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CROSS-EXAMINATION

Like many of us, I find myself recovering from the exodus of Karl and Mary, and turning my thoughts to the process of calling a new rector. Many parishioners have shared their anxieties and aspirations with me about this process, and the vestry had an excellent retreat last month to start to address this issue. I'd like to use this forum to share some information about this interim time and the search process. First, I'd like to focus on the excellent condition we find ourselves in to enter this process. We are a thriving, growing congregation in superb spiritual, financial and physical condition. I count these things among the legacies with which Karl's tenure has left us. Additionally, we have a proven, capable assistant rector in Liddy, and an experienced, talented interim rector, David Hackett, signed on starting March 1.

This stable foundation enables us to embark upon the search process. The first part of that will be the exercise of getting to know ourselves better, so that we can better know what we need in a priest, and what we will require of a search committee. The centerpiece of this "getting to know ourselves" we are calling, "We Are Family." It will consist of three "town meetings" and a parish dinner. I hope that every Saint of John makes it a point to attend at least one of these. They will enable us to do a better job of selecting a search committee, and promote the cohesiveness and trust necessary for the search committee to operate effectively and efficiently. The vestry, which has scheduled extra meetings for this purpose, hopes to have a committee selected by the end of April or early May. That committee, which will have a demanding agenda, hopefully will be of a size and composition to represent all of our interests effectively. The vestry and I are already in the process of praying on the directory.

The committee, in conjunction with Archdeacon Faith Perizzo, our diocesan search consultant, will take several months to complete a parish survey that will be submitted to Episcopal Church USA which will use it to provide a number of candidates' names. We also will be accepting suggestions from all other sources about possible candidates as well.

The later mission of the committee will be to evaluate the potential candidates, culminating in their recommendation of one or more finalists to the vestry. Pending their agreement, and the approval of the bishop, the vestry will call a rector.

Let us be prayerful, trusting, honest and supportive of each other during this challenging and exciting time for our parish. I know that if we are faithful, we again will be provided with an outstanding rector.

The Road Ahead by Greg Clarke, MD, Senior Warden

The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster
priest in charge

Brenda Vanderford
organist/choirmaster

David Morton
assistant organist/choirmaster

Brenda Dearien
parish administrator

Katherine Giltinan
Christian formation

Bob Westmoreland
verger

James Wilson
custodian

Greg Clarke >08
vestry

Michelle Walker >08
priest's warden

Becky Burns >09
people's warden

Ellen Archibald >09
treasurer

Cynthia Barrett >10
Joe Bolward >09

Cheryl Clements >10
Page Hamrick >09

Diane Hendricks >08
Dan McDonald >10

Ann Morris >08
David Ramkey
Assistant Treasurer

David Ramkey/Becky Burns
finance

Wanda Dettmer/Ross Smith
evangelist/new member

Page Hamrick
parish life

Dogma Harris
Doggan Harris

Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald
stewardship

Bob Swartz
Bob Swartz

Nathan Annett
children's Christian formation

Kasey Russell/Kin Reese/
youth Christian formation

Dianna Johnson
adult forum

Marion Perry
Phyllis Atwood
pastoral care

Bob Swartz/Bob Miller
business

Cather Blundon
Cather Blundon

Betty Jo Lovd
worship team

Martha Cole
Martha Cole

Ann Garwood
Primit Shop

Ann Garwood
intelligence editor

Saint John=s Interchange

The parish newsletter for the people of God called to form the Christian community of Saint John=s Episcopal Church, Quarrier at Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, West Virginia.

February 22, 2007, Vol. 47, No. 4

Sundays March 4 and 11, 2007 Second and Third Sundays in Lent

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**
- 8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion,**
library
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum: March 4,** Come be among the first to meet our new interim rector, the Rev. David Hackett: **March 11,** The Rev. Kent Higgins will examine the accuracy of saying, **AlT Says So in the Bible,**@ Room109
- 9:30 a.m. Nursery Open** B Babies to 2 years old, Room 297
- 10:10 a.m. Parents= Fellowship,** Room 208
- 10:10 a.m. Chapel for Older Children,** Room 225
- 10:30 a.m. Classes for Toddlers to Grade 5;**
Toddlers, Room 298; Godly Play, 4 to 8 years old, Room 299; St. John=s Eagles, 3rd to 5th grades, Room 221
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist,** with choir
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour,** Hunter Hall
- 11:45 a.m. Rite 13/Journey to Adulthood,** Room 208
- 5:00 p.m. March 11, Lenten Evensong followed by High Tea,** Hunter Hall

St. John=s Mission Statement:
We reach out to the world in Christ=s name
in the hope that all might find a home in God=s healing love.

