
The Messenger

All Saints Episcopal Church, East Lansing, MI

January 2009

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Meet your Vestry candidates	3-5
Prayer: Three special ways	6
Adult education opportunities	7
Collection to benefit Haitian children	7
Parish Life	8-9
Mini-workshop on writing	9
Presiding bishop visits chaplaincies	10
Your parish calendar for January	11



Facing the future, stepping out in faith

By **KIT CARLSON**, All Saints Rector

As I think about this season after Epiphany, what comes to mind is stepping . . . stepping out, stepping off, stepping in.

I think of the Magi stepping off into the West with only a vision to inspire them and a star to lead them, stepping out into the unknown to seek for a child.

I think of Jesus at his baptism, stepping into the waters of the Jordan River, bent below the hand of the Baptist, stepping into his ministry, taking that first step on the journey to Jerusalem and the cross.

I think of the brand-new disciples, Peter and Andrew and James and John, stepping out of their beached boats to follow this man Jesus.

Not one of the people in the lessons we will hear this month had a business plan, or an itinerary, or a curriculum, or anything to

guide them. They had something more, a call from God, something that tugged at them and worked on them and gave them the courage to do something new, to take a strange journey, to begin the work they believed God was calling them to do.

This is a challenging time for our nation, for our state, and for our immediate community. The economic climate is as grim as the weather outside, and we are liable to have to walk through this difficult time for a while yet. It is tempting, as we tighten our belts and try to live more cautiously, to let fear rule our actions. It is tempting to look inward, hunker down, stay safe, avoid risks, be careful.

But the Gospel calls us to step out, step off, step in. To engage in the world around us, to be a beacon of light to our community and a support to one another. To stand on

(Continued on next page)

STEPPING OUT

(Continued from previous page)

faith when we would rather wrap ourselves in fear.

Your vestry made a difficult decision last month when it passed a budget for 2009. It decided to hold our parish spending at 2008 levels. Except for mandated increases in health care costs, most of the expenses of running this parish -- including staff salaries -- remain the same as they were in 2008.

Even so, the budget needs some assistance from resources other than pledges to cover all our expenses.

Previously, we would have used income from the Operating Endowment Fund. But that fund is invested, and with the market in its current condition, there is no income to use this year.

The vestry, stepping out in faith, decided to authorize the use -- if necessary -- of some funds from the All Saints Endowment. This fund is not intended to be used for operating expenses, but it does have a provision that allows the vestry to borrow from the fund.

The vestry authorized a limited "line of credit" from the Endowment Fund, to be tapped in 2009, *if it becomes necessary*. There is the possibility that by controlling spending, and if more income comes in through increased pledges, that the vestry may not have to tap the fund at all.

But this decision raises the question . . . what do we value in our life together? What do we believe God has put us here for, as All Saints Episcopal Church?

What this budget says is that we value what we have . . . our outreach, our education

programs, our worship, our staff which executes so much of our daily life and ministry. It says we want to continue to maintain our building, which was recently renovated at great expense -- a building which does a load of outreach itself, housing one or more 12-Step groups every night, and providing a community home for the Potter's Guild, Lattice Basket Sale, Abbott Nursery School, and countless small groups that meet in our space.

That is a step of faith to start with. I believe we will be called to take more of them in the years ahead. We will be confronted with some hard decisions while the economy stabilizes and Michigan re-invents itself.

In all things, I believe God challenges us to keep looking up and out. I believe God calls us to care for our neighbors, and that we are never so much The Church as when we give ourselves away to others.

We have been given so much . . . this church, its building, its children, its elders, its wise and careful leaders, its music, its caring and generous members.

We are called to be good stewards of our gifts. But always, always, we must remember that God gives us those gifts, not to hoard or to hide, but to share.

Think about how we might be called to step out in faith in the months ahead. Where do you see the hurt? Where do you see our gifts meeting those needs? Let me know your thoughts.

In Christ's enduring and unending love,
- Kit

ALL SAINTS OUTREACH

Thanks for the Thanksgiving baskets

By **MONICA STAFFORD**

One of my favorite sayings is: "When you help someone up a hill, you're that much nearer the top yourself."

