

How I Did It...

by Father Todd Cederberg

"I pray ... that they may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:20, 21

Well, the list is out. The top funeral songs in the country. And, in our increasingly secular age, the # 1 hit? Frank Sinatra's "I Did It My Way."

On one hand, it makes perfect sense. As Americans we cherish the idea of rugged individualism; the self-made man or woman who overcomes all odds and stands authentically triumphant. "This is who I am. This is what I did. Take it or leave it."

Maybe that's why sometimes the message of Jesus seems so confusing. Rather than trumpeting the rights of the individual, Jesus stresses relationships and unity. Jesus' whole ministry seemed to highlight not only the teaching and miracles, but what he did to carefully form the community of disciples around him.

Think of it. These disciples were tremendously diverse. Jesus chose fishermen to serve alongside professionals. He chose a sell-out tax collector (Matthew) to serve next to political revolutionaries (Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot). Jesus was either inept at organizational management, or he was intentionally building a community in which personal differences would have to take a back seat to allegiance to him.

We see in the gospels that nothing is more difficult than working with people. That's why Jesus knew that if generations were going to acknowledge that his message was the truth, then they would have to experience it in a community held together by him. "May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." It would only be the supernatural power of God himself that would allow humankind to conquer their differences, and to live together as one.

As Americans we yearn to make our mark. For us, the sign of leadership is that we are able to compel others to get in line behind us. Our agendas rule the day.

For the Christian Church, however, the sign of leadership is the sign of the cross. The more we focus on Christ, the more we want to be like him and to help others become like him as well. Our challenge, then, is not to do things our way. Our challenge is to do things his way, and to recognize that we are on that journey together.



Elijah! God's Faithful Prophet

a musical by Mark Patterson

Sunday, May 17, 6:30 pm

A free will offering will be taken to support the worship arts ministries of Good Samaritan.



Good Samaritan Fair Days June 12 & 13

Contact Scott Lasser to find out how you can be involved!
610-608-1239, scottlasser@hotmail.com
and

Remember to
Spring Clean for the Garage Sale!

Notes from the Parish Administrator



With Holy Week behind us and as we look towards Pentecost, we have much to give thanks for and even more to look forward to!!!

Overall our financial picture remains steady in the midst of an unsteady world. While we continue to reflect a slight deficit, this is not unusual for this point in the year. In fact at the end of April our deficit was \$13,000 less than our budget projections. Our cash position also continues to be good. Cash on hand totals \$181,291 and includes prepaid pledges of \$100,890 which is only modestly different from the \$109,922 in prepaid pledges at this time last year. As you know from many prior comments on the same subject, prepaid pledges are our lifeblood.

It should be pointed out that the trends for Holy Week were encouraging. As compared to last year, overall attendance was up by 12% while giving reflected a 14% increase for the services associated with Holy Week. Additionally, the *Fast for Food* initiative during Lent raised almost \$7,000 while the directed Easter Sunday appeal for ARDF yielded \$1,900 in parishioner gifts, which have been designated and distributed accordingly. Continued thanks for your generous and compassionate hearts.

Also of note has been the significant increase in our Thrift Shop activity. Year-to-Date there has been a 37% increase in revenue for the 1st quarter as compared to last year. Additionally, with the introduction of the Furniture Store at the Rectory, an additional \$4,000 was raised for Missions and Outreach in less than 3 weeks. Words can not express the thanks and appreciation we owe to Rose Smith and her faithful Thrift Shop team as well as to Robin and Rusty Smith for their effort in launching the Furniture Store.

Friends we do have much to give thanks for, but in these difficult economic times we must also be realistic, cautious and responsible stewards. In that spirit, we must be reminded that 2009 is the last year of our Sanctuary Campaign to raise funds and pay for the renovations and expansion of our Sanctuary. As it stands now, in light of and as a result of the economic downturn, the probability of a shortfall in funds has increased dramatically. We have until December 31-2009 to pay down our outstanding construction loan. If you have made a pledge to the Sanctuary Fund, please make every effort to complete and fulfill your pledge by the end of 2009. If you have never made a pledge or contribution to the renovation of the Sanctuary in which we worship, please consider doing so. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!** In the meantime discussions are ongoing as to how best to navigate these important financial issues.

