



## Letter from the Vicar

A couple of year's ago, I became part of a conspiracy. Part of my radical Berkeley past? Not really. Although I was living in Berkeley at the time, and it is radical in the sense that it opened me up more fully to the radical love of Christ. The conspiracy I'm referring to is The Advent Conspiracy.

In 2006 a group of pastors became aware of how difficult it was to proclaim the Good News of the Christmas story—with all the promise, hope, and revolutionary love of God being with us—when they and all of their parishioners were frantically rushing around in what has become a season of stress, shopping lists, traffic jams, mountains of consumer debt, and tons of waste. It's estimated that Americans spend \$450 BILLION on Christmas every year.

What happened to turn a celebration of the Incarnation—of God being with us—into something we just hope we can survive? Asking “Is this what we really want out of Christmas?”, these pastors be-

gan to seek ways to re-imagine and reclaim the radical and transforming message of God so loving the world that God became human. What they hit upon were a variety of ways to “Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All.”

For the last couple of years, Monica and I have been following their lead and conspiratorially trying to live into the real promise of Advent and Christmas by giving more relational gifts—gifts of time and gifts of self—that draw us more deeply into relationships with our family and friends, and also stretch us into relationships with those outside our family system.

For instance, we looked for gifts that would encourage and build relationships and time together—family games, museum & zoo memberships, toys and books that our whole family could enjoy. We also began to discuss with our extended families ways of sharing our abundance with others. One year the adults in our family got together and decided to donate the

money we would have spent on gifts for each other to The Heifer Project (<http://www.heifer.org/>).

The next year Monica & I bought all the adults in our families shares in the micro-lending venture Kiva (<http://www.kiva.org/>), which allowed them to make loans to people in developing countries to start businesses. We have also exchanged “gifts” of malaria nets through Episcopal Relief and Development (<http://www.er-d.org/>). If you are also conspiratorially minded, and are looking for ways to transform your Christmas into something more life-giving and relational—more Christ-like—I invite you to go to the Advent Conspiracy's website (<http://www.adventconspiracy.org/>) and look around. Perhaps you'll want to join the conspiracy and this year, and, as my fellow conspirators like to say, “give fewer presents, but give more Presence”.

Peace, Richard

### Advent Ideas:

**Advent was originally a time of self-examination. Write down 3 hopes you have for this Advent. Place your list along with other family members in a sealed envelope. Open your lists on New Years Day and discuss.**

**Count each light you use to decorate this Christmas. Give 10 cents to charity for each.**

**December 6th—learn more about St. Nicholas at: [www.saintnicholascenter.org](http://www.saintnicholascenter.org)**

**Think about the gifts you plan to give this Christmas. Would you feel uncomfortable if Jesus were present during your gift sharing?**

**Pledge to read, watch, or listen to at least one form of alternative media each week outside the mainstream media.**

**December 12—Learn about the Festival of the Virgin of Guadalupe, a celebration in Mexico.**

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## Prayers of the People

You've probably noticed that we've changed the way we do the Prayers of the People during our Sunday liturgy, and you may have wondered why. It is a commonly overlooked rubric in the Prayer Book, but the instructions on page 383 say "Any of the forms which follow may be used. Adaptations or insertions suitable to the occasion may be made."

