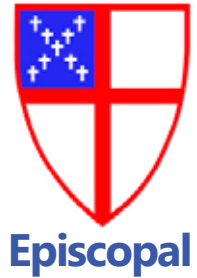


# Good News from Good Samaritan

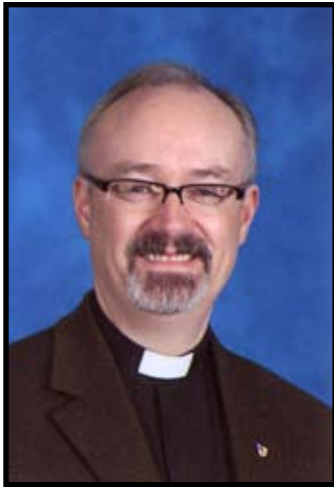
Love one another and the world as Christ loves us

333 NW 35th St. Corvallis, OR 97330  
(541) 757-6647 fax: (541)757-1537  
e-mail: [officegs@goodsamchurch-episcopal.org](mailto:officegs@goodsamchurch-episcopal.org)  
web site; <http://www.goodsamchurch-episcopal.org>



*Volume 5 – February 2012*

## From The Clergy



Dear ones,

Believe it or not  
Lent will be upon us on  
the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month! If  
you are like me then you  
are probably not feel-  
ing quite emotionally  
prepared, after all we  
have only just finished  
celebrating Christmas  
and the New Year! But  
Jesus cautioned us, “the  
Spirit blows where [she]

wills.” And so she does. If we wait until we *are* prepared, if we wait until we *are* ready, until we have our emotional and spiritual house in order to welcome God into our lives then it might never happen. Fortunately (for us), God comes to us whether we are ready or not, and often in surprising and unexpected ways (remember the story of Elijah – God came to him not in the storm or the thunder or the fire, but in the “still small voice”).

Lent is a time to listen, to pay extra attention to that still small voice of God. The voice which does not shout above the noise of our busy lives or interrupt the endless conversations we have in our minds. Lent is a precious time, a time to make time to be still, a time to be to be quiet, a time to listen. But we can only listen if we are intentional about it.

I would suggest taking your calendar and marking ten or fifteen minutes each day at a time when it is most convenient, and setting it aside to simply ‘hang around with God’. Find a quiet and comfortable place, somewhere you will not be disturbed. Turn off your phone☺. Close your eyes, get your body in a comfortable position and just wait. It will probably be that nothing happens at all, that you

won’t ‘hear’ anything. That is quite normal. Don’t be discouraged! Find a word, it maybe from scripture that expresses your desire to be with God – I often use the word ‘surrender’, but you find your own. Whenever you find that other thoughts, images, words or conversations arise in your mind, gently say or picture the word that you have chosen. Focus on this.

God wants us to know that He is with us – always. He wants us to know that we are loved, that we are not alone. I pray that this Lent we can all set aside a little time each day and come to know this more and more.

With my prayers, *Simon+*

Special events for the beginning of Lent

### **Shrove Tuesday**

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> – 5:30 p.m. annual Mardi Gras celebration: come and share traditional Shrove Tuesday food and enjoy our talent show!

### **Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> –

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes (chapel)

7:00 p.m. Sung Eucharist with imposition of Ashes (church)

### **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 p.m. Sundays@3 Concert

### **Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 p.m. Lent Groups – join us for a pot-luck supper and our Lent group series

### **Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Lenten Quiet Day

## **Pastoral Counseling Celebration**

The Pastoral Counseling Center is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the mid-valley community. You are invited to join us in celebrating this continuous ecumenical ministry which offers professional and pastoral counseling to members of our

local congregations and Mid-Valley communities in need of compassion and highly skilled care.

To celebrate this anniversary, the PCC would like to thank all the sponsor churches for their continued support. February 12, Dr. Anthony Terndrup, Executive Director, will preach at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. (traditional) services to share the mes-

sage of support that comes through the efforts of so many. Members of the Board will host the coffee hours after the service. We know how important your personal support for the PCC is and how that affects the support given by Good Samaritan as a whole and we want to thank you for our 35 years of partnership.

