

The Abbey

Church of St. Benedict, Bolingbrook



2006

MEET JESUS AGAIN THIS LENT

Thursday Evening Lenten Program

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Beginning Thursday, March 9

Soup Supper from 6:30-7:00

Discussion at 7:00

Close with Compline at 8:00

*You're welcome to come for all or just part of the evenings' offerings,
but please do come and join us as we "Meet Jesus again this Lent"
and share in a discussion about our faith.*

(see sign up sheet in narthex to help with suppers)

Here and There

HAPPENINGS IN AND AROUND OUR DIOCESE, CHURCH, AND COMMUNITY

Hope for the Sudan

Joining together for the Sudanese Christians, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church of Glen Ellyn is sponsoring a concert featuring various musicians and the Lost Boys Choir – Saturday, March 4, 2006 at 7:30 pm at Pierce Chapel, Wheaton College. For more information, call (630) 469-1394.

THIRD DAY Live

Come and experience Third Day Live! Join others on February 27 at Willow Creek in Barrington for an evening of worship featuring the backdrop of Third Day's eighth album, *Wherever You Are*. Doors open at 7pm. Seats available online for \$15 or at the door for \$20 (if available). For more info or to purchase tickets go to: www.willowcreek.com/student.

Free Tax Help

The Notre Dame Club of Greater DuPage is hosting free Federal and Illinois income tax preparation at the Nichols Library, downtown Naperville for all families with incomes of \$37,000 or less. This free assistance is available

Saturdays, February 18, February 25, March 4, and March 25 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. See flyer in parish hall or call Mario Mauro at 630-355-7177 for more info.

Fourth Annual Spring Luncheon

Save the date of Tuesday, March 28, 2006. Lawrence Hall Youth Services cordially invites you to a very special luncheon with feature speaker Kweisi Mfume at the Fairmont Chicago Hotel in Chicago from 12 to 2pm. For more information, please call 312-456-2497.

Understanding Health Care Benefits

A free pamphlet is available to seniors which provides important information about each of the different government health benefit programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, MediGap, and the all new Medicare Part D. Call 815-744-5560 to order your free pamphlet today.

The Abbey is a newsletter published monthly by the Church of St. Benedict for its members and friends. Contributing writers this month are:
Laura Ostrovecky, Theresa O'Neil, Catharine Phillips, Courtenay Smith

Dear Friends,

I have a confession to make.

As I write this, I am sitting with a very warm prayer shawl around my shoulders. It is beautiful and fuzzy and red and black and has very cool crocheted loops on the ends. It simply makes me feel good, knowing someone made it for me and gave it to me with prayers attached. I have been wearing it a lot. It even helps me pray, knowing that I am somehow enveloped in prayer.

Confession, you ask? What is there to confess? Well... here goes... A year or two ago I went to our Diocesan Convention, and it seemed that every North Shore wealthy parish had a prayer shawl ministry. In what is perhaps reverse snobbery (ok, it still counts as snobbery) I decided that such ministries were frivolous, an opinion I didn't really know I held until the prayer shawl appeared in my office, and I put it on, and knew that I was wrong.

So, that is my confession. And to cement my repentance in place, there is now a blooming prayer shawl ministry at St. Benedict. To which my response is: Of Course, and Amen, and So Be It. (See page 5 in this Abbey)

Our Lenten program this year, beginning Thursday, March 9, is entitled “**Meet Jesus Again This Lent.**” We will use Carol Anderson’s *Knowing Jesus in Your Life*, a simple, very readable primer on Jesus as a springboard for talking about who Jesus is and can be in our lives. One of this year’s goals is to offer more of the basics of our Faith. We often talk about the Episcopal Church and the ins and outs of our particular denomination. Our discussion this Lent will focus more on the core of our faith. It seemed a good thing to begin with Jesus. We will begin with a soup supper from 6:30-7:00 PM, discussion at 7:00, and closing with Compline at 8:00.

This year, in addition to the regularly scheduled healing prayer on the last Sunday of the month, we will also offer additional opportunities for healing prayer after every Sunday service, with a team from the healing prayer group assigned different Sundays. There will be a description of healing prayer at St. Benedict included in this year’s Lenten brochure, available

on Sunday, February 26.

