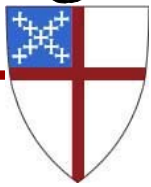


# St. Augustine's in-the-Woods

The Episcopal Church serving Whidbey Island  
A Greening Community



## *the* *Light*

*January 2009*



**Rev. Nigel Taber-Hamilton, Rector**  
**Rev. William Burnett, Rector Emeritus**  
**Rev. M. Fletcher Davis, Priest Associate**  
**Rev. J.R. Lander, Assoc. for Christian Education**  
**Rev. Julie Bird, Deacon**

### Staff


Loretta Martin, Administrative Assistant  
Carol Foster, Director of Music  
Isabel Neddow, Senior Warden  
Tom Williams, Junior Warden  
Bill Smith, Treasurer  
Wendy Close, Parish Nurse  
Diana Klein, Vestry Clerk  
Michele Anderson, Newsletter Editor  
Liz Kershaw, Altar Guild Directress  
Cheryl Smith, ECW President  
Kelly Diefert, Janitor

### Worship Leaders

Beverly Babson  
R. Bruce Campbell  
Bill Carruthers  
David McClellan, EFSJ  
Anne Pringle  
Richard Tussey, EFSJ  
John Watson  
Connie Williams  
Tom Williams  
Sherman Wortman  
Judith P. Yeakel

### Contact St Augustine's:

P.O. Box 11  
5217 So. Honeymoon Bay Road  
Freeland, WA 98249-0011  
phone: (360) 331-4887    email: [staugus@whidbey.com](mailto:staugus@whidbey.com)



### St. Augustine's Services

**SUNDAY**

8:00 am Eucharist  
followed by coffee and Forums

10:00 am Eucharist  
with music, church school & child care  
followed by coffee hour


**MONDAY**

5:30 pm Solemn Evensong  
(with incense)

**WEDNESDAY**

10:00 am Eucharist and Holy Unction

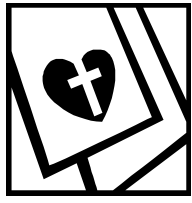
*For additional activities please see "calendar" listings in this newsletter.*



Worship, Witness, Serve,

As the people of  
St. Augustine's, our mission  
is to worship God, witnessing  
to Jesus Christ by serving the  
community and the world in  
which we live, all through the  
power of the Holy Spirit.

web site: [www.staugustinesepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.staugustinesepiscopalchurch.org)



## FROM THE RECTOR

As we close one calendar year and enter another, I want to share with you my overview of the last eight years, as a way of us getting a sense of where we are in January 2009, and where we're headed.

From the very beginning of my time here, three distinct areas of congregational life have been central:

- \*The importance of establishing and maintaining a vital Christian Education program for children and adults,
- \*The centrality of quality liturgy,
- \*The need to address issues of space.

For about the first five years, we spent some considerable time and effort trying to decide how to go about establishing and implementing these parochial goals. We started out developing some core values to guide us: Compassion, Commitment, Reverence, and Reconciliation. We then engaged in extensive long-range planning.

At about the five-year mark our congregation came to a moment of decision. Were we actually going to do something about these goals, or were we simply going to 'talk them to death'? It became apparent to congregational leadership that the latter course was not acceptable. There is no "maintaining", we realized. We could either go forward, or we could go back.

The catalyst for positive decision-making proved to be our joint clergy-congregational sabbatical. We were greatly aided in what we decided to do by a generous bequest from Janis Wright (which came with no strings attached – a wonderful freedom not often granted to congregations). The last two years have been quite remarkable:

We have added four wonderful people to our staff who have had a transformational effect on our congregational life: **J. R. Lander** has built a Christian Education program for our children and youth from scratch (with much generous help from many of you); **Carol Foster** has brought to the Director of Music position a level of professionalism and wide-ranging talent we have not seen before at St. Augustine's (creating a wonderful Children's

Chorister program and greatly enhancing our liturgical life); **Wendy Close**, as our Parish Nurse, has had a significant impact on our health (including your Rector's weight!), and on our pastoral care of all our members; and **Loretta Martin** has brought extensive local knowledge, experience, and ability, as well as a cheery presence, to our Administrative Assistant's position.

In our Liturgy, we have continually worked on our services to help create that experience of sacred space so important to good liturgy. We have created a regular rotation of preachers to provide broad theological reflection. We have included our younger members on a regular basis. We have wonderful new vestments, and, of course, we have wonderful music!

