

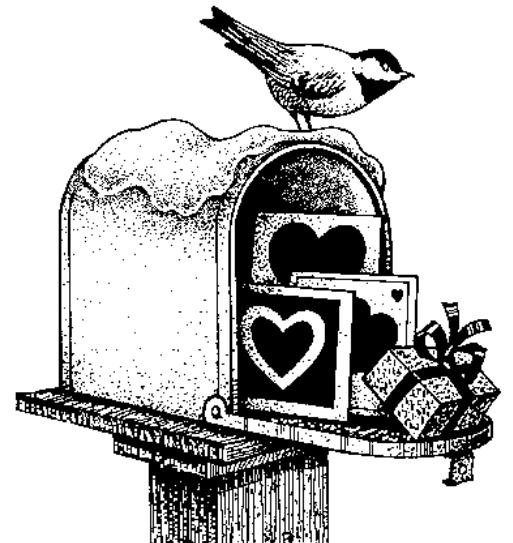
St. Augustine's in-the-Woods

The Episcopal Church serving Whidbey Island
A Greening Community



the *Light*

February 2010



Rev. Nigel Taber-Hamilton, Rector
Rev. William Burnett, Rector Emeritus
Rev. M. Fletcher Davis, Priest Associate
Rev. Julie Bird, Deacon

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Loretta Martin, Office Administrator
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Diana Klein, Vestry Clerk
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R. Bruce Campbell
Bill Carruthers
David McClellan, EFSJ
Anne Pringle
Richard Tussey, EFSJ
John Watson
Connie Williams
Tom Williams
Sherman Wortman
Judith P. Yeakel

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St. Augustine's Services

SUNDAY

8:00 am Eucharist
followed by coffee and Forums

10:30 am Eucharist
with music, church school & child care
followed by coffee hour

MONDAY

5:30 pm Solemn Evensong
(with incense)

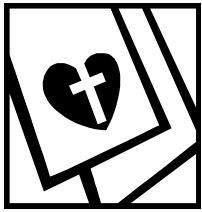
WEDNESDAY

10:00 am Eucharist and Holy Unction

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



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.



FROM THE RECTOR

I have often wondered what the Christian year would feel like if I lived in the southern hemisphere. For those folk who live south of the equator Christmas – Epiphany is the height of summer, Lent is at summer’s end, and the Holy Week – Triduum cycle comes in the depths of the fall.

Somehow that just doesn’t seem right!

And – well – it isn’t! Christianity is a faith born in the northern climes, where ancient Pagan religion was tied to seasons and weather.

And so, for that matter, were Judaism and its child, Christianity.

Pentecost, for instance, was a Jewish harvest festival (the only one where otherwise abstemious Jewish men were not just allowed but expected to get drunk – which helps explain why some thought the disciples were drunk at the Pentecost festival – at least, that’s how Luke tells it).

Christmas was a Christian take-over story. Originally a pagan festival celebrating the equinox and the turning of the year, the *Dies Natalis Solis Invicti* (which means "the birthday of the unconquered Sun."), it proved a convenient way of drawing Pagans into Christian worship (we actually have no idea when Jesus was born – it could have been July!).

And the greatest festival of them all – Easter – is (in the northern hemisphere, anyway) always around that time when new growth is bursting forth in compelling ways. The link is underscored by the very name: Easter. “Easter”, scholars believe, comes from the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess “Eastre”. The Venerable Bede, perhaps the most famous British monk of the middle ages, first mentioned the link in one of his books in the mid-eighth century. Eastre, according to recent scholarship was most likely understood as a "Spring-like fertility goddess", which ties back to the seasonality of the festival that in every other language is called “Pascha” (meaning the Christian Passover).

The list goes on – but you get the point! The timing of festivals is tied to the natural world, the season in which they take place, and the characteristics of the season and the festival are similar.

Not only (in my opinion, anyway) is there nothing wrong with this, I believe it is an important gift to us, because the events of our liturgical year are being reinforced by what is going on in nature. Hence Epiphany, an introspective season, falls during the darkest part of the year, when we are naturally given over to introspection.

