

the Joyful Noise

of St. James' Episcopal Church

Looking at Lent as a Gift

by Evelyn Manzella

This year Lent is just about as early as it can get... as a matter of fact, it can only come five days earlier (you can check it out in the Book of Common Prayer on page 884 if you want to see for yourself.) It's going to come in a rush of activity... a week and a half after the annual meeting, four days after Bishop Hollingsworth's first visit to St. James, and hours after devouring pancakes and bacon and sausage on Shrove Tuesday.

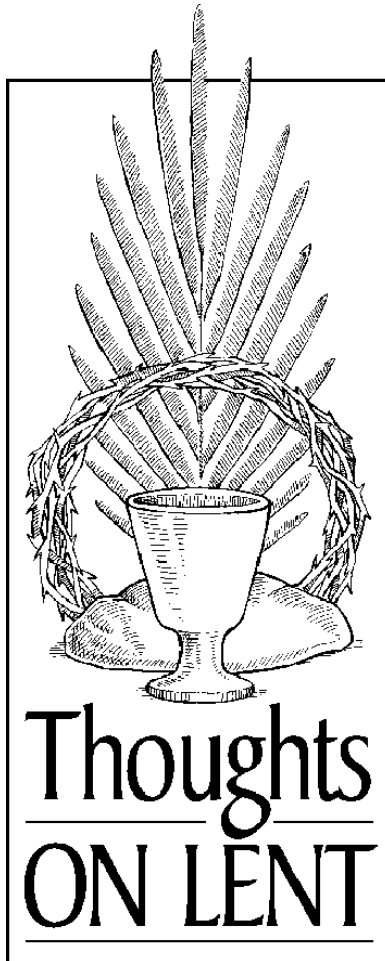
I keep thinking I'm not ready for Lent which is ironic since Lent is a time of preparation for Easter... so I should be thinking, I'm not ready for Easter, but that's okay because I have Lent to prepare. I have always loved Lent... from my days as a small Roman Catholic girl who had to "give up something" and go to Stations of the Cross on Fridays and Confession on Saturdays to today when Lent has such a different place in my life. Lent now makes sense if I look backwards at it from Easter. I observe Lent so I can fully enter into the joy of new life in the Risen Christ. So Lent has become a gift, not a competition with my will over whether I can stay away from candy for forty days. It has become a gift because if I enter into this time and listen to the words the church uses to call us into observance, I become more centered in God and less frazzled by the world.

I love the call to fast on Ash Wednesday. I was raised with fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is a way to remember our hunger for God and our absolute dependence on God. Most folks have no experience with fasting, other than medically required. Fasting reminds me how much I take for granted and how grateful I should be for the abundant of food available to me. Many people fast in other ways than not eating. Some fast from television for that day and spend it

instead praying and reading. Some fast from gossip and seek only to hold up others with their words. Some fast from spending to remember that God provides what we need and that we consume so much more than we should.

Prayer and repentance, scripture study and self-examination are the tools the church offers us to turn away from that we takes absorbs our lives and leads us into God who sustains our lives. I hope you will

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Editorial Information

The Joyful Noise is published monthly September through June as a ministry of St. James Episcopal Church. Submissions in accord with the Mission of St. James are encouraged. The address of the Editor is 429 Kinney Circle, Wooster, OH 44691 and you may e-mail: astolat@sssnet.com

Contributors this month include:

Gweb Bayless
Ruth Brown
Richard Figge
Damon Hickey
Mary Hickey
Evelyn Manzella
Janice Miller

Folders for the last issue were:

John Hockett
Janice Miller
Jane Richardson



Hospice Care Volunteers

Has Hospice Touched Your Life?

Friendly, located at 123 E. Liberty Street in downtown Wooster, is now open and accepting donations of gently used furniture, antiques, lady's fine clothing, jewelry, glassware, and household accessories. We are in desperate need of volunteers to help sort, price, and sell. Please call if you have any spare time available that you would like to donate. Our store is operated by volunteer staff.

