



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

St. John's Church, Salisbury, Connecticut 06068

The Rev. John F. Carter, Rector

January 2010

Gaile Binzen, Editor
Karen Byers, Layout Design

"Soon And Very Soon..."

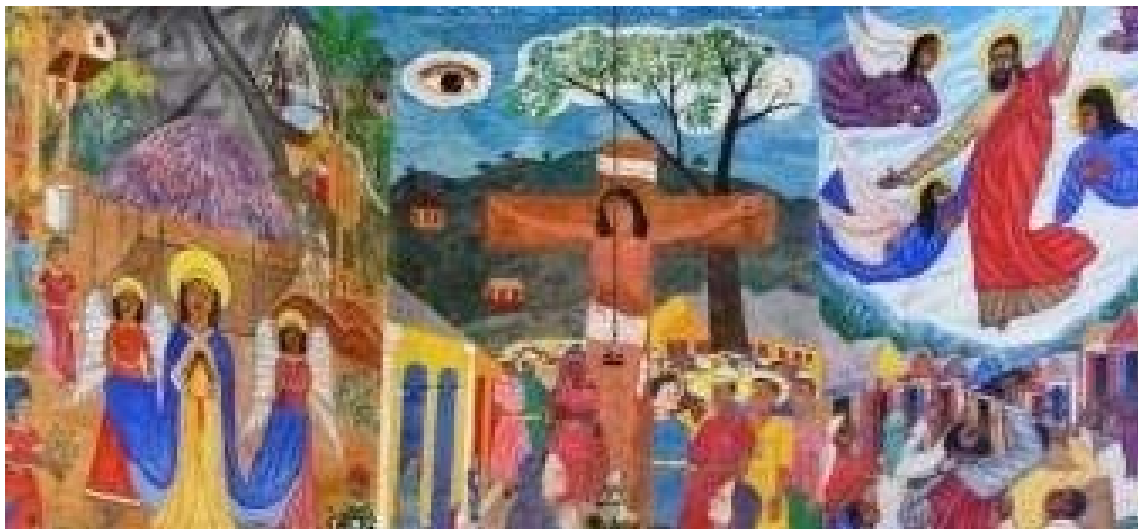
ANNUAL MEETING DAY

Featuring speaker David Derby from E.R.D. January 31st. One bi-lingual service for all at 10:00 a.m. The meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. and will last about an hour. Lunch will be served. David Derby, the volunteer representative for the State of Connecticut of the Episcopal Relief and Development fund (ERD) will be our guest speaker, providing us with an update of E.R.D.'s work in Haiti . Theo O'Neill is Chef for the Day and will be serving two kinds of Quiche: vegetarian and pancetta.

MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL ...Eat, Play, Groove (see p. 8)

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES ~ Wednesday February 17 (see p. 8)

EXCITING LENTEN STUDY (see p. 2)



Mural from Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port au Prince, destroyed in the earthquake, January 12, 2010

LENTEN STUDY INVITATION FROM SALISBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

IN THIS ISSUE	<u>Page</u>
Coming events	1
Lenten Study	2
Letter from Haiti	3
Where to contribute for Haiti	3
News of St. Vincent's Center	4
Rector's Corner	5
Resolve Among the Ruins, by NYT Columnist Bob Herbert	5
Letter from the Bishop about Haiti	6
Traces of the Trade	7
Life in the Parish	7
Ash Wednesday	8
Mardi Gras	8
Bumper Sticker Theology	8
February Birthdays	9
Invitation to the Bishop's Retirement Party	9
Mary Bodel's Forgotten Cookie Recipe	9
Health Tips for Seniors	10
February Calendar	11

INSERT: The Rector's Corner. Sermon by Rev. John Franklin Carter for Martin Luther King's Birthday on January 17, 2010

Drawings courtesy of Paul Bacon and Bill Binzen.
Photographs from the Rector.

The website version of this newsletter is altered slightly to remove personal information.



Pastor Steve Austin has invited us to join him and the Salisbury Congregational Church in studying Diana Butler Bass's fascinating review of churches that represent the "emerging" Christianity, churches that are doing something new and vital, which are really "doing church differently". Below are excerpts from Pastor Steve's letter to his congregation.

"This year's Lenten study will be focused on the book, *Christianity For the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler-Bass. It is an expose on how some churches across America have, despite this national downsizing of mainline Christian congregations, defied current trends and found ways to thrive as expressions of the Christian faith in their communities. Her discovery, and not her design (i.e., the book is about the findings of her research and not her own theories of success-building), suggests that the most effective congregations in the American mainstream are thriving because they have made concerted efforts to focus the life of their churches on the *practices* of the faith – and not the *theology* of it.