—Deacon Peggy, Chair of the PCC Board

## Treasurers Report

### Summary Through December 2011

	December	December	2011	2011	Annual
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Budget
<b>Income</b>					
Pledge Receipts	30879	28750	350333	348000	348000
All other DPA income	8919	4700	42176	36400	36400
Non-DPA income	1531	1024	10736	12293	12293
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>41328</b>	<b>34474</b>	<b>403244</b>	<b>396693</b>	<b>396693</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Cash and Diocese Expenses	5023	5023	60276	60278	60278
Personnel	24158	23755	257713	261879	261879
Administration - Operations	4550	4195	55962	60984	60984
Property	1209	1767	15673	21200	21200
Vestry Ministries	3723	1192	18368	14300	14300
Other Expenses	22	25	288	300	300
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>38684</b>	<b>35956</b>	<b>408279</b>	<b>418941</b>	<b>418941</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>2643</b>	<b>-1481</b>	<b>-5036</b>	<b>-22248</b>	<b>-22248</b>

### Narrative for 2011

1. Income:

- a) Total income for 2011 was approximately \$6,500 above budget – pledges, plate and envelope offerings, regular givers and special giving were all above budget.
- b) Other income categories were at or near budget.

2. Expenses:

- a) Total expenses for 2011 were \$10,662 below budget.
- b) Cash and Diocese Expenses: The Diocese Program Expense (DPA) is known at the beginning of the year – based on income over two previous years.
- c) Personnel: \$4,167 below budget – minor budgeting differences and less for nursery staff.
- d) Administration – Operations: \$5000 below budget – general cost savings plus very good budgeting for utility expenses.
- e) Property: \$5,500 below budget – less maintenance expense plus capital improvements funded by reserve and savings accounts.
- f) Vestry Ministries: \$4000 above budget – musicians for Easter and Christmas services.

3. Capital improvements (not included in the financial report): \$7350 for general repairs and improvements and \$5000 towards the new kitchen cabinets.
4. Outreach donations: A total of \$13,429 of which \$6400 was contributed from the operating budget.
5. Solar Panel income for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter was \$1753.34. The solar panels became operational in April 2011. Our total income since then has been \$5598.81. The 12-month income was estimated to be \$6253 – looking good.
6. Bottom line: Thankfully, we ended the year with a deficit of \$5036, significantly less than the budgeted deficit of \$22,248. Why? Our income was 1.7% above budget and our expenses were 2.5% below budget – Congratulations to parishioners for exceeding our expectations and to the Finance committee for doing such a great job of budgeting.

Please direct questions to John Shea, Treasurer, [John.Shea54@gmail.com](mailto:John.Shea54@gmail.com), 541 754-6832.

## Future donations to Fr. Lance

Many parishioners have made financial donations to Fr. Lance to help with his medical and other expenses. I have been advised that, for tax purposes, it is best that you make your donation directly to Fr. Lance. Please direct questions to John Shea, Treasurer, [John.Shea54@gmail.com](mailto:John.Shea54@gmail.com), 541 754-6832.

## Music Notes



Dear All,

Thank you so much for your great support of **Sundays@3!** Despite the weather, we had a great audience for the event on January 15th, and a very warm reception for Alexandre Dossin. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in organization of

the event, especially Harry Burrige and the ECW for their help with the reception. Thank you again for your generous donations that help to bring great artists to Good Samaritan!

Our next Sundays@3 concert is on **February 26th**, featuring accomplished organist Barbara Baird. She is really an amazing organist and I highly recommend that you attend this recital and hear works by Dieterich Buxtehude, J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, Fanny Mendelssohn, Joseph Jongen, and Jean Langlais.

