



# REVELATIONS March 2010

Monthly Newsletter of All Saints' Episcopal Church, Littleton, NH

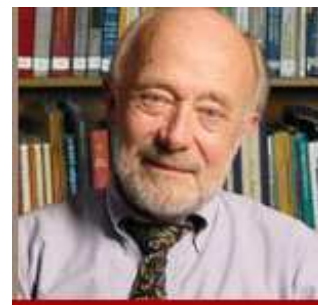
## *From the Rector*

### Thursdays in March with Marcus Borg

The adult formation sessions on Thursday evenings in March (7 PM) will feature a discussion of Marcus Borg's *The Heart of Christianity – Rediscovering a Life of Faith*.

The book is available at the bookstore, or can be ordered through Amazon. You don't have to read the book to join the discussion.

Marcus Borg is a contemporary theologian who grew up in North Dakota, the youngest of four children. Following graduation from Concordia College, Moorhead, ND, he studied at Union Theological Seminary in New York and then earned Master's and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Oxford. Married to an Episcopal priest, Borg has been active in the Episcopal Church and recently was installed as the first canon theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. He is the author of numerous books and articles, among them- *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*(2002)



*All are welcome.*

Borg provides perhaps the best summary of the meaning of faith:

"At the center of the Christian life are two relationships that are ultimately one. The first relationship is 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, life force, mind and strength.' The second relationship, 'like it,' is 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Upon these two relationships hang all the law and the prophets.' (Matthew 22:40) In the time of Jesus, the law and the prophets, the first two parts of the Hebrew Bible, were all that had been canonized. Thus Jesus declares that the whole of scripture hangs on these two relationships. **The Christian life is as simple and challenging as this: to love God and to live that which God loves.** This is the central meaning of faith."

--Marcus Borg, *The Heart of Christianity*

The mission of All Saints' Episcopal Church is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ by practicing our Christian faith through prayer and acts of love and unconditional kindness.

# Senior Moment



The snow falls gently outside the window and somehow seems to wash from my face the last traces of Caribbean sunshine.

March is a month of expectation as we anticipate (usually very prematurely) the many gifts that the vernal equinox promises and await the glories of Easter morning. As Easter is so early in April we will most likely experience the fairly unique circumstance of it being winter outside church and spring inside as the sanctuary is adorned with flora and fauna.

The obvious changes to the service during the Lenten season are intended to make us sit up and take notice, and I still have the closing words from Kurt's February 21 sermon rattling around in my brain, challenging me to spend time on personal reflection. For those who were not present, Kurt closed his sermon with the following *"As we enter the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to seek or sort out how we might faithfully walk the path of God with our lives...and come to realize that how we get there is as important as reaching the destination."*

The Holy Week schedule is listed in this newsletter and I would encourage you to plan some time for silence, reflection and worship. Below is a little snippet, that as North Country residents, I think we can totally relate to.

For now, it's back to plowing and shoveling.

Sheelagh Higginson  
Senior Warden

*"The sun is brilliant in the sky but its warmth does not reach my face.  
The breeze stirs the trees but leaves my hair unmoved.  
The cooling rain will feed the grass but will not slake my thirst.  
It is all inches away but further from me than my dreams."*

- M. Romeo LaFlamme  
(The First of March)



Photo by Hemmie Gilmore

## Totally Television Concludes

A series of Thursday evenings in February brought people together to examine the basic themes of some of the outstanding popular TV series of the past and present. Each evening the participants viewed one or more episodes of *M\*A\*S\*H*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *The Simpsons* and a new series this year – *Glee*, followed by a discussion led by the rector. These discussions allowed us to discover how modern writers are looking at selfishness, ignorance, compassion, community, education – and God – in a current cultural medium.



## Lenten Music

The 2010 Lenten Music series was launched on February 25<sup>th</sup> with **Marge Tassey**, clarinet, accompanied by **Joyce Roy**. This annual Lenten observance, initiated more than 16 years ago by **Warren and Barbara Geissinger**, has become a much-anticipated community noontime event.

