



The Lighthouse

Monthly Newsletter

January 2012

In response to Christ's divine humanity, St. Dunstan's strives to seek, love, and serve God, welcoming all to:

- + Gather in worship
- + Serve people in need
- + Care for the environment
- + Listen and respond to each other

EPIPHANY OBSERVANCES

January 6 – 7:30 pm – Compline at St. Andrew's, 1833 Regent St., Madison

January 7 – 12:30 pm – St. Dunstan's Epiphany Lunch at Sofra's in Middleton. (Sign up by January 3 at church, or call the office.)

Liturgy Question #1: Why Aren't We Just Using the BCP?

Common worship is the core of our Anglican identity, and the core of our shared life of fellowship and ministry. We have a robust, beautiful, and vibrant worship life here at St. Dunstan's, born out of the intermingling of your traditions and tastes as the people of this place, and mine as your rector and liturgical leader. Often, the place our visions meet and mingle is in the fertile ground of Liturgy & Music Committee meetings (always open to everyone!).

Now, Episcopalians are famously touchy about liturgical change, and we have changed a few things. Nobody has come right out and asked me "Why aren't we just using the Book of Common Prayer?" – and maybe nobody is even wondering. But it's a good question, and worth discussing. So this month I'll share a few answers to that question – and in next month's Lighthouse, I'll tackle the related question, "Where do all these prayers/music/whatever come from?"

So: Why aren't we just using the Book of Common Prayer (BCP)?

One big reason is that reaching beyond the BCP allows us to live more fully into our church year. In addition to the poetic and theological richness of our tradition of common prayer, our Anglican liturgical heritage also includes a rich cycle of holy times and seasons: feast days and celebrations like Pentecost & All Saints; special seasons like Lent & Advent; patronal feasts and saints' days, too. The BCP, on its own, provides few resources for crafting liturgies that mark these holy times and

seasons and inviting us into their images and themes. At St. Dunstan's, we mark the seasons by using the seasonal Collects; moving among the four Rite II Eucharistic prayers found in the BCP; using different canticles as our Song of Praise in our spoken 8am service; and beginning with the Penitential Order in Lent.

However, some of our sister churches have gone much further in creating and sharing liturgical resources that highlight the richness and diversity of the church year. My very favorite is the Church of England's *Times and Seasons* materials, and many of our seasonal blessings and acclamations come from those texts.

Another reason is that the Episcopal Church itself has authorized liturgical texts beyond the Book of Common Prayer. The Standing Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Church has, since 1997, prepared and presented a number of liturgical resources to the larger church, approved by our national General Conventions as tools for the "enrichment of our liturgical prayer" (Preface to *Enriching our Worship I*). The *Enriching Our Worship* texts include several beautiful Eucharistic prayers, revisions of Morning and Evening Prayer including many new canticles, burial rites for children and adults, many thoughtful and lovely resources for ministry with the sick and dying, and much more. Only a few threads from *Enriching our Worship* have made their way into the fabric of our liturgy thus far, but these texts represent a wonderful "stash" (the knitters out there will know what I mean) to draw upon in future.

A third reason is that the Book of Common Prayer itself doesn't say we can *only* use the Book of Common Prayer. People often think of the rubrics of the prayer book – the fine italic print that provides direction within our liturgical texts – as restrictive. However, just as often, the rubrics turn out to be expansive. For example, many Episcopal churches always say or sing the Gloria, at the beginning of the Eucharistic liturgy. Yet the rubric at the top of page 356 reads, "When appointed, the following hymn or some other song of praise is sung or said, all standing." This fall, we used excerpts from familiar and praise-ful hymns for our Songs of Praise: "Earth and all Stars" in September, "All creatures of our God and King" in October, "Now thank we all our God" in November. Seasonal, joyful, and perfectly rubrical!

The Prayers of the People is another spot where the rubrics offer flexibility. On page 359, the rubrics specify that in our prayers, we should intercede (pray on behalf of) the Church Universal; the nation and all in authority; the welfare of the world; the concerns of the local community; those who suffer; and the departed. Providing that

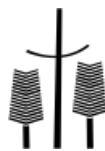
listing to structure our prayers invites congregations to craft forms that give voice to the heart—prayers of our members. The Prayers of the People are meant to be just that, of the people; that is why, I believe, the prayer book grants such openness here. This past summer and fall, in order to give voice to the prayers of the people of St. Dunstan's, we used a form that covered all the areas outlined in the rubrics and more, using beautiful Scriptural language and making space for your particular prayers – whether spoken aloud or held in your heart.

One more reason: Freshness of language can often help us hear something in a new way. I have experienced this, and heard it from others many times: that new words, new images can refresh our prayer and practice. The new has to be worthy of our use, of course – grounded in sound and orthodox theology, and graceful in form. There is plenty of terrible new liturgy out there. And the new has to be kept in balance with the familiar, the reliable, the treasured. My preference is to craft our liturgy season by season, so that each season of our liturgical year has its own character and feel, in keeping with the Scriptures and themes of that season. A liturgical season – four weeks, or six, or eight, or more – gives us time to try something out and begin to live into it; to let new prayers and new songs connect with our hearts; to move past the jolt of unfamiliarity and experience the gifts these materials have to offer.