And help someone we did! All Saints parishioners helped feed 110 people in 32 families for Thanksgiving. The year also was just outstanding for the number of parishioners who adopted families. All Saints members adopted 18 families, which means they purchased all the food for a basket and also delivered it. And an outpouring of people donated goods while others delivered the assembled baskets.

I hope that each of you who delivered baskets enjoyed that experience as much as Neil and I did. Seeing the smiles on the children's faces and the excitement is worth more than words can express.

To all of you at All Saints, thank you for making this project such a heartwarming experience.

Celebrate All Saints: Annual meeting to be held Jan. 25

Join us for a celebration of our life together in 2008 as we hold our annual parish meeting, in the undercroft following the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Jan. 25.

This will be a chance to remember and rejoice in notable events of the previous year, as we elect new vestry members and diocesan delegates.

Standing for Vestry are: Louis Burgess, Gina Mazzolini, Pam Miklavcic, Bill Murphy and Tim Voglesang. Also running for a second term as diocesan delegates are: Susan Doherty, Shannon Fineout and Will Maples.

Following are biographical sketches of the Vestry candidates.

Louis Burgess, Vestry candidate

My family has worshiped with the All Saints worship community since we arrived in the Lansing area from Germany in 1994.

Our first Sunday service was a long-time rector's last Sunday with All Saints. Despite the loss of a strong leader, the congregation never missed a beat.

Even as the church was guided by an interim rector for a year or so, we found a consistency and openness within the congregation that provided us spiritual support and a welcome place for our family.

The ability to change and yet be a consistent faith based place of worship has always been important to my family.

I spent three years on the Vestry for EMMSU, so I understand the need to provide a role in guiding our church as an

organization. As a lifelong Episcopalian, I deeply appreciate the role a strong church and personal faith makes in our daily lives.

And now, with both our children away at college, I have more time to devote to our church.

What motivates me as a member of All Saints is the openness of the worship community.

I feel that it allows us to participate as we feel moved. I am motivated by the weekly respite the Sunday service provides in our lives.

I would like to support our rector and to continue to attract new members and new families to our church. For the next three to five years, I would like to see us continue this journey of striving to follow Jesus Christ.

Gina Mazzolini, Vestry candidate

I am interested in becoming a member of the Vestry at All Saints. I began attending All Saints in early 2001 and immediately felt comfortable with the parish and decided I wanted this to be my place of worship. I applaud and appreciate the theology, focus on service to others, the educational opportunities and outreach activities. The fact that All Saints reaches out to people through more than one worship style (Rite I, Rite II and Canterbury) is impressive for a small faith community.

I have had the opportunity to serve on many committees and boards within my professional career so I understand the role and function of a vestry member.

In addition, I have been an usher/greeter and a member of the Welcome Committee at All Saints. These positions allowed me to interact with the parishioners, work behind the scenes for the common good and view the multifaceted operations of a healthy church. Lastly, I agreed to pursue a position on the vestry, in part, to give back to a parish that has given so much to me personally and spiritually.

One of the wonderful benefits I look forward to every Sunday is the sermon.

Each sermon is thought provoking, uplifting and meaningful and suggests a course of action to follow to help make a difference. All Saints is a close-knit, inclusive community that cares about each individual human being and is continually implementing activities, events and programs which enhance and reinforce that reputation.

Given the vision of the current leadership and the mission of the church, I see All Saints growing in both the number of parishioners and program opportunities. The time is now for individuals to step up and assist those in need; I see our church taking the lead role in increasing community involvement, activism, education and religious teaching. I would love to be a part of such an important and Christian thing to do.

Pam Miklavcic, Vestry candidate

Pam Miklavcic has been a parishioner at All Saints since the early 1990s, when she came to the Lansing area to do her master's and doctorate in agricultural economics. Her specialization was in agricultural policy and international development. Pam was raised in Massachusetts, where she graduated from Mount Holyoke College. She then served as a Freshwater Inland Fisheries Extension agent for the U.S. Peace Corps and a project manager for Catholic Relief Services—both in West Africa.