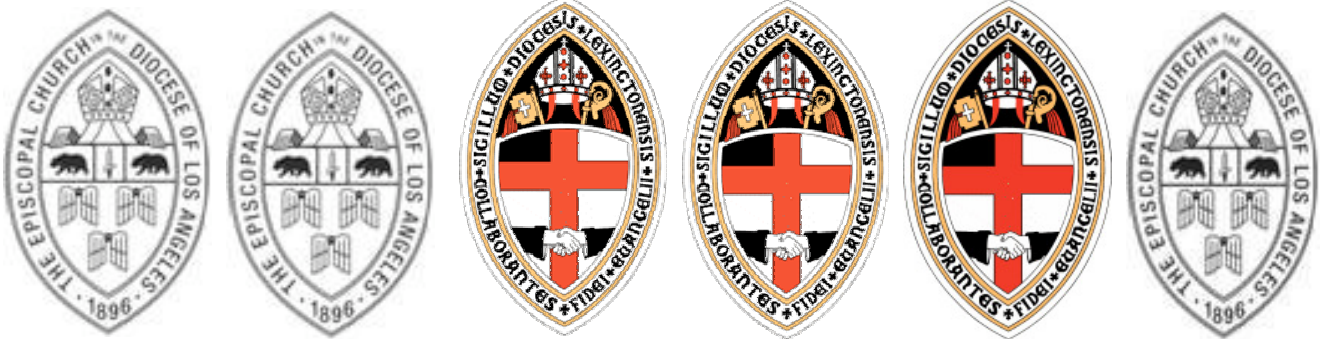
In other words, the forms are suggestions to help get people started writing the prayers, not something

that should be followed exactly. In the Supplementary Liturgical Materials (Enriching Our Worship) this point is made quite clearly. "Of the six forms provided, none are required. Any of them may be used or adapted to the occasion. They may also be replaced by other forms. All that is required is that the topics listed at the top of page 383 be included."

For the past several months we have been living into this expanded understanding by adapting the

Prayers of the People to more closely reflect the realities of our communal life together. I hope that this continues to be something that will enrich and deepen our spiritual lives. If you are interested in learning more about how to write the Prayers of the People, and feel that this is a ministry you might want to grow into in the coming year, please speak to Richard.

## Your Prayers and Presence are Requested



By the grace of God  
The Right Reverend Stacy F. Sauls  
Bishop in the Diocese of Lexington,  
on behalf of The Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno  
Bishop in the Diocese of Los Angeles,  
will ordain  
Richard James Burden  
to the Sacred Order of Priests  
in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church  
at Christ Church Cathedral,  
166 Market Street,  
Lexington, Kentucky 40507  
7PM Monday, December 21, 2009, The Feast of St. Thomas  
A reception at Christ Church will follow.  
Those willing to drive and those needing rides please let Ranay know so we can coordinate transportation.



## Inquirer's Class Coming

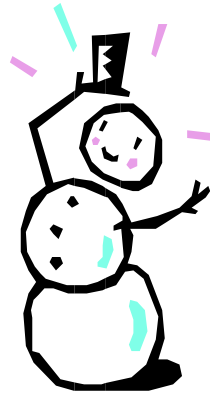
Interested in learning more about the distinctive traditions of the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church?

Interested in getting to know others at Our Saviour better, and sharing in a faith journey with others where we each seek to grow together in Christ?

Interested in being confirmed, received, or baptized, or have a

child that you would like baptized?

If you answered "yes" to any of these then let Richard know. Based upon interest, he will be leading an inquirer's class shortly after Epiphany (1/6/2010) in preparation for the bishop's visit in Febru-



It's a class for newcomers as well as cradle Episcopalians.

ary. This will be a class for newcomers as well as cradle Episcopalians.

Possible topics of study include: Church history, the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, liturgy/sacramental theology, ethics, Church in contemporary society, spiritual growth.

## Bits 'N Pieces

**Our Saviour Annual Meeting:** Sunday, January 10, 2010

The 114th **Annual Convention** of the Diocese of Lexington will be held on February 25-27, 2010. This year, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, twenty-sixth presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church will be the special guest.

The fourth annual Richmond community performance of the **Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah** will be at the First Baptist Church on the Eastern Bypass on Tuesday, December 8, at 7 PM. The chorus is made up of combined choirs of Richmond churches and singers from ECU. Several members of Church of Our Saviour will be in the chorus, and parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. There is no admission charge. If anyone is interested in **singing in**

**the choir** for the Christmas Eve service, please contact Jane Rainey. As several of our singers will be away, we could use some extra help!

