The prophets pointed the way of God’s coming into the world.

“The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah,” says Jeremiah. “In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”

“See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple,” Malachi prophesies. And again he says “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.”

Forever we are searching and waiting for God in our midst, for God who will answer our questions, for God who will relieve our sore and wounded hearts and souls. We, like the wise men of the Epiphany, seek to look upon the face of God, or at least to catch a glimpse of the Holy One so that our souls may know a moment of perfect peace, whole and holy peace. At the same time the book of Revelation proclaims: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.” We are already in the presence of the Almighty. God is already in our midst. This is the mystery of the incarnation, the mystery of our faith.

Wanting to solve that which is unresolved is human nature. Answering questions, finding solutions and new ways to do things is part of our engineering. We have fabulous brainpower to think and reason and create. This part of our being is very much in the image of God, along with our capacity for love and hope. Through our creativity we have learned how to be able to fly to visit family and friends during the holidays, or talk to them on phones across the miles.

At the same time we hold fast to our creative power, for the most part acting and believing as if we can do it all on our own. Our human curiosity is part of our human will. We are indeed a willful people, grasping with our strength, pushing with all our might and agendas to solve the world’s mysteries. Endlessly we seek better ways of heating homes, building faster and more efficient cars, finding a way to end world hunger and poverty. We believe we have the capability to find solutions to all these problems. So we hunker down, forgetting to see or include God in our work. We pursue answers to our questions without fully grasping that the One who created it all has a role to play in our solutions.

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The birth of Jesus calls us back to the ultimate mystery. Seeking answers to the mystery of our faith is how God has created us, for God also wants the resolution. Indeed this is the purpose of Jesus’ birth in the crowded city of Bethlehem: to reveal the resolution to the mystery of God who was, God who is, and God who is to come.

While we strive to figure things out on our own, God comes incarnate into the world to show us who we really are at the core of our beings. We are not ever alone in this world. We do the work, find the answers, and yet there is always the Almighty beside us, working the divine will in our lives.

This eternal tension between our creative will and God’s eternal presence puts me in mind of a poem I recently encountered by Richard Wilbur, second poet laureate of the United States.

Seed Leaves
I.
Here something stubborn comes,
Dislodging the earth crumbs
And making crusty rubble.
It comes bending double
And looks like a green staple.
It could be a seedling maple,
Or artichoke, or bean;
That remains to be seen.
II.
Forced to make a choice of ends,
The stalk in time unbends, shakes off the seedcase, heaves Aloft, and spreads two leaves Which still display no sure And special signature.
Toothless and fat, they keep
The oval form of sleep.
III.
This plant would like to grow
And yet be embryo;
Increase, and yet escape The doom of taking shape;
Be vaguely vast, and climb To the tip of time With all of space to fill,
Like boundless Yggdrasill That has the stars for fruit.

But something at the root
More urgent than that urge
Bids two true leaves emerge, And now the plant, resigned To being self-defined Before it can commerce With the great universe Takes aim at the sky And starts to ramify.

(From Homage to R. F. Poetry by Richard Wilbur. First edition of this homage to Robert Frost, first appeared in The New Yorker and was reprinted in from Walking To Sleep, a limited edition print Boston: Godine (1972).)
Junior Warden’s Report

As the days grow shorter and our evergreen environment becomes enveloped in the moist grayness of winter, it’s nice to know that our house of worship is ready to withstand the cold, wind and rain. The gardens and grounds have for the most part been readied for several months of quiet dormancy. At St. Hilda St. Patrick, almost all work on the building and grounds is done by volunteer members of the congregation. It’s time to acknowledge all the people who did the work this year to keep the building dry, clean and comfortable and keep nature in check in the gardens.

First of all, our Sexton, Ray Smith is constantly responding to calls, diagnosing problems, fixing, painting, repairing, replacing and installing just about anything around the church as needed. After quite an extended period (years) of chin rubbing and speculation by a number of individuals, Ray finally decided to get serious about the programmable thermostat problem in the Sanctuary. Recently, he broke the thermostat’s long forgotten security code and was able to reprogram it to actually heat the room when people are in it. No longer will the heat come on at 3:30 am and shut off at 6:30 am. Last January, Ray also wrestled with the furnace fan motor to get it replaced after the old motor failed. As you might recall, we had no heat for awhile during the severe cold spell last winter. Ray’s one of those guys who can warm a room with his charming personality as well as his toolbox.