Since our common Sabbatical, our Christian Education offerings have expanded greatly, especially at Forum time. This is another foundational part of our identity.

We have hired an architect, Stig Carlson, adopted a building plan, and raised significant funds (at last check about \$1.1 million) to move forward with extensive new construction.

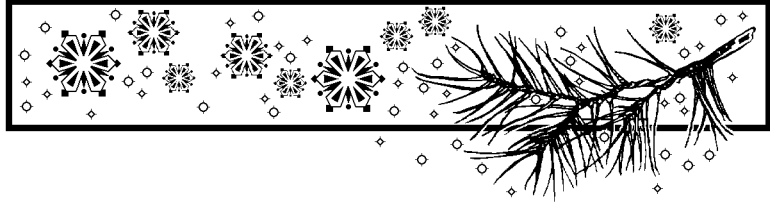
There have been hiccups during these years, of course. None of us is perfect, certainly not me. But the blessing of our faith is that God forgives, and together our imperfections are embraced into the Divine love. As Julian of Norwich said "All will be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

As we enter 2009, we are in an excellent place, well positioned to move boldly into the future. It is a future that will continue to hold challenges for us. Nothing, after all, ever remains static. But it is a future to rejoice in, to look forward to, to anticipate with no small amount of excitement.

As my former Bishop in Indiana is wont to say: God is good! All the time! Even now! May all of you have a blessed year as we embrace that good future together.

*Nigel*

## *The Christmas Storms* by Nigel Taber-Hamilton



Some of you have asked about the process that St. Augustine's leadership went through when deciding how to address the unprecedented winter storms that began the evening of Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and lasted through Christmas.

On the morning of December 14<sup>th</sup> your Wardens and I met early at St. Augustine's to review the state of the driveway. In the process we discovered that – other than Hwy 525 – the side-roads were extremely treacherous. Upon arrival at the top of the hill above the church, it became apparent that our driveway was extremely slick and posed a significant hazard – not the least of which was getting back up after any services.

We considered suggesting that folks park on Honeymoon Bay Road and walk down. This, of course, had its own physical hazards. However, we have previously been informed by the Sheriff's Office that they would ticket any vehicles parked on Honeymoon Bay Road, so this was not a real option anyway.

Our over-riding concern though, was the safety of all of you. As Isabel Neddow commented, "All it would take would be one parishioner being involved in an accident on their way to church and we would regret going ahead with the service." This doesn't even include the possibility of slipping on ice between your house and your car (if outside) and your car and the church door. Consequently, at about 7:15 a.m., we decided to cancel Church – a decision we did not want to have to make. The Phone Tree was initiated.

On the following Saturday, Bill Carruthers, Bob Dial, Brian Reid, Tom Williams and I dug two tracks in the snow down to the Church. By this time, the county had plowed Honeymoon Bay Road, leaving piles of snow several feet high. This made parking on the road itself impossible. The snow was about 5" deep on the driveway, and there were similar amounts of snow in the parking lot. We had not been able to find anyone with a snowplow to come and clear the driveway and parking lot. More snow fell that afternoon, leaving 8" of snow in the parking lot, though the tracks down to the Church remained clear (we had salted them). The prospect of parking in at least 8" of snow seemed remote. More snow was forecast for that night (we got another 2").

In addition, the conditions on the side roads

had deteriorated to the extent that without Four-Wheel Drive or chains, driving was very dangerous. As one parishioner said, "The fewer people on the road the better."

The straw that finally led us to cancel for a second week was the discovery that – despite having left water running in the undercroft – the pipes had frozen. It is a violation of the health regulations to use a public structure without water. Once again the Phone Tree was initiated to cancel services.

By Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> we had found someone to clear the parking lot. He was only able to clear the area that is covered with asphalt however, and not the area where tree-roots have made the surface anything but smooth. At best, we had half a parking lot.

The Wardens and I met early on the 24<sup>th</sup> to assess what to do for the Christmas services. Once at the top of the driveway, it was fairly easy to get into, and more importantly, out of, our parking lot. Again, however, the surrounding roads were now not only ice-covered, but had a thin veneer of water on top of them, making them even more dangerous than before.

We decided to make a series of random phone calls to parishioners. From the youngest to the oldest we got very similar messages: "I don't want to come", "I'm not coming". Then we received an e-mail message from Langley United Methodist Church saying that they had canceled all of their services because of the road conditions (other Churches subsequently canceled).

