

# The Messenger

*Published regularly by the parishioners of  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

*201 E. Ridge Street \* Marquette \* Michigan 49855 \* (906) 226-2912*

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## Discernment Results Announced

Meeting for the final time on January 17th, the Episcopal Ministry Discernment Team (EMDT) completed its discernment of the new Episcopal Ministry Support Team, including a Bishop/Ministry Developer. The names of the team will be brought before the Special Diocesan Convention for affirmation (election) on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at St Stephen's Church, Escanaba, beginning at 10:00 am EST. The discerned names are:

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Ministry Developers:             | Manuel Padilla, Charlie Piper and Rayford Ray  |
| Bishop/Ministry Developer:       | Kevin Thew Forrester   |
| Regional Representatives:        | Jim Heikkila, Western Region;<br>Kathy Lenten, North Central Region;<br>Susan Harries, Eastern Region;<br>Gin Mannisto, South Central Region |
| Diocesan Operations Coordinator: | Jane Cisluycis   |
| At Large Members:                | TBA  |

The discernment process began with the October 2007 Diocesan Convention where the diocese looked closely at its identity, values and vision. The conversation continued in each congregation and resulted in a clear direction for what followed.

The EMDT was formed in early 2008 with twenty-one members, including four members from each region and representative of the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, and the Core Team. Two additional members were appointed by the Standing committee to insure as broad a representation of the diocesan family as possible. Jo Gantzer (Diocese of Michigan) served as the team's companion who, along with three outside "reflectors", kept the team focused and informed. The "reflectors" were Bruce Caldwell (Diocese of Wyoming), Tom Ely (Diocese of Vermont), and Fredrica Harris Thompsett (retired professor, Episcopal Divinity School).

The Discernment Team was charged with adapting the discovery (discernment) process used in most congregations throughout the diocese to form a covenant group. The team's decision to present a single name for bishop/ministry developer – along with the names of the EMST – was firmly supported by the October 2008 Diocesan Convention which focused much of its time and attention on the unfolding discernment process.

Assuming the affirmation of the Special Convention and the satisfactory completion of the consent process, the Commissioning of the Team – including the ordination of the Bishop/Ministry Developer – will take place on **October 17, 2009** in Marquette.

The diocese has embraced the concept of an Episcopal Ministry Support Team (EMST). The EMST is our vision of a form of leadership that encompasses the gifts and skills of a diverse group of people that will work collaboratively to guide and support the mission and ministry of the people of God in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan. This will provide the setting for a broadly collaborative approach to supporting apostolic ministry in the diocese.

As envisioned, the support team will replace the current Core Team and will be made up of ten to twelve people, including the ministry developers (and bishop/ministry developer), the diocesan operations coordinator, regional representatives and at-large members (yet to be named). There has been an attempt to balance the number of compensated and non-compensated members. In addition to a time of formation modeled on the covenant group process, there will be an ongoing evaluation of the team leading to a "second generation" in three to five years.

# LIFECYCLES REFLECTIONS ON BEING AT-ONE WITH GOD

By Kevin G. Thew Forrester

## *God's Ways Are Not Our Ego's Ways: Jeremiah*

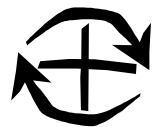
The prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures are keen observers of Israel. They are courageous observers as well, for they do not shy away from the underbelly, or the pain and suffering of Israel, endeavoring over and over again to discover how God is present and what this means for Israel's life.

Contemporary philosopher Rene Girard points out that since the "foundation of the world," violence has been associated with humanity's experience of the sacred. From Cain and Abel to the present, it is impossible (at least in the West) to observe and reflect upon humanity's encounter with the sacred without talking about violence – often said to be done either by God or in God's name or for a just cause sanctioned by God. Two words which seem wedded together in the stories of Judaism and Christianity are "Violence" and "Sacred."

