

LIVING OUR VISION



Christ the Lord Episcopal Church
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May 2010
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Member Mission in Action

For the past couple of months, a group has been meeting every Sunday after church to learn about how to be more effective missionaries in every area of their lives. Member Mission, which was started by retired evangelism officer for the Episcopal Church, Wayne Schwab, is based on the premise that most members of our churches only spend a small percentage of their time at church or in church activities, while a much larger percentage of their time is spent in other places, including the home, work, the local community, etc. Thus, according to Schwab, the most effective way for our churches to carry out our mission to make the world a better place for Christ (a place with more love and justice) is to empower our individual members to explore the different mission fields in their daily lives and help them become better missionaries in each of those areas.

In our Member Mission class, we have looked at the following mission areas: 1) Home (includes family and friends), 2) Work (includes volunteer work), 3) Local Community, 4) Wider World, 5) Leisure & Recreation, 6) Personal Spiritual Health, and 7) Our part in the Mission work of our Church. We have completed worksheets on each of these areas and spent time discussing them in small groups and gaining support to become more effective missionaries. We have also agreed that, while the class will soon end (on May 2), our need for continued support in our mission work will continue, so we plan to have periodic meetings where we can continue to support one another in this important work.

We'd love to have others join us on this journey. To give you a taste of what the class has meant to some of its members, we offer the following reflections from members of the class. It has been a joy to lead this class!

From Chris Johnson on the Mission Area of Home, Family & Friends:

The Member Mission classes have helped me to explore how I can be a more patient, loving person to my family and friends.

I am particularly conscious of this when I relate to my husband, Walt. Now that I'm retired, I want us to share more positive experiences together, like traveling or spending time with friends. By sharing with Walt the positive energy I get from exercising, church, or being with my friends, it's an impetus for him to expand his horizons, such as returning to the gym or taking trips together.

The Member Mission class has helped me further realize that a lot more growth can develop with genuine care and understanding, not with faultfinding. Walt's mother was a devout Episcopalian, and Walt is happy that God is touching my life, just as He did for Mother Bea (my deceased mother-in-law).

From Tina Reich on the Mission Area of the Local Community:

The Member Mission class is truly one of the best adult education activities I have ever been involved in because it guides me to maximize the spiritual component in everything I do in all parts of my day and in all aspects of my life. This gives every action meaning and potential for doing God's work in the wider world, not just on Sunday's at church.

One of the areas I have particularly enjoyed working is my mission work in my local community. I really enjoy being active in the community and serve on several boards and can always be found volunteering at events, especially if they involve children. My goal established during the mission class dealing with the community is to heavily invest myself in the Building Blocks for Kids collaborative in the Iron Triangle in Richmond. This effort is inspired the success of the Harlem Children's Zone project in New York and seeks to rebuild community block-by-block. I'm off to a great start!

Mother's Day at CTL



This year, in addition to our usual prayers for Mother's Day, Chris Johnson of our Focus Group on Families with Young Children is planning to have the Sunday School students do a special Mother's Day performance. They'll be performing two songs entitled *Mother's Day Song* and *My Special Friend*, as well as a poem called *Mommy, I Love You*. She's hoping all of the children will be available for rehearsals, particularly the Sunday before Mother's Day. Needless to say, she also hopes they will all be present on Mother's Day itself for the performance. And, of course, we hope all our moms, grandmas and other adults will be present to receive this wonderful gift from the children of CTL!

Help our Diocese Celebrate San Francisco Pride's 40th Anniversary June 27



You can help the Episcopal Diocese of California mark the 40th anniversary of San Francisco Pride by representing your parish in the parade and joining in our annual open air Pride Eucharist Sunday, June 27. "This year we are recruiting members of Oasis Congregations across the Bay Area to represent their parish in the Parade," Oasis California President Tom Jackson said. "We hope to have a contingent and a banner for each Oasis congregation marching in the parade to reflect the diversity of our diocese. Just before the parade our bishop will be celebrating our annual open air Pride Eucharist."

People planning to march in the parade are invited to RSVP by sending an e-mail to Oasis at parade@oasisca.org. More information will be posted on the Oasis Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/2dcrouk> and the Oasis web site at www.oasisca.org.

Did you hear the one about God and Grandma?