The class will be offered twice on **Tuesdays – 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.** The study will begin on **Tuesday, Feb. 16th**. I'm encouraging all those wanting to take the study to read as much of it as they are able prior to the first class."

As you may recall, prior to my Sabbatical last year, I gave out copies of this amazing book with the invitation to read it along with me while I was away. Then, after my return we would study it together. That did not happen in the way I had intended, but here is the opportunity now!

I encourage you to join in whatever way you can. We can order copies of the book if you let me know soon. You will note that the first class is on the day of our Mardi Gras Festival. On that day, you could go to the class at 9:30, or just pick up the next week.

Here are a few enthusiastic endorsements of the book:

"The most important book of the decade about emerging Christianity and the renewal of mainline churches." Marcus Borg

"Diana Butler Bass has debunked the myth that the only churches that are growing are Evangelical and Pentecostal ... I recommend this well-researched and well-written book to all who care about the transformation of churches." Jim Wallis

"This book is so full of good news that I keep it next to my Bible." Barbara Brown Taylor

John+

WE WEEP FOR HAITI

LETTER FROM HAITI

IF YOU WANT TO GO ... PLEASE, WAIT

Dear Friends in Christ:

On behalf of the Bishop of Haiti, the Rt. Rev. Jean Zache Duracin, first let me say Mesi anpil, thank you very much, for your love, your prayers, your support, your generosity and your kindness.

I know that many of you want to go to Haiti to help. Many of you already have planned mission trips and have long-standing relationships with your brothers and sisters in Christ in Haiti. Please, Bishop Duracin has been very clear about this: Unless you are a certified first-responder, now is not the time to come. Please let the professionals do their job first as they help the Haitians through the immediate dangers and relief efforts.

Episcopal Relief & Development is working very hard, day and night, to get help where it needs to go. The agency is working closely with Bishop Duracin as well, who is directing efforts, along with the Executive Council of the Diocese of Haiti, and deciding where the most urgent needs are and how to meet them.

I believe the best course of action right now is to pray, to be generous in your financial assistance, and to begin praying about how you can respond in the future. If you are considering -- or had already scheduled -- a mission trip, please pray about who should go to help with the first stages of rebuilding: Those who are healthy, who have specific skills such as carpentry, construction, plumbing, electrical work. Consider learning more Haitian Creole -- 10 lessons are available for free at www.byki.com <<http://www.byki.com/>> , and more lessons can be purchased.

The Diocese of Haiti will need your help for many years. This crisis is a marathon, not a short sprint, so we must be prepared to be in this for the long haul.

One immediate way that you can help: Please send all information to me at my email address. I am compiling it for Episcopal Relief & Development. I especially need to know about parishes in the immediately affected areas, their locations, their GPS coordinates and the latest updates you may have received. We have a lot of information floating around out there, but I don't get all of it, and there could be vital information that I miss.

Continued next page

WHAT YOU CAN DO

... send money!...

Address for Contributions

To assist those suffering in the wake of this disaster, donate online to Episcopal Relief & Development's [Haiti fund](http://www.er-d.org/)

<http://www.er-d.org/>

or call 1.800.334.7626, ext. 5129.

Checks can be mailed to

**Episcopal Relief & Development,
PO Box 7058**

Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.



More on Haiti in this issue:

Map of Haiti.....p. 4
 News of St. Vincent's Center.....p. 4
 Reprint of Bob Herbert article.....p. 5
 Letter from Bishop Smith.....p. 6

Photographs.....throughout

Continued from previous page

In addition, please to keep an eye on my web site, www.gointotheworld.net [<http://www.gointotheworld.net/>](http://www.gointotheworld.net/) . Help me to ensure the information I have is correct, and help me get more information to post.

Please know that Bishop Duracin is counting on everyone here to work together, to help the people and to be faithful. Together, we WILL help God's beloved children in Haiti.

