



CONNECTIONS

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 2008

In the Parish hall

After the 9:15 a.m. Eucharist

**Join us as we elect Officers, vote on the 2008 budget,
review 2007 and plan for 2008.**

Check out biographies of those nominated for vestry positions on **p. 13**.

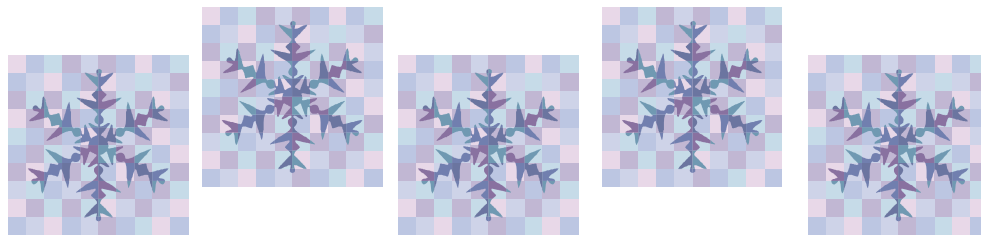
Please sign up in the Narthex to bring a dish for the **potluck brunch!**

If you are a **ministry head or committee chair**,
please be sure your portion of the Annual Report
is submitted to the Parish Office by Monday, January 21.

Children & Youth: Come to the Byllesby Room for an hour of snacks,
crafts, and VeggieTales.

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

**There will be a simple said service in the chapel
at 11:15 a.m. on January 27.**



Our Mission

WELCOME

all seekers

NURTURE

one another in our
journeys of faith

SERVE

God's world

From the Rector - A New Director of Music!

Dear Friends,

Based on the enthusiastic recommendation of the Music Director Search Committee and approval of a financial package by the Vestry, I have asked Brian Bloye to become the next Director of Music of St. Paul & the Redeemer. Members of the choirs who met Brian and worked with him briefly two weeks ago have voiced their enthusiasm, as well.

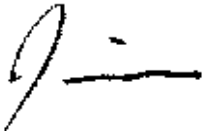
Brian, who currently heads the music program at St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church, on N. Lincoln Ave., is well-suited to lead us into the next phase of our musical life. For our music program to continue to grow and to inspire will require a Director of Music who shares our value of diversity, while valuing excellence. We are clear that, based on his history and on our conversations with him, Brian has the gifts and the vision to accomplish both.

Brian graduated with highest honors from the University of Michigan's School of Music, where he studied organ performance and church. He received the master of music degree cum laude from DePaul University in piano performance. Brian has been a church musician his entire life, serving parishes in three Michigan cities and in Chicago and suburbs.

He was made the associate organist at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids, MI at the age of sixteen. He moved to Chicago in 1993. After serving parishes in the western suburbs, Brian became the music director at St. Alphonsus in 2002. During his tenure there, he has developed an outstanding music program which includes two choirs. Brian is also a tenor, and sings with several Chicago choral groups, including Bella Voce, and the Grant Park Chorus. His compositions include many psalm settings, two Masses, and many choral anthems.

After a trip to Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, with the choir of Christ Church, Winnetka, Brian will spend a week in Florida with his partner, Scott, and will begin at SPR the first Sunday of March. We can hardly wait! Many thanks to the search committee members: Maurice Charles, Chair, Will Bouvel, Barbra Goering, and Charlene Jones-Foster. They read over 40 résumés, interviewed several candidates by phone, and met with four finalists in person. Thanks, too, to the choir members who volunteered to spend time singing for and interviewing candidates.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the Rector, written in a cursive style.

Upcoming Events

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Join us this Sunday, January 20, as we Celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at all three liturgies. The Rev. Charles will preach. Favorite and familiar music will be sung.



Would you like to explore ... your beliefs? ... where Christian beliefs originated? ... why we worship the way we do? ... the Episcopal Church's theology and its practices? ... your own values? If the answer to these is "yes," please consider joining ...

THE ADULT INQUIRERS CLASS.

This popular course will meet Tuesday nights from 7:30 till 9:00 at the church, beginning January 29 and concluding before Easter. At the conclusion those who wish can be confirmed, or received into the Episcopal Church, or renew Baptismal Vows. Baptism will also be offered. If interested, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, or speak to Jim Steen or email him at sjs@sp-r.org.

