



## February 2010

### ST. CHARLES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH www.stcharlesepiscopal.org

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop  
 The Rev. William R. Nesbit, Jr. Rector  
 The Rev. Elizabeth G. Meade, Deacon  
 Beth Burnette, Parish Administrator  
 Dan Williams, Director of Music  
 Liz Ryan, Dir. of Youth & Children's Formation

**Phone** 630.584.2596      **Fax** 630.584.8633  
**eMail** scecoffice@sbcglobal.net

### VESTRY

Kathy Heikkinen, Senior Warden  
 Margo Churchwell, Junior Warden

#### 2011

Katie Ditch  
 Karen Flood  
 Greg Steamer

#### 2012

Mike Custer  
 Carol Townsend

#### 2013

Cory Blane  
 Maria Foran  
 Regan Jancauskas  
 Terry Larson

### CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

04	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7 p.m.
06	Labyrinth Walk, Noon
08	Order of St. Luke, 7 p.m.
11	Vestry, 7 p.m.
14	Taizé, 7:30 p.m.
16	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 a.m.
16	Shrove Tuesday
16	Pancake Supper, 5:30 p.m.
17	Ash Wednesday
18	Women's Book Club, 7:30 p.m.
19-20	Hesed House
21	Food, Fellowship, FUNdraiser @ Urban Grille
22	Order of St. Luke, 7 p.m.
23	Listening Hearts, 7:30 p.m.
24	Soup Kitchen Precook, 7 p.m.
25	Soup Kitchen, 10 a.m.
27	Habitat Walk-A-Thon
28	Free Spaghetti Dinner, 5 p.m.

*Please submit articles to scenewsletter@sbcglobal.net before February 15 for inclusion in March's newsletter. Note that articles may be edited to fit.*

# FEBRUARY 2010 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>01</b> 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, EFM	<b>02</b> 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA	<b>03</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg / 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Eucharist / 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>04</b> 7 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry / 7:30 p.m. Practice For "9 a.m. Band"	<b>05</b> 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	<b>06</b> 8 a.m. AA / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service / Noon Labyrinth Walk
<b>07</b> <b>BOY SCOUT SUNDAY</b> 7:30, 9, & 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Adult Formation / 10:15 a.m. Youth Formation	<b>08</b> 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, EFM, Order of St. Luke	<b>09</b> 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA	<b>10</b> 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>11</b> 7 p.m. Vestry / 7:30 p.m. Practice For "9 a.m. Band"	<b>12</b> 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	<b>13</b> 8 a.m. AA / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service
<b>14</b> 7:30, 9, & 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Adult Formation / 10:15 a.m. Youth Formation / 7:30 p.m. Taizé	<b>15</b> 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, EFM	<b>16</b> <b>SHROVE TUESDAY</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry / 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA / 5:30 p.m. Pancake Supper	<b>17</b> <b>ASH WED</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg / 6:30 a.m., noon, 7:30 p.m. Eucharist / 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>18</b> 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Club, Practice For "9 a.m. Band"	<b>19</b> 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA / 11 p.m. Hesel House	<b>20</b> 3 a.m. Hesel House / 8 a.m. AA / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service
<b>21</b> <b>URBAN GRILLE FUNDRAISER</b> 7:30, 9, & 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Adult Formation / 10:15 a.m. Youth Formation	<b>22</b> 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, EFM, Order of St. Luke	<b>23</b> 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA / 7:30 p.m. Listening Hearts	<b>24</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg / 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Eucharist / 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 7 p.m. Precook Soup Kitchen / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>25</b> 10 a.m. Soup Kitchen / 7:30 p.m. Practice For "9 a.m. Band"	<b>26</b> 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	<b>27</b> 8 a.m. AA / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service / 6-7:45 a.m. Habitat Walk-A- Thon Registration / 8 a.m. Habitat Walk-A-Thon
<b>28</b> 7:30, 9, & 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Adult Formation / 10:15 a.m. Youth Formation / 5 p.m. Free Spaghetti Dinner						