At present, she is an independent contractor, working with the Sustainable Michigan Endowed Project at MSU, a Kellogg-sponsored initiative working to envision a more sustainable trajectory for Michigan's future.

She is also on the advisory board for the MSU Children's Health Initiative, a campaign geared toward creating a comprehensive, outpatient, children's health care facility in the greater Lansing area, where coordinated care will be accessible to all children who need it, eliminating the need for long distance travel for sub-specialty services.

Pam was raised in the Episcopal Church and has enjoyed becoming increasingly involved at All Saints. She taught Worship Center, then Sunday school, from 1999 to 2007 and served on the most recent Rector Search Committee. She helped establish All

Saints as an active member parish in Action of Greater Lansing, an interfaith network that addresses justice ministry issues in the area. She has served as a board member for Canterbury MSU and, most recently, traveled to Mirebalais, Haiti, with others from All Saints, to carry out mission work in that community. She will return in March to lead non-medical efforts at the St. Blasé Orphanage.

Pam is committed to justice and poverty alleviation issues, both domestically and abroad. To her, this is the truest calling of the Christian faith, and this is her passion.

Pam foresees an ever stronger Outreach program at All Saints, both locally and beyond. She also envisions a long-term commitment to the community of Mirebalais through the Haiti Outreach Mission, despite our nation's economic decline.

One of her favorite sayings comes from Ghana: "If you set out to do something good, somebody will come along and give you a push."

Pam has a special place in her heart for All Saints. Having no relatives in the area, the parishioners of All Saints have become like family. They were especially helpful during her oldest son's battle with leukemia that began nine years ago this month. Pam is married to Milan, a math professor at MSU. They have four children: Peter, 12; Will, 10; Marija, 8; and Claudia, 4.

Bill Murphy, Vestry candidate

My family and I choose All Saints as our worship community now for the same reasons that Susan and I started attending back in 1993. The key word is "community."

We felt that we were accepted and that we belonged in this extended parish family from the very beginning. For the last 12 years, our daughter, Helen, has been treated as a cherished and respected parish family member as well. This is her home away from home and she and we have benefited greatly from all that All Saints offers.

We can't imagine not belonging to and being active in this caring and sharing community.

My background for Vestry service includes a prior stint on the Vestry from 1997 to 2000. During that time, I was junior warden for buildings and grounds for two years and senior warden the third year.

I have 15 years of management experience in state government. After leaving the cubicles of bureaucracy, I've done environmental consulting work for various contractors and under my own company name. My degree is in business, though I have utilized my science minor more in my life's work. My professional life has also hardened me to the realities of making and managing budgets and attending meetings. Writing has taught me how to sit still for extended periods and to focus; life skills which had failed me during much of my life.

Organizations work only to the degree that their members devote themselves to the cause. My

(Continued on next page)

All Saints Messenger p 4

Bill Murphy (Continued from previous page)

family and I have received much by being members of All Saints. Paying back is something that is expected, but beyond that expectation, giving back is something that I want to do. I want to help make All Saints an even better place in which to worship and learn. As a Christian, I believe that it is my duty to act like one. I want people to be able to declare that I do as I say, act as I believe. I want to be a good example to others, and to silently, if not loudly, evangelize by my actions.

Because of expected continuing economic difficulties I believe that a major challenge will be to ensure that our parish can continue to offer the same level of services it has in the past. Working to increase the number of worshippers is always a high priority. However, in the next three years, stewardship may be the most important task of the vestry; ensuring that the money, talents and time of our members is used in the most effective and responsible manner possible, and that programs for our youth, education programs and outreach efforts can be expanded to an even greater degree regardless of the economic conditions outside church.