Children and Youth Formation - from the Ass't. Rector

A Vision for SPR's Christian Formation Program

The parishioners of St. Paul and the Redeemer have a great desire for stronger children's and youth programs. The first step in strengthening our Christian Formation Programs is to articulate a vision. What do we want to teach our kids here at SPR? How do we want to form them as Christians? Those critical questions are at the heart of a discussion now underway to develop a vision for SPR's Christian Formation program.

The questions are not easy to answer. Many adults in our parish value the openness to divergent thought, the presence of what to some are heretical ideas, and the freedom to disagree that is encouraged at SPR. How does one make a formation program out of those ideals? Educator John Westerhoff claims that Christian education is dependent on the theological underpinnings that inspire us. What are the key underpinnings we want to share with our kids?

Five of us (Rebecca Schmidt, Janet Underwood, Andy Murphy, P.J. Karafiol, and I) are gathering to answer those questions by carefully thinking through what we as a community believe and on what we should base our formation program. We are articulating our hopes and dreams and discussing *Will Our Children Have Faith?*, Westerhoff's classic work about Christian Formation. Then we will write a fleshed out vision statement that will help drive the SPR Children's formation program.

After we have a vision statement in hand, two new groups will be formed: The Children's group (pre-k to 5th grade) and the Youth group (6th-12th grade) will recruit teachers, implement a curriculum, and enhance the classrooms so that our vision can be realized. We are excited about the process. If you have any ideas, we would love to hear them.

An Update on Children and Youth Formation

At St. Paul and the Redeemer we continue to deeply value our Children. We teach them, learn from them, and try to understand Jesus' injunction to have 'faith like a child.' We had a good fall, serving 92 different children from birth to 8th grade and averaging 31 children per Sunday. Perhaps most important, our children learned from and developed relationships with a terrific group of teachers. They continue to teach every Sunday from 10:20-11:10 in the classrooms of the lower level. Give them a big thank you next time you see them.

More Children's Formation and Fair Trade

- *Three and Four Year Olds* meet in the Atrium where they take part in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Their teachers are Sharla Stewart, Heidi Olliff, Kate Collins, Irene Claude, and Zayda Stewart.
- *Kindergartners to Sixth Graders* spend three or four weeks digging into one topic, using the workshop rotation model. During Epiphany they are looking at Episcopal worship and the prayer book. Their teachers are Rebecca Schmidt, Ade Adebisi, and Kate Spelman (k-2) and Ellen Wiggins, Sara Bigger, and Andrea Dedent (3-5).
- *Sixth to Eight Graders* work on relating the gospel to their lives through deeper investigation of the day's readings. In addition to Sunday mornings they meet on Thursday nights to do service projects or for fellowship. They are led by Fred Grier, Fran Spaltro, Peter Lane, and Jennifer Darrell.



The **Fair Trade Holiday Basket Project** was a big success. We of the Fair Trade Task Force are happy that parishioners appreciated our "alternative Christmas shopping fair." Being able to fill your own basket with what your child's teacher or your daughter-in-law would really enjoy, seemed to be a very popular idea. The task force was so pleased to sell so many more Equal Exchange items, which as most parishioners now know, come from small farmer co-ops in many third world countries as well as from small organic farms in the US. It was also satisfying to have many specialty food items purchased, whose sale benefits a job training program for "at-risk" women in Denver, and children orphaned by AIDS in Swaziland. The colorful napkins used as basket liners came from either *Global Mamas* in Ghana, or *Association Maya*, in Guatemala. And the angels and crèches were from: name an Asian or African country and you will probably guess right. It seemed to be very enriching for all of us to have our Christmas gifts benefit such a variety of groups and families around the world.

We certainly plan to have a similar *Holiday Basket Fair* again next year, and would appreciate any suggestions for the kinds of items parishioners would like to see available. Please contact Mary Naftzger at maryandbob.n@sbcglobal.net or Kim Hart at kimamhart@aol.com.



