

FEBRUARY 2010

The

Grail

ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATEA

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Our Mission:

“To encourage and equip one another as the baptized people of God, to witness to the transforming and reconciling power of Jesus Christ.”



Worth Caring About



Not that long ago I was down at Church of the Advent joining in one of several focus groups that the Bishop had asked all clergy to participate in. As we discussed the past, present and future of the Diocese of Tennessee and reflected upon our strengths and weaknesses as well as the challenges and opportunities that face us, I was reminded of a presentation I once saw that I thought was applicable to our circumstances.

In his presentation for “TED” (a non-profit devoted to “ideas worth spreading,” that holds conferences where thinkers from various disciplines share their knowledge) James H. Kunstler talks about “the immersive ugliness of our everyday environments in America” and shares his belief that much of the way we have organized our contemporary environments and communities lead to depression because they are places that “aren’t worth caring about.” His argument and his challenge is for Americans to begin considering the ways in which we can make our communities worth caring about through the development of buildings and public spaces that hearken back to age-old principles of urban planning. In effect, Kunstler argues, if communities are not inspiring and do not illicit care from citizens, they will eventually cease to function as meaningful communities and will be beset by all the problems one can find in communities in decline.

While Kunstler’s ideas were specifically applied to the built environment and urban planning, I believe the same principal holds for our diocese as a whole as well as each congregation: our goal should be to build or grow and improve upon a community worth caring about. *(continues on page 2)*

Want to see the Grail in Color? Interested in extended content, such as devotionals?

If you’re receiving the Grail in printed form and would like to see it in color, and enjoy more content you can visit <http://stjosephofarimathea.org/congregational-resources/grail> and download a PDF version.

I believe doing this in the diocese and the parish begins with a simple but often neglected task: the cultivation of relationships between our members.

As a diocese this may mean being more aware of the opportunities available for Christian formation at some of the larger parishes--St. George's and Christ Church Cathedral for example--that invite speakers and presenters on occasion. It also means being more willing to partner with one another to do things that we may not be able to do as individual congregations. The joint Vacation Bible School that St. Joseph's has been involved with over the past few years with St. Francis and Our Savior--which will be continuing this year--is also a practical example.

Within our congregation, the building of relationships is also important, and I have already seen that there are a number of different ways for people to connect with one another here at St. Joseph's. But within our parish community our challenge is not only to build relationships around common interests and passions, but to go farther. As individual congregations, if

Upcoming Events

February 5-6: Vestry Retreat at St. Joseph of Arimathea

February 7: First Sunday breakfast & "Souper Bowl" Sunday

February 16: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (games/races start at 6:00, meal begins at 6:45 pm)

February 17: Ash Wednesday services with imposition of ashes at 7:15am and 6:00pm.

February 24: Vestry Meeting

February 26: Grail deadline.

March 5&6: Magnetic Church Conference at St. George's Episcopal Church, Nashville.

Upcoming Adult Formation:

Priest's Forum: Sundays from February

28-March 21: *The Parables of Jesus*

Lenten Series: March 3, 10 & 24 at 6:30):

The virtues of community in the Parables of Jesus.

we want to truly be seen as communities worth caring about by all of our members--and even the surrounding community--we need first to be a community that cares for others.

Even as I type this, I know that there are so many different ways that we at St. Joseph's demonstrate our care for one another and for the community. Whether it be through our involvement with the Hendersonville Samaritan Association, our support of Jesús el Señor, The Second Base foundation or the assistance we provide to families throughout the year and particularly at Christmas, there are so many things we already do as a congregation that demonstrate that we care about our community and one another.

The challenge for us as we move forward into the future is that we don't lose the places where we're already demonstrating our care for one another, and secondly that we become more conscious of the goal to be a caring community that is therefore cared for. This means that we must be on the look out for the ways in which we can strengthen the bonds between one another. It also requires us to become more and more active and visible in our community.

