

The Messenger

February

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Rescuing and Rebuilding Haiti:

What Can We Do?

A little before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, perhaps the most vulnerable nation in the world to devastation and tragedy as a result of a natural event of this scale.

The National Palace, the splendid Hotel Montana, the Catholic and Episcopal cathedrals, the UN headquarters, schools, hospitals, churches, hotels, stores, supermarkets, gas stations and thousands upon thousands of homes have been reduced to piles of rubble -- more often than not with people buried within. Perhaps as many as 200,000 people are dead. Over a three-week period in August-September, 2008, Haiti was struck by four hurricanes and tropical storms that left a wake of death and destruction from which the nation had still not recovered. But in 2009, Haiti suffered no major natural disasters and in many ways, appeared in the best position ever to move forward. Now there are many years of hard work ahead for the Haitian people and their friends and partners from the outside, including the St. Paul's and Diocese of Northern Michigan communities.

Millions of people of good will around the world want to know what they can do to help. Many say they feel "helpless" in the face of such a huge tragedy and the daunting, and many say "impossible," challenges ahead. Needless to say, with God none of us is helpless. There are three things, in particular, that we can do. First, **pray**, each of us in our own way. Second, **donate**. At this time we need money and in some cases medical supplies for relief efforts; later we will need donations to aid in rebuilding and for sustainable development that will help enable our Haitian sisters and brothers to become self-sufficient.

Third, **don't forget them**. Often when a mission team leaves Haiti, their hosts will say, "*Pa bliye nou*" (Don't forget us). At best this will be a long and very difficult struggle to get Haiti back on its feet and then to move forward. But we are called on to remember that our Haitian friends won't give up; God certainly won't and neither should we. As Episcopal Diocese of Haiti Bishop Duracin said from the camp where he and his wife now live outside the ruins of the once-glorious Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, "*Nou bezwen kenbe lafwa*" (We must keep the faith).

There are many worthy organizations currently doing relief and later, for many, development work. The two that we are recommending are **Episcopal Relief and Development**, <http://www.er-d.org/>, for more general immediate and long-range work in Haiti and our own **Laurie's Fund for Haiti's Children**, which uses its funds specifically for our friends and partners in Plaisance and Borno, two remote, impoverished communities high in the mountains north of Port-au-Prince.

We will use Laurie's Fund to help in recovery and rebuilding but also to continue with our plans to help our Haitian partners build a small medical clinic, women's water and sewing cooperatives and ultimately, God willing, a school.

by Burt Purrington

LIFECYCLES REFLECTIONS ON MOHANDAS GANDHI: SATYA- GRAHA WARRIOR

Kevin G. Thew Forrester

Non-cooperative nonviolence (or satyagraha), said Gandhi,

is the greatest force at the disposal of humanity. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of humanity. Destruction is not the law of humans. Humans live freely by their readiness to die, if need be, at the hands of a brother, never by killing another. Every murder or injury no matter for what cause, committed or inflicted on another, is a crime against humanity.

As a realist, Gandhi confronted evil when he found it, whether it be the racist South African registration cards or the unjust English laws forbidding Indians to manufacture their own salt. He mobilized the population so that its mass non-cooperation with evil forced the adversary to change its ways. Gandhi would not sanction violence as a response to violence, for this would only perpetuate its inherently disintegrating force. Violence, for whatever cause, is always based on the falsehood that love is not the law of the universe.

It is the law of love that rules mankind. Had violence, i.e., hate ruled us, we should have become extinct long ago. And yet the tragedy of it is that the so-called civilized men and nations conduct themselves as if the basis of society was violence.

To speak of love led Gandhi to reflect on God, as well as truth.

And when you want to find Truth as God, the only inevitable means is love, that is, nonviolence, and since I believe that ultimately the means and ends are convertible terms, I should not hesitate to say that God is Love.

The loving person, who can only be nonviolent if remaining true to their nature, *seeks* out creative ways not to cooperate with evil and injustice. If *sat-*

yagrahi were willing to stand together in nonviolent noncooperation, Gandhi was utterly convinced that no one could withstand their transformative power – not even Hitler.

