

RECTOR'S RUMINATIONS FOR  
MARCH 2011

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**"MY BIRTHDAY GIFT: ON THE RAILS AND ABOUT THE RAILS"**



photographer unknown

As we depart the Sacramento station on the Coast Starlight, we pass a deserted Southern Pacific warehouse and a small wave of bittersweet nostalgia washes over me. Bitter owing to my love of train travel and the demise of a system that once served as the main artery in connecting our nation. Abandoned roadbeds, abbreviated schedules, aging equipment provide ample evidence of defeat or at least a concession to the triumph of the automobile, the Interstate Highway system and air travel.

Economically bitter in that passenger rail operates in the red while freight rail and the new equipment to route container cars, e.g. PAC-STACKRACK, turns a steady profit, as it should given the fact that it is more economical, efficient and environmentally friendly to employ rail transport rather than tractor trailer rigs for long distance hauling.

Experientially bitter in the loss of a connection with the land. We miss the landscape as we fly over our country confined in a small, cramped, claustrophobic metal tube that promises to carry us swiftly to our destination in the "friendly skies." Friendly skies? Or the now deteriorating interstate highways that separate us from the unique communities and topography we encounter as we travel; a system replete with "road services" that are indistinguishable and predictable in providing convenience and a quick "on and off" the concrete ribbon. Standardization blurring the distinctiveness of regional uniqueness. Standardization and convenience discouraging exploration of regional cultures, architecture and local color. The abandoned and dying towns "missed" by the interstate system serve as a sad footnote.

## LENT 2011 – COMING SOON!

### SHROVE TUESDAY, MARDI GRAS, FAT TUESDAY, PANCAKE DAY ALL IN ONE

**5:30pm. Tuesday, March 8th** in the Parish Hall. Wear an outrageous, silly, special, crazy hat and let your wild side come to the top as we enjoy pancakes and say goodbye to Alleluia the evening before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Bring your favorite pancake topping and a Food Bank donation. And remember your hat!

#### HISTORY FUN FACT

One fun occasion is Pancake Day in Great Britain, which takes place on Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is the day before the start of Lent. The word “Shrove” comes from “shriving”, which means confessing your sins. Originally, people went to church on this day to confess their sins before Lent. The church bell would ring as a call for people to go shriving.

The idea of Pancake Day came next; its purpose was to use up the milk and eggs in the house before Lent, during which time they weren't supposed to be eaten.

In one town in Britain called Olney, Pancake Races began.



photos by Cheryl Hunnicutt Danskin

The legend is that these races started back in 1445. A woman was making pancakes and she heard the bell to go to church to shrive. She was in such a rush that she forgot to put down her frying pan. She ran all the way to church with it! Now women of Olney follow the tradition that began way back then, and they race with a frying pan with a pancake in it. One rule is that they have to flip the pancake at least three times during the race.

Today in some communities the church bells ring on Shrove Tuesday, not to remind the people to go to church to confess, rather, to remind them to make pancakes!

Pancake Day is also celebrated in the US, in the town of Liberal, Kansas. Liberal was always known for being “flat as a pancake”. I suppose it was that reputation that inspired the town to contact Olney, in England, to suggest a competition. Since then, the two towns have kept track of their respective Pancake Races to see who makes the better time.

- From [www.mamalisa.com](http://www.mamalisa.com)  
submitted by Cheryl Hunnicutt Danskin

***CHECK OUT THE 2011 LENTEN SCHEDULE ON THE NEW WEBSITE CALENDAR:***

[www.orcasepiscopal.org/calendar](http://www.orcasepiscopal.org/calendar)

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As we arrive at Davis, the bitter gives way to the sweet. The depot - clean and architecturally appealing – conjures up memories of the old Union Station in Los Angeles and trips with my mother from Los Angeles to Minneapolis via Kansas City at the beginning of each summer in my childhood. A three and a half day trek beginning with the Southern Pacific R.R. across the vast expanse of the West and Mid-west. The excitement of journey, the changing scenery and the elegance of the travel. Being “adopted” by the porter and dining car staff and being in awe of the conductor. Listening to the rhythmic clack of the rails while falling asleep on the freshly made bed in the “sleeper.” Stealing glances at the night darkness punctuated by stars and the intermittent lights of approaching and passing towns.

Being lulled by the comforting wail of the train whistle. Exploring the coaches, occasionally meeting a new friend in the dining car, playing card games with my mother, alternating between reading a book and simply relishing the vastness of the plains and prairie. All the while anticipating upcoming summer adventures: summer league baseball, hiking in “the bottoms” of the Minnesota River, visiting the farms with my grandfather, swimming in the old quarry holes with cousins and friends, the aroma of my grandmother’s freshly baked bread on Monday mornings, feeding the chickens, digging up carrots in the garden, picking green apples and putting pennies on the railroad tracks with my cousin Dick before running to avoid “The Flyer” traveling west from Minneapolis.

