



March 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
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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

02	.....	Listening Hearts, 7:30 p.m.
04	.....	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7 p.m.
06	.....	Labyrinth Walk, Noon
07	.....	Ludtke Applications Due
08	.....	Order of St. Luke, 7 p.m.
09	.....	Listening Hearts, 7:30 p.m.
11	.....	Vestry, 7 p.m.
13	.....	Worship Committee, 9:30 a.m.
14	.....	Y.E.S. St. Patty's Day Luncheon, Noon
14	.....	Taizé, 7:30 p.m.
16	.....	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 a.m.
16	.....	Listening Hearts, 7:30 p.m.
18	.....	Women's Book Club, 7:30 p.m.
19-20	.....	Hesed House
21	.....	FUNdraiser @ Sanfrantello's
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.
28	.....	Free Spaghetti Dinner, 5 p.m.

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

MARCH 2010 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	01 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, EFM	02 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA / 7:30 p.m. Listening Hearts	03 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg / 6:30 p.m. Eucharist / 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	04 7 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry / 7:30 p.m. Practice For "9 a.m. Band"	05 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / Noon Stations of the Cross / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	06 8 a.m. AA / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service / Noon Labyrinth Walk
07 LUDTKE APPLICATIONS DUE 7:30, 9, & 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Adult Formation / 10:15 a.m. Youth Formation	08 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, EFM, Order of St. Luke	09 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA / 7:30 p.m. Listening Hearts	10 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg / 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	11 7 p.m. Vestry / 7:30 p.m. Practice For "9 a.m. Band"	12 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / Noon Stations of the Cross / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	13 8 a.m. AA / 9:30 a.m. Worship Committee / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service
14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 7:30, 9, 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Adult Formation / 10:15 a.m. Youth Formation / Noon Y.E.S Lunch / 7:30 p.m. Taizé	15 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, EFM	16 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry / 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA / 7:30 p.m. Listening Hearts	17 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg / 6:30 p.m. Eucharist / 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	18 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Club, Practice For "9 a.m. Band"	19 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / Noon Stations of the Cross / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA / 11 p.m. Hesed House	20 3 a.m. Hesed House / 8 a.m. AA / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service
21 SANFRANTELLOS FUNDRAISER 7:30, 9, & 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Adult Formation / 10:15 a.m. Youth Formation	22 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, EFM, Order of St. Luke	23 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA / 7:30 p.m. Listening Hearts	24 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg / 6:30 p.m. Eucharist / 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 4-7 p.m. Blood Drive / 7 p.m. Precook Soup Kitchen / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	25 10 a.m. Soup Kitchen / 7:30 p.m. Practice For "9 a.m. Band"	26 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / Noon Stations of the Cross / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	27 8 a.m. AA / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service
28 PALM SUNDAY 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	29 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, EFM	30 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA / 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae	31 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	Please Remember To Drop Supplies For Troops In The Collection Box In Ludtke Hall. A list of needed items is also available in Ludtke Hall.		

