at treschic6@comcast.net



St. Aidan's Congregation Steps Up

As discussed at our Stewardship Kick-Off in September, our Church is facing a lack of funds and of key volunteer time. The economic recession and the aging of our congregation force us to reevaluate how we deliver our ministry and require us to better prioritize our volunteer efforts.

The results of the Stewardship Drive, pledges and key volunteer commitments, were truly amazing and demonstrates our commitment to our Church and its' mission. Highlights include:

Pledges of \$105,000 which was \$3,000 more than 2009 pledges. We did this with fewer pledging units and with the ongoing economic recession.

Jean Jeppesen-Keady and Tim Keady and others stepped forward to take over the Crab Feed Fundraiser. They will be working with Jean, Chuck, and Julie during the 2010 Crab Feed to determine the new organization and responsibilities.

LindaCarol McKinlay and Lorraine Crawford stepped forward to assume the Treasurer's role and responsibilities. Janice has begun training them and the new team will be in place before her departure to sunny Florida.

A flood of new ideas for Outreach and Community Involvement – the keys to returning our congregation to a position of growth and expansion.

These successes demonstrate what truly committed people can accomplish in a difficult environment. While we should take a moment to congratulate ourselves we must also remind ourselves it is the first step. There is a lot of hard work ahead of us as we renovate and revise our Church's organizational structure to meet the needs of both ourselves and our community.

We invite everyone to attend the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2010 where we will celebrate our 2009 successes, which are many, and discuss the future.

The Message of the Angels



LESSONS AND CAROLS AT
SAINT AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LESSONS, READINGS AND CAROLS
FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009 AT 5 P.M.

Scriptural readings, contemporary commentary, and poetry tell us the story of the birth of Christ. Favorite and familiar Christmas carols abound — *Joy to the World, Silent Night, O come all ye faithful*, and many more.

Wassail and other refreshments will be served in the parish hall following the service. Childcare will be provided.

Donations made toward the church's Music Program Fund will be accepted and greatly appreciated.

What Does A Priest Do?

“What is the ministry of a priest or presbyter? The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.” (BCP, p.856) A priest’s role, as far as what is vested in the priesthood, is to “be a priest, pastor and teacher” and to share in the work and governance of the larger Church. (BCP, p.531)

What calls us all together as a parish is corporate worship, as well as our work, prayer and giving that God’s reign may extend to all. The priest’s role is one specific piece of that picture. It is easy to confuse a priest’s role with that of a CEO or a president, such is the strength of those images in popular culture. To add to that confusion is the fact that a rector, vicar or priest-in-charge does act like a CEO or president from time to time. Chairing meetings, helping organize programs of the parish and signing contracts (for example) are all part of those priest’s duties. As I engage in these kinds of activities, however, I realize that a round collar is not necessary to carry them out. In fact, much of that work is more efficiently done by many a lay person with strong administrative gifts.

It is also easy to confuse a priest’s role with a social worker. Feeding a hungry person on behalf of the entire congregation, giving financial help with utilities or referring to an appropriate philanthropic organization for specialized help are all work most parish clergy do. Clergy are called upon for such service simply because they are present at the church when those in need come by. Again, a round collar is not necessary, but willingness to help is.

Around St. Aidan’s it is easy to confuse my role with Gardener, since I participate in that work- especially in the areas where garden design is a part of the work. I appreciate having a place to work out my gifts for design and being able to see those designs take shape. Gardening and design are hobbies, and I love sharing those gifts in this place. The same goes for home canning and any of those other hobbies the fruits of which I can share.

What are the things that give me energy about doing my job as priest and rector of St. Aidan’s? In a given week, I may work on a diocesan committee (like the Art & Architecture Commission, which I chair, or the Bishop Transition Committee, of which I am a member), I may meet with a grieving family to plan a funeral or with an exuberant family planning a baptism, I may be preparing a sermon or planning a special service for our 50th anniversary observance, or I may be writing an article for ***The Torch***. These are some of the particularly fulfilling aspects of what I am privileged to do, and they all fall within what the Prayer Book suggests: Pastor, priest, teacher and participant in the councils of the church.

At our Summer retreat, the vestry and I looked at some of the things I am called upon to do in my work here. We discovered that much of that takes me away from work that is a priest’s special role. Rather than cleaning the parish hall, I should be calling on the home-bound. Rather than working on contracts or financing, I should be giving counsel to an aspiring Deacon or person in need. If any ball has been dropped that affects the running of the parish, I am likely to be seen chasing after it, encouraging, cajoling, coaching a member to take it up. I am doing that rather than planning a worship service or preparing a sermon.

We at St. Aidan’s have so many wonderful ministries that lay people have been engaged in over the years. A booklet listing our ministries was published in the Summer of 2007. The booklet outlined what the ministry is responsible for, asks for help, and where possible, gives a contact person. Unfortunately, ministries that were robust at one time sometimes have lost vigor. Meanwhile, new ministries have sprung up that are not mentioned in that booklet. That is the way with a living organism, the parish. It all depends on the gifts for ministry and energy from parishioners like you. What aspect of this ministry we share is fulfilling to you? Come talk with me or look at our Ministries Booklet for clues. I will bet we can find some meaningful work for you to engage in toward our goal: Extend God’s reign to all.

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Tuesday — Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM,
or by appointment

Treasurer's Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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The Leadership of St. Aidan's

Clergy

The Right Reverend Sanford "Sandy" Hampton
Assisting Bishop of Oregon

The Reverend Scott M. Dolph, Rector

The Reverend Tom Murdock, Associate Priest

Vestry

Vestry Liaisons to the Ministry Teams

Senior Warden, Angie Groce, *Parish Life (2010)*

Junior Warden, Byron McKinlay, *Facilities (2012)*

Betsy Berninghausen, *Worship (2010)*

Marlene Lucas, *Administration & Finance (2010)*

Judie Cox, *Outreach (2012)*

Jeanne Pinkerton, *Parish Life (2011)*

George DeWitz, *Outreach (2012)*

Bruce Richardson, *Administration & Finance (2011)*

Mary Hamilton, *Facilities (2011)*

Gloria Trunk, *Facilities (2010)*

Patrick Hoyer, *Christian Discipleship (2012)*

Bonnie Buckmann, *Outreach (2011)*

Rob Stoltz, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Other Lay Leaders and Staff:

Parish Administrator: Rob Stoltz

Treasurer: Lorraine Crawford

Organist and Choirmaster: Mark Jones

Sexton: Stan Rickerd

Altar Guild Chair: Julie Kyer

Church School Director: Shirley Vidito

Childcare Provider: Nicole Epperly & Logan Larsen

Media Coordinator: Pat Rose

Master Gardener, Grounds: Gloria Trunk

Offering Counter Coordinator: Shirley Bush

Web-master: Marilyn Grendele

Newsletter Co-Editors: Shirley Bush & Marilyn Grendele

Proofreader: Pat Rose