Moreover, we should not forget that even evil is sustained through the cooperation, either willing or forced, of good people. Truth alone is self-sustained. In the last resort we can curb the power of the evildoers to do mischief by withdrawing all cooperation from them and completely isolating them.

This in essence is the principle of non-violent noncooperation. It follows, therefore, that it must have its roots in love. Its object should not be to punish the opponents or to inflict injury upon them. Even while noncooperating with them, we must make them feel that in us they have a *friend*, and we should try to reach their heart by rendering them humanitarian service whenever possible.

We cannot help but hear echoes of the Christian gospels and the reign of God in Gandhi's way of *ahimsa* (nonviolence). The person of Jesus figures centrally in Gandhi's *ahimsa*. Gandhi insisted that "all great religions of the world" are "God-given," realizing that there could be no lasting peace "unless we learn not merely to tolerate but even respect the other faiths as our own." And yet, when Gandhi looked out upon the sea of Christianity, he saw contradiction. "Christ came into this world to preach and spread the gospel of love and peace, but what his followers have brought about is tyranny and misery. Christians who were taught the maxim of 'Love thy neighbor as thyself,' are divided among themselves."

Even if Christianity swayed from its gospel of love and peace, Gandhi had no misgivings about Jesus. "Jesus expressed, as no other could, the spirit and will of God. It is in this sense that I see him and recognize him as the Son of God...I believe that he belongs not solely to Christianity, but to the entire world, to all races and people." For Gandhi, "Jesus was the most active resister known perhaps to history. His was non-violence par excellence."

Gandhi had no hesitation about embracing Jesus and his teaching embodied in the Sermon on the Mount. He also had no qualms about reading from the *Qur'an* for its wisdom. Gandhi went where the Truth led him – regardless.

I would say with those who say ‘God is Love,’ God is Love. But deep down in me, I used to say that though God may be Love, God is Truth above all. If it is possible for the human tongue to give the fullest description of God, I have come to the conclusion that God is Truth. Two years ago, I went a step further and said that Truth is God. You will see the fine distinction between the two statements, “God is Truth,” and “Truth is God.”

Follow the Truth and it will always lead to God, who is love, whose way is nonviolence. This is the Truth at the heart of all creation, a Truth which reveals the lie contained in any and all violence. Violence violates God, because it rejects the love which is the Truth of God’s very being. As Gandhi spent increasing time in silence, devoting a day a week to silence later in his life, he came to know this Truth intimately. What is the aim of life? “It is to know the self. This realization of the self, or self-knowledge, is not possible until one has achieved unity with all living beings, until one has become one with God. To accomplish such a unity implies deliberate sharing of the suffering of others and the eradication of such suffering.”

In this we hear a distinct echo of Jesus. The only sign we have is to go deep within the belly of the whale. This journey does not take us away from others. On the contrary, the more we come to experience who we truly are – one with God in love – the more we are drawn to eradicate the suffering of others. Such love, lived in eradicating the suffering of the world, is simply another word for the reign of God. “My experience,” said Gandhi, “tells me that the Kingdom of God is within us, and that we can realize it not by saying, ‘Lord, Lord,’ but by doing God’s will and God’s work. If therefore we wait for the Kingdom to come as something coming from outside, we shall be sadly mistaken....Try to identify yourselves with the poor by actually helping them.”

(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 have a selection from *LifeCycles* that speaks to our At-one-ment with God, each other and creation.)

Altar Guild Candle Purchase

The Altar Guild of St. Paul’s is happy to announce that because of the generous response of many parish members we were able to purchase the six oil-burning service candles for the reredos in the sanctuary and they are lovely. We will also be able to purchase a new oil-burning Pascal candle because of these gifts and we will be ordering it soon.

We are so pleased with the beauty and simplicity of these candles and would like to purchase a set of Advent and Christmas candles as well. All of these oil candles burn cleanly, are easy to maintain and will last forever... or at least for a very, very, very long time.