A final thought for those brothers and sisters who feel that a bit TOO much has changed in the past year... January 9 is the anniversary of my first Sunday at St. Dunstan's. My practice as a liturgist is to develop our Advent pattern of worship, Epiphany pattern of worship, etc. Those patterns will be tweaked year by year, based on what proves effective, beautiful, holy, or not; but we will not start from scratch. So many things have been new for all of us this year, my first year here; next year, much of what has felt new will feel at least somewhat familiar.

If you loved this article (or argued with it all the way through) and are itching to have a voice in our liturgical design process, our next Liturgy & Music meeting will be Thursday, January 12, at 6:45pm. Come along and join the conversation!

Miranda+



Oversight and Stewardship Ministries

Highlights of the January Vestry meeting

- Participants in the Church Development Institute (CDI) training program will be visiting St. Dunstan's in February 2012.
- There will be an evening of training and support for a variety of liturgical ministries in February 2012
- The Madison-area Episcopal churches will be having a Lenten Quiet Day at Holy Wisdom Monastery
- Total attendance at all three services on December 18 was 136 people
- A transitional support team has been formed and will meet with Miranda quarterly.
- A total of 102 pounds of produce was delivered to the Middleton Outreach Ministry Food Pantry from St. Dunstan's community garden. Additional produce was taken home by parishioners.
- Total 2011 income will probably meet the total budgeted amount. Total expenses may be \$7000 less than budgeted.
- Based on feedback from our annual furnace inspection, the rectory furnace will be replaced.
- The personnel compensation portion of the 2012 budget was approved. The entire budget will be approved at the January 18, 2012 vestry meeting.
- 77 pledges have been received for 2012 totaling about \$230,000 so the revised draft budget projects a 2012 deficit of less than \$40,000. The vestry hopes to receive more pledges so that the 2012 budget can be closer to being a balanced budget.

-----*Submitted by Elizabeth Wroblewski, Vestry Recorder*

Annual Meeting Provides Chance to Assess and Look Forward

- *Annual Meeting*--Please plan to attend St. Dunstan's 2012 Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, at 9 am. We will review 2011 and look forward to 2012 (and beyond!). Vestry members, wardens, and lay deputies to Diocesan Convention will be elected. The 2012 budget will be presented. A complete agenda will be emailed out prior to the meeting.
- *Annual Reports*--Committee/Ministry reports should be submitted to office@stdunstans.com by Monday, January 16, so there is adequate time to prepare and circulate the report document prior to the annual meeting.

- *Candidate Statements*--If you are on the annual meeting ballot, please send your statement/bio to office@stdunstans.com by January 16.

YOU DID IT!

“Restoring our Fortunes – Rebuilding the financial foundation for our common life.” These were the themes from our 2011 Pledge Campaign. You were asked to pray, reflect and respond and you did. Whether it was the “wheel of fortune”, the wonderful drama, the informative mailing, the words of our stewardship witness speakers, the work of the Holy Spirit or a powerful combination of all these, the response exceeded expectations!

The pledges received to date total \$230,289.56. That exceeds our target of \$229,000. While our campaign is officially over, it is not too late to turn in a pledge. Cards are available in the Gathering Space or a pledge can be made by email to the office. We have received some new pledges and some returning pledges (someone who has pledged in the past but not for the last one or two years).

We have reason to be thankful. In the words of our Rector, “We are truly and deeply fortunate here at St Dunstan’s”.

-----*Submitted by Sharon Bloodgood (Financial Committee)*

An Update on our Office Staffing

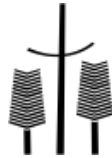
As part of our efforts to work our way towards a balanced parish budget in 2014, your vestry has been examining closely our needs and priorities, including supporting our ministries and maintaining our physical plant. A small group was convened to examine our staff support needs, including comparing our staffing with that of similar parishes locally and nationally. Receiving this committee’s report, the Vestry voted to include a 25 hour/week Parish Administrator position in our 2012 draft budget. This is a reduction in hours from our current level of 30 hours/week.

We deeply appreciate Beth Wroblewski’s skill, knowledge, and commitment, and we are working closely with her to make that transition work well. We are recasting her job description to focus on the most vital aspects of her work, and may be seeking additional volunteer support in some areas. Beth’s reduced hours will begin on January 1.

As we go through this transition, we ask that you be aware of the change in Beth’s position and respectful of her need to set priorities. The vestry and rector are rethinking our own work, looking for ways to minimize our needs for staff support,

and inviting our committee heads and ministry coordinators to do the same. Please contact Rev. Miranda or any member of the vestry with any questions or concerns. And when you see Beth, remember to thank her for all that she does to help our parish life run smoothly.