Friendly hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All proceeds go to Hospice and Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County, designated for patient care in Wayne County. Please call (330) 262-2021

Saint James Episcopal Church

Corner of East North and Market Streets, Wooster, OH (330) 262-4476

Parish Hall: (330) 262-4488

Web Address: <http://www.stjameswooster.org/index.html>

E-mail: stjames@bright.net

Holy Eucharist Services

8:00 am and 10:00 am Sunday, 7:30 am Wednesday

Staff

Rector - The Reverend Evelyn N. Manzella	(330) 262-1930
Organist - Jason Metheny	(330) 769-2867
Choir Director - Ned Brooks	(330) 264-9495
Parish Secretary - Gladys Hunter	(330) 682-0117
Pledge Secretary - Pat Watson	(330) 263-7811
Treasurer - John Cook	(330) 263-0073
Ass't Treasurer - Celia Smart	(330) 262-0299
Joyful Noise Editor - Russell T. Cross	(330) 345-1416

When there is no priest available, call Senior Warden, Cathy Cook at (330) 263-0073, or Junior Warden, Bob Kendall, at (330) 264-0549 in case of emergency. Stuart Ling is available to make pastoral calls.

2004 Vestry

Jean Barnes (06) New Member Ministry	(330) 345-8586
Gwen Bayless (Vestry Clerk)	(330) 264-1874
Velda Cross (06) Worship	(330) 345-1416
Cathy Cook (04) Senior Warden	(330) 263-0073
Liz Glick (05) Bookkeeper	(330) 263-4048
Dan Gorman (04) Finance	(330) 262-0973
Ben Gard (05)	(330) 263-0540
Mary Hickey (06) Outreach	(330) 262-7059
John Hockett (05) Outreach / Member Care	(330) 345-7825
Bob Kendall (04) Junior Warden	(330) 264-0549
Margo Miller (04) New Member Ministry	(330) 264-7201
Jim Richard (06) Hospitality / Fellowship	(330) 264-2608
Pat Zoller (05) Properties	(330) 264-9909

The Collect for St. James': "almighty and everlasting God, who didst move Thy servants in times past to establish and sustain this parish of St. James: Grant us grace so to follow their good example that we in our time may fulfill Thy will for us by knowing, loving, and serving Thee and Thy people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

The Mission of St. James Episcopal Church is to be an inclusive community of God's people, appreciative and accepting of each other's gifts, who welcome all who desire to be strengthened, and loved by our Lord through offerings of worship, spiritual growth, service, and pastoral care.



Astolat
Publications

Evelyn's Odds and Ends

The *December storm* raised some questions that need to be answered. First, church will not be cancelled unless it is a level three driving emergency. If it is a level two, please use your discretion. Second, if there is an emergency like the power outage, I will try to get to the church office as soon as I can safely get out of the house and put a message on the church answering machine. I want you to remember that this is your church so you can use the parish hall when you need it. The parish hall has a full kitchen, three floors and six bathrooms. I really hope you feel you can use it to be safe and warm.

On February 6th, *Bishop Hollingsworth* is making his first visit to St. James and Wooster. We will have one service at 10 am so that the Bishop will have time to meet with the confirmands before the service. We will have a reception after the service. I ask that every member of St. James make an effort to attend the service and welcome the Bishop to St. James.

Two days later, on February 8th, the men have agreed to make their fabulous Pancakes, Bacon, and Sausage for *Shrove Tuesday*. I assured them that people would still want to eat (even after the reception on Sunday). Bob Kendall's response was they were willing to cook if people were willing to eat.

Ash Wednesday, February 9th, begins our observance of Lent. We will have three services that day at 7 am, Noon, and 7 pm. There will be three special offerings during Lent. There will be Eucharist on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm, then there will be the simple soup supper at 6 pm, and a Lenten Study program from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. You can participate in all or part of the Wednesday schedule. The *Wednesday Book Group* is so energized by their new book by Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*, that we will use the DVD series that accompanies the book for the Lenten study.

Stations of the Cross booklets will be available for people who want to start small prayer groups around this or you can come on an evening to be decided to pray the stations together.