**Barbara** has been a member of the University

of Oregon music faculty since 1989, teaching organ, piano and harpsichord. She is also Director of Music Ministries at First Congregational Church, Eugene, Oregon, where she has served since 1982.

After earning her Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from Texas Christian University, she studied three years at the Cologne Conservatory of Music in Cologne, Germany. Baird received her Master of Music degree in Harpsichord Performance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Her Doctor of Musical Arts degree is in Organ and Harpsichord Performance from the University of Oregon, with additional focus on Piano Pedagogy.

An active recitalist since 1971, Baird has performed throughout the United States as well as Europe, Argentina, Brazil, and Australia. In 1984-85 she presented a series of nine all-Bach organ and harpsichord recitals in Eugene in honor of the Bach Tercentenary, and in 1993 she did a two-week organ tour of Germany. In 1995 she was the only American invited to participate in the International Swiss Organ Festival. In January 1999 Baird was the featured organ and harpsichord soloist in the Ballarat Goldfields Music Festival in Australia. To find more info about performer, please visit: <http://music.uoregon.edu/people/faculty/baird.htm>

Also, don't miss the annual musical presentation on **Shrove Tuesday, February 21st**, also known as Pancake Supper. The program will feature some talented members of our Youth Choir, as well as some creative offerings by our Adult Choir. It is going to be a lot of Fun!

—Maria

## Foundation

No report this month

## School Board News

No report this month

## Good Samaritan School

No report this month

## Vestry and Committee Reports

### Your Vestry Personnel 2011

Richard Halter	Rectors Warden – Youth, and Finance
John Wells	People’s Warden – Buildings and Grounds
Steve Amsberry	Communication
Steve Blevans	Spiritual Nurture
Robert Moore	Stewardship
Mary Frances Campana	Technology, and Personnel
Susan Parks	Foundation, Good Sam School Board
Dennis Pitts	Christian Education
Cris Rodriguez	Newcomers
Stephanie Wohlwend	Music, and Worship
Ashley Bonn	Parish Life
Jean Marie Walker	Community Outreach, and Social Justice

### Rector’s Warden Report

I want to thank the entire Congregation for all the support and love that you have shown me and the Vestry this past year. I have been blessed to be a part of this ministry and your Rector’s Warden in 2011. Good Samaritan achieved much in these past 12 months, and stands strong because of your confidence in our leadership. Special thanks go to our retiring members – Steve Amsberry, Steve Blevans, Bob Moore, and John Wells. They have given excellent and most appreciated service to the parish and our congregation.

The Finance Committee has worked very hard to present us with a well thought out and very rational budget for 2012. Given the size of our church and the variety of ministries and activities, we came within \$5000 of balancing our 2011 budget, which

is an excellent result. It would not surprise me if we don’t do as well or better with the 2012 version. The Vestry has voted to accept it.

The financial future of our parish has been under discussion now for a better part of this year. There are major capital improvements and maintenance requirements to the structure and the church organ that have been proposed, and the Endowment Committee continues its work on the long-term fiscal stability of the Parish. I anticipate that this is going to be a substantial part of the focus of this year’s Vestry, and a subject of significant discernment for us all.

As we include in the Prayers of the People at our worship services, Good Samaritan School, The Good Samaritan Foundation, Samaritan Village, and Samaritan Regional Medical Center are very significant parts of the Church of the Good Samaritan community. I am pleased with the continued and increasing recognition of just how many parts there are to our Parish, and how much they connect with one another.

In closing, at our Mutual Ministry Review on January 15th, it was wonderful to have it be a time of celebration for all the achievements of 2011, and acknowledge the success the Vestry had concerning those issues we had most question about at the start of last year. We have a solid foundation from which to build on going into 2012, and I look forward to spending my 3<sup>rd</sup> year in working to continue to improve on where we are now.

Blessings,

—Rich Halter

### What’s New at Our Campus Ministry?

Please check out the St. Anselm newsletter which you should have received recently.