We actually had two paid maintenance people this year. Every Saturday the entire building is cleaned by our maintenance contractor, Kay McLellan. Kay empties trash containers, cleans the bathrooms, sweeps floors, vacuums carpets, and dusts to make sure that all is pleasant for our worship services and other uses. Nate Rizzotti was able to carve out a few hours from his busy sports and school schedule every month to mow the lawn. Nate’s work was interrupted last spring when an unexpected immovable metal object encountered in the taller grass sent the mower to the shop for a few weeks. Nate was assisted by his father, Mike, who also removed some fallen trees off the property this year.

On Saturday, September 6, we held a work party to take care of a few of the outstanding issues around the grounds. Activities undertaken included weeding, brush cutting, gutter repair and fence building. Those who came to help included Sue and Giles Shepherd, Ray and Nancy Smith, Eileen Bernard and son Alex, Don and Rosemary Stapleton and John Heberling. Rosemary, Eileen, Nancy and Sue cleaned flower beds trimmed shrubs and cleaned the labyrinth, Giles cut back ivy and blackberry bushes, Ray fixed gutters and Don and John installed fence posts. Alex helped everyone throughout the day and did some of the really nasty work by picking up and hauling away the sharp, prickly blackberry vines that Giles cut. Delores Dean came in a few days later and provided some additional weeding and Joe Kowalski came back with Don Stapleton two weeks later to finish the fence installation. The fence, located on the south property line, is a project that was initiated last year by Don. The fence has been extended periodically as funds for materials became available.

Speaking of the fence, the funding for this project was provided by the Landscape Committee which has held plant sales each spring and a social event in the summer to provide monies for landscape materials. Over the years, the Landscape Committee has coordinated and conducted much of the work around the church grounds including planting, weeding, pruning and general maintenance. The regular members of the committee included Melody Oxley, Rosemary Stapleton, Nora Cheek, Jill Johnson, Sue Rizzotti, Debbie Lindhardt, Desha Davis, Mary Helen Roberts, Mary Magill, and Pat Allendoerfer. Others who have contributed time and energy towards grounds maintenance this year include Carol Aguayo, Jeff

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October Financials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Actuals</th>
<th>Budget Est</th>
<th>Variance*</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Pledge Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Income - Expense)</td>
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<td>-$3,751</td>
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Income

First, note that pledge payments continue to be less than expected. It is hoped that November, having five Sundays, will make up for some of the shortfall. Plate income was actually more than anticipated. As before, it is the hope that each member as able, will contribute a little more each month to help us make up the shortfall.

Expenses

Total Expenses continue to be less than Budgeted as we continue our effort to lower costs.

Over Run

The Bishop’s Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 1st to work on ways to reduce expenses for the coming year.

- Bernie Johnson, Treasurer

*Variance = Actuals – Budget

Jr. Warden’s Message  continued from page 3

Cheek, Lars Lindhardt and Sandy and Holly Ripley. Sandy and Holly graciously maintain the flower beds on the entrance courtyard and Debbie and Lars watch over the Peace Garden. Recently, the Landscape Committee decided to disband; however, several of the members have said they will continue to help out in the flower beds. We are all very grateful for the efforts of these people who have volunteered so much to improve and maintain the church grounds.

Others to acknowledge for their help with the building and grounds this year include Chris Kelly, who says he is fascinated with anything related to wires, lights and communication cables. Giles Shepherd does a wonderful job as our resident wood worker and organ technician. Tim Weller does just about everything related to doors and Linda Weller painted the story telling room. If there are others who have helped out that I haven’t recognized, which I’m sure there are, I apologize for the oversight.

Thanks to everyone who has helped around the building and grounds this year. Your devotion and attention to the things that keep our facility functioning and well cared for are greatly appreciated.

- John Heberling, Jr. Warden

Hatching a Better Profit

In the tiny village of Kishorinagar in northern India, Rupchard and his wife Rhada struggled for years to make an income from the land. They managed to piece together an existence from fishing, raising pigs and growing vegetables.