My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

New Water Heater & Narthex Floor



Saturday, May 1, is set for the removal of the old tiles (except the green tiles around the edge) from the narthex floor. After that, our contractor will be putting in the floor one section at a time on evenings or weekends to accommodate our schedule and La Casita's. We are so grateful he is willing to do this! We are also grateful that the Church Insurance Company of Vermont is covering all of the flooring costs except for our \$500 deductible.

Our total cost for the water heater and our deductible for the flooring is \$1175. We are grateful to the people who have donated to help cover these costs: Don Christiansen, Lissa Parker, John Crooms, John & Judy Kiffmeyer, Dave & Susan Linnell, Joyce Tough, Eleanor Elliott, Chris Johnson, Susan & Peter Champion and Lisa Cole. Thanks to their help, \$680 of our expenses have already been covered! If you'd like to contribute to the remaining \$495, please mark your donations "plumbing and flooring."

Corrections to Parish Directories

Please change Maria Roy's birthday in your directory. It is August 6, not August 5. And don't forget to change Maria and Joa Roy's phone number (Correct #: 510-948-8229) and Christina Mays's email (Correct email: christinamays29@yahoo.com). If you've found any other corrections that need to be made, please let Mother Susan know what they are! And if you don't yet have a directory, ask Mother Susan, and she'll be glad to give you one!

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- May 4 Amanda Webster (B)
- May 8 Gina Faldetta (B)
- May 15 Joyce Tough (B)
- May 17 Bob Burnett (B)
- May 25 Joa & Maria Roy (A)
- May 26 Ethan Webster (B)



Happy birthday or anniversary to all!

May Days of Celebration

We celebrate with Ruth Lawton in memory of Ken's birthday on May 2 and with Jody Popke in memory of Buster on May 5. May Ken and Buster continue to be with us in spirit!



Helen Nichol's Gift— and Yours

Helen was in a pickle because her living expenses in retirement had outgrown her income. Helen's first job in San Francisco was at PG&E where she was the first women teller. For thirty years she worked her way up as a pioneer woman executive, acquiring some PG&E stock at favorable rates. However, when I met Helen some years ago she was no longer succeeding in living on her PG&E dividends which were then only paying 1.3%

That is when Helen discovered the "magic" of a gift annuity that paid her 7.7%. By exchanging shares of PG&E for a gift annuity, Helen avoided paying capital gains taxes on the sale of her stock while she increased her income five-fold. A few years later, I had another call from Helen. "I need more money," she said, and decided to exchange more stock for another gift annuity.

Unlike Helen's dividend income, her annuity income was mostly tax-free. And unlike her undependable dividend rate, her annuity income was fixed and guaranteed for her lifetime—an assurance that brought her a great sense of security.

With Helen's recent death, her gift annuity matured into a gift both for her parish and for Episcopal Charities. This, too, had given Helen a great sense of satisfaction, knowing that one day she would be able to make this "thank you" gift to her church.

If you have a CD or stock yielding less than 4% or 5%, why not consider turning it into a gift annuity for your income and your church? Current annuity payout rates are at www.EpiscopalGift.org or just give me call.

A gift annuity is often a win-win to make a gift. It was for Helen. It can be for you, too.

The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP (415) 869-7812
Gift Planning Officer RichardS@DioCal.org
Episcopal Diocese of California EpiscopalGift.org

Recorded Sermons at CTL



Recently, after church, Judy Andrade said, "Gee, I wish we could have recordings of all the sermons because it would be nice to be able to listen to them again." In response to Judy's great idea, we now have a digital recorder and plan to record all our sermons here at CTL. That means you can ask for copies, and they will be sent to you as an MP3 document. (Note that these take up a lot of memory, and we cannot send them from or to hotmail accounts and some other email accounts.) You could also bring in a CD-rom or a flash drive and have the recorded sermon put on that. Eventually, when we figure out how to do it, we hope to make all our sermons available on the website as well. The cost of the recorder and microphone was \$91.55. If you'd like to contribute towards this cost, please mark your donations "digital recorder."

June 27 AEMCH Summer Salon

AEMCH is An Episcopal Ministry to Convalescent Hospitals. Our own Elaine Wilson-Glimme participates regularly in AEMCH's work at Pinole Senior Village. (She'd love to have helpers. Let her know if you'd like to go with her!)

