



# The Light

A monthly newsletter for

St. Augustine's in-the-Woods The Episcopal Church serving Whidbey Island.



**Rev. Nigel Taber-Hamilton, Rector**  
**Rev. William Burnett, Rector Emeritus**  
**Rev. William Seth Adams, Priest Associate**  
**Rev. M. Fletcher Davis, Priest Associate**  
**Rev. Amy Donohue-Adams, Priest Associate**  
**Rev. Julie Bird, Deacon**

## St. Augustine's Weekly Services

### **SUNDAY**

**8:00 am** Eucharist Rite I  
followed by coffee and Adult Forums

**10:30 am** Eucharist Rite II  
with music, church school & child care  
followed by coffee hour

### **MONDAY**

**5:30 pm** Solemn Evensong  
(with incense)

### **TUESDAY**

**7:00pm** Quiet Time Meditation

### **WEDNESDAY**

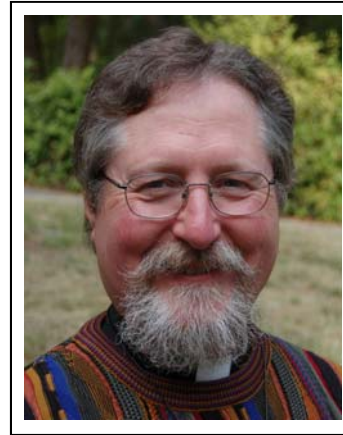
**10:00 am** Eucharist and Holy Unction

## **JANUARY 2012**

- 1 = Beth Sizer's Birthday
- 2 = Jack Wood's Birthday
- 7 = Genevieve & Gilbert Nyerges  
Anniversary
- 9 = Diana Klein's Birthday
- 11 = Trudy Campbell's Birthday
- 12 = Erin Borden's Birthday
- 13 = Dennis Durden's Birthday  
Jack Wallock's Birthday  
Paul Miller's Birthday
- 15 = Paul Benz to Preach
- 16 = Joan Davies Birthday
- 17 = Claree Vandegrift's Birthday
- 19 = Dick Hall's Birthday
- 20 = Riley Borden's Birthday
- 21 = VESTRY RETREAT
- 22 = Isable Neddow's Birthday  
Ray Haman's Birthday
- 25 = ECW BOARD MEETING
- 26 = Sharon Beck's Birthday
- 28 = Anne Pringle's Birthday
- 29 = Joan Focht's Birthday  
Lynda Dial's Birthday



## *From the Rector*



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

First: Happy New Year! I hope and pray that your celebrations these last two weeks have been rewarding. Last year was an amazing journey, and we are now living with its wonderful gift, our new building. This year promises much; we have a solid foundation to build on.

In connection with our building I want to remind you that as we went through the construction process – and especially toward the end of it – we had to make some tough decisions when it came to what and what not to fund. Those things still need to happen sometime and obviously sooner would be better than later.

Below is a “Parish Wish List” of things we recognize are important, but for which there are currently no funds. Please consider a targeted gift to pay for all or part of each of these items:

### **Out on our grounds**

Light Pole for the SW corner, Parking Lot	<b>\$1,400</b>	(or, for example, six gifts at \$250/ twelve at \$125)
Tree Removal from the septic drain field	<b>\$2,200</b>	
Re-surfacing the church driveway	<b>\$7,650</b>	(cost of asphalt is tied to price of oil)

### **Campbell Hall**

Sound Baffles to address acoustics	<b>\$27,000</b>	
80 extra Folding Chairs	<b>\$2,200</b>	
Hand Bell to begin services	<b>\$325</b>	(the one we were using was a loaner)

### **Library (located in the room at bottom of new stair well)**

Shelving	<b>\$1,650</b>
Tables and Chairs	<b>\$1,950</b>
Carpeting	<b>\$1,850</b>

### **Parish Offices**

Blinds for all windows	<b>\$1,800</b>
(the windows are a custom size and off-the-shelf blinds don't work)	

Grace and peace to you all,

Nigel

P. S. A big “thank you” to all those of you who sent me cards or shared gifts with me this Christmas – I’m touched by your generosity and want to acknowledge these tokens of your care and love publically.

