



St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church
36W957 Highland Ave.
Elgin, Illinois 60123

Voice of the Swan Newsletter

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Rev. Marion Phipps' Email:

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The Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Tuesday: 7:00 AM

The Staff

Reverend Marion Phipps, Associate Rector
Sarah Mendenhall, Choir Director and Church Musician
Jim Kuttner, Senior Warden
Roland Hopson, Junior Warden
Karen Warner, Administrative Assistant
Cherry Babo, Treasurer
Amy Laubhan, Vestry Clerk
Jeanne Rayner, Altar Guild

Visit us at:

WWW.STHUGH.NET

**March Birthdays
Happy Birthday!!**

Denise McConnell	3 - 1
Jeffrey Maliszewski	3 - 3
Teresa Puccio	3 - 7
Matthew McNeil	3 - 10
Ryan McNeil	3 - 10
Terri Whitfield	3 - 13
Elinor Bartlett	3 - 16
Michael Barnett	3 - 20
Larry Wild	3 - 28
Michael Phipps	3 - 28

***March Anniversaries
Happy Anniversary!!!***

Deanna & Page Engelke	3 - 4
Richard W. & Marlene Rayner	3 - 13

Voice of the Swan

March 2010



The News Letter of St. Hugh of Lincoln Church

Volume 13
Number 3

Dear Friends,

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30) Lent is a wonderful time to take these words to heart and draw near to Jesus. We need not feel burdened by Lent, but rather we can embrace the call to observe a holy Lent in a way that is meaningful to us. There is no right or wrong way to "do" Lent; it is a gift the Church provides us with to seek God in a deeper way.

Recently I attended a clergy retreat day sponsored by the Diocese. It was a wonderful day spent at Morton Arboretum, in the midst of God's beautiful creation. The day was a mix of worship, prayer, contemplation, sharing and silence. One of the reflections spoke of the "space between the logs" being what "makes a fire burn."¹ It was good to spend a day intentionally set aside to draw nearer to God. I left the day feeling refreshed and inspired to continue through the wilderness of Lent, viewing it as an opportunity to create some "space between the logs" in my own life allowing the fire of God's Spirit to breathe new life into me. As a fire needs space to enhance burning, so our lives need spaces to allow the Spirit to burn brightly in us. Lent allows us to create such space. Your schedule may not allow you the luxury to spend a whole day devoted to God, but perhaps you can carve out half a day, or an hour here and there throughout the week.

Whether you are fasting in some way through Lent or have taken on extra disciplines or are just wondering through the wilderness of Lent with no particular plan, my prayer for you is that you take this opportunity to draw near to God anew and see how God remains faithful in the wilderness. As the Israelites received manna each day for forty years as they followed God through the desert, so we, too, can count on God to provide all that we need. As Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians:

I pray that out of his glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:18-19)

May God give us the grace to create spaces in our lives to seek Him more and more.

Blessings to you,

Marion +

¹ Judy Brown in *Mishkan T'Filah: A Reform Siddur* (New York, NY: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 2007), p. 225

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I pulled up to the Eagle's Club on the evening of January 31st and could not find a parking place I wondered what all those cars were doing there. I remember thinking there must be a couple events going on. When I entered the building and realized that everyone was there for the retirement party I was overcome with a sense of gratitude for all the wonderful people God had put in our lives. That night will stand out as one of the most memorable evenings of my life.

I especially appreciate the way Marilyn was honored for her many years of serving the church. Most of her time was spent behind the scenes giving of herself to the children and youth. Marilyn also spent a great deal of time seeing that the rectory and church building were kept in great shape. Having our son Thomas there was extra special because he really grew up among all of you and became the person he is today because of the love of the St. Hugh family.

Many things surprised me that evening, all of which touched me very deeply. Having members of my family there caught me off guard, as well as, having some former parishioners and some of the baseball coaches from St. Edward's High School. It was also a blessing to see some of the students from Judson University there.

The slide presentation was a work of genius and I am so happy to have it to share with members of my family and friends who are out of town. Thanks to all who contributed pictures to make the slide show so meaningful. Having Gene Belmonte, Father Mark Tusken, Diana McNeil, Randy Lemcke, Marion Phipps, and Jim Kuttbauer share their memories and words of encouragement truly blessed me. Thanks to Sarah and Mark Mendenhall for selecting the evening's music and for the original composition of "The Seventh Inning Stretch" and thanks to all who contributed their musical talents. The dinner that Shawn Brady and Darla Berg prepared was outstanding. A special thank you to Karen Warner, Jane Watson and crew for dreaming up the evening and all their hard work bringing it off in such a graceful way.

I love you all very much and will be reminded of your friendship and love as I read and reread the letters you contributed to our memory book. Thanks to all who gave so generously to the parish gift. We were able to purchase a washer, dryer, and computer for our new home. The following words from Scripture really capture my thoughts as I end this letter.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart... all of you share in God's grace with me." Phil. 1:3-7

Thanking God for continuing our partnership in the gospel of His Son and my prayers for each of you.