Rene Girard is a leading voice beckoning Christianity to reconsider this presumed link between violence and the sacred. He believes that the prophets, in particular, can help us reflect in a new way about who God is and how God is present in our lives. He speaks about *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World*. We are thoroughly accustomed to thinking that God sanctions and works through violence, and this unquestioned belief blinds us to something God has been trying to reveal to us since the beginning. In the words of theologian Gil Bailie: if we are able to unveil violence, we will discover that "humanity is at the crossroads" of survival. We are being given a rather stark choice: violence or life. Although we often confuse them – God's ways are not our ways. The prophets, such as Jeremiah, can help us to discover a different way: the way of life, the way of God.

Jeremiah is capable of seeing God in the victims of violence because he himself is a prophet who suffers violence. And here we come to a pivotal point. *Jeremiah has a revealing word to speak about God because he himself has suffered*. His own suffering has begun to bring to birth in him and through him, a new sensibility and awareness. Israel remains embedded within a world covered to *divine wrath* (Jer. 1:17-19; 6:11; Lamentations 4:11). In the life of Jeremiah and the other prophets, we begin to "see the first faint outlines of a world made morally intelligible by *divine empathy*."

(*LifeCycles* Cycle II, Unit 1, Session 2. *LifeCycles* is the formation/education process developed by the Diocese of Northern Michigan in partnership with other dioceses, Episcopal Divinity School, and LeaderResources. Each month we will have a selection from *LifeCycles* that speaks to our At-one-ment with God, each other and creation.)



## 2009 Pledge Campaign Report

by Allen Raymond

The following is the status of the 2009 Pledge Campaign as of January 19, 2009:

|                                |                 |   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| <b>Cards sent:</b>             | <b>109</b>      |   |
| <b>Cards returned:</b>         | <b>52</b>       |   |
| <b>Total pledged:</b>          | <b>\$80,672</b> | <i>(Of this, there was a net increase of \$2,069 in pledges, and new pledges of \$7,540).</i> |
| <b>Total "give":</b>           | <b>\$1,820</b>  |   |
| <b>Cards not yet returned:</b> | <b>57</b>       |   |

Total pledged with these cards in 2008: \$58,299. This is the potential or "not-yet" category, which gives the finance committee an educated guess on developing a budget.

Total of pledged, give, and not-yet: \$140,791

The pledge committee would like to invite those who have not yet been able to respond, to return their pledge cards, helping to support the marvelous ministry of St. Paul's."

## Greetings, St. Paul's!

### *My dear friends of St. Paul Episcopal congregation:*

*By the time you read this, I will have headed out to spend the next six months away in a region that seldom enjoys peace. I am not writing to push on you my personal analysis of the Middle East. I am writing to bow to you with profound gratitude and visceral appreciation for the peace with which you encompassed me. I am writing to say "until we meet again, God willing, please keep me in your thoughts and prayers". But I am also writing to tell you, however inadequate any language is to be expressive enough, how and what you mean to me and to my life journey. ... Spiritual and otherwise, if indeed there is a way to tease our spiritual being from the rest of who we are.*

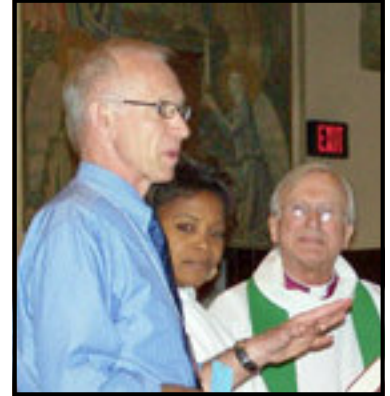
*Your accepting of me exactly as I am is the ultimate devotion to Abba God, the God who accepts us all as his children, simply, because he IS the creator. Your invitation to all to join in communion as you welcome all to God's table. Your allowing me to share my thoughts from a sacred podium with you as a Muslim whose love for Jesus is no less than anyone else in the congregation, and his belief in him as the Messiah is equal to that of all. Your most authentically genuine love and concern for each and everyone without any inclination of supremacy of a faith over another. Your walking the walk of interfaith respect, totally free of any religious bigotry. Your dedication to help caring for our community without caring one bit what religious or otherwise roots of those we help are. The beauty of the feeling that all are empowered in our church to be exactly who we are, and the way we all respect and pay homage to the feminine half of humanity within us. The fun times and stimulating chats during our coffee hours after the services. Our profoundly enlightened "leaders" and the miraculous integrity of my counselor, Kevin. The rich friendships that Kris and I made which were further enriched every Sunday. The stream of life-changing sermons. The solemn nuance encompassing us all as we pray for those who need our prayers. Well, I can honestly go on and on and on because I actually love how tearful writing this for you is making me at this moment. But, just let me say a most simple but deeply felt in my core, thank you and God bless you. I shall sorely miss you, at least every Sunday at 10: 30 a.m. (your time).*