2007 Financial Statement and 2008 Proposed Budget

At the January 19 meeting, the Vestry approved the following Budget (Proposed Budget 08) to be presented at the Annual Meeting on January 27. If you have questions, please contact Tim Bohrer, Hank Underwood or Eric Pelander. –SJS

Ordinary Income/Expense	Budget 07	Proposed Budget 08	12 Months 2007 Actual	12 Months 2007 Budget	12 Months Over/Under
Income					
Total Pledge Income	500000	510,000.00	487,175.00	500,000.00	-12,825.00
Discnt for Uncollected Pldgs	-12000	-12,000.00	0.00	-12,000.00	12,000.00
Non-pledge Giving	23000	23,000.00	17,273.70	23,000.00	-5,726.31
Lilly Grant	45978	22,356.00	44,873.00	45,978.00	-1,105.00
Space Use Donations	25000	25,000.00	19,021.27	25,000.00	-5,978.73
Contribution from Reserves	15000	10,000.00	27,500.00	15,000.00	12,500.00
Contribution from Cap Campn	0	10,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	11,000.00
Fundraising Income	24000	20,000.00	4,504.36	24,000.00	-19,495.64
Miscellaneous Income	4000	10,000.00	4,970.75	4,000.00	970.75
Total Income	624978	618,356.00	616,318.08	624,978.00	-8,659.92
Expense					
Total Personnel	374,416.18	395,695.35	395,950.35	374,416.18	21,534.17
Total Administration	35,800.00	36,700.00	37,410.72	35,800.00	1,610.72
Total Buildings & Grounds	45,206.58	46,010.00	49,460.53	45,206.58	4,253.95
Total Communications	12,000.00	14,000.00	12,507.79	12,000.00	507.79
Total Formation	5,050.00	5,050.00	2,801.94	5,050.00	-2,248.06
Total Pastoral Care	2,700.00	2,000.00	2,486.21	2,700.00	-213.79
Total Parish Life	11,750.00	11,750.00	11,252.55	11,750.00	-497.45
Total Outreach/Beyond Parish	60,550.00	65,550.00	54,270.65	60,550.00	-6,279.35
Total Worship & Music	12,500.00	15,100.00	13,877.39	12,500.00	1,377.39
Debt Service and Misc. Exp.	63,540.00	23,000.00	69,594.51	63,540.00	6,054.51
Total Expense	623,512.76	614,855.35	644,851.95	623,512.76	21,339.19
Net Ordinary Income	1,465.24	3,500.65	-28,533.52	1,465.24	-27,068.28

Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Thank You's

January Birthdays

01/01 Frank Banks
Anna-Marie Daly
01/02 Ruth Woll
01/04 Vicky Legge
01/06 Van Myers
Elvis Wolcott
Ignacio Salinas
01/08 Henry Underwood
John Morrison
01/09 Sam Portaro
Elizabeth Swanton
Jack Seymour
01/11 Lauren Pilot-Mitchell
01/12 Sarah Lincoln
James Sowerby
01/13 Jordan Pelander
Charles Berry
01/14 Maylaina Kohrman
01/15 Jim Steen
01/17 Tatiana Tkachenko
01/18 Janet Underwood
01/20 Osita Michael Agina
H. Constance Bonbrest
01/21 Lance Haynes
Carol Parham
Vinita Wright
01/22 Greg Pelander
01/25 Thomas Chesrown
01/27 Karyn Taylor
01/28 Zena Tolbert
Charlie Newell
01/30 David Crabb
Ann Jackson
01/31 Lucille Moman
Wranga Mendis

January Anniversaries

Jan 1 Cyril Mowatt & Anglica Howard
Charlie Cooper & Kim Hart
Jan 26 Carolyn & Peter Pereira

Thank you...

... to Kate Collins for help with the staging of the Christmas Pageant
... to Kate Baldwin for doing a terrific job with the Pageant costumes
... to all the others who helped and to the entire cast
... to Tom Chesrown and all those who helped with the greening of the church for Christmas
... to Sally Wolcott and those who helped her with the wonderful mobiles over the altar
... to Abraham Kohrman for his work on the crèche
... to Dan Puchalla for chairing Adult Formation and who has now take a well-earned break
... to all those who hosted coffee hour in December
... to Harold Olivey, the maven of Hospitality for numerous receptions and other events, and for all those who brought food for the Christmas Eve potluck reception
... to all those who helped with the holiday gift collection for the Bishop Primo Center by donating presents gifts - and to Tina Dugas and her helpers for dealing with the transportation and distribution of all the gifts
... to everyone who supported Christmas worship: Jake Bitner and the Acolytes, Charlie Berry and the Ushers, Julianne Buenting and the Altar Guild, Sherry LaRue and the Chalice Bearers, all the Lectors and Prayer Leaders, Deb Hass and the Bread Bakers, to the Liturgy Committee and to Steve Heyman who chairs it (cont. next page)