If you are interested in contributing to the purchase of these oil candles, or if you have questions, please contact Marcia Franz (226-2830). You might consider a gift in honor or in memory of someone. Gifts so far include:

Donor:

John Wilson
and Trudy Wilson
Mary Lola Kent

In loving memory of Jim
from their children
*In loving memory of
Col. Joseph C. Kent*

Jim and Arlene Stone

In honor of their
children, Becky
and Greg

Room at the Inn

In gratefulness

Members of the Altar Guild

In honor of
past members of St. Paul’s
Altar Guild with love

Anonymous

With sincere thanks,

The members of the Altar Guild of St. Paul’s Church

Regional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

by *Kathy Lenten*

The churches in the North Central Region (St. James the Less, Holy Innocents, St. Paul’s, St. John’s and Grace, Ishpeming) will be gathering for what we hope will become another tradition - a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. St. John’s, Negaunee is hosting the supper of pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit salad, beverages, and dessert. The meal will be served from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, **February 16** in the church Guild Hall.

Donations are requested to help defray the cost of the meal and all donations above the meal cost will be sent to the Episcopal Relief and Development – Haiti Fund. The church is located on the corner of Teal Lake Avenue and Main Street in Negaunee and is handicapped accessible. Please let Kathy (226-2912) or Iris (226-3260) know if you plan on attending by February 12.

Liturgical Leadership

Sundays

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Preside</u>	<u>Preach</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
February 7	Epiphany 1	Vince	Rise	Coralie
February 14	Epiphany 1	Marcia	Jo	Pat
February 21	Lent 1	Kevin	Judd	Pat
February 28*	Lent 2	Bob	Rise	Coralie
February 17	Ash Wednesday			
	Noon	Rise		
	7:00 p.m.	Kevin		

Holy Days (combined with Wednesday Evening Prayer)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Holy Day</u>	<u>Preside</u>	<u>E.P. Offic.</u>
February 3	Presentation	Bob	Bob
February 24	Matthias	Bob	Kay P.

Annual Meeting Set *by Barb Carpenter*

St. Paul's Annual Meeting will be held following the church service on Sunday, **March 7**. One item on the agenda will be the election of four new Vestry members. The proposed slate is as follows: Cathy Halverson, Karan Hendricks, Burt Purrington and Dennis West. More information on these candidates will follow in the Sunday bulletin in late February and in the March Messenger. Other agenda items will also be published in the March Messenger.

Members of the Vestry will serve a light lunch. Please plan on sharing a meal and celebrating the life of St. Paul's on this first Sunday in March.

City of Marquette Emergency Information System Launched

On Tuesday, December 15, 2009, The City of Marquette launched a new community information service designed to deliver important and timely information to residents in our area using the latest technology.

This service, created by Nixle, LLC delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications by web, e-mail, and cell phone. Residents of Marquette can now take advantage of Nixle at no cost.

Some examples of Nixle alerts include: missing child, damage situations for residents, i.e. gas leak, road closure due to serious traffic accidents, to name a few. The Marquette Police may also use Nixle to seek citizen's help, like identifying a suspect in a hit and run accident, or a suspect in an armed robbery that had just occurred.

Residents can now register at www.nixle.com at no cost. For more information, contact the Marquette Police at (906) 228-0400.

Salsa King Crowned!

by Kathy Lenten

The much anticipated, heavily promoted, 1st Annual St. Paul's "Best Salsa Chef" contest crowned a winner on a snowy, cold New Year's Eve night at the home of Carl and Melissa Eiben.

Five salsas were entered and the decision couldn't have been more difficult. Each type was distinctly different. One with a little zip to it, a fruit salsa, no bean, garbanzo bean, black bean...avocado and pineapple?? Each one was delicious and to those judges that had to go back for more than their allotted scoopful of salsa because they "couldn't make up their mind"... you weren't fooling anyone!!

In the end, Carl Eiben was crowned 'St. Paul's Best Salsa Chef.' Thanks to all who submitted their salsa, making for some stiff competition and a very difficult but delicious decision process!