**Marge Tassey, Clarinetist** is from Littleton, NH and plays in numerous musical groups in the area. Currently Marge is playing with the Upper Valley Community Band, the North Country Community Band, the North Country Clarinet Ensemble, the Green Mountain Mahler Festival Orchestra, and the Connecticut River Valley Symphony Orchestra. When not playing the clarinet, Marge teaches French at Profile School in Bethlehem, NH.

Mark these dates on your calendar for upcoming concerts:

**Thursday, March 4th** with **Elena Gott**, Piano and **Sue Openhowski**, Violin

**Thursday, March 11th** with **Pine Hill Singers**, **Judy Abbott**, Director and **Anita Bonnevie**, Piano

**Thursday, March 18th** with **Barbara Serafini**, Piano and **Joyce Roy**, Organ

**Thursday, March 25th** with **Warren Geissinger**, Organ

**Thursday, April 1st** with **Victoria Cole**, Soprano and **Joyce Roy**, Piano

## UNITED THANK OFFERING



In just two months we will be having our United Thank Offering Ingathering. Recently in "The Episcopal Church Life" I read the following letter from a woman in Chestertown, Maryland: "I strenuously object to using the words 'fund raising' when referring to the UTO. What makes the UTO so special is the concept of 'passing along your blessings' instead of donating."

As you know, in May we will not be asking you to make another donation to a worthy cause. We will be asking you to bring the gifts of thanksgiving which you have been placing in your United Thank Offering box. These gifts which you prayerfully place in your UTO box in recognition of important happenings in your own life are sent throughout the Anglican Communion to enrich the lives of others. And so we create a circle of thankful people.

Please remember to use your United Thank Offering box in this devotional way. If you do not have a UTO box, please let me know.

Mary-Lu Schaller



The vestry met on February 16<sup>th</sup> and tackled a number of important issues:

**Alison Chisolm** presented the January financial statement. Income shows a \$6000 increase over January 2009. We do not anticipate drawing from our investment income before March. This is due to an increase in prepaid pledges.

**The Communications Committee** submitted their working description, and reported that they are preparing a survey and looking at the website.


(See report on page 5.) Kurt reported that the Worship Committee will be meeting soon, and that the new Adult Formation Committee would begin by planning the Fall 2010 program.

Evaluation is under way for the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Food Cupboard.

**Nancy Hubley** suggested that we adopt a formal process for declaring the contents of food that is served at various events at the parish. This would benefit a number of people who have allergies or other dietary restrictions. This applies to dinner bell meals, potluck meals, Sunday coffee hour and any other meals offered at our functions. The vestry agreed that we will have available in the kitchen a small form which will indicate what ingredients are contained in the food offered: meat, eggs, wheat or gluters, MSG, nuts, fish or shellfish, etc. These forms will be available in March.

**Tim Rich**, Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese, will meet with the vestry at their March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to begin planning the Mutual Ministry Review. The vestry will meet again for an all-day retreat with Tim on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The Mutual Ministry Review is a process of evaluation involving the vestry, rector and parishioners in the second year of calling a new rector. Canon for the Ordinary, Tim Rich, will be using the All Saints' MMR as the basis for redesigning this strategic planning tool. Feedback and reflections from parish members are welcome. Please see a vestry member.

The vestry approved the purchase of a **new sign** to be erected outside the church on School Street which will have a glass enclosed space, with movable letters, and space to attach written notices of events. This sign is funded through gifts to the Tod Nichols memorial.



**COMMUNION FOR WHEAT ALLERGIES**

For some people with allergies even a communion wafer is more than they can tolerate. There are rice wafers available in the Sacristy for anyone with such a food situation. If you have a gluten allergy and need a rice wafer for Communion, please call the office and ask Pat to notify the Altar Guild. Then please let the clergy know before worship to ensure your needs are taken care of. Thank you.