In closing, and as we look towards Pentecost, I am once again reminded of what the church is all about:

“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.” (Acts 4 :32-35)

A Thank You Note

To our kind mystery person,

You have blessed and encouraged us more than you can know. Four of the animals have been gravely ill recently and you have helped with our mounting hospital bills. May your kind heart be richly blessed by God. We send you love and thanks,

Martha & the animals

Report from the Discernment Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We wanted you to know that the Discernment Committee is meeting weekly as it continues its work in discerning the person that God is calling to be our next Rector.

Presently we are engaged in the first phase of the search and discernment process, which is the self-study. This part of the process is critical, because it helps us understand what the members of the congregation believe are the most important attributes in our next Rector. And in addition to that, we need to listen for the aspects of our vision and mission as a parish that are most important to the congregation.

You have an extremely important role to play in assisting us. In the coming weeks, we will be announcing ways in which each member of our congregation can tell us what you personally are sensing about the critical qualities in our next Rector as well as what you believe are the most critical aspects of our ministry as a parish.

Your participation will be so very important, because on the basis of what we hear from you, we will produce a parish profile. The parish profile will describe, among other things, the attributes we discern as a community, that are most important in our next Rector, as well as where we see Good Samaritan's major ministry emphases now and in the coming years. Once completed, the parish profile will be distributed widely throughout the Episcopal Church, and will be the tool that prospective candidates for the Rector position will use to help them discern whether God might be calling them to the Church of the Good Samaritan.

So be looking for our invitation to help us during the self-study process. We need the participation of every member of the congregation. And as critical as your participation is, even more important is your prayer support, as we continue the work that has been entrusted to us.

We will provide ongoing updates to you as we continue to walk through our process of discernment. Thank you again for your prayers.

Faithfully Yours,

*Hartley Connatt, Linda Davis, Mary Ernst,
Judy Farrell, Mike Figgins, Dina Gibson,
Chaz Howard, Mac McCausland, Richard Parry,
Betty Pehlman, Charlie Smith, Dave Tower*

A Taste of Philadelphia Dance



Presented by the staff of Kensington Faith Connections (501(c)3) to support the efforts of ministry in the Kensington area of Philadelphia

Saturday, May 30, 2009, 7:30pm-10:00pm

The Church of the Good Samaritan
212 W. Lancaster Ave. Paoli, PA 19301

\$10 a ticket, tickets will be available Sundays starting May 3 in Fellowship Hall, and during the week in the church office.

For more information contact: Allyson Ross at (610) 644-5563 or e-mail pray4pax@yahoo.com. Appetizers and dessert will be served during the evening. If you have music requests please let us know when buying tickets!
We hope to see you all there.

Caring for Caregivers Event Saturday, May 2 12:00-3:00pm

Guest speaker Sister Michele from the Sisters of Mercy, will speak with us about "Gratitude and Regret" on Saturday, May 2, from 12:00- 3:00pm in Room 264. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Susan Starke, Parish Nurse, 610-644-4040 x207 or susans@good-samaritan.org.

Spring Concert

The Good Samaritan Dance Ministry will present a Spring Concert on Friday, June 5 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Atrium.

Come share with the dancers as we give praise and adoration to our Lord Jesus using various colorful dance styles and music from traditional to contemporary. Admission is free. An offering will be taken.

Lay Eucharistic Ministry: A Legacy from the Early Church

by Ronnie Tousignant

The Eucharist Ministry is a unique ministry of the laity that offers spiritual nurturing and support to the clergy and congregation. In the early years of the church, lay Christians regularly ministered to the ill and dying by taking them the elements of the Eucharist just celebrated by the gathered congregation. By the eighth century, administration of the consecrated bread and wine was reserved for ordained clergy only.

In the last fifty years, the church has begun to redefine itself based upon our understanding of the church in those early years. Modern Christians have come to perceive the church less as a hierarchy and more as community – a community of people united by faith in Jesus Christ. Wherever and whenever that community gathers, there exists the Church. Lay Eucharistic Ministry is a vital step in helping embody the reality of the church as a community of faith.