On an evening that could have been used as a good excuse to stay home and put on pajamas, grab some hot chocolate, and a good book, a large number of true 'yoopers' braved the elements to enjoy great food, fun, and friends. Thank you to Carl and Melissa for hosting us!

From Bob Railey's Pen:

Spring Quarter Schedule

The sign-up/availability listing for April through June will be posted on the sign-up bulletin board (in the chapel hallway) from February 14 through March 14. If you are new to St. Paul's, please consider your involvement "up front" on Sundays. If after viewing the sign-up display, you have questions, please ask Bob Railey. Completed Spring quarter schedules will be distributed beginning March 21.

Next liturgy meeting: Wednesday, February 24, 10:30 a.m.

Liturgical ministry practice sessions

The first of these will be Sunday, **February 21** after church. It will be for any who preside, preach, deacon, read lessons, lead the prayers, make announcements, or otherwise need to be heard by the entire congregation. This is open to youth who serve as lector and/or leader of the prayers.

We are planning a session in March emphasizing bearing the chalice.

February Calendar



Monday	1	Altar Guild – office	7:00 pm
Tuesday	2	Mindfulheart Meditation	8:00 am
		Faith Explorations	6:30 pm
Wednesday	3	LifeCycles – Pilgrim's Group (Chapel)	10:00 am
		Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist	5:30 pm
		Choir	7:00 pm
Thursday	4	Mindfulheart Meditation	8:00 am
Sunday	7	Ministry Support Team	9:00 am
		Choir	9:45 am
		Holy Eucharist: 5 Epiphany	10:30 am
Tuesday	9	Mindfulheart Meditation	8:00 am
		Executive Committee	10:00 am
Wednesday	10	Evening Prayer	5:30 pm
		Choir	7:00 pm
Thursday	11	Mindfulheart Meditation	8:00 am
		St. Paul's Discernment	6:30 pm
Sunday	14	Choir	9:00 am
		Holy Eucharist: Last Epiphany	10:30 am
Tuesday	16	Mindfulheart Meditation	8:00 am
		Camp New Day	5:00 pm
		Shrove Tuesday – <i>St. John's, Negaunee</i>	5-7 pm
Wednesday	17	Ash Wednesday Service	12:00 pm
		LifeCycles – Pilgrim's Group (Chapel)	10:00 am
		Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 pm
Thursday	18	Mindfulheart Meditation	8:00 am
		Epis Ministry Support Team, Dioc office	10:00 am
		Vestry Meeting	7:00 pm
		Scottish Folk Dancing	7:00 pm
Friday	19	Ladies Luncheon	11:30 am
		March Messenger deadline	
Sunday	21	Third Sunday Forum	9:00 am
		Choir	9:45 am
		Holy Eucharist: 1 Lent	10:30 am
		<i>Workshop for readers, servers, etc</i>	12:00 pm
Tuesday	23	Mindfulheart Meditation	8:00 am
Wednesday	24	Liturgy Group	10:30 am
		Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist	5:30 pm
		Soup Supper	6:00 pm
		Choir	7:00 pm
Thursday	25	Mindfulheart Meditation	8:00 am
Friday	26	Youth Group	3-7 pm
Sunday	28	Youth Ministry Meeting	9:00 am
		Holy Eucharist: 2 Lent	10:30 am
		All Parish Brunch	after the service

February Birthdays

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

www.stpaulsmqt.org

Late Breaking News

February Ladies' Luncheon

by Barb Carpenter

On Friday, **February 19** the Ladies' Luncheon will be held at the My Place Restaurant in the Holiday Inn at 11:30 a.m.

Contact Barb Carpenter by phone (226-7571) or email (bandcarpenter@charter.net) by noon on Thursday for a reservation.

Come and enjoy food and fellowship in a very private, relaxed setting.

All are welcome!

*Have you remembered
to turn in your
pledge card?*

*St. Paul's
needs you...*

The deadline for the February issues of the Messenger is February 19, 2010.

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