# FEBRUARY 2010 SERVER SCHEDULE

February 07      February 14      February 21      February 28      March 07

## Eucharistic Ministers

7:30 a.m.	Kathy Mertes Jerry Mertes	Michelle Moore Gib Moore	Diana Brown Doug Brown	Kathy Mertes Bill Johnson	Michelle Moore Gib Moore
10:45 a.m.	Jim Bachman Becky Kruse	Gary Meade Holly Parks	Joe Ryan Becky Kruse	Dick Hattan Katie Thomson	Gary Meade Becky Kruse

## Lector

7:30 a.m.	Bill Johnson	Alan Wolff	Henry Mora	Mary Kerr	Kathy Mertes
10:45 a.m. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jr. High	Joe Ryan	Dotti Finatri	Sharon Miller	Sr. High
10:45 a.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jr. High	John Hollis	Jim Bachman	Tom Miller	Sr. High

## Ushers

7:30 a.m.	Wink Bangs Marina Morrow	Bill Johnson Larry Engel	Jack Benning	Fay Viverito Jack Viverito	Marina Morrow Wink Bangs
10:45 a.m.	Jr. High Jr. High	Tom Flood Katie Thomson	Jan Bach John Hollis	Wink Bangs Jeff Burnett	Sr. High Sr. High

## Acolyte

Dillon Muggle	Taushia Muggle	Eoin Cottrell	Sam Nesbit	Carolyn Campbell
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## Intercessor

Bo Smith	Dalia Bach	Wendy Bangs	Kathy Heikkinen	Bo Smith
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## Altar Bread

Beverly Nesbit	Lisa-Ann Barnes	Katie Thomson	Jane Van Nortwick	Dalia Bach
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## Greeter

7:30 a.m.	Dorothy Payleitner	Jody Rullman	Diana Brown	Dorothy Payleitner	Jody Rullman
9 a.m.	Kathy Hari	Kerri Hildebrand	Janet Craft	Kathy Hari	Kerri Hildebrand
10:45 a.m.	Jr. High	Wendy Bangs	Beverly Nesbit	Wendy Bangs	Beverly Nesbit

## Coffee Hosts

7:30 a.m.	Needed	Needed	Needed	Women's Cursillo	Needed
9 a.m.	Needed	Needed	Needed	Women's Cursillo	Needed
10:45 a.m.	Needed	Needed	Needed	Women's Cursillo	Needed

## Home Eucharist

Graf (Campbell)	Do. Brown (Wolff)	Thomson (Meade)	Rixleben (Koch)	Campbell (Rullman)
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## Closing

Kathy Heikkinen	Katie Ditch	Karen Flood	Mike Custer	Carol Townsend
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## Altar Guild

Jody Rullman Ann Mora Cynthia Victor	Carol Paschal Sarah Travis Annie Hollis	Dorothy Payleitner Barbara Bachman Diana Brown Maria Owen	Bernice Ludtke Jeanne DeVore Barbara Haase Sandy Parsons	Jody Rullman Ann Mora Cynthia Victor
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## Flower Guild

Liz Benning Jody Rullman	Carol Paschal Sarah Travis	Carol Paschal Sarah Travis	Dottie Finatri	Liz Benning Jody Rullman
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## Flower Dedication

Betty Zupke

## 9 a.m. Hosts

Travis	Victor	Manning	Ingraham	Larson
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# Walk-A-Thon For Habitat

**February 27, registration 6 to 7:45 a.m./walk 8 to 10 a.m.**

*Contact Tom Flood @ 630-715-5074 or [tkflood@comcast.net](mailto:tkflood@comcast.net).*

On Saturday, February 27, Northern Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity will be sponsoring their twentieth Walk-A-Thon. Those who have participated in past years, know this is a great way to raise awareness and financial support for Habitat while at the same time getting some exercise and having fun.

Habitat's goal, this year, is to raise \$4,000—enough money to purchase another job site construction trailer. The organization and individual earning the most pledge dollars will be announced on April 2 and receive recognition.