For the second year in a row, the AEMCH Summer Salon will be taking place at the beautiful Julia Morgan home of the Very Rev. Don and Carol Anne Brown in Berkeley. This year it will be a fundraiser for AEMCH, with tickets at only \$30. There will be wine, fabulous food and an auction with operatic entertainment. Ask Mother Susan or Elaine Wilson-Glimme about this wonderful event, which they attended last year. If you'd like tickets, you can buy them online at www.aemch.org or you can purchase them at the door if you RSVP to Jephtha Boone at 510-521-3434 or Jepboone@aol.com.

GRIP Harmony Walk

Save the Date: Saturday, October 9th for the Annual Grip Harmony Walk. Each year our team is increasing in number and this year we have a goal of 20 walkers from CTL. The course is short, about 3 miles, and only take about an hour out of your day. Sponsor packets will be available in July. If you have any questions about this fundraiser for GRIP, please speak to Tina Reich and she will be delighted to assist you. Let's go team!

A GOOD READ

Tony Judt is an extraordinary man who has written an extraordinary book. Educated at Cambridge and the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, he is *the* preeminent historian of post-war Europe and has taught at Cambridge, Oxford, Berkeley, and, now, New York University. A Labor Zionist in his youth, who served in the Israeli Defense Forces in the '67 War, he has been one of the harshest critics of recent Israeli policies.

He is also dying. He doesn't name the amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease) that has left him completely paralyzed, referring to his predicament only obliquely in the book's acknowledgements as "the unusual circumstances in which this book was written."

And, my, what a book he has written! *Ill Fares the Land* (New York: Penguin, 2010, \$25.95) cuts to the problematic core of today's America. Must reading for new generations of Americans who have no memories of the New Deal and the Great Society *and* those of us who do, it is intellectually compelling and morally profound – a call to action for those who believe in a common good, in community and solidarity, and in redeeming our fading ideals in a time of greed and incivility. It is written with the honesty, the moral clarity, and urgency of a dying man who loves his country and believes in collective action to save its soul.

Judt derives his title from a 1770 Oliver Goldsmith poem – "Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates, and men decay" – an abbreviated statement of our problem that he expounds upon in the first dozen and one lines of the book:

"Something is profoundly wrong with the way we live today. For thirty years we have made a virtue out of the pursuit of material self-interest: indeed, this very pursuit now constitutes whatever remains of our sense of collective purpose. We know what things cost but have no idea what they are worth. We no longer ask of a judicial ruling or a legislative act: is it good? Is it fair? Is it just? Is it right? Will it help bring about a better society or a better world? Those used to be *the* political questions, even if they invited no easy answers. We must learn once again to pose them.

The materialistic and selfish quality of contemporary life is not inherent in the human condition. Much of what appears 'natural' today dates from the 1980s: the obsession with wealth creation, the cult of privatization and the private sector, the growing disparities of rich and poor. And above all, the rhetoric which accompanies these: uncritical admiration for unfettered markets, disdain for the public sector, the delusion of endless growth.

We cannot go on living like this...."

No we cannot. In the 235 pages that follow, Judt makes clear why not and what we can – and must – do about it.

Deacon Vicki Gray

Relay for Life 2010

This year's Relay for Life will be held from 10 am on Saturday, August 14 through 10 am on Sunday, August 15. Christ the Lord Cruisers will continue the tradition of keeping a walker on the track at all times for 24 hours. The event will be held at Fernandez Park again this year. See Tina Reich for more information

The Vision of Christ the Lord Episcopal Church



We believe God is calling us to be a hope-filled, spiritual community, to demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways that build relationships, serve the world around us, and encourage spiritual growth.

We strive to provide a safe haven for exploring issues of faith, where all are welcome, wherever they are on their spiritual journey.



A Sister Relationship with a Church in Haiti

Most of you know that our own Marguerite Febus used to live in Haiti and still has family living there. While she lived in Haiti, Marguerite attended St. James, Petion-ville. St. James, like all the Episcopal churches in Haiti, is a part of the Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

Now, with Marguerite's help, we have initiated a conversation with Mere Lauren Stanley, a missionary from the United States, and Pere David Cesar, a Haitian priest to set up a sister relationship with St. James. Both St. James Church and our own Bishop's Committee have decided we would like to develop this relationship and have committed ourselves to a sister relationship.

What will this involve? We are not sure yet, as we need to learn what would be most helpful to the people of St. James', but we envision praying specifically for their needs and also possibly sending items that would be helpful to them.