MARCH 2010 SERVER SCHEDULE

	March 07	March 14	March 21	March 28	April 04 (Easter)
Eucharistic Ministers					
7:30 a.m.	Michelle Moore Gib Moore	Kathy Mertes Bill Johnson	Diana Brown Doug Brown	Jerry Mertes Kathy Merges	Michelle Moore Gib Moore
10:45 a.m.	Katie Thomson Becky Kruse	Holly Parks Jim Bachman	Dick Hattan Beverly Nesbit	Joe Ryan Katie Thomson	Dick Hattan Holly Parks
Lector					
7:30 a.m.	Kathy Mertes	Bill Johnson	Alan Wolff	Henry Mora	Mary Kerr
10:45 a.m. 1 st	Sr. High	Jan Bach	Bo Smith	Mark Senn	Jr. High
10:45 a.m. 2 nd	Sr. High	Dalia Bach	Carolyn Campbell	Kathy Heikkinen	Jr. 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.	Sr. High Sr. High	Tom Flood Katie Thomson	Jan Bach John Hollis	Wink Bangs Jeff Burnett	Jr. High Jr. High
Acolyte					
	Carolyn Campbell	Sarah Ditch	Emily Thomson	Andrew Schuetz	Joe Ryan
Intercessor					
	Bo Smith	Dalia Bach	Wendy Bangs	Kathy Heikkinen	Bo Smith
Altar Bread					
	Dalia Bach	Kathy Heikkinen	Kerri Hildebrand	Gina Ingraham	Kathy Hari
Greeter					
7:30 a.m.	Jody Rullman	Diana Brown	Dorothy Payleitner	Jody Rullman	Diana Brown
9 a.m.	Kerri Hildebrand	Janet Craft	Kathy Hari	Kerri Hildebrand	Janet Craft
10:45 a.m.	Sr. High	Beverly Nesbit	Wendy Bangs	Beverly Nesbit	Jr. High
Coffee Hosts					
7:30 a.m.	Needed	Needed	Needed	Men's Cursillo	Needed
9 a.m.	Needed	Needed	Needed	Men's Cursillo	Needed
10:45 a.m.	Needed	Needed	Needed	Men's Cursillo	Needed
Home Eucharist					
	Campbell (Rullman)	Wolff (Craft)	Rullman (Brown)	Graf (Meade)	TBD
Closing					
	Carol Townsend	Margo Churchwell	Gregg Steamer	Cory Blane	Mike Custer
Altar Guild					
	Jody Rullman Ann Mora Cynthia Victor	Carol Paschal Sarah Travis Annie Hollis	Dorothy Payleitner Diana Brown Maria Owen	Bernice Ludtke Jeanne DeVore Barbara Haase Sandy Parsons	Jody Rullman Ann Mora Cynthia Victor
Flower Guild					
	Liz Benning Jody Rullman	Carol Paschal Sarah Travis	Carol Paschal Sarah Travis	Dottie Finatri	Liz Benning Jody Rullman
Flower Dedication					
9 a.m. Hosts					
	The Larson Family	The Barnes Family	The Manning Family	The Becker Family	The Travis Family



Haiti For The Long Haul

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Shori has been very vocal about the resources Haiti will need in the next decade if it is to recover. It is a wonderful opportunity to watch resurrection and Easter, if done right. If done right, Haiti will rise up out of the ashes and become a place of vibrant new growth and faith. If done wrong, Haiti will wallow in the mire it now finds itself in, ripe for more degradation and suffering. **The Church has a wonderful opportunity to infuse Haiti with new life.** We can be the agents of hope and bearers of the Gospel to people who need its Truth and Comfort.

First, Haiti needs our ongoing prayers and support. Remember Haiti in your daily prayers. **Then, consider how you can support Haiti over the long haul.** Many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are already on the ground and better know the needs of the people. Find one you trust and support their efforts.

My heart is with Episcopal Relief and Development (er-d.org) because they are a trusted place of respite and comfort to the people. They have been in Haiti for many years, funded and built many schools, programs, and churches. **Being resident there means they know what is needed and what is needed desperately.** They can prioritize for us. **When you give to ERD, you can be assured that your donation reaches those people who need it most.** Please consider giving monthly online this year—and next. You can also drop an envelope in the plate marked “Haiti,” and the office staff will see that the monies go directly to ERD’s Haiti Fund. Help Haiti for the long haul.

By Deacon Liz

March Birthdays

- 01 J.D. Adams
- 01 Bill Johnson
- 01 Joshua Kerr
- 01 Adrian Travis
- 03 Amanda Louise Travis
- 05 Chris Lyng
- 05 Ian Rhead
- 05 Nate Becker
- 09 Caroline Wicks
- 13 Scott Judd
- 13 Paul Weiss
- 17 Bernice Bunker-Ludtke
- 18 Aidan Manning
- 20 Ellen Johnson
- 20 Braxton Wicks
- 21 Matthew Elfring
- 22 Jane Van Nortwick
- 23 Janet Samuels
- 27 Ryan Thomson
- 30 Anne Lander
- 30 Oliver Barnum Ulaszek
- 30 Mitchell Wicks
- 31 Tyler Andrew Custer
- 31 Victor Scantlebury (Asst. Bishop)

March Anniversaries

- 07 Tom & Marcia McCracken
- 12 Ed & Kathryn Manning
- 15 Henry & Ann Mora
- 16 J.D. & Judy Adams
- 28 Erik & Kristen Balisi

Women’s Book Group Easter Egg Hunt

March 18, 7:30 p.m.