Blessings and peace and many, many prayers,

The Rev. Lauren R. Stanley
TEC Appointed Missionary in Haiti
Assistant to Bishop Duracin,
Partnership Program and Development
Diocese of Haiti
US mobile: 703-678-3892



News of St. Vincent's Center from Episcopal missionary Lauren Stanley

The Rev. Lauren Stanley, Episcopal missionary to the Diocese of Haiti, was in the US when the quake hit but, as a former journalist, is adept at collecting information:

"Here's what I know so far (updates and additional info will be posted online):

St. Vincent's Center in Port-au-Prince runs a school as well as community clinics. About 300 deaf, blind, and handicapped children live there all school year. One building is down and the whole place was looted. Six children/staff died from the earthquake. The director, Pere Sadoni, is petitioning Bishop Zache Duracin to take the rest of the children and staff to Montrouis for at least three weeks.

Locally this organization is supported by the Friends of St. Vincent's, based at St. James's, W. Hartford. The Friends of SV is affiliated with Tennessee-based Children's Medical Mission of Haiti.

St. John's has supported St. Vincent's Center since the days of former rector, the Rev. James W. Hyde, who volunteered there for many years. If you are interested in supporting this particular charity, please inform the Vestry.



Resolve Among the Ruins

by Bob Herbert

(from the *New York Times*, January 15, 2010.)

In Haiti, the apocalypse wears the trapping of the norm. It's a place where heartbreak never seems to end.

One evening many years ago, when I was on assignment in Haiti for *The Daily News*, a man took me to the back of a pickup truck and pointed to his two small children. It was obvious they were ill. Both were shivering, although the evening was quite warm.

The man pleaded with me to take the youngsters and smuggle them into the United States. "They will die here, he said, whereas in America they would be safe and "grow strong."

I tried to explain why that was impossible, that I could not take his children. The man listened politely, then quietly said thank you, and with an expression of the deepest despair climbed into the cab of his truck and drove off.

Enslavement, murderous colonial oppression, invasions by powerful foreign armies, grotesque homegrown tyrants, natural disasters – all you have to do is wait a while in Haiti for the next catastrophe to strike. On Tuesday, it was an earthquake that crushed the capital city of Port-au-Prince and much of its surroundings, and raised the level of suffering and death to heights that defied comprehension.

"The world is coming to an end," cried a woman in the midst of the carnage. Pooja Bhatia, a journalist who lives in Haiti, told the times, "I was here during the 2008 hurricanes that left thousands dead, and thousands and thousands

homeless, and that felt like the apocalypse. But that pales in comparison to this."

Just when you think the ultimate has happened, the absolute worst, something even more dire, comes along. And yet. No matter how overwhelming the tragedy, how bleak the outlook, no matter what malevolent forces the fates see fit to hurl at this tiny, beleaguered, mountainous, sun-splashed portion of the planet, there is no quit in the Haitian people.

They rose up against the French and defeated the forces of Napoleon to become the only nation to grow out of a slave revolt. They rose up against the despotic Jean-Claude (Baby Doc) Duvalier and sent him packing. Despite ruthless exploitation by more powerful nations, including the United States, and many long years of crippling civil strife, corruption, terror and chronic poverty, the Haitian people have endured.

They will not be defeated by this earthquake.



I spoke on Friday with Ruthzee Louijeune, who works at the Posse Foundation here in New York and had waited like so many others for word about her extended family in Haiti. Eventually, she learned that her uncle, 43-year-old Michelet Philippe, had been killed and that several relatives, including her grandparents, were living in a car in Port-au-Prince. She wept as she talked. "We're grateful that we have a body to bury," she said. "So many people don't even have that. But right now there is no transportation to take him back to the village where he is from, so they are looking for a respectable place to bury him. It's so hard. He had a wife and three children."

But even in her grief, Ms. Louijeune spoke forcefully about the resilience of her family and what she referred to as "her people." "My family always taught me to be proud of Haiti," she said,

Continued next page

“whatever anybody else might say about it. They taught me to read on my own and to learn the true history of the country. We’re strong, and despite the hunger, despite the poverty, despite all the problems, we’ll make it through.”

If there is any upside to such an enormous tragedy, it is to be found in the spirit of the people, clawing, in some cases with their bare hands, through concrete and filth and metal to comfort and rescue survivors and reclaim the dead. And it’s to be found in the powerfully humane way in which so many people, in Haiti and outside of the country, have responded to this shattering disaster - spontaneously, generously and in many, many cases, heroically.



There are no satisfactory explanations for why this kind of event should have occurred. But we can control the way we respond. Faulkner tells us: “I believe that man will not merely endure, he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.”

In the darkest of moments, Plutarch is also a comfort. “Good fortune,” he said, ‘will elevate even petty minds, and give them the appearance of a certain greatness and stateliness, as from their high place they look down upon the world; but the truly noble and resolved spirit raises itself, and becomes more conspicuous, in times of disaster and ill fortune.”