Love,
Fr. Tom +

Senior Warden's report February 2010

The vestry worked on the contract for Marion Phipps and made some necessary decisions. We will now consider Marion as Priest-In Charge of St Hugh. This is a full time job and Marion will be available on a full time basis. We also made necessary decisions on insurance. The contract will be finalized and signed and sent to the Diocese.

The vestry is also beginning to get information from the company that does the parish surveys. We are just gathering the information at this time.

We are attempting to revitalize the various "Standing Committees" the vestry had in the past. Vestry members are being asked to be responsible for a committee and be the representative of that committee to the Vestry. The Vestry member may not necessarily be the committee chairperson but to ask someone and to work with them. Do not be surprised if you are contacted for a committee. More information next month as the vestry members take a committee.

Many thanks to Fr. Bob Krogman and Associate rector Amity Carrubba from Church of the Redeemer for covering Ask Wednesday services as Marion was sick and not available.

The vestry decided to have only three Easter Sunday Services this year. 5:00 AM Sunrise Service, 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

On other housekeeping issues the vestry authorized the updating of the water system at the rectory. We had a contribution to cover that cost. We are still about \$1400.00 short for the replacement at the church. We have \$1000.00 in hand and need \$2400.00. Any contributions to that would be appreciated. Just mark checks accordingly. Amy Laubhan has offered to clean the carpeting before the Bishop's visit in an effort to save money. Thanks to Amy!!

Reminder Bishop Scantlebury will be with us for the 10:00 AM service Sunday February 28 for his regularly scheduled visit. He will meet with the Vestry after the service.

We are looking for someone to do an audit of our financial records. The Diocese has information to help with a basic audit. If interested please contact myself or Marion or let Karen know.

A cook is still needed for the Soup Kitchen. We have a volunteer to train you for this project. Jim Kuttner Cell: 847-370-0527, Home: 847-683-2473, Email: jimkatlasfibre@aol.com

Check out this story regarding our cross.



Contact Mike Murschel at mjmurschelfeedback@gmail.com.

Courier News – Elgin

February 4, 2010

Last week we looked at several Elgin churches that use light to effectively draw passers-by attention. Nothing loud. Nothing garish. Nothing intrusive. Just enough light coming through the stained glass windows, washing across the exterior, or illuminating a cross to get someone to look.

In a word, passive.

In additional words, it's evangelism in the telling of the story of the faith.

But there are other methods of passive evangelism. Some of these are apparent both during the day and the evening.

You may recall that last time, one of the churches mentioned was St. Thomas More Catholic Church on Highland Avenue. While the stained glass is dynamic in the evening, St. Thomas More has another passive feature going for it.

On the front lawn, between the church and the school, stand three large crosses. Symbols of the crucifixion of Christ and the two thieves along with him, they stand alone. During the day, they are subtle and you hardly notice them at all. At night, they are lighted, standing in stark contrast to the darkness, witness in this theology of the triumph of the light of the world even at the hour of seeming defeat.

Likewise is the cross on the southeast corner of Highland Avenue and Randall Road. There, at the Episcopal St. Hugh of Lincoln, it is one cross only. A very subtle Celtic cross, its arms are capped with half circles, reminding one of the cross pomee. This style of cross has full circles at the end of each of its arms, symbolizing apples, from the French "pomee."

The apple signifies the fruits and rewards of living a good Christian life, contrary to references to apples being the forbidden fruit of which Eve and Adam ate in the Garden of Eden.

Why half-cut-off? Perhaps to show that these gifts should spill over into the world at large?

Going a little further afield, driving south out of Dundee on Route 31 in the evening treats your eyes to the relatively new First Congregational Church of Dundee. Situated on the west side of the highway at the top of the hill, the steeple of this United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation can be seen for miles, and even further with the right vantage points when lighted at night.

West of Elgin on the north side of Route 20, stands West Ridge Community Church, at 3300 Encounter Lane. In mild weather, the south face of the building features a water wall, lighted at night. It makes quite a statement as the light twinkles on the water as it courses down the wall.

Driving north out of St. Charles on Randall Road, the curve takes you headlong into a view of Christ Community Church. At the peak of its roofline is a Calvary cross, lighted at night. Where the road runs straight towards it, it captures the eye for a good quarter-mile. It was no accident that the building lines up this way. Noted church architect David F. Schultz, David F. Schultz Associates, Ltd., Barrington, Illinois, saw the dynamic visual potential there and centered the church on that high-profile coordinate.

Further north, on the northeast corner of Randall Road and Hopps Road, stands King of Glory Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). Its bell tower is illuminated at night, and once again, the curve of the road draws one's attention to the lighted cross-shaped windows of the tower.

All of which comes around to the point here. While this sort of evangelism may be passive, most, if not all of it, is intentional. It is a way of offering the story of the faith without anything more than making it available. And symbol-filled as these are, there is still a lot of range for these to speak to people in the moment. A good symbol tells a great deal, and the really great ones have layer upon layer of meaning, all waiting to be interpreted by people in a host of moments in their lives.

What about the people who design these symbols? Who develop them? Site them? Share and tend them?

The next installment of this series wraps all of this up with their insight, as much why as how. Stay tuned ...

