

# The Messenger

January  
2009  
Volume 14  
Number 5

*Published regularly by the parishioners of  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
201 E. Ridge Street \* Marquette \* Michigan 49855 \* (906) 226-2912*

## Hurricane Relief in Haiti

by Burt Purrington

In November, I had the privilege of representing St. Paul's and our diocese in delivering hurricane relief to Crochu, one of the most impoverished communities in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Crochu is a district that is made up of more than 25 small villages and located in the rugged mountains about 10 miles north of Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince. In the past, it required a little more than a very rough ride for an hour in a four-wheel-drive vehicle and another hour's walk up steep mountain trails to reach the community of Plaisance where I stay. Now, with the roads washed out by last August and September's storms, the same trip takes a little over four hours on foot.

While Crochu didn't suffer the same destruction of property and loss of life that occurred in places like Gonaives and Haiti's southern arm, high winds and heavy rains damaged many homes, flattened or washed away many gardens, and killed many livestock. Falling tree branches damaged the corrugated tin roof of the home of my hosts, Tazia Vètinèl and her husband, Louis-Jacques Dorelian, and killed the one pig they owned. As with many homes in the area, a portion of one of their adobe walls collapsed after being saturated by driving rain. Many other homes were even more badly damaged. Some people are living under shelters of plantain and palm leaves while they wait for their homes to be repaired. They include elderly people, children and a pregnant woman.

The goods that you sent were quickly distributed and much appreciated -- especially toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and bandannas. Some of the money donated by St. Paul's and individuals from other churches in the Diocese through Laurie's Fund is being used to help people repair their homes. A year ago, our medical mission team met a man named Sapini at our clinic at Crochu who had a terrible tear in his bowel and bladder from an accident. Today he is recovering well. I left money from Laurie's Fund with Carmel Valdema, director of the nutrition and health programs we support, to pay for the final surgery that Sapini needs to return to normal life. He and his wife asked me again and again to thank you and to tell you that they will always thank God and ask God to bless you and your families.

My dear friend, Louis-Jacques, who along with his father-in-law, Vètinèl Elinèl is lay leader at our sister church, St. Alban's, wrote a letter from himself and his family and other church leaders to thank you as well.

## Thank You from your Brothers and Sisters in Haiti

by Louis-Jacques Dorelian, Lay leader,  
St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
Crochu, Haiti

*To my friends at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and in the Diocese of Northern Michigan I send greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.*

*It makes my heart very happy to write this letter to you. How are you and all of your families? I will pray to God to bless you because you sent many fine things to help us in Haiti. What you sent with Burt to help us in the community of Crochu will help many people who are in need. For this we send our best wishes to our brothers and sisters in the United States. It makes me very happy to thank you for all of these good things. There are many people in need in Crochu. This aid will help us very, very much. I ask you to always remember our community and we will always remember you.*

*I believe that together we will be able to do many good things for the people of Crochu. Because of the hurricanes, many houses here are badly damaged, gardens have been lost, and animals have died. The people in the community have many big problems.*

*Each day I thank God for everything you have done for us. The people at St. Alban's Church in Crochu say thank you very much for all the help you have given us.*

*We wish you a Happy New Year in 2009. May God bless you.*

*From your brother and good friend in the community of Crochu, Louis-Jacques Dorelian.*

*I send you greetings, too, from my wife, Tazia, from our children, Magdala Paul, Talande, and Ayityen; and from St. Clair [choir director at St. Alban's] and Vètinèl [head lay leader at St. Alban's and Tazia's father].*

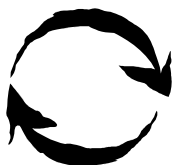
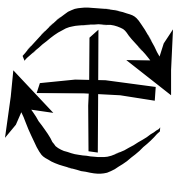
# LifeCycles Reflections on Being At-One with God

by Kevin G. Thew Forrester

All Are God's Children.