## Communications Survey

### Committee Reports

Get ready for a telephone call from a member of the Communications Committee! We are polling the entire congregation in order to improve our communications. A 5-minute survey has been designed by the committee, and everyone will be asked to participate. It is hoped to complete this task in the next 3 weeks, and a report of the results will be presented. Thank you in advance for your cooperation – please be frank and honest in your responses. The survey will be given in an interview format – either in-person or by telephone.

Jen Carbonneau gave a very interesting presentation on communication via website and social networks at the Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Communications Committee. A subcommittee has been formed to examine, evaluate and improve the website. Jen Carbonneau, Deb Thurston and Cathy Devine have volunteered to serve. They will be inviting Ben Moss, IT expert from the White Mountain School to meet with them, at the suggestion of Brian Morgan.

Plans to publish a new Parish Directory are in the works - as soon as we update current information.

Members of the Communication Committee are: Mell Brooks, Jen Carbonneau, Cathy Devine, Joan LeBaron, Paul Lister, Brian Morgan, Jean Niece, Deb Thurston and Kurt Wiesner.

## Convocation News

The Northern Convocation Spring Event is in the planning stage – and it will be held at All Saints'!

The Diocese announced that, due to financial constraints, the Diocesan Spring Event will not be held, and that each convocation will plan their own regional Spring Event in 2010.

An exciting Work Day Program is in the planning stages for our Northern churches: St. Barnabas, Berlin; St. Mark's, Groveton; St. Paul's, Lancaster; St. Luke's, Woodsville, Messiah, North Woodstock; Epiphany, Lisbon; and our own All Saints'.



An inter-generational day is envisioned, with some activities taking place in the Parish House, some outdoors, and all culminating in an afternoon Eucharist, presided over by the Bishop – who hopes to participate during the day, as well! There will be opportunities for our parish to volunteer to show the North Country what All Saints' hospitality means! Mark Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> in BIG RED LETTERS on your calendars!

Details and a registration form will be available by late March.

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesdays at noon** – Brown Bag Bible Study – The Gospel of Mark

**Thursdays at 12:10**—Lenten Music, see schedule on page 3

**Thursday night Discussion** - “The Heart of Christianity – Rediscovering a Life of Faith”

by Marcus Borg – beginning March 4 for four consecutive Thursdays

**Men’s Breakfast** – Wednesday, March 10 at 8AM in the Parish Hall.

**Daylight Savings** begins March 14th, set clocks forward on Saturday night.

**Ecumenical Choir Festival** – Sunday, March 21 at 3 PM, St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church.

**“A Quiet Evening of Meditation, Prayer and Silence”** - Friday, March 26 at 6:30 PM, St. Paul’s, Lancaster led by The Rev. Ellie McLaughlin.



**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday (March 28<sup>th</sup>):** Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist 8AM & 10A

**Monday & Tuesday of Holy Week:** Church is open for meditation from 6PM-7PM with Compline at 7:00PM

**Wednesday:** Tenebrae, Service of Shadows (7PM) \*\*

**Thursday:** The Liberation Feast (6PM) Including Pot-Luck Dinner

**Friday:** Noonday Good Friday service @ All Saints’  
(Church will remain open for meditation until 3PM)

**Good Friday Children’s Service,** 4:30 PM at All Saints’.

**Good Friday Ecumenical Service** 7PM at the First Congregational Church  
The Rev. Kurt C. Wiesner, preaching

**Easter Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup>:** The Great Easter Vigil (6AM)

Festive Choral Eucharist (10AM)

(Please note there will be no 8AM Easter service Easter Day)

*“Don’t forget to bring bells”*

**Save The Date:** 2010 Pie Festival, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September – All Saints’ Parish Center

\*\*\*“Tenebrae” is the Latin word for ‘darkness’ or ‘shadows’. In medieval times it referred to ancient monastic night and early morning services of the last three days of Holy Week. Apart from the reading or chanting of Lamentations, the most conspicuous feature of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights in the church until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains. Our rector introduces this service at All Saints’ on Wednesday of Holy Week (March 31<sup>st</sup>) for the first time.

### **We have been invited to:**

“A Quiet Evening of Meditation, Prayer and Silence” on Friday, March 26th, 6:30–9 PM at St. Paul’s Church, Lancaster.