Henry Pinkerton will **donate some of his books** to Our Saviour ranging from bible study, theology, liturgy and worship, inspiration, collections of famous sermons, biographies to inspiration to make more room on his bookshelves. Let him know by phone or e-mail what topics, titles and/or authors. A few of the books are from the mid-1800's!

Note: The **Bishop's Committee** will be meeting on Dec. 17th this month and NOT on their regular third Sunday date.

**Annual reports** to are due in the church office by December 10th. If you are the head of a ministry team,

please write a short synopsis of the year's events and goals reached by your team to be included in the annual report.

Thank-you to **Patrick Tuck** for heading up the stewardship campaign at Our Saviour for 2010. If you have not turned in your pledge cards and stewardship surveys, please do so right away. Additional copies of both are available in the church office.

There will be an English Christmas at **Berea College** with Canterbury Fellowship and the Newman Club on December 10th. See Richard for details.

Plan now to attend the **Christmas Pageant** on December 20th. Thanks to Amy McCormick for heading up this important ministry.



## **Calling all Contractors!**

**Note: The following announcement will be appearing in local papers calling for prospective contractors to come to a bidder's meeting. There is no need for church members to attend unless interested in bidding on the work.**

**Minor Renovations,  
Child Development Center,  
Our Saviour Episcopal Church,  
2323 Lexington Road  
Richmond, KY  
Tuesday, December 8, 2009  
10:00 a.m.**

There will be a bidder's conference held Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at Our Savior Episcopal Church, 2323 Lexington Road, Richmond, KY. Contractors are required to attend this meeting in order to be eligible to submit a bid. Contractors will be given the opportunity to inspect existing building interior/exterior, review proposed renovations and organize/propose implementation plans for the renovations to the building.

Proposals will be accepted in our office, located at 710 West High Street, Lexington, KY 40508. Bids must be received or postmarked on or before December 22, 2009.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Betty Jones at (859) 244-2214 or by e-mail at [bjones@commaction.org](mailto:bjones@commaction.org).

## **Status of the Building Fund**

As of the end of October, 2009, the balance in the Church of Our Saviour's Building Fund is \$29,999.23. Of that, \$17,423.78 is in our Hilliard Lyons Building Fund Account (money market, 100% cash equivalent); \$12,175.45 is invested in a Dodge & Cox endowment fund; and \$400 is in our checking account waiting to be transferred to

Hilliard Lyons.

Designated donations to the building fund so far this year are \$3,861. We currently owe \$184,691.61 in principal on our loan to the Diocese of Lexington. Under our agreement with the Diocese, we are paying only interest on that loan through 2011 at the rate of 2.5%

(\$4,627.24 per year.) As of the end of October, we have paid \$3,847.74 in interest to the Diocese and owe \$769.54 for the remainder of the year.

-Laura Melius



## **Senior Warden's Message**

With the annual meeting for the Church of Our Saviour coming up on Sunday, January 10, 2010, let me call on each of you to prayerfully consider your commitment to serve Christ in our church and our community during 2010. During our stewardship campaign, I know that many of you gave much thought to your gifts of time, talent and treasure.

If your prayers and your consideration have led you to a decision to become more involved in the life and work of Our Saviour, this is the perfect time to take the next step. At the annual meeting we will be electing three new members to serve on the Bishop's Committee. We will also be electing two delegates and two alternates to the Diocesan Convention.

Just make a call or send an e-mail to a member of the nominating committee if you would like your name placed on this most important ballot. Listed at the end of this message is the contact information for each member of the nominating committee. We look forward to hearing from YOU.

Another important way to serve is a one-year appointment as a committee chair for the Outreach, Evangelism, Parish Life or Worship committees. Church leadership is far more than serving on the Bishop's Committee. Committee chairs are also a part of the core leadership of this congregation. Remember that we have new guidelines in place for service on committees and for committee chairs, so be assured that this is no longer a lifetime commitment. Please let Richard or any member of the Bishop's Committee know that you are interested in any of these leadership opportunities.