Tim Vogelsang, Vestry candidate

My wife, Ann, our daughters, Hannah, 10, and Sophie, 8, and I moved to Haslett in the summer of 2006. The economics department at Michigan State made me an offer I couldn't refuse. From 1993 to 2006 we had lived in Ithaca, N.Y., where I was a professor in the economics department at Cornell University, and Ann worked as a certified public accountant until Hannah was born. The move to Michigan has exceeded our expectations in nearly all dimensions except grocery shopping – there aren't any Wegman's in Michigan.

We feel very fortunate that we have found All Saints. For me, All Saints is the first faith community I have found since college (I was active in the Tech Catholic Community as an undergrad at MIT) that makes me look forward to being in church each Sunday. The carrot works much better than the stick, at least for me.

As a professor of economics, my area of research is econometrics, which is the statistical analysis of economic data. So, I know quite a lot about mathematical statistics and probability. I've taught econometrics at the undergraduate and graduate level as well as international economics at the undergraduate level.

Don't ask me where the economy is headed because I know enough economics to know I don't know the answer. In general, economists are good at explaining why things happened; they aren't so good at predicting the future.

I agreed to be considered for the Vestry because I think that All Saints is a surprisingly healthy faith community, and it will only stay that way if those who value All Saints do their part to maintain and improve the parish. Fortunately, All Saints has no shortage of people willing to do the work and that makes it easier for me to say yes to the prospects of being on the Vestry.

At this point I don't really have a vision for the near run future of the parish, but I highly value the Sunday liturgies and I would like to see them continue to flourish. I've enjoyed being a lay Eucharistic minister and reader and I am amazed and impressed by the number of parish members who help with the liturgies. For me, the liturgies are the most important function of the parish. Without them, the rest disappears.

New weekday Eucharist with healing rite to be added

In addition to the 7 a.m. Thursday Eucharist offered each week, we are adding a 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Eucharist in the Chapel. This brief service will focus on healing, including the Litany for Healing and the laying on of hands with healing prayers. Take a break on the way home from work or during the Cherub Choir practice. Worship and pray for healing for yourself or another.

What's new in Sheila's Corner?

If your child is in first through fifth grade and you would like her or him to have a greater understanding of the Eucharist, we will have a class at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 21. It is for both the parents and children. If you would like to attend, please sign up with Sheila Wiitala.

It is time to start thinking about summer. The Vacation Bible School planning team will meet on Jan. 26. To help plan this exciting week, email Sheila at allsaintssheila@hotmail.com.

We will have a Middle School Event on Jan. 31. If other groups join us, we will have a luau. If not, we will go bowling or some other event.

Held in prayer: Three ways to lift concerns

By **KIT CARLSON**, All Saints Rector

Times of deep sorrow, great joy and profound thankfulness move us to turn to God in prayer. Regularly coming together in prayer nourishes our relationship with God and each other. When you wish prayer for yourself or someone you care about, please know there are three different ways to lift your concerns to God in the context of our faith community.

Probably most familiar are the *Prayers of the People* during Holy Eucharist. In our Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, each form of the Prayers of the People invites us to name those we know who are ill or in need, give thanks for a blessing and pray for the departed.

The names spoken by prayer leaders are those of people in our parish who have asked us all to hold them in prayer. The names on the Sunday prayer list are also remembered when the service of Noonday Prayer is said in the Tuesday Bible Study.

The *Prayer Ministry Team* offers prayer in the quiet intimacy of the Chapel. Following the 10 o'clock Sunday service, Prayer Ministers are available to pray with and for anyone who wishes.

Go to the Chapel of the Good Shepherd after the Dismissal is given. The Prayer Bowl at the back of the nave is a vessel in

which to place cards with written requests. Each week, Prayer Ministers offer intercessory prayer and immediately destroy the cards, honoring the confidentiality of the request.

The Prayer Ministry is most appropriate for one-time concerns, immediate need or private prayer with another.

If you have a friend or family member or if you desire a bit more privacy, the *Prayer Chain* is available. This is a small group of faithful people who commit to holding persons on this list in their daily prayers from home. The names number 20 to 30 at any given time. It is just the place to request intercessory prayer for someone not known to the parish, because it is possible to communicate the circumstance and special intention to our pray-ers.