On the 24th, there were still large slabs of packed snow and ice on the roof that had the potential to slide off at any time and injure someone. I was almost hit the previous day. Snow-laden branches were still falling, and we could hear the crack of those branches throughout the time we were at the Church.

The final decider was the National Weather Service forecast: while admitting that they really couldn't exactly predict what would happen, the NWS warned of the possibility of freezing rain after dusk. Getting to church was one thing, we reasoned – getting home under those circumstances was quite another.

In the interest of everyone's safety we decided to cancel the services.

One other comment: this weather was unprecedented for western Washington. While there has been this much snow before, it has not been accompanied by temperatures that were consistently below freezing for so long, nor lasted for more than a few days. We were in uncharted territory here.

Some of you have commented that "I grew up in the Mid-West" or "I lived in eastern Washington" and so were used to dealing with this sort of weather and these driving conditions. The difference was simply this: those places are used to dealing with this sort of weather. Equipment exists to clear the roads before they freeze into sheets of ice, or before the snow gets so deep that it is impossible to drive through. From personal experience I can tell you that Monroe County Indiana (where Bloomington is located, as well as Indiana University – with a population of around 100,000) has 30 County snowplows and dozens of private contractors. To the best of my knowledge Island County has one regular snow plow for the South End, plus a couple of trucks retrofitted with plows.

In addition, being from a place where you've dealt with snow on a regular basis, and knowing how to drive under these circumstances does little to help when someone else slides into you.

Hindsight is, of course, 20/20. It is entirely possible (though we will never know) that we could have held services at least on Christmas Eve without anyone experiencing problems. But is it not possible to make decisions after the event! Your Wardens and I had to make these decisions in enough time to be able to notify all of you. The good news, of course, is that everyone was safe!

The Vestry will be examining the procedures we have followed in the past with regard to service cancellation to see what we can learn from these dreadful storms and their effects on us as a community.

Lastly, let me say that all of the leadership of St. Augustine's welcomes your suggestions and input with regard to situations like this. Especially when it comes to what – if anything – we might have done differently to allow services to go ahead.

Nigel Taber-Hamilton, Rector  
Isabel Neddow, Senior Warden  
Tom Williams, Junior Warden

## *Junior Warden's Report*

*by Tom Williams*

This is the second version of my report I have written. The first one suggested that, although the temperature was cold, all was well around our facility. Then the winter storms hit, causing cancellation of services and damage to the buildings. Determining the extent of the damage will take some time, but we know that the gutter and the downspout at the entrance of the church are gone and the gutter along the south side of the Church is sagging. The water in the pipe leading to the Church and the Undercroft froze and then thawed, but we can't tell if the pipe was damaged.

Between storms, Brian Reid, Bob Dial, Bill Carruthers, and Nigel tried to clean the snow off the steep part of the driveway, and I thank them for that.

Before the storms, the gutters were cleaned and the downspouts checked. Early in December, Diana Klein, Margaret Schultz, and Bob Dial worked around the gardens. I'm very grateful to Diana for her work over the last year in organizing those monthly clean-up events.

## *2009 Rack Sale*

*by Pandora Halstead*

Thank you to all who have begun to gather your gently used clothing, shoes, hats, purses, lingerie and children's apparel for the annual Rack clothing sale to be held in early 2009.

This will be the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual ECW Rack Sale at St. Augustine's and we look forward to the fun of it and the final goal of contributing to local charities.

Jack and I will be in Southern California during the month of December and part of January, but we will be ready to "get going" when we return.



*Adult Forum Schedule*  
*by Ted Brookes*



**Schedule for January**

This New Year the Adult Christian Education program continues with varied and enlightening forums that will hopefully resonate with each of you. This month we will feature guest speakers, health education and environmental briefings, and a continuation of our fascinating series on "An Archeological Search for Jesus." Specific dates, subject matter, and Forum presenters/hosts are as indicated below:

**January 11th: *An Archeological Search for Jesus, Part 2 Galilee & Fishing.*** In Part 2 of the series, host Hershel Shanks takes us to different sites around the Sea of Galilee for visits that speak to us about Jesus' life and the lives of his fishermen disciples. This video pays a virtual visit to a house in Capernaum believed by some to be the home of St. Peter. It explores an ancient church at Kursi and allows us to witness the on-going excavations at Bethsaida, an ancient fishing community that was the home of several of Jesus' apostles. We will also be treated to the story of the remarkable discovery and conservation of a first century boat, buried in the mud for two millennia, which sailed on the lake in Jesus' time. Ted Brookes presents.