All of this brings us to Lent: a time of growing light and warming temperatures. There is something of anticipation in Lent; a growing awareness that the world is changing in really fundamental ways. And these changes are good. Increasing not lessening light; warming not cooling temperatures. It is only natural, therefore, that Lent should begin at the lowest point of the season with a reflection on death (Ash Wednesday) and move upward from there. As new light dawns earlier and earlier throughout the natural season so – hopefully! – new wisdom will dawn on each of us, as – again – we make this same, sacred journey toward Jerusalem with Jesus. A blessed Lent, everyone!

Nigel

Our New Building

January 24th Meeting Update.

On Sunday, January 24 we distributed 98 ballots. As of Tuesday, January 26 we have received 69 back. Over 90% are in favor of proceeding with our current design. We have also had comments from 5 others that they will return their ballots soon but are in favor of proceeding.

If you would like more information please contact the parish office and we will schedule either another group meeting or an individual meeting for you with a vestry member.

If you have not received a ballot they are available in the Parish Office Tuesday through Friday mornings. We can also provide a ballot Sunday mornings.

While you are free to take the ballot away with you we would ask that you consider filling it out ³ in the office so we can keep our running total up-to-date.

*Church of Mary Magdalene,
Mary's Place*

*From Executive Director, Marty Hartman
Submitted by Gretchen Wood*

Dear Friends at St. Augustine's in the Woods,
Thank you for your Christmas donations to the Church of Mary Magdalene. Your gift means that a homeless woman or child will walk in warmth and comfort this winter. The best gift of all for the women we serve is your faithful presence, your love and support, and your willingness to walk with them on their journey out of homelessness. You are our bright and shining stars. Thank you for loving us through the tough times!

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

*M.S.O. for February is
Hearts and Hammers*

What started as a flickering idea in 1994 has flamed into a virtual one day blitz each May: approximately 40 projects, over 400 volunteers, and a need for around \$40,000 in donations. The end result is repairs and cleanup on property owned by South Whidbey residents who, for various reasons, need this kind of help. Included are roofs, gutters, wheelchair ramps, decks, plumbing, electrical, yard cleanup, and almost "whatever needs doing."



This non-profit organization has no paid staff and project leaders are also volunteers.

All donations go to the projects. Your contribution is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

To learn more and/or volunteer, CALL 360-221-6063. Central Whidbey also needs helpers and can be reached at 360-240-2964.

*Junior Warden's Report
by Bob Dial*

The 2009 Christmas season was both joyful and busy. We suspended work on the shed conversion so more time could be given to other projects. Decorating the church was lots of fun and I must mention that our beautiful Christmas tree was donated by Waterloo Ranch on Boon Rd. near Oak Harbor. Please consider these great folks if you want a fresh tree for Christmas. When Bishop Nedi visited on January 10th, she thought our nave was beautiful and made the case for leaving decorations up longer.

Now that the holidays are over, we are working on the shed two or three days a week. The change is dramatic from the old dark and musty storage shed to the bright clean look of an office with windows and proper doors. There are still finishing tasks like painting the interior, putting down a snap together floor and cleaning windows. If you have some time to contribute, please contact Art Taylor or Bob Dial.

As this is my last report as your Junior Warden I would like to thank you for all of your support over the past year. It has been a humbling and spiritual building experience for me and one where I feel I was the recipient of the benefit and not the other way around. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

*Vestry Meeting Notes for Jan. 23
by Diana Klein, Clerk*

Announced Michelle Vaughan to be the Senior Warden for the coming year.

Noted on Margaret Schultz to be the Junior Warden.

Discussed 2010 budget and approved it.

Discussed 2009 year end statement and voted to move surplus to Contingency Fund.

Approved the Senior Warden to be a signer on the Parish Discretionary Fund.

Parish Nurse by Wendy Close



A true St. Augustine's story.