Nostalgia gives way to the reality of the present. Although renovated, the old coaches from the 1950’s lack the comfort and elegance they once offered. However, most employees of Amtrak try hard to recapture the hospitality of years gone by.

I asked Lisa, our porter, about occupancy on this trip and she estimated that it’s about 60% - typical for this time of year. She went on to note that the effort to reduce fares, improve service have helped but “we’re still not competitive and most people don’t take or have the time for train travel. It’s a shame because this is the way to see parts of the country you can’t see any other way,” she laughs, “The beauty and the rust-out.”

Despite indulging in a bit of nostalgia, I’m not a romantic. Passenger rail travel will not replace air and automobile travel. Having traveled Europe, Scandinavia, China and Russia by rail, our schedules, service, equipment and rail infrastructure suffer, for the most part, by comparison. Perhaps the new budget initiative to rebuild passenger rail service and establish a high-speed rail system in the United States will put us on track (pun intended). I hope so, not because of a nostalgic desire to return to the past but in hopes that such a rehabilitation and improvement of the “Iron Horse” will provide us with a more affordable, environmentally sensitive and enjoyable way to travel and rediscover the beauty of our land and recapture a sense of place and space.

Lisa, our porter, is less optimistic. Asked about the President’s plan for renewing and improving the rail system in our country, she looks wistful, “My dad was a conductor. He loved train travel and so do I. But the task is so overwhelming. I don’t think we’ll see it in our lifetime...perhaps in the Northeast corridor, but not here in the West. I hope I’m wrong, but it’s going to take a lot of time and money.” And resolve.

As we make our way through the Santa Clara Valley, I gaze out my window and behold the beauty of this part of my native state. Perhaps in a few years, I’ll be able to take a trip on the Coast Starlight with my granddaughter, Bernice...

All aboard!  
+Craig

### March birthdays

- 2 Rose Beckwith
- 4 Gwen Yansen
- 5 Maggie Toombs
- 7 Majeane Palmer
- 10 Chris Bennett
- 11 George Eberle
- 12 Jim Newland
- 21 Louise Tucker
- 22 Ursula Pamatian
- 22 Patrick Bennett
- 28 Lisa Heisinger
- 28 Carroll Neill
- 29 Judy Schliebus
- 29 Jim Nelson
- 31 Audrey Garrels

### March Anniversaries

- 16 Mike & Sally Elliman
- 19 George & Audrey Garrels

### 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, Jenny Peters, Ron Johnson, Rosa Deitlein, Ruth Bergsman, Franz Gabl, Gil Becerra, Fred Munder, Elyse Van Den Bosch, John Prince, Sally Gibson, Anna Kathryn & Molly, Sam Kenady, Maureen Hannan, Barbara Padget, June West, Michael Sky, Susy Schaperkoetter

## Change is in the Air!

### Permanent Labyrinth

The installation is complete and the grass is beginning to grow! See the slideshow of the installation of the labyrinth in the sidebar of the new website!

### New Website

Be sure to explore Emmanuel's new website.... New name! New Look! Easier to navigate! Check it out at [www.orcasepiscopal.org](http://www.orcasepiscopal.org)

### New Email addresses

All of Emmanuel's email addresses will now reflect the name of the online home of Emmanuel. Emmanuel's main office email will now be: [admin@orcasepiscopal.org](mailto:admin@orcasepiscopal.org) Be sure to make a note of it!

### Change Your Clocks

Just a reminder to spring forward with your clocks. Daylight savings time begins **March 13<sup>th</sup>**. Should you forget, you'll be in church an hour late.



## JOYFUL NOISE!!

The vestry and staff retreat, led by our rector, Bishop Craig Anderson, and held February 11-12, coincided nicely with the gospel lessons of February 6,13,20,27. These lessons from Matthew recount the calling of the first four disciples and Jesus' instruction as to their new role. The call implied new responsibilities. First, was to follow him around the Galilee, spend some time getting acquainted, and observe his ministry. Then Jesus climbed a hill with his newly committed apprentices. He chose a quiet place and began to teach them.