The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut
January 13, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ:

The news of the massive earthquake in Haiti has been breaking over us today, and specific reports have been coming in to us at Diocesan House from many sources, both here in Connecticut and from throughout The Episcopal Church.

Our diocese has come to know Haiti through our former Companion Relationship with dioceses in the Caribbean. Many of our parishes have long-standing relationships. A major living connection with Haiti is through l'Eglise de l'Epiphanie in Stamford. In addition, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich has maintained a multi-pronged mission presence in Haiti for almost a quarter century.

The extent of the damage to Haiti and its people is yet to be known. The news reports so far leave no doubt that the earthquake has been devastating and its effects widespread. Port-au-Prince has been hit especially hard.

There will be many channels through which we will be able to offer monetary aid. Episcopal Relief and Development already is engaged, and I encourage donations to be made through their website, www.er-d.org <http://www.er-d.org/>

This afternoon we committed \$5000 from the Emergency Relief Funds of the Diocese of Connecticut as a starter from Connecticut in the relief effort. I urge our parishes, our clergy, our members, to join in the work of providing support to the people of Haiti and to the Diocese of Haiti so they can begin the massive effort which is required to care for their people and begin the rebuilding of the nation.

Do keep the people of Haiti, and those working to provide relief, and those outside Haiti who wait for news of family and friends, in your prayers each day. May God open our hearts and push us to respond to their needs!

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith
The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut

TRACES OF THE TRADE: A Story from the Deep North

In the feature documentary *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*, filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the triangular route that their forefathers' ships sailed for fifty years, and gain a powerful new perspective on the true foundation of America's wealth, then and now.

Given the myth that the South is solely responsible for slavery, viewers will be surprised to learn that Browne's ancestors were Northerners. The film follows Browne and nine fellow family members on a remarkable journey, which brings them face-to-face with the history and legacy of New England's hidden enterprise.

From 1769 to 1820, DeWolf fathers, sons and grandsons trafficked in human beings. They sailed their ships from Bristol, Rhode Island to West Africa with rum to trade for African men, women and children. Captives were taken to plantations that the DeWolfs owned in Cuba or were sold at auction in such ports as Havana and Charleston. Sugar and molasses were then brought from Cuba to the family-owned rum distilleries in Bristol. Over the generations, the family transported more than ten thousand enslaved Africans across the Middle Passage.

The enslavement of Africans was business for more than just the DeWolf family. It was a cornerstone of Northern commercial life, and slavery itself existed in the North for over 200 years. Northern textile mills used slave-picked cotton from the South to fuel the Industrial Revolution, while banks and insurance companies played a key role throughout the period.

The film follows ten DeWolf descendants (ages 32-71, ranging from sisters to seventh

**See this eye-opening
documentary at St. John's on
Sunday, February 21,
in the Lower Parish Hall at
3.00 p.m.**

cousins) as they retrace the steps of the Triangle Trade, visiting the DeWolf hometown of Bristol, Rhode Island, slave forts on the coast of Ghana, and the ruins of a family plantation in Cuba. Browne pushes the family forward as they struggle through the minefield of race politics. In

the context of growing calls for reparations for slavery, family members struggle with the question of how to think about and contribute to "repair." Meanwhile, Browne and her family come closer to the core:

Who owes who what for the sins of the fathers of this country? What history do we inherit as individuals and as citizens? How does Northern complicity change the equation? What would repair - spiritual and material - really look like and what would it take?

Life in the Parish

Roger S. Claiborne (1954-2009)
passed from this life on 19 November, 2009. He was a longtime chorister and organist/choirmaster of St. John's. A service was held for him on January 16, 2010, at the Congregational Church, Salisbury.

John Rudd (1916-2010)
died peacefully in his home on January 23, 2010. A service will be held for him on Wednesday, January 27, at St. John's Church, Salisbury.

May the Souls of the Departed Rest in Peace

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

On Wednesday, February 17th, there will be two services for the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist. One will be at 12.00 noon. The second will be at 7:00 p.m., with Choir.

Lent begins. Let's begin together.

MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL Eat, Play, Groove – Shrove Tuesday, February 16th.