At the blood pressure check in December a parishioner came up to me asking to have her blood pressure checked. She was given a clean bill of health at her annual physical in July, so she was mostly just curious. I took her blood pressure and the numbers were within normal limits. However, her pulse was a rather erratic heartbeat. I asked her if she was on any heart medication – no – any history of irregular heart rates – no. She was clear that there were no problems with her heart in July at the doctor's office.

After repeating the blood pressure and taking her heart rate for a full minute to confirm the irregular beating, I recommended that she call her doctor the next day to tell them of my findings. She did just that and within 5 days was referred to a cardiologist who ran a number of tests. Good news – she does have an irregular heart rate, but it does not require any medication or treatments at this time. Her doctors will monitor the situation.

The moral of this story is that it is a good idea to have a "live" person take your blood pressure occasionally. The machines at Lind's Pharmacy or Walgreen Drug can only tell you what your blood pressure is and what your heart rate is (pulse). Machines cannot discern a heart beat's pattern.

The next blood pressure check will be Sunday, February 28 after each service.



Stay Home When Sick!

Upcoming Rack Sale by Shantina Steele

Now is the time to take stock of our summer and winter wardrobes that include items no longer useful to us and decide what to donate to the Rack Sale. The Rack Sale this year will be held on Saturday February 27th. Keep your eye on our weekly bulletins and Epistles, we will be asking you to start bringing your donations to the undercroft a few weeks before the sale.



Men's, women's and children's apparel and shoes, purses, etc. will be welcomed and enjoyed by the larger community as they participate in and enjoy our annual sale!

Please be thinking about the volunteer work you would like to do in getting the tables in order prior to the sale, and after. As always, the workers look forward to lunches supplied by our wonderful "cheffettes." We will begin set-up on Monday, February 22nd at 9:00am starting with our gentlemen volunteers placing the tables in the undercroft. We will finish the task on Friday when our annual fashion show and private sale will be enjoyed by all! Any time you can donate will be a huge help. The Rack set-up provides a great opportunity for fellowship; this was one of the first events I helped out with here at St. Augustine's and I had such a good time getting to know everyone!

Thoughts For The New Year Submitted by Julie Bird

I Will Do More Than...

| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| Belong, | I will participate |
| Believe, | I will practice |
| Forgive, | I will forget |
| Teach, | I will listen |
| Be Fair, | I will be kind |
| Dream, | I will work |
| Earn, | I will enrich |
| Give, | I will serve |

That there might be peace on earth,
and good will to all.

Author Unknown

Adult Forums Schedule

by Ted Brookes



February

February is upon us and with it a steady diet of rainy, overcast, and windy days. To remedy this normal downturn in the weather we hope to introduce some illuminating and interesting presentations to brighten your Sunday forums during the month. First, we will have the second part of our All Parish meeting followed by a thought provoking "greening" lecture by our own Joel Connelly. In the final two weeks of February we will return to our series on "Exploring the Old Testament", and hear Dr. Amy-Jill Levine eloquently discuss Restoration and Theocracy in the Jewish State as well as Wisdom Literature.

February 7 - All Parish Meeting, Part II. This gathering will focus on distributing and reviewing the Annual Report for 2009. We will then turn our attention to examining and voting on the proposed Parish Budget for 2010. Fr. Nigel hosts.

February 14 - Global Warming at our Doorstep. Joel Connelly, who has written several greening editorials for the Seattle PI newspaper, will provide an eye-opening presentation on the effects of global warming on the Pacific Northwest. Specifically, he will talk about the visible impacts of climate change in our region and Alaska. He will cite the vast beetle kills in the forests from northern Wyoming to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, and the disappearance of familiar glaciers throughout the area. Ted Brookes hosts.

February 21 - Restoration and Theocracy. This lecture addresses the situation encountered by those Israelites who returned from exile in Babylon. We will examine the policies of Persian rule, disappointment in Jerusalem's condition, and the failed kingship of Zerubbabel. Our focus will also be on the power struggles between Aaronides and Levites, priest and prophets, and those who returned from exile and those who remained in the land. Two phenomena developed under these contentious conditions. They were the breakdown of classical prophecy and the increasing concern with assimilation. Ted Brookes presents.