Through a joint micro-finance initiative between Episcopal Relief & Development and the Church of North India, the couple received chicks and chickens, allowing them to begin a small poultry business. They determined just how many chickens they would need to make a profit, and even built a special shed to protect the chickens.

“With 30 eggs in a day, it’s possible to recover the cost of the feed, multiply our stock and sell older chickens for profit,” Rhada says.

Now, Rupchard and Rhada are on the road to self reliance, thanks to a small investment from Episcopal Relief & Development.
Rubber Chicken Ramblings

Moving into the holiday season always has the Rubber Chicken on overdrive, and this year is no exception. There are separate articles elsewhere with details about the migrant workers in Mt Vernon toy outreach and to let all the Christmas Elves know how to purchase and wrap their gifts for our Food Baskets families, so be on the lookout for them.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets:

With much gratitude, we can report that your efforts provided Thanksgiving for eight families, two seniors and fulfilled the wish list for the kids at Scriber Lake High School. There were hugs and tears abounding during the deliveries, and you all are thanked and blessed in ways too numerous to count.

Spiritual Stitchers:

The Spiritual Stitchers (meetings third Saturday of the month 10:00am to noon in the meeting room – everybody welcome, and lessons provided for those who’d like to learn – is this long enough?) have been working since last year to knit watch caps for the Mission to Seafarers in Seattle. The caps are included in “Ditty Bags” that are assembled and given to merchant sailors coming to the Port of Seattle during December. For Christmas 2008, the stitchers made about two dozen hats, but fingers were flying during 2009, and we sent 88 caps down to the Ditty Bag stuffing event. Our goal for 2010 is 100 caps, so if you like to knit or crochet and are interested in helping, contact Carol Sodetani or Carol Aguayo for details.

Christmas Food Baskets:

We are helping the same families for Christmas that we served at Thanksgiving, and the sign up sheets for both food and gifts are available on Sundays in the Parish Hall. If you’d like to look at the lists in between, they’re usually either on the table in the meeting room or leaning up against the wall in Cynthia’s office. (They’re not being taped to the wall in the Parish Hall this year because they keep falling off..). If you have questions about any of the families or about the process, feel free to contact Carol Rypkema. We can use shoppers, sorters, package wrappers on the evening of Dec 21st, and sleigh drivers on Dec 22nd. This is one of the most hands-on ministries we have and it’s a great way to get into the spirit of Christmas!

The Fall altar frontal, made by Virginia Harrison, together with flowers made for a serene focal point for our Thanksgiving worship.

Alex Arnone’s smile is always warm, but on a recent gloomy Sunday, it positively glowed. Thank you, Alex for making us smile!
Christ In Action

La Iglesia de la Resurreccion is an Episcopal church in the Mount Vernon area. It primarily serves Spanish speaking migrant workers and their families. Christ In Action is in the process of working with de la Resurreccion in two programs; the first program is a Christmas program and the second is a mission.

**Christmas Program:** All of us in CIA are asking for donations from St Hilda St Patrick. We need 25 to 30 Christmas presents for the children of the migrant workers. The children range in age from infancy to teen. The gifts can be anything from Hot Wheels to Barbies; if you purchase a toy that needs batteries, PLEASE INCLUDE THE BATTERIES with the toy. Do not wrap the toy! Just bring it to HP by December 13th (Sunday). CIA will be wrapping the gifts during youth group time. They will be delivered to de la Resurreccion on December 17th.

We all have a tendency to buy these children coats and warm clothes for presents; although that is something they might need, Christmas is about a child wanting something from St Nicholas, not needing something we adults think is important. CIA is all about creating a lasting memory for these kids and we are asking for your help to do it. Thanks.

**Christmas Fun:** Following the 10:00 service on Sunday, December 27th, CIA is going to the movies. We are going to see “Sherlock Holmes” with Robert Downey, Jr. and Jude Law. After the film we are going for pizza. All families, friends and anyone from HP who want to attend are welcome to join us.

**Mission:** CIA is going on a mission to La Iglesia de la Resurreccion from August 15-20. We are partnering with the youth from St. Margaret’s in Bellevue. We will be staying at a KIA camp- ground at no cost to us. Michael and Sharon Rader will be the chaperones.