In a process clearly spelled out in the canons of the Episcopal Church, to serve as an Eucharistic Minister, a candidate must be recommended by clergy, trained, licensed and approved by the diocese. A Lay Eucharistic Minister (or LEM) serves for a period of three years. In this Ministry, the Lay Eucharist Minister may have one or both of the following functions as specified by specific training and licensing:

1. Administering the chalice at any celebration of Holy Eucharist.
2. Following a celebration of the Holy Eucharist (on Sunday) taking the consecrated Sacrament to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the celebration. In this function, it is also the intent for the Eucharistic visitor to bring news of the Christian parish family as well (for example that Sunday's bulletin or a copy of the Samaritan).

I have been a member of this ministry for more than three years now and I can say I have never seen the eyes of Christ as clearly as I do each time I offer the chalice or visit the sick. I am truly humbled and thankful for this opportunity to serve. If you want to know more about this ministry, please contact Pastor Beverly at the church office.



Each year 3500 babies are born to teen mothers in the city of Philadelphia. Norristown has the third highest rate of teen pregnancy in the state of Pennsylvania. God commands us to, “Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.” (Is. 1:17) - but where do we begin? YoungLives is seeking to reach out and make a difference in the lives of the girls pictured here and many more in Northeast Philadelphia and Norristown. Through our monthly meetings and Bible studies we are seeking to offer support to these young women—practically, emotionally and spiritually. Our desire is that they would grasp how very much God loves them, experience His forgiveness and seek God’s purpose for their lives. Mentoring is the key ingredient in our program. It is our prayer and desire to provide each teen mother who comes to club with a personal mentor to walk through life with her.

To help with the general budget with this ministry we have our Annual Baby Bottle Campaign each year. This campaign runs between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day each year. Just take a baby bottle from the foyer and have your family fill it with change during this time period and then return it to the church by the end of June.

Perfect for Life Group Outreach

by Rusty Smith

Bridge of Hope, a Good Samaritan supported outreach ministry to single mothers working hard to overcome their economic distress and homelessness very, very much needs our help to prepare group dinners for these families and their mentorship groups. Dinners are for 30 people at the Lutheran churches in Downingtown or Coatesville on the 1st and 3rd Mondays. They really, really need our help. Call Rusty Smith 610-639-1333 or Louise Snyder at Bridge of Hope (610-380-1360). Oh, and don’t forget to tell them that Jesus sent ya!

Women's Ministries Purim Celebration

On Saturday, February 28, approximately 50 women made a truly joyful noise to the Lord as they celebrated the Feast of Purim. The evening started with a dramatic presentation of the story of Esther, the Queen of Persia, who, with the help of God and her uncle Mordecai, saved the Jewish people from annihilation. Readers included narrator Terri Connelly, Brenda "King Xerxes" Shantz, Mary Ann "Queen Esther" McClarnon, and Joy "Haman" Schauer. Attendees used noisemakers, squawkers, and their own voices to boo the evil Haman and to cheer for Mordecai. After the reading, Juliet Cooke presented a devotional on the story.

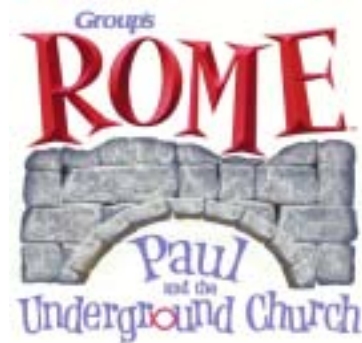


Israeli Dance

The celebration then continued with Carol Longacre teaching various Israeli folk dances to the assembled group. After dancing for more than a half-hour, participants had worked up quite an appetite! They were treated to a Purim feast, which included, among other dishes, loaves of Juliet's home-baked challah, and hearty borscht provided by Deb and Bruce Ackerman. Freshly-made hamentaschen provided a sweet end to the meal.

In keeping with the Purim traditions of giving to charity and giving gifts of food, each attendee brought an item for the Good Samaritan Food Closet.