Stations of the Cross are being sewn as I write. Their design is both simple and stunning and appropriate to our worship space. Thank you, Alice Henry. Services of the Stations of the Cross will be scheduled throughout Lent, yet another way to meet our Lord again.

Please join us this Lent as we meet Jesus again. Consider inviting a friend or neighbor this year. The company and conversation is always good. May all of our lives continue to be touched and enveloped by his presence with us.

Many blessings,



Catharine Phillips

Healing Prayer Team

The Healing Prayer Ministry at St. Benedict formed in September and 12 people participated in training sessions led by members of Church of the Resurrection's healing team. Our team, which currently consists of eight members (Catharine Phillips, Judy Davis, Peg Bauman, Christine Billone, Beth Erickson, Alice Henry, Esther Simonson, and Courtenay Smith) has met almost weekly since then to discuss books on healing and to pray for one another. We're blessed to have Peg and Christine as leaders of the group.

After finishing a discussion on Frances MacNutt's book, *Healing*, the group is now discussing Rev. Paul Feider's new book, *Resting in the Heart*. Seven members of the prayer team are going to New London, Wisconsin at the end of March to attend a workshop led by Paul Feider. **The School For Christian Healing** is a spiritual and instructional journey that consists of teaching and spiritual enrichment for those who seek to carry on the healing ministry of Jesus in their local communities.

As the team continues to learn and experience God's healing through prayer, members of our congregation will have more opportunities to also experience healing. If you have any questions regarding the healing prayer ministry, please see Catharine or one of the leaders of the prayer team.



Knit (or Crochet) and Pray with our new Prayer Shawl Ministry

▼ No experience necessary ▼

What is the Prayer Shawl Ministry?

This ministry of comfort started in Connecticut in 1998 and has now spread across the United States and into several countries. As the knitter or crocheter begins each shawl, s/he offers prayers and blessings for the recipient. Intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making one themselves and passing it onto someone in need. Thus, the blessing is rippled from person to person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional love and embrace God.

Who, How, and When?

Join Helen Konder and Theresa O'Neil in this new ministry. No experience necessary; Instruction and encouragement will be provided. (Crocheting help will be available March 16 and 30). Our goal will be for each member to complete a shawl before Easter.

Bring:

450 yards (3 skeins) of Homespun Lion's Brand Yarn (or any bulky weight yarn)
Size 10 Knitting Needles or Size J Crochet Hook

When and Where:

We'll meet at Church alternate weeks as part of the Len program, and hope to continue after Easter.

Thursday, March 2

Thursday, March 16

Thursday, March 30



Questions? Call Helen Konder at 630-759-4512.



Heifer Outreach

Let's see if we can overflow the SILOS again this year! One of the silos is beginning to fill up with quarters ~ please remember to bring your change in to add to the silos or drop in the COW bank (the cow wants your "moo-lah"!). We'll end the collection in a couple of weeks, so be sure to contribute now! Donations from

our Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper will also go to Heifer.

Heifer International has a unique and successful approach to ending hunger and poverty. Since 1944, Heifer has provided food- and income-producing animals and training to millions of resource-poor families in 115 countries. Giving microcredit in the form of livestock promotes self-reliance, which builds self-esteem and helps families lift themselves out of poverty.

At the heart of Heifer's philosophy is the commitment families make to "pass on the gift", by sharing one or more of their animal's offspring with other families in need. Helping others ensures dignity and multiplies the benefits of the original

gift from generation to generation. It's truly the gift that keeps on giving.

Here at St. Benedict, we've participated in the Heifer outreach for over 15 years. We've filled "silos" with quarters, purchased "shares of animals", filled "arks" with our loose change, bought Heifer Christmas cards, and given animals in honor or memory of a loved one . . . all to help "pass on the gift."

We want to continue our generous donations to this time-honored outreach project, so please help us support Heifer in their ministry now.

