



# All Saints' News

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June/July, 2004

## Items from May's Vestry meeting

- U The youth camp bulletin and application is out. Tuition is \$300 with \$75 deposit and the balance due on arrival at the camp. Motion made and passed to pay for scholarships for 5 students.
- U Letter from the Tybee Cemetery committee requesting a donation for the beautification of the Memorial Park cemetery. Motion passed to donate \$500.00
- U The youth lock-in will be on July 9-10, 2004. Snacks and sodas are needed for the event. An announcement will be placed in the newsletter for donations. Saturday morning a pancake breakfast will be prepared for the youth by the men.
- U A thank-you was received from the youth on Skidaway Island. Their lodging plans for an outing on Tybee fell through and they camped out in the mission hall.
- U Those interested in seeing our financial report may view it on the bulletin board in the hall.

## Choir Window Memorials

Our Deacon regretfully reports that the master list of memorial contributions for the windows has disappeared. She would be most appreciative of your reporting a name as missing if it does not appear below, but should. The great news is that this still gives you time, if you've not already done so, to add a memorial contribution now and have a name added to the list.

The known memorial contributions given to the glory of God and in loving memory are:

David McDowell Brown  
Kathryn Gigi Brown  
Colleen Cantrell  
Martha Cavitt  
Betty R. Chati  
Mae Chu  
Marylou Clark  
Chip Crawford  
Inez Evans  
Thomas Fassig  
Jeanne M. Garlington  
Muriel B. Hewlett  
Samuel P. Hewlett

Ken Hopple  
Amos and Loretta Immel  
Gilman H. Lansdale, Jr.  
Mary O'Brien  
Tom O'Brien  
The Repella Family  
Diane Louise Shelledy  
Sam and Lila Varnedoe  
Leo Wuori  
Kirby Rees Wuori  
Samuel Wright Wysong

And in thanksgiving for blessings.

## Appreciate our great youth!

All Saints' will be hosting a youth lock-in on Friday and Saturday, July 9-10, 2004. Snacks and sodas are needed for the event. Please contact Sierra Wilkinson, 786-5523 to donate money for this ministry, or to volunteer to deliver snacks or to help in some other way.

## Thirty-fifth Trinity Institute

*Trinity Institute is a continuing education program for clergy and laity. Founded to provide theological renewal for clergy in the Episcopal Church, the Institute has sponsored an annual National Conference for 35 years. Jim and Louise Anderson attended the Institute in May. Here are Jim's notes. For more information about the Institute, visit [www.trininst.org](http://www.trininst.org).*

The annual Trinity Institute is an educational outreach of Trinity Church, chartered by King William III in 1697, and situated at the landmark location of Wall Street and Broadway in New York City.

The theme of the 35<sup>th</sup> Institute was, "Naming Evil: An Interfaith Dialogue," and featured a presentation by Islamic, Jewish, and Christian teacher/theologians, each followed by a Socratic dialogue led by individuals expert at posing questions and taking responses from the some 400 participants assembled in Trinity's nave.

This program was preceded by a service at Trinity's St. Paul's Chapel commemorating that place which miraculously survived 9/11, just off the northeast corner of Ground Zero. It continued for a year as the way station for prayer, meditation, worship, food, sleep, massage and healing generally for the firemen, rescue workers, and volunteers from New York and the entire country. The service ended with a ringing of the bell sent by the then Archbishop of Canterbury from the City of London, by the former Archbishop, now Lord Cary of Clifton. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN, delivered an opening address from Trinity's chancel. Among other things, he said that "evil" was a word not in his working vocabulary. He strives to reconcile and compromise. To characterize a party as "evil" would defeat his efforts at the start.

Seyyed Hossein Nasr was born in Tehren, educated at MIT and Harvard, then returned to Iran to teach until the "Khomini" revolution, when he returned to this country and now is Professor of Islamic Studies at George Washington University. He has written and spoken widely and is active in the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown U.

He began his presentation by stating that "naming" evil was appropriate in that in the Koran, to "name" is to know and understand. "Sin" is an act, whereas "evil" is an abstraction. Yet, we must acknowledge it to transcend it. The great danger is to politicize evil, to demonize what is contrary to our views. Fundamentalists in our religion are marked by hubris, absolutism and a claim to exclusive eschatology. We cannot eradicate evil, but must strive for good with humility, acknowledging real differences and nourishing multiplicity.

Jon D. Levenson is the Albert A. List Professor of Jewish studies at the Harvard Divinity School, and has a strong interest in the philosophical and theological values involved in biblical studies, especially the relationship between premodern modes of interpretation and modern historical criticism. He also has spoken and written widely, his most pertinent book being entitled, *Creation and the Persistence of Evil: The Jewish Drama of Divine Omnipotence*. His presentation began with the question, "Why would an omnipotent God create a world that contains evil?" In fact, Genesis does not say that God created everything or did it perfectly. Rather, He created the heaven and the earth, but darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the water.

In Psalm 74:

O God, my King from old,  
Who brings deliverance throughout the land,  
It was You who drove back the Sea,  
Who smashed the heads of the monsters in the waters;  
It was You who crushed the heads of Leviathan.

And in Isaiah:

In that day the Lord will punish  
With His great cruel mighty sword,  
Leviathan the elusive serpent,  
Leviathan the twisting serpent  
He will slay the dragon of the sea.

Thus the Hebrew Bible acknowledges the beginning and continuing struggle between God and evil, the latter presented as a monster of the sea.