Contact Wendy Bangs @ 630-377-1174 or wsbangs@aol.com.

Please join the Women’s Book Group as we discuss **Noah’s Compass** by Anne Tyler on Thursday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. In April, we will discuss **Uncle Tom’s Cabin** by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Join us in Ludtke Hall.

April 4, 10 a.m.

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or sccecyouth@sbcglobal.net.

The hunt is on for yummy candies and divine messages. Children in fourth grade and younger can join us downstairs for an egg hunt easter morning. If you are interested in helping “stuff” the eggs, contact Liz Ryan.

Stations Of The Cross

Fridays In Lent, Noon

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or sccecyouth@sbcglobal.net.

We will hold our traditional Stations of the Cross readings on Fridays at noon throughout Lent. After which, we will enjoy a lunch of soup and bread. Sign up in Ludtke Hall to provide soup or bread for the lunch.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

March 4, 7 p.m., March 16, 10 a.m.

Contact Christy Becker @ knitterchristy@sbcglobal.net or 630-377-4369.

Like to knit or just to pray? We are looking for you!

St. Charles Episcopal Prayer Shawl Knitters are receiving requests for more prayer shawls than we currently have; We need to have more friends join our group!

Remember, experience is not necessary. We have people who can teach you how to knit or crochet and people who can even redo your mistakes! All ages can come and beginners are welcome. Yarn is available in a variety of colors. Just bring yourself.

Right now, we have several friends of parish members who are in need of a shawl full of prayers to put over their shoulders. These shawls are made with prayer, and then, blessed by the group to send wonderful wishes of good will for times of celebration or times of need.

Come and join the fun on Thursday, March 4 at 7 p.m. or Tuesday, March 16 at 10 a.m. in Ludtke Hall. See you soon!



FELLOWSHIP

Food & Fundraiser

March 21, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Contact Christy Becker @ 630-377-4369 or knitterchristy@sbcglobal.net.

Join us at Sanfratello's in downtown Geneva (7 West State Street) for pizza and more good Italian food while we help earn needed funds for our church. Check out Sanfratello's menu at www.sanfratellosgeneva.com. Pick up a flyer in Ludtke Hall before you. Money will be earned on dine-in or carry-out.



Y.E.S. St. Patty's Day Luncheon

**Sunday, March 14
Beginning At Noon**

Traditional Irish Fare will be served with entertainment provided by the Foy School of Irish Dancers.

**\$10 For Adults
\$5 For Kids Ages 4 To 18
Free For Kids 3 And Under**

Contact Kathy Hari for more information at 630-513-0404 or jkhari@sbcglobal.net.



Of Holy Week Services

Good Friday marks the lowest point of the Christian Year. We mourn the death of Jesus and contemplate the world's rejection of his message and ministry. Yet, Good Friday is called "good" because God takes an instrument of death, the cross, and turns it into a means of victory over death. The Good Friday liturgy is stark and simple.

The Passion narrative from the gospel of John is read in parts, followed by the Solemn Collects, a prayerful remembrance of all who dwell on the earth.

The Veneration of the Cross is an act of devotion that began in the fourth century. A cross is brought forward by the deacon into the sight of the people. The faithful contemplate in stillness the physical sign which bore our Savior. If so moved, there is also time and space for us to come forward for brief silent prayer at the foot of the cross. During the veneration the choir sings an anthem whose text is a meditation on the power the symbol of the cross has for us.

The liturgy concludes with a Confession of Sin, the Lord's Prayer and distribution of Holy Communion from the reserved sacrament, followed by a final collect. The people depart in silence, leaving the church bleak and bare as was Jesus' tomb. Christians need not despair as the first disciples did but can wait in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

A special liturgy with language accessible to both children and adults on Good Friday morning takes them through the stations of the cross. In small groups we

make the journey to the cross in several steps throughout the church. We hear the story of Jesus' Passion unfold as we walk through the stations. We are encouraged to wonder about the mystery of death and resurrection so that we might experience God's transformative way of grace.