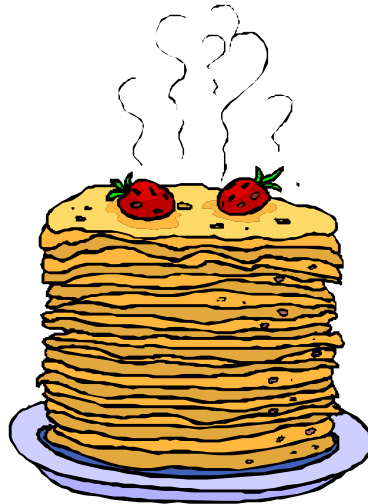
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*God of wonder and of joy: grace comes from you,
and you alone are the source of life and love.
Without you, we cannot please you;
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,
that we may worship you now with thankful hearts
and serve you always with willing minds;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

~Collect for St. Valentine's Day from *Common Worship*, Church of England

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 28
Serving from 5:30-7:00pm



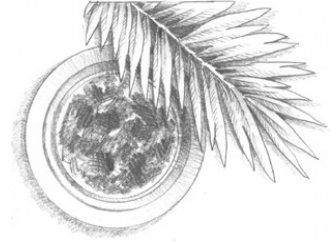
ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES!

A free-will offering will be accepted at the door and will go towards the Heifer International Outreach Project

Everyone is invited to stop by!

Palms to be burned for Ashes

Please bring in your palms from previous Palm Sundays on or before Shrove Tuesday, 2/28. We will burn the palms after the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.



Ashes, made by burning palms blessed the previous Palm Sunday, are blessed with Holy Water. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

ASH WEDNESDAY

**Service of Holy Eucharist
and Imposition of Ashes**

March 1, 2006

7:00 PM

Camp Preview Day Prospective Camper Day

Sunday, March 12, 2006

At Camp Algonquin

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

In the Save Building at Camp Algonquin

Thinking about sending your child to camp?

Want to know more about it?

Come and join us for a Camp Preview Day and:

- ~ See the Camp & hear more about the camp program*
- ~ Meet camp staff & returning campers and their parents.*

Discounts offered to those who pay the camp fee in full March 12.

Camp Sessions 2006

Intro to Camp: (July 2-5, 2006) For children entering grades two and three

Session I: (July 2 – 7, 2006) Mixed Age Camp: For children entering grades three to seven

Session II: (July 9 – 14, 2006) Middler Camp: For children entering grades three to six

Session III: (July 16 – 21, 2006) Junior High/High School Camp: For youth entering grades seven to ten.

Brrrr! It's cold outside ... and in!

We want to thank everyone for their understanding of the heat situation inside the church. As many of you have heard (or felt), we've had to put the thermostats way down due to the unbelievable high energy costs that everyone is experiencing. You know how much it costs to heat your home – multiply that several times and that's what it costs to heat the entire church building. With the gas prices so high, we almost spent our entire heating budget the first month alone of this year!



That's when the resource team decided to set the thermostats down and inform people to bundle up when coming to church. This has helped keep costs down and the resource team is always working to save the church money. There was a day or two when we noticed no heat coming into the narthex. Our faithful and fearless wardens came in and worked till late at night to determine the problem and Roger came back the next day to re-build the furnace motor as a temporary fix until the new motor could be ordered. And wouldn't you know, it worked right up until the day before the new motor was delivered! We're grateful to Mark and Roger for their quick problem solving and huge thanks go to Roger for his expertise in fixing things! This saved the church a lot of money and warmed us right back up.

The groups who use our church have been notified of our cost-cutting, temperature-lowering plan and they're doing what they can to help, like keeping the back door shut when they're outside! Our own church groups who meet at night have gotten used to keeping jackets close by, wrapping in scarfs or shawls, and even bringing blankets to put around them! We've not heard too many complaints ... maybe it's our warm welcoming nature that is keeping us from being too cold ... and just perhaps it's the warmth of the Holy Spirit that's in this place!

So until the weather warms up a bit, continue dressing appropriately for both outside and in. We appreciate your cooperation, understanding, and patience. Can't wait till spring comes around!

Congratulations to our newly elected Bishop's Committee members!

We'd like to congratulate and welcome the newest members to Bishop's Committee who were elected at the Annual Meeting at the end of January. They are:

Christine Billone ❗ **Barry Conlin** ❗ **Theresa O'Neil** ❗ **Fran Wright**

Fran served a one year term last year and was re-elected for the remaining two years – the others will serve a 3-year term.