... to the many members of the St. Nicholas Choir, the Treble Choir, the SPR singers, and sine nomine for the wonderful music and musical leadership they provided to us this Christmas season

... to Anna Mary Wallace, Stephenie Landers, Mary Naftzger, Ellen Fisher, Val Tonsgard, and Ruth Woll for volunteering for many mailings this season

... to Ruth Woll and all the Lay Pastors who have provided rides, casseroles, and communion to the homebound and sick

... to Tim Bohrer, Clair Hartfield, Eric Pelander, Kim Hart, David Steward, Sharla Steward, Mary Naftzger, Ann Marie Kirby and all who have supported the Capital Campaign and Annual Giving this year

... to all the Formation and youth leaders, to Kate Spelman and Andrea DeDent, who have led the Young Adults this fall (continued on p. 15)

... to Deb Hass, Hyacinth Evans, Levi Smith, Leatrice Mowatt, and Cajsja Elo who have counted and deposited receipts (continued on p.

WELCOME, etc.

We welcome these newcomers and guests who have made themselves known to us since the last listing in *Connections*:

Jennie Kitch, Kate Flinner

Eric Martin and son Sullivan

Michelle and Barton Dassinger, and daughters Sarah and Sage

Laura Barrett, Barbara Bleck

Roy Wilson and Sarah Gehlert

Robert Van Kaam

Josh and Bethany Davey

Maurice Boyer, William Godwin

Trevia Hardiman, Rasheed Sanyaolu

Mijeong Shin, Nedra Joyner

Godspeed to those who have departed:

Fern Turner and Kevin Boyd

Congratulations to the newly Baptized:

Valencia Hearon and Katherine Christensen

December Attendance

Sun.	1st	2nd	3rd	4th/5th	Ave.
2007	290	394	224	267	318
2006	279	374	276	536	317
2005	346	239	324	373	321
2004	271	221	297	60	212
2003	256	207	284	152	225
2002	194	266	218	259	234
2001	257	239	195	139	208
2000	236	232	183	218	217
1999	179	166	199	97	160
1998	109	139	162	70	120
1997	101	136	107	96	110
1987	277	192	218	97	196
1977	147	165	126	27	116
1967	109	89	93		97

Christmas Attendance

(Currently 5:00 and 9:30 Christmas Eve & 10:00 on Christmas Day)