On Friday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m., “Babette’s Feast” will kick off a series of monthly third Friday movie nights at St. Anselm. This film won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and started a new subgenera of films about the liberating effects of good food. The movies will be chosen to provoke some interesting discussions afterwards. Popcorn and beverages will be provided. You are welcome to bring other treats to share. The evening will be free but there will be an opportunity to help defray costs.

Also, on April 28 we are planning a special evening event to celebrate Rev. Dr. Jon Goman's thirtieth anniversary at St. Anselm. Attendees will have a pleasant, interesting evening and the chance to win some terrific prizes.

—Jean Marie Walker, Board Chair

## **Outreach**

On St. Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup>, Ten Rivers Food Web in collaboration with Corvallis congregations and the Corvallis Farmers' Market will be hosting a pancake benefit breakfast at First United Methodist Church, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Come and enjoy pancakes made from local ingredients and prepared by local friends, family and neighbors.

The event will feature flour from Green Willow Grains, berry syrups from Jamming for the Hungry, sausage, music and more! While chowing down on some delicious pancakes you will also learn about hunger in Benton County.

The money raised will support our That's My Farmer SNAP Incentive Program, an initiative aimed at increasing access for low-income families to healthy, fresh food and supporting local, small farmers. Each time a family who is on federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, spends at least \$6.00 in SNAP benefits at participating farmers' markets they get an extra \$6.00 to spend on local produce. This program helps make farmers' markets a viable option for low-income neighbors and puts fresh fruits and vegetables on household tables.

We are looking for volunteers to help with this event, so if you have excellent clean up skills, pancake flipping skills, or food service skills let us know! We would love to have you be a part of this event. If you have any questions and/or want to volunteer, please contact Sandy Potter (541-753-2709)

—That's My Farmer/Outreach and Social Justice Committee

## **SASSI – What is that?**

SASSI is "Safe and Secure Seniors Independent," a program of volunteers and local law enforcement who offer FREE home security and fire safety inspections to Corvallis and Benton County residents age 55 and over. For ten years SASSI has

been a part of RSVP but has recently become a part of Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers as budget cuts at RSVP made it necessary to find a new sponsor for the SASSI program. Volunteers will inspect your home and surroundings and may suggest things that you can do to make your home more secure.

No one should have to compromise safety and security due to their circumstances. Home security and fire safety improvements are sometimes beyond your financial and physical means, therefore the services of SASSI are provided at LOW or NO COST, depending on individual needs.

If you live within Corvallis city-limits, call the Caregivers office (541-757-0980) to request a FREE inspection or for more information. Benton County residents outside of Corvallis should contact Leslie Pomaikai of the Benton County Sheriff's Office (541-766-6858) to arrange an inspection.

New volunteers are welcome and training to make inspections is provided by the police and fire departments. Call Sandy Potter (541-753-2709) for more information about becoming a volunteer.

—Sandy Potter, Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers

## **Corvallis Homeless Shelter Coalition**

The Corvallis Homeless Shelter Coalition has launched cold weather shelters for men and women. Westside Community Church has opened their facility for homeless men. Other churches are helping by supplying volunteers for a week at a time to supervise the shelters each night. The Church of the Good Samaritan will staff the men's shelter from February 26 to March 3.

Two volunteers are needed each night for the 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. shift and one volunteer is needed for the 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. shift at the men's shelter, to work with the paid staff member. This volunteer may sleep at the shelter. Arrangements have been made with the city transit system for the men to ride the busses to and from the shelter.

Snacks are appreciated, especially on days when Stone Soup does not serve an evening meal. Because there are 30 to 40 men at the shelter it would be good to have more than one person provide the snacks each night. A sign-up sheet for staffing and snacks is available in the front hall, with guidelines

for appropriate snacks. Training and Q&A time will be provided on Sundays, February 12 and 19 between services. Please give serious and prayerful consideration to volunteering to help provide a warm and dry place each night for the homeless of our community. Questions? Sandy Potter (541-753-2709) or Paul Vecchi (541-753-0711).

