

The Abbey

Church of St. Benedict, Bolingbrook



January 2006

PLEASE COME TO OUR
**33RD ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE CHURCH OF ST. BENEDICT**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2006
(following the service)

There will be only one service on this day at 9:00 am
The meeting will immediately follow the service
and we'll enjoy brunch and fellowship after that!

We'll elect member to the Bishop's Committee and Diocesan Convention, hear brief reports on the life of our congregation, and have the opportunity to talk in small groups about growth.

OUR BISHOP COMMITTEE CANDIDATES ARE:

Christine Billone • Barry Conlin • Theresa O'Neil • Fran Wright

They are nominated to replace BC members going off the committee this year:
Grace Conlin, John DiDomenico, and Leticia Hillesheim

We look forward to worshipping together as a whole congregation, enjoying food and fellowship, and seeing everyone on the morning of the 29th! Please bring a dish to share for brunch (egg dish, breads, breakfast meat, potatoes, juice/milk, fruit etc.). Coffee, plates, napkins, utensils, etc. will be provided. We will also need volunteers to help set up and clean up.

❖ SEE SIGN UP SHEET ON THE TABLE NEXT TO THE NAME TAGS ❖

Here and There

HAPPENINGS IN AND AROUND OUR DIOCESE, CHURCH, AND COMMUNITY

Manager of Hotel Rwanda to speak at local college

Global Family Rescue, a grassroots charitable organization that reaches out internationally to families in poverty, is bringing Paul Rusesabagina to North Central College's Pfeiffer Auditorium on Saturday January 21st at 7:00 PM. Paul Rusesabagina is the real manager from Hotel Rwanda who saved numerous amounts of lives during the horrible conflict in Rwanda. Tickets for adults are \$50 and there is also a student discount for \$25. All proceeds go to Global Family Rescue and are tax-deductible. This is an incredible and unique opportunity to hear the story straight from Paul himself. See the flyer in the parish hall or visit globalfamilyrescue.org for more details.

Joliet Area Community Hospice holds Volunteer Training

Joliet Area Community Hospice will hold a two-day Volunteer Training session on Saturday,

February 4th and 11th at Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet. Each session will be from 8 am until 4:30 pm with lunch provided. This training gives participants an overview of hospice care and the role of volunteers. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or over. To register, please call Jennifer Pryor, Volunteer Director at 815-740-4104. A donation of \$20 for the two day training is appreciated.

“Keeping God’s People Safe” sessions to be offered at St. Benedict

On Saturday, February 25, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, our church will host Keeping God’s People Safe session. Anyone routinely working with children (especially CE teachers) should attend a “Training to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse” session. Clergy, church staff, and volunteers should arrange to participate in a “Training to Prevent Adult Sexual Harassment & Exploitation” class. Mark your calendars now for this day ... more information will follow.

The Abbey is a newsletter published monthly by the Church of St. Benedict for its members and friends. Contributing writers this month are:

John Gush, Laura Ostrovecky, Catharine Phillips, Linda Scheets, Courtenay Smith

● **Deadline for submission of articles ~ 20th of each month** ●

Dear Friends,

I have now been serving St. Benedict for a little over three years. In a lot of ways, it feels as though I just arrived yesterday. One of the joys and pleasures and privileges I have as your priest is getting to know each and every one of you. That's a large part of what the summer-begun "One on One Adventures with Catharine" is about. The adventures continue... one on one, and other varieties. I am grateful for those I've had. I seek more. Call me.

Our annual meeting is coming up on January 29. One service at 9:00 AM, followed by the meeting, followed by another wonderful St. Benedict potluck (the food sign-up already looks scrumptious). This year, in addition to elections and written reports, we will also focus on Growth in all its varied manifestations: spiritual, financial, congregational participation and numbers of people. Yes, I did list spiritual growth first (I am your priest, after all!). I believe that as we grow spiritually, as individuals and as a community, as we all draw closer to God, we will be a place to which others will be drawn. This does not mean, by any stretch of anyone's imagination, that we DON'T talk about growth in congregational participation, financial giving, and bringing new people through the doors. Join us for the annual meeting and help your leadership. As a fully functioning community of faith, we need the input and participation of everyone.

This is the season after Epiphany, the season in which we focus on Jesus, the Light of the World, coming into our lives, illuminating every dark corner, showing Himself to all who will open their eyes to see. May that Light shine as a beacon from this place, from the people of this place, that we may no longer be known as "the best kept secret in Bolingbrook."

Abundant blessings in this season of Light.

With love,





Pass on the Gift

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's Christmas cards, and given animals in honor or memory of a loved one . . . all to help "pass on the gift."

