



LORICA

December 2007

priest's message

Dear Members of St. Hilda and St. Patrick,

The addition of Mother Cynthia to the staff, enables us to contemplate new priorities and shapes for ministry to take. Up until now, we have done our best to cover the needs of our congregation in much the same way a much larger church would. We have been doing this with few resources of money, volunteers and clergy hours. This kind of response is very stressful – it is like trying to sleep on a bed with sheets and blankets too short; whichever way you turn, there is more of you to be covered. This has forced us to be creative and dependent upon the good will of many of our people. We've done well, but now what?

As a community our main concern should be our ministry to our children and young members. This does not mean we take away from all the other things we do, but that all of you have a particular call to a ministry towards children. Why I phrase the issue that way is that the response of every member of the congregation helps create the environment of acceptance that the children experience. The second job of you all is to consider your active ministry to the young members of the congregation. I am going to ask some of you men to teach Sunday School, I am going to ask for us to accommodate the children within our services in various ways, but principally I ask each of you to consider what you have to offer to kids when you come in contact with them. On Sunday morning before entering the church, think for a moment of what you have to offer future generations. As you enter the door of the church, say a prayer for the kids in church that day. Allow yourselves to be excited about what we can offer them. Talk to the children, go sit with them at breakfast or help them with getting robed as acolytes. Let us achieve in our congregation an attitude shift, so that our community will reflect Jesus' own words, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and don't turn them off." (Well, almost)

Another issue is that we have a Catch-22 problem. Kids are not there every week, and so the kids don't want to come because their friends will not be there. The teachers become frustrated, feel they are wasting their time and feel burned out. Teachers, parents and kids each have their part to play in how we develop our program. Mother Cynthia will be working with all of you to make this happen. By Epiphany, (January 6th) we should be seeing a new shape to our Sunday School begin to emerge.

This is going to take all of us.

Father Peter

Christmas and Chanukah:

Music of the Season

Free concert performed by the



Cascade Brass Quintet

7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 14

St. Hilda St. Patrick's Episcopal Church



Come one and come all for fun,
enjoyment and refreshments!

Free-will offering accepted to benefit
Holiday Food baskets for local families in need.

The Lorica's mission is to share the love of Jesus Christ through communication, information, education, and wholesome entertainment.

We intend to make quality and substance a priority and to provide a safe forum for dialogue on the spiritual and social issues of the day in which divergent views are treated respectfully and without judgment.

Fr Peter & Lisa Fly the Coop

We are off to New Orleans! The trip originally was a way of dealing with the awkward reality of a 70th birthday. One stray thought was that if I were not in Seattle, maybe it wouldn't really happen. Also, I wanted to do something useful or constructive. Jim Loftstrand's work with Habitat for Humanity was a source of inspiration for me.

Last Sunday, November 25th, was a surprise. I know now that I am taking your prayers with me. Lisa and I feel very supported in this small effort we are making to contribute to the Diocesan "We will stand with you," program.

Now, instead of going alone, Mike Rizzotti is coming. I am taking a check for over \$440 for the "Stand with you fund". I am moved by your generosity and I thank you all for your support in this. I sense I am representing you there this next week.

Fr Peter and Lisa Robertson.



Thank you, St. Hilda & St. Patrick, for supporting the Mukilteo Garden & Quilt Tour. Shown are gardeners and quilters presenting a Katsura tree, a quilt, and a check for \$1000.00 to Joanne Norman, a Compass Health representative. We appreciate your sponsorship and all your help!

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 give us your money and your time to help families in the local community have a more joyous Christmas season.

Take a look at the lists. Choose one (or several) items to help a needy child. Return the wrapped, tagged gifts by 6:00pm on Thursday, December 20. (Or, for even better service, have your gift at church by 9:00am on Sunday December 16, and we'll wrap it for you!)

The education time on Sunday, December 16th will be an advance peek at the "It's a Wrap" party, so if you'd like to help, be at church between 9:15am and 9:30am and bring your best scissors, pens & tape!

We are also in need of shoppers – the gift shopping day is Thursday, December 20, and the "It's a Wrap" party (munchies and spiced cider provided) will begin at 6:00pm that evening. Food shopping, sorting and delivery (with the gifts – you'll need a big sleigh to fit everything in!) will be on Friday, December 21st.

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



Mother Cynthia Writes...