There will also be *booklets of Lenten daily meditations* available on Ash Wednesday for those who wish to have a daily guide through Lent.

On Tuesdays from January 25th – March 29th, from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, *Children's Services* will be using

the Parish Hall. Please respect their use of the space during those times. Thank you.

The *Rummage Sale* dates have been set for April 14, 15, and 16th. Mark your calendars!

The Editor's Bit



Those of you who can remember back to last month's JN – and I have trouble remembering last week – may recall my telling you that I was immune from any tragedy involving an airplane, and that I promised to tell you what makes me believe. Well, it's quite simple: It's written in the stars.

Let's take a short trip back to 1978, when your Editor was a mere stripling of a boy who was scrawny and skinny enough to avoid sand being kicked in his face. Like most college students, he shared an apartment with other equally odd misfits, living the limbo life that exists between high school and real life; where the most challenging task of the day was to make it to an 11:00 am lecture and the most traumatic event of the day was missing it.

Andy Pierce was a middle-class rich kid who went to college because it was the thing to do. He was destined to leave just two months before finals in 1980; such was his attitude towards the value of education. However, before that happened, he took up the art of Astrology and was happy to provide a road map for any of his friends' futures. I was one such friend.

The two most interesting projections were that I would move overseas – something that at that time I thought was highly unlikely – and that I would die a long, lingering death following a plane crash in a remote region.

Now that's what I call an astrological prediction! None of this "you will meet someone today who will tell you something to your benefit" or "you are going to have a period of illness sometime this year," No sirree, straight for the specifics – death by air crash. And what's more, this is one great way of striking up a conversation with folks on a flight between Cleveland and Los Angeles.

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Looking at Lent...

(from p.1)

take advantage of the ways we do this as a community, through Sunday worship, Wednesday worship, book group or Wednesday Soup and Discussion, or by joining in the Way of the Cross meditations.

Ash Wednesday is one of the most powerful days in the church year, and the imposition of Ashes is one of the most powerful symbols we have. I am reminded of our mortality and our life each of us brings to the altar rail ... our distinctiveness and our commonness... ashes to ashes filled with the Holy Spirit and God's blazing spark of life.

I pray that Lent will be a gift to you. I pray that this season bring strong winds which cast aside the darkness of sin and stir up the flame of God's eternal presence so that our lives burn brightly and joyfully with endless promise and possibility in Christ and for Christ.



Women's Retreat

Celebrate! is the theme of the **2005 St. James Women's Retreat** that will be held **October 7-9** at the Loyola of the Lakes Conference

Registration materials are found below and on the back table at the church. The cost of the retreat is \$145.00. A deposit of \$40.00 is payable to St. James on or before March 15. The balance must be received no later than September 15. Some scholarship funds are available.

Center in Clinton, Ohio. All women of the parish and their guests are welcome to attend this three-day time of fellowship, relaxation and renewal. Highlighting this year's program will be workshops celebrating our Anglican roots, our creativity and our numerous lifetime roles as women. In addition to these session, the retreat offer ample time for getting to know one another better, private time, and worship. The weekend begins at 6:00 P.M. Friday, October 7 for check-in and dinner and concludes late morning, Sunday, October 9.

Please send your checks directly to Cathy Cook with the memo indicating *Women's Retreat*. Do NOT put your registration or check in the collection basket.

If there are any questions, contact Gwen Bayless at 264-1874.

I will attend the 2005 St. James Women's Retreat at Loyola of The Lakes on October 7 -9.
(My deposit of \$40.00 per person is included with this form.)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Birthday – month _____ day _____

I will be bring the following guest (s): Use extra paper if more space is needed.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Birthday – month _____ day _____

I would be willing to help with _____
(Car Pool, Refreshments, Programs, Other)

I would like a ride to Loyola Conference Center Yes ___ No ___ I will go directly to Loyola ___



from Ruth Brown

Taking Your Medicines

Before Medication is Prescribed, Tell your Doctor:

- If you are allergic to any medications
- If you are currently taking any other medications (including over the counter meds)
- If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant
- If you have problems taking any medications

Medication Guidelines

These are general guidelines. Be sure to ask your doctor or pharmacist for guidelines specific to your medication.

