

EMMANUEL'S PERMANENT LABYRINTH: INSTALLATION IS UNDERWAY!

WHERE TO FIND IT:

Labyrinth	1
Rector's Ruminations	2
New Vestry Members	3
Karin Fuhring	4
Toombs Sisters	5
Finding Our Way	6
Birthdays	6
Anniversaries	6
Prayer List	6
Children's Acrostic	7
Candlemas	7
Vestry & Staff	7
Reflection	8



The unfinished stone path. (Photo by Carl Buttke)

The Labyrinth Committee is pleased to report that all systems are 'go' for the laying of the permanent labyrinth. The county and state requirements have been met. The state requires an archeologist to be present to monitor the sod removal process. This is to ensure that no 'cultural artifacts', buried well under the soil, will be disturbed. Test borings have been done around the area where the labyrinth will be so we know to the centimeter the depth at which the midden layer begins.

Robin Kucklick starts removing the sod the week of January 24. The sod will be saved and then cut and shaped to form the lines between the stone path. To insure the midden remains undisturbed Robin will work by hand and not use a tractor.

Steve Cohan has been busy cutting the stones and will begin setting them on site immediately after Robin has prepared the base. According to Robin we will have a "fairly finished look to the labyrinth" by mid February.

Submitted by Nancy Ayer

**PLEASE SEE THE CHURCH WEBSITE NEWS & EVENTS PAGE AND
LABYRINTH PAGE FOR MANY MORE PHOTOS AND UPDATES AS THE
WORK CONTINUES**

RECTOR'S RUMINATIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2011

BISHOP CRAIG ANDERSON

My ruminations this month consist of my Rector's Report to the Annual Meeting, January 23rd 2011:

I began my report to you last year by quoting a portion of The Catechism entitled "The Ministry" with the question, "What is the duty of all Christians?" (Book of Common Prayer p. 856). The answer: "To follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray and give for the spread of the Kingdom of God." This year I would like to begin by raising three related and prior questions, again from The Catechism: "What is the mission of the Church' how does it pursue its mission and through whom does it carry out its mission?" (BCP, p. 855).

Let's begin with a consideration of the first question; "what is the mission of the Church?" The answer: "The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." In short, the mission is accomplished through the ministry of reconciliation. Next, "The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel and promotes justice, peace and love." Finally, the Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members." That would be you and I; all of us working together given the gifts that God has given each of us for ministry.

The various reports, statistics, and proposed actions that comprise this Annual Report disclose and reveal the fact that we are a "missional" Church as outlined in The Catechism. Evidence of this can be seen in our outreach efforts to address basic human need through "hands on ministry," our 17% tithe to charitable organizations here on the Island that support the common good and our support of the mission and ministry of the Diocese.

We have pursued our mission through pastoral care, e.g., contributions of time and money to Noramisa; The Food Bank (to include their new building); The Dinner Kitchen; helping those in need of shelter and financial aid; as well as financially supporting and being involved with a variety of organizations, e.g. OPAL, that address affordable housing.

We have pursued our mission by expanding our prayer and worship services, e.g., the Labyrinth, our recent Advent evening services, taking the sacrament and God's word to those who cannot get to church, and those members of our family in hospitals and care facilities.

We have pursued our mission by proclaiming the Gospel through word and action, e.g., through prophetic preaching, Education for Ministry, Rector's Forum and working with other religious groups in expanding the ministry of the Orcas Island Council of Churches.

We have pursued our mission by sharing our facilities with others, offering hospitality to organizations that foster love, peace, healing and promote intellectual and spiritual growth.

We have pursued our mission by caring for and stewarding our resources, e.g., the new roof for the church and Benson Hall and the commitment to a permanent outdoor community labyrinth. We accomplished these extraordinary projects in the midst of difficult economic times while concurrently increasing our pledged financial support to the parish this past year and again for this coming year. We have lived within our financial means, controlled expenses and have been supportive of The Diocese through our assessment and support of Diocesan Committees engaged in ministry in and beyond The Diocese.

RECTOR'S RUMINATIONS, CONTINUED...