The Great Vigil Of Easter

April 3

Service at 7:30 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter is the climax of the year. It is the end and the beginning. The early church had no special commemoration of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday apart from the celebration of the Resurrection. All of these separate historical events were enacted at the Christian Passover on Holy Saturday night. The entire truth of our redemption is totally contained in this one liturgy.

We begin at the beginning. As God invoked the coming of the light at the dawn of time, so we begin by lighting the new fire. We kindle a fire outside in the darkness of the Columbarium Garden (weather permitting) and light the Paschal candle, representing the Light of Christ, the true light of the world, through whom all things were made.

The Paschal candle is borne into the dark church where we gather to hear the ancient stories of God's faithful redemption of his people time and again throughout history. After the stories of God's people are told, we graft into the ancient stories

our own stories as we baptize new Christians and remember and renew our own baptismal covenant through the waters of new life. The newly baptized persons are a powerful symbol in the Easter liturgy of our own "Passover" from death into life.

Then we wait. Tonight is the eve of the Eighth Day, the dawn of a new creation. We have watched, and we have listened. We have baptize, and we have seen the new light. Now, it is time to celebrate God's new plan for us.

The ministers put on their best vestments, the altar is vested and adorned with glorious cloth, flowers, and brightly polished silver and brass. Bells ring, the organ plays, and the redeemed people of God make a joyful noise, shaking noise makers and bells, shouting and singing praise, "Glory to God in the highest..." And we celebrate Eucharist, that most blessed of feasts. We participate in the banquet of the Risen One who points us to abundant life.

After the liturgy, the people gather for a party of champagne and rich food. The fast of Lent is ended. Thanks be to God.

Easter

March 28

Eucharist at 7:30, 9, and 10:45 a.m.

Easter Sunday services are festival Eucharists with special music and jubilation at the resurrection of our Lord. The church is adorned with flowers, the silver sparkles, and the church resounds with "The Lord is Risen Indeed!"

A Concise Explanation

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

March 28

Eucharist at 7:30, 9, and 10:45 a.m.

We begin this day by celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We gather in the Columbarium Garden (weather permitting) where palm fronds are blessed and distributed as we re-enact the festive procession described in the gospels.

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week by abruptly shifting mood. The church is adorned in the red of the blood of martyrs. The Passion story (the story of Jesus' trial and crucifixion) is read with the congregation reading the part of the crowd. The congregation, who before sang sweet hosannas, now calls "Crucify him!" It is in this drama that the tone is set for the liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and, ultimately, the Great Vigil of Easter.

Tenebrae

March 30, 7:30 p.m.

Tenebrae is a Latin word that signifies darkness, shadows, and obscurity. The name of this service comes from the opening words of the fifth responsory: "Tenebrae factae sunt" which means "darkness came over the whole land." (Mark 15:33)

Tenebrae is characterized by the progressive extinguishing of all lights in the church except for one candle. The service ends with the ministers and people departing in silence through the shadows cast by that solitary flame. The appointed psalms, lessons, and prayers of Tenebrae

form a prolonged contemplation of the events of Jesus' last days. Tenebrae's structure and content work together to evoke the dark and somber mood that will not be dispelled until Holy Week concludes with the new fire of the Great Vigil of Easter.

Maundy Thursday

April 1

Eucharist at 7:30 p.m.

On the evening that precedes the events of Good Friday, we commemorate the last meal Jesus shared with his friends in the Upper Room. At that meal, Jesus gave them, and us, two lasting gifts. First, Jesus gave us the sacrament of the Eucharist, an everlasting means whereby we are made one in the Body of Christ. The second gift was a practical example by which we are to love one another: He washed the disciples' feet.

"Maundy" is an English corruption of the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment." It reminds us of the commandment of Jesus, "Love one another as I have loved you." As a liturgical expression of that commandment, those who wish can come forward to have their feet washed. Maundy Thursday cannot be celebrated apart from the observance of Good Friday, for the Last Supper and the Cross of Christ are mystically one. After the people have received the bread and wine of our Savior's Last Supper, the clergy and acolytes strip the altar and sanctuary of any adornment and leave it bare. As the altar represents the Body of Christ, we remember the arrest,

trial, stripping, and torture endured by Jesus on the way to his death. As the altar is stripped, the people recite Psalm 22, the psalm Jesus may have used during his execution.