-----Submitted by Miranda Hassett



Outreach Ministries

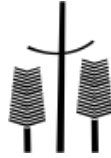


A Year-End Note of Appreciation

Throughout 2011, St. Dunstan's members have generously supported the efforts of Middleton Outreach Ministry with monthly donations of food, clothing, and monetary offerings. The community garden provided many pounds of produce which was gratefully received at the Food Pantry. Your contributions to MOM's Backpack Program provided needed school supplies for many children, and your recent gifts for the Sharing Christmas program gave a client family a very happy holiday!

Thank you for your outreach efforts which greatly assist a community organization seeking to provide food, clothing, housing, and energy assistance for those in need. As you well know, these needs are never-ending. Please remember Middleton Outreach Ministry in your prayers, and continue the valuable support in 2012 that St. Dunstan's has always sustained.

-----Submitted by Janet Bybee



Building Up the Body of Christ

Epiphany House Blessings to be Offered

In the season of Epiphany, which this year lasts from January 6 to February 21, there is a long tradition of blessing the homes in which God's people live, work, and play. In honor of the journey of the Magi to find the Christ Child, we bless each home in the name of those wise and holy men. A priest visits a house, says some simple blessings in the company of its residents, sprinkles the rooms with holy water – and marks the doorframe with these signs, in chalk: **20 + C + M + B + 12**

2012 is the year; the crosses stand for Christ, and for the four seasons; and C, M, and B are the initials of the names given in tradition to the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

Would you like your home blessed this Epiphany? Call the church office at 238–2781 or email Rev. Miranda at rector@stdunstans.com, and we will work together to schedule times when we can visit to share this lovely traditional rite, honoring the holiness of your homes and inviting God's continuing presence there.

Gay–Straight Episcopalians – Continuing the Conversation in Madison

Since June of this year, a group of concerned Episcopalians from the four Madison churches have been gathering once a month to discern God's will for the group regarding our witness and response to the needs of youth struggling with gender and sexual identity. Surely the news reports of bullying, shame and identity confusion have reached everyone!

We began gathering to discern how to respond to one issue, and found in our conversations that many questions and ideas emerged. What does inclusivity mean? How can we as Episcopalians give witness to the love and acceptance of our God? How do we participate, as people and parishes, in the great mix of people here in Wisconsin?

We continue to meet monthly and will do so in the new year. We invite all members of our congregations to join with us in discussion and exploration. Accompanied by the wisdom of the clergy and emboldened by partnership with others on the journey, we continue our discussions. This Spring we will use readings,

movies, and lectures to stimulate our discussion and exploration! Please join us on the second Tuesday of every month, location to be announced in parish bulletins. If you are thinking and discerning regarding your own participation in this group, feel free to call upon Val McAuliffe, Patti Brennan, Bonnie Magnuson, or the Rev. Miranda Hassett to join you in conversation.

-----*Submitted by Miranda Hassett*

MUSIC NOTES

by Martin Ganschow

It's hard for me to believe but I am now beginning my third year with St. Dunstan's as your Music Ministries Leader. I am very thankful to continue in this position, and it has been great to work with our rector, Miranda, as we try new things to bring energy and purpose to what we do in worship.

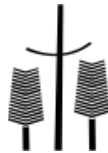
In my first newsletter article (January, 2010), I was asked to provide an introduction, and I was reviewing what I wrote. Here is a part of that:

For me, the song of the people is what music in worship is all about. The time spent in prayer and adoration is not performance, per se, but it is about experiencing God in our midst. Hymns and the music of the liturgy help us experience God in unique ways, and it will be my goal to undergird your song through what I do as the chief musician.

The choir continues to be strong leaders in our Choral Eucharist services, in doing what I described as my goal when I started with you - to undergird your song. I am very blessed by not only having a talented group of singers, but ones who are willing to learn and grow in their musicianship.

So, thank you, singers of the St. Dunstans choir, for all you do to help our singing:

Mary Ann Fraley
Patricia Gates
Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles
John Laedlein
Shirley Laedlein
Art Lloyd
Claudia Miran
Laura Norby
Richard Roe
Jordan Smith
Kathy Whitt



Sunday Services: 8 and 10 am
Midweek Eucharist: Thursday 8:30 am followed by
Bible Study
Evening Service: Third Sunday 7 pm



6205 University Avenue
Madison WI 53705

Phone: 608-238-2781; website www.stdunstans.com

The Rt. Rev. Steven Miller, Bishop of Milwaukee

The Rev. Dr. Miranda K. Hassett, Rector

Elizabeth Wroblewski, Parish Administrator

Martin Ganschow, Music Ministries Leader

Valerie McAuliffe, Senior Warden; Shirley Laedlein, Junior Warden

In case of pastoral emergency, please contact the Rev. Miranda Hassett at (608) 469-7085.