If you want to know more about the ministries of prayer at All Saints, we welcome you to learn and be a part of them! Marjie Koons tends to the Prayer Ministry Team, and Martha Lynch tends to the Prayer List and Prayer Chain.

You may also add a name to either the Sunday list or the Prayer Chain by filling out a prayer request form, located on the table in the narthex (at the back of the church), or contact the parish office.

Epiphany layette collection scheduled for Jan. 6

By **MARTHA LYNCH**

On Tuesday, Jan. 6, we gather for the Feast of the Epiphany.

We celebrate the arrival of the Magi bearing gifts for the newborn Jesus, and we are reminded of our call to carry the Light of Christ into our hurting world.

On that Holy Night, each of us has a small opportunity to bear the Light of Christ, as we continue our long-held tradition of collecting infant layette items.

Please bring new baby blankets, crib sheets, diapers, onesies or baby clothes - homemade or purchased - all are welcome! During the service, our gifts will be offered to the glory of God.

Later, they will be taken to the Infant Needs Bank at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Lansing. Part of the Christian Services network of churches, this is a place where parents with little means may come and receive basic supplies they need to care for their babies.

When one of us responds to the need of another in this way, the glory of the Lord shines forth in the world!

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

- Collect for the Feast of the Epiphany, Book of Common Prayer

Take a January journey in adult education

This month, the Sunday adult forum will focus on the upcoming mission trip to Haiti. As part of our regular coffee hours after the 10 a.m. service, in the undercroft, we will be gathering supplies for the trip, and we'll be sharing information about Haiti and the Haiti Outreach Mission's work in Mirebalais. Grab a cup of coffee and take the opportunity to learn more about this neighboring nation, so close to the U.S. in distance and still so far away in security, stability and prosperity.

Coming in February in the Adult Forum time slot: Howard Anderson will lead a course on the book of Genesis.

Wednesday evenings – Potluck supper and a class

“Countering Pharaoh Today” with noted Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann. This five-part video series draws on the imaginative power of Old Testament narratives of freedom and release to help us see how to counter all the forces in our world today that hold us in bondage.

Brueggemann names the temptation to cling to the status quo and shows how Scripture challenges us to follow God into a new future and new freedom.

The series comes with a warning: THIS PROGRAM MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR CHURCH, SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE, AND IT COULD POTENTIALLY HELP RESTORE THE MEANING OF COVENANT. Join us for supper at 6 p.m. each Wednesday, Jan. 7 through Feb. 4, followed by an hour, 6:30 to 7:30, with the incredible Walter Brueggemann.

Living with Cancer – A spiritual journey

For anyone currently battling cancer, in remission, cured, or who is caring for someone with cancer, you know that the cancer journey is a challenging and spiritual one.

Pastor Kit would like to learn whether there is interest in a Living with Cancer pastoral and spiritual support group. If you are on the cancer journey, at whatever stage, please join us in the library, Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m., for an exploratory meeting.

Ingathering collection will benefit children of Haiti

By **PAM MIKLAVIC**

In mid-March, eight parishioners from All Saints will accompany the Haiti Outreach Mission to Mirebalais, Haiti. The group includes Pastor Kit Carlson, Andrew Carlson-Lynch, Colleen Hegg, Wendy Hedeem, Dick Johnson, Gina Mazzolini, Monica Stafford and myself. Colleen's mom, Marlene Cosgrove, will be joining us, as will Pastor Carol Mader of Mason and a Maryland friend of Andrew.

While some participate in the medical aspects of the mission, others will work on improvements at the St. Blasé Orphanage. During our visit last May, we became aware of significant needs.

Under the guidance of Marlene, a master gardener, we will work with the staff and residents to improve the garden behind the orphanage.

We will also deliver two solar ovens, develop a compost pile, paint murals inside the orphanage, construct a fence around the garden, deliver and hang artwork for the bedroom walls, improve the side yard where the children play, provide vacation Bible school types of activities for the children and deliver school, art and playground supplies.