Participating in the walk is easy. First, pick up a pledge form in Ludtke Hall. Then, obtain sponsorship from friends, family, neighbors, and other parishioners. Pledges can be per lap or a flat fee. Come to Spring Hill Mall, Carpentersville, between 6 to 7:45 a.m. on February 27 to check-in and receive a t-shirt. (Bring a safety waiver. Minor and adult waivers are also available in Ludtke Hall.) Walk from 8 to 10 a.m. Finally, collect your pledges and turn them in to Northern Fox Valley Habitat. (Pledges can also be turned in the day of the walk.) Please make sure they are clearly marked with the walker's name and SCEC. All pledges are due by March 30.

**If you are not walking, please sponsor another parishioner and help Habitat reach its goal.**

## Food, Fellowship, FUNdraiser

**February 21**

*Contact Christy Becker @ 630-377-4369 or [knitterchristy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:knitterchristy@sbcglobal.net).*

Skip the crowds on Valentine's Day and go out to dinner the next Sunday instead! Fifteen percent of purchases on February 21 at the **Urban Grille**, located at 524 West State Street in Geneva, will be donated to SCEC.

Urban Grille has wonderful food! **It was voted the best burger and best seafood in the Fox Valley.** Choose from the build your own artisan burger (beef, salmon, or chicken breast with a multitude of cheeses and sauces and extras, plus you even choose the kind of bun); homemade, wood-grilled flatbread pizzas; fish tacos; salads; sandwiches; dinners, and sweet potato fries! Check out their menu at [www.urbangrille.com](http://www.urbangrille.com). Then, join us for some great food and fun!



**February 6, 11 a.m.**

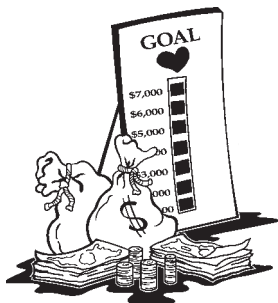
Our recent Deacon-In-Training, Laurie Michaels, will be ordained to the Vocational Diaconate on Saturday, February 6, at 11:00 a.m., in the Cathedral of Saint James in Chicago. All are welcome to attend the ordination.



**February 18, 7:30 p.m.**

*Contact Deacon Liz @ [scecdiacon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecdiacon@sbcglobal.net) or 630-584-2596 or Wendy Bangs @ 630-377-1174 or [wsbangs@aol.com](mailto:wsbangs@aol.com).*

Following a spirited discussion of The Help in January, the Women's Book Group chose Brother I'm Dying by Haitian writer Edwidge Danticat for February 18 and Noah's Compass by Anne Tyler for March 18. Please join us.



Contact Bo Smith @ 630-262-9512  
or BoSmith99@aol.com.

If you would like to plan a fundraising event for either a group within the parish or an outside ministry, please contact Bo Smith, so the Fundraising Committee can assist in scheduling your event. **ALL** fundraising activities are to be submitted to the committee before they begin.



Contact the office @ 630-584-2596  
or scecoffice@sbcglobal.net or one of  
the Wardens.

Is there an upcoming SCEC event you need to schedule or reschedule? Contact a staff member or a Warden to update the SCEC online calendar ([www.stcharlesepiscopal.org/googlecalendar.htm](http://www.stcharlesepiscopal.org/googlecalendar.htm)). Get your events on the calendar and attendance will rise!

## SCEC To Host A Healing Mission

June 12-13

Contact Father Bill Kruse @ 630-208-6405 @ [bandbkruise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bandbkruise@sbcglobal.net) or Dick Hattan @ 630-208-1978 or [richardhattan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richardhattan@sbcglobal.net).

SCEC will host a Healing Mission June 12-13. A Healing Mission is a weekend dedicated to learning about and experiencing the healing Presence of God in prayer, praise, worship, and educational workshops.

### What Are The Pastoral Reasons For A Healing Mission?

First, Jesus asked his disciples to proclaim the Kingdom of God and heal the sick. The synoptic gospels and the Book of Acts witness to the centrality of healing as a means of proclaiming the Kingdom. The early church did not believe that the Kingdom or Rule of God could be proclaimed without demonstrations of healing.