The Altar Of Repose

April 1 to 2

Vigil from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m.

The Episcopal Church maintains the doctrine of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Good Friday is the only day of the entire year that it is not appropriate to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Because of this requirement, the leftover bread and wine that were consecrated at the Maundy Thursday liturgy, known as the reserved sacrament, are put in special vessels and kept in a place outside the main church, called the Altar of Repose.

As the main altar is stripped on Maundy Thursday, the Deacon processes with the consecrated bread and wine to the Parlor, where a special altar has been prepared to receive the sacrament. Reminiscent of the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in the company of his disciples before his arrest, this Altar of Repose is a place where the faithful can reflect on their own discipleship in preparation for Easter. A silent vigil is kept by those who wish to remain at the Altar of Repose.

Good Friday

April 2

Service ends vigil at 9 a.m., Inter-generational Stations of the Cross at 11 a.m., Service at 7:30 p.m.

Give Blood: Save A Life

March 17, 4 to 7 p.m.

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or scecyouth@sbcglobal.net.

4.5 million Americans would die **each year** without life-saving blood transfusions. **Blood from just one donation can be split into three components—possibly saving three lives.** Approximately 32,000 pints of blood are used **each day** in the United States. Severe burn victims can need 20 units of platelets during their treatment. Someone needs blood every three seconds.

The High School Youth Group is sponsoring our Annual Blood Drive on Wednesday, March 17. The bloodmobile from Heartland Blood Center will be at the church from 4 to 7 p.m. **Sign up in Ludtke Hall.** Our goal is to have at least 30 people sign up.

60 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood, yet only five percent do on a yearly basis. **Anyone who is in good health, is 17-years-old or older, and weighs 110 pounds or more may donate blood every 56 days.** 16-year-olds may donate with parental permission. Permission is preferred for 17-year-olds, but not required. Permission slips will be given to teens in Formation; Additional slips are available from Liz Ryan.

Applications Available For Adam Lander Scholarship

Contact Dick Lander at 630-632-0330 (cell) or dick.lander@sbcglobal.net.

A scholarship established in memory of Adam Lander will present its first award in the spring of 2010. The Lando Foundation, a not-for-profit Illinois corporation, will administer the scholarship, which **will be presented annually at the winner's high-school "senior awards" ceremony**, subject to the approval of school administration, or by other arrangement if such a venue is not available.

Graduating seniors attending public or private high schools or being home schooled that reside in the Tri-Cities (St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia) are eligible for the award. Applicants who intend to major in Adam's chosen fields of art/design or advertising will enjoy preferential, though not exclusive, consideration by the scholarship committee. Scholarship applications are available at <http://public.me.com/rlander>. **To be considered for the 2010 award, all entries must be postmarked by April 2, 2010.** Those without internet access can contact Dick Lander for a printed Application Form.



Ludtke Scholarship

Applications Due: March 7

The deadline for Ludtke Scholarship applications is Sunday, March 7 to enable the committee to select a recipient and get that information to the appropriate school in time for the senior awards events. **All graduating St. Charles Episcopal Church high school seniors are eligible to apply for this scholarship.** If you need an application, please contact Liz Ryan or call the church office at 630-584-2596.



May 16

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or scecyouth@sbcglobal.net.

Bishop Scantlebury **will receive or confirm anyone who is interested during his visit to SCEC on Sunday, May 16.** Those interested should contact Liz Ryan by **March 14**, so that meetings with Fr. Bill can be set-up and arrangements with the Diocese made.



What's Up In Kids Formation?

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or scecyouth@sbcglobal.net.

Happy March. Top of the mornin' to ya'! The **Purple Atrium** is learning more and more about Jesus and how much He loves us. The **Green Atrium** is learning about Jesus through his interaction with his Disciples and through the Sacraments. The **Blue Atrium** is learning about Jesus through the parables. **The Middlers** are learning about Lent and the church traditions. The **Jr. High** is learning more about answering when God calls. The **High School** is continuing their lessons about serving God as a response to their faith.