*Your grateful spiritual pilgrim, Mohey Mowafy*

## Liturgical Leadership

### Sundays:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Preside</u> | <u>Preach</u> | <u>Deacon</u> |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| February 1  | Epiphany 4    | Bob            | Jo            | Pat           |
| February 8  | Epiphany 5    | Marcia         | Vince         | Coralie       |
| February 15 | Epiphany 6    | Jim            | Jo            | Pat           |
| February 22 | Last Epiphany | Rise           | Rise          | Coralie       |



### Holy Days (combined with Wednesday Evening Prayer)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Holy Day</u> | <u>Preside</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| February 4  | Presentation    | Bob            |

### Ash Wednesday

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Preside/Deacon</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 12:00 noon  | Rise/                 |
| 7:00 p.m.   | Kevin/                |

## Spring Quarter Schedule

The sign-up/availability listing for April through June will be posted on the sign-up bulletin board (in chapel hallway) from February 15 through March 15.

*Next liturgy meeting: Wednesday, February 18, noon.*

### Seasonal Planning

The Lent/Holy Week planning team has met with Youth Ministry and with Liturgy and has had some ideas approved by each group. The sign-up closing date for any who wish to plan for "after-Pentecost," the last and longest season of the liturgical year, is February 8. The sign-up list for the 2009-2010 liturgical year will appear in May.

## The Messenger Team



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& Geoff Smith

## International Gift Fair 2008

*by Jan Edwards*

It was another year of reaching beyond our immediate community and ourselves and supporting the world. The Gift Fair was busy and successful. We sold over 56% of the merchandise we ordered. Given the state of the economy and the blizzard on Friday evening and part of Saturday, it was wonderful. We were featured on the front page of the Mining Journal on Friday, which certainly contributed to the attendance and sales.

While the final totals are not yet in, it appears that we sold about \$17,000 worth of merchandise. The Men's Kitchen made over \$500 with the soup lunch and the sale of over 100 loaves of bread! When all the final bills are paid, remaining profits will be donated.

The Marquette Food Co-op was a co-sponsor this year. They assisted with inventory, advertising and wonderful snacks on Friday evening. They also agreed to take any leftover food merchandise.

Thanks are due to all of those at St. Paul's who contributed their time, money and prayers to make this year's sale a success. Thanks go out to Girl Scout Troop 5011 who again served the soup and bread luncheon, and to Boy Scout Troop 302 who brought up the shelving, assembled and dismantled it, and returned it to the basement. Many backs were saved as a result! Both groups already have us on their schedule for next year.

If you would like to play a role in the December 2009 Fair, please contact Jacquy Shellenbarger, Kai Carrigan or Jan Edwards. Planning begins in mid-summer.

