

THE MESSENGER

A seasonal publication by and for the community of Saint Ann's
to inform and involve them in its activities, programs and ministries.

January 2010

Inside this issue:

Page 2 ~
The Rev. Janie Donohue

Page 3 ~
The Rev. John Talbott

Page 4 ~
Senior Warden /
Search Committee

Page 5 ~
Money Matters

Page 8 ~
Parish Life News

Page 9 ~
Mission News

Page 11 ~
Griswold Forums

Page 12 ~
Lenten Offerings

Dear Friends,

As I promised in the last issue of the Messenger, I will be discussing the "Five Developmental Tasks" in the next several newsletters, so let me begin.

Developmental Task # 1: Coming To Terms With Our History

In my experience - and my observation - this first task, Coming to Terms with our History, represents one of the largest challenges for parishes in transition. Putting the parish's history in perspective involves honoring and appreciating what has been strong, naming problematic areas, and not clinging to the way things have always been simply out of habit.

Another challenge is asking: can we talk about our history - in all its fullness - rather than try to sweep anything under the rug? Yet another pertinent question is this: can we exhibit sensitivity to the very different ways that people have experienced the past?

One purpose behind this particular task is to help a parish be ready to move gracefully, hopefully, and eagerly into the future without being either dominated by or haunted by the past, and confident that God wishes and will help achieve the very best for Saint Ann's. Another purpose is so that the new Rector doesn't have to inherit unresolved issues.

In November, we gathered in the Griswold Room with our consultant, Barbara Casey, and with Erik Larsen from the Diocese to address this very issue in the event entitled "Telling Our Story". My observation of that event was that Saint Ann's did indeed take the opportunity to explore and speak candidly, to your great credit. Way to go!

Nancy

Worship

A happiness that is sought for ourselves alone can never be found:
for a happiness that is diminished by being shared is not big
enough to make us happy. There is no end to the sharing of love.
Infinite sharing is the law of God's inner life.*

Assistant Rector The Rev. Janie Donohue

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

So what you are saying is that people who are insecure, confused and struggling with doubts are blessed? But that doesn't make any sense. And so it began, our Sunday night winter study of the Beatitudes.

It has been a joy to see the lights go on, as one by one the teens (and we leaders) have considered the implications of the alternative world view that is offered by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Those who are weak are strong, the hungry full, the poor rich. The sermon was offered quite early in his ministry. Reports of his deeds of power were starting to spread, including most notably the creation of wine at the wedding in Cana. A hungry and hope-filled crowd gathered on the mountain.

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Three years ago there was great excitement as this Church's leadership discerned God's call to reach out more boldly to young families, and to move towards ministries that were more age-integrated. Since that time there has been meaningful progress in this direction, as relationships across the great divide have been forged over cookies, garden mulch, fish hooks, and whipped-cream covered gummy-bear pancakes. Many who kept their distance from younger parishioners, now know not only the names of a teen or two, but know and have experienced their spiritual gifts in action.

And NOW, just as we have tasted the first few drops of intergenerational wedding wine, we are facing what seems to many to be a senselessly destabilizing move, given what we have known of God's call and work here. It is confusing. It has left many feeling adrift, resentful, and sad.

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

As we have pressed in to the message of the Beatitudes together on Sunday nights, we have been exploring the idea of spiritual poverty as a state of confusion, doubt and insecurity before God. Not only does this kind of spiritual poverty seem to be honored by God, but is cited as a prerequisite for the coming of the Kingdom in our lives. The testimony of the scriptures seems to be that the more secure we feel spiritually, the more sure we are that we have got it all together and that we are "all that," the more difficult it is for us to see God's work, intention and presence in our common life.

Sometimes my daughter Lilly gets herself so upset she can't even drink her bottle when it comes. She either can't stop herself from crying or won't let us remove her fist from her mouth so the bottle can get in. She is so caught up in her discontent with her hunger, that she inadvertently obstructs her own satiety.