# Christian Formation at St. Augustine's

by Shantina Steele



Last month I shared with you about our Godly Play class for our younger children, this month I would like to share our program for older children, Journey to Adulthood (J2A). The J2A program developed by Leader Resources is based on the belief that “it is important to equip young people with the tools they need to grow into the full stature of Christ and to fully live into their Baptismal vows as adults” The following is excerpted and adapted from the Leader Resources website:

*“Spiritual Formation” means learning by engaging in Christian practices and then reflecting on them afterwards. This “doing” and “reflecting” helps us to “form” young people in the faith. Instead of just talking about Christian service, we SERVE. Instead of teaching about prayer, we PRAY. Instead of sharing about Christian Community we actively and intentionally work to BUILD community. Instead of telling our young people how special they are we SHOW them thru special liturgical celebrations like **Rite-13 Liturgy**. Instead of merely talking about the Christian journey we actually TRAVEL on Pilgrimage together.*

*The Journey to Adulthood is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation. It encourages relational ministry and uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore the two guiding principles of the program: 1) Manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God; and 2) Adulthood must be earned. The original Journey to Adulthood program was developed during the mid-1980s at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Durham, NC during the tenure of the Rev. Thomas Midyette and was inspired by William Robert's book, The Initiation to Adulthood. A grant from the Episcopal Church Foundation enabled the congregation to hire David Crean and Amanda Millay Hughes to write the program in a form that could be shared with others.*

*The first two years of the program is called **RITE 13**, a name that comes from a liturgical rite of passage we celebrate with young people around their 13th birthday. This rite is loosely based on the Jewish bar/bat mitzvah tradition and is a way for the entire congregation to celebrate the unique gifts and abilities of its young teens. The two years of Rite 13 focus on recognizing the gifts God has given us, celebrating our creative potential, and learning to interact as a community of faith.*

*The second segment is J2A, an acronym for **JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD**. It is a little confusing since the name of this group has the same name as the entire program, but the reason for this is that the bulk of the work gets done in these two years, building on the foundation of the Rite 13 experience. During these years, teens learn and practice six basic skills of adulthood: active listening, negotiation, assertion, research & information management, partnership and leadership. At the end of the second year of J2A, the group designs and goes on a Holy Pilgrimage.*

*The last two years of the Journey to Adulthood program are referred to as YAC, which stands for **YOUNG ADULTS IN CHURCH**. YAC students are encouraged to accept more adult responsibilities and to contribute their time, talent and treasure in support of the ongoing work of the church. Teens write a personal credo of beliefs and rely on their trusted peers as they explore their faith more deeply and struggle with the details of transitioning from teenager to young adult in today's world.*

*The Journey to Adulthood experience incorporates much learning and laughter, but it takes our young people seriously and gives them real work to do. It encourages teens to explore the four*



areas of Self, Spirituality, Sexuality and Society, and learn to connect their faith to all areas of life. It is our hope that this program fosters an environment of wholeness and authenticity and helps teens develop a life-changing relationship with the God who created them. The program uses the collective wisdom of adults in your church to beckon young people into responsible, faithful adulthood. It calls the entire congregation into a deeper relationship with their young people and it calls each one of us – whatever our age – to think about the gifts we have been given. When we find ways to use our gifts to be God's presence in the world, we can ALL be changed in very powerful ways.

We are just beginning to fully realize all that this curriculum has to offer not only the youth of our parish but the life of our whole congregation. I am grateful to the adults in our parish for the ways you have found to invite the youth into our ministries and the ways you have supported them on their journey. I am especially grateful to our J2A group leaders, Julie Spangler, Mike & Maggie Seymour, Olof Sander, Kate Scott and Diane Lantz for their time and steadfast care.

I close with this Prayer for Young Persons from the Book of Common Prayer, p. 829:

God our Father,  
you see your children growing up  
in an unsteady and confusing world:  
Show them that your ways give more life  
than the ways of the world,  
and that following you  
is better than chasing after selfish goals.

Help them to take failure,  
not as a measure of their worth,  
but as a chance for a new start.

Give them strength to hold their faith in you,  
and to keep alive their joy in your creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Upcoming Christian Formation Events:**

#### **January 2012**

1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15-10:00am – Adult Forum

12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00-8:30pm – Epiphany Program w/Light Supper: *Embracing An Adult Faith*

Video Series and Discussion Led by Rev. Nigel Taber-Hamilton & Shantina Steele:

Author and Bible scholar Marcus Borg invites us to join him in revisiting Christianity's most fundamental questions: Who is God? What does salvation mean? What place does Jesus hold in contemporary Christian faith?

15<sup>th</sup> @ 9:45-10:15am – Acolyte & Worship Leader Training: David McClellan and Richard Tussey invite current Acolytes and Worship Leaders as well as those interested in learning more about this ministry to rehearse how we serve the clergy during the liturgy.