Second, so many Christians have a fear of God, and a sense of distance or separation from God. C.S. Lewis pointed out in *A Grief Observed*, written after he saw his wife die of cancer, that we are tempted to see God as a sadist, if we think that it is the Divine will that one we love must be eaten alive by cancer. On the other hand, the image of God which Jesus teaches us is a loving Parent, who desires to give what the children ask.

*"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask."* (Matthew 7:11)

### What Effects Can We Expect From A Healing Mission?

One of the beautiful fruits of a Healing Mission is that ordinary people—often for the first time—are enabled to experience and feel the love of God. Intellectually, they know that God loves them, but often, they have not had the heart-knowledge which ultimately is the only knowledge that makes a difference. Divine Knowledge is a palpable reality in a Healing Mission.

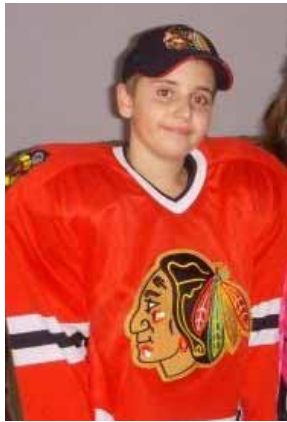
### More To Come

There is much more to tell you, but the details are still developing. Keep watching this newsletter and The Pulse for more information. **Thank you to Karen and Dick Hattan** and the many others who have volunteered to work on the Committee for a Healing Mission.

# “Love for Jeffrey”

*Sponsored by “Love for Lucy”*

Jeffrey Penkala is a twelve-year old (born on December 25) student at Michael Collins Elementary School in Schaumburg. Jeffrey was diagnosed with an adult form of a rare cancer, “Neuroendocrine Carcinoma,” in late November. Jeffrey is currently receiving a form of treatment; However, the tumors have spread, causing tremendous pain in his body and sleepless nights.



### **The family and friends of Jeffrey Penkala are asking for your support!**

We are hosting a pasta dinner, silent auction, and raffle on **Sunday, April 18**, from 3 to 7 p.m. at Trinity

Lutheran Church, 405 Rush St., Roselle. The purpose of this fundraiser is to raise money for expenses related to Jeffrey’s medical condition. We are graciously accepting monetary donations, raffle prizes, and auction items for this event. Anything that you can provide will be deeply appreciated.

### **Will you please help us in our fundraising efforts?**

Thank you in advance for your kindness and support in this fundraising effort. **All donations are tax deductible. The Love of Lucy foundation has a 501(c)(3) status.** In return for your donation we will include your name in our ad/event book, which we expect to reach more than 1500 people, many whom reside in our neighborhood and surrounding communities.

Warmest regards,

The “Love for Jeffrey” Fundraising Team  
**Tax I.D. #26-1209710**

### **Mail Monetary Donations To:**

“Love for Lucy” Foundation, Old Town Bank & Trust, 165 W. Lake Street, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

### **Mail All Other Donations To:**

Karen and Luke Dettlo, (630)726-8270, 5N600 IL Rt. 25, St. Charles, IL 60174



### **February Birthdays**

- 02 - Kim Wicks
- 03 - Michaela McDaid
- 04 - Madison Scanlan
- 05 - Sarah Ditch
- 07 - Brittany Hildebrand
- 07 - Gerald Mertes
- 08 - Scott Lyng
- 11 - Diana Brown
- 12 - Barbara Ross
- 12 - Gary Meade
- 12 - Anna Weyman
- 13 - Marina Morrow
- 13 - Derrick Englehart
- 15 - Mike Zupke
- 18 - William Zupke
- 19 - Kristen Balisi
- 22 - Sandra Owen
- 24 - Jack Kerr
- 25 - Jerry Becker
- 26 - Bill Nesbit
- 26 - Elizabeth Madura

### **February Anniversaries**

- 03 - Jamie & Cathy Koch
- 04 - Jim & Linda McGaan



Thank you to Colin Campbell, Dick Hattan, and Katie Thomson for your work on the Vestry; You have made a difference in the lives of many!