This community has discerned that intergenerational integration and outreach is God's call and work here. The decision to restructure those ministries has left some feeling variably fearful, annoyed, needy and perplexed. Some feel that we have failed. It seems to me that, Beatitudinally speaking, the present challenges may

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Worship

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serve as an opportunity for profound blessing. The kind of un-tethering which some are experiencing now, might end up being the greatest gift to this ministry thus far.

Being aware that we are lost, might prompt us to ask for directions. Being aware of our hunger, might lead us to find and eat food. Being aware of our discouragement, might lead us into deep prayer. Know this: God will feed, heal, direct, comfort and restore.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.

Associate Priest The Rev. John T. Talbott

Long, long ago the Monday after the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany was known as Plough Monday. All this happened in England as you can tell by the spelling. There doesn't ever seem to have been a celebration of Plow Monday, the spelling we'd use here in America, so its pretty clear that it is a tradition that did not cross the Atlantic. On the Monday after the celebration of Twelfth Night, the Epiphany, January 6th, it was time to go back to work--the holiday was over, and so a festival was inaugurated to bless the ploughs and get them and the farmhands ready to prepare the fields for planting. In some parts of England the celebrations were pretty fancy with all the men in the village dressed up in their best clothes, dragging the plough to the doors of the parish church to be blessed. After a ceremony on the church's west porch there was dancing and music and good food and drink. Everyone got ready to get back to work at the end of the Christmas celebrations.

Whether we ever blessed ploughs or plows here in America is an open question. However, a priest in England brought the old custom back to life with a modern twist on Plough Monday, January 11, 2010. Canon David Parrott is the rector of St. Lawrence Jewry in the heart of London's financial district. The church is in a part of town that, in centuries gone by, was the Jewish Ghetto, and known as Jewry. That's all very strange to modern ears, but it is a reminder that as times change so are changes wrought to what is acceptable and what is not. Canon Parrott came to the conclusion that, "Men and women coming to his church no longer used ploughs; now their tools were their laptops, their iPhones, and their Blackberries."

Canon Parrott came to the conclusion that since so many people already worship their phones and computers, it would be wise for the church to acknowledge that and try, perhaps, to redirect people's thinking about those things. So, on Plough Monday, Canon Parrot officiated at a blessing of communication devices. At the appropriate place in the ceremony, the people were asked to hold up their phones and computers so they could be blessed. He included this prayer in the ceremony, "By your blessing, may these phones and computers, symbols of the technology and communication in our daily lives, be a reminder to us that you are a God who communicates with us and who speaks by your Word. Amen."

Please don't mistake this account as a suggestion that we here at Saint Ann's follow suit and bless the phones. Accept it as it is offered: a reminder that our attention can often drift from what is important in our lives and it's all too easy to become distracted from the essentials.

Accept it as it is offered: a reminder that our attention can often drift from what is important in our lives and it's all too easy to become distracted from the essentials.

Communion

But if we live for others . . . we will see that we are human, like everyone else, that we all have weaknesses and deficiencies, and that these limitations play a most important part in all our lives. It is because of them that we need others and others need us.*

Senior Warden Ken Kraus

Our first Vestry meeting of the New Year is actually the last Vestry meeting of the church year. Come February, we shall meet and greet our new members, and begin a new year. In 2010 we have new liaisons for Stewardship, Nearly New, and Parish Life. Heartfelt thanks go out to Linda Bertelsen for her work on Stewardship and Bill Clancy for his role heading up the Nearly New Shop. And belated thanks go out to Celia Magnus for all her work on Parish Life, before she moved this summer.

It is not news to anybody that 2009 was a difficult year, on several fronts: the economy was bleak, and pledge revenue has not grown as hoped to support our Youth Ministry. This resulted in our having to draw down our gift far faster and sooner than we had planned, and we are forced to eliminate the existing position of Youth Minister come June. The Vestry is committed to a strong youth program, however, and starting this winter, a committee of Vestry members and parishioners will begin to develop a program for the fall of 2010. We welcome input from all who have an interest in our youth.

The *Annual Meeting* is scheduled for **February 7 at noon**. I urge you all to attend, to review the past year, learn about our plans for the upcoming year, and to *voice your support or concerns*.

News from the Search Committee Parish Survey

Have you completed our Parish Survey?