How do we engage and value our children? How do we make it obvious that we value our young people? After the conversation we had at the Education Hour about kids, church, and what do we do, I found myself encouraged, and a bit anxious and frustrated. Several other people told me they felt like that too. We've had

this conversation before—at least I have in three other churches where I've served. One thing I know is that while creating programs is necessary, it is only 1/10th of the answer. God needs us to value our children by listening to them, by talking with them, by passing on to them our faith and the stories of our faith. God needs us to teach our children how to pray (even as we fumble our way along) and how to be members of the body of Christ. God needs us to do this every day, not just on Sundays, but all ways. We use our time on Sundays to create the fertile ground so the transformation of hearts to Christ happens for all. So here is what is next.

1. I invite, encourage, cajole and plead that each family commit to bringing their children to church. I know from experience that there is nothing worse than having spent several hours preparing a Sunday School lesson only to have no one show up. I am also aware as a parent of two children how hard it is to get kids to church. Our schedules are booked, there are sports and jobs, and just wanting to rest from the busy-ness. I know this reality well! But at least try. Be a partner with Jesus and help your kids to learn the ways of faith and hope and love. Otherwise we really will lose this generation to the values that are being spouted out through TV, the internet and video games.

A good way to engage with kids about church includes having conversations with your children about why they need to know who God is, and what this whole faith thing is about. You could end up talking to them about your own faith, including your own questions and uncertainties. A great way to start a conversation with a child is with a “wondering” question, such as “I wonder where you might see God today?” Or,

“I wonder what you think or feel when that little wafer is put into your hand at communion?” Or “I wonder where you might fit into the prayers we say.” Or, make up your own “wondering” question – wondering inspires imagination and possibilities. It is also an excellent way to counter the “But church is so boring!” comment – I wonder what would make church not boring?

2. I am in the process of inviting 4-6 important and special people to engage with the kids during the Education Hour. Working from a select list, I will be calling on men and women in this community who are blessed with a faith that is to be shared and passed on. Are you one of these people? Do you want to be one of these people? Call or email me: rev.cynthia@verizon.net. We have a curriculum, we have a schedule, we have topics and ideas for the education time. But it will not happen unless there are kids and adults working together.

3. Our worship and worship space will continue to have subtle transformations. You will be seeing more children up front more often. Peter and I hope to have kids serving as acolytes every Sunday. Additionally, I hope to have the youth serve every Sunday as either a reader, leading prayers, or as chalice bearer. The kid-space up front will transform to become even more useful, particularly for older kids as well as the younger ones. You can especially help by encouraging the older kids help with the younger ones. If the kids bring me pictures they have been inspired to create during church, I will hang them up (as long as they are appropriate, of course!).

4. We will listen and talk with the children. All of them. One of the signs of a healthy church is the number of intergenerational conversations held during the social times. I have a friend who says she is 92, but never comes to church without a stuffed animal, a silly toy, or a good joke that she gives away to the kids. She has never given up being goofy and able to have fun like a child.

Jesus said “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” (Matthew 19:14). You are the body of Christ and the hands and heart of Jesus for our children.

Top 10 Reasons Why Children are Welcomed in Our Church:

10.Repeated exposure to the sights, sounds and symbols of Eucharist help form all Christians

9.Children actually LIKE sitting in those usually-empty front row seats so they can see and hear what's going on.

8.It would be expensive to repaint all those signs to read "The Episcopal Church Only Welcomes Adults"

7.Practice Makes Perfect - Teaching young children to enjoy and participate in the service helps them become active and receptive worshipping adults

6.There are no pop quizzes at the communion rail! We all experience the Eucharist as a mystery... you don't have to be able to explain it in order to benefit from it.

5.Children have their own unique relationships with God. Being in church helps them learn how to pray, sing, worship and otherwise strengthen that relationship.

4.If children aren't in church, who are the candy-unwrapping, restless, coughing, whispering adults going to blame for the noise?

3.Sunday services make great family-togetherness time. Use the quiet space for extra hand-holding or snuggling time that may get lost during a busy week.

2.Children teach us what absolute joy looks like - and what better place to experience that than in church?

And the Number One reason why Children are Welcomed in our Church:

1.The Circle of God's family is incomplete without them!

This list was in a recent Lorica. It is reprinted here to compliment the articles regarding our youth ministry.