February 28 - Wisdom Literature. From ancient time authors have tried to make sense of the world and their place in it. The biblical contributions to this "wisdom literature" range from the optimistic Song of Songs to the practical Proverbs to the pessimistic Ecclesiastes. The most famous, and the most controversial, example of biblical wisdom is the Book of Job. This book combines prose and poetry, resistance and resignation, and is complicated by a problematic textual tradition. It requires of the reader the "patience of Job" for understanding. This session has a brief introduction to wisdom literature. It is followed by an examination of the Book of Job through its characterizations of Job and God, and the text-critical problems that contribute to the book's complexity. Ted Brookes presents.

Holiday Bazaar Report

by Liz Kershaw

Many thanks to all who participated in making the Holiday Bazaar so successful: those who donated sale items, those who helped set up and take down, the sales people, and of course those who purchased the proffered items!

It was a joyous project, with a real sense of community. The proceeds topped \$1,600 which will be added to the ECW Kitchen fund.

We do good things together!



Getting Acquainted

by Nancy Langler

Olof Sander



Born in Goteborg, Sweden, Olof Sander has spent the majority of his life in the Pacific Northwest. He was educated at the Chalmers School of Technology in Goteborg. He was trained as a naval architect. Not wanting to settle down after graduating from college, he thought he would travel and eventually settle in either the northwest or southern France.

His sister had a scholarship to the University of Washington and not only received her degree but found a husband as well. Olof visited her here in 1965. He loved the area and hoped to move and find work here. In 1970 he applied for a visa to move to Seattle to find work. The embassy people just laughed. Boeing and the economy, in general, were not doing well at the time. Instead, he decided to go to Vancouver, BC as it was only a hop, skip and a jump away. He found work there and eventually moved to Victoria, where he worked for a boat building company. He loved it and would have stayed forever if the company had not gone under.

The economy in Seattle had picked up, so he moved south. He had several civil engineering jobs in the Seattle area. He was involved in several very interesting projects. He helped design floating devices. These were actually cement barges designed for operating production at sea. One such design was an oil rig.



He spent the last major part of his career with The Washington State Ferries where he was senior naval architect. (If you want to know anything about the ferries, ask Olof.) This meant that he was involved with every design feature, from the hulls to the toilets. Olof laughs when he says that you may think toilets are not important but ferries do not sail if the toilets are not running. He says engineering is an important part of the ferry system but we should think of the ferry system as an operating entity. The work that was done, while he was there, was mostly rehabbing older vessels. He did the designs for the Klahowya, the Tillicum, and the Evergreen State.

Olof was confirmed in the Lutheran church in Sweden. He speaks of the connections between the Anglican Church and the Swedish church. He has been received into the Episcopal Church. He had attended the Anglican Church in Canada but says that he really became a person of faith while attending St Margaret's in Bellevue. The rector, Wally Bristol, exuded a very strong faith and his sermons were so wonderful that Olof was brought to faith. When Bristol retired he became the Venerable Wally Bristol and joined the bishop's staff as a counsel to diocesan clergy.

Olof has three grown children. His eldest, Anna, lives in Oxford, England, where she is an archivist for Balliol College. She researches documents and has extensive knowledge of Medieval Latin, English and Handwriting. She writes wonderful blogs, keeping family and friends informed of her activities in Oxford. His second daughter, Ingrid, trained as a forester and worked in the Canadian woods where she had several bear encounters. She acquired a dog as bears hate dogs. She also carried "bear bangers" or fire crackers though her dad doesn't know if she ever used them. She has gone back to college to become a teacher and lives in Vancouver. His youngest, Nick, is 19 and goes to school in Shoreline. He hopes to become an engineer. He helps Olof with his computer.

Olof has owned a house on Goss Lake for several years but just moved here after retiring last spring. He says there is no place like Whidbey for retirement. At St. Augustine's, he works on the coffee crew.

He has always been concerned for peace. Now, that he has retired he has time to focus on this concern and has become an active member of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship.



In an Age of Political Demonization a Call for Civility in Politics.