Job Well Done Middler Class!

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or scecyouth@sbcglobal.net.

Once again, the Middlers' outreach program, "Hunger Doesn't End With The Holidays" Food Drive, surpassed its previous year's endeavors. **Thanks to all at SCEC who provided generous donations as well as to all the local merchants who provided space for collection bins.** The Middler Class and their parents loaded their vehicles with bags and boxes of food, kitchen supplies, and pantry staples on Saturday, March 13 with the help of teachers Liz Ryan and B.J. Griswold. Carloads of food were delivered to the Salvation Army facility on Seventh Avenue in St. Charles. This is the fifth consecutive year the Middler Class has sponsored this drive. The parish is extremely proud of its youth and congratulates them on their hard work.



Caeden Charles Meade was born on February 13. He weighed in at 5 pounds, 15 ounces. He is the **son of Alex and Emily Meade** and the **grandson of Deacon Liz and Gary Meade.** Alex's and Emily's new address is 2507 Bitar Avenue, Fort Lewis, WA 98433.



Classes To Be Held

April 15, 17, and 22

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or scecyouth@sbcglobal.net.

Is your child interested in "Holy Communion?" If your child can read on their own, and is asking questions about "what is going on up there with Fr. Bill," sign them up for classes on the sheet in Ludtke Hall. Classes are Thursday, April 15 and Thursday, April 22 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be a field trip to "Color Me Mine" in Geneva to make patens and chalices on Saturday, April 17. We will celebrate their "Holy Communion" on Sunday, April 25 at the 10:45 a.m. service.



Camp Chicago

Believe it or not. If you are interested in registering your children for **Camp Chicago** now is the time. **See Liz Ryan** for Camp Chicago registration forms or find them at www.episcopalchicago.org.

Sacrifice For Those Who Sacrifice So Much

Collection Ends: April 4

Contact *Katie Thomson @ 630-584-2133 or Katie.thomson@sbcglobal.net.*

During this Lenten season, please consider making a sacrifice for those who sacrifice everything for the safety and freedom of our country. From now until Easter Sunday (April 4), we will collect supplies to be used by our troops overseas. They will, then, be taken to Fox Valley Troop Support, Inc. (www.fvts.org), a local organization, which will pack and ship them to U.S. Military Service Personnel deployed overseas.

A list of supplies needed and a donation bin are available in Ludtke Hall. A list of supplies is below. **Please be sure to provide items in the requested sizes only.** Thanks for your support!



Time To Renew PaySimple

Contact *Mark Mugge @ 630-513-6641 or mugge1617@comcast.net.*

PaySimple does not automatically renew; **Please remember to renew your subscription before it expires.** Contact Mark Mugge with questions or if you have trouble logging in.

The Best Things In Life Are Free

Some of you may not agree that “the best things in life are free” but, as a parishioner, the best gift that I can give SCEC is free: It’s the Great Lakes Scrip Program. This gift card purchase program is simple and costs you, the donor, absolutely nothing.

As I looked over my 2009 Annual Contribution Statement, I noted that by simply buying gift cards at the stores I typically shop at, I was able to contribute approximately \$48.75 to the church’s general operations, yet I paid only the face value for the gift cards. All it cost me was the time to plan where I was going to make my purchases, to write a check to SCEC, and to place the order in Ludtke Hall.

I encourage all parishioners to take the time to do the same. Just evaluate the list of participating retailers found at the Scrip table in Ludtke Hall or at GLSCRIP.com. Rebates range from two percent to twenty-five percent. There are more than 600 participating vendors—many that you already shop at!

The benefit to SCEC is limitless. For example, if 100 families purchased enough gift cards in 2010 to earn \$50 in rebates for the church, our general operations fund would profit approximately \$4700 (There is a small processing fee.). Please help support our church with this, no cost fundraiser.

By Karen Flood



Come Garden!

April 3

Contact *Wendy Bangs @ 630-377-1174 or wsbangs@aol.com.*

“Lay Weeders” plant the outdoor flower pots and tend the gardens around the church. If you would like to assist with the stewardship of our beautiful grounds, please sign-up in Ludtke Hall or call Wendy Bangs. The first planting of the flower pots will be Easter Saturday, April 3. Summer weeding training is available to interested novices. All ages welcome.