2007	420
2006	371
2005	373
2004	304
2003	321
2002	283
2001	239



Gifts for Christmas Greens and Music Given to the Glory of God



- ... in thanksgiving by Cajsja Elo
- ... in memory of Mona Thelander, Anna Fisher Clark, and Thomas Clark by Allison Clark and P.J. Karafiol
- ... in memory of Edward R. Jordan by Judi, Victoria, and Valencia
- ... in thanksgiving by John R. Hill
- ... in memory of Allan Perlman and Howard & Frances Fisher by Ellen Fisher
- ... in thanksgiving for manifold blessings of healing and joy by Thomas and Clara Christensen
- ... in memory of Mary & Jay Underwood and Janet & Tom Johnson by Hank & Janet Underwood
- ... in memory of Darrell Paul, father of Sharla Stewart
- ... in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Washington, parents by Peggy W. Jackson-Edwards
- ... in thanksgiving for our daughters, Karlin and Sophia Gatton by Ron & Leslie Gatton
- ... in thanksgiving for the community of St. Paul and the Redeemer by Julianne Buenting
- ... in thanksgiving for Zoë, Adam, and Rachel by Cynthia Lindner
- ... in thanksgiving for Emily, Caroline, Corinne by Claire Hartfield and Phil Harris
- ... in thanksgiving for friends, especially Susan Fenn and Portia Clark who are ill by Val & Jim
Tonsgard
- ... in memory of Allan Malec, Jr.
- ... in memory of Allan Malec (Uncle Al) by Miranda & Emily Mejia
- ... in thanksgiving for our family and the community of SPR by Mary & Bob Naftzger
- ... in thanksgiving for Janis Hoffman by Tom Chesrown and Jim Steen
- ... in memory of my mother, Mozell Range and in thanksgiving for all blessings by Ann Jackson
- ... in memory of Linda Rowser by Lisa Willis
- ... in thanksgiving by D. Maria Neighbors
- ... in thanksgiving for blessings received by Geraldine Mardis
- ... in thanksgiving for Victoria Baldwin being admitted to postulancy for ordination in the
Diocese of Connecticut by Kate Baldwin and Steve Heyman
- ... in memory of Olga Jonasson by Connie Bonbrest
- ... in memory of Ruth Hass by Deb Hass and Anne, Hope, and Buc Rogers
- ... in thanksgiving by Margaret H. Grant by Peggy & Bob Grant
- ... in thanksgiving for Abraham, Josiah, & Maylaina by Michael Kohrman and Mary Kohrman Hayes
- ... in memory of Lester Dugas and Dorothy Taylor and in thanksgiving for my loving family by
Lauranita Dugas

... in thanksgiving by Naomi R. Haynes
... in memory of our grandparents by the Bohrer Family
... in memory of Petrona Rivas, Rosa de la O Garcia, Eilen Newman Alan and in thanksgiving for our families by the Salinas Alan family
... in thanksgiving by Anna Marie Gallo
... in thanksgiving for healing by the Beach Family
... in thanksgiving by Donna Eide and Frank Alan
... in thanksgiving for Jamey, Isaiah, and Kaden by Sarah Harris
... in memory of Dollie Wright Hayes by Mary Kohrman Hayes
... in thanksgiving for Sarah, Jamey, Isaiah, Heather, Kaden, Mary Ellen Rooper Harris by James E. Harris, St. Mary's, Anchorage, Alaska

We also acknowledge with gratitude those who gave anonymously.

Annual Giving 2008 Update

As of January 17, we have 166 pledges for a total of \$465,000 toward a goal of 200 pledges for \$510,000.

Here are some figures concerning this year's campaign:

- This year's pledgers who also pledged in 2006 have increased by an average of 11%. So, to date, we are achieving our goal of an average increase of 10%.
- 43 households that pledged in 2006 have increased their 2007 pledges. To date this represents a monetary increase of \$43,720.
- To date we have 19 new pledges for \$23,325.
- The average pledge for 2008 is \$2,833.
- The mean pledge is \$1,200.

We are enormously grateful for your generosity in furthering the mission of SPR in 2007. If you haven't yet made a pledge, we invite you to do so as soon as possible in order that we might be in a position to celebrate the successful conclusion of this year's campaign at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 27. SPR pledges range from \$50 to \$30,000. All are deeply appreciated.

~ Your Annual Giving Team

Vestry: Highlights of the December 19 Meeting

The Meeting began at 6:00 p.m. at the Rector's residence.

Ruth Woll offered a reflection.

There was a discussion of 2008 **clergy housing allowances**, per IRS requirements. It was moved that clergy housing allowances be set at the same level as they were in 2007. The motion passed unanimously.

Barbra Goering reported for the Music **Director Search Committee**. We have a long list of applicants and a short list of people we will interview. Applications continue to come in, and the committee is confident that we will find an excellent person for the position.

Vestry Nominations: Jim reported that Tim Bohrer, Barbra and he met to produce a list of potential nominees for next year's new Vestry members. Gail Williams and Barbra Goering will run for a second term as Wardens. David Stewart has agreed to be nominated to the Vestry. Other potential candidates are still being contacted.

Equity Report: Hank Underwood reported until recently the endowment fund contained \$217K. This has not been a kind time for the equity markets. We are now at \$209K instead of the \$217.7K stated in the Equity Report.

Capital Campaign: Hank can verify that the Schwab account now stands at \$274K; Hank is waiting for a report from Daryl Ramsey. \$30,000 more has been deposited in the Hyde Park Bank account. We've paid almost all the fundraising expenses.