21<sup>st</sup> @ 5:00-7:00pm – Family Fun Night

#### **February 2012**

2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:00-8:30pm – Cont'd Epiphany Program w/Light Supper: *Embracing An Adult Faith*

Video Series and Discussion Led by Rev. Nigel Taber-Hamilton & Shantina Steele

5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15-10:00am – Adult Forum

19<sup>th</sup> @ 9:45-10:15am – Lector Training: Nancy Ruff teaches the fine points of being a Lector. This training is open to all adult and youth lectors and to those interested in learning more about this ministry.





## *Adult Forum Schedule - January*

Dear All,

The 8th Day Committee is ringing in the New Year with a plethora of Adult Christian Education forums for January. We will have an eclectic array of environmental, public service, and graduate level Bible study presentations for your enlightenment and enjoyment. The real gem in this treasure chest is a Great Courses DVD series on the Old Testament. Our virtual guide for this series is an old congregation favorite, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School.



**8 January - Elwha River Reborn.** Sam Lungren, a 2007 graduate of S.W. High School, who has his BA in journalism from Gonzaga University, and is now pursuing a master's degree in environmental journalism at the University of Montana, will be our guest speaker. He will give us a power point presentation about the Elwha River past and present. This river was blocked by two dams for nearly 100 years, inundating much of the valley and severely restricting Chinook salmon runs. Decades of outcry against the dams finally led to a 1992 U.S. Congressional mandate that the dams be removed. Almost 20 years later, they are finally being taken down. Deconstruction began 17 September 2011 and is expected to last two to three years before the river can resume its natural course. Sam will be our knowledgeable and very capable guide as we navigate through the history of the Elwha and steer a course to its future when salmon runs will hopefully be restored to the upper river. Ted Brookes hosts.

**15 January - Christians & Social Advocacy.** The Rev. Paul Benz, former pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Clinton and now the Director of Advocacy for the Faith Action Network (FAN) which is the successor organization to the Washington Association of Churches and the Lutheran Public Policy Office, will preach at both services and be our guest speaker. He will share about this ministry during our adult education class and how we at St. Augustine's can be involved in social advocacy. Paul will also talk about the critical issues going on in our state legislature. Finally, he will be inviting anyone to join him for lunch (as well as people from other south Whidbey churches) to discuss local churches becoming a part of FAN's statewide network of advocating congregations. FAN is a statewide religious advocacy organization that urges people of faith to unite to use their voice and witness to speak out on the critical social issues of our day particularly to our elected officials. Fr. Nigel hosts.

**22 January - In the Beginning.** This opening lecture introduces not only the content of the Old Testament, but also a number of issues-historical, theological, and aesthetic-involved in its interpretation. Following a brief description of biblical materials and the means by which they may be appreciated, we will turn to several critical tools that are useful for gaining a deeper understanding of Scripture and some of the technical terms used in its academic study. The general discussion concludes by noting a few biblical contributions to Western culture. Ted Brookes presents.

**29 January - Adam and Eve.** The Garden of Eden, like the rest of primeval history is "myth", a foundational story that under girds cultural norms and explains communal identity. Many scholars suggest that Genesis 2-3 (the J cosmology) was composed during Solomon's reign about 900 B.C.E. Three hundred to four hundred years later, a priestly writer placed Genesis 1 before the J account, creating a new lens by which the Garden of Eden may be understood. This lecture follows Genesis 2-3 selectively, episode by episode, to highlight its complexity, the effects of Genesis 1 on its interpretation, its possible Near Eastern connections, and the questions that remain debated. Ted Brookes presents.



*From the Parish Nurse*  
*by Wendy Close*



Three words for the New Year

A few weeks ago I was listening to NPR . An author, never did catch his name, was being interviewed about his new book that focuses on why successful people are successful. To paraphrase, he said that successful and unsuccessful individuals all have one thing in common – they usually dislike doing what it is they need to do to be successful. What they do not have in common is that successful people ... DO IT ANYWAY!

I have used this motivation in my life already. For example, I have never been very successful at flossing my teeth every day. Once I started saying to myself DO IT ANYWAY, I've had to buy more floss!

Try it out.