There are no conditions, Paul tells us in his letter to the Galatians, which we must meet prior to being accepted as God's own. Gentiles, as well as Jews, are genuine heirs to the promises of God. Women, as well as men are genuine heirs. Slaves, as well as free, are also genuine heirs. Gentiles – Women – Slaves – these are all victims of the religious system. These are the kinds of persons Saul (Paul's name before his conversion) would have previously so willingly sacrificed on the altar of religious purity. Within these persons, Paul proclaims, is the living, breathing, Christ. Love sees no conditions justifying separation or sacrifice. Paul has become an apostle championing awareness of the living God in the victims of religious persecution. For "in Christ," Paul declares, "you are all children of God through faith" (Gal. 3:25 NRSV). Paul's faith, rooted in his experience of God after having fallen to the ground on the road to Damascus enables him to see all as children of God. He can see history from the bottom up, so to speak, from the perspective of those who have been made to suffer because of the human thirst for vengeance and sacrifice.



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



# Pledge Campaign Report

by Al Raymond

I am conflicted with this report. For years I have proposed we each decide to give back some portion of what we have received, and that this is disassociated from what St. Paul's needs to pay its bills, or, "how are we doing compared to others?" I feel strongly that if we give back whatever we consider a "fair share," be it a modern title of five per cent or whatever; the church budget will take care of itself. And don't worry about what percent others are giving (although pledges increase markedly when made public). In our case, no one else knows except God and one's tax-preparer. Then I am brought back to reality by our treasurer Ross aka "Tony" Pearson, who keeps rubbing my head for a pledge-income estimate for the budget process.

So as of Pledge Sunday, December 14, here is how we stand:

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Pledge cards mailed:        | 108      |
| Pledge cards received       | 38       |
| Total pledges (nr cards 36) | \$59,818 |
| Total give (nr cards 2)     | \$1,820  |
| Average pledge/give         | \$1,596  |

This is not much of a return upon which to base a budget. So what we will do is what we have done in the past: base expenses on bare bones, realizing energy and medical are going up 10-20 %, and balance the budget by taking from the trust accounts. We are truly fortunate that our forebears made planned giving part of their estate planning!



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**The  
Messenger  
Team**

## January Birthdays

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Marcus Arnett   | 1  |
| Jane Ryan       | 2  |
| Bertha Loehde   | 3  |
| Claire Kitzman  | 4  |
| Margaret Jajich | 10 |
| Jane Barnes     | 11 |
| Dan Carpenter   | 11 |
| Peggy Sheehan   | 28 |
| Betty Lynd      | 29 |

## Hunger Walk Summary *by Bob Railey*

St. Paul's Hunger Walk Participation (2001-2008)

|                        | <u>2001</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b><u>Dollars</u></b>  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |
| Total                  | 908         | 1120        | 877         | 1258        | 1464        | 600         | 1492        | 1712        | 9431         |
| <b><u>Averages</u></b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |
| Walker                 | 60.5        | 124.4       | 79.7        | 157.3       | 244.1       | 100.0       | 248.6       | 155.6       |              |
| Pledge                 | 13.8        | 9.3         | 8.7         | 8.4         | 8.2         | 14.0        | 8.2         | 9.9         |              |
| Top \$ Raiser          | 260         | 345         | 251         | 509         | 881         | 185         | 1162        | 1108        |              |
| Percent of total       | 28.6        | 30.8        | 28.6        | 40.5        | 60.2        | 30.8        | 77.9        | 64.7        |              |
| <b><u>Numbers</u></b>  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |
| Walkers                | 15          | 9           | 11          | 8           | 6           | 6           | 6           | 11          |              |
| Pledges                | 66          | 121         | 101         | 150         | 178         | 43          | 181         | 173         |              |
| Pledges per walker     | 4.4         | 13.4        | 9.2         | 18.8        | 29.7        | 7.2         | 30.2        | 15.7        |              |

Tammy Chrisman was our top money raiser each of these six years.

Final total should be somewhat larger; one walker's envelope with contributions has been temporarily misplaced. A display of results for these last eight years will be posted on the Outreach bulletin board.

## Liturgical leadership

### Sundays:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Preside</u> | <u>Preach</u> | <u>Deacon</u> |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| January 4   | Christmas 2   | Kevin          | Kevin         | Pat           |
| January 11  | Epiphany 1    | Jim            | Jim           | Coralie       |
| January 18  | Epiphany 2    | Bob            | Rod C. **     | Pat           |
| January 25  | Epiphany 3    | Rise           | Rise          | Coralie       |

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

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Holy Day</u>     | <u>Preside</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|
| January 7   | Epiphany            | Marcia         |
| January 21  | Confession of Peter | Bob            |
| January 28  | Conversion of Paul  | Marcia         |

\*\*Guest preacher at start of traditional "week for Christian unity," which we broaden to "interfaith week."