—Outreach & Social Justice Committee

### **Read and Feed**

Are you concerned about how hungry many children in Corvallis are? Are you worried about the reading level of many of the students in Corvallis? Are you unsure of how or where to help? The Outreach Committee has been in conversation with Deacon Senitilla McKinley from Waldport and she has shared her plan for helping children to be fed and also receive help with school work. The program is called “Read and Feed”.

The program would be held here at Good Samaritan once a month year-round. There would be a time (approximately thirty minutes) to help older children with homework, read to younger children, have a craft or activity such as puzzles, music, etc., that would involve children and adults. After the activity time, parents and children would be served a dinner that was prepared by the great cooks of Good Samaritan. The meal would be simple, nutritious and served on “real” plates with “real” flatware. It would be an opportunity for children and their parents to experience a time of (what they called it at Cornell, before we, too, went to cafeteria-style dining) “gracious living”.

Carolyn Hinds, of the Corvallis Homeless Children program, informed the committee that this program has begun in a church in Corvallis on the fourth Wednesday of the month. She is asking other churches to fill in the other Wednesdays in the month. Families with children who are living at the Community Outreach shelter are invited to the evening festivities. Children are always accompanied by a parent(s). Single adults are not included. At the most, we would host 8 families.

What do we need to make these evenings happen? We need people to set up Simpson Hall, to prepare a craft/activity, be willing to read to children or just sit and talk with our visitors. We need someone to prepare the dinner, set the tables, serve the

food and do clean up. These people would also be part of the meal as well. That provides us all with the opportunity to get to know each other better. The evening would begin at 6:15 p.m. and be over by 7:30 p.m.

The Outreach Committee strongly encourages parishioners to offer their time: once a month, every other month, once a year, etc. We feel the need is great and when shared among the many people here at Good Samaritan, the burden would be light. Please contact a member of the committee or sign up on the board to indicate your willingness to play a part in fighting the dual problem of hunger and low reading and math skills. The program will happen if you help; the problem will persist if you do not.

—Outreach & Social Justice Committee

### **Special Offering Beneficiaries In February**

This month our special offerings are designated for Vina Moses and FISH. These programs provide our local community members with basics of life such as food and clothing. Unfortunately, our own community members are sometimes unable to care for themselves. Children may be in need of clothing or shoes for school. The statistics summarizing the work of Vina Moses and FISH will astound you, so please help those who cannot help themselves by donating your treasure and/or your time to help these organizations carry on their important work!

### **ECW News**

No report this month

### **Parish Health**

No report this month

### **Happenings**

#### **Valentine’s Flower Deliveries**

This annual church fund raiser will occur on Monday, February 13 and Tuesday, February 14. We partner with the florist Expressions in Bloom, located on 9<sup>th</sup> Street near Garfield. On holidays such as Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day, the florist experiences a surge of orders. For every delivery made by a church volunteer, money is earned for the

church. This is a very fun project because we ignite a smile on the faces of persons receiving flowers, and the work is easy! Sign up to help out! We need you starting at 8:00 a.m. and working at least 4 hours utilizing your own vehicle. Meet at the florist. Try to find a friend to join you! Sign-up sheets can be found in the hall near the church office. It is fine to work at other times if you prefer a later time, but the earlier the better! Questions? Call Bob Bernhard, 541-745-5816.

## **Polar Plunge Luncheon Fund-Raiser**

Your Outreach Committee is sponsoring a delicious lunch to follow Sunday morning church services on February 5 and to raise money for an event called the Polar Plunge wherein brave members of our community, including some parishioners will plunge into the Willamette River the following weekend to raise money for the Special Olympics. Come and enjoy lunch, learn more about the great work of the Special Olympics and donate as generously as you can. And... if you wish to sign up to take the plunge, you will have that opportunity but there are no obligations!

## **Spiritual Nurture Practices Series**

### **#3 - Gratitude**

—grat-i-tude n. the quality of being grateful or thankful — of course we're grateful - aren't we? - We have shelter, food, family, friends — But are we REALLY, really grateful or do we just take those things for granted???