Essay by Olof Sander

We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Recently two members of Congress – one a Democrat, the other a Republican – came together to make a heartfelt plea: that civility be restored to the public discourse, and that it begin with Congress itself. Their stated concern was that Congress set the example for the entire country. If members of Congress could not be respectful toward one another how could anyone expect that everyday interaction in the ordinary, every-day world to be civil.

The issue raised by the Congressmen, of incivility in both politics and society, has impacted me personally. The bipartisan plea of the two Congressmen has also given me hope. Let me explain.

A few weeks ago I went to a community lunch in Langley, and sat down at a table with some people I had not met before. Soon I realized that they were talking politics, a subject I wasn't particularly interested in, but I was too settled in to go elsewhere, so I stayed. This was a big mistake. They talked in general about all the bad things they perceived happening during the present administration, and ended up repeating, several times, like a mantra, a phrase that I had never heard before, and didn't quite understand.

The people left and I went home and I didn't think much about the lunch conversation, but after a few days I realized that I was in a state of depression; I tried to figure out what had caused it. Then it came to me: the mantra that my table mates had repeated to each other, "This country cannot survive four years of Obama!" This phrase disturbed me because it was a way to demonize President Obama. I may be over-reacting or misinterpreting, but this demonization makes me fear for President Obama's safety. Instead of discussing issues and policies the thrust of the conversation was to attack and put down.

What I had stumbled onto unwittingly and, I guess naively, is a characteristic of the present political dia-

log, an increasingly uncivil and sometimes hateful way of looking at our counterparts. This has become all too frequent in contemporary political discourse. This type of hateful vicious political talk from both the left and right has denied the American public of an open and informative discussion of policy issues.

An additional reason for concern is that, with America's first African-American president, some of the most hurtful comments contain a tone of an underlying racism. There was an article in the December 5, 2009 issue of the New York Times by Charles M. Blow with the title "Black in the Age of Obama." The author describes how expressions of hate and racism have increased lately in what he calls "an Obama Backlash." Not a very encouraging article. This lack of civil dialog I experienced greatly disturbed me and I sought support. I mentioned my experience to a few people at church, and got strong emotional support. All is not lost and the forces of light are working to counteract this development. Studying this issue in more depth, I found the following resources very hopeful.

An editorial in the December 2009 issue of Sojourner Magazine has helpful analysis and advice. Written by Jim Wallis, the essay is titled "The Urgency of Civility." The author suggests that the faith community could take the lead in trying to create a more civil dialog. "Come let us reason together," says the prophet Isaiah. Our Baptismal vows remind us that we are "to respect the dignity of every human being." Respect includes listening to different opinions and responding in respectful manner - even in criticism. Wallis states, "Perhaps the faith community could lead by example in a country where civil discourse seems to have broken down - by showing a 'better way' in how we treat each other in our faith communities, even across religious and political lines. Congregations might even become safe spaces for such discourse to be repaired and even help fill a need for genuinely civil forums." I believe St. Augustine's to be such a congregation.

Another helpful source for me is Marshall Rosenberg. His book "Nonviolent Communication, A Language of Life" provides a model for how to interact with other people to avoid the type of conflict which leads to uncivil and threatening language. A community workshop on Rosenberg's concepts of nonviolent communication will be held March 5 and 6 at the Freeland Unitarian Universalist Church. The St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship is a

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

cosponsor of this workshop. I encourage people who share my concerns to attend this event.

All this has given me a much more positive outlook, I no longer feel alone and helpless. We can do something!

Several parishioners have asked Gail Corell for this recipe so she has asked that it be published here.

Gail's English Sausage Rolls.

1 packet of Pepperidge Farms frozen puff pastry sheets.

3 16oz Jimmy Dean's sausage meat.

