

(Fr. Craig cont.)

Christmas parade and next month we'll be handing out free hot dogs one Saturday morning as a way of introducing ourselves to more of our neighbors.

We also have some important new ministries beginning. We are starting a small group study ministry in four locations during Lent. Since we do not have our own facility, this ministry will be our primary venue for adult discipleship education. Following the principles of "Simple Church" (more about this in a future article) we're hoping to have at least as many people involved in these small groups as there are in worship on Sunday.

Our men's group began as a satellite of the chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew at St. Timothy's. Recently, we've refined our ministry to one of service to the larger congregation which will, at least for now, be devoted to constructing furnishings to be used initially in our worship at the school, but eventually in our own buildings (whenever

that happens). The newly-christened Brotherhood of St. Joseph the Carpenter is starting with the construction of a set of portable prayer benches that will be able to be used as an altar rail in the lunchroom and which will allow us to kneel to receive the Sacrament. Farther down the to-do list are chairs for the altar party and the rest of the congregation, an altar, retable, and tabernacle (those last are far down the list). Again, keeping in mind the principles of "Simple Church," we have organized the Brotherhood in such a way that it's ministry and purpose can be described easily and clearly.

I'm very excited to be part of the ministry of Savior. Our Lord has blessed us greatly in our almost six months of ministry in his name, and as we enter into the most profoundly meaningful portion of the church year we eagerly anticipate the new ministries he will open to us in Magnolia.

In Christ,
Craig+

Following Him

March -- is it really here already? With spring fast approaching, there are many celebrations to think about: St. David's Day (1), Daylight Savings time (14), Saint Patrick's Day (17), first day of spring (20), and Palm Sunday (28). March is also "Music in Our Schools Month" as well as "Women's History Month".

All the above listed celebrations are important, but the celebration of Lent is the most important for Christians to celebrate at this time. It is the forty-day period (excluding Sundays) of repentance and renewal preceding Easter. It began with Ash Wednesday 2/17), and ends with the Easter celebration (4/4). If you want to learn more about this forty-day experience, join our kids' (adults always welcome) Bible class at 9:30 each Sunday morning.

Holy Week is the commemoration of Jesus' last week of life on earth. It is the final, most important part of Lent. All four Gospels (Matthew 21:1-9, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:28-38, John 12:12-18) tell the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem on the back of a donkey's colt. This is the day that Jesus dramatically manifested Himself to His followers as the Messiah.

Lent allows us time to recall the Easter story and remember its meaning. Fasting and prayer have been an important means to observe special journeys since Biblical times

(Moses – Exodus 34:27-28, Elijah (1 Kings 19:1-18). After His baptism, Jesus went to the desert to fast and pray for forty days before beginning His outward ministry. He gave up food and drink, and was tempted by Satan to follow him (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-8). Did He? No! Jesus would only follow God's way. Following God is what we must do – actively pursue our faith. While pursuing this faith, observing Lent can help you experience the full joy of Easter and all that it represents! (James 1:22 – "Be doers of the Word and not merely hearers.") Daniel Webster once said "The most important thought I ever had was that of my individual responsibility to God". (1 John 1:12 -- ". . . to all who receive Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God".) As His children, we must constantly pursue this faith.

It is easier to keep up this pursuit, if you have group support. Bible class and small group sessions are perfect opportunities for you to bond with one another in your endeavor to follow God. Get involved! You won't regret it!

Don't forget: Love God. Love your neighbor. Serve the world.

In Christ's service,
Pat



State of Savior Report

Every week since Savior Anglican Church began worshipping last September I've processed a weekly report that listed our attendance in worship and Sunday School and a few other statistics. It's been a useful habit because it's helped me to understand the rhythms of our life together. Still, those weekly reports have a way of keeping me focused on the present – who was in church THIS week, how many attended Sunday School THIS week, how was our offering compared to our expenses THIS week?

In the first part of February the staff and vestry of St. Timothy's/Savior traveled to Livingston for our annual retreat, and while we were there I was asked to present a report on the ministry of Savior thus far. It gave me the opportunity to back away from my usual weekly assessments and to look at the congregation a bit more objectively. This month I'd like to share with you some of the information I shared in that report.