The Rev. Ellie McLaughlin, retired priest of St. Barnabas, and parishioner of St. Paul’s will lead this session, “Praying with our bodied senses” - a preparation for Holy Week and Easter. “How do we meet and worship God with our eyes—through images; our ears—through music and Word; our taste—in Bread and Wine; our touch—through water and oil on hands, feet or forehead; our smell—of palms, lily or incense; our whole body- standing, kneeling, sitting?”



## Did You Know?

**DYK** Fred Chisolm's Swing Dance class on Monday nights in February was a smashing success. Fred is offer another 4-week series in March.

**DYK** March is Town Meeting Month – don't forget to vote on March 9<sup>th</sup>

**DYK** that the Men's Breakfast Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 8:00 AM. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room for anyone who would like to host a breakfast.

**DYK** that members of All Saints' choir will be participating in the Ecumenical Choir Festival on March 21<sup>st</sup>, and that Nancy Hubley and Dave LeBaron will be playing in the orchestra for the event, as well as singing an individual piece. Come to St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church at 3 PM to support us.

**DYK** that Fran Gardner, North Country Missioner, and priest at St. Barnabas, is visiting The Holy Land just prior to the Northern Convocation meeting March 14<sup>th</sup>.

## News About People

It is a pleasure to welcome occasionally former parishioners to our services or events. On February 7<sup>th</sup>, Warren and Barbara Geissinger made the trip from Concord to attend the 10 AM service and are seen here chatting with their friends during coffee hour. Warren is scheduled to play the organ for the Noonday Concert on March 25<sup>th</sup>.



### Betty Parker Celebrates 95 Twice!

No, long-time All Saints parishioner Betty Parker isn't really 190! She just had two birthday parties to celebrate turning 95 on February 21. Betty and her husband Holmes raised their five children in Littleton and were actively involved in All Saints' Church. Today, their daughter Judy Millen still sings in the choir and participates in many events.



Betty now lives at Grafton County Nursing Home where she is well-loved because of her sparkling sense of humor and good spirits. Her daughters Judy and Diana ("Boo") arranged a family party on the weekend so her family from New York and Maine could attend. Then on Monday, the nursing home hosted a celebration for all the residents of her wing. About 60 people congratulated her, including Littleton area friends Mary Ann Downing Butson and Nancy Hubley (both former neighbors), Woody Denham, and Karen Tunney Spaulding who taught with her at Lakeway. Betty enjoyed a huge cake decorated by a staff member, ice cream, Nancy's surprise flute music and homemade cards from her great grandchildren Garret, Ali and Grady Millen. The staff gave her a stuffed kitten attached to many helium balloons and Betty responded with her customary wit.

Betty's granddaughter (and Judy's daughter) Heidi, now living in Washington state, put her grandmother's birthday on her Facebook page. She got best wishes from people who had Betty as their first grade teacher at Lakeway School and have never forgotten her.

## **Burch House Calendar Raffle**

The Support Center at Burch House is a volunteer based organization that has been providing assistance to victims of violence in Northern Grafton County since 1988. Every year, we provide direct services free of charge to over 450 individual victims of domestic and sexual violence in this area. Those services include: emergency shelter, hospital and police advocacy, peer support groups and community education. Our toll free 24-hour helpline has operated continuously, 365 days a year, since 1988.

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness month. In honor of this event, the Burch House is hosting a Raffle Calendar as a fundraiser and community outreach campaign. The calendars are \$10 each and a daily winner will be drawn each day during the month of April so you have 31 chances to win a prize. Calendars are available for purchase in the Fellowship Room. Checks should be made payable to: The Support Center (memo: Raffle Calendar)

## **Haiti**

We have all been stunned by the devastation in Haiti from the earthquake that struck there in December. Parishioners may remember that Ed Farrell made several trips to Haiti in the 1990's and that The White Mountain School had a partnership with St. Martin's School in Port au Prince. Ed referred us to an update online by Father Kesner Ajax, whom he knew there, and who is now Executive Director of the Bishop Tharp Institute, an Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) program partner.