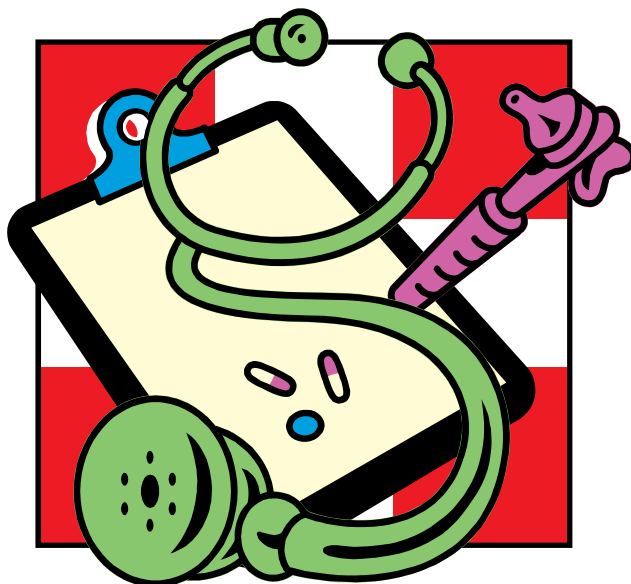
When you are at coffee hour and eyeing those tasty cookies, and you know it would be best to reach for the carrots rather than the cookies....DO IT ANYWAY.

When it is 40 degrees and pouring rain outside, but you haven't exercised in a week, and you know a walk would be good for you...DO IT ANYWAY.

For me these three words have taken me from thinking about whatever it is I need to do to be successful to actually doing it – a huge leap. Best of luck in the New Year.



*Mission Sunday Offering for January*



Friends of Friends Medical Support Fund is a community-supported fund offering financial help to South Whidbey residents with medically-related bills they cannot afford to pay. Friends of Friends serves as a community safety net, easing the burden of unexpected medical expenses. We can help with: Prescription or over-the-counter medications, Visits to health professionals, Hospitals and laboratory bills, Ferry tickets and gas vouchers for treatment on the mainland, Medical supplies and equipment. Today the need is greater than ever. Please give generously.





## *A Note*

*From Bob & Shirley Erb*

*Dear friends,*

*For all the care, concern, love, prayers and meaningful cards to us for the loss of our son, Phil, we thank you so very much.*

*With heartfelt love,  
Shirley and Bob Erb*



## *Thanks from Good Cheer*

During the month of November you contributed 214 pounds of food to Good Cheer. In December you contributed 157 pounds. Here is what is happening at Good Cheer Food Bank. We serve over 3000 people residing on South Whidbey. Over 20% of families on South Whidbey used the Food Bank at least once in 2011. Our goal is to provide a hunger free community and you have played a large and important part in moving us closer to achieving that goal.

Thank you, Jay Ryan



## *Quiet Time*

*Chris Lubinski, Obl-OSB*

O GOD of Peace, WHO has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength; by the Might of YOUR Spirit lift us, we pray, to YOUR Presence, where we may be still and know that YOU are GOD.

Quiet Time is an informal Lectio Divina which is the way Christian monastics have meditated for centuries. After saying together the above prayer we read a passage out loud three times (currently we're working through the psalms from Nan Merrill's Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness). Each of us, in our own mind, looks for a word or phrase that 'speaks' to us, either positively or negatively, and we each then meditate on that word and why it jumped out at us. We often, in this type of meditation, obtain an insight that we would not have obtained without quieting ourselves and our lives for these few minutes. The silence is about 45 minutes long and the regular participants are amazed at how quickly the silent time goes. We journal, or just sit---comfortably, or knit, all in front of the fireplace in the Fireside Room. After the 45 minutes, we simply leave the quiet and go home. Over time each of us will discover we have grown spiritually from all these 'mini-insights'. We all have grown in our need for quiet time, because being in a quiet church (removed from the frantic pace of worldly living) the little insights that appear, the calming quiet itself, and the slowing of the physical body, even for a short but regular time, is genuinely healthy!

You all are invited to come whenever you can. Each session stands on its own---there's no 'catching up' to do. We meet at 7 pm every Tuesday evening. For those of you who are unable to make it, but would like to try it at home, I leave several copies of the current psalm on the table in the entry by the Quiet Time sign. You need to be disciplined enough at home to ignore the phone and the nagging little "should-dos" for an hour.



## 2012 Environmental Priorities Workshop, & Lobby Day

Twenty-five environmental, faith and good government organizations have chosen their priorities for environmental legislation in Olympia for 2012. These priorities are:

**Toxic-Free Kids.** A few years ago, the Washington State Legislature passed legislation that stopped manufacturers from using PBDEs, harmful toxic flame retardants. In response, many industries switched to cancer-causing Tris flame retardants without fully considering the health and environmental impacts of those decisions. Now children are exposed to these new flame retardants in nursing pillows, car seats, changing pads, and other children's products. The Toxic-Free Kids Act seeks to put a stop to toxic Tris flame retardants and help businesses switch to safer chemicals that won't harm health, the environment or their bottom line.