Finally, "Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?" Each and everyone of you. I say this with appreciation. On a per capita basis, you are one the hardest working parishes I have known. The level of commitment here is inspirational and often overlooked, e.g. the quiet work of the Altar Guild and Flower Committee, St. Agnes Market Day efforts, Mr. Fixit, Dick Thompson, and Mrs. Fixit, Beth Jurgensen, our chefs, coffee hour volunteers, the Garden Gang, our choir and musicians, our ushers, lectors, worship leaders, lay Eucharistic ministers, and those under Jan Titus's leadership in visiting the sick and helping with transportation, Cathy Clemens' behind the scenes efforts in organizing parish events, having Wray, Kate and Nancy share in leading worship. I could go on, and I apologize for any omissions – evidence that member involvement is truly exceptional given our size and resources as a parish family. Exceptional and significant is the number of our members who sing and play instruments in various musical groups on Orcas Island, serve as volunteers and board members on the seventy not-for-profit organizations on Orcas and give generously to support both charitable and philanthropic organizations that not only address human need, but improve and enrich the quality of our life as members of this island community.

All of which is to say that it has been another "missional" year for us to celebrate especially in the midst of difficult times and circumstances in our community, the nation and the tensions that exist between nations, peoples and religions. For the ministry we share, I thank you and God for the service that binds us, the love that unites us and the hope that sustains us.

Having expressed my appreciation, please do not interpret my affirmation and gratitude as complacency or satisfaction. We have challenges and opportunities that will demand our best efforts and God's grace. On the upcoming Sundays and weeks of this season, I shall be giving you the results of what we as a parish have identified in the discernment process explained in the "Rector's Ruminations," (January 2011). In short, while we have much to celebrate and be thankful for this past year opportunities for mission abound. And mission is that which funds our shared ministry, perhaps best said by Emil Brunner, "The Church exists by mission as fire exists by burning."

In Christ,

+Craig

OUR NEWEST VESTRY MEMBERS!



Photo by Cheryl Hunnicutt Danskin

Cathy Clemens, Beth Jurgensen, Kelly Toombs, and Linda Watts

CLIMBING LADDERS WITH KARIN FUHRING

By Margaret Payne



Photo by Cheryl Hunnicutt Danskin

In April 2009, after attending my first service at Emmanuel Episcopal, I forced myself to walk next door, to the Parish Hall, for coffee. “It’s the only way you’re going to meet people, Margaret,” I encouraged myself. A little nervously, I took my cup and sat down at a table occupied by two small women who looked to be around 70 years of age. They introduced themselves as Karin and Ingrid. “I’m Margaret,” I replied, and listened with amusement as they debated the wisdom of Karin’s recent trip up a ladder onto the roof of her house. Like Ingrid, I was alarmed that Karin, who looked barely more than 100 pounds, was climbing ladders and clambering about on roofs. At the same time, I admired her pluckiness. “That’s the spirit of the Orcas woman,” I remember thinking, and vowed to have some for myself.

Nearly two years later, as I sit at her kitchen table, I mention this conversation to Karin. She remembers it distinctly. I learn that her purpose on the roof was to clean the chimney screens (and thereby avoid the \$200 cost of the sweep) and wash her skylights. Ingrid’s protests did not dissuade Karin from the roof. Rather, Karin assigned Ingrid the task of standing watch on the ground, cordless phone in hand. “At least you can call 911.”

This same pluckiness got Karin through her recent bout with cancer and the months-long chemotherapy treatments that drained much of her energy but not her spirit. When I ask Karin, a widow since 2002, about the resources she used to get through the cancer, she names three: “You rely on your own inner resources—faith and determination; you can do it. I also had great support from family in Germany, who called several times a week. [And] the church community was very supportive.” Dick Thompson mowed her meadows and cleared brush from the logging roads on her large property off Dolphin Bay Road. Ed Benshoof righted fallen fence posts. Islanders also offered to drive her to the mainland for treatment. “But as long as I can do it, it’s good for my spirit to do it. It gave me strength to know I could do it. Knowing that family and friends would be there helped.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

CLIMBING LADDERS WITH KARIN FUHRING... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

"My faith was the strongest part for me. The cancer didn't frighten me. I was willing to accept whatever. On the other hand, I felt I had to do my best. That was my responsibility. We cannot just expect things to happen; we have to do our very best to make it happen. If it doesn't happen, just accept it, as long as you know you've done your very best..."

