



**St. John's Episcopal Church**

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# The E-Messenger

“Rejoice! We are all one with God and the whole world!”

Rector: The Rev. Timothy C. Eberhardt



February 2007

## The Rector's Message

“Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good”.

Dear People of St. Johns,

A few weeks back several of you picked up on a term I used in a sermon to describe discomfort with the pace of American consumer driven progress – “cultural indigestion”. I borrowed the phrase from an article in the “Christian Century” magazine. The liturgy of the Super Bowl comes to mind along with cable news, credit cards, iPods, and global positioning devices in cars. We all have our addictions and fascinations, but when do we feel overwhelmed and when do we assert our freedom by choosing to say “I don’t need this?”.

Recent trends as with American foreign policy; the pressures of economic globalization or global warming shout out at us that such a personal condition as “cultural indigestion” is shallow and a cop out. It goes much deeper to the soul and spirit of humanity. The question at every level is where do we reach the tipping point in our awareness and then what difference can we make to help turn the tide.

The Church is more than a worship society. The fact is that we are one of the few communities where we must struggle with these questions every day of our lives, not because we are the only enlightened ones with all the right values and answers, but because God’s love for this world and our response, as in the baptismal vows, compels us to work for the advance of the Kingdom.

This Lent as we look at global mission with real life learning in the stories and people who are making a difference, I pray that each of us may find the spiritual strength to at least reckon with our choices and to find the healing of hope and compassion. It all goes much deeper than our credit card balance or our choice of what kind of car we choose to buy. Our very heart and spirit is on the line.

Rejoicing in Christ,

Timothy Eberhardt



February 21

There will be two services that day, at noon and at 5:00 pm with the special liturgy, the imposition of ashes and the Holy Eucharist.

Also, because the imposition of ashes, has such profound meaning for all people of all walks, the Rector will be available all day at the Church for anyone who would like to stop by for this with the simplest liturgy. The public will be welcomed.

**Wednesday Community Lenten Breakfasts at Bethany Church** from 7:00 to 7:50 am. Some 40 people show up each Wednesday from all the churches with a wonderful breakfast and a 10 minute meditation by Roger Wotton February 28, Tim Eberhardt March 7, Susan Thomas March 14, George Sweet March 21, a member of St. D&R March 28, and Ron Rilling April 4.



#### Alms.

Please choose prayerfully your own discipline of personal charity. Since global mission will be our thrust during this Lent, the Rector would be happy to help you decide how to support either the Episcopal Development Fund or the Millennium Development Goals or both.

#### St. John's Lenten Program

"Our Global Calling – What can one person do?"

A whole series of speakers and presentations will help all of us learn about, think about, pray about and respond to the calling of global mission throughout this Lent of St. John's.

Scheduled as of now:

February 18: World Mission Sunday – A special in-church reflection from different St. John's Church members.

February 25: Karen Speerstra, a member of Christ Church, Bethel will join us to present a new book she has co-edited as a blueprint for our weekly discussion after Church of global mission and how we can become involved.

March 11: The Rev. Diana Collins and Howard Clarke will discuss and present highlights of their bus trip to and mission work in Honduras.

March 25: Nancy Clark RN will share her mission work in Africa.

To be announced: Dr. Tommy Clark of DHMC will present his program of reaching at-risk African children through soccer.

Stay Tuned – A series of weekly reading sheets will be available throughout Lent with a lot more information to follow.

## Sunday Ministries

### Last Epiphany

February 18

~ 8 am & 10 am Service ~

“World Mission Sunday”

Ushers: Joan Sax & Barbara Springer

Oblations: Ruth Godfrey & Harriet Chase

Eucharist Minister: Linda Runion

Intercessions: Pat Mayer

Readers: Steve & Jane Eubanks

Coffee hour: Ellen Baker

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### Ash Wednesday

February 21

~ 12 noon & 5 pm Service ~

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### Lent 1

February 25

~ 10 am Service ~

Ushers: Duane King

Oblations: Beth Ann Maier

Eucharist Minister: Bob Sparadeo

Intercessions: Mary Smokowski

Readers: Harriet Chase

Coffee hour:

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### Lent 2

March 4

~ 8 am & 10 am Service ~

Ushers: Anna Dustin

Oblations: Jackie Wilder

Eucharist Minister: Beth Ann Maier

Intercessions:

Readers: Louise Clark

Coffee hour: Susan O'Malley

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### Lent 3

March 11

~ 10 am Service ~

Ushers: Ray & Pat Mayer

Oblations: Pat Lawrence & Anna Dustin

Eucharist Minister: Gay Gaston

Intercessions:

Readers: Ray & Pat Mayer

Coffee hour: Louise Clark

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### Lent 4

March 18

~ 8 am & 10 am Service ~

Ushers: The Sparadeos

Oblations: Ellen Baker

Eucharist Minister: Pat Mayer

Intercessions:

Readers: Nancy Wright

Coffee hour: Sunday School

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The scheduled publish date for the March 18th. Please have all contributions submitted by Sunday, March 11th. Sunday Ministries will be needed for March 25<sup>th</sup> through April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Email submissions to [rosalinda@hotsheet.com](mailto:rosalinda@hotsheet.com) are welcome!

February 2007



## Philander Chase (Bishop)

Submitted by Harriet Chase

I would like to share with you some information that I have on Bishop Philander Chase. I got to "know him" quite well when I was manically trying to nail my Chase ancestry down. One suggestion was to study out the Bethel Chases, which was in essence "History of Old Christ Church". I did with no results, that is as far as my direct family connection. I also got my hands of the biography of Philander Chase by his granddaughter, Laura Chase Smith, who was born in Bethel. Reading about Philander intrigued me so that I transcribed the book and posted it on the genealogy boards.

(The name Philander, by the way, though in these times has a negative connotation, means "lover of mankind")

Philander; youngest of fifteen children was born in Cornish, New Hampshire, spent much of his youth living with his sister, Rachel in Bethel. After his conversion to the Episcopal Church, he was often Lay-Reader at (Old) Christ Church, before there was even a building. His first wife, Mary Fay was living in Bethel when they married.

Now a bit about his conversion and the "snow ball effect" it had. In the school year 1793-94, while attending Dartmouth College, he happened upon a Book of Common Prayer; a rare book in these posts Revolution Days. He studied the book and compared it with the Bible. Through this study he was convinced that this was the true way to worship. This conviction he shared with his family including his father Dudley, Sr. and grandfather, Samuel who were both deacons in the Congregational Church in Cornish, New Hampshire. These deacons had such influence in town that the current church building was torn down and an Episcopal Church was built in its spot. Apparently most of the community also went along with this.

By the time young Philander was nineteen, he knew that he wanted to go into the ministry. He received his first Communion through the Rev. Bethel Chittenden (brother to Governor Chittenden). In a letter to Bishop Hopkins of Vermont fifty years later he wrote: "It was from this man I received my first Communion and well do I remember with what solemnity he consecrated the elements of bread and wine, to represent the 'Body broken and the Blood poured out,' once for all, on the Cross for the sins of the world. .. My very soul was engaged by the internal spiritual meaning of things before me, and in proportion to my faith in Christ, ... My love to his Church has continued to this day."

To do some "name dropping": Philander's son George B. married Eliza Grover of Bethel. One of Philander's brothers was Dudley, Jr., lawyer and senator who lived in Randolph Center. One of their nephews was Hon. Salmon P. Chase This Chase is known for the work he did during the Civil War and President Lincoln's administration. Oh, by the way,. However, it is not the "Chase Way" to brag or to aspire to high office. Those who did without true humility were not practically looked upon with admiration by his kin, such as Salmon P. Bishop Philander had a cousin, Carleton, who was bishop of Hampshire.

I grew to be fascinated and admire Bishop Philander Chase. A rather humorous "ditty" was composed by the alumni of Kenyon College of Ohio, which he founded, it goes as follows:

He built the college, built the dam,  
He milked the cow, he smoked the ham;  
He taught the classes, rang the bell  
And spanked the erring freshman well.

The king, the queen, the lords and earls,  
They gave their crowns, they gave their pearls,  
Until Philander had enough  
And hurried homeward with the stuff."

Those few words tell a great deal about this man. There is much more to tell of his faith, determination to "spread the gospel" and perseverance perhaps some stubbornness).

Harriet M. Chase. Not very closely related but willing to hitch my wagon to his star any day!