Welcome to the Vestry Cory Blane, Margo Churchwell (Junior Warden), Maria Foran, Regan Jancauskas, and Terry Larson; The year will be full of many rewarding activities.



# What Is Confirmation?

Contact Fr. Bill @ 630-584-2596 or [scecretor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecretor@sbcglobal.net) or Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or [scecyouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecyouth@sbcglobal.net).

According to the Outline of Faith in the Book of Common Prayer confirmation is:

*“the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.”*

## Who Can Be Confirmed?

A person 16 or older who has been baptized. Confirmands must be sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, be penitent for their sins, and be ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

## What Does Being “Received” Mean?

Baptized persons who have been members of another Christian fellowship and who wish to be affiliated with the Episcopal Church may make a public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism in the presence of a bishop. The bishop lays hands on each candidate for reception and says, “We recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion.”

Contact Fr. Bill or Liz Ryan to indicate your interest. Classes will be held in the spring with the Confirmation ceremony to be held on the second weekend in May.



## Applications Due: March 1

If you're a graduating senior and have not yet received a copy (or have misplaced your copy) of the Ludtke Scholarship Application, contact Liz Ryan.

## March 5 to 7

Happening 90, a weekend experience for high schoolers, will be held March 5-7. **Cost is \$45**, before February 13.



## April 15, 17, and 22

Contact Fr. Bill @ 630-584-2596 or [scecretor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecretor@sbcglobal.net) or Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or [scecyouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecyouth@sbcglobal.net).

Children interested in learning about the Eucharist and making their “Holy Communion” may join Fr. Bill Nesbit and Mrs. Liz Ryan for two classes:

Thursday, April 15  
Thursday, April 22

This is a good opportunity for children, who have not yet received Communion or who have been receiving Communion but are not necessarily clear why we take communion, to learn the meaning of taking Communion.

There will also be a “field trip” to allow the children to make a chalice and paten of their very own on Saturday, April 17.

The celebration of “Holy Communion” will be held on Sunday, April 25 at the 10:45 a.m. service.

The only “age requirement” for this class is that the child must be able to read. A sign-up sheet will be available in Ludtke Hall as of February 7.



## What's Up In Kids Formation?

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or [scecyouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecyouth@sbcglobal.net).

The **Atrium Classes** are all very busy learning more about our Lord and our faith. Just peek in a classroom, and you'll see them totally engaged in their Christian Education!

The **Jr. High** had a great showing at New Beginnings! Avie Churchwell and Liz Ryan represented our church on staff at weekend #23 held at St. John the Evangelist in Flossmoor, January 29-31. Participants included Sam Nesbit and Justin Bell. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they grow in their relationships with Christ and one another.

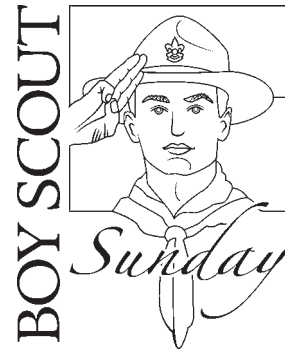
The **High School** says "Thank You!" for your participation in the Super Subs Sale! They made the subs on the same day as our Annual Meeting. Yum! Did the church smell good. Huge thanks to Karen Madura and Kathy Hari who co-ordinated and shopped for the sale.

## "Hunger Doesn't Stop After The Holidays" Food Drive

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or [scecyouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecyouth@sbcglobal.net).

Conventional wisdom says "never shop while hungry." However, some would probably consider being able to shop while hungry a luxury. **Hunger exists even in the Fox Valley. Middlers are collecting food for the Salvation Army** at several of our local grocery stores and will continue to do so through February 7. Around Christmas, we think of those who are in need and give 'til the food pantry cupboards overflow, but by February, donations become sparse and shelves empty. Please remember our less fortunate when you are in the grocery store in the next couple weeks (and all year). Below you will find a list of the items most needed; Gift certificates are always helpful too. **Donations can be dropped in the collection boxes in Ludtke Hall.** Thank you for compassion.