Pere David has already shared some specific prayer requests:

For Bishop Duracin leading the diocese in this difficult time and the ministry of St. James' church in Petion-Ville

For reconstruction projects: The Holy Trinity Music School ministry

College St. Pierre (Episcopal High School)

St. Vincent's school for handicapped children

Please hold St. James and these other requests in your prayers. To learn more about what life is like in Haiti now, read the article below, "Strong Faith, Hard Realities," by Mere Lauren.

Strong Faith, Hard Realities

Every time I speak about Haiti, I am asked: "What is it like there?" The only word I know is "hard." The devastation from the Jan. 12 earthquake has not suddenly gone away. It has not been cleaned up, and the people are not yet better. There truly is no word in any language to adequately describe the scope and horror of this tragedy.

Every time I am in Haiti, this linguistic challenge hits me in the gut again. It hits when I stand among the ruins and feel the rubble beneath my feet; when I travel

about the country and see the buildings that still contain bodies; when I walk by the tent cities where tens – no, hundreds – of thousands of people still live without electricity or sanitation or water or sufficient food or protection; when I see children on the street who should be in school, and who were in school, until their schools came crashing down; when I am told of yet another friend who was killed.

Yet even in all this hardship, over and over again I hear my Haitian friends and colleagues say the same thing: "God saved us for a reason. God saved us to take care of our people and rebuild our country." What I hear is the determination of the people not only to persevere, but also to thrive. Everyone knows what needs to be done; everyone dreams of what can be done. These are the people to whom I listen the most, the Haitians who, when the earthquake tore apart their lives, did not curse, but instead cried out to Jesus; who every night since the quake have joined with friends and strangers to sing praises to God.

Mere (Mother) Lauren Stanley, Episcopal missionary to Haiti

Uganda to the Bay Area



Oasis California invites you to join Bishop Marc and Sheila Andrus as they welcome The Rt. Rev. Christopher Senyonjo to the Bay Area. Bishop Senyonjo is the retired bishop of Western Buganda and the chaplain to Integrity, Uganda. The reception will run from 6 to 8 PM Sunday, May 23, 2010 in the Andrus' home at 2006 Lyons Street, San Francisco, California.

Bishop Senyonjo has been an outspoken advocate for human rights in Uganda. He has taken great risks in defense of LGBT people in his country, a nation where lawmakers recently considered imposing a death penalty on homosexuals. He will be speaking about the anti-gay movement and draconian anti-gay legislation pending in Uganda. Please come prepared to make a generous donation payable to "Integrity U.S.A." to support the work of Integrity Uganda. RSVP to St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church at 415-861-1436 or parishadmin@saintjohnsf.org



Christ the Lord Episcopal Church

Waters of Blessing

Deep within the innermost places of our being,
in the silent places where seeds of Life await,
a moment happens.

A moment waters of blessing
pour forth at the touch of the Creator
and life arises in a shining second,
reaching up to grow and move and cry aloud
in the joy of the gift.

The water of blessing pulses
within each yearning cell, living
with promise and purpose and miracle.

The water of blessing fills us and nurtures,
streaming strength through speeding invisible channels
restoring our dryness, renewing our hope.
And we endure, we enquire, we grow, we thrive.

The water of blessing surrounds our earthly places,
drawing God's creation to the rivers,
to the sea, to quiet ponds
and secret havens of beauty.

We see reflections of the water
on the surface of our lives,
in quiet sunlit diamonds
illuminating moments of our time.

The water of blessing moves always
within us, in wilding waves and roiling power,
rushing on a storm, we clutch at the darkness for a mast
While the deep force of grace, like gravity,
anchors the times and the tides of our days.

In ever-moving silent streams
the water of blessing flows within us
with love, with need, and hope, and creativity,
in grief, and giving, and grace.

The water moves beyond us,
drawing us along rivers of journey
towards a great sea of God,
inviting us to trust it
To trust in the harbor at the ends of the oceans.

We wonder at its mystery and beauty and
forever try to capture it
Always to find that it cannot be held
in the cup of our human hands.

The water of blessing wells up within our soul,
until finally it will not be contained
Spilling out with the goodness
from whence it was born,
running to meet the world,
renewing the life within it,

Pouring forth with the Love of
Christ, in whom there is no thirst,
It is wildly, tenderly, delightedly, astonishingly alive
with the touch of the Creator.

And so are we.