**January 18th: *Emergency Preparedness & You.*** Terry Clark, Coordinator for the Medical Reserve Corps of Island County will give us an informative presentation on Emergency Preparedness and Continuity of Operations. The first part is titled "Are you Ready?" and follows FEMA literature that will be made available to everyone, as well as additional information that has been prepared by the American Red Cross for disaster preparation. This presentation will discuss the types of disasters that we may face on Whidbey Island, how to prepare ourselves and our family for them, and what help we may expect in a post-disaster recovery phase. Part 2 discusses Continuity of Operations planning. This should be part of the church operations plan and something the congregation should reflect on every day. The plan will assist the church in withstanding and recovering more quickly from any disaster or event that may inhibit our ability to perform day-to-day tasks. Ted Brookes hosts.

**January 25th: *Caring for Creation through Legislation.*** What will the Legislature in Olympia do in 2009 to care for our state's natural resources? Why should we care? During this Adult Forum, Elizabeth Davis, Natural Resources Chair, League of Women Voters of Washington and League Representative for the Environmental Priorities Coalition, and member of the parish Greening Congregation Committee, will discuss next year's four environmental legislative priorities and what you can do to advocate caring for God's creation. These legislative priorities touch on the most important issues we face as caretakers of Planet Earth. They include clean water, global warming, low energy efficiency, and alternative transportation sys-

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*From the Parish Nurse*  
*by Wendy Close*

Boosting your immune system!! We hear a lot about this these days, in the midst of winter. So just how do we do this? Remember your mother's advice when you were little? Eat your fruits and vegetables. Drink plenty of water. Get some exercise. Don't forget to take your vitamins. Wash your hands. All these tips are just what you need to be doing.

In addition there has been a lot of research that advocates doing activities that reduce stress. This can take many forms, but basically it means doing something that quiets your mind, is enjoyable, and lowers your heart rate and breathing. Activities such as yoga, meditation, a walk in the park, and knitting while listening to contemplative music are some ideas. On January 4th, at the Adult Forum, Andrea Binder will talk about her role as a Reiki massage therapist and how Reiki can reduce stress and increase healing. Come learn how to take care of your immune system and thereby fight any germs that might want to settle in.

## *Getting Acquainted*

*by Nancy Langler*

### **Tom and Michelle Johnson**

Tom and Michelle Johnson were both born and raised in Michigan. They met while in high school, when their two churches merged. They both attended Wayne State in Detroit and were married when Tom graduated in 1965.

They moved to Pasadena where Tom attended seminary. He wanted to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church and in order to do so, he had to attend a Presbyterian seminary. So they moved to Princeton, New Jersey where he completed his Masters in Theology. Michelle, who was a Special Education major, was employed as a teacher while they were there.

In 1969, Tom took a pastoral job at a Presbyterian church in Lewistown, Pennsylvania. It was there that Tom was ordained. Michelle taught until their first child, Jason, was born. They lived in Flint, Michigan from 1971 through 1975, where Tom was a pastor in a Presbyterian church. Both of their daughters were born there.

Michelle encouraged Tom to pursue his dream of getting his Ph.D. and in 1975 they moved to Durham, North Carolina where Tom received his Ph.D. in Theology. The \$5,000 that they had saved to help carry them through only lasted one year, so Michelle went back to teaching Special Education. It was not a good experience. She was given a classroom with several delinquents and during the first day of class, one student threw another out of the window! Michelle decided then and there that she did not want to spend the rest of her life in special education.

In 1978, Tom had an unexpected phone interview with Sioux Falls College in South Dakota. He was very happy in Durham and did not want to move. However, he did go for an interview and before it was over, he decided it was the perfect job for him. He just had to convince his family. After all, where was Sioux Falls? They got out the atlas. The children said they would move no farther west than the crack between the atlas pages. Sioux fell in the crack so they went.

They stayed there for 19 years. The college became a university and Tom spent the first 10 years teaching Theology and Bible Studies. During the last nine years, he was President of the University of Sioux Falls.