1 egg, beaten

Splash of Worcestershire sauce

- 1) Roll out one of the puff pastry sheets on a floured surface until it is 14"x10" or thereabouts.
- 2) Cut along the indentation lines to make three rectangles 14"x3"
- 3) Join one and a half of the sausage meat packages together. Divide into thirds.
- 4) On a floured surface separate from your previous one, roll out using your hands, one third of the sausage meat until it is the same length of the pastry.
- 5) Place in the center of the puff pastry. Brush edges of pastry with the beaten egg and fold the pastry over to the other edge.
- 6) With a fork, prick all along the top of the sausage roll and place on greased baking sheet so that the seam is underneath.
- 7) Add a splash or two of Worcestershire sauce into the beaten egg and mix. Lightly brush egg onto top of the sausage roll.
- 8) Repeat with the remaining pastry rectangles.
- 9) Bake 425 degrees for 25-30 mins. Until golden brown.
- 10) Let cool for 5 mins. Slice into finger size rolls and serve.

Uncooked sausage rolls can be frozen and cooked when needed. Just don't glaze them with the egg.

Just place in a Ziploc bag or Tupperware container with greaseproof paper between the layers of rolls. Can be cooked from frozen, just add a little bit more time.

- 1 = Karen Davenport's Birthday
- 3 = ECW Meeting at 11AM in the Undercroft
- 7 = ANNUAL PARISH MEETING part II
Rob Scott's Birthday
- 8 = Blenda Bjerke's Birthday
- 10 = Diane Schwarzmann's Birthday
Barbara Moss' Birthday
- 11 = Dennis & Diana Durden's Anniversary
- 13 = Bob McConnaughey's Birthday
- 14 = Laura Colton's Birthday
- 17 = ASH WEDNESDAY
Norman LaVine's Birthday
- 18 = Marv & Sue Idso's Anniversary
- 22 = Carol & Jay Ryan's Anniversary
Lance Lidral's Birthday
Annie Deacon's Birthday
- 24 = Wendy & David Close's Anniversary
Brian Reid's Birthday
- 26 = Homer Davenport's Birthday
- 27 = THE RACK SALE
CHOIR DAY
Loretta Martin's Birthday
- 28 = Mary Lidral's Birthday
Mary McMurtry's Birthday

Kids' Page

Due to space restrictions the Kids' Page does not appear in this issue of The Light.

The Kids' Page will return in March.

Stewardship for Today

Submitted by Fletcher Davis

A Financial Downturn Can Be a Spiritual Upturn
(This is the last in a series, Seven Spiritual Practices:
A Faithful Stewards Guide)

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
(Colossians 2:6-7)

What does it mean to be rooted in Christ? Imagine a house plant with each leaf and flower receiving the nourishment it needs through the root system, up the stalk, and out to the very tips of the plant. So, too, every part of our lives can be nourished by Christ; bringing peace and calm in the midst of anxiety, wisdom to handle financial and other pressures, and comfort in times of burden, grief, and sorrow. And then, with an almost throw-away line, Paul adds that we are to be “abounding in thanksgiving.” We return to where we started these reflections combating a culture that does not encourage thankfulness, indeed, which spends billions of dollars every year to encourage discontentment. Recessions are difficult times, and there is pain and hardship for many, but we can find nourishment and contentment by trusting God’s faithfulness. With God’s leading, we can come out stronger, as individuals and as a society.

Pause for Reflection: How might tough times bring you closer to God? Spend some time in prayer, turning your thoughts to God. In what areas of your life do you need God’s nourishment?

Final Action: Look back over these seven practices. Make a note of what you have decided to do differently. Set aside time each day in prayer to be led to wise choices and right actions.

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Library Update

by Shantina Steele

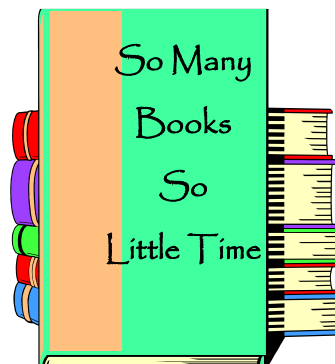
The Library Committee, Margaret Schultz and Shantina Steele, would like to thank you all for your patience as we continue to inventory the books in our library. We hope to have this completed by the end of February, which we realize is quite a bit later than we had originally envisioned when we said the library would be closed for the month of November. This means that in order for us to thoroughly inventory all the items in our library we must ask that the library remain closed for now.