Budget v. Actual: Tim Bohrer noted that, in terms of pledge receipts, we need a big December to catch up to where we should be. We discussed the problem of unpaid pledges, particularly the

pledge income has increased. The canceling of the Auction, due to the Capital Campaign, worsens the overall picture. In response to a question as to whether we're saving money in music staff during the interim, the answer was that it is costing about the same to pay the four interim staff members as it previously did to pay the full-time music director. (NB: As of Dec. 31, we actually saved \$5,657.)

Tim Bohrer gave a promising interim report on **mortgage renegotiations**. We need to move forward quickly on this. We are looking to meet with HPB formally in early/mid January and we stand to reduce our mortgage payments very substantially.

2008 Budget: Tim, Hank, Barbra and Jim have met and done further work on the budget. The potential deficit has been reduced from \$55K to \$21K, assuming no growth over last year's total pledge amount. We'll need to finally approve this before the annual meeting in January.

We have \$410K pledged at the moment, with a lot of work ahead of us. We're a little behind where we are usually, mostly, probably, because of the Capital Campaign. The average movement is an increase of 4%.

Capital Campaign: We're within the pocket change carried by the Vestry at this very moment from \$1,000,000. We're going to finish this calendar year with over \$500,000 received in cash. This has been an incredible campaign.

This is the final Vestry meeting in the terms of Rahsaan, Tim and Chris. They have done a fantastic job, and we will miss their contributions to the Vestry.

Submitted by Tyler Simons, Clerk

Vestry Candidates Nominees

According to the Parish Bylaws, the Vestry puts forward a slate of Candidates for open Vestry and Wardens Positions to be voted on at the annual meeting . At the January Vestry meeting the following slate was approved:

Gail Williams and **Barbra Goering** were nominated for a second 2-year term as Wardens.

The following individuals were nominated for 3-year terms on the Vestry.

Steve Heyman

Steve has attended SPR since 2000, together with his wife, Kate Baldwin, and their son, Andrew Heyman. In addition to serving as a chalice minister, Steve chairs the Liturgy Committee and serves on the Adult Formation Committee. In November, he was a member of SPR's delegation to the annual convention of the Diocese of Chicago. Steve is a faculty member at Chicago-Kent College of Law, where he teaches constitutional law and other subjects. He has recently completed a book entitled *Free Speech and Human Dignity*, which will be published in the spring by the Yale University Press.

David Stewart

David joined SPR in 2002 when his wife, Sharla, and he were expecting their first born, Michael, and looking for a spiritual community to call home. David grew up "unchurched" and was baptized at SPR alongside his second son, Peter, in

2005. David is co-chair of the Annual Giving committee and part-time SPR paparazzi member. During the week he works for McKinsey & Company, serving large banks and other clients in the payments industry. For creative inspiration David turns to photography. He revels in the hunt for good light and memorable candid portraits. He also practices Tai Chi in an ongoing effort to be fully present in each moment. The moments he enjoys most include lively dinners with Sharla and friends and "wrestling hour" with his boys. .

Kim Hart

Raised a Catholic, my journey with God has sought to respect scripture, tradition and my own experience. My love for music has taken me through a Music Business degree, to employment with the Lyric Opera and then the Chicago Symphony. My fascination with people, leadership and diversity led me to a Masters degree in Human Resources and Industrial Relations, and international leadership development with Motorola. But it was not until my husband, Charlie, and I stepped into SPR that those three, at times divergent paths, led to one where I learned in the Adult Inquirers Class that I was an Episcopalian before I knew what one was! My husband Charlie and I felt welcomed "home" on our first visit. We have remained; deepening our attachment, commitment, and love for the spiritual

A Reflection on Holy Space

THE ALTAR AND THE ORGAN: A REFLECTION ON SPACE ... IN THE TEMPLE....IN SPR

A few weeks ago, our Workbench Bible Study Guide devoted eight whole pages to describing the Temple of Jesus' time. It was riveting. Imagine with me what it was like to approach this holy place. The first thing you would see was the outer wall. If you were a Gentile, you were stopped here. If you were Jewish, you proceeded through the entrance to a court inside. If you were a woman, this was as far as you could go. If you were Jewish, and male, you were allowed to climb the twelve stairs to the next court. And here you were stopped. Only priests were permitted to pass through yet another wall to the Court of the Priests where the Altar stood, visible but not accessible to all. Here all but the High Priest were stopped. ... There was one more court, the Holy of Holies, the place of special Divine Presence. Into this sacred space, only the High Priest, designated the most pure, most holy of all the priests, was allowed to enter, and that only once a year on the Day of Atonement.