Finally, the time has come for Our Saviour to come into compliance with insurance requirements of the national church regarding keys to our buildings. We are currently reviewing the most recent policies regarding who can be assigned a building key and what training or commitments are required of those who hold a key.

Sometime in the near future, we will be changing the locks and assigning keys according to church insurance guidelines. This should not be a hardship on anyone. If you need a key to the church, you will have one. Our goal is simply to be good stewards of all of our assets (buildings, furnishings, and grounds) and to be a safe and welcoming place for all who may come through our doors. Coming into compliance with both our insurance policy and the new diocesan policies will ensure that this is possible.

From your Senior Warden, Don Wiesmann

### **2010 Nominating Committee:**

Don Wiesmann, 626-3413 or [donw@protowizard.com](mailto:donw@protowizard.com)

Charlie Hoffman, 986-5482 or [charleshoffman.law@gmail.com](mailto:charleshoffman.law@gmail.com)

Anna Haug, 623-8754 or [avhaug@roadrunner.com](mailto:avhaug@roadrunner.com)



## **Check out our new Web Site!**

The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour has a new web site: [oursaviourky.org](http://oursaviourky.org). The new site provides up-to-date information about the church and its activities, and is a vehicle for the church, congregation and visitors to communicate. The site is being designed with the goal of providing dynamic content in an attractive style with easy-to-use navigation.

Upcoming events and general information are prominently displayed on the front page and updated regularly. In addition to content from the old site such as outreach, church programs, server schedules and past newsletters, new sections have been added such as audio recordings of past sermons, a calendar of events, a map with directions, and a photo album.

Navigation is supported by a consistent layout and presenta-

tion, a side bar menu, a search function, and links on each page showing the path to the current page ("breadcrumbs"). Contact information appears at the foot of each page, and there is also a "Contact Us" page that will eventually contain email addresses for various points of contact in the Church.

The site is being maintained using a content management system that allows the site administrators to log in and update the site from any computer. This will ensure that our web site stays current and up to date.

Please email any items or photos to be posted on the site to [web@oursaviourky.org](mailto:web@oursaviourky.org) or directly to Carmelinda Richard ([ch\\_richard@hotmail.com](mailto:ch_richard@hotmail.com)) or Stephan Locke ([slocke@uky.edu](mailto:slocke@uky.edu)).

We are still in the process of moving content from the old site. If there's something you're looking for and can't find, please let us know. The site is a work in progress, and we welcome all feedback and suggestions for changes, additions and improvements as we strive to make the web site representative of our church community.

We hope that the new site will be an informative and enjoyable resource for both members and visitors.

-- Carmelinda Richard

**[oursaviourky.org](http://oursaviourky.org)**

## **Planning ahead**

The Children's Christmas pageant is Sunday, Dec. 20, during worship at 11 a.m. Please plan to come and enjoy.

Deadline for January Vision articles is December 20.

Please make sure that all announcements for Sunday morning are received in the parish office no later than Wednesday PM. This will enable us to make sure they are in the weekly bulletin and on the powerpoint. Thank you.

The next Bishop's Committee meeting is December 17, 6:30PM.

The 114th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Lexington will be held on February 25-27, 2010. This year, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, twenty-sixth presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church will be the special guest.



## Calendar for December

7th—DOK, 7PM

12—Men's breakfast, 8:30AM

13th—Fellowship pot luck lunch

17th—Bishop's Committee meeting, 6:30PM

20th—Children's pageant, 11AM

21st—Richard's Ordination, 7PM

23rd—No evening prayer or study group that evening

24th—Christmas Eve music, 10:30PM, Eucharist, 11PM

25th—Christmas morning Eucharist, 10AM

Each Wednesday, light meal at 6:15PM for study group. Evening prayer at 7PM. Study group afterwards.

