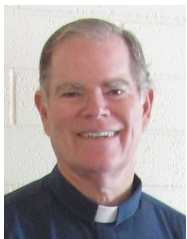




February 2012

A Publication of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Tucson AZ

Enter here... for a foretaste of Heaven's Banquet and the pursuit of Truth and Beauty



A Message from the Rector

by Fr. John R. Smith

Dear Friends:

Epiphany light will soon give way to Lenten growth! It's like God saying to us in the liturgical year: You know me—now live me. What are you waiting for?

Opportunities for growth will abound in Lent. You can gather with others more often for worship, prayer, and spiritual exercises like the Stations of the Cross. You can decide to deepen your knowledge of Scripture through the Wednesday Lectionary and Woman's Bible Study. You can gather in fellowship with other in our Parish Life offerings like watching the movie *The Way* about the 500 mile pilgrimage across Spain on February 24th. I made this trek and can't wait to share it with you. Lent is also a time to take a "spiritual inventory" and perhaps take time for a mini-retreat, examination of conscience, and celebrate reconciliation. Things go from light to dark purple in the church to symbolize the Light growing within us.



Our Lady of the Desert House of Prayer and Guesthouse will be re-opening soon for prayer, meditation, meeting, and retreat. I'm putting together a small group to look to the ministry of hospitality in this wonderful place. If you are interested in this endeavor let me know. Meanwhile, sing out a few last Alleluias for Epiphany and get ready for some springtime growth!

Peace and Love,

Getting ready for Lent (Anglo-Catholic style)

by Jon Rinnander



Most of us know that king Henry VIII closed down the monasteries in mid-16th century England and sold their lands to nobles to raise money for the crown.

But probably fewer of us are aware that the first post-Reformation Anglican monastery dates from 1866 in Cowley, a factory town near Oxford. The Rev. Richard Meux Benson started the Society of St. John the Evangelist, fondly known as the "Cowley Fathers", These Anglo-Catholic folk brought their birettas to the U.S. in 1870, coming first to Boston and then to Philadelphia.

Paradoxically, their preaching of service to the poor found support in the hearts of the very rich. Isabel Stuart Gardner gave them land along the Charles River adjacent to Harvard University and they continued in a ministry of prayer, retreats, spiritual direction, and publishing. They counseled laity, priests, and bishops and have had a significant influence in maintaining the spiritual health of the Episcopal Church. One of their number, Tom Shaw, is currently the Bishop of Massachusetts. Their imprint has been absorbed by Morehouse-Barlow but they continue to publish.

As they enter the cyber age, they have developed a beautiful web page which offers a daily sermon under the title "Brother, give us a word" at <http://www.ssje.org>. Associated with the monastery is a group called The Fellowship of St. John, which I highly recommend, if only because its Rule offers a framework for Christian discipline for those of us living in "the outside world." As Lent approaches, I would commend the Society to your prayers and encourage you to look into the Fellowship

(which is open to both women and men). My hope would be that we might get several members at St. Michael's and form a guild.

And if you want even higher church and more unearthly music, check out <http://www.s-clements.org>. This Episcopal church in my native Philadelphia uses the English Missal, an English translation of the pre-1955 version of the Roman Tridentine Mass. You can download selections from its liturgies that are filled with haunting beauty by its world class choir. St. Clements was a parish of the Cowley Fathers for some decades in the late 19th century and they definitely shaped its present form.

Philadelphia, city of Quaker simplicity, also boasts another Anglo Catholic parish which has a platinum altar donated by the Wanamaker family. So, as you hunker down to eating locusts in the desert, take a glimpse at the sermons, music, and Rule of Life offered by the Society of St. John the Evangelist. †



“Poz” Café: A positive social experience for HIV positive persons, hosted by people of faith

by Jon Rinnander

You don't have to worry about HIV and AIDS. Right?

Only men, women, and children can get the Human Immunodeficiency Virus! In the U.S. contagion has slowed but not stopped, and we are seeing new cases in people in late middle age and seniors (yes), including people in lifelong presumably monogamous marriages. Here in the Tucson area we have perhaps 2500 people registered as HIV positive and getting treatment. At least an equal or greater number in our city have the virus and do not know it. What is the response of communities of faith to this plague?