What did these thick, impenetrable walls stand for? They limited how close you could get to the Altar, the place where God received, forgave, blessed. They limited how close you could be to others: priests separate from lay men and women, men separate from women, Jews separate from Gentiles. They also stood for how all of life was to be viewed: Purity maps were developed, rating human beings from most holy to least holy, depending on physical wholeness or deformity, free versus slave, etc. Holidays were rated, geographical spaces were rated. Walls, boundaries, were Everywhere!

Jesus Christ came into this society of sacred divisions. During his life he smashed the purity walls again and again. When he died we are told that the curtain walling off the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom. Not only that, but in 70 AD, some forty years later, the great temple itself with its Holy of Holies, its courts and its walls was destroyed, not one stone left on another.

Fast forward to 2007. Go through the front door of SPR. What do you see? A wall! But look...it is glass. You can see through it. The doors swing open easily. Step into the sanctuary space. And there in the very center is the Altar, surrounded by chairs instead of walls, inviting us all, you and me equally, to approach together with each other, to be forgiven, to be blessed.

And what else do we see? In the chancel where the Altar formerly stood, is the organ. And such an organ! When I first saw it, I was a bit overwhelmed, even uneasy; ...it was so beautiful, so large, so extravagant looking, so dominant. ... But now I see: of course our

Reflection Continued

worship of God should be extravagant! God is accessible at the altar down here in our midst. Our souls can't help but respond to this gift. This organ itself, in its very architecture, every beam and pipe soaring, carries us up in exuberant and joyful praise to this God of no walls, no boundaries. And the Psalmist exults:

*Praise God in his sanctuary
Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!*

Ruth Woll, December 2007

Vestry meetings begin with a reflection, usually offered by a Vestry member. In December, Ruth offered the reflection reprinted here. -ed.

Thanks, Continued from page 9

- ... to Ken and Heidi Olliff who have led the Parents with Young Children group
- ... to Deb Hass, Hyacinth Evans, Levi Smith, Leatrice Mowatt, and Cajsja Elo who have counted and deposited the money
- ... to Sara Bigger who has organized children's chapel
- ... to Mary Kohrman-Hayes for organizing the Children's snack Hospitality Ministry
- ... to all those who volunteered for the Project Renewal luncheon and worship, and to Harold Olivey who organized the event
- ... to Irene Claude who organized the Christmas Carol outing this year
- ... to the Vestry for providing superb leadership for the Parish, especially in finances

We could go on and on. If we missed you, we'll thank you at another time. It's everyone giving of him or herself so generously that makes SPR the community it is!

The Church of St. Paul & the Redeemer

An Episcopal Community in Hyde Park-Kenwood
4945 South Dorchester, Chicago, Illinois 60615
Phone: 773-624-3185 • Fax: 773-624-3676
E-mail: info@sp-r.org • Website: www.sp-r.org

Staff

S. James Steen, Rector
Peter C. Lane, Assistant Rector
Jack Seymour, Deacon
Michael Kozakowski, Organist
David Bashwiner, Adult Choirs Director
Robyn French, Treble Choir Director
Irene Claude, St. Nicholas Choir Director
Frenchelle Hoskin, Administrative Assistant
Daryl Ramsey, Financial Secretary
Virginia Woodward, Nursery Director
Charline Johnson, Nursery Assistant
Ron Hoskin, Sexton
Jake Bitner and Donna lalongo, Parish Interns

Vestry

Barbra Goering and Gail Williams, Wardens
Tim Bohrer • Rahsaan Morris • Christena Nippert-Eng
Hank Underwood • Ruth Woll • Kate Collins
Beth Angell • Charline Jones-Foster • Eric Pelander
Tyler Simons, Clerk

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I (no music)
9:15 & 11:15 a.m. Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II
With Children's Chapel
10:20 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages
Nursery care available 8:45 a.m.—12:45 p.m