Thanks to all of the above-named people, as well as Ronnie Tousignant, for their efforts and talents in making our Purim feast an evening filled with fun and fellowship.



June 29-July 2, 2009

9:00am-12:00pm

Imagine what it was like to live and work in what was once considered the center of the world; the busy metropolis of Rome.

Come join us as we reconstruct what life must have been like in the "Underground Church" as we follow the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys.

Registration forms are available in the church office and on the website. For more information, contact Jenn McMahon 610-644-4040 x206. Remember, there's no place like Rome! Hope to see you there!

Ladies' Brunch & Fashion Show

Saturday, May 16, 2009

10:00am - 1:00pm

Ashton Hall



Come enjoy a delicious, relaxing brunch along with some fun music

&

a Fashion Show featuring beautiful Spring fashions from *The New Life Thrift Shop*.

Tickets: \$8

Tickets will be available for purchase in the Atrium or in the office during the week.

Contact Donna Roulston with any questions:
donna.roulston@roulston.us

Women's Retreat 2009 ~ Rhythms of Grace

by Jeannie McGonigal

The women's retreat this year was one of the best ever! It made us really go back to the basics of Christianity. The theme, "Rhythms of Grace" revealed itself in every aspect of the weekend, and the receptiveness of the ladies was so genuine. God is so good and He always meets us right where we are when we seek Him. He gave me a new name...He calls me "friend." I will never be the same!

Please enjoy other participants' comments that were collected as evaluations of the weekend. May we all remember to rest in Him daily!



Picture taken by Heather Micklewright

● What an uplifting, blessed weekend – one of transformation for me. I feel bathed, immersed in love – as if I'm meeting Jesus (again) for the first time. By Sunday, as I write this, I am so aware of the Lord's presence in Jan Kempe, in the room with us, in my sisters, I believe my prayer time – my Sabbath – my response to Jesus' invitation to "come" will be fresh, enriched with new hope. It was a privilege and joy to not only work on the team, and to lead a small group, but to look around the room and see a sea of faces of my "sisters" in Christ – when we return to our Church home, I will see them and remember we've shared this experience – even if I didn't get to talk with all of them, I was glad to be able to share conversation with a few women I don't normally interact with. I pray that the gifts and understanding (and perhaps healing) we've experienced this weekend will flow out to our families, friends, Good Samaritan and strengthen us. God bless you all as you Be, Become and Do." *Mary Ernst*

● "I was lost. Jan's talks really made me think and gave me a very easy and basic way to be with the Lord and give my life some peace. I feel the worship, the singing ladies' angelic voices, the talks, and the small groups all fueled the God I had silenced. I was angry at myself for straying and upset at certain things in my life, but this retreat gave me a better sense that I am not alone and that I do not have to go at it alone because Jesus is always with me. My next steps are really going to be to Be, Become and Do, and make sure I remember that others, not just God, are thinking of me and praying for me; as I am for them." *Christine Barger*

● "The music brought a peaceful atmosphere to all gatherings and I always felt in God's presence through out the entire retreat. To attend a retreat gives me strength to return to my environment and spread the teachings of the weekend past and to lean on the Lord's grace and guidance to lead me throughout the year and keep my eyes open to all people around me who need my words and prayers." *Pat Walder*

● "I came to this retreat hopeful and hesitant, expecting God's blessings, but protecting my heart. What I experienced (this was my first retreat at Good Sam) far exceeded my expectations. Small groups were the most powerful portion of the retreat for me, and the discussions were incredibly relevant. My leader, Cindi C., was so gifted and kind. Judy, our prayer leader, has an infinitely huge heart of love for Christ and others that helped set the tone for transparency and safety as we shared. Our group has already set a date to meet together Holy Week to check in with each other. What I hope I brought was a kind and caring heart to encourage those I met, and to be a listener to other's concerns, holding them in a tender place in my heart. Thank you so much. Together on the journey." *Anonymous*

● "If I had to use one word for this retreat it is "Bonding." I felt such a sense of freedom, fellowship and accepting of women to each other. We had opportunities to sing, share and speak about our lives together in community and individually. Great food to nourish our bodies, great landscape provided by God and a great speaker refreshed us, encouraged us and strengthened us to return to our lives much better than when we came. Alleluia – God is Good." *Ronnie Tousignant*

Vestry Corner

The Vestry of the Church of the Good Samaritan meets each month, generally on the second Monday. In an effort to provide timely information to the congregation, the Church Wardens will be posting a summary of each meeting after it has been held. This is meant to be a summary only and not the official minutes of the Vestry which become available once approved at the next meeting of the Vestry. We hope that you find these notes helpful.