Michael J. Murschel is a church image consultant, theologian, and writer specializing in the area of religion and culture. He may be reached for comment at mjmurschelfeedback@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

SOUP KITCHEN COOK - Got a passion for food? Share it!

As a parish we take turns sending volunteers to help serve at the soup kitchen at Redeemer every other month on the 4th Thursday of the month. The person who has done our cooking the past few years is retiring and we are in need of a replacement cook. We are in need of a person (or persons) to handle the shopping and cooking responsibilities every other 4th Thursday of the month. Stephen and Sharon Wendorf used to do this, and would be happy to provide more information and help train anyone who is interested in this vital ministry. Stephen said he started shopping about 11:30, picked up donuts and then started cooking and setting tables in the afternoon.

NURSERY CARE – Love kids? Give them a little time!

We are looking for volunteers to help staff the nursery. If you are interested in serving in the nursery during the 10:00 service please let Karen Warner know so she can schedule people. The more volunteers we have, the less often anyone would have to do it. If teens would like to earn some community service hours this would qualify.

We may have a need for childcare on Sunday evenings in Lent as well, depending on who signs up for the potluck and Bible study. Check in with Karen regarding this. Thanks!



Please remember to sign up to remember someone or a special occasion on the Flower list in the narthex. The cost per Sunday is \$30. Envelopes are available near the list. Please drop the completed envelope in the offertory plate or the mailbox on the office door.

Pancake Supper Recap

Thanks all the helpers... Katie & Lindsey Puccio, Kyle & Myranda Johnson, Karen Lemcke, Mike Phipps, Alex McCaffery, Teresa Puccio and anyone else that assisted Shrove Tuesday.

Thanks to the donations the proceeds were split between Elgin Christian Development Corporation (ECDC), the Youth Ministry of St. Hugh and Episcopal Relief and Development.

Dear Friends of St. Hugh Church,

January 31, 2010 seems like a dream! It now appears that the dream was a vision for future ministry. You have sent us out with many expressions of love and gratitude, expressions which will support us in the days ahead.

I especially want to thank those who put together the tribute to me. I loved seeing those photos and listening to the tender music about a teacher. I enjoyed Diana McNeil's speech, and I promise never to go ice fishing again! The flowers were beautiful and I have cherished them for more than a week now. Best of all, I could look around the room that night and see gathered together families representing many of the children who have attended and grown up at the church these past 18 years.

There were three projects dear to my heart while a member of St. Hugh Parish: One is the church school and Christian education. I am grateful to Debbie Wild and Karen Lemcke for their commitment to this important and rewarding ministry. They will be blessed, as I was, by the love and insight of the youngsters! **Consider the Lord's calling to serve with them.**

Two is the church library which was begun with funds from a memorial to David Groves. I have seen parish libraries fall into disrepair and it is a sad thing indeed! Jim Bauer has agreed to head up the Library Committee. Glenna Kleinsmith and Marguerite Tabbert will be assisting him. **Won't you consider donating new books and volunteering to continue to make this an encouraging environment for reading and learning about our faith?**

Three has to do with the altar flowers. When Tom and I first came to St. Hugh Church, the altar flowers were delivered by a florist who apparently had a very small budget with which to work! I had the feeling that leftover funeral flowers made up the bulk of the bouquets. Denise McConnell at some point offered to arrange flowers purchased from the Jewel. Buying our own flowers led to more beautiful and creative arrangements, especially when combined with the talents of Denise. Years went by with Denise doing the flowers every week. It was a very time consuming task. Denise was considering "retiring" when Marty Owens and Jane Watson came to the rescue along with me. I would take the 5th Sunday so that Denise would not have to do three Sundays in a row. Marty and Jane each take a Sunday a month. **With my departure there is the opportunity for someone who loves flowers, selecting and arranging them to do this for the altar four or five times a year. See Denise for the details.**

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the special recognition beginning with the children and their cards and continuing at the dinner.

I love each of you and thank God for you all.

Marilyn



Rembrandt's Return of the Prodigal Son, 1662

Small Group Time
(Potluck, Bible Study, Sharing, Prayer)
Wiedrich Hall
Sunday Nights 5 to 6:30 pm

"Songs in the Night"
Lenten Reflective Worship
Sundays nights in Lent, 7pm

February 28 Evensong
March 7 Sung Compline
March 14 Compline of St. Patrick
March 21 Taize style worship

Weekday Program

Wednesday Lent program begins on Wednesday, February 24, 2010
and concludes on Wednesday, March 24th.

Noon (brown bag lunch)

6:30pm (Bread and Soup)

7PM "Return of the Prodigal Son"

8PM Compline

There is a website that has a number of spiritual resources if you are looking for something extra to do for Lent. If you're interested you can sign up for a Lenten daily email as well.

<http://explorefaith.org/>

Easter Week Schedule **(Tentative)**

Maundy Thursday

6:30PM Agape Meal

7:30PM Worship

GoodFriday

Noon Service

7:30PM Service

Easter Day

Great Easter Vigil 5AM
(followed by breakfast in Wiedrich Hall)

Holy Eucharist 8 & 10AM

Please watch the bulletins, April Newsletter and emails for further information to confirm.