- Keep a list of all your medications and their dosages with you.
- Take your medications exactly as prescribed by your doctor
- Do not stop taking your medications unless you talk to your doctor first. Stopping your medication too early can cause the illness to return or make it more difficult to treat.
- Do not double the dose of your medication
- If you miss a dose of your medication at the scheduled time, don't panic. Take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular medication schedule.
- Do not keep outdated medication or medication that is not longer needed. Throw old medications away.
- Store medications in a dry area away from moisture (unless your doctor or pharmacist tells you the medicine needs to be refrigerated)/
- Always keep medications out of the reach of children.
- Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any unusual side effects after taking your medication.
- Do not share your medications with others.
- If you store your medications in a container, label it with the medication name, dose, frequency and expiration date.
- Keep your medications in your carry-on luggage when your travel. Do not pack your medications in a suitcase that is checked, in case the suitcase is lost.

- Take extra medication with you when you travel in case your flight is delayed and you need to stay away longer than planned.

Questions to Ask About Your Medication:

Be sure you know the answers to these questions before you start taking any new medication:

- What is the name of the medication
- Why do I need to take it
- How often should I take it
- What time of day should I take it
- Should I take it on an empty stomach or with meals
- Where should I store the medication
- What should I do if I forget to take a dose
- How long should I expect to take the medication
- How will I know if it is working
- What side effects should I expect
- Will the medication interfere with driving, working or other activities
- Does the medication interact with any foods, alcohol or other medications, including over the counter



The Outreach Committee thanks you for our significantly increased community involvement in 2004. All of you have joined the following agencies in meeting the needs of our friends and neighbors: The Blessing of Animals, Crop Walk, Episcopal Community Service Foundation, Every Woman's House, Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith Housing, Meals Together, People to People, Salvation Army Youth Programs, Twelve-Step Programs, United Thank Offering, Vacation Bible School Missions and the Viola Startzman Free Clinic. Please read the detailed report in the St. James' Annual Report. We welcome new committee members with open arms. Come join us!

Dick Figge, Sue Gorman, Mary Hickey, John and Peg Hockett, Terry Ling, Cameron Manesse, Janice E. Miller.



Please add your name to the sign up sheets on the bulletin board for greeters and Coffee Hour hosts/hostesses.

February Birthdays

- 3 LeRoy Curtis
- 5 Linda Peterson
- 7 Mary Lou Nuzum
Travis Kraker
- 9 Katie Cross
- 10 Denny Brayer
- 12 Alice Bunting
- 14 Joan Skelly
- 15 Jackie Kiefer
- 18 Audrey Thomas
Delainey Johnson
- 19 Marilyn Blanchard
- 23 John Strong
- 25 Susan Anderson
- 27 Kim Watkin
- 28 Mark Kraker



An Intercessory Prayer

At St. James, there are two different ways to request intercessory prayers for yourself or for others: through inclusion in the **Prayers of the People** or on the **Prayer Chain**. Everyone is always welcome to ask for either or both forms of prayer, but a separate request needs to be made for each. Prayer requests normally remain on either list for a one month period, unless you specify otherwise, after which you may ask that they be renewed.

Prayers of the People are part of the Sunday morning worship services and are included in the Sunday bulletin. To add someone who is sick, has a special need, or has entered into new life, you may post a request on the Prayer Board at the back of the church using the form provided there; or you may ask Evelyn or make a request through the church office.

The **Prayer Chain** is a ministry offered by a group of St. James volunteers ("Prayer Warriors") who pray individually each day for each person for whom a prayer request has been made to the Prayer Chain. You may request prayers for yourself or for someone else by contacting Prayer Chain Coordinator Mary Hickey (maryhickey@earthlink.net or 330-262-7059), Evelyn, or the church office. If desired, requests may be specified as "Confidential."

Currently, there are fourteen Prayer Warriors. New "pray-ers" are always very welcome to join the Prayer Chain. If you are interested in becoming part of this ministry, please contact Mary Hickey.