First, just how many of us are there at Savior Anglican Church? Our overall attendance list showed that about 120 people have passed through the doors of our lunchroom since September, but when we assembled our first telephone directory in January we removed the names of some people who had only visited once or twice or who are clearly members of some other congregation. In the end we were left with 96 names of people who relate to Savior as their primary congregation. Of those, 42 are people who were active at St. Timothy's at the time Savior was planted. 26 others were people who were carried on the rolls of St. Timothy's, but who had not been actively participating in the congregation since its move to the Spring campus. The final 28 are persons who were never part of St. Timothy's at all and who have come to us as a result of our presence in Magnolia. Our overall average attendance in worship has been in the mid-fifties. In December and January it nudged up into the sixties, but this month it has dipped a little again. We have about 25 children and youth in the congregation and our children's Sunday School class has been active, although it has seen wildly varying attendance numbers. We've had at least one child every week, and other weeks when we've had ten or so. The average seems to be around five. Our mostly-weekly Synergy leadership group meetings consistently draw about 20 people. Our occasional mid-week services, held in our home, have been well attended with 55 on Christmas Eve and most recently 25 for Ash Wednesday.

The level of giving in the congregation has also been encouraging. Our constituents have pledged \$91,000 for 2010. We have also become very active in our community through our work with Magnolia SOS at Christmas and the preliminary work we are doing with them for their Easter programs. We participated in the Magnolia

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Our Mission Is: We Will Know, Love, Serve, and Obey Christ and Will Make Him Known to Others!

Our Core Values:

Growing and Discipling the Family of God

Reflecting the Love of God Through Hospitality, Friendship and Fellowship

Encountering the Living God Through Traditional and Contemporary Worship

Raising and Nurturing Children through the Grace of God

Sharing God's Love By Reaching Out



The Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem
Corinne Vonaesch

God is My Sanctuary

Let me live forever in your sanctuary, safe beneath the shelter of your wings! Interlude - Psalms 61:4

The world is but an allusion; it's only a transition...(and a short one at that)!

One Sunday morning sitting in a warm and comfortable seat in a small theater in North Carolina, still feeling the warmth of my bed and well fed I was slapped awake by a story of destruction and loss presented to us by Bishop TJ Johnston. Surrounded by friends and fellow Christians on the last day of Winter Conference we were shaken from our sleep by the story of Haiti. How would you feel if in 53 seconds you lost everything? I mean everything. Not simply a tree falling on your house or your car rolling into a ditch. I mean everything. Your house completely flattened. Your family, your whole family killed. Every direct family member, every cousin, every niece, everyone. All your friends killed. Your neighbors, your co-workers, your mailman, mechanic, local store owner; everyone. Every house in your city gone, every familiar landmark from the mailbox to the local church gone. No hospital, no city hall, no church, no grocery store, no museum, no nothing left standing...all in 53 seconds. That was Haiti.

We fill the world we live in with points of comfort. Friends we love and local restaurants we eat at. Stores we shop in and weekend entertainments from lakes to museums that we frequent and it's a good life, a comfortable life but all of it, all of it is transitory. It is built on sand, made of cards and like a thief in the night can be whisked away in seconds turning our life into total turmoil and hardship without warning. This was the message I heard that Sunday morning in North Carolina and it set my heart to yearning. But, in all of this, in the seemingly hopelessness of our reality as we know it, is a grace and salvation beyond our

understanding.

“So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that great, perfect sanctuary in heaven, not made by human hands and not part of this created world.” - Hebrews 9:11

We are saved! And by grace we will enter Christ's Sanctuary when this transitory world passes on. We cannot live our lives of this world but must be part of this world and while here stand fast in our faith and our belief that Christ died for us and through grace we will be saved. Nothing else is solid or substantial. Nothing is forever and all passes on and beyond and we have little in our abilities to stop it or even slow it down.

This is why the church family (not the building) is our sanctuary here on earth. It is our place of comfort and joy while on this earth. And it is why we must be present and joyful while in our sanctuary. We are the living members of his church on earth and the world can be a nasty place indeed. People are hurting from everyday events both minor and major. Weak marriages, broken relationships, lost jobs, sickness and stress, misunderstandings and fear and simply loneliness strike us all and when they do strike it's our church, our true family, that brings us to union with each other and closer to Christ. So, stress not, nor cry over grand buildings and wondrous trappings but rejoice in the splendor of Christ and be pleased with a simple chair to sit on and a plain table to break the bread and pour the wine. Our riches are in a sanctuary beyond this transitory world and through grace and love we will experience a joy that will never die... Learnings from Winter Conference.



Bp. Kolini stops by to discuss pizza.



Launch Sunday



Advent 1
November 29, 2010

Shrove Tuesday