The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) is a local non-profit which receives no government funding of any kind. Its dual role is to educate Faith Communities about HIV and to provide Care and Support to those living with HIV (whom we call “carepartners” not “clients”). Our program benefits the children of HIV+ parents (whether HIV+ or not) in holiday events; monthly we host a luncheon for the women and men in our community (representing all ages, races, and social classes) who carry the virus. Many live on SSI and Food

Stamps and fortunately do not have to pay for their daily medications, which cost at least \$1000 a month.

St. Michael's is one of 36 churches and synagogues who are active participants in the ministry of TIHAN. On the 3rd Thursday of March (March 15 this year) a team of at least 6 people from our parish will go to St. Francis in the Foothills Methodist Church. Arriving before 9 AM, they will receive a one hour training on HIV/Aids and then from 10-12 they will be assigned to various tasks (decorating tables, cooking and serving food for some 130 carepartners and their guests, sorting and preparing the “care packages” in the Poz Café Marketplace).

Volunteers then eat lunch with the carepartners. After the Bingo game (usually called by Fr. Smith in March!), they help distribute the bags to the carepartners. Volunteers then stay to break down the tables, clean the meeting room and kitchen, and do inventory of materials used. We usually finish around 2:30 or so.

In March our parish is responsible for 1/3 of the food costs (we share with two RC parishes this month) and filling at least 35 of some 100 shopping bags. Each bag contains a roll of dishtowels, 2 rolls toilet paper, shampoo, regular size hand soap, and sometimes dishwashing soap. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps. If you wish to help out, contact Tish Newall, Margaret Harnsberger or Jon Rinnander. Toiletry items should be placed in the box in the back of the church. Complete bags with all the desired items are particularly welcome. Cash donations toward our food costs are essential and can be directed to the Social Concerns Committee.

By March I will have attended 10 Poz cafes in the past year in various volunteer capacities. It is immensely rewarding work, local, personal, in an agency with the highest ethical standards and a devoted skeleton staff. Please assist those of us who represent the parish in this needed work. If you are curious, attend TIHAN's annual meeting here at St. Michael's on Thursday February 23 and hold the date for the Treasures of TIHAN auction and fundraiser on Saturday May 5, 2012. †

Please send your submissions to church@stmichael.net or mavarin2@gmail.com or drop off at the church office. We especially need a new Parish Life columnist. Thanks to all our contributors!



Eulogy for a Difficult Friend

by Karen Funk Blocher

We had a routine, my friend Kevin and I. I would pick up Kevin in my car, and then head over to Devon Gables, a nursing and rehab facility on Grant Road. More often than not, Jan Lockett would be out back waiting for us, perched on her high-end walker, dozing in the sun. Jan would get in the front seat of my car while Kevin and I stashed the walker in the back seat. "Can we stop at Mickey D's?" Jan would ask. So we'd use the drive-thru at the Dinosaur McDonald's. Jan would get a sausage biscuit and a Coke, which as a diabetic she shouldn't have had. But she loved sitting outside at St. Michael's before church, enjoying her little breakfast and chatting with passers-by. After church we'd sit together at Coffee Hour, where Jan would have an Arnold Palmer and talk about knitting and other crafts, cats, humorous vampire novels, the literary romps of Jasper Fforde and other topics, and check in with Father Smith and other parishioners. Then we'd go to lunch, and occasionally to Michael's or Wal-Mart to add to her endless stash of yarn and craft supplies. Finally we'd drop her off at Devon Gables, where she would look forward to a cheese crisp or playing on a computer.

I can't tell you what year I was first acquainted with Jan. She was one of the gang at Coffee Hour, and regaled us with stories from her experience at Afni, the call center where she worked. Her days there were interrupted once or twice by a heart attack and once by a broken arm, and she also mentioned diabetes and kidney problems. Eventually Afni laid her off, which was as much a relief as it was a financial setback. Jan applied for Social Security Disability, and was initially turned down. She was advised that this pretty much always happens on the first try, and to appeal the decision.

But in June 2010 or thereabouts, Jan tripped on a rolling stool at Borders and shattered her knee. After surgery she was sent to Devon Gables, and several months later had improved enough with physical therapy to return home to her house on the South Side. But it didn't last. At Thanksgiving she landed in St. Mary's Hospital with a severe infection, and almost died. She fought her way back from that and returned to Devon Gables.

As the weeks there stretched into many months, she learned that her housemate Patti had been diagnosed with

dementia and sent to a facility. The house was to be sold to pay for Patti's care. So Jan started cadging rides out to the house to pack up her stuff, a few hours at a time, once or twice a week. The plan was to move it into storage and then into an apartment across from St. Michael's, as soon as the doctors agreed she was ready.