We often hear about those folks for whom the “glass is half full” as opposed to others for whom the “glass is half empty.” Which kind of person do you prefer to spend your time with? Of course we also hear about the “Pollyanna” who is so determinedly cheerful that it can become frustrating to be around him/her. What is the answer?

Life is not a carefree sail on a placid sea. There are ups and downs and ins and outs and we weather them as best we can - in one way or another. What will help us survive those stormy times? My answer is simply “conscious gratitude.” Let me share with you how I learned about the power of gratitude in daily life.

My husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's

disease in the early '90's when he was in his early sixties. It progressed slowly and I was able to care for him at home for about 10 years during which time we were able to carry on a fairly normal life, especially in the early years. But as time progressed, things became increasingly difficult and challenging; I remember consulting with our doctor one day about the possibility of Jack being depressed. All during this conversation the tears were rolling down my face and the doctor replied, “I wonder if we are talking about the right person.”

Following a suggestion from a support group for Alzheimer's caregivers (facilitated by Bruce Black, by the way) I decided to try “gratitude journaling.” As it was explained to me, every day, you take time to write in a journal about those things for which you are grateful/thankful. The first trick is to find the time - I soon discovered that evening was not the time for me; after a long day filled with challenges and difficulties, I simply couldn't find much to be grateful for. So I tried early morning (even though I am not a morning person), and found that worked much better. I could be optimistic about the coming day.

At first I wrote down some of the big, obvious things - grateful for family members, friends, sunshine, — and those things did remain fall-back positions when my feelings of gratitude were sparse. But as time progressed and I rebelled against being repetitious, I began to look more closely at some of the little everyday events that often went unnoticed — the cat purred when he got on my lap; a Junco lit on the top rail of the deck; the bacon smelled sooo good as it sizzled in the pan; a whole night of uninterrupted sleep!! As Jack's disease progressed, my gratefulness took a different turn - Jack let me help him with his shower instead of slamming my fingers in the shower door - my toothbrush was still in its place in the bathroom instead of out on the woodpile - Jack came back from the park instead of wandering away and being brought back by neighbors

The lesson I learned is that it is important to live in the moment and savor those things which are a joy and a blessing - finding the glass half full and appreciating those small things that really make such a difference. And it is important to write them down, not just give them a fleeting thought. Writing them down takes conscious effort and imprints

them more strongly in your experience. In time, a conscious effort becomes an approach to life. True, one often needs to remind oneself - to listen to what you are saying and thinking and maybe having to consciously change course - but it gets easier. I used a book in the beginning and every once in a while, I get it out again: *SIMPLE ABUNDANCE, A Daybook of Comfort and Joy*, by Sarah Ban Breathnack.

We also have a new book in our Parish Library that I recommend: *THE GRATITUDE FACTOR - Enhancing Your Life through Grateful Living*, by Charles M. Shelton.

Don't wait until you hit a difficult time in your life - cultivate the habit of recognizing those little things which bring you joy and expressing gratitude for them. Then, if and when the rough patches appear, you are ready to weather them. Blessings on your efforts.

—Edie Orner

## Other Activities

### EGGS – Hard Boiled

Ah, yes, it is that time of year ... hard and cold ... nature lies low, recovering ... but the fecundity of the earth cannot be denied ... be on the lookout for that first crocus. Think of the delight felt by our ancient ancestors as the days once again started to lengthen. We are blessed by the Sun!

We also are blessed by the presence of a relatively new umbrella organization in Corvallis that has coordinated and made accessible the activities of many other organizations. I am referring to the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. You can find them on the internet at: [www.sustainablecorvallis.org](http://www.sustainablecorvallis.org).