All youth are eligible, current grades 6-12. We will leave early Sunday morning, August 15th to attend service with de la Resurreccion and we will return on Friday, August 20th in the late afternoon.

What will we be doing? Well, it is not just a work camp, but a chance to eat, learn, play, worship, serve and have our lives changed with the community of La Iglesia de la Resurreccion - an Episcopal mission in the Skagit Valley which serves primarily Spanish speaking migrant workers and their families. Their priest describes their community as “a piece of the third world in the middle of the first world.” Although this is the closest mission trip we can take geographically, it will be the most distant culturally. Some people there will only speak Spanish, and all will come from very different cultural backgrounds than most of us are used to.

Our primary job during the week will be running a Bible School for children in the afternoons from Monday to Thursday. During the early part of the day we will be with their youth, and will have the opportunity for fellowship and service with their community in a variety of ways. On Friday, we’ll have an opportunity to have our own group day of fun to help relax after the experience!

Since summer mission experiences are quite often far away and serve communities that we have little connection with, this is an opportunity for us to partner with an Episcopal community that is only an hour away, is in our own Diocese and has dramatic needs and challenges. These experiences are always transformative and the hope is that this trip will help engage with mission and justice in our own community.

This experience involves a real commitment. It’s so much more than a week of fun away from the family! We will be spending time during the year learning about the culture we will be entering. We will be raising funds, gathering school supplies to donate, organizing our Bible School lessons, connecting with one another and the youth from St. Margaret’s and sharing the story of our experience with the congregations. Trip participants will shape every aspect along the way.

Sign ups for this trip begin immediately and will be due no later than January 30. We need a commitment from our youth, their families and from
Music Notes
What an incredible Fall music program we have had at SHSP. Our expanded choir can really make a joyful noise to the Lord along with Rock of Ages and Hilda’s Horns. It’s now time to settle down a little. Advent brings an entire change of mood and reflects a season of waiting and introspection.

I love the change in the church seasons just the same as I love the changing seasons of the Pacific Northwest. It gives us a chance to musically tell a story with a different voice. With all the craziness of the holiday season, it’s a relief to spend some reflective time in church with some soothing spiritual sounds. This December, we have several instrumentalists who will be visiting and playing with us to enhance the worship service. Remember to take some time to relax, reflect and pray. A blessed holiday to you all.

- B’Shalom, Andrea

My Brothers and Sisters:
I have used your wonderful departure gift to purchase a stole and a dalmatic for celebrating our great feasts (e.g. Christmas, Easter and All Saints) and for those occasions of joyful celebration like baptisms and weddings. As a result, I will carry all of you with me both over and in my heart whenever I wear these vestments. Thank you for being part of the Body of Christ that so graciously accepted me during my field education and may you continue to minister to those in need of Christ’s compassion wherever you are called to do so.

Thank you,
Deacon Brian

Christ In Action continued from page 5

food, school supplies to donate, tents, a van to transport us to, during and from Mount Vernon, etc., etc., etc..

BIG NEWS!!!! The St Hilda St Patrick youth group will be hosting the Junior Youth Convention in November 2010. We have no details as yet, but this is an exciting event and one that will need a lot of prayer, donations of time, opening up of your homes to these young people and a willingness to have fun. As soon as more information is available, we will let you know.

Youth Director Needs Help: The next few months are going to be fulfilling, fun and educational. As Youth Director I am asking for a commitment from the kids, their families and the community of St Hilda St Patrick. CIA is like a puzzle. In order to have a thriving youth program the first piece of the puzzle is having youth in attendance. The second piece of the puzzle is having their parents supporting them and encouraging them to attend each Sunday. The third piece of the puzzle is prayerful and moral support from the church community itself. When all pieces of the puzzle are put together, it forms a whole picture. We have been minus a couple of pieces of the puzzle…could you please support me so that I can help to create a beautiful picture? I made a 3 year commitment when I took responsibility for the program. I’m in my second year and I’m still waiting for a commitment from the kids and their families. We need to build and then they will come...

- Sharon Rader, CIA Director
Choir of the Sound is pleased to present the Christmas portion of Handel’s Messiah with orchestra, along with new twists on holiday favorites. Festive costumes, sets, and vignettes make this concert a wonder way to start the holiday season!