From The Warden

Vestry

Kathy Heikkinen, Senior Warden
630.879.3441, kathy.h@comcast.net

Margo Churchwell, Junior Warden
630.208.6250, billandmargo@comcast.net

2011

Katie Ditch
630.584.6015, kmditch@aol.com

Karen Flood
630.715.5074, tkflood@comcast.net

Greg Steamer
630.587.3848, gsteamer@comcast.net

2012

Mike Custer
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We have just finished our 2010 Vestry Work Day (formerly known as “retreat”), and I’m exhausted. So much energy in such a short period of time! We were blessed to have great attendance and many wonderful voices. We heard the voices of experience, as Colin Campbell and Katie Thomson shared their wisdom. We felt guidance through the help of Fr. Bill. Each of us was given the opportunity to share some facts about ourselves, ask questions, and express our opinions. Even Deacon Liz whispered to us, despite being at school and unable to join us.

The noisy, lively interaction will be replaced by silence and reflection in the spring when we meet for a true retreat. For now, we want to keep this vigor alive as we begin to map out our path for the next 11 months. I decided that, in my note taking this morning, I would asterisk anything I needed to take action on in the next month before our next official Vestry Meeting in March. I haven’t opened the notepad back up to count my marks, but I know that I have many tasks I want to accomplish within the next year. I know that I can’t do them all myself, so one thing I’ll be working on, personally, is how to ask for help. I’ve already acknowledged that my rather lengthy list may not all be completed; I tend to have rather high goals—ask my students! But, I don’t think I should temper the goals as much as I should learn to let go. Not of the goals themselves, but in favor of trust: trusting other people to help me accomplish

them and trusting that the Lord should be my guide along the way.

In the last month, I’ve already noticed that I’ve changed the way I pray. The Prayer for the Mission of St. Charles Church has become more prominent in my quiet time. The leadership roles that I’ve had in the past that have become so natural to me, as teacher and mother, don’t fit this new role; I feel like I need to prepare and reflect more consciously as I take these next steps with my new ensemble. My partners in this mission are not 11-year-old students; They are wise and experienced people of faith who can share my experience with me on an equal footing.

One thing that was obvious, even though it was unspoken, during our time at the work day: We have all volunteered to do our part because we feel like members of our church family, and we want to extend that feeling to the entire congregation, as well as those who come to visit—either for a short time or on their journey towards becoming part of our family. We will get together numerous times in the next year: informally in small groups over coffee, with committees, and at our monthly meetings. We will be planning and organizing, and we will be praying for you. We ask that you work with us, celebrate with us, and pray for us too.

Kathy Heikkinen
Senior Warden

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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Dear friends,

If you came to church on Ash Wednesday, you heard the invitation "to the observance of a holy Lent." Each year I am humbled and grateful to be the one who offers that invitation to us all, on behalf of the Church. And, what an invitation that is!

A "holy Lent" will look different for each of us, but the *Book of Common Prayer* suggests that it is a time for self-examination and repentance through prayer and fasting. It also suggests that we read and meditate on the scripture. Might this be a time when you take up a new habit of praying each morning before you get dressed? Or, perhaps you, as a family, will read one *Bible* story each night at dinner? Or, maybe it's time to mend a broken relationship? The fact is, we careen through life at an unprecedented pace, and Lent invites us to pause and to take stock of our lives. A holy Lent might just be a time when we pause and invite God to show us the way, rather than us leading God around.

The opening prayer for our Ash Wednesday liturgy assures us that God hates nothing God has made and forgives the sins of all who are penitent. Let this be a time for us when we are penitent and ask God to walk more closely with us. As we do, we can ask God these questions, and wait patiently for the answer, which will come in a whisper:

Who have I forgotten today, Lord? Have my actions hurt anyone this week? What grudges and burdens am I carrying? What do I need to confess, Lord?

And, then, wait. Wait with a penitent and contrite heart and listen. God whispers.

I wish you a holy Lent.

Deacon Liz