The Coalition has a number of “Action Teams” focusing on topics such as waste prevention, economic vitality and land use. Additionally, they provide a monthly calendar of events in and around Corvallis. There are many opportunities to get involved, at whatever level of involvement you would prefer. For example, you might want to mark Thursday, 1 March on your calendar. That is the date for the “Town Hall” that will be held at the OSU Alumni Center. A “Sustainability Fair” will be presented at 5:00 p.m., followed by a meeting at 7:00 p.m.

focusing on sustainability accomplishments of the previous year.

A final action idea – about all those phone directories we now receive. First, be sure to recycle all the books that you get; you can put those in your “commingled” container. But, better yet, turn off the flow of directories that you do not need to reduce your “carbon footprint” even more. On the inside cover, or the first page or two, of each directory are instructions on how to cancel future deliveries. If we all did this, we would make a significant change.

As we enjoy all the many pleasures and blessings of Creation, let us remember that we also are stewards of Creation. We are responsible for what we pass on to future generations. We are the hands and feet of Christ, are we not? But do enjoy, enjoy ... look for that beautiful sunset, or that first crocus!

—Bill Becker

## Casserole Connection

Even in winter's unpredictable weather, Casserole Connection is here for anyone in the parish who could use the support of a main dish casserole. Over 20 excellent cooks wait for a phone call to respond to someone who might benefit from our service. Maybe they have just returned from a hospital stay or there has been a death in the family. These, and happier situations like a new baby in the home, are appropriate for our chefs. Please call Pam Mayfield at 541 928-0564 during the month of February. She will be most happy to take your call.

—Bobbie Beck

## Library Listings

### January/February - 2012

Sorry I missed the January issue - preparations for Christmas caught up with me as I celebrated the week before Christmas in Victoria, BC with my daughter and son-in-law, which drastically cut back on my preparation time. I did visit Christ Church Cathedral - the Anglican-Episcopal church there - mentioned as the most similar to the European cathedrals in all of Canada. It is truly beautiful - but the service I attended was on December 24, 8:00 a.m., and there were 7 of us, with my daughter and me providing 2 of the 7!!! I was asked to read the Gospel, which I did, but with trepidation since at

Good Samaritan, only the clergy or the deacon read the Gospel. But there was no voice from above chastising me so I guess it was OK. I do have a reason to return, though; I would love to attend a big service there complete with procession, organ, choir, bells, incense, whatever!!!

But on to the daily reality - We have some new books in our Adult library - purchased at Diocesan Convention or at the special program on afterlife presented by Fr. Peter Fritsch at Good Samaritan in December.

**CONTENTMENT - A Way to True Happiness** by Robert A. Johnson and Jerry M. Ruhl — "...Pithy and wise....'Contentment' argues for learning to live wholly with what we have rather than ceaselessly striving for more."—"...A winning argument for why we should cease to seek a fix or an answer and find deeper satisfaction in things as they are..."

**A MOMENT OF GREAT POWER - Sacramental Prayer and Generational Healing** by Peter L. Fritsch "This book is about God healing individuals of emotional and physical illness through private, individual, sacramental prayer services in the Anglican tradition. These healing services bring healing and reconciliation to extended family members by addressing through the communion of saints, generational sin and dysfunction caused by our ancestors."

**DREAMS - God's Forgotten Language** by John A. Sanford — "Is God the author of dreams? Did His revelation end in the New Testament or is He still speaking to us today through our dreams? This book will help you to understand the images and symbols in your dreams...."

**SURPRISED BY HOPE - Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church** by N.T. Wright — "This book is N. T. Wright at his finest; dismantling the tired old theologies of escapism and evacuation to help a whole generation of us more clearly grasp a Jesus revolution for here, now, today."

**TO HEAVEN AND BACK - True Stories of Those Who Have Made the Journey** by Rita Bennett — "While many books on near-death experiences and heaven have swept the best-seller lists, few offer a solid biblical approach to death and the afterlife." — This book..."tells the stories both of

believing Christians whose near-death experiences deepened their faith and of non-Christians who were converted through such an experience...."

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—Edie Orner, Parish Librarian

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