By Deacon (and former member of CIL) Laina Costillas

First Quarter Christ the Lord Church Statistics

January Income: \$10,599.43; Expenses: \$16,298.26 Average Sunday Attendance: 44.8

February Income: \$ 9,917.27 Expenses: \$11,375.44 Average Sunday Attendance: 65.25 (Includes Scotty's baptism service)

March Income: \$ 9,919.09 Expenses: \$ 6,673.1 Average Sunday Attendance: 59.5 (Includes nursing home service)

As you can see, our attendance has been moving in a good direction, but our finances have not. Unfortunately, we are already behind by about \$5000 in the first quarter, compared to a loss of \$7,000 over the whole of 2009. Please join us in praying about this situation, and ask the Lord to show us how our needs can be met so we can continue to make a difference for Christ in our community.

Prayers Requested for Nigeria

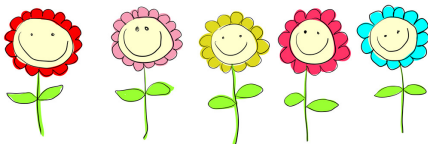
The following article appeared in the April 20 *Diobytes*: Highland Hospital chaplain Mac Jatto is journeying to his homeland. Nigeria has a population of about 150 million people, and is split almost evenly between Muslims and Christians. Recently, it was reported that 250 people have died in religious riots in the north. Churches and Mosques were burned down. Approximately 3000 people fled from their homes. Mac believes Nigeria is heading for disaster and it needs our prayers to survive. He requests you join him in asking God for peace in Nigeria. Thank you. You can reach him at mehouseofprayer@aimafrica.org

Note: In addition to Mac Jatto, who will be visiting Nigeria, a former member of CTL, Lola Ejirinmi, lives there. Please hold Nigeria in your prayers. Unfortunately, we do not have contact information for Lola.



May Intercessors

We pray for our sister parish of St. James, Petion-Ville, Haiti, and also for all the people of Haiti, Chile and China impacted by recent earthquakes; Jaxson Sherman; Lenae Corcoran; peace; Bishop Marc and family; our Bishop's Committee; Justin Casillas and all serving in Iraq or Afghanistan; Eloise Guerrero's mom; Tom Bressemer; Martin Sexton; Lissa Parker; Christine Nadeau; all those looking for work, especially Juan Febus, Larry Mendoza, Cristina Rich, Tara Champion, & Nannette Sherman; our intercessors Peggy Milkovich, Tina Reich and Linda Bressemer, and those for whom they pray: Susannah Marriner, Matthew Motchkavitz, Pat Foster, Evelyn & Fred Michell, Bernice Booker & her sister; Kelly Gibson, Dorothy Jenkins, Mary Anna Stonework, Chris Scalberg, Carolyn Arroyo, the Sherman/Preston family; Duaine Johnson, Ricky Trujillo, Sally Arroyo, Dave Rizzetti, Jerry & Shirley Antonson, and those they hold in confidence. *Note: If you have any prayer request, please put them on the box on the table in the narthex. If you'd like to be an intercessor, please speak to Elaine Wilson-Glimme.*



Why is Education Important to YOU?



We each have our own reasons for wholeheartedly supporting education—perhaps we have children of our own, or grandchildren; perhaps we believe that education leads to a better quality of life and community; perhaps we just want to be surrounded by educated people as we grow older.

Whatever your reason, it is certainly true that “it takes a village” to raise, nurture, and educate our young people, and that ideally we would all pitch in to do so, by prayer, action, and commitment.

Christ the Lord Church has a great local opportunity to contribute to this important cause by Adopting a School, similar to what we do in our Christmas program of Sponsor a Family.

We chose Shannon Elementary School, where our own Pat Foster taught for 30 years. According to Pat, an example of the type of assistance we could give might be helping the individual teachers to set up the materials for various projects for the students, since it's difficult for one teacher to do all the set up for up to 30 children. Pat says, “it would have been terrific if some kindly volunteers would take home some of the projects to do at home at their convenience, like preparing tracings, getting supplies together, etc. And I'm sure that teachers today would appreciate the help even more.”

The principal of Shannon School has indicated that there are several ways we could help. For instance, there are two upcoming events—a barbecue on May 7th, and another event on May 21—at which our assistance from outside the school would enable the parents, teachers, and children to interact more, and to know that they have the support of the community.

Please spend some quiet time asking yourself if you might perhaps be called to do some of this important and satisfying work—remember that there is a need for active in-person participation, but also for projects that can be done at home, and most likely for funds too—as you probably know, many teachers right now are using their own funds to supplement supplies for their classes.