One of the most important points made by The Rt. Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson, the guest speaker at our most recent diocesan convention, was that the center of gravity in our culture has moved away from church attendance. No longer can we simply talk about "removing barriers" for newcomers and expect them to walk through our doors. Instead we have to become an invitational church, not just an attractional church. Part of being an invitational church, a community that people want to visit and remain a part of is building up our identity as a community of caring. As we move forward together, I pray that we all find ways of working toward the goal of making our congregation such a community of caring that we inspire others. One of the earliest recorded statements about Christians, according to the third century apologist, Tertullian, was "See how they love one another." Let this be our watchword in our own day as well.

In Christ,

NEWS FROM OUR COMPANION CHURCH (IGLESIA COMPAÑERA) IN LITORAL

We recently received a letter from Carlos Mora, the Missioner of our companion Church Jesús el Señor:

Mis estimados hermanos que conforman la Iglesia San José de Arimatea,

Es un gran placer escribirles y saludarles en el Nombre de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, deseando que se encuentren bien de salud juntos a sus familias.

En el Ecuador estamos bien, hemos iniciado la estación del invierno y comenzo a llover dandole gracias a Dios que nos manda la lluvia. Ya que los agricultores comienzana sembrar. También les agradecemos su apoyo económico durante el año que pasó. Les deseamos que hayan tenido una Feliz Navidad y un próspero Año Nuevo.

En la Iglesia Jesús el Señor, hemos realizado las siguientes actividades:

En el altar de nuestra iglesia se ha puesto cerámica, también se ha sacado a crédito un amplificador. Se realizó un agasajo navideño donde compartimos con cada uno de los miembros y se realizó el juego del amigo secreto y lo pasamos bien.

El 17 de Enero del 2010, se realizó primera comunión y las confirmaciones con nuestro Obispo Rvdmo. Alfredo Morante y nuestra Rda Betty Juarez. Quieisera comunicarle que el año que pasó puse a estudiar y he terminado con mi ciclo básico.

Agradeciéndole a Dios y a ustedes por el apoyo recibido. Me despido su hermano en Cristo, Carlos Mora Villegas.



Missioner Carlos Mora

Translation:

My esteemed brothers and sisters from the Church St. Joseph of Arimatea,

It gives me great pleasure to write you and greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope you and your families are all well.

In Ecuador we are well. We have begun the winter season and it has begun to rain. We give thanks to God for the rain (there has been a drought) Already the farmers have begun to plant. We also give thanks for your economic help this past year. We hope you have had a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

In the Church Jesús el Señor we have accomplished the following activities: We have put down ceramic tiles around the altar of the church. We have also purchased an amplifier on credit. We held a lavish Christmas event where we all shared with each other. We even had a

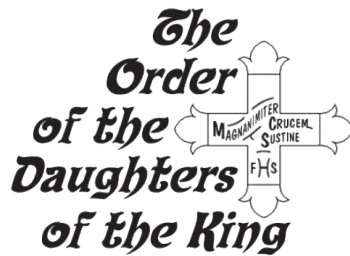
secret friend. It all went well.

On January 17, 2010 we had first communions and confirmations with our Bishop, the Rt. Reverend Alfredo Morante and our Reverend Betty Juarez. I want you to know that this past year, I studied and completed my first basic cycle (in theology studies).

I am grateful to God and to all of you for all the assistance I have received. Your brother in Christ, Carlos Mora Villegas

May God continue to bless us through our Companion relationship,

--Sarena Pettit



Glastonbury Chapter
St. Joseph of Arimathea Church

The Daughters of the King is an Order for women of the Episcopal Church. Every Daughter pledges herself to a lifelong program of prayer, service and personal evangelism. Daughters are dedicated to the extension of Christ's kingdom and to the strengthening of the spiritual life of the parish. Any woman who is a communicant in good standing is welcome to join. If you are interested in joining or just curious about the Daughters, please contact Cora Janson (822-7018), Sharon Petty (824-0327), Dee Stahr (855-2446) or Jane Garrett (264-1047).

For more information about the Daughters of the King in general, you can visit the national web site at: <http://www.dok-national.org/>

Hospital admission, sickness or facing some other difficulty?