A rich variety of musical performances begins with welcoming (prelude) music at 6:15. The concert begins at 6:30. *The Salisbury Drummers* led by John Marshall will perform and assist in the potluck dinner that follows the concert. Supper begins around 7:15. If you want to help with set up, food or clean up, please contact Gaile Binzen or Wendy Forsyth

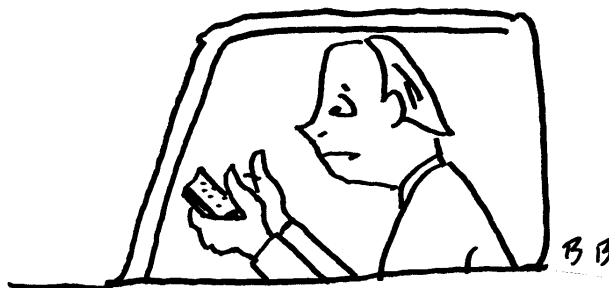
Three members of the Drummers will begin decorating at 3:00 on that day. There will be a free will offering for the Tipitina's Foundation of New Orleans, an impressive non-profit that supports the "Louisiana and New Orleans' irreplaceable music community and the state's unique musical culture." More information on the Tipitina Foundation later.



Bumper Sticker Theology

Honk If You Love Jesus
Text If You Want To Meet Him

Spotted by Steve Wertz in Great Barrington



Please
don't forget
to remember
St. John's
in your will.

FEBRUARY 28 CELEBRATION OF BISHOP SMITH'S MINISTRY

Bishop Smith may be counting the days
- he retires January 31!

There will be a celebration of his ministry
on Sunday, February 28
at Trinity Church, Hartford, 4 - 7 p.m.

Everyone's invited!
RSVP requested by Jan. 29.

Child care available.

Opportunities to participate by sponsoring fabric;
contributing ethnic food, offering photos, donating
to a retirement gift (designated for three ministries).

Mary Bodel's Forgotten Cookies

2 egg whites
2/3-cup sugar
Pinch of salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup Rice Crispies
1 6-ounce package chocolate bits
½ teaspoon peppermint extract



Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Beat egg whites until stiff, gradually adding sugar, salt, vanilla and peppermint extract. Continue beating until very stiff. Fold in chocolate bits and rice crispies.

Drop by teaspoon on cookie sheet lined with foil or parchment paper. Turn oven off and put cookies in. Leave in oven until cold, or overnight.

Preparation: 15 minutes

Yield: approx. 3 dozen cookies

Mary Bodel used to make these cookies for her Vassar students. They were wildly popular! We thank Mary for this treasured recipe.

Our In-house Health Informer at Centers for Disease Control, Susanna Binzen, sent us these tips this week, excerpted from a Los Angeles Times article by Judith Graham:

Physical activity is the No. 1 preventive-care tip for seniors

If you're an older adult wondering what you should be doing to stay healthy, the most important answer is ***staying active***.

"Physical activity is more powerful than any medication a senior can take," says Dr. Cheryl Phillips, a San Francisco physician and president of the American Geriatrics Society.

Much of the frailty that accompanies advanced age can be mitigated through exercise. Even moderate activity makes a difference. Frailty often leads to impairment and the loss of independence -- developments that can be preventable.

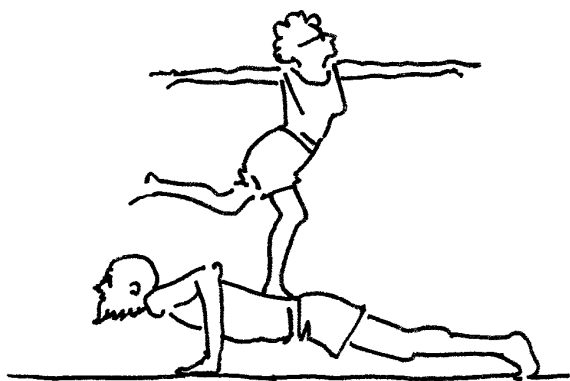
Spend time with other people (try not to become isolated) and get active -- anything you do with any kind of regularity will make a difference," Phillips says.



PB

...**PLUS**...

Fighting the fall . . .



Each year, almost one-third of adults age 65 and older fall, resulting in nearly 450,000 hospitalizations and 16,000 deaths, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Getting rid of throw rugs, installing easy-to-grab bars in the bathroom and altering medication regimens can minimize the potential for a tumble.

PB

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street
Salisbury, Connecticut 06068

Phone: 860-435-9290



The Mission of St. John's Church

- To reveal through worship the presence of God
- To grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ
- To reach out to others through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Readers:



Please know that this Newsletter is also available by email.. Let us know if you are interested sjsalisbury@sbcglobal.net. It is also available on the St.John's website www.stjohnssalisbury.org