Jan never made it that far. Sometimes she wasn't even well enough to go to church, because of an hours-long nosebleed, eye surgery or one of those nasty drug-resistant infections one gets in hospitals and nursing homes. In October or November 2011 she was diagnosed with breast cancer, and I think that took most of the fight out of her. From then until the end of the year she had a precipitous decline, landing in the hospital twice with another lung infection. At Devon Gables she met with more annoyance than sympathy from nurses as she yelled out her pain and frustration. As the year ended, she went into the hospital for the last time, and from there to a hospice.

[continued on next page]



A Villanelle for the Death of Jan Lockett

by Kevin Harrington

How quickly spirits leave their skins behind
Must come as shock from watchers on the shore,
When all at once there's nothing left to find.

No patience, tears, anger, nor comfort bind
Them to the sun's light when dark is more.
How quickly spirits leave their skins behind.

Because we cannot follow them, or find
Them in the dark, which we cannot ignore
When all at once there's nothing left to find,

So then we tremble and our faith unwind
And throw out mumblings which cannot restore
How quickly spirits leave their skins behind.

But nothing leaves eternity rescind-
Ed which our emptiness cannot ignore
When all at once there's nothing left to find.

How quietly we set to guard the rind
Can ne'er anesthetize that sudden "more."
How quickly spirits leave their skins behind
When all at once there's nothing left to find. †

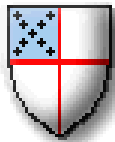
That was Jan as I knew her: boisterous, bossy, loyal and generous, frustrated with her situation but making the best of it, and finding her pleasures where she could. But as we moved Jan's stuff into storage and started disposing of it at her parents' request, another Jan emerged. This was a Jan who organized her yarn and beads into boxes, wrapped and stored breakable knickknacks, read science fiction and fantasy, books about cats, Celtic arts and feminist folklore, and carefully filed away paperwork from the many organizations she was involved with over the years, from the Society for Creative Anachronism to Masterworks Chorale. She even ran a federation of music clubs, and was honored by mayor George Miller for her contributions to Masterworks. She was on *Candid*



Camera once, playing a recalcitrant piano. She befriended at least two famous fantasy writers, sang Gilbert and Sullivan, and attended operas in New Mexico.

I thought I knew Jan pretty well from all those car rides, coffee hours and lunches out, but I barely scratched the surface of who Jan was and who she had been. Let us all try to remember, as we go forward without Jan physically present in our lives, that the people around us, as demanding and difficult as they may sometimes be, have hidden and unsuspected depths, and their own spark of divine fire.

Donations in Jan's memory may be made to [The Hermitage Cat Shelter](#), [Spay and Neuter Solutions](#), or [St. Michael's Jan Lockett Memorial Fund](#). †



The Messenger

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church
602 N. Wilmot Road
Tucson AZ 85711

telephone: 520-886-7292

email: church@stmichael.net

blog: <http://smaa.blogspot.com>

web: <http://smallangelstucson.org>

Vestry

The Rev. John R. Smith
Priest & Rector

John Hsieh, *Senior Warden*
Lisa Sharp, *Junior Warden*

Al DeAugustine, *Treasurer*
Carolyn Schlager, *Clerk*

Todd Barker
Ron Cross
Richard Dolan
Michael Hoyme
Steve Larsen
Jo Leeming
Penny MacArthur
Colby Maye
Joyce Tracy



SUNDAY MASS

7:45 am Mass with Homily

9:00 am Family Mass

9:45 am ~ Sunday School / Child Care

10:15 am High Mass with Sermon

12:30 pm *Misa en Español*

5:00 pm Mass with Homily

Weekday Mass

MONDAY ~ 5:30 pm Low Mass
for Nuclear Disarmament

WEDNESDAY ~ 12:10 pm Low Mass
with laying on of hands

SATURDAY 8:30 am Low Mass

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM – 4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Clergy

The Rev. John R. Smith
Priest & Rector

The Rev. Canon Ed Harnsberger
The Rev. Joel T. Ireland
The Rev. Jorge Sotelo
The Rev. Clare Yarbrough
The Rev. Michael Meyers, Deacon
Assisting Clergy

Staff

Jane Haman, *Organist/Choir Director*
Nancy Vernon, *Parish Secretary*
Karen Funk Blocher, *Bookkeeper & Webmaster*
Barry Bedrick, *Parish Day School Headmaster*