The Search Committee has prepared the Parish Survey to aid us in our search for a new Rector. We will use information from the Survey to assess what particular strengths and skills we should be looking for. Survey responses will also help as we prepare the Parish Profile, which will describe us to potential candidates.

Anyone with computer access to the internet can complete the survey online by going to the Search Committee section of the church website - www.saintannsoldlyme.org. Paper copies are also available at the church. If anyone has any questions or concerns about the survey, please feel free to contact any member of the search committee.

Your input is very important to us. The more people we hear from, the better we will understand what is important to you. Please help us by completing the survey. Thank you for your participation.

Search Committee:

Bill Cuddy - *Chair*
860-434-5212
Beth Sullivan - *Co-Chair*
860-434-7911
Kathy Kronholm -
Secretary
860-434-5150

Maggie Faulkner -
Chaplain
860-399-6040
Jane Keydel - *Chaplain*
860-388-4648
Carole Lamourine -
Chaplain
860-434-9682

Dick Dillenbeck
860-434-9737
David Friez
860-691-1877
Ken Kraus
860-434-3893
Pat Rogerson
860-691-3305
Dot Smith
860-739-5390
Linda Winzer
860-434-5185

**Please be aware that we have a ministry in place which takes care of meals for folks who are sick, post op or housebound. If you know of someone who could use a bit of help with food or you yourself could, please call:
Mac Mummert at 860-434-3700 or leave word in the office 860-434-1621**

Stewardship

No matter how high an estimate we may have of our own goodness, that estimate is too low unless we realize that all we have comes to us from God. The only value of our life is that it is a gift from God. Gratitude shows reverence to God in the way it makes use of His gifts.*

Money Matters: A Look at Our Endowment Heather Dillenbeck, Treasurer

Saint Ann's is blessed to have an endowment--many churches our size do not. With this blessing, though, comes not exactly a curse but at least a complication. Increasingly I hear the suggestion that when other sources of funding our operations fall short, we should just "take it out of the endowment." Wrong!

This article will try to explain what an endowment is, where the money comes from and is intended to go, and the limitations on spending these funds.

What is an endowment? In the words of our investment advisor, John Rafal of Essex Financial Services, an endowment is simply the sum of all gifts held by the church which are available for investment. This includes gifts and bequests that come with legal restrictions attached (our "permanently restricted" funds), gifts given as less restricted memorials or for special purposes (our "temporarily restricted" funds), and any extra value that may come from stock and bond market appreciation ("unrestricted" funds). Let's look at these in turn.

"Permanently Restricted" funds. Over the years, Saint Ann's has received seven gifts designated by the donors as permanently restricted. This means that the earnings on the funds--interest, dividends and appreciation-- can be used for specified purposes, but not the gifts' original principal amount, which must be maintained.

The earliest of these, the Marsh Fund, was a \$5,000 bequest in April, 1960--"as an endowment, the interest to be used for the running expenses of the church." The latest was Ellie Grasso's bequest received in 2009, intended to permanently provide for soloists in the choir. By far the largest gift was the Sidney G. and Ella E. Hubbell bequest of over one million dollars given in 1996 with "income only to be used ... for the benefit of the Church buildings and grounds, the local congregation, or special projects of the Church which benefit the local and surrounding communities."

As the table in the box below shows, the sum of these seven permanently restricted funds at the end of 2009 was \$1,228,654.

"Temporarily Restricted" funds. These funds hold gifts that were given for a particular purpose but without the restriction that only the income on the gift be used. Principal may be used as well.

We have a lot of active "temporarily restricted" funds--32 as of December 31, 2009, with an aggregate balance of \$838,068. These funds vary widely in size and intent, but they have one thing in common: their donors had a clear purpose in mind and the funds will, in due course, be used as the donors intended.

This article will try to explain what an endowment is, where the money comes from and is intended to go, and the limitations on spending these funds.