Four new vestry members have been called by the congregation and added to the eight returning -- time for leadership and team building. We began the retreat with the Word, a passage from Matthew 23, which reminded us that humility is the first quality of a leader. We continued with a morning of team building and getting acquainted by hearing something of each person's faith journey. The energy expended on this required a hearty lunch. The disciples would have required lunch at midday, too, I think. After lunch we discussed the four major areas of church life, where several interesting ideas emerged as ways to enhance an already full parish scenario – ideas which we hope to share soon with the congregation. Implementing these ideas will require leadership. Sitting up on the hill, Jesus taught the disciples some of what is expected of those called to lead: Matthew, chapters 5-7

“Learn to cooperate.  
 Don't hold a grudge.  
 Don't hit back.  
 Live generously.  
 Let your enemy bring out the best in you, not the worst.  
 When you do something nice, don't call attention to yourself.  
 Pray with simplicity.  
 Forgive.  
 Look for character, not charisma.  
 Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.  
 Don't look for shortcuts to God - the Way is vigorous and requires total attention.”

Jesus concluded the teaching session by saying, “These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you will be like a smart carpenter who built upon a rock.” By the time he finished speaking, quite a crowd had gathered around the little group. They all applauded. Then Jesus went down the hill.

Fortunately, a smart carpenter anchored our Emmanuel Church to a rock.

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Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. Walking. He must have been exhausted. By Matthew 10 he had called eight more disciples to help out. What must this have been like for them? What is it like for us? One minute content as followers, tucked into a comfortable congregation, happy with good hymns and a good sermon – consumers -- the next minute being asked to be a provider, a leader. Once we are voted into vestry do we feel wiser, stronger, more capable? Probably not. Has anything changed inside? And what about **these** instructions:

“You don’t have to go to some far off place to win believers. Go to the lost and confused right here in this neighborhood.

You don’t have to put on a fund-raising campaign before you start. You don’t need a lot of equipment – travel light.

Don’t worry about what you will say – the right words will be given.

This is a large work I’ve called you into, but don’t be overwhelmed by it. Start small. The smallest jobs make you a true apprentice.”

Words for all of us, really.

Then Jesus probably took a week-end off to rest before continuing his rounds of teaching and preaching in their villages.

So..... Travel light. No shoes, no wallet, no backpack. The way Jesus set it up was that the disciples – and we – cannot provide for others out of our own abundance, but only out of our need – our need to be related to others, to know about their life, to have them know about ours, our need to give a portion of what has been given to us and to receive whatever someone is able to give in return.

Care for the sick, embrace those who are different, restore the discouraged-----and oh, yes! preach the kingdom. We are twelve apprentices with a big assignment. We offered it all to the Lord in a Eucharist – before heading out to our new responsibilities.

Praise him with trumpets!

Catherine Clemens  
Sr. Warden

Quotations from **The Message**, Eugene Peterson

## PRAYERS FOR THE YOUNG

When St. Nicholas made his annual visit to Emmanuel last December, he passed out a stocking with the names of children and youth, asking you to take a name and pray for them until his next visit. If you took a name, but were unsure who you were praying for, please see the photographs in the parish hall foyer. You will also see some prayer notes or small words and drawings the children will add to their space. You can take a look to see if there are things to pray for or enjoy about your child. We are called to nurture and support the growth of our children and youth. Take a peek and get to know their faces and their names, then keep praying. - Cheryl

### 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

### FAMILY & INTERGENERA- TIONAL MINISTRY:

CHERYL HUNNICUTT  
DANSKIN

### ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR

MARIANNE LEWIS

### RECTOR:

BISHOP CRAIG B.  
ANDERSON

**EMMANUEL  
EPISCOPAL  
PARISH OF  
ORCAS ISLAND**

**EMMANUEL  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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***WE'RE ON THE WEB!***  
Visit Us at  
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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 at [admin@orcsepiscopal.org](mailto:admin@orcsepiscopal.org).** (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 B. as well, preferably in .JPG file formats.

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

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
PO Box 8  
Eastsound, WA 98245

**Address Service Requested**

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## **UNITED WORLD COLLEGE COMES TO ORCAS**



**Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm**, you are invited to Emmanuel Parish Hall for a community presentation by students attending the United World College. Eleven students coming from the Montezuma, New Mexico campus, one of 13 campuses in the world, serve as ambassadors, coming from countries currently in the midst of conflict and challenge in some way.

The United World College was begun in 1962 with the goal of overcoming religious, cultural and racial misunderstanding if young people could be brought together to learn from one another. Representatives will be coming from Palestine, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Barbados, Italy, Columbia, Israel, Hong Kong and Yemen. You are invited to bring your open, welcoming and listening hearts to hear stories from the frontline. There will also be a Monday night gathering as well, beginning at 7:00. This will be a specific teen night, but all are welcome. If you are willing to help with some cookies for the Monday student night, please let Cheryl know.