Christmas Pageants Past

Stewardship

We are almost at the end of our efforts to raise our operating income for next year. Usually this is handled by our treasurer and campaign secretary. Every year I experience a lot of ambivalence in having such a drive. Partly because I don't like raising money and partly because I don't like asking people to pledge. In spite of my ambivalence, you, the congregation, have responded to the drive very well. Richard Lee has done a good job and I commend him for his gentle, low key, but realistic, encouragement for you to meet our budget for next year. Well done all of you!

As I said, I am ambivalent about stewardship campaigns. I am not concerned with how much you pledge, or who pledges what, but rather that you are committed to our community. Some of you I do not see often, but when you send in a pledge card it tells me that you are walking with us. When new people join and sign a pledge card, it matters because it is a hard piece of evidence of your commitment. One pledge we receive every year, (and have for decades) is from David Storm, a priest who served here 35 years ago. Like him, others who send in a pledge card are long gone members but still walk with us. This is a wonderful way of establishing solidarity and expectation of this church community; to show your hope for us in spite of our warts and imperfections.

Fr. Peter

As of November 27th 2007, we are at 98.9% (\$122,687) of our goal of \$124,000, with 68% of our membership responding.

BULLETIN BOARD



December Birthdays

- 1 Lisa Coale
- 3 Peter Snow
- 11 Brett Gaspers
- 12 Holly Ripley
- 13 George Pratt
- 14 Mary Ellen Gardiner
- 16 Charlotte Pratt
- 17 Randi Cairns
Carol Rypkema
Rosemary Stapleton
Courtney Torres
- 18 Eric Farrar
- 20 Connor Levy
- 21 Bob Cairns
Gracie Coale
- 24 Carol Sodetani
- 25 Mimi Shults
- 26 Valerie Kelley
- 27 Diana Rypkema
- 30 Ian Davis
Geoff Shepherd
- 31 Daniel Torres

Wardrobe Help

For your clothing design and alteration needs, please contact Rose Ericson.

Everett Chorale

Enjoy the Everett Chorale in concert at St. James Cathedral in Seattle on Saturday, December 15, at 5 PM. Giles and Sue Shepherd are members of this group.

Concert Performance at St H & St P

Friday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. there will be a free concert performed by the Cascade Brass Quintet, **Christmas and Chanukah: Music of the Season**. Our own music director, Andrea Brown, and her fabulous tuba will entertain us, along with four other talented musicians on other instruments. There will be a free-will offering accepted to pay for the performance and to be distributed for the Holiday baskets.

Education Hour Opportunities!

December 2, Advent I

Making Advent wreaths!

December 9, Advent II

Young persons serving in the church (a.k.a. acolyte training for kids of all ages): Fr. Peter & Mo. Cynthia.

For the adults: A time of conversation – Who helped you learn about your faith when you were young? What did they help you learn and experience?

December 16, Advent III

Costume fittings and Service Day. Get fitted for a costume to wear on Christmas eve, fill Christmas baskets and wrap presents. (Full breakfast on this day.)

December 23, Advent IV

Live at St. Hilda/St. Patrick: The Sunday Show with The Kids: What does Christmas mean to you? Young people interview adults.

December 24, Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. service, Young people dress in costumes and help tell the Gospel Christmas story.

9:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols

December 30

No education program because it is Christmas break

Help the Flower Guild on the 23rd

The Flower Guild is planning on making the swags for the pews on Sunday, the 23rd. We would love your help!

We Will Stand with You

There is a new date for the Diocesan Fund Raiser for the WE WILL STAND WITH YOU Campaign. This event will occur on June 13 in the Nave at St. Mark's Cathedral. More information will follow.