In 1997, he was invited to join an old friend, who was President of George Fox College in Newberg, Oregon. One year after moving to Newberg, his friend died and Tom became the Interim President for one year. The rest of the time was spent teaching Theology. During Tom's affiliation with the colleges, Michelle was able to take classes free of charge. Having had the bad experience in Durham, she decided to change fields. She chose Accounting and completed both her Masters and her CPA. She worked as an accountant briefly, but decided to go back to education and taught accounting at the college level.

While at George Fox, both Tom and Michelle led student tours to England, Scotland and Ireland. Michelle also did tours to New Zealand and Honduras.

George Fox is a Quaker school and the Johnsons attended Quaker Meetings while they were there. Tom missed taking communion, so he began attending the 8 o'clock Eucharist at the local Episcopal Church, St. Michael's, before attending the Quaker meetings. He convinced Michelle to join him and they both eventually joined the Episcopal Church.

The Johnsons have three adult children. Jason a research scientist in Seattle, will be moving with his company to Boston this spring. Amy, who lives in Leadville, Colorado has her Ph.D. in Literature and writes for a Christian centered magazine. Sarah, who lives in St Paul, MN, has her Ph.D. in Animal Behavior. She specializes in primates and is a Visiting Professor at Gustavus Adolphus, St. Peter, MN.

The Johnsons moved to Whidbey in June after Tom retired. Having friends here, they were familiar with the island and chose Whidbey for its gentle climate and life style.

## *Thank you!*

The Church of Mary Magdalene & Mary's Place has sent heart-warming thanks to all of the parishioners who gave Christmas gifts which were made or bought for their members. Our partnership in this ministry assures that homeless women and children have a place to go where they are loved and supported in their struggles.

A new "Wish List" is in the undercroft where the collection container is located. It includes: crochet hooks, new & used make up bags, new & used reading glasses, 2009 weekly planners, new & used socks, back packs/tote bags/fanny packs, new lingerie (bras & underwear), travel size toothpaste, toenail clippers, hair brushes, large combs, picks, deodorant and Metro Bus tickets (\$.50, \$1.50 or \$1.75) and African-American hair care products.

If you have any questions, please call Gretchen Wood at 678-0656, or Marcia Siring at 678-1687.

## *November Vestry Notes* *by Diana Klein, Vestry Clerk*

Vestry Highlights for December 30, 2008

- \*Due to snow delays, the meeting was finally held on December 30 in the afternoon.
- \*The Rector's salary for 2009 was approved.
- \*Payment was authorized for various over budget accounts.
- \*CADA will be given \$500 plus a few other contributions since we did not have Mission Sunday in December due services being cancelled.
- \*There was a discussion on snow and other emergency situations.
- \*January 8 will be a Pre Construction meeting with the county.
- \*The Vestry Retreat will discuss how to proceed with further Capital funding.
- \*Mission Sunday in January will be split between Helping Hand and Good Cheer.
- \*Bishop Gene Robinson will be in Seattle in January for speaking engagements.
- \*The entire Minutes are posted in the Undercroft.

## *From the Library Corner* *by Margaret Schultz*

Happy New Year! For those of you who don't already know, I am the new librarian. Most of the hard working library crew will stay. Our thanks to Jody Heiken and Alexandra Lewis-Smith who are working tirelessly to update and computerize our catalogue system. We also have two new assistant librarians, Bev Babson and Trisha Methenia, who is a new member of the parish.

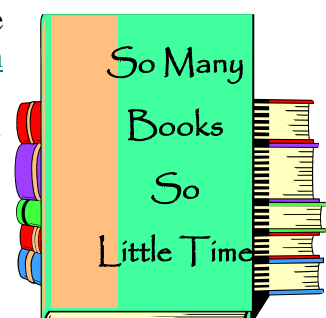
Until our computerized catalogue system is up and running, we are working to make the library more fun to browse. Check it out. For your browsing pleasure, we have two new sections; one for Ecology and Creation Centered Spirituality and one for Women's Spirituality. The latter is currently a very mixed and diverse collection of books on women's issues, devotions and fiction by prominent women writers. Ladies, please check it out and give me your feedback. It is a section under construction.

Due to the prolific nature and popularity of C.S. Lewis and Madeleine L'Engle, they now have their own sections. We did this because some of you know them for their fiction or their theological/devotional writings and we thought you might like to acquaint yourselves with all of their writings.

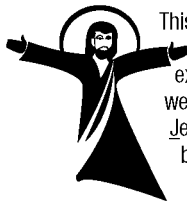
For those of you who are lectors or Eucharistic ministers, we have a special Liturgy Reference category next to the Anglican/Episcopal Church section.

