

## FEBRUARY 2008 CHIMES

St. James' Episcopal Church 533 Bingham Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

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Office hours are 9am-12pm, Monday through Friday

### Renewal Prayer for St. James'

Please pray on a daily basis.

**We pray that God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know Him, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know what is the hope to which God has called us.**

**Amen.** Ephesians 1:17-18a

### Discernment Prayer for Diocese of N. Michigan

Please pray on a daily basis.

**God of vision and imagination you know us better than we know ourselves: inspire our thoughts; give us courage to speak; open our hearts; help us to listen and hear one another as we meet in conversation about the future of our diocese. Guide us as we select members of the Episcopal ministry discernment team. We ask this in the name of your Son. Amen**

**For Pastoral emergencies for the month of February contact On-Call Priest Rev. Bob Aldrich or Sr. Warden, Dawn Aldrich at (906)632-8598 or (906)440-3315.**

### SR WARDEN'S REPORT

It seems to me like I just finished writing an article for the Chimes as Sr. Warden and here I am doing it again.

I want to thank Lee Brown for her hard work as your Sr. Warden for the past two years. She did a great job. When I agreed to become Sr. Warden again my daughter asked me if I had lost my mind. I don't think I have. My most important reason for taking on this job again at this time is what the future holds for our church and diocese. I am not completely sure I understand what might be proposed for this diocese but I know I want St. James' parish to have a voice in what is decided. I hope those who attended the meeting with Anita today, Sunday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> listened to what Anita presented. If you could not attend the meeting have an opinion that you would like expressed please let Anita, Lee Brown, Bob, or myself know how you feel. They soon will be choosing four representatives from this region to attend these meetings. I think they are going to see how and by what means we are going to find a new Bishop. This should concern every one.

So again I ask you to please express your feelings. We can't represent this congregation if we don't know how you feel. There will be at least one member from St. James on this committee of that I am almost completely certain. If you have any concerns I can help with please don't hesitate

to either call me at home 635-6628 or e-mail me at [daldrich@eup.k12.mi.us](mailto:daldrich@eup.k12.mi.us)

See you in church,  
Dawn Aldrich

### WEDNESDAY LENTEN PROGRAM

Ash Wednesday will be observed with two services one at 10:00 a.m. and the other at 5:30 p.m. Imposition of ashes will also be done at that time.

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> will be the first Lenten service, potluck and program. During lent we will be taking a walk through Holy Week. The first program on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> will be The Triumphal Entry. We will read Matthew 21:1-11 and discuss the questions. Members of the MST will take turns presiding over the program. We plan to pass out the lessons and questions so that you may take them home and look over the lesson for the coming Wed.

The lessons to follow are:

- 2/20 - Teaching at the Mount of Olives - Matthew 24: 1-31
- 2/27 - The Institution of the Eucharist & Holy Communion. Matthew 26:17-30
- 3/5 - The Betrayal & Arrest Mark 14:43-72
- 3/12 - The Trial - John 18:28—19:16
- 3/19 - The Crucifixion - Matthew 27

### LENTEN SCHEDULE

Wednesday services will be held at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. weekly.

After the 5:30 p.m. service beginning on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a potluck supper followed by the Lenten program. Service at 5:30 p.m., potluck at 6:00 p.m. and program at 6:45 p.m.. Please come and enjoy the fellowship.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Sunday, February 10 - 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, March 9 - 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday April 13 - 9:30 a.m.

Please note that the above schedule is due to changes to the Ministry Support Team schedule and that when we return to a 1 in 4 rotation schedule, then we will meet twice a month again. If I should get someone to fill in teaching, then we can go back up to twice a month. I haven't had anyone pounding on my door to assist though.

Also: There is an upcoming youth sledding event in Marquette on February 15-16-17. I believe that they will be coordinating some activities to coincide with the EUP Sled Dog Races (as in watching the racers as they come through Marquette on their way to Escanaba-or vice versa). More details will be forthcoming soon.

At least this will give people a heads up as the original date was for 22-23-24 Feb.

That's all the news I have for this month. Susan Harries

### **ECW MARCH MEETING**

The March ECW (Episcopal Church Woman) meeting will be held on Monday, March 10 at 7 pm. Shelly Wooley will be speaking on the Episcopal church in Brazil. This meeting is opened to both women and men.

### **ATTENTION**

Your pledge envelopes are at the back of the church. Please pick them up at your earliest convenience. There are also church liturgical calendars on the tract rack for your use. Did you get yours?

A calendar of the scripture readings for each of the days of Lent is available at the back of the church. This should help in your Lenten devotions. The schedule for Holy Week will be printed in the next issue of the Chimes. Please get any information you would like in the Chimes to me by the first Sunday in March.

### **DADDY'S EMPTY CHAIR**

A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit.

"I guess you were expecting me, he said. "No, who are you?" said the father. The minister told him his name and then re-

marked, "I saw the empty chair and I figured you knew I was going to show up,"

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?" Puzzled, the minister shut the door. "I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head." I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day four years ago, my best friend said to me, "Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest." "Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised; 'I will be with you always'." "Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now."

"So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm." The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon. Did he die in peace?" he asked. Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?" The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that."

NEXT "CHIMES" DEADLINE - SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 200

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