December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 • Men's Group, Marcos Res- turant, 8 am
2 • Rite I 8 am • Breakfast & Education 9 am • Rite II 10 am • LDTOGICCC* 1 pm • The Expedition, parish hall, 6 pm	3 • Ministry Meet- ing 1:30 pm • Music Les- sons 1:30 pm • Al-Anon 7 pm	4 • Morning Prayer at Chateau Pacific 1:30 pm • Scouts 7 pm	5 • LDTOGICCC*, Sanctuary, 6 pm • Camp Fire Group, parish hall, 6:30pm	6 • Music Lessons 4pm • Choir Practice 7:30 pm • AA 7:30 pm	7	8
9 • Rite I 8 am • Breakfast & Education 9 am • Rite II 10 am • LDTOGICCC* 1 pm • The Expedition, parish hall, 6 pm	10 • Ministry Meet- ing 1:30 pm • Music Les- sons 1:30 pm • Al-Anon 7 pm	11 • Scouts 7 pm	12 • LDTOGICCC*, Sanctuary, 6 pm • Camp Fire Group, parish hall, 6:30 pm	13 • Music Lessons 4pm • Choir Practice 7:30 pm • AA 7:30 pm	14 • Senior Outreach, The Origin of Christmas Carols, parish hall, 1pm • Concert: Christmas and Chanukah: Mu- sic of the Sea- son, Sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.	15 • Men's Group, Marcos Res- turant, 8 am • Spiritual Stitchers 10 am
16 • Rite I 8 am • Breakfast & Education 9 am • Rite II 10 am • BC Meeting • LDTOGICCC* 1 pm • The Expedition, parish hall, 6 pm	17 • Ministry Meet- ing 1:30 pm • Music Les- sons 1:30 pm • Al-Anon 7 pm	18 • Holy Eucharist at Chateau Pacific 1:30 pm • Scouts 7 pm	19 • LDTOGICCC*, Sanctuary, 6 pm • Camp Fire Group, parish hall, 6:30 pm	20 • AA 7:30 pm	21	22
23 • Rite I 8 am • Breakfast & Education 9 am • Rite II 10 am • LDTOGICCC* 1 pm • The Expedition, parish hall, 6 pm	24 Christmas Eve Services: • 4:30 p.m. • 9:30 p.m. • Al-Anon 7 pm	25 Christmas Day Service: • 10 a.m.	26 • LDTOGICCC*, Sanctuary, 6 pm • Camp Fire Group, parish hall, 6:30 pm	27 • Music Lessons 4pm • Choir Practice 7:30 pm • AA 7:30 pm	28	29 • Men's Group, Marcos Res- turant, 8 am
30 • Rite I 8 am • Breakfast & Education 9 am • Rite II 10 am • LDTOGICCC* 1 pm • The Expedition, parish hall, 6 pm	31 • Ministry Meet- ing 1:30 pm • Music Les- sons 1:30 pm • Al-Anon 7 pm					



**St. Hilda St. Patrick
Episcopal Church**
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Your Convention Delegates 2007

Jim and Pat Allendoerfer Alternates
Nora Cheek
Bernie Johnson

Your Bishop's Committee

Bernie Johnson
Don Kelso
Carol Lewellen
Debbie Lindhardt, *Sr. Warden*
Sue Shepherd
Don Stapleton, *Jr. Warden*
Jane Tuttle
Marcos Valle
Martha Walker

Office Hours

Father Peter Snow, priest-in-charge, is generally in the office on Monday and Tuesday. Mother Cynthia Espeseth is available Sunday, Monday afternoons, Wednesday and Thursday. If you wish to see either of the priests, please schedule an appointment through Mary Gates at the church office: (425) 743-4655. Fr. Peter may also be reached at his home at (206) 329-3784 or by email at quareprobasti@comcast.net.

Lorica

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Information and support: Mary Gates,
Sue Shepherd
Proofreading: Lisa Robertson, Mary Gates,
Sue Shepherd

Schedules for Hospitality Teams, Greeters, Ushers and Altar Guild for December, 2007

	Advent II December 9	Advent III December 16	Advent IV December 23	Christmas Eve December 24 4:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve December 24 9:30 p.m.	Christmas Day December 25 10:00 a.m.	Christmas I December 30
Ministry							
Altar Guild							
8:00	Rosemary Harris	Rosemary Harris	Rosemary Harris				Rosemary Harris
10:30	Team A Déshea Davis Pam Gaspars	Team B Maria Han Paige Seaborg	Team B	Team B	Team B	Team B	Team C Debbie Lindhardt Nancy Smith
Hospitality Team	Jane Tuttle Light Breakfast	Don Kelso Full Breakfast	Debbie Lindhardt Light Breakfast				Martha Walker Light Breakfast
Greeters	Maria Han Richard Lee	Nora & Jeff Cheek	Janet & Joe Kowalski	April & Glen Cooper	Melody Oxley Mary Helen Roberts	Janet Eaton Richard Lee	Pat & Jim Allendoerfer
Ushers	Janet & Joe Kowalski	Rosemary & Don Stapleton	Pat & Jim Allendoerfer	Maria Han Valerie Higgins	Gwynne Briggs Martha Walker	Nora & Jeff Cheek	April & Glen Cooper

If not available (especially December 24th & 25th), please find your own replacement.