Luncheon Speaker: Parishioner Danny Cline will give a short overview on C.S. Lewis at the next luncheon of Women In Faith, Fun and Fellowship. The event will be held at 11:30 a.m. March 8 with reservations due with the church office, 346-0359, by March 6. Everyone is welcome. The shawl ministry will meet following the luncheon.

Pew Bibles: We have received requests from parishioners to have Bibles placed alongside the Books of Common Prayer and hymnals in the pews. We will be ordering New Revised Standard Version Bibles with the Apocrypha from Oxford Press at the cost of \$12 per Bible. If you would like to help with this project, please make a check payable to St. John's and write "pew Bibles" on the memo line. Also, please indicate in whose honor or memory you are making your donation.

Lenten Series: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 36 Norwood Road, is offering a series on *The Crucified Christ in Holy Week: Comparing the Passion Gospel Narratives.* Programs are held on Wednesday nights with a light supper at 6 p.m. and teaching and discussion from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information on the series, which begins Feb. 28, call 343-3837.

Monthly Property Meeting: On the first Sunday of each month there will be a meeting of the Property Committee in Room 109 immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. All are welcome to come and discuss or present a property issue or share ideas. The next meeting will be Sunday, March 4. For more information, call Ann Morris at 345-0195.

Happy Birthday: Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks: Feb. 27, Jon Snyder; Feb. 28, Forrest Akers and Laura Christie; March 1, Lauren Coccari and Hugh Rockwell; March 2, Caitlin Cline, Holden Pomponio and Sally Richardson; March 3, Bob Rosier; March 5, David Bennett and Barbara Cernansky; March 7, Beth Hamrick, Mary Stanley and Sue Warren; March 8, Evan Blackwood and Brian Kastick; March 9, Mary Locke Gallaher; and March 11, Madeline Blackwood.

Interchange Deadlines: The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of March 18 and 25. Items may be submitted to julkemp@charter.net or bdearien@stjohnswv.org by Tuesday, March 6, at 4 p.m.

Our Church in Transition: As we begin the search process for a new rector, the vestry is seeking input from all parishioners to share thoughts and opinions on the right priest for St. John's. (See Greg Clarke's Cross-Examination on the next page.) Please make an effort to attend at least one town meeting and offer your ideas about St. John's future. The *We Are Family* gatherings will be held Tuesday, Feb. 27, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Hunter Hall; Thursday, March 1, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 109

and during the Adult Forum on Sunday, March 25, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in Room 109. These will be followed by a parish dinner on April 29.

Make It a Warm Welcome: We're welcoming our interim rector, the Rev. David Hackett, and his wife, Kay, to our church with a potluck luncheon directly following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 4. Please plan to attend and bring your best dish to share.

Lenten Evensong: Our Lenten Evensong will be held Sunday, March 11, at 5 p.m., followed by our traditional High Tea. Dottie Thomas will be calling on the Saints of John to prepare and bring finger food for the High Tea. So, you can wait to hear from her or give her a call and let her know what you'll bring. We're also looking for people to help clean up after the tea. Please let Beth Marquart know if you're willing to pitch in.

Remember Our Belize Delegation: Participating in the Belize Mission Group are Dale Snyder, Barbara Clarke, Randy Hampton, James Sizemore, Tim Bradford, Jake Hoster and Liddy Hoster. They departed Feb. 23 to engage in more construction work at St. Paul's School in Belize and will return to Charleston on March 4. Please keep them in your prayers.

Archivists= Conference: Janet Morris, St. John's resident archivist, is the mastermind behind the *Greater Kanawha Valley Conference for Religious Archivists* scheduled for Saturday, March 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cultural Center. Fred Armstrong, Director of Archives and History of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, will conduct a tour of the state archives and Pam LeRose, Grants Director for the West Virginia Humanities Council, will talk about successful grant writing, oral histories and confidentiality issues. A panel of religious archivists will discuss lessons learned the hard way and there will be time to compare notes and network with other archivists. This conference is free of charge, in part due to a mini-grant from the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia. Conference brochures are available on the visitors= table. All are welcome to attend; please register with the church office by March 17.

Spring Forward: Daylight Time is sneaking up on us early this year, so don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 11. Otherwise, when you arrive at church for any service on that day, you'll be an hour late.