**Fulfill our Clean Energy Initiative.** Sustain the success of I-937 in bringing investments, jobs and economic development throughout Washington. I-937 has generated approximately \$7 billion in renewable energy investments in this state, especially in struggling rural communities, and efficiency savings for energy consumers. More investments, more savings, and more jobs will come to us as long as we keep this pathway open. In addition, I-937 reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, protecting us from pollution and volatile prices, and remains the most practical means for meeting the state's official climate limits. Changes to this legislation will be proposed next year; we will support only those changes that sustain I-937 successes and keep Washington on the path to fulfill our Clean Energy Initiative.

**Pollution-Free Prosperity.** Prevent attempts to weaken, delay or rollback state environmental laws and programs that are critical for clean air, clean water and healthy communities. A clean and healthy environment is essential to Washington's prosperity. It enables our state to attract and retain leading businesses and well-qualified workers, the drivers for real economic recovery. Eliminating or delaying environmental protections will not help solve the state's deficit. The environmental community will continue to work in good faith with business, government and other interests to identify ways to improve the implementation of existing regulations; we will oppose efforts to delay or undermine the environmental protections that are critical to making Washington a healthy and prosperous state.

**Legislative Workshop** - Saturday, January 7, 2012, 9:30 am – 2:45 pm

This annual event is your opportunity to be involved as the state's leading conservation groups prepare for the upcoming legislative session. You'll hear from legislators, environmental lobbyists, and others regarding the community's Environmental Priorities. Environmental leaders and a panel of our state legislators will answer questions about this year's Environmental Priorities. Helpful break-out sessions will provide information on building a base, getting your voice heard, and immediate ways you can take action.

Where: University of Washington, Kane Hall 120

Cost: \$20 with lunch, \$10 without lunch, and \$10 for students with lunch

Who: You and dozens of the state's leading environmental organizations

Register: [www.wecprotects.org](http://www.wecprotects.org). Click on "come to an event," then "EPC 2012 Legislative Workshop."

**Environmental Lobby Day**, Wednesday, January 25, 2012 State Capitol, Olympia, WA.

This is an exciting and inspiring day Participating in the democratic process is joyful and empowering. Please join Earth Ministry staff, many people of faith, and friends of the environment throughout Washington State in Olympia to meet your legislators and support good climate legislation. Your voice will make a difference! Registration for Lobby Day will be available in January.





## *"Blessed Be the Peace Makers"*

### *Celebrate the Witness of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

On Monday, January 16, the day set aside to honor the nonviolent witness of Martin Luther King, Jr., the St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship will sponsor the seventh annual Whidbey Island community Martin Luther King "Blessed be the Peace Makers" event. The service will be held at St. Augustine's commencing at 1:00 and preceded by sandwiches in Campbell Hall from 12 to 12:45. In addition to sandwiches, vegetables, fruit and beverages will also be available. The appetizers will be provided without charge by St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship members. The public is invited for the service and appetizers.



The featured speaker at this year's event will be Ora Houston. Ora is a very dynamic African-American woman who has prominently served the Episcopal Church at every level. She is a member of St. James Episcopal Church in Austin, the same church where Bill and Amy were members for 14 years and interim clergy for 3 years before they joined us here at St. Augustine's, and it's the same church where Bishop Rickel was rector before he became our bishop. Ora has served as Chair of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Texas, has twice been a delegate to the National Convention, and is a prominent leader in the Union of Black Episcopalians.

She was educated in segregated public schools in Austin and has worked in the office of state Senator Gonzala Barrientos. She has received national recognition for her years of outstanding service as a social worker and community activist. She has testified before the state legislature, the county commission, and the city council. For years her focus has been "giving voice to people who are not invited to the table and protecting the rights of all who are forced to the margins of our community."

The singing of Civil Rights anthems and Afro-American spirituals will be an important part of the service. Karl Olsen the Trinity Lutheran Music Minister will again lead the singing.



As in past years the service will include an interactive reading of a key event or events in the Black Freedom Movement (Civil Rights) A narrative text, read from the pulpit, will interact with readings from the pews by St. Augustine's Episcopal Peace Fellowship members and St. Augustine youth. This year's readings will feature the "Freedom Rides" celebrating the 50 anniversary of this important event in the struggle for equal rights and honoring the courage and sacrifices of the Freedom Riders.



The event will conclude with a reading of the "I Have a Dream" speech and singing of "We Shall Overcome."

The annual "Blessed Are the Peace Makers" event has always filled or nearly filled the St. Augustine's nave to capacity and a similar response is expected this year. The event has become St. Augustine's gift to the community.

**Childcare will be provided.**

**Families and youth are encouraged to attend.**