And humankind is not the victim of original sin and so depraved as to depend entirely on divine intervention; but rather should strive to exercise intellect and will to work in synergy with God to fight evil, with force if necessary.

Joan D. Chittister is a member of the Benedictine Sisters and executive director of Benvision, a Resource and Research Center for Contemporary Spirituality at Erie, PA. She appeared under the auspices of Trinity's partners in the Institute, the Chataugua Institution, located at Chataugua Lake in southwestern New York state.

**Mark your calendar:**

Sundays, through Labor Day, we hold two services; 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 11, 2004: Skill and Craft auction

Saturday, October 23, 2004: Yard sale

Her theme was “The Good of Evil.” It leads us to repentance. Her model is Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes is the Constitution of Good. We must stay in the middle of the struggle and speak the good. Humility must become the hallmark of US policy. We must be a voice, pay the price, ignore the cost. She came not to discuss but to exhort.

Ironically, as the Chataugan leader took over the ensuing Socratic dialogue, news of the Iraqi prisoner humiliation came over the air.

*Jim Anderson*

## **ON A JOURNEY: Meditations on God in daily life**

*Submitted by Jamie Maury*

May 24, 2004

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. (Acts 2.1-2, from the Lesson for Pentecost)

By Tom Ehrich

NEW BERN, NC – How do you thank someone for a gift he isn’t aware of giving?

On our way home from the beach, my wife and I stop through New Bern to get a feel for the town. We park on a handsome downtown street and set off on foot.

We find ourselves walking by the spacious grounds of the Episcopal church. We venture inside and hear the familiar cadence of Eucharist. Four ushers turn toward us, one with a vaguely sour expression, two with no interest, but the fourth with a smile. He steps over to greet us, extends his hand, asks if we want to receive communion, and chats briefly.

Will he ever know what that greeting means to us? It is like the rush of a summer breeze, curtains blowing open, sunshine pouring through.

He cannot possibly know our complex history with the Episcopal Church, our wariness after too many years of church politics, arguments over every conceivable topic, conventions ruled by haughtiness, congregations governed by fear.

He doesn’t see the look of amazement that passes between my wife and myself. He doesn’t hear us make plans to return for a full Sunday service. He doesn’t sense our delight over a faith community that knows how to greet strangers.

He is just being himself, I think, giving to us what he probably gives to every stranger. Maybe he has had evangelism training, but I doubt it. His friendliness is too spontaneous to be packaged.

How do we thank him? By prayer, yes, and by passing it on, as the hymn says. At some point, however, our ability to give thanks falls short of what we receive. We are simply blessed, and that is that.

No transaction, no thank you note, just an awareness of a breeze we didn’t call into being, didn’t know we needed, and cannot control.

Maybe the question isn’t how to thank, but how to accept being out of control. For that is the issue here. We went in with a measure of curiosity but, by the grace of his greeting, were led to see ourselves more deeply. We went in warily, but emerged with a soul-window open. Over lunch, we ask ourselves what the people asked on the Day of Pentecost: What just happened here? What touched our lives? What does this mean?

It is a challenge for modern Christians to let go of control. Our warfare, haughtiness and fears are all about control. So is our reluctance to appear needy, to voice our grief, to receive strangers. When we battle over Scripture, when we obsess over sexuality, when we fight change, when we lacerate each other over right opinion, tradition, priorities or who is in charge, or when we erect self-preserving barriers, it is about control.

We claim to be doing the Lord’s work. We might even believe that. But in reality, we are trying to build ourselves up, to make our worlds safer, to enforce our prejudices, or to hide from ourselves. We are like Simon Peter on the mount of transfiguration, trying to turn the amazing into the mundane.

The Day of Pentecost is about losing control.. Not in the sense of reckless abandon, or the ecstatic exuberance of the “Spirit-filled,” but in the sense of being given something we hadn’t known we needed. I suppose it should be no surprise that within a generation of Pentecost, Christians were fighting over the Spirit, as they fought over the Son.

Twenty centuries of control battles later, the Spirit still blows where it will, still speaks in ways that are not ours to control, still has surprising grace to give.

*“On a Journey” meditations are e-mailed seven days a week to interested readers. For correspondence write [tehrich@earthlink.net](mailto:tehrich@earthlink.net). Or visit [www.onajourney.org](http://www.onajourney.org).*

### **New Pink and White M&Ms**

The maker of M&M candies has teamed up with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to raise funds through the sale of their new “pink & white” M&M candies. For each 8-ounce bag of the special candy sold, the makers of M&M (Masterfoods) will donate 50 cents to the Foundation. The next time you want a treat, please pick up a bag, now sold in stores nationwide. You will be donating to a great cause while satisfying your sweet tooth. Please, please, pass on to all your family and friends. There are many women out there who have had breast cancer, and many more at risk for it. Let's do all we can to support a cure.

*Editor's note: Let me add a cancer survivor's thanks to you in advance. God's grace is evident every time someone wears a pink ribbon, participates in a cancer awareness event, or donates in some way to this effort. We'll never know whose M&M, whose t-shirt, or whose donation it was that may have tipped the scales to enable a life-saving discovery to be made!*

Thank you.

### **Garden Exchange**

Tybee Island local native wishes to relocate on Tybee Island. Anybody interested in providing a home for a nice, healthy sago, please contact LuAnn Harris, 786-4412.

**All Saints' Episcopal Church  
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