So start collecting your quarters and other change, and get ready to fill the silos to support Heifer International - coming in February.



Dunlap Music Fund

A music fund to honor the commitment of our former long-time organist (for over twenty years), Bob Dunlap, was begun at the annual meeting right before he and his wife, Carol, retired to Washington. Anyone can contribute to this fund at any time during the year, but we make a special appeal around this time - the anniversary of the establishment of the fund.

If you would like to make a donation to support the music in the life of the Church of St. Benedict, please do so by mailing your donation to the church or you may bring it to the Annual Meeting on the 29th. Checks may be made payable to Church of St. Benedict, noting *Dunlap Music Fund* on memo line.

Church of St. Benedict 2006 Budget

~ from John Gush, Stewardship Chair
(on behalf of the Bishop's Committee)

Thanks to all who responded so generously to the Stewardship Campaign. However, there is still a shortfall to meet the 2006 budget. Below is a letter that was shared with the congregation on Sunday, January 8th and mailed out to others who were not in attendance that day. Please take a moment to read and respond in any way you can.

The 2005 operating budget (excluding the mortgage payments) for our church was **\$186,900**. Our expected budget income was **\$215,300**. Our actual income was **\$176,900**.

The 2006 operating budget is at present **\$184,300**.

We have trimmed all programs back to the 2005 actual levels and allowed for a 3% increase in staff payments, **with no increase at all in Catharine's stipend or allowances**. We have included estimated increases in utility costs.

However our income is projected to be **\$170,500; a shortfall of about \$13,800**.

We have estimated pledge, supplemental pledge and plate income on past performance and we believe that we have arrived at a realistic figure for total income.

If you have made a pledge for 2006, we ask that you prayerfully consider revising it to help us cover the cost of maintaining the current level of programs and ministries at St. Benedict.

We need your help! Please respond immediately so the budget proposal can be finalized.

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2005 YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT. PLEASE REVIEW AND CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 630-759-5955 IF THERE ARE ANY DISCREPANCIES.



The **2006 Flower Chart** is hanging in the hallway. Please sign up if you would like to have flowers placed in front of the altar for a particular Sunday in memory of or in celebration/thanksgiving for something or someone special in your life.

To have flowers ordered in your name, simply sign up on the chart on the Sunday of your choice, fill out a flower donation form and enclose the \$30 payment. The flower will be displayed on the Sunday of your choosing, and you're welcome to take the flowers following the second service. When signing up, please remember to complete the order form in advance. Without the form and/or payment, we cannot order your flowers. Call the church office with any questions.

*Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year*

be sure to check out St. Benedict *online*  
at **[www.stbenedict.ws](http://www.stbenedict.ws)**

### Lectionary Readings for January

*~from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)*

|      | <b>First Lesson</b>  | <b>Second Lesson</b>  | <b>Gospel</b> |
|------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1/8  | Genesis 1:1-5        | Acts 19:1-7           | Mark 1:4-11   |
| 1/15 | 1 Samuel 3:1-20      | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 | John 1:43-51  |
| 1/22 | Jonah 3:1-5          | 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 | Mark 1:14-20  |
| 1/29 | Deuteronomy 18:15-20 | 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  | Mark 1:21-28  |


*Thanks!*

*A gracious thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Greens Fund.*

*The poinsettias and wreaths given as memorials and/or thanksgivings beautifully decorated our church for Christmas.*

*Kudos to all those who helped ready our church for the season.*

*~from Linda Scheets*

*and*  
  
*word of*  
*thanks to:* *Alice Henry! . . . from Courtenay Smith*

I'd like not only to thank my good friend and fellow parishioner Alice Henry personally, but also publically for the beautiful glass cross she gave to me this Christmas. It's so beautiful that I didn't want it to hang only where I could see it, so it hangs in my (the church office) window for all to see and enjoy. Alice does wonderful glass decorations and jewelry and I appreciate her sharing her talents, not only in glass-making, but all her talents, here with us at St. Benedict. So if you haven't noticed the cross yet, stop by and take a look! I'm happy to share this glorious sign of our faith with all of you. Thank you, Alice!

# Summer Camp



## The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago Summer Camp CAMP CHICAGO 2006

It's not too early to begin planning for summer camp! The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago Summer Camp provides an opportunity for children and youth to learn about God, themselves, others, and the Episcopal Church, through the adventure of outdoor camp. The

summer camp experience allows young people to develop a greater spiritual awareness of God's presence in their lives.