Maps and information about our 2009-2010 season are available at www.choirofthesound.org or by calling 206-528-9990

**Tickets:**
- Adults - $18.00
- Student/Seniors - $16.00
- children 12 and under - $9.00
- Group Rate (8 or more) - $14

*A handling fee of approximately .99 plus 2.5% of the ticket cost will be added to individual ticket prices.*
- Tickets at the door - $20
- Buy tickets online - www.choirofthesound.org/tickets
- Tickets by phone - Brown Paper Tickets 24-Hour Hotline 1-800-838-3006

Dear Friends of the Everett Chorale:

Please join me and the Everett Chorale on December 5 or 6 at the Everett Performing Arts Center for a traditional holiday concert “Merrily Ring the Christmas Songs.” The 90 voice Chorale will present Camille Saint-Saens’ “Christmas Oratorio” on the first half of the program. Complete with string orchestra, organ and harp and employing a quintet of talented local soloists, this charming piece tells the traditional story of the nativity in a way that will warm your heart for the entire Christmas season. The second half of our program will feature traditional secular holiday music with a theme centered on bells and the beautiful Currier and Ives winter scenes which are so popular on holiday greeting cards. A hand bell choir will join the festivities and the audience will have an opportunity to sing several of their favorite carols along with the Chorale as part of the celebration. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us on Saturday, December 5 or Sunday, December 6 and get your holidays off to a rousing start. Share the music and joy of the season by inviting a friend or family member to join you as part of your Christmas gift this year.

Hope to see you there. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

*Lee Mathews/Music Director-Conductor*
The New Thing That God is Doing

The following is the text of the sermon given by Andrea on November 15.

Yi yu l’ratzon imre fi. Ve heg yon li bi ley, fanech. Adonai, tsu ri ve go a li. Adonai tsu ri ve go a li. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Today’s gospel has a powerful and scary message. Nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom, famines and earthquakes. And these are just the birth pangs! It’s been over 2000 years……and I thought I had a long labor! Jesus tells his disciples that all the stones from the temple will be thrown down. As a literal prediction, that is pretty good since 70 years later the temple is destroyed along with animal sacrifice and other forms of temple worship. But Jesus usually speaks in parables and metaphors, and I think the tearing down of the temple is a metaphor for a new order that is coming. The temple walls represent the walls that separate us, the walls of exclusivity. He also warns the disciples to beware of false prophets that will follow in his name. Yet the church that arose from his ministry followed one false prophet after another into the Crusades, the Inquisition, the churches that tacitly supported the Holocaust, ethnic cleansing, witch trials, and the churches today that spew hateful rhetoric. The list goes on and on. God must be very patient…but wait! Stop the presses! Hold the phone! What is the matter with this picture?? The person talking about Jesus and the Gospel, standing in front of the cross is a Jew! As I blurted out at Ministry Resource Day 2 years ago, not a Jewish Christian, but a JewJew. Is this some kind of joke? An example of God’s cosmic sense of humor…or is this the new thing that God is doing? Could this be the new order toward which Jesus told his disciples we were heading?

When I was a little girl, something small happened that would influence the rest of my life. I grew up in a mostly Jewish neighborhood in NYC. It was the afternoon of Yom Kippur, the day of atonement. While the adults rested after long synagogue services and waited till the end of the Fast, the children were sent out to play in the streets in our dress clothes. Shortly after 3:00, the Catholic School bus let off two children. After he changed out of his uniform, Michael Smollen came out to play. I don’t know what possessed me to tell him that since it was Yom Kippur and he wasn’t Jewish that he couldn’t play with us. Just like in Lord of the Flies, the other children rallied around my act of cruelty. Michael went off in tears while I was feeling very self-righteous. When I arrived home a short while later, my mother sternly informed me that Mrs. Smollen had called. Then she gently explained why what I had done was so very wrong. She told me about how my Grandpa Kurke (my father’s father) had gone down to City Hall to change our family name from Kurkevitz to Kurke so that my father and two uncles could get into college rather than being rejected for being Jewish. Then there was the story of one of my mother’s cousins who lied on a job application for a secretary job. She claimed to be Protestant so they wouldn’t discriminate against her. When she was hired, she constantly listened to anti-Semitic office chatter. It was my first lesson in never to discriminate as we had been discriminated against. I apologized to Michael that night.