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Here are some examples of our “temporarily restricted” funds:

- ◆ *Memorial Garden Fund*--for the upkeep of the Memorial Garden
- ◆ *Altar Guild Fund*--for flowers and other altar expenses
- ◆ *Caribbean Fund for Mission Development*--for future D.R. projects
- ◆ *Fund for Women of Saint Ann's*--discretionary, with the provision that 25% of the annual income be used for outreach projects
- ◆ *Rector's Discretionary Fund*--for alms
- ◆ *Marshall Fund*--for music and church construction projects

- ◆ *Youth Ministry Fund*--established with a very generous donation in early 2007, the Youth Ministry Fund deserves special mention. The intent was to help pay for a new youth program which, it was hoped, would bring in enough new members and pledges that the program would become self-funding after three years (that is, it would be paid for out of operating income--essentially new pledges).

As described in our 2010 Stewardship mailing, the results in terms of pledges have been disappointing. We have used this “temporarily restricted” fund as intended--to pay for the youth program as needed--with the result that the fund will have a zero balance by summer 2010.

It is possible that from time to time funds might be redirected from one temporarily restricted account to another, but this will be done only at the behest of the donor. It is critically important to adhere to donors' restrictions, not only to be faithful to their wishes, but also if we want to attract gifts in the future!

“Unrestricted” funds. These are not individually named funds like the “permanently restricted” and “temporarily restricted” funds described above, but rather represent whatever is left over after subtracting the permanently restricted and temporarily restricted funds from the value of the investment portfolio. When financial markets are strong--that is, after an extended period of rising stock and bond prices--there is generally a positive unrestricted balance.

That is not the case now. As the table shows, the slump in the financial markets in 2008-2009 moved our aggregate unrestricted funds into negative territory.

Saint Ann's Endowment on December 31, 2009

Investment Account Balance	\$2,063,331
Less: Permanently Restricted Funds	\$1,228,654
Less: Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$838,068
Equals: Unrestricted Funds	-\$3,391

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To have a negative balance in unrestricted funds is not in itself a terrible thing. It comes about in part because of our practice of using the earnings on the portfolio for our "investment draw" (the 3% to 5% of the portfolio used each year for capital expenditures and the operating budget). We are indeed fortunate to have a portfolio that produces a good stream of income. Unfortunately, the negative "bottom line" reduces our financial flexibility.

Implications. Considering all of this, and Linda Bertelsen's report that follows, it should come as no surprise that this year's budget--to be presented at the Annual Meeting on February 7--will be a tight one. We can only hope that an improving economy, better financial markets and the excitement of having a new Rector will produce a brighter picture for 2011 and beyond.

Stewardship Committee Linda Bertelsen, Chair

Stewardship 2010 - How Did We Do?

In the October Stewardship mailing, and in various Messenger articles since the mailing, there has been much emphasis placed on the need for a healthy pledge return to construct a balanced budget for 2010. This was not without cause as shown by Saint Ann's ending 2009 with pledge collections almost \$11,000 below budget. The shortfall ballooned the projected deficit of \$22,000 that the Vestry had hoped to avoid in the course of the year to an actual deficit of \$32,000.

Another disappointment for 2009 was a shortfall of \$7,600 for the Youth Ministry Matching Pledge to our Diocesan grant. The target was \$15,000 each year for 2008 and 2009. We met the target match in 2008 but fell short in 2009.

So, how did we do on the 2010 pledges? As of January 19, we had received 111 pledges, a 60% response out of a mailing to 185 parishioners. In dollar amount, we are down 11% against last year. However, we remain cautiously hopeful of receiving an additional \$13-15,000 in pledges still outstanding. The table below gives our results.

Preliminary Pledge Report for 2010

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u> (as of 1/19/2010)
# of pledges received	133	111
Total amount pledged	\$201,912	\$179,212
Average weekly pledge	\$29.19	\$31.06

As the figures in the table show, our average weekly pledge for 2010 of \$31.06 is an improvement from 2009. However, this amount is still low in comparison to many other churches. In 2008 (the latest date available) the average weekly pledge in the Diocese was \$38.26 and the national Episcopal Church average was about \$44.00. Clearly, we still have room to improve.

The shortfall ballooned the projected deficit of \$22,000 that the Vestry had hoped to avoid in the course of the year to an actual deficit of \$32,000.