Corned Beef ■ Tuna ■ Canned Meals ■ Chili ■ Peanut Butter ■ Jelly ■ Macaroni & Cheese ■ Potato Mixes ■ Tomato Products ■ Spaghetti Sauce ■ Stuffing Mix ■ Sauces ■ Helpers (hamburger, tuna, etc.) ■ Crackers ■ Baking Goods ■ Cereal ■ Pancake Mix ■ Toiletry Items ■ Dish Soap ■ Paper Products ■ Detergent ■ Diapers



February 6

Wear your Scout uniform!



Look for information about our diocesan summer camp program (Camp Chicago) and other events for youth throughout our diocese in The Pulse and online at [www.episcopalchicago.org](http://www.episcopalchicago.org). If you need forms or any other information regarding these programs, contact Liz Ryan.



Thanks So Much!

Thanks to all who helped with the Annual Meeting children's activities. A good time was had by all!

the newspapers? Would you like to organize a family event? Is gardening or flower arranging your forte? Would you be willing to sew buttons on and hem acolyte garments? There are numerous tasks to be done so that we are ready to offer Holy Hospitality to all who enter our church home. Some things only need a few hours; Some need more regular attention. Bigger events like Mardi Gras require more planning; Some ministries can be done in a day or less. Ask

an experienced parishioner if you can help and learn from his or her knowledgeable hand. Make some time this year to take on a mission, be it for a day or a season. You'll get to know more people, get to know friends even better, and in the process you may find that you are ready to welcome a guest not just into our church, but your heart.

**Kathy Heikkinen**  
**Senior Warden**

## Is Yours A Listening Heart?

**February 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23**

*Contact Fr. Bill @ 630-584-2596 or [scecretor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecretor@sbcglobal.net) or Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or [scecyouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecyouth@sbcglobal.net).*

The process of discernment, or attempting to understand God's will for us, is not an easy task. "Listening Hearts: Discerning Call In Community" is a book that proves to be both eminently practical and highly instructive. While many people think of discernment as only relating to ordained ministry, seeking God's will should be at the core of all of our lives.

The method was developed in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland with great assistance and input from members of the area Quaker community. The Society of Friends influence shows prominently, as the main focus of the process is to discover and arrive at consensus regarding God's revealed will through reflective prayer rather than convince anyone of anything via cerebral justifications.

Listening Hearts serves as a starting point for someone considering a time of discernment. The book is not discouraging of ordained vocations, but instead acknowledges that often discerners too quickly latch onto ordination as the only answer to a vocation in the Church. The method emphasizes prayer and heartfelt reflection as the main means of determining God's will.

**If you feel an openness to the multiplicity of God's purposes, come join Fr. Bill Nesbit and Liz Ryan for a five-week discussion group beginning Tuesday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.** Sign-up on the list in Ludtke Hall if you would like a book. Cost will be \$10. Take a giant leap on your spiritual journey!

## From The Rector

*Continued From Page 1*

Episcopal Church. ERD is helping people around the block and around the world. What I like most about ERD is that they take their time. By that, I don't mean that they are slow to respond. After Hurricane Katrina they were one of the first groups to respond, *and* they are still there helping the people of Louisiana and Mississippi. We can count on ERD making an impact for good in Haiti. They have already been at work in the development of the infrastructure needed to support the church before the earthquake. We can rest assured that they will still be at work for years to come. I encourage you to consider a donation to ERD to help them in their crucial work in Haiti, but also for the important on-going work of relief and development around the globe. You can make a donation on line at [www.erd.org](http://www.erd.org) or just drop a check in the plate on Sunday with the notation of ERD or Haiti. If you can't donate now, I ask for your prayers. Every little bit helps. Only time will tell if we are doing enough.

See you in Church!