February Anniversaries

- 4/89 Bob and Lori Varga
- 9/64 Hal and Roberta Looney



Altar Flowers: Reminder



Just a reminder to all of you who donate flowers for the altar: After the 10:00 am service, you may take these flowers to dispose of as you wish. The altar guild members will be happy to make sure they are available for you as soon as possible after the service.



The cost for flowers is \$40 plus tax for two arrangements. You are welcome to share dates with another family. If you wish to donate, please sign the calendar in the North Street Entrance. Flowers are ordered by Connie Cook or Velda Cross, altar guild directors, from *Com-Patt-ibles*, who sends a bill to the parishioner. If you have special instructions, please indicate it on the calendar or give Connie or Velda a call on (330) 345-1416.

- Feb 6 Shirley Buytendyk in celebration of her granddaughter Krysten's birthday.
Velda Cross in honor of Katie's confirmation and in memory of her mother, Irene.

The 2005 flower calendar is posted in the North Street entrance, if you would like to provide flowers for the Sunday services.

When I lived at home with my parents and grandmother, Mother would wake me up every morning so that I could stagger into the kitchen where Grandmother had made breakfast for me. Daddy and Mother ate in the dining room next to the kitchen. Daddy went to work before I went to school, so they always started first. While Daddy ate, Mother read aloud two devotional booklets, one published by the “southern” Presbyterians and the other, by the “northern” Presbyterians. Each one included a Scripture reading, but not the same reading (most Presbyterians in those days had never heard of a lectionary). So Mother would read both lessons from the Bible, and then read both devotional meditations. It made for confusing listening—like trying to listen to sermons by two ministers preaching on different texts—especially for a kid who was only half awake. The quality of the devotional writing also varied widely. I can’t say the experience did much for my spiritual life.

So it was something of a miracle when, several years ago, I decided to cut back on late-night activities in order to get up early enough for morning devotions. Unfortunately, the quality of devotional writing in the Episcopal Church’s quarterly, *Forward Day by Day*, varies as much as in the Presbyterians’. I’ve tried several other approaches, and I’ve finally found one that works for me, at least for now.

For Episcopalians it’s hard to go wrong with *The Book of Common Prayer’s* Morning and Evening Prayer. There are also shorter versions in the *BCP* for those in a hurry. They’re the “workhorse” services of the Episcopal Church, adaptable to the simplest individual use or to the most elaborate choral Evensong. The only problem for me is that these services grew out of monastic life and seem best suited for congregational use. In fact, until the 1979 *BCP* restored the Eucharist to its rightful

place as the regular Sunday service, Morning Prayer was the service most Episcopalians used in church most Sunday mornings. It involves a lot of shuffling back and forth between the service itself, the Psalter, the lectionary, and the canticles. You have to make a lot of decisions about which elements to use and which to leave out.

The Church of England has done a major revision of its prayer book recently and produced a separate volume, *Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, which some people are calling the first Anglican Breviary since the Reformation. Breviaries were prayer books for monastic and individual use that were popular in the Middle Ages, but that were thought too “popish” by the English Reformers. The new book tries to introduce variety into daily prayer by providing both seasonal and daily variations of psalms, canticles, and collects. But it’s a hefty tome that doesn’t travel well, especially since you have to supplement it with a Bible. And unlike the American *BCP*, it doesn’t include its own lectionary.

I’ve finally settled on an ingenious little volume, *Celebrating Common Prayer*, which was created by the Anglicans’ Society of St. Francis. Actually, *CCP* was the original inspiration for the Church of England’s *Common Worship: Daily*

Prayer, but as with many a work revised by a committee, the original was better. Now the Anglican Franciscans have come out with a new (2002) edition of *CCP* that has the best of both worlds, using the prayers, etc., from *Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, but maintaining the structure of the original *CCP*. It’s a small volume that’s easily carried in a suitcase or bag, and includes everything needed for Morning and Evening Prayer, plus a variety of other prayers and shorter services. All the psalms and short Scripture lessons are printed in the services themselves.