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We hope this information is more informative than confusing. We provide it to keep you apprised of where we stand as we move through this time of constrained economy while also being a flock in search of a shepherd. It is not an easy time for Saint Ann's. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, as the Stewardship Chair on the Vestry or Heather Dillenbeck as Treasurer.

If you have not sent in your pledge, please do so without delay. The 2010 budget must be finalized.

NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE Maryann Clancy, Chair

The Parish Life Committee is pleased to announce events that will be coming up in the next few months. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** More details for each event will be forthcoming.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Also . . .

**A Service of
Holy Eucharist with
Candlemas procession
will be offered on
February 2nd at 5pm.**

Candlemas is a service that celebrates hope and light. It is a time to honor the Lord as the Light of the World and to remind us that we too have that light within us. Please gather in the Griswold Room and bring your candles to be blessed. (Candles will not be lit during the service)

Tuesday, February 9 2:30 - 4:00 Griswold Room

Saint Ann's Book Discussion Group

Home by Marilynne Robinson, led by Judy Tucker

Wednesday, February 10 12:30 Griswold Room

VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON - Bring your own sandwich.

Soup, desserts, beverages and lots of fun surprises will be provided.

Sunday, March 7 after the 10:30 service Griswold Room

A special coffee hour will be held to welcome the newcomers.

Come and greet the newest members of our parish family.

Tuesday, March 9 2:30 - 4:00 Griswold Room

Saint Ann's Book Discussion Group

That Summer in Sicily by Marlena DeBlasi, led by Tami Miglio

Saturday, April 17 6:30 pm Griswold Room

Feast and Fellowship (formerly Wine and Dine)

Saturday, May 15 6:30 pm Griswold Room

Feast and Fellowship (formerly Wine and Dine)

The committee is always in need of more help. Please plan to host an after church coffee hour so that this wonderful fellowship can continue.

We always welcome new members to the committee. The present members are: *Sharon Friez, Christine Igelbrink, Jane Keydel, Lana Lewis, Tami Miglio, Sallie Mundy, Frannie Reynolds, Pat Rogerson, Joan Swain, Margo Valentine, Millie Wrege, and Maryann Clancy, Chairman.* We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 10:45 in the Griswold Room.

Mission

What is the value of a virtuous life, if it be a life without love and without mercy. Love is the gift of God's mercy to human sorrow, not the reward of human self-sufficiency.*

Mission Development Committee Kathy Kronholm

Update from Haiti: Saint Ann's supports Holy Trinity School and St. Vincent's Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti through donations of supplies and grants. We have learned that Holy Trinity School has been destroyed. \$400 had just been raised for the school through the selling of Christmas cards. That money will now be held until the situation is more stable. Saint Vincent's School and Hospital has been heavily damaged. The director has asked for permission to take the surviving children (there were six deaths) to the other side of the island. This hospital is the only one on the island for handicapped children and many are blind.

The committee is now working on preparations for a Vacation Bible School (VBS) in a bately in the Dominican Republic and one here at Saint Ann's. The theme is Noah's Ark. We will be making 250 backpacks, working on curriculum planning and crafts, and t-shirt design. Members of Saint Paul's Church in Westbrook will be joining us in this project by making 100 backpacks. We will also be inviting them to participate in our VBS in July.

Envelope Program Update: Since April 2009, two-thirds of the money collected in the pew envelopes has been applied to Caribbean Mission which now stands at (\$502); and the other third gets applied to Mission Development which now stands at \$156. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 3, 2010. We invite anyone interested in the relationship between Saint Ann's and Haiti and the Dominican Republic, to please join us. Within this ministry there are many opportunities to become involved: layettes to San Pedro de Macoris, quilt making for the layettes, VBS planning and support, communication to missionaries and clergy, support for the bateyes, grants and scholarships, mission teams, committee participation and most importantly your prayers. For more information, please contact Kathy Kronholm (860) 434-5150.