Cancer is not the first challenge Karin has had to face in recent years. In 2002, John, her husband of 36 years, died while standing at the bathroom sink. "It took my breath away when I lost my husband. I did not want to believe it. It was a blow for the longest time." Karin could have sold the Orcas property after John's death, but she didn't. Instead, she determined to stay in the house they had built together. "Before my husband died, I didn't do this sort of thing [climb on roofs, clear brush]. We thought I'd have to give up the house. But as time goes by, you meet the challenges." Karin is now in remission from the cancer, and she is working to regain her strength. She wants to be able to clear the logging roads and mow the meadow again. I don't ask about the roof, although she earlier declared, "I'm still flexible. That has nothing to do with age."

Interestingly, as she looks back on her cancer, Karin uses a ladder as a metaphor for her journey through chemo. She recalls, "When I felt so exhausted and nauseated from the treatments, I would just go day by day, like a ladder you pull yourself up on. Always look to the next rung, the next day, the next week. Don't look back. Look to what is going to be, expect that to be better." Good advice, no matter the challenge!

WELCOME EMILY AND MAGGIE!



Photos submitted by Cheryl Hunnicutt Danskin

Last Sunday, Emily and Maggie Toombs were baptized into the family of God. They have been part of the Emmanuel parish family since Easter 2010, coming with their parents, Kelly and Kim Toombs. Both girls spent the year learning and participating in church life and decided to take this important step of responding to God's love for them. Emmanuel rejoices with them in their new beginning and welcomes these young companions to our faith community.

February Birthdays

2 Emily Toombs
 4 Beth Jurgensen
 4 Lois Sheedy
 12 Craig Anderson
 12 Karen Blinn
 12 Mary Lou Padbury
 12 Eleanor Peterson
 13 Marian Berdan
 22 Eric Hansen
 23 Nancy Ayer
 24 Kaye Mattson
 25 Marilyn Storey
 29 Bronwen Jones

February Anniversaries

9 Jim & Betsy Nelson
 22 Duff & Marilyn Andrews

Prayer List

Lynn Sauter, Lois Baney, Bob Schliebus, Cheryl Parker Meyer, John, John Michael, Melia & Chris, John Fox John & Jimi Russell, Kyle Palmer, Carol Tully, Dean, Louise Tucker, Jennifer Wong, Chet Linowski, Sharon Heller, Valerie, Jean Blease, Ida Rae McDonald, Lizz Hanks, Jenny Peters, Judy Schliebus, Dorothy Austin, Peter Foley, Victoria Parker, Ron Johnson, Rosa Deitlein, Ruth Bergsman, Franz Gabl, Gil Becerra, Fred Munder, Elyse Van Den Bosch, John Prince, Joe Carney, Sally Gibson, Anna Kathryn & Molly

YOU ARE INVITED

TO A SCREENING OF:



OPAL Community Land Trust, The Orcas Island Council of Churches
 and the Oddfellows invite you to a film screening of

FINDING OUR WAY

A documentary by part-time island resident
 Leonie Sandercock and Giovanni Attili

Saturday, February 26th

3:00 pm

Oddfellows Hall

Discussion with the filmmaker to follow

This is a story of a people dispossessed, deep historic wounds, and still unresolved conflict between indigenous people and the government of Canada. It's a story of struggles for land and sovereignty, for healing and revitalization. Come experience this film that draws on themes familiar to our island lives and history: community integrity, sense of place, forgiveness and transformation—and then join in a conversation with the filmmaker and her special guests, bringing it home to Orcas Island.

Admission by donation
 Film is 90 minutes + discussion
 May not be suitable for children under 12

**VISIT THE CHURCH WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO AND A SHORT
 CLIP FROM THE MOVIE**

CHILDREN ARE DISCIPLES TOO!