(cont. next page)



Scriptorium *(from previous page)*

And there's plenty of variety. *CCP* provides 7 different services of Morning and Evening Prayer. Within each version are 7 different psalms, Scripture lessons, and collects. The 7 services correspond to the 7 seasons of the Anglican Church Year (Pre-Advent, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost), and the 7 variations within each service correspond to the 7 days of the week. In "ordinary time" between Epiphany season and Lent and between Pentecost season and Pre-Advent, the same 7 services correspond to the 7 days of the week and the 7 variations within each service correspond to a given week in a 7-week cycle. There are further variations within each service depending on whether it's being used for one of the 7 seasons or for one of the 7 days of the week. Thus, the 7 services for Morning Prayer and the 7 for Evening Prayer serve the entire Church Year, yet with a great deal of variety, and all in a single, compact volume. I saw recently that the Archbishop of Canterbury had given copies to his bishops and urged them to try it.

But there's still a missing element that the devotional guides provided, however unevenly: daily meditations to guide one's prayers and to deepen one's spiritual life. For that purpose, I recommend two anthologies, which were also created by the Anglican Franciscans: *Celebrating the Seasons* and *Celebrating the Saints*. There are lots of anthologies, but I like these two especially. *Celebrating the Seasons* is particularly appropriate for use with *Celebrating Common Prayer* because both follow the Anglican Church Year. It contains short excerpts from a wide variety of writers, from the early "Church Fathers" to medieval theologians and preachers such as St. Bernard and St. Gregory the Great to writers of the English Reformation to more recent and contemporary writers. It isn't exclusively English or exclusively "Anglican"; even some American writers are included! The quality of the selections is uniformly high, and it's seldom that I close the book without a new insight. Some of the selections have led me to seek out the works from which they were taken in order to read more.

Celebrating the Seasons is easy to use because it follows the Church Year, but it's not the only good Anglican spiritual anthology. *Love's Redeeming Work: The Anglican Quest for Holiness* (which I reviewed earlier) is a particularly fine collection of shorter writings spanning the Anglican Communion, ancient and modern. And *Give Us Grace: An Anthology of Anglican Prayer* complements it perfectly. All of the books

mentioned in this review, including those published in England, are available from most Episcopal bookstores and from Amazon.com.

In short, if you've had a bad experience with devotional booklets when you were a child, or if you've tried to maintain a spiritual discipline and failed, or even if you've had no experience with daily prayer and spiritual reading at all, there are some excellent resources available to help deepen and enrich your relationship with the one who loves you the most.

Editor's Bit

(from page 3)

There's nothing like watching some poor innocent traveler's face change color from red to white to green in the space of two minutes.

At this point, you may well be concerned that I appear to be exhibiting a streak of wickedness based on some twisted sense of humor – and you may have a point. However, there is a rider to the prediction that makes things better: All this is supposed to take place after my second marriage.

Problem solved! So long as Velda and I remain in blissful wedlock, I won't end up gnawing my foot off half way up a mountain in some frozen wasteland. Ergo, I am immune from an air crash or any such disaster and can look forward to many years of traveling around the world, safe in the knowledge that there is a protective sphere of Destiny cocooning my body. Revealing this codicil to my travel companions is a way of extending the sphere of Destiny to include them, ultimately making them feel better – I hope.

Now if only the horoscope had mentioned something about vast sums of money and a Malibu beach house...

Home Communion



Communion can be brought to you at home or in the hospital whether you find you cannot make it to church for two weeks or two months. Please call the office if you would like to arrange for communion.

Motorcycle Diaries/Comandante

In 1952, two young Argentineans, Ernesto Guevara de la Serna and Alberto Granado, set off on an eight-month, 8,000 mile trip around South America on a 1939 Norton 500 motorcycle. Guevara, 23, a medical student and son of a comfortable middle-class family, wanted to take some time off before finishing medical school. His friend Granado, 29, was already a biochemist. What began as a lark and an adventure became a transforming experience as travel opened new horizons for the two men.

Both would write about this trip, and their books are the basis of Walter Salles's *Motorcycle Diaries*, scripted by José Rivera.