Activities include traditional camp favorites: archery, arts & crafts, basketball, boating, drama, games, hiking, music, swimming, team-building/ropes course, tent camping, and campfires, plus opportunities to try new experiences. Different times are offered for different ages:

SESSION I: *Mixed Age Camp* - July 2-7, 2006 (for children entering grades 3 to 7)

SESSION I: *Introduction to Camp* - July 2-5, 2006 (for children entering grades 2 & 3)

SESSION II: *Middler Camp* - July 9-14, 2006 (for children entering grades 3 to 6)

SESSION III: *Junior High & High School Camp* - July 16-21 (for you th entering grades 7 to 10)

### Special Early Bird rates

by FEBRUARY 15

Week sessions: \$380

Intro to Camp: \$200

### Regular fees due May 15

Week Sessions: \$400

Intro to Camp: \$220

A \$20 discount will be offered for families with more than one child attending camp, fee applies towards one of the camper fees only. Scholarship applications are available through the camp office - deadline for scholarship is February 15.

For more information, see the brochure hanging in the Parish Hall or speak to "seasoned campers" Sawyer Hill or Mary Ellen Henry!

**Finance** - The finance report for November 2005 will be done for the January 2006 meeting.

**Stewardship:** Total pledges for 2006 as of this meeting are \$134,444 with an expected total of \$132,968.00. For 2005, pledges were \$157,257 with expected amount of \$133,162.

**Diocesan Mission Meeting:** Leticia reviewed the Diocesan Mission Meeting that she and Catharine attended on Dec. 10, where 28 missions presented their request for Diocesan Pledge assistance. Some parishes in the diocese are not pledging which is contributing to the deficit of the Diocese's Budget for 2006. We're asking for \$12,000, which is \$6,000 less than last year.

**Snow Removal:** We have signed a new snow removal contract. The contract chosen is the "per-snowfall" option.

**2006 Budget:** Reviewed and discussed. Fund raising has been totally removed from budget. Any money from a fund raiser will go toward outreach. A freeze on staff expenditures was proposed, with Catharine willing to take a freeze, but she suggested considering a small increase for the rest of the staff. The need for a building fund campaign was discussed. It was also noted that the Seminary Expense account should go to Callie and Phil Fackler at the seminary in California. An motion to contract a company to do an audit was accepted. Suggested that the BC go to the congregation before the Annual Meeting to discuss the \$7,000 shortfall - we cannot approve a deficit budget.

**BC Planning Day:** Options for the next BC planning day discussed - possibly a Saturday or two evenings.

**Web Site:** It was agreed Phil Bauman was doing an outstanding job on our new website.

**Inquirer's Class:** There will be an Inquirer's Class during Lent - times are being looked at.

**Spiritual Life:** The Healing Prayer group that meets on Monday nights will go for more training to New London, WI in March.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 7pm.

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## 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

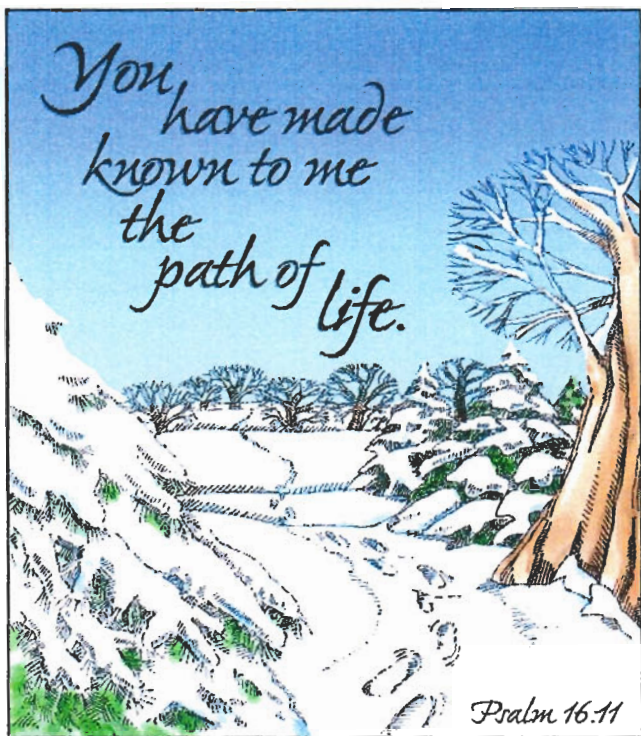
Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:30am  
 Christian Education at 9:15am  
 Godly Play at 10:20am  
*Nursery available*

### Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday  
 10 AM to 4 PM

stbenedictchurch@sbcglobal.net  
**www.stbenedict.ws**  
**630-759-5955**

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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.

THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WELCOMES YOU



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