

IN LIKE A



*OUT
LIKE A*



MARCH EPISTLE SUPPLEMENT 2007

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you... Matthew 7:12a

Do you dare to believe that you were beloved before you were born? You may have had a little “aha” experience; you may realize that your life *is* special. You become conscious that you were sent here just for a short time, for a short time to discover and believe that you are a beloved child of God. The length of our life doesn’t matter. You are sent into this world to be a person of reconciliation. You are sent to heal, to break down the walls between you and your neighbors, locally, nationally, and globally. Before all the distinctions, the separations, and the walls built on foundations of fear, there was unity in the mind and heart of God. Out of that unity, you are sent into this world for a little while to claim that you and every other human being belongs to the same God of Love who lives from eternity to eternity.

Look closely at the quality of the faith you have been given and marvel. What a miracle! God has chosen *you*.

Wishing you God’s blessing and a Holy Lent,

How Has Power Point Enhanced Your Worship Experience?

For the past two months we have been experimenting with the use of power point projection in some of our worship services. The projector we have been using was on loan to us from St. David’s Church, Agawam. We are now beginning to evaluate our experiences and see how we might improve it. Here are some responses from comments made on February 18.

Enhanced worship

- I like how we don’t have to flip between pages in our booklets. It’s all right there in front of you.
- I like that everyone is looking upward most of the service.
- Love everyone looking up; saves paper.
- Nice informal relaxed feel like Paul talking in center for sermon.
- Good choice of background photos.
- Like watching the kids response to the photos; everyone is moved and involved in the service.

Detracted from worship

- Wish more people would venture around the circle to sit.
- Sometimes too dark
- Hard to see words with some backgrounds.
- Not enough contrast with background of color
- Print too small
- Down light for altar flows onto screen, decreasing contrast.
- Needs a better background (resolution), more pics.
- Sometimes pictures are distracting
- Generally distracting.

If you have additional thoughts, please direct them to our Worship Team: Chris Berry, Janet Coyne, Dan Tapper, or Paul Briggs.

Candidate Moves Closer to Ordination

Barbara Briggs has successfully completed the General Ordination Exam and was certified in all seven canonical areas (Scripture, Church History, Theology, Christian Ethics and Moral Theology, Liturgics, Contemporary Society, Theory and Practice of Ministry). Barbara is a Candidate for Holy Orders and sponsored by our parish. She will be our preacher on March 25 and May 5. She now awaits the approval and recommendation of the Standing Committee to the Bishop for ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

Updated parish directories are now available. You may pick up a copy in the Great Hall. Gail Gurney is working on the possibility of doing a new parish pictorial directory. Stay tuned for further details.

A **labyrinth** will be available to walk at St. Mark's from Friday, March 30 through Sunday, April 1. Guides will be available to help you to experience this ancient form of meditative prayer.

CORRECTION: Tom Williams noted a miss-print in the Easter Dinner item list that was included in your last Epistle. It should read CANNED HAM 3-5 lbs.



ST. MARK'S LEGACY SOCIETY

Members and friends of St. Mark's joined Bob Shaw, Legacy Stewardship Chair and the rector for the inauguration of St. Mark's Legacy Society on Tuesday, February 28, 2007. Following hors d'oeuvres and dinner, the group viewed the award winning, "Celebrate What's Right With the World" featuring the work of National Geographic Photographer, Dewitt Jones. The following individuals were present:

The Rev. Paul Briggs
Barbara Briggs
Caleb Briggs (*guest*)
John Farquharson
Priscilla Farquharson
Charles Fishkin
Carol Fishkin
Dick Forrest
Eleanor Forrest

Bruce Rockwell
The Rev. Cris Rockwell
Robert Shaw
Marjorie Shaw
Linda Taupier
Elisebeth Tunney
Tom Williams
Ann Williams

Regrets were received from Cece Crapser, David Melrose, and Constance Stockwell.

The Legacy Society is intended to honor those who have dedicated resources through a legacy gift to St. Mark's Church. It is our hope to hold an event annually. If you have already made arrangements to make a legacy gift to the parish, please inform the rector so that we may include you as a member of the Society and send you an invitation to next year's gathering. For information about making a legacy gift, please contact Bob Shaw or Fr. Briggs.

Thank you to Gail Gurney and Shirley White for their assistance in the kitchen with serving and cleaning.