In preparation for our trip, we will collect various items throughout the month of January. Please consider donating:

New twin sheet sets; new towels; easily transportable art work for the orphanage walls; playground equipment, such as soccer balls, Frisbees and jump ropes; school and art supplies, such as pencils, pens, crayons, markers, glue sticks, construction paper and maps; toothbrushes, toothpaste and bars of soap.

Everything you donate will be hand-delivered to the orphanage via our checked bags. The orphanage housed 30 children at the time of our last visit. For various reasons, including the hurricanes that ravaged the island, the number has ballooned to 60.

The children at St. Blasé need our help. This is *your* chance to make a difference. We'll be your eyes and ears during our time in Haiti, and promise to report back on everything we were able to accomplish through your generous donations.

Parish Life January Events

Welcome to 2009. This year marks the 250th anniversary of **Robert Burns**'s birth, the 800th anniversary of Cambridge University, the 200th anniversaries of President **Abraham Lincoln**'s and **Charles Darwin**'s births, and the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Queensboro Bridge, linking Manhattan and Queens.

Equally important for our community, it is the 70th anniversary of All Saints' first physical building; in 1939, the vestry of St. Paul's purchased and remodeled a house at 445 Abbott Road to serve the spiritual needs of Episcopal students at MSU.

To create a link to this historical event, we in Parish Life encourage everyone to make the most of our physical buildings this year as we seek spiritual renewal through fellowship and activities. Together we can make 2009 full of fun and meaningful gatherings at All Saints.

Unfortunately, because the new year begins in January -- an especially cold time in Michigan -- it often doesn't feel particularly welcoming. Parish Life has plans to remedy this.

To keep you warm, cozy and active in January (and beyond), we have arranged several events to bring the parish family together; as always, the term family extends to friends and strangers to the parish. Everyone is welcome!

See the list below for the currently scheduled events and keep an eye on the bulletin's announcements for more spontaneous gatherings.

Upcoming Events, January and Beyond

Second-Sunday Breakfast, 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 11.

Is the cold keeping you away from friends? Join your All Saints friends for a hot breakfast between the 8 and 10 a.m. services. Good food and conversation are guaranteed to lighten your day in the midst of the winter darkness.

Three dollars brings you eggs and sausages, a croissant or Danish and juice - all prepared by **Dan Chegwidde**n and his talented crew.



January Coffeehouse, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Jan 23, in the undercroft.

Although **Pastor Kit** has decided that we cannot start an actual fire to bring light and warmth to the undercroft, good friends, hurricane lamps, and warm beverages ignite the church in a warm glow whenever a coffeehouse is held.

Join your All Saints' family for an evening of singing, acting, and readings; all themes are welcome. The coffeehouse is free and children are welcome; they're not even required to sit still.

Coffee and popcorn are provided; snacks and other beverages may be brought to share. Lots of good food is the norm. We would love to have you join us.



Epiphany Service and Degreening of the Church, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 6.

Bid farewell to the Christmas season at All Saints by degreening the church. The evening begins with a potluck dinner at 6 (including Three Kings cake and special children's activities),

followed by the Epiphany Eucharist at 7, and the degreening at 8. Note that degreening will take about a half hour; it is much faster than greening it.



The annual progressive dinner, sometime in January or February.

Great company and great food have made this event an All Saints' favorite for years, and we hope to see a large signup in 2009. The dinner is the ideal way to gather with friends old and new. Watch for details in the coming weeks.



Wharton Outing, 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15.

Looking for an opportunity to perk up the too quiet days of winter? "*RAIN: The Beatles Experience*" is coming to Michigan State and All Saints has purchased a block of tickets. Experience what Beatlemania was all about - from Ed Sullivan to Abbey Road! The performers look and sound like the Beatles. All the music and vocals are performed totally live. "*RAIN*" covers the Fab Four from their beginnings through the psychedelic late '60s and their long-haired hippie, hard-rocking rooftop days. The multimedia, multidimensional experience fuses historical footage and hilarious television commercials from the 1960s. Come join us for what the *Denver Post* calls, "the next best thing to seeing the Beatles" and the *Washington Post*, "an adoring Valentine to the Beatles." Such favorites as "Let It Be," "Hey Jude," "My Guitar Gently Weeps," "Come Together" and "Can't Buy Me Love" will be among the extensive repertoire. The main floor seating ticket price is \$43 and checks can be made payable to All Saints Episcopal Church. Tickets are available from Steve Findley, who can be reached at 517-853-6046 or Steve@findley.org.