Please forgive the sticky notes that we are using for section labels. We are doing this because we are moving so many books around as we create more sections.

This library is for your pleasure and spiritual growth. We want you to use it often, so please, please, if you have any suggestions or comments let us know. We would love to hear from you. Also if you have read a really good book recently, please e-mail a short book review to me at [margaret\\_schultz@yahoo.com](mailto:margaret_schultz@yahoo.com) so that we can incorporate it into the Library Corner section of the Light.



# WWJD key chain



This craft is a reminder of Jesus' perfect example for us. When we ask "What Would Jesus Do?" we can build our character to be more like his.

**What you need:**

- 16 inches of bead and jewelry cord (about 1 mm thick)
- 32 mm split ring (key ring)
- 4 wooden beads (about 1 cm or 3/8")
- 5 jewelry beads (plastic or wooden, about 1/2 cm or 1/2")
- black permanent marker

**What you do:**

1. Fold your jewelry cord in half.
2. Put the loop of the jewelry cord through the split ring.
3. Put the ends of the cord through the loop to make a knot.
4. Thread the two ends through one of your small beads.
5. Then thread the rest of the beads (alternating between small and large, ending with a small bead).
6. Tie two or three knots at the end to hold the beads in place.
7. With a permanent marker, write a letter (W, W, J and D) on each of the four wooden beads. On the opposite side of each bead, write the same letter.

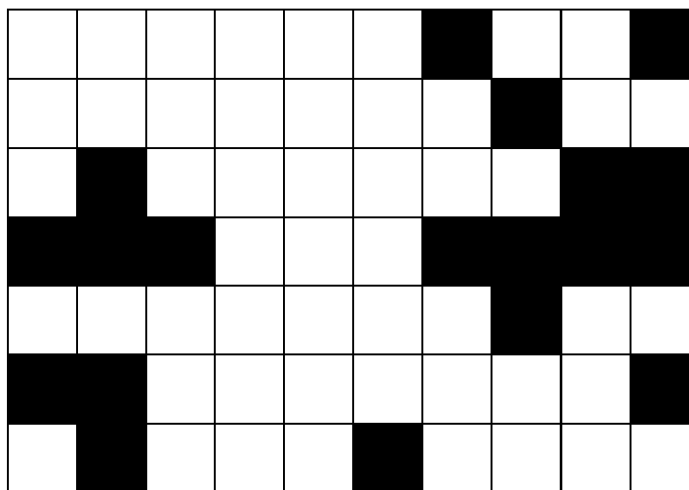


## CHARACTER THAT PLEASES

The New Year is a time for renewed commitments and changes in our behavior. Complete the puzzle below to see whose example is worthy of imitating or copying.

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to finish the NIV Bible verse.

Y		M	L	L	O	W	F	O
A	S	E	A	M	P	L	E	X
		O	F	O	L	L	I	
O	F	E	A	M	P	L	E	X
.		S	T	C	H	R	I	
:	1	1	1	C	O	R		1



Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1

Do you have news to share, some accomplishment to note, or a story, poem or artwork you'd like to publish? Please submit it to Michele Anderson at [MAYondan@comcast.net](mailto:MAYondan@comcast.net) or Loretta Martin at [staugs@whidbey.com](mailto:staugs@whidbey.com) and we'll put it here!

(Of course you are always welcome to include it elsewhere in the newsletter if you prefer).

## *"Blessed Are The Peace Makers"*

St. Augustine's will host the Fourth Annual South Whidbey commemoration of the life and non-violent witness of Martin Luther King, Jr. The event is slated for 1 PM on Monday, January 19 - the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. This commemoration, titled "Blessed Are the Peace Makers," is sponsored and organized by St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

The service will be preceded by a complimentary sandwich lunch beginning at noon and provided by members of St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship. All attendees are invited to partake in a light meal of sandwiches, vegetables, fruit, cookies and beverages prior to the service.

Featured speaker for the program will be Bishop Greg Rickel. Bishop Rickel was raised in Arkansas and prior to becoming our Bishop was Rector of an historically African American parish in Austin. His personal experience enables him to relate to both the fundamental social and political changes brought about through the Christian activism of the Civil Rights Movement and unfinished agenda for economic justice.