## From The Warden

### Vestry

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Greg Steamer  
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#### 2012

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630.587.9230, michael\_custer@comcast.net

Carol Townsend  
630.681.0311, carol.townsend@gmail.net

#### 2013

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630.393.0725, crby35@hotmail.com

Maria Foran  
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Regan Jancauskas  
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Terry Larson  
630.338.2081, prmses513@yahoo.com

### Youth Representatives

Christina Foster  
630.584.1016, dancestar3@comcast.net

Taushia Mugge  
630.513.6641, tmugge@yahoo.com

I'm one of those people that still sends out Christmas cards *and* the annual letter that goes with them. Not everyone gets a letter, but I do send the letter to my old college friends and some folks from the city where I grew up. This year, I told everyone how much I'd learned this past year while helping oversee our parish endeavors and how much I am looking forward to the coming year when I will be Warden. Despite the ups and downs of the economy, I told them, we all support each other. I have heard very few disputes between members of our parish family or groups within our church. That's not to say that we all agree all the time, but, in general, we are gracious in our relationships.

Now, I don't want to get myself in trouble here, but maybe the time has come for us to take a few steps forward, past graciousness and into something that would bring us even closer. If we are to offer the "Holy Hospitality" that Deacon Liz talks about, inviting and welcoming all into our parish family, we need to step up and be ready when our guests arrive.

One way for us to be ready is to get more people working together, sharing in the preparation and the festivities, praying and learning in concert. Gone are the days when stay at home moms and retired grandfathers could take care of the activities that happened between Sundays. Now, moms have multiple jobs, and seniors have gone back to work or parent their grandchildren. Who is left to serve coffee at the

funerals? Who will have time to weed the gardens? When the kitchen is out of clean linens, who will do the laundry or buy paper towels?

The answer, of course, is us. We have to do it; We ALL have to do it. If the funeral was for your parent, wouldn't you want someone to make and serve refreshments? If the wedding was for your daughter, wouldn't you want fresh flowers in the pots? If you want to know when Easter services begin, how will you find out at 10 p.m. Saturday night if no one has prepared a newsletter or updated the webpage? Now is the time for every member to find a ministry. That's not why we elect a Vestry; "they" can't do it all. But, WE can. Together, we can do what needs to be done—what you want to be done. We no longer fund our outside ministries the way we used to. However, we can still minister to them. Snow removal is eating up our operations budget, but we still expect a parish administrator, the director of music, and director of youth & children's formation to get everything done that needs to be done; They all need help.

So, let me first thank everyone who takes a few hours throughout the year or on a regular basis to offer their services to help our parish continue to run smoothly. That time is never acknowledged enough. But now I am asking *every* member to find a partner or form a group to take on a ministry this year. Could you broadcast parish information to

# The Heartbeat of St. Charles' Episcopal Church

A church with a big heart, shining the light of Christ, joyfully serving others.

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As you read this, it is the beginning of February. We will have completed our Annual Meeting and approved our budget for the coming year. We will be moving on with our mission and ministry to the world around us. As I write this, however, it is only the middle of January and our meeting is still over a week away with much to be done in preparation. As it always seems, everything is getting done at the last minute. In the last few days, I have been struck by the importance of time.

For me, 4000 minutes have passed—about three days—since the Haiti earthquake struck the city of Port-au-Prince. As I write this, people are alive under the rubble. When you read this, they won't be. In the richest country in the world, after hurricane Katrina, we saw how quickly frustration after a natural disaster could bring out the darker side of humanity. Haiti is the poorest country in our hemisphere. I am afraid that by the time you read this the situation will be much worse. I pray that the hard lessons we learned in the aftermath of Katrina will be put to good use in Haiti. I know you have been praying, but I bid you to keep praying.

The Episcopal Church has a very real presence in Haiti. The Diocese of Haiti is one of the newest dioceses in the Episcopal Church. In the few seconds that the earthquake lasted the Cathedral, the Diocesan Offices, the Seminary, a convent, and four of the schools run by the diocese were all destroyed. Still, most of the people survived, and they are working to ease the plight of their neighbors. They will need our help. They will all need our help.

As I reflected on how quickly their world went from bad to worse as the earthquake turned their world upside down, I recalled how precious the simple things are. As I am sure you are all now aware, our holidays were disrupted when, out of the blue, Nate suffered a mild seizure. At the time, it seemed a calamity, and it was for our family for a while. Now, however, in light of everything else, it seems a little thing. The event is the same, but time and context are not.

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