# February 2009

|               |           |   |                 |
|---------------|-----------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>Holy Eucharist: 4 Epiphany</b>                               | <b>10:30 am</b> |
|               |           | Piano Recital (students of Jan Brodersen)                       | 1:00 – 4:00 pm  |
| Tuesday       | 3         | Mindfulness Meditation  | 7:45 am         |
|               |           | Altar Guild – office  | 7:00 pm         |
| Wednesday     | 4         | Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist<br>(Cornelius the Centurion) | 5:30 pm         |
|               |           | Choir   | 7:00 pm         |
| Thursday      | 5         | Mindfulness Meditation  | 7:45 am         |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>8</b>  | <b>Holy Eucharist: 5 Epiphany</b>                               | <b>10:30 am</b> |
| Tuesday       | 10        | Mindfulness Meditation  | 7:45 am         |
|               |           | Executive Committee (note time change)                          | 10:00 am        |
|               |           | Group I   | 1:30 pm         |
| Wednesday     | 11        | Evening Prayer  | 5:30 pm         |
| Thursday      | 12        | Mindfulness Meditation  | 7:45 am         |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>Holy Eucharist: 6 Epiphany</b>                               | <b>10:30 am</b> |
|               |           | String Quartet Performance (see Jan Brodersen)                  | 2:00 pm         |
| Tuesday       | 17        | Mindfulness Meditation  | 7:45 am         |
|               |           | Finance Committee   | 12:00 pm        |
|               |           | Liturgy and Ministry Group                                      | 6:30 pm         |
| Wednesday     | 18        | Welcomers meeting   | 11:00 am        |
|               |           | Liturgy Planning meeting  | 12:00 pm        |
|               |           | Evening Prayer  | 5:30 pm         |
|               |           | Choir   | 7:00 pm         |
| Thursday      | 19        | Mindfulness Meditation  | 7:45 am         |
|               |           | Vestry Meeting  | 7:00 pm         |
| Friday        | 20        | Ladies Luncheon, Holiday Inn, Marquette                         | 11:30 am        |
|               |           | Youth After School program                                      | 3:00 pm         |
|               |           | ‘Meet the Team’ Reception, St. Stephen’s                        | 7:30 pm         |
| Saturday      | 21        | Diocesan Special Convention, Escanaba                           | 10:00 am        |
| Sunday        | 22        | Children’s Ministry Meeting                                     | 9:00 am         |
|               |           | All Parish Breakfast  | 9:15 am         |
|               |           | <b>Holy Eucharist: Last Epiphany</b>                            | <b>10:30 am</b> |
| Tuesday       | 24        | Mindfulness Meditation  | 7:45 am         |
|               |           | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper                                   | 6:00 pm         |
| Wednesday     | 25        | Ash Wednesday Service   | 12:00 pm        |
|               |           | Soup Supper   | 6:00 pm         |
|               |           | Evening Service   | 7:00 pm         |
| Thursday      | 26        | Mindfulness Meditation  | 7:45 am         |
| Saturday      | 28        | Diocesan Special Convention<br>(snow date)                      | 10:00 am        |

## February Birthdays

|                 |   |                  |    |                |    |
|-----------------|---|------------------|----|----------------|----|
| Phyllis Schultz | 1 | Louise Pearson   | 8  | Betsy Barnwell | 17 |
| Cory Hambleton  | 4 | Jim Hendricks    | 9  | Ross Johnson   | 23 |
| Barb Laitinen   | 4 | Frank Richardson | 14 | Mary Mikhael   | 26 |
| Nancy Railey    | 6 | Diane Feller     | 15 | Meg Goodrich   | 27 |
| Dick McQuaid    | 7 | Suzanne Harding  | 15 |                |    |

# Late Breaking News

## February Ladies' Luncheon

by Barb Carpenter

On Friday, **February 20**, the Ladies' Luncheon will be held at the Holiday Inn at 11:30 a.m. Join us for an informal lunch and bring a guest if you like.

Please make reservations with Barb Carpenter (226-7571) by Thursday, February 19, at noon. See you there!

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Chris and Tom Niles are planning the fourth annual pre-Lenten event on Tuesday, **February 24th** at 6:00 pm in the Great Room. There will be buttermilk, blueberry, and pecan pancakes with maple and a variety of fruit syrups, plus a delectable assortment of Chris' creations. Also a variety of fruit juice and coffee. Games are also planned.

Indulge your taste buds one more time prior to Lent! \$3.50 per person, \$10 per family.



The deadline for the March edition of the Messenger is February 20, 2009.

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