Interested in assisting with Parish Life? Please call Matt Helm at (517) 337-0758.

Writers group to host mini-workshop Jan. 18

A mini-workshop on creative non-fiction will be held 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, in the All Saints undercroft. It is free and open to anyone. It will be hosted by the East Lansing Writers Forum, which is now in its third year under the direction of Vic Rauch and Ellen DeRosia.

Workshop leader Virginia Law Burns is a former East Lansing resident now living in Laingsburg. She has written a number of books, including "Bold Women in Michigan History," and she has been a columnist for the Lansing State Journal.

Except for the workshop day, the Writers Forum meets 2 to 4 p.m. every Sunday in the All Saints library. The group started in May 2006. It is modeled after writers sessions Vic and Ellen experienced in Okemos and in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

A typical session may include poems, memoirs, essays, scripts, short stories, opinion pieces, journal entries, short movies and a developing documentary. About 50 people have participated in two or more sessions of the Writers Forum over the last two and a half years. A core group of 15 attends on a regular or occasional basis.

If interested in attending the workshop, or for more information, contact Vic or Ellen at vrjrmk@aol.com or 351-9908.

Presiding bishop visits military chaplaincies

By LUCY CHUMBLY

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori recently concluded a three-day visit to military chaplaincies in the Washington, D.C., area with a trip to the Pentagon.

Jefferts Schori arrived at Bolling Air Force Base on Dec. 20, and spent the following day there, preaching at the 8:15 a.m. service and learning about post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from the Rev. Michael McEwen, an Episcopal Army chaplain. Touring the Walter Reed Army Medical Center on Dec. 22, the presiding bishop spoke with soldiers who had lost limbs in service and met with the families of those suffering from traumatic brain injuries.

"It's been very, very good," Jefferts Schori said as she traversed the Pentagon's corridors with the Rt. Rev. George Packard, the Episcopal Church's bishop suffragan for chaplaincies; the Rev. Gerry Blackburn, director for federal chaplaincies; and members of the Pentagon's Episcopal community. "We had long discussions with the chaplains about the work they do."

But this day she was quiet, thoughtful.

Some somber moments

Putting on sunglasses and turning up her collar, she stepped outside into the bright, cold morning to visit the memorial to the victims of the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon.

She crunched along the gravel that surrounds the 184 memorial units -- marble benches with water flowing beneath -- and stopped next to one. Putting one arm across Packard's shoulders and the other across Blackburn's, she said a quiet prayer, accompanied by the sound of flowing water and jets taking off from nearby Ronald Reagan National Airport.

"Father Blackburn and I worked at Ground Zero in New York," Packard said. "So to cross the threshold (of the memorial) just after 9:37 a.m. was really something for us.

"It's a very powerful memorial."

There are 360 military installations in the United States and overseas, Blackburn said,

and 106 Episcopal chaplaincies, including some on Navy ships.

Blackburn and Packard prepare twice-monthly reports for the presiding bishop on the work of these chaplains.

'A personal interest'

"She's very much aware of what we do," Blackburn said, adding that with a daughter serving in the U.S. Air Force and a father who served in the U.S. Navy, Jefferts Schori is especially cognizant of this ministry.

"We have a personal interest," said Richard Schori, the presiding bishop's spouse. Back inside the Pentagon, the group toured the Air Force corridor and an exhibit dedicated to military chaplaincy, and Jefferts Schori preached at a 12:30 p.m. service in the interfaith chapel at the site where American Airways Flight 77 hit the building.

Her sermon followed the day's Gospel reading on the Birth of John the Baptist, in which the prophet was given his name and his father's tongue was set loose (Luke 1: 57-66).