The tables turned a little during high school when Christian friends started proselytizing me. Linda Shipper invited me to come to a service at her nearby Lutheran church. The pastor’s vitriolic sermon condemning the Wandering Jew did not exactly make me feel welcome or like joining. Then a fellow tuba player in band class took me to 3 Billy Graham Crusades. He was what we called a Jesus Freak back in those days. It was quite a sociological experience for me! The third Crusade I attended, I felt repulsed by Billy Graham’s insistence that good deeds were unimportant and only faith mattered. I found this narcissistic and shallow and contradictory to everything I’d been taught as a Jew, and my date was disappointed that I didn’t want to convert.

During college I took a renewed interest in my Jewish faith and embarked on a course of self study and regular synagogue attendance. I never forgot the lesson of Michael Smollen and always invited all my friends, Jewish or not, to enjoy Shabbat, Passover and Chanukah with me. I also began to play music in churches as special entertainment or as a fill-in for vacationing pianists. Many of my experiences were positive but occasionally I left a church swearing never to offer my services again. One pastor pronounced that people who did not follow Jesus led empty and meaningless lives. Even worse than that
The New Thing That God is Doing

continued from page 9

was the pastor who said that those who didn’t follow Jesus, followed Satan. Needless to say, I scooted my little Satanic behind out of there.

Despite these experiences, and the fact that I was a synagogue cantor for six years, I still felt a pull toward church music. Two weeks ago, Cynthia spoke of times when God pulls you out of despair and moves you into new opportunities and situations. That is what happened to me when I had lost four babies all in the 2nd trimester of pregnancy and was pregnant with the 5th. I received a job offer from the pastor of a soon to start up Lutheran Church in Duval. I played music there for the first time two days after I lost my fifth and final baby. My new focus helped pull me out of what could have been a crippling depression. Though Christianity has diverged from its parent Judaism in many ways, I was always surprised a delighted to learn how many parallels and similarities we share. Another thing I learned was that I really didn’t know much about Christians or Christianity until I walked a mile in their shoes. I served that church for eleven years, but then found it was time to move on. Almost immediately after I decided to retire, I received a call from Father Peter offering me the opportunity to start up and direct a summer music camp. It was just the creative opportunity that I needed. Very shortly after camp, Dorothy retired as music director…and here I am! It’s an awful lot of coincidences…or is it? I don’t know, but I do know that I have felt God’s call to do what I am doing here, and to tell you the truth, sometimes it scares me.

So now we come full circle to the new thing that God is doing. There have been lots of Ecumenical Councils in the last 60 to 70 years. Lots of talking, discussing and debating, and occasional visits to each other’s places of worship. But sharing the same pew? Could Jesus have meant that the walls separating us could crumble this far? Are we capable of walking this many miles in each other’s shoes? I want to bring up Greg Mortensen, author of Three Cups of Tea again. One of his most admirable traits is the way in which he displayed his respect for Islamic culture and religion among the people he encountered in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. He prayed with them according to their traditions and so became one with them and eaned their mutual respect. Imagine if we were all that flexible and humble!

Here at St. Hilda St. Patrick we may be engaging in the new way God would like us to build his kingdom. Not only does this church engage in outreach to help the poor and needy, but we stand as a beacon of true brotherhood and sisterhood. Mother Cynthia has expressed amazement and pride at how easily this congregation has accepted me with no expectation that I might convert. This picture taken last Christmas Eve which was also the 4th night of Chanukah, says it all. (Show photos of Menorah on the altar in front of cross with advent candles to the side) Then there is the way you enfolded me and raised me up during my diagnosis through cure of my cancer as if I were one of your own…because you all know that we are One.

Through this we have all maintained our own faiths, yet we have been transformed. I now recite the Lord’s Prayer and almost all of the Confession of Sin. I receive blessings from priests and deacons, have had my feet washed and washed the feet of the homeless. I lit a candle on All Saints Day for the first time. I have made contributions to Episcopal Relief and Development along with donating food to the Church’s food pantry. I leave church every Sunday spiritually fed and ready to be God’s hands and feet in the world.