This year's event will focus on Dr. King's prophetic call for economic justice. Readings of excerpts from Dr. King's speeches and letters of civil rights volunteers will be interspersed with a narration describing the Poor People's Campaign and the issue of economic injustice. St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship members will present the readings. The service will end with a comparison between the "Moses Generation" of the 1960's Movement activists represented by Martin Luther King, Jr., and the "Joshua Generation" symbolized by Barack Obama's election as President of the United States. The Moses Generation saw the promised land of racial equality but failed to cross the Jordan. The Joshua Generation has, at least politically, entered the Promised Land.

Once again, Karl Olsen will lead the singing for the gathering, which will consist of Southern-based African American Gospel music common to black churches and the Civil Rights Movement. The St. Augustine's Choristers will also perform at the gathering.

St. Augustine's parishioners, especially families and youth, are encouraged to attend this community celebration. Childcare will be provided.

For further information, call Dick Hall at 678-5071.



*M.S.O. for January 2009*

*Helping Hand*

*and Good Cheer*

*by Elaine Ludtke, MSO Chair*

Our Mission Sunday Offering for January is a little complicated. Recently the vestry approved entering into a sister parish relationship with St. Stephen's Episcopal Parish in Oak Harbor. However, when approached by our MSO sponsor, Mary Vaughan, St. Stephen's Vestry reported that they had no monetary needs at the present time, but that they would like to be included as donors to the charity we chose to give to. We all know that this year the need for food, shelter, clothing, and heating help is especially great. Therefore our Mission Sunday Offering for January will be divided between Helping Hand and Good Cheer. Please give generously to help our neighbors in need.



*Do You Love What God Has Made?  
The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori*

*The following is excerpted from an article by Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, originally published by the Diocese of Olympia in the spring of 2008.*

The Judaeo-Christian tradition has been famously blamed for much of the current environmental crisis, particularly for our misreading of Genesis 1:28 as a charge to "fill the earth and subdue it." Our forebears were so eager to distinguish their faith from the surrounding Canaanite religion and its concern for fertility that some of them worked overtime to separate us from an awareness of "the hand of God in the world about us," especially in a reverence for creation. How can we love God if we do not love what God has made?

We base much of our approach to loving God and our neighbors in this world on our baptismal covenant. Yet our latest prayer book was written just a bit too early to include caring for creation among those explicit baptismal promises. I would invite you to explore those promises a bit more deeply -- where and how do they imply caring for the rest of creation?

We are beginning to be aware of the ways in which our lack of concern for the rest of creation results in death and destruction for our neighbors. We cannot love our neighbors unless we care for the creation that supports all our earthly lives. We are not respecting the dignity of our fellow creatures if our sewage or garbage fouls their living space. When atmospheric warming, due in part to the methane output of the millions of cows we raise each year to produce hamburger, begins to slowly drown the island homes of our neighbors in the South Pacific, are we truly sharing good news?

The food we eat, the energy we use, the goods and foods we buy, the ways in which we travel, are all opportunities -- choices and decisions -- to be for others, both human and other. Our Christian commitment is for this -- that we might live that more abundant life, and that we might do it in a way that is for the whole world.



1. NEW YEAR'S DAY  
Beth Sizer's Birthday
2. Dorothy Nestor's Birthday  
Jack Wood's Birthday
4. Feast of Lights Sunday
7. Genevieve & Gilbert Nyerges' Anniversary
9. Diana Klein's Birthday
11. Trudy Campbell's Birthday
13. Dennis Durden's Birthday  
Jack Wallock's Birthday  
Paul Miller's Birthday
15. LIGHT DEADLINE
16. JoAnn Davies' Birthday
17. Claree Vandegrift's Birthday
18. Kathryn Adams' Birthday
19. Dick Hall's Birthday  
Judie Hoiseth's Birthday
22. Isabel Neddow's Birthday
23. & 24. VESTRY RETREAT
25. Kids Lead Sunday
26. Sharon Beck's Birthday
28. Anne Pringle's Birthday
29. Doris Freeman's Birthday  
Joan Focht's Birthday  
Lynda Dial's Birthday

# January

**Read all about it inside! .....**

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**Reminder that the February Newsletter Deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Please e-mail submissions to Michele Anderson at [MAYondan@comcast.net](mailto:MAYondan@comcast.net).  
and send another copy to [staugs@whidbey.com](mailto:staugs@whidbey.com)

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St. Augustine's in~the~Woods Episcopal Church  
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