The April meeting of the Vestry was held on April 20, following Evening Prayer at 7:00pm in the Chapel. The meeting was called to order by Fr. Todd. Mark Stockwell opened us in prayer.

Mac McCausland gave a brief update on the early work of the Discernment Committee, stressing the need for constant prayer in support of this ministry of the church.

Fr. Todd spoke of the well-attended Holy week and Easter services and the joy that they brought to him. He underscored the tireless work of the staff and the many volunteers who helped make everything run so smoothly.

Bob Anewalt reported that March was a satisfactory month financially. Although we are in a deficit position for the first calendar quarter, we are running ahead of budget. With Easter occurring in April this year and March in 2008, our revenue stream should be more balanced through this coming month. Our cash position is in a good place and the outlook for the year remains stable but guarded.

Jeff Moretzsohn reported that attendance for Holy week was up an encouraging 12% from a year ago, while giving reflected a 14% increase. Other positive results include a year- to- date revenue increase for the Thrift Shop of 37%, not including \$4,000 additional revenue realized from the opening of the Furniture Store, almost \$7,000 raised from the Fast for Food initiative during Lent and \$1,900 in parishioner gifts to the Anglican Relief and Development Fund through the directed Easter Sunday appeal.

Rich Englander reported that the Church Wardens met with Fr. Todd as an evaluation committee to have a mutual review of the first quarter of Todd's time as Priest-in-Charge. They both are pleased that things are going well and will continue to meet on a quarterly basis in order to make this transition time go as smoothly as possible. Rich also asked for a show of support for the leadership of the Freedom in Christ retreat as they begin to plan for 2010. It was unanimously given. Lastly, Rich led us as a group in a prayer "For the Unity of the Church" found on page 255 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Reports were given on the Children's Ministries of the church by Peter Niedland and Adult Discipleship by Charlene Fitzwater. Pete reported that the Sunday School is doing well and is continuing to provide a real opportunity for our children and that our Day School's enrollment is nearly bursting at the seams with finances showing good results. The outlook for the next school year is also looking good and for that we are truly grateful.

Charlene reported on the various ministries that make up our adult offerings. She also apprised us of the workings of the adult discipleship task force led by Fr. John Yates that was formed in the fall of 2008. We were presented with an exciting draft of a strategic framework for Adult Discipleship with a proposed strategic plan including action items. We look forward to the implementation of this plan in the coming months.

The last report that was given was from the First Fruit Tithes Committee and was presented by Kerk Burbank. It was a request that a grant of \$25,000 be made to Uganda Christian University for their Library Building Fund. After discussion, the Vestry unanimously voted to grant the request.

A closing prayer was offered by Stew Crumpler and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm. The next meeting of the Vestry is scheduled for May 11, following Evening Prayer in the Chapel at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wardens of the Church of The Good Samaritan.



The Church of the Good Samaritan

212 West Lancaster Avenue Paoli, Pennsylvania 19301

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit #32
Paoli, PA

Spring 2009 Events Calendar

May 2

Youth Car Wash

Amnion Walk

Caregivers Event

Night in Venice Dinner & Silent Auction

Men's Breakfast

Alpha Reunion & Auction

May 6

Day School Teacher Appreciation Lunch

May 8-9

UrbanServe Overnight

May 10

Adult Confirmation Class begins

May 12-14

Staff Retreat

May 15

Middle School Mystery Tour

May 16

Women's Brunch & Fashion Show

May 17

Newcomers' Liturgy & Brunch

Elijah Musical

May 18

Prayer with the Vestry

May 30

"A Taste of Philadelphia" Dance

May 31

Senior Salute