Note regarding scheduling of youth:

Beginning this quarter (January through March), youth participation in our Sunday liturgies is being scheduled ahead. The quarterly schedule now contains the names for the usual roles on youth Sundays. An additional "youth schedule" contains the names of those who are scheduled to serve as "bread bearers" on all Sundays, readers of the opening collect on youth Sunday, plus any who wish to serve as acolyte or crucifer (youth Sunday only).

The next meeting of Liturgy planning group: is Friday, January 16, at 4:00 p.m. in the office. The meeting day and time of this group are purposely varied so as not to exclude those who cannot attend at particular days/times.

## January 2009

|               |           |                                    |               |
|---------------|-----------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Thursday      | 1         | New Year's Day                     | office closed |
| Friday        | 2         | Youth After School program         | 3:00 pm       |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>Holy Eucharist: Christmas 2</b> | 10:30 am      |
|               |           | Ministry Support Team mtg          | 12:30 pm      |
| Tuesday       | 6         | Mindfulness Meditation             | 7:45 am       |
|               |           | Executive Committee - office       | 4:00 pm       |
|               |           | Altar Guild                        | 7:00 pm       |
| Wednesday     | 7         | Norlite Eucharist                  | 2:30 pm       |
|               |           | Evening Prayer                     | 5:30 pm       |
|               |           | Choir Practice                     | 7:00 pm       |
| Thursday      | 8         | Mindfulness Meditation             | 7:45 am       |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>Holy Eucharist: 1 Epiphany</b>  | 10:30 am      |
|               |           | (The Baptism of Our Lord)          |               |
| Tuesday       | 13        | Mindfulness Meditation             | 7:45 am       |
|               |           | Finance Committee - office         | 12:00 pm      |
|               |           | Group I                            | 1:30 pm       |
| Wednesday     | 14        | Welcomers – office                 | 11:30 am      |
|               |           | Evening Prayer                     | 5:30 pm       |
|               |           | Choir Practice                     | 7:00 pm       |
| Thursday      | 15        | Mindfulness Meditation             | 7:45 am       |
|               |           | Vestry                             | 7:00 pm       |
| Friday        | 16        | Ladies Luncheon                    | 11:30 am      |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>Holy Eucharist: 2 Epiphany</b>  | 10:30 am      |
| Tuesday       | 20        | Mindfulness Meditation             | 7:45 am       |
|               |           | Liturgy & Ministry Group           | 6:30 pm       |
| Wednesday     | 21        | Evening Prayer w/Holy Eucharist    | 5:30 pm       |
|               |           | (The Confession of St. Peter)      |               |
|               |           | Choir                              | 7:00 pm       |
| Thursday      | 22        | Mindfulness Meditation             | 7:45 am       |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>25</b> | Children's Ministry Meeting        | 9:00 am       |
|               |           | All Parish Breakfast               | 9:15 am       |
|               |           | <b>Holy Eucharist: 3 Epiphany</b>  | 10:30 am      |
| Tuesday       | 27        | Mindfulness Meditation             | 7:45 am       |
| Wednesday     | 28        | Evening Prayer w/Holy Eucharist    | 5:30 pm       |
|               |           | (The Conversion of Paul)           |               |
|               |           | Soup Supper                        | 6:00 pm       |
|               |           | Choir                              | 7:00 pm       |
| Thursday      | 29        | Mindfulness Meditation             | 7:45 am       |

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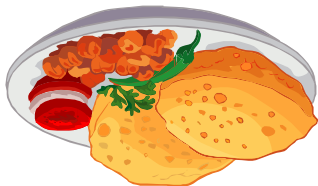
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**Return Service Requested**

The deadline for the February edition of the Messenger is January 23, 2009.



The first Ladies' Luncheon of the  
New Year will be held  
at the Holiday Inn in Marquette  
on Friday, January 16,  
at 11:30 a.m. Please call  
Barb Carpenter (226-7571)  
by Thursday noon for a reservation.  
Everyone is welcome!

**January Ladies'  
Luncheon**  
*by Barb Carpenter*

# Late Breaking News