

From St. James' with Love

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December 2008

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The Deacon's Bench Advent – A Season of Hope

I'm writing this article in early November and the beginning of Standard Time. The days will be shorter and the evening s longer. We live by chronological time- seconds, minutes, hours, days, months and years. God's time is referred to as *kairos*, and we live it out in the liturgical year of the Church, beginning with Advent Season.

I am an Advent person- I was born on December 9,1946, and ordained into the Diaconate on December 13, 1986. I must admit the time in my life has certainly been a blip in the overall scheme of things. The events I have experienced –the joys, disappointments and sorrows—all seem to be woven into a tapestry of life. This past year all of us have had events that have impacted our lives. Significant life events influence our outlook on life. The important thing is to try and view these events through the prism of spirituality.

Advent is the time of new beginnings; it's a time to take inventory of how we are living. One of my favorite places so do my inner inventory is Mt. Saviour Monastery near Elmira. This is a community of Roman Catholic monks whose purpose is to live in Christian community. The monks offer the ministry of hospitality—all are welcome to share in the prayer life of their community.

One of my joys at the monastery is to browse in the bookstore and see what special book God wants to read that moment in my life. I have been reading *The Dance of Life* by the gifted spiritual writer Henri Nouwen. The theme of the book is *weaving sorrows and blessings into one joyful step*. The back cover of the book expresses a thought that is relevant to Advent: "Nouwen's profound insights into spiritual development highlight the struggle to achieve a deeper relationship with God through the darkness, loneliness and turmoil of life's challenges."

The preparation for the secular observance of Christmas can be overwhelming. Let us use the time of Advent to reflect on the meaning of God's presence in our lives. If we use Advent as a time of quiet reflection on the true meaning of life we will find a sense of joyful expectation to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

As I reflect on the next stage of my life I will use this quote from Nouwen as my guide: "Any dance of celebration must weave both the sorrows and the blessings into a joyful step... to heal is to let the Holy Spirit call me to dance, to believe again, even amidst any pain, that God will orchestrate and guide my life." A blessed, hopeful, joyful Advent season to all of you

Deacon Tom Williams

BISHOP SINGH TO VISIT DECEMBER 7TH.



Prayer Corner

Carolyn	John	Barb	Patty	Shannon
Eileen	Doug	Jessica	Mike	Greg
David	Maria	Bill	Betsy	Jim
Richard	Adrienne	Georgia	Gene	Peter
Lori	Howard Family	Ed	Glen	June
Charlene	Pat	Nancy	Patrick	Sue
Rachael	Cora	Betty	Teralin	Amy
Angel	Ted	Alice	Phillip	

The family of Paul Aeschbacher at the death of Ron Sick

The Church of Kisima in Kenya

Trinity Church in Canaseraga

Those who suffer from addictions

Those who serve our country in the military, especially Vance, Forrest, & Zac

Please let Mother C. know how people on the prayer list are doing.



Vestry Notes from October

- Carried a motion to apply the Holiday Bazaar profits to repay Church Loans
 - The Harvest Festival was a great success. Sincere thanks to Nancy French, Chair & William Kingham who cooked & had much to do with making the festival possible.
 - The Apple Pie day will be Nov 22nd – chaired by Mary White
 - Carried a motion to purchase new letters for the sign in front of the church for \$112.
 - Carried a motion to purchase 12 new purificators from the Memorial Fund.
 - On Dec 7th, Bishop Singh will make his annual visit. There will be several Confirmations.
 - Jerry Lange has put together a book on the windows of St. James'; Joan Rogerson, Robert Battaglia, and Sandy+ will put together the remainder of the history of this book will be ready by Christmas.
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From the Mailbox

We received the following from the Greater Steuben Chapter of the American Red Cross:

Dear Sandy and Parishioners,

Thank you for coming together again this year to provide a wonderful meal for the Progressive Dinner. We raised over \$1500.00 for local disaster response. God Bless!!!!

Socks for the V.A.

Yes, we are going to do it again this year:

If you are willing to help with this project, start looking for bargains on white crew socks. Bring the new socks to the church & place them in the pew in the back. These socks are used, as needed, for our veterans who are in the hospital or in the nursing care facility. We do this project in memory of Jane Aeschbacher who not only was a beloved member of our church, but who volunteered many years at the V.A. Last year we collected 250 pair. What happens this year **depends on you**. Thanks for caring and sharing your blessings with others.



Names are being placed on the Altar Flower Calendar for 2009. If you wish to remember someone on a particular date or give flowers as a Thanksgiving. Please notify Sandy as soon as possible so that your name can be placed on the calendar. The cost of the flowers per week is \$24.00. If there are two donors on a particular week, the cost will be divided between the donors.

Coffee Hour

December 7th - Angel Tree Everyone bring a dish to pass

December 14th- Nancy French &
Sandy Curtis

December 21st- Betty Frey

December 28th

Anyone interested in signing up for the available weeks or any future dates please contact Nancy French.

If you are unable to have Coffee Hour on your scheduled date please attempt to swap with someone. If you are unable to find someone for your scheduled time please contact Nancy French.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday January 25th. The meeting will take place after a potluck brunch following the morning service. At that time the Vestry members, Warden and Delegates to Convention will be elected. There will also be reports from different programs in the church, and a report on the budget adopted by the Vestry.

Pledging for 2009

We want to thank everyone who has turned in a pledge card. We appreciate your commitment to the work of God at St. James'. The Vestry will be adopting the budget for 2009, and you have helped us by letting us know what we will be working with. Our Sincere Thanks.

If you have not turned in a pledge card, and still plan on doing so, please send your pledge in as soon as possible. If you have lost the cards, there are extra cards, and envelopes on the rack at the back of the church, or simply write your intent in a note to our Pledge Clerk, Barbara Brayer and send it to the church or place it in the offering plate.

GREAT JOB

Diana Derr's Basketball Team won Sectionals the week of November 3rd. In addition, Diana was named to the Section V All Star Team. **Congratulations, Diana!**

A Special Thanks

The Holiday Bazaar and Luncheon was a great success this year making over \$ 3,000.00 for the church. Our Sincere Thanks to Nancy French- chair, for her months of preparation and her hard work throughout. Thank you to all who helped & contributed to the Bazaar this year.