And how have you changed? Mother Cynthia has expressed a real awareness of the content of her words and her desire to make her sermons and the worship as inclusive of me as possible. What an incredible gift of love! Both Brian and Cynthia have tailored blessings for me in ways that are acceptable to my faith. Many of you have celebrated Shabbat or other Jewish holidays with me and my family. Most of all you have allowed me to shape so much of your worship through music. All our lives have been enriched in the process.

In Judaism we have a short and simple creed. 
Sh’mi Yisroel, Adonai, Elohenu, Adonai echod. Hear O Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is One! I propose that whether we call God, Adonai or Jesus, whether we believe God is triune or singular, and whether we believe the Messiah has come and will come again or we are still waiting for the messiah to come, that we are truly all One. We need to drop our fear and xenophobia. The Dalai Lama said that the center of all religions is love. Let us learn to say these new words. Sh’mi yoshvey tevel, Adonai Elohenu, Adonai Echod. Hear all the world, The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Amen.
**Winter Camp Details:**

**Who:** Those currently enrolled in grades 6-12  
**When:** December 29, 2009-January 2, 2010  
**How Much:** $275/person – if you wish to request a scholarship from Camp Huston’s Campership Fund check the appropriate box on the attached registration form.  
**What:** A similar structure to a week at Summer Camp. Age similar Discovery Groups will spend time getting to know each other, working together, and having fun (hopefully in the snow!) There will be Activity Time and Evening Community Time each day with opportunities at some of camp’s traditional and not so traditional activities. Also enjoy a one of a kind New Year’s Eve Celebration!  
**Note:** We will not be making a trip to Stevens Pass for Winter Camp this year. We will, however, enjoy the snow that will hopefully be available at camp!

**How to Register:** A registration form is attached and can also be found at www.huston.org. Please send in your registration by December 20th so we can plan for you to join us! We require at least a $75 deposit with registration and final payment on or before registration day (December 29th).

Happy Holidays!  
Chelsea Hendrikx, Program Director  
Huston Camp and Conference Center  
w: 360-793-0441, c: 206-909-2597

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**Calling All Elves!**

Have you ever wanted to wear the pointy shoes and hats of Santa’s elves? Now is your chance! Our holiday food baskets program is moving into the Christmas season and we need you. We need you to care about your less fortunate neighbors and share your time and your resources to help six families in the local community have a more joyous Christmas season.

Take a look at the lists. Choose one (or several) items - food and/or gifts - to help a needy child. Return your wrapped, tagged gifts by 6:30pm on Monday, December 21st.

We are also in need of shoppers – the gift shopping day is also Monday, December 21st, and the “It’s a Wrap” party (munchies and spiced cider provided) will begin at 6:30pm that evening. Food shopping, sorting and delivery (with the gifts – you’ll need a big sleigh to fit everything in!) will be on Tuesday, December 22nd.

Call Carol Rypkema if you can help or you want any information about this outreach project.

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**Make Me Wise**

A pageant from a different perspective will be presented December 20th during the 10 a.m. service. People of all ages are needed to play the parts of angles and various Old Testament characters who inform Jesus of the expectations placed on him by the prophets.

Rehearsals are: December 6th and 13th from 9:10 to 9:50 a.m. (in place of Godly Play) and Saturday, December 19th (time to be decided.) Contact Deb Walrath before she contacts you!

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**Coffee with Christ Forums**

In Advent we hear the stories of those people who were on the edges of the birth of Jesus.

- **December 6:** The Shepherdess, as told by Deacon Phyllis  
- **December 13:** Joseph’s story, as told by Michael Rader  
- **December 20:** Everyone help prepare for the Advent Pageant Make Me Wise  
- **December 27:** Social time (no program)  
- **January 3:** Godly Play for Everyone – the story of the Baptism  
- **January 10:** Stranger in a far away land, Presented by Sam and Mary Magill

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**Winter Camp Details:**

**Who:** Those currently enrolled in grades 6-12  
**When:** December 29, 2009-January 2, 2010  
**How Much:** $275/person – if you wish to request a scholarship from Camp Huston’s Campership Fund check the appropriate box on the attached registration form.  
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Call Carol Rypkema if you can help or you want any information about this outreach project.
**The Pious Gourmet**

**Chocolate Harvest Cake**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 9x1/12 inch thick round baking pans, set aside.