NEW: Beyond Our Doors Ministries Carolyn Kilroy, Chair

Over the next several months Saint Ann's will begin coordinating ongoing and new outreach opportunities through a new Beyond Our Doors Ministry committee, which is comprised of parish members currently leading church outreach activities. The goal of the new committee is to promote outreach fellowship by coordinating resources and increasing ways for parish member to become involved. Beyond Our Doors committee members and the initiatives they lead are listed below; individual ministries and the parish members who contribute to them will be highlighted more in upcoming communications. In the interim all parish members are encouraged to contact committee members directly at any time if they are interested in learning more about a particular activity. A very special thank you is also extended to all parish members who already give generously of their time and resources to these efforts.

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Beyond Our Doors Ministry Committee

Carolyn Kilroy - Committee Chair, Vestry Outreach Liaison, New Opportunities Liaison

Kathy Kronholm - Mission Development

Dot Smith - Covenant Shelter, Essex Soup Kitchen, Haiti Donations, Love Baskets

Anne Haddad - Dominican Layette Ministry

Jane Keydel and Linda Hall - Knitting (previously Prayer Shawls and KnitWits, now combined)

Jennifer Mathanool - Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry

Carole Lamourine - Church Linens

FEBRUARY 'BEYOND-OUR-DOORS' OPPORTUNITIES & UPDATES

THE GIVING TREE

Polar Express Program: Response to our annual Christmas 'Giving Tree' outreach activity last month was phenomenal. As a parish we answered 62 'wish cards' from the New London Child and Family Services' Polar Express initiative. Our gifts will help support the health and well-being of children and families in need through the agency's Essex, New London and Groton offices.

Covenant Shelter: In addition to the Polar Express program, Saint Ann's also made sure that there was a present under the tree for every person having to spend Christmas at the Covenant Shelter. We supplied gifts for 17 adults and 5 single-parent families (5 mothers and 13 children aged 7 months to 12 years). Each child received a candy-filled stocking in addition to a gift.

The Vestry would like to take this opportunity to send heartfelt thanks to each and every parish member for opening your hearts and contributing so graciously despite economic challenges. **THANK YOU!**

LOVE BASKETS

Every year on, or around, Valentine's Day, Saint Ann's puts together and delivers 'Love Baskets' to people in nursing homes or who are homebound and who do not get visitors. The number of baskets varies from year to year but usually ranges from 85-113.

We will be preparing the Love Baskets on February 13th for distribution to those persons in local nursing homes who do not have visitors. We are in need of funds to purchase supplies, the fruit, candy, cheese and crackers for the diabetics. Homemade cookies are also needed. If you can assist in making this endeavor a success please get in touch with Nancy Razee (860) 767-3590 or Dot Smith (860) 739-5390. Thank you for any assistance.

KNITTING MINISTRY

You may have seen or read that the Prayer Shawl knitters and the Knitwits are combining. We met on Tuesday Jan 19th for the first time under this new umbrella, and are now scheduled to meet next on Tuesday afternoon Feb 16th, between 2 to 4 pm in the Griswold Room at Saint Ann's. We invite you to come for all or any part of this time; bring your knitting or other hand work, to join us in creating whatever you are working on, and be a part of the fun and fellowship. Our vision is to have everyone who can work even three stitches in the other shawls that are being made to do so, so we can truly say that we all have had a part in creating these shawls.

The Vestry would like to take this opportunity to send heartfelt thanks to each and every parish member for opening your hearts and contributing so graciously despite economic challenges.

THANK YOU!

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So a couple of questions for you: What is the name you would think of to call this combined group? Does this time work for you, or what would be better? (Please be specific!) Do you have something that you have been or were working on, on which you are stuck or disinterested, and would like someone else to complete? Are you a new knitter, and would like to be with others as you proceed? Are you working on something totally different, and would just like company while you make progress? This is a great opportunity for a creative gathering.

Both groups have been working for many years, have generated many wonderful gifts - so we thought it was time to cooperate and be together; no competition - this really is an invitation to come and be with others as we all work on our various projects. If you are interested but cannot come at this time, let us know. If you have any questions, call Jane Keydel 860 388-4648. Look forward to seeing you.