Men's Bible study and meal each Monday evening, 6:30PM

## Adult Form Focuses on Prophecies of Christ and Today's Christmas Dilemma

Advent, the beginning of the Christian year, is a time when the Adult Forum will examine the prophecies of Christ's coming and the impact of his life

on both the church and the more commercial world. Everyone is invited to the Adult Forum sessions in the Parish House beginning at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday.

Dec. 6 – In preparation for the community performance of part one of Handel's *Messiah* on Dec. 8 and the Lexington Singers performance on Dec. 11, Sandra Plant will present an overview of this segment that tells of the prophesy and realization of God's plan to redeem mankind by the coming of the Messiah. The session includes listening to several selections from this beautiful and meaningful oratorio. Sandra's only

**Adult forum is at 9:45AM  
each Sunday.  
All are invited!**

credential for leading this session is that Handel's *Messiah* is her favorite piece of music and she loves the Old Testament scripture quoted in

song in part one. She is a 2003 graduate of the theological education program, Education for Ministry.

Dec. 13 – In a presentation titled, "The Christmas Dilemma," our own Jane Rainey will lead us in a discussion of how we handle Christmas and other December holidays in schools and other parts of the "public square." So how do we as Christians deal with the secularization of the celebration of the birth of Christ and the politically correct language required in our society? Jane is our organist/choir director as well as professor of political sci-

ence at Eastern Kentucky University.

Dec. 20 – [Tentative] Danny Justice, a leader of the Men's Bible study, will lead us in a Bible study of selected Old Testament scripture that foretells the coming of Christ and his impact on the world. Danny is a past senior and junior warden of Our Saviour, a leader in the praise song worship services each month as well as holding down a demanding job at EnerSys.

Dec. 27 – No Adult Forum session. Come early and have a cup of coffee and fellowship.

-- Sandra Plant

**The Episcopal  
Church of Our Saviour**

2323 Lexington Rd.  
Richmond, KY 40475

Phone: 859-623-1226

E-mail: [our\\_saviour@bellsouth.net](mailto:our_saviour@bellsouth.net)



New Web site:  
[oursaviourky.org](http://oursaviourky.org)

**The Rev. Richard Burden,  
Vicar**

**Serving Madison County**

*Happy December Birthday to:*

*Doug Chaney—4th*

*Eva Miller—5th*

*Erin Tuck—8th*

*Patrick Tuck—9th*

*Nancy Wise—12th*

*Wallace Arthur—23rd*

*Happy Anniversary to :*

*Doug & Amy Chaney—16th*

*If your name is not on the master list for birthdays and anniversaries,*

*please contact the church office.*

**Outreach News: Plans for Helping our Neighbors**

Our Saviour's Outreach Committee sends out many thanks to all who so faithfully support our monthly donations to the Salvation Army and Hope's Wings. The personal care products and food items donated are a valuable way to reach out to those in our community that are in need.

As the holidays quickly approach we are working on a few additional opportunities to help our neighbors in Madison County. Liberty Place has asked for our help again this year in providing gifts for one or more of their residents. This was an extremely successful ministry

last year and was highly appreciated by the ladies we sent gifts to.

We are also working with Johnny Thompson of the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) in hopes of sponsoring a family in need for Christmas. We expect to have a Christmas list soon for a family so look for e-mails and announcements from Outreach in the next week or so to learn more.

As always, we are interested in hearing from all of our members in matters of reaching out to our neighbors so please contact any member of the Outreach Com-

mittee (Louise Locke, Michele Gore, Carrie Kline or Leslie Faris) with suggestions or questions about possible outreach missions.

So, as we begin our season of Advent this year lets prayerfully consider how best to spend the abundance of time, talents, and treasures that we are so graciously blessed with by our Father in Heaven. And again, thanks to all of you for all your assistance and generosity in spreading Christ's love and goodness in our community and beyond.

God's peace be with you all,  
Louise Locke