**CAKE:**
- 1 cup buttermilk*
- 1 cup water
- 2/3 cup cooking oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder**.

**CREAM FILLING:**
- 1 8 oz pkg. cream cheese, softened***
- 1/3 cup canned pumpkin
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon.

**CHOCOLATE GLAZE:**
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 4 oz semisweet baking chocolate, chopped.

In a large bowl, combine buttermilk, water, oil, sugar, eggs, baking soda and salt. Whisk until well combined. Add flour and cocoa powder, whisk vigorously until smooth. Divide batter between prepared pans. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes until top springs back when lightly touched in center. Cool pans on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove cake from pans and cool completely.

Prepare filling by whisking cream cheese, pumpkin, sugar and cinnamon in a large bowl until combined. Place one cake layer on a plate and spread filing over the top. Top with second cake layer.

Make chocolate glaze in a saucepan. Over medium high heat, bring whipping cream just to boiling. Remove from heat and add chocolate (Do Not Stir). Let stand 5 minutes, then stir until smooth. Cool 15 minutes or until slightly thickened. Pour over cake, allowing glaze to drip down sides. Chill until set, about 30 minutes.

Denice Patrick

*I always use low-fat buttermilk
** I used Hershey’s Special Dark Cocoa for the cake I made for the potluck.
*** I used the ‘1/3 less fat’ cream cheese for the filing and it tasted just fine.
We Danced the Night Away!

On Saturday, November 22, St Hilda’s-St Patrick’s Bishop’s Committee sponsored its first ever Dinner-Dance to benefit Clothes for Kids, the clothing bank for the Edmonds School District. We collected cash donations and 2 large bags of new socks and underwear as gifts to the organization and enjoyed a fabulous evening of entertainment. The great DJ team of “Bernie J” and “Swinging John” Heberling provided dance music while Deacon Phyllis taught the rumba and other dances. Just about 30 congregation members and friends enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner and great fellowship. Stay tuned for a possible rerun in a few months. Keep your dancing shoes shiny – we’ll want YOU to attend!
With joy and wonder we welcomed three more members of our community into the Body of Christ, All Saints Day, 2009.
## December Schedule

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### Ministry

**Altar Guild**
- Linens - Rosemary Harris
  - Team C: Jill Johnson, Sue Shepherd, Nancy Smith
  - Team D: Janet Kowalski, Melody Oxley, Rosemary Stapleton

### Hospitality
- Team D
- Team E
- Team F
- Team G

### Leader
- Janet Kowalski
- Rosemary Stapleton
- Sue Shepherd
- Denise Avery

### Rite I - 8 a.m.
**PLEASE TRY TO FIND YOUR OWN SUBSTITUTE**
- EM

### Greeters
- Ushers

### Rite II - 10 a.m.
**PLEASE TRY TO FIND YOUR OWN SUBSTITUTE**
- Lector (OT)
- Psalm
- Lector (NT)
- EM

### Plate Counters
- Martha Walker, Don Kelso, Bob Espeseth, Mary Gates
- Denise Avery, Mary Gates, Karen Haslam, Joe Kowalski
- Mary Gates, Joe Kowalski
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Bishop’s Committee
Eileen Bernat
Jeff Cheek
Sarah Clinton
John Heberling, Jr. Warden
Bernie Johnson
Carol Rypkema, Sr. Warden
Carol Soldetani
Jane Tuttle
Martha Walker

Convention Delegates
Nancy Smith
Jeff Cheek

Alternates
Brad Kirschner
Mary Helen Roberts

Office Hours
If you would like to schedule an appointment with Mother Cynthia, you may reach her through the church or email at vicar@sthildastpatrick.org. Cynthia takes her days off on Friday and Saturday.

Lorica
Editors: Mary Gates, Sue Shepherd
Layout: Martha Walker
Contributors: Mo. Cynthia, Brian Wright, Andrea Brown, Bernie Johnson, Denice Patrick, Sharon Rader, Carol Rypkema
Photos: Sue Shepherd, Micah Parker