In the Sunday Circle on January 23rd, the children learned that the word disciple means learner. Using the first letters from the word Disciple they made an acrostic poem/prayer based on Matthew 4:18-22.

Disciples are learners.
I have a dream to
Save people.
Come with me.
I will teach you to catch
People.
Love and learn
Everyone.

Submitted by Cheryl Hunnicutt Danskin

FEBRUARY— FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION/CANDLEMAS



“This day, 40 days after the birth of Jesus, marks the traditional ending of the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle. It has been observed both as the presentation of Jesus in the Temple and the purification or cleansing of Mary, following the birth of a male child, as was dictated by Levitical law. The theme of Jesus, the true light – anticipated in Advent and brought into being at Christmas – is sent to all the world: “a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:32). Because of the emphasis of the light of Christ in the world, candles have played a large part in the celebration of this day, thus the name Candlemas. In some churches candles are blessed and distributed to be taken home and used during family devotions.”

Taken from Seasons of the Spirit curriculum

2011-2012 VESTRY MEMBERS

CATHY CLEMENS
KATE HANSEN
SCOTT HEISINGER
SCOTT JONES
BETH JURGENSEN
DARLEEN KENT
HARLAN PEDERSEN
JOHN PRINCE
JAN REID
JAN TITUS
KELLY TOOMBS
LINDA WATTS

PARISH ADMINISTRATORS:

KAREN BLINN
NOEL JEFFREY

SEXTON:

LUANN PAMATIAN

COORDINATOR, FAMILY & INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY:

CHERYL HUNNICUTT
DANSKIN

ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR:

MARIANNE LEWIS

RECTOR:

BISHOP CRAIG B.
ANDERSON

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ORCAS ISLAND**

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NEWSLETTER ITEMS

It's a community effort! Please submit your newsletter contributions in a Word .doc or .docx file to Karen Blinn via email. (Since you would type it anyway, submitting electronically saves the office staff from needing to retype – Thanks!)

Your photos of Parish Events are appreciated! Photos are gratefully accepted and may be submitted electronically to Karen as well, preferably in .JPG file formats.

Please note that the deadline for submissions to Emmanuel's Newsletter is 12 Noon on the 25th of every month.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit Us at
www.orcasislandepiscopalchurch.org

**Beginning In March,
Look for Us At:
www.orcasepiscopal.org**

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Address Service Requested

"The highest response any American can make to the Arizona tragedy is to spend time in deep reflection, asking ourselves how we personally can make our country a more peaceful place." - Marianne Williamson

The events in Arizona this weekend---when six people were killed and 14 others wounded, including U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords---brought shock, anger, disbelief and sadness to most of the country. The airwaves were immediately filled with interviews and speculations on both sides of the political spectrum, ramping up the already vast divisions between sides.

This commentary is a call NOT to choose a side, for if we choose a side or hold onto our anger, we only increase the distance between us. This is a call to silence, to reflection. As Christians, the Bible calls us to "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." -Psalm 34:14. We can seek peace through a moment of silence or a time of quiet reflection.

According to Wikipedia, "A moment of silence is the expression for a period of silent contemplation, prayer, reflection, or meditation. Similar to flying a flag at half-mast, a moment of silence is often a gesture of respect, particularly in mourning for those who have recently died or as part of a commemoration ceremony of a tragic historical event."

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - Martin Luther King Jr.

This quote from MLK Jr. reminds us that only love can conquer hate. Our anger, our judgments (whether we are right or wrong, or find ourselves on the left or the right side of the political spectrum), and our fears cannot make our world a better place. Only prayers for the dead, the wounded, the perpetrator and our country can bring the peace and love we need to heal ourselves. This peace and love comes from God, and we can find God in our moments of silence.

"Silence is God's first language." -St. John of the Cross

If quiet reflection is difficult during trying times, we can try walking a labyrinth as we observe a moment of silence.

By Myra Smith of Laughing Flower Landscape and Labyrinth
Source: *Seattle Examiner.com* - for a link to this article, visit the labyrinth page on the church website
Submitted by Nancy Ayer