If you or a loved one are admitted to the hospital, please let us know. While admissions clerks may ask specific questions regarding religious affiliation, due to government regulations they cannot and will not notify St. Joseph of Arimathea to let us know that you are there. Please get in touch with the church office (615-824-2910) or with Fr. Jody (615-440-6492) as soon as possible.

If you're sick and in need of assistance please let us know that as well. You can call or fill out our new care calendar information sheet located at: <http://www.stjosephofarimathea.org/how-can-we-help-you/>

Safeguarding God's People*

Protecting Children from sexual abuse. Preventing adult sexual misconduct. A diocesan workshop for vestries, nursery workers, Sunday School teachers, volunteer youth leaders and employees, part-time and full-time, anywhere in the diocese.

February 23, 6pm-9pm at St. Philip's Church, Nashville
Please call the church office at (883-4595) to reserve a slot.

**Newly elected vestry members should attend one of these workshops at the earliest possible time.*


SUBMISSIONS :

Next deadline: February 26th

Did something in *The Grail* pique your interest? Feel free to send your comments, prayers, reflections, essays, articles, jokes or other material you would like to share to grail@stjosephofarimathea.org with "the Grail" in the subject line.

If you would like to change delivery preferences (change your address, receive the Grail electronically in addition to or in place of a physical copy) visit our web site at: <http://www.stjosephofarimathea.org/congregational-resources/newsletter-survey/>

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Feb. 3	Chris Pullins
Feb. 5	Jeremy Legget
Feb. 11	Mattie Monroe
Feb. 12	Mary Katherine Gibson
Feb. 13	Jeff Jordan
Feb. 18	Dave Mason
Feb. 19	Blair Dunegan
Feb. 21	Nora Harwell
Feb. 21	Glen Lawson
Feb. 21	Liz Melcher
Feb. 22	Jessie Kemp
Feb. 24	Joanne Layton
Feb. 27	Naomi Burns
Feb. 28	Alexandria Jones
	
Feb. 15	John & Liz Melcher

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts: the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It's a day of penitence, to clean the soul, and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent begins.

Shrove Tuesday is sometimes called Pancake Day after the fried batter recipe traditionally eaten on this day.

But there's more to Shrove Tuesday than pigging out on pancakes or taking part in a public pancake race. The pancakes themselves are part of an ancient custom with deeply religious roots.

Penitence

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shricing that Christians used to undergo in the past. In shricing, a person confesses their sins and receives absolution for them.

When a person receives absolution for their sins, they are forgiven for them and released from the guilt and

pain that they have caused them.

This tradition is very old. Over 1000 years ago a monk wrote in the Anglo-Saxon Ecclesiastical Institutes:

In the week immediately before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor and confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him.

Anglo-Saxon Ecclesiastical Institutes

Shrove Tuesday celebrations

Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as penitence, because it's the last day before Lent.

Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent.

Giving up foods: but not wasting them

During Lent there are many foods that some Christians - historically and today - would not eat: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods.

So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shricing Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras ('fat Tuesday'). Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

The origin of pancake racing

Pancake races are thought to have begun in 1445. A woman had lost track of the time on Shrove Tuesday, and was busy cooking pancakes in her kitchen.

Suddenly she heard the church bell ringing to call the faithful to church for confession. The woman raced out of her house and ran all the way to church; still holding her frying pan and wearing her apron.

Going for gold in the pancake Olympics

One of the most famous pancake races is held at Olney in Buckinghamshire over a 415 yard course. The rules

are strict; contestants have to toss their pancake at both the start and the finish, as well as wearing an apron and a scarf. The race is followed by a church service.

Since 1950 Olney has competed with Liberal in Kansas, which holds an identical race, to see which town can produce the fastest competitor. After the 2000 race, Liberal was leading with 26 wins to Olney's 24.

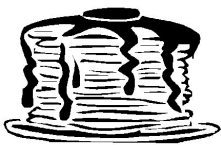
Life at St. Swithin's



February 7, 2010 is "Souper Bowl" Sunday.