We'd also like to congratulate our new wardens: **Roger Ostrovecky** ~ *Senior Warden* and **Mark Wright** ~ *Junior Warden*

Our gratitude goes to the members whose term ended in January: **Leticia Hillesheim** and **Grace Conlin**. They served faithfully and were great examples of leaders in our church.

We also elected representatives to the 2006 Diocesan Convention. **Roger & Mark**, our wardens, will serve as convention delegates, with **Alice Henry & Laura Ostrovecky** as alternates.

☪ 2006 BISHOP'S COMMITTEE ☪

Catharine Phillips - Vicar
Roger Ostrovecky - Senior Warden
Mark Wright - Junior Warden
Phil Bauman
Christine Billone
Barry Conlin
John Gush
Theresa O'Neil
Lilaine Valero
Fran Wright
Peg Bauman - Treasurer
Laura Ostrovecky - temporary clerk

Bishop's Committee meets each month on the second Monday at 7:00 pm. Meetings are open to any who wish to attend. Please keep Catharine and the BC members in your prayers that they may share their skills and talents, leading us on our continuing journey to please and serve God faithfully.

We are seeking a **CLERK** to take minutes at Bishop's Committee meetings. Please prayerfully consider if you would like to serve our church in this way. See Catharine or one of the wardens for more information on the duties of the Clerk.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Church ads; Chamber of Commerce (attend meetings); Village events; weblinks (to community groups & Realtors & gov.); Welcome Wagon flyer (high quality design- eye catching); Hosting events (Christmas choir, instrumental concerts, meetings-secular); Public Access info; Realtors; New Member picnic; Clever sign sayings; Bread Ministry

PARTICIPATION/INVOLVEMENT: Ministry Fair (have people from each ministry area give a talk and/or set tables up with ministry info); Organize social activities (opportunity to see each other outside of Sunday services, provide time where non-active spouses/ family/ friends can get to know members); use of our bulletin boards (such as the new "outreach" corner in parish hall); poll congregation for activities they would be willing to attend (bowling, music groups, etc.); communication

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: Keep food; bring back book club; Florence Nightingale Feast Day event (w/healing prayer); do things with other churches in community; Healing Prayer – keep!; Woman's Retreat ~ men need one too!; bring back small groups (Men's, Bible, Mothers, Young women, Senior - daytime lunch & Bible); keep Blessing of the Animals; keep Blue Christmas; Meditation/Prayer workshops (practical methods; Midweek liturgy – also outreach to others (Taize, lay led, opportunity for those who can't be here Sunday morning); Cursillo; Discovery Weekend; Weekend workshops - day; Regular Healing Prayer Service for everyone; welcome community for spiritual respite – open door

FINANCIAL GROWTH: \$78,000 mortgage not covered by pledges; building fund > 2 yrs left; getting more people to church (who are willing to pledge); could have building campaign but w/out new members it's the same "well"; door hangers (brochures @ businesses and community/surrounding neighborhoods); Welcome Wagon; link to recent Episcopalians who've moved to area?; community event visibility; more facilities use by community; Ad in Bolingbrook Sun

The Church of St. Benedict

in the

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

The Rt. Rev. William D. Persell, Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Victor A. Scantlebury, Asst. Bishop
The Rev. Catharine Phillips, Vicar

Sunday Worship Schedule

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:30am

Christian Education at 9:15am

Godly Play at 10:20am

Nursery available

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday

10 AM to 4 PM

stbenedictchurch@sbcglobal.net

www.stbenedict.ws

630-759-5955



Nam Choke, an 8-year-old bull elephant (L), and Boonrawd, a 7-year-old cow elephant, form a heart shape with their trunks while the sun sets in the background at an elephant camp in the former Thai kingdom of Ayutthaya, 44 miles north of Bangkok February 12, 2006.

As people of faith, we of the Church of St. Benedict
invite you to join us in the ongoing creation
of a home away from home, a place to belong and to become
within a community shaped by God's love.



Church of St. Benedict
909 Lily Cache Lane
Bolingbrook, IL 60440