We are organizing as well so please do not remove any items from the shelves. However, the good news is this speaks to the size and depth of this treasure. As Margaret and I continue to organize and inventory we continually find ourselves happily surprised by the books we find. This process will help us all to better utilize this wonderful resource.

Upon completion of the inventory process not only will we know the value of our library for insurance purposes, all the books will be organized in MS Excel so that any one of you will be able to find books by author, title, or subject in one quick search on the computer, or either one of us will be happy to do this for you.

This would not be possible without the donation of funds from Bill Carruthers and Nancy Ruff for the purchase of this computer, a big thanks to you both!

We also would like to take this opportunity to thank Judy Yeakel and Dick Hall for their recent book donations. Donations keep this resource alive, continually growing and serving us all in our endeavors to deepen our faith and our understanding of God in our lives.



Whidbey Community Martin Luther King Event held at St. Augustine

On Martin Luther King Day a gathering of the Whidbey Island community once again nearly filled St. Augustine's to celebrate and commemorate the Christian nonviolent, activist witness and leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the thousands of students, sharecroppers and preachers who were active participants. This movement led to greater social, economic and political inclusion in America. The St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF), who sponsored and planned the service, also fed approximately 95 individuals in the undercroft prior to the service.

Music was an major part of the service. Karl Olsen of Trinity Lutheran (Freeland) led the gathering in singing gospel music. Among the songs were "What Can One Little Person Do," "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?," and "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize." A trio of Trinity Lutheran youth choir also sang a gospel song. The St. Augustine's Choristers sang "Standing in the Need of Prayer" and "This Little Light of Mine." The Choristers also sang short verses of "Hey, Hey is Anybody Listening" between readings.



The main focus or theme of the Martin Luther King commemoration was the "Letter From the Birmingham Jail." A descriptive narrative accompanied excerpts from the letter read by EPF members and St. Augustine youth from the pews and choir loft.

The homily or witness was given by Cleveland Riley. From his rural Louisiana upbringing and family experiences Cleveland shared the humiliation and pain of segregation and racism. He told of relatives traveling long distances without the expectation staying in a motel or eating in a restaurant. A black person could never be assured he would be accepted at motels or restaurants in states where "white" and "colored" signs reflected the rule of law. The car trunk for a lengthy trip contained ice chests packed with food, and the family drove without stops for food or lodging. Cleveland also recalled, exhibiting considerable emotion, the hated but necessary social customs of stepping to the side or even off a sidewalk when a white person approached, or calling every white person Mr. or Mrs. while adult African Americans were called boy or girl.



Cleveland continued his witness by praising the changes brought about by Dr. King and the Movement. As a contemporary link with the Movement, he shared the importance of and personal joy experienced in traveling at short notice to Seattle to hear John Lewis speak. Lewis, now a Georgia Congressman, was a student leader during the Movement. Lewis was the SNCC leader who spoke from the same podium as Dr. King at the March On Washington.

Despite the dramatic changes exhibited in the election to the Presidency of Barack Obama, Cleveland challenged the gathering with the question, "Has racism disappeared? It has not." Cleveland went on to describe the costs of segregation and racism to all Americans - white and black. The costs he listed are inferior education and the results traced to poverty - among which are lack of adequate healthcare, obesity, single parent homes and homelessness. Cleveland asserted that America has more serious social and economic problems than other developed countries. This remains the long term cost of our racism.

A mandate was laid down by Cleveland to continue the struggle led by Dr. King and a host of witnesses. He closed by referring to the prophet Amos and the call to "let justice flow like water, and integrity like an unending stream."

The service concluded with a reading of a portion of the "I Have A Dream" speech. The gathering then clasped hands and sang "We Shall Overcome."



FEBRUARY

Read all about it inside!

| | |
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The deadline for submissions for The Light is the 15th of the month before publication.

Please e-mail submissions to Shantina Steele at shantinam@hotmail.com
and send another copy to staug@whidbey.com

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