"His very naming is associated with unleashing the tongue," she said. "I'm very struck today by the way we use our voices."

Crying out or being quiet

"Ours can be a voice crying in the wilderness," like John's, she said: a voice seeking peace and justice. "But we may also use our voices by being quiet. Jesus in the wilderness experiences God in the silence. We come to know God more deeply by stilling our own voices.

"Our ability to still our own voices and encourage others may begin that justice road," she said to the 50 or so people packed into the small chapel. "My sense is that the people who sit here in this room have abundant ability to use their voices."

She encouraged those present to use their voices wisely, in government and military affairs, "in the ways in which John Baptist encourages us to build a straight road for the coming of Jesus Christ.

"Thank God for your voice. Use it well."

-- Lucy Chumbley is the editor of Washington Window, the newspaper of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			3	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office closed 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following Kit away Sarah away	2 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge 7 p.m. AA Kit away Sarah away	3 10 a.m. Advent House Kit away
4 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant, Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 2 p.m. Writers Forum	5 9:15 a.m. Staff Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Rite 13 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	6 EPIPHANY 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Potluck 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist, degreening 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	7 12 noon Parkinson's support meeting 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Adult class 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	8 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6 p.m. ACLU 6:30 Bell Choir 7 p.m. Outreach 7:30 Adult Choir 7:30 ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon	9 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge 7 p.m. AA	10
11 January birthdays 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 8:45 a.m. Parish Breakfast 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School classes 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed classes 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 Adult Forum 2 p.m. Writers Forum 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU	12 9:15 a.m. Staff Mtg. 7 p.m. CCFC 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group Council 7:30 p.m. AA	13 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MRC 7 p.m. Cancer group Mtg. 7 p.m. ECW 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	14 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Adult class 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	15 Messenger Deadline 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:30 ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon	16 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge 7 p.m. AA	17 9:30 a.m. Needlers
18 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School classes 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed classes 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 1 p.m. Writers' Workshop 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU Michael away	19 MLK Day Office closed 5:30 p.m. Rite 13 7 p.m. LAEP 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA Michael away	20 8 a.m. Men's breakfast, Coral Gables 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. B&G 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA Michael away	21 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 5:30 p.m. Parents' class on church etiquette 7:30 p.m. CMSU Bd. 7:30 p.m. Debtors A Michael away	22 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:30 ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon Michael away	23 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge 7 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Coffeehouse Michael away	24 10 a.m. AAUW Michael away
25 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School classes 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed classes 11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 2 p.m. Writers Forum 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU Michael away	26 9:15 a.m. Staff Mtg. 1:30 p.m. East Lansing Women's Club 7 p.m. VBS mtg. 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	27 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Quilters 7 p.m. Vestry 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA Michael away	28 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 5:30 p.m. Parents' class 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Adult Prayer 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	29 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:30 ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon	30 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge 7 p.m. AA	31

AA = Alcoholics Anonymous

ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics

AlAnon = Family and Friends of Alcoholics

MRC = Michigan Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

The Messenger is published by All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823

Phone: (517) 351-7160; Fax: (517) 351-7113

Email: allsaints-el@sbcglobal.net; Internet: www.allsaints-el.org

Rector: The Rev. Kit Carlson, pastorkitcarlson@gmail.com

Senior Warden: Doug Powe

Minister of Music: Michael Crouch

Director of Children and Youth Ministry: Sheila Wiitala, allsaintsheila@hotmail.com

Sexton: Scott Hoffman; Bookkeeper: Pat Walsh; Office Manager: Susie Pearson

Canterbury MSU Chaplain: The Rev. Sarah Midzalkowski, emmsu@msu.edu

Messenger Editor: Vic Rauch, vrbjrmk@aol.com

Holy Eucharist Schedule: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday;

5 p.m. Sunday for Canterbury MSU student ministry; and 7 a.m. on Thursday

All Saints
Episcopal Church
800 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
E. LANSING, MI
PERMIT #195