Each year, St. Joseph, along with churches from all over Sumner County, takes up a collection in soup pots to help support a local service agency. The funds collected at St. Joseph go to support the Hendersonville Samaritan Association. The current state of the economy has affected all of us, but none more than the people who depend on the services HSA offers. Thank you for your generosity.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Bring your family and friends and join us for fun and fellowship at the annual St. Joseph's Shrove Tuesday celebrations on *Tuesday February 16th* with traditional pancake races for children and adults.

Races will start at 6:00pm. A dinner of breakfast casseroles, pancakes and fruit will be served at 6:45pm. Please sign up on the sheet in the undercroft or email the church office at office@stjosephofarimathea.org to give us an indication of how much food to prepare.

Lenten Disciplines

The year still seems quite fresh and new; perhaps it's because I've experienced more difficulty than usual in transitioning from writing 2009 to 2010, or maybe it's the related shift in perspective from the single to the double digit decades of this century. Either way, the season of Lent is almost upon us as we plan events for Shrove Tuesday and prepare for the beginning of the penitential season on February 17th, Ash Wednesday.

Each year, those among us who practice our faith in a liturgical tradition--and increasingly those who ordinarily do not--are encouraged to take up a sort of challenge during Lent. Popularly, this challenge or discipline, has taken on a negative connotation (just like the word discipline itself), often being popularized through the phrase "what are you giving up for Lent?" Giving something up for Lent--especially habits which are harmful and separate us in some way from God or God's purposes for our lives--can be a powerful and spiritually efficacious discipline for the Christian. And yet, self-denial is not the only means of exercising a lenten discipline.

One of the pitfalls of the popular view is that it sometimes comes to resemble the sorts of promises people make on new year's eve, and carries about as much weight. In contrast, the spiritual disciplines we take up during Lent ought to be distinct enough, and important enough for us to take them with more seriousness. And while one may on occasion do something during Lent that does not carry forward after the Lenten season, it is a good time to focus on those things which would be of benefit year round.

We begin Lent with the observance of Ash Wednesday, one of only two fasts appointed in the calendar of the Book of Common Prayer, the other being Good Friday.

On Ash Wednesday all of us are invited "to the observance of a holy Lent," where "by self-

examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" we can take up daily disciplines and create habits that can sustain us throughout the year.

As the first day of the Lenten season, Ash Wednesday sets the pattern for what follows. Fasting, prayer and an awareness of one's own mortality are emphasized not in order to frighten or trouble, nor to overwhelm us with a sense of sinfulness, but rather to make us aware of our need to be transformed. This desire for transformation means that our sin is not our focus, but rather repentance and the possibility of a renewed relationship with God.



In this context, the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, self-examination and self-denial become much more than "good works" and instead serve to open us to the purposes of Christian spirituality.

Evan Howard, in the Brazos introduction to Christian spirituality defines Christian spiritual formation this way: "Christian spiritual formation, responding to the gracious work of God and requiring both perseverance and progress, is ***the intentional and God-ward reorientation and rehabilitation of human experience***. It aims at mature harmony with Christ and is expressed in the concrete realities of everyday life." (269, emphasis mine) In considering this definition, it seems to me that Lent is a particular time of Christian spiritual formation. The purposes of giving something up for Lent or taking on a particular discipline are the same: "the intentional and God-ward reorientation and rehabilitation of" our experience and life.

This Lent, I pray that all of us find a way to cast off the old habits that hold us back from God, and that we take on the new habits that will reorient us in a God-ward direction. -JBH+

The Grail

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Service Schedule

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Communion, traditional language
(Rite I), no music

10:30 am Holy Communion, contemporary language
(Rite II), with music

9:15 am Christian formation for all ages

ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATEA PRESENTS

A Taste of Mardi Gras



Gumbo, Beads and Outrageous Costumes means that Mardi Gras is upon us!

Join us on February 13th for great food, fun and a few surprises, as we celebrate Mardi Gras and support the 2nd Base Foundation at the County Hills Golf Club.

For more information and tickets, call 824-2910, or check out the information on our ministries page at:

<http://stjosephofarimathea.org/ministries>