Here are some excerpts from that report: "In Port au Prince and Leogane, all structures of the Episcopal Church have been completely destroyed. We cannot evaluate how many parishioners and staff members we lost. . . The Episcopal Church of Haiti has set up more than 7 centers to support victims, mostly in the worst hit areas." The lives of the bishop, 32 active priests, 9 retired priests, 17 seminarians, 3 nuns and 4 missionaries and their families have been saved. "Episcopal Relief and Development is doing a very remarkable work to support Haiti during the dilemma, both with emergency support and the rebuilding of the Episcopal Church in Haiti." The complete report can be read at [http://www.dohio.org/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2979&Itemid=322](http://www.dohio.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2979&Itemid=322)

Please note that March 21<sup>st</sup> is designated as "Episcopal Relieve & Development Sunday" in the Diocese. Please continue to keep Haiti in your prayers, and support the work of ERD there.

## **2010 Traveling Stewardship Institute**

The Rev. Canon Charles LaFond, Canon for Congregational Life, is 'taking his show on the road' again in 2010, leading five Stewardship Institutes in various churches around the Diocese between February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup>. This Institute, designed for those who are interested in the real meaning of stewardship in our church lives, and for leaders of stewardship campaigns, will be held from 9AM until 100 and includes lunch.

Topics include: Review of Fall 2009 Stewardship of Finances campaign results in the Diocese; Review of Best Practices; video of Planned Giving; and Teaching a Congregation how to discern, write and live a Rule of Life. The Stewardship Manual and materials have been revised, and these will be distributed to participants. Six members of the T-3 Committee from All Saints' will be attending these institutes. The excellent materials that Charles has produced for us were very valuable during our T-3 campaign last year.

### March Birthdays

- 4 Lisa Towle
- 13 Connor Darby
- 14 James Letson
- 18 Kurt C. Wiesner
- 21 Jillian Horner
- 22 Dave LeBaron
- 24 Connor Geer, Sheelagh Higginson
- 27 Carl Stoneham
- 28 Mary-Lu Schaller
- 30 Connie McDade
- 31 Joe Lange

March Anniversaries  
15 Joe Lange and Serry Serafini



Do we have your birthday or anniversary? If not, please call Pat at the office so we may remember you on your special day!

### Vestry 2010

**Senior Warden:** Sheelagh Higginson

**Junior Warden:** Joan LeBaron

**Treasurer:** Alison Chisolm

**Clerk:** Ellen Rowe

#### Members

Mell Brooks

Liz Carter

Nancy Hubley

Joyce Vining Morgan

Anne-Marie Nichols

### Input Welcome

Your editor is eager to hear from readers. Feedback of any kind—negative or positive—is very welcome, and encouraged. Please call me at the office or e-mail [joandave3@myfairpoint.net](mailto:joandave3@myfairpoint.net) your reactions to what you find in this newsletter. Also, please send news items for the DYK (Did You Know) or News About People section, book recommendations and other ideas. With your help, we can make it better!

... the editor



*Revelations* is the newsletter of All Saints' Episcopal Church, Littleton.

Published at the beginning of each month, it is edited by Joan LeBaron, produced by Pat Laurino, and photos by Hemmie Gilmore. Thank you to Sheelagh Higginson, Kurt C. Wiesner, Mary-Lu Schaller and Nancy Hubley for their contributions in this month's newsletter. **Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter will be Monday, March 22, 2010.**

**Month at a glance parish calendars may be picked up in the Fellowship Room or printed off the website at [www.allsts.org](http://www.allsts.org).**

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**Website: www.allsts.org**

**Rector: The Rev. Kurt C. Wiesner**



**To beautify All Saints' Church at Easter  
-for flowers and music-**



**In loving memory of**

**or**

**In thanksgiving for**



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**Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **(check) or (cash)**



**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_



**Please leave this sheet (in your best printing, please) with your donation in an envelope  
in the offering plate, or send it to the office.**