Griswold Forum Sundays, 9:30 to 10:20 am In the Griswold Room

January 31: An Update from the Search Committee

February 7: Pre Annual Meeting Q&A - the Annual Reports will be available

February 14: Lenten Disciplines

February 21 to March 14: A Brief Summary of the Church's Teaching

This study during Lent, led by Nancy, Pat, and John, will explore the basic foundations of our church teaching and may lead to a deeper understanding of our faith. Participants will be invited to ask questions, so that the leaders will be able to tailor the material to the needs and interests of those present. The final session (March 14) will be a time for open discussion of how the material explored has changed perceptions or beliefs. Each session will "stand alone" in terms of content, but everyone is encouraged to attend all sessions. Some of the critical questions to be explored may include:

- ◆ What are we by nature?
- ◆ What do we mean when we say that Jesus is the only Son of God?
- ◆ Who are the ministers of the Church?
- ◆ What is prayer?
- ◆ What is Christian hope?

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

6:00 pm

February 16, 2010

**Come enjoy a festive pre-Lenten supper
prepared by men of the parish.
(batter made from scratch!)**

**Please sign up on the COGR or call the office (860-434-1621)
so we know how many to prepare for!**

**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
6:00 pm
February 16, 2010**

LENT BEGINS ~

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy

Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

from the Book of Common Prayer,
Ash Wednesday Service, pg. 264

Ash Wednesday Services February 17

7:00 am Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Noon Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Lenten Book Study Tuesday Evenings in Lent February 23, March 2, and March 9 - 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

This book study will be led by the *Rev. Nancy Miller*. (Notice that there will be no meeting on March 16 or March 23, as Nancy will be away).

The book that will be examined is entitled *Surviving the Sermon*. And the intriguing subtitle is: *A Guide to Preaching for Those Who Have to Listen*. The author is an Episcopalian named David Schlafer, who has written many books on the subject of preaching. There are several copies for purchase in the parish office at Saint Ann's. Call the office (860-434-1621) to reserve a copy.

**Adult Lenten Confirmation and Reaffirmation Class -
"I am Episcopalian, I Promise"
Thursday Evenings in Lent
February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25 - 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm**

This Lent, the Rev. Janie Donohue will be offering a five-week interactive seminar exploring what it means to be Christian and Anglican.

Central to our self understanding as Episcopalians is a set of five promises which are found in our Baptismal Covenant. At baptism, many of us had these promises made on our behalf. Confirmation is the time when we are invited to embrace these commitments for ourselves. We also have the opportunity, as perviously confirmed adults, to publicly re-embrace our covenantal commitments in a rite of Reaffirmation.

This five week seminar will bring participants into conversation with those promises and the creedal statements which precede them. While the class is designed as preparation for a Confirmation or Reaffirmation of Faith at the Deanery service on May 1st, any who wish to attend are welcome. Each class will include a common meal and worship. Please sign-up on the COGR or contact the office to enroll (860-434-1621).

Holy Week Observances:

Palm Sunday	8:30	Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist Rite I
	10:30	Liturgy of the Palms, Meditations on the Passion & Holy Eucharist Rite II
Monday in Holy Week	12:00pm	Holy Eucharist
Tuesday in Holy Week	7:00pm	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday in Holy Week	12:00pm	Holy Eucharist
Maundy Thursday	7:00pm	Holy Eucharist with Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday	2:00pm	Solemn Collects and Anthems
Saturday in Holy Week	7:00pm	Easter Vigil Service
Easter Day	8:30am	Holy Eucharist Rite I with hymns
	10:30am	Holy Eucharist Rite II with hymns and additional instruments

**Discerning the
Shape of your
Ministry:
A Retreat for Adults**

February 19-21

Incarnation Center,
Ivoryton

led by
The Rev. Janie Donohue

This retreat will include "down time" for rest and reflection, as well as time for common prayer and play. Fee for the weekend is \$80. Please consider taking some time away with others to explore your relationship with God and the unique gifts you have been given for ministry. Enrollment is limited to 20, so please contact the office or sign up on the COGR by **Monday, February 1st.** The Retreat will end at the 10:30 service at Saint Ann's.

(Scholarship funds are available. Please speak with Janie.)