If you were young in the late Sixties or early Seventies, the name of Che Guevara probably still conjures up a familiar poster image, an icon associated with revolutionary fervor and idealism.

Salles's film avoids the temptation of heavy-handed ideology as it presents a very approachable and human Ernesto Guevara (the Che came later). The two young men set out with only fun in mind. Indeed, the first part of the film concentrates on misadventures with the motorcycle, ironically named *La Poderosa* (The Mighty One), on drinking, womanizing, gambling, and charming con games. Challenged at one point to tell what they are up to, and not having reflected much on the purpose of their trip, they say, "We are traveling for the sake of traveling."

Always short on money, they take jobs as furniture movers, hospital workers, whatever comes along. Blessed with wit, charm, and a gift of gab, they are also welcomed and taken in by strangers who share their lives and stories. The human encounters soon become an introduction to the poverty of Latin America and the injustices behind it.

Alberto (played by Rodrigo de la Serna) is the one who does whatever he can to smooth the way and avoid unpleasantness. When they are seeking a place to sleep one night, the owner of the farm, hearing they are medical students, asks Che (Gael Garcia) to examine a

lump on his neck. Alberto says it is a harmless deposit of fatty tissue. Che says it is clearly a tumor and that he should get treatment. The man is upset and turns away from them. Alberto can think only of what they may have lost; Che already holds the Hippocratic oath sacred and will not lie for his own advantage. Likewise an activist doctor asks the two men to look at the manuscript of a novel he has written. When asked his opinion, Alberto says, "No one tells a story like you!" and asserts that Guevara believes the same. The doctor insists on hearing from Che, who forthrightly tells him the novel is

full of clichés and is a bad piece of writing. The doctor is hurt and angry but then immediately thanks him for being the only person who has spoken the truth to him. Che's fundamental honesty and integrity will be reflected again and again in the course of the film.

Most movingly, the two young men volunteer at a leper colony in San Pablo, Peru. Having determined that leprosy is not communicated by casual touch, they refuse to wear the standard rubber gloves, and they shake hands, embrace, and play soccer with the patients. They are not grandstanding; they are acting out their own instincts of empathy and common decency. (Nevertheless, as Granado reports in his book, when he returned to the colony years later they were still remembered, and those who had been very young at the time told him that after that encounter the patients had been treated differently by everyone.)

Salles's film has been faulted for stopping short of depicting Guevara's later career in Guatemala, Cuba, and Bolivia. Let someone else make that film; this one is true to the books it is based on. At the time Guevara wrote the diaries, he could not foresee where his vision would take him. The film is a moving portrayal of a young man just beginning to discover who he is and what will be the purpose of his life.

At the end of their stay at the leprosarium, there is a celebration with toasts and expressions of thanks. Going beyond the expected toast of acknowledgement, Guevara makes what is doubtless his first political speech. In it he says they have come to see the borders of nations as artificial and arbitrarily imposed on a single mestizo

(cont. page 11)



February 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:30 am H.E. 7:00 Choir	3 EVELYN AT FRESH START	4 MISSION AND MINISTRY CONFERENCE	5 MISSION AND MINISTRY CONFERENCE
6 9:00 am Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 H.E./ Baptism / Confirmation 11:00 Brunch	7	8 6:00 - 7:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	9 Ash Wednesday 7:00 am H.E./ Imposition of Ashes 11:00 Book Group Noon: H.E./ Imposition of Ashes 7:00 H.E./ Imposition of Ashes 8:00 Choir	10	11	12
13 8:00 am H.E. 9:00 Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 H.E. 11:00 Coffee	14 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	15 <i>JN Deadline</i>	16 7:30 am H.E. 5:30 pm H.E. 6:00 Soup and Discussion 7:30 Choir	17	18	19
20 People to People 8:00 am H.E. 9:00 Choir 10:00 H.E. 11:00 Coffee	21 President's Day - Office Closed	22	23 7:30 am H.E. 11:00 Book Group 5:30 pm H.E. 6:00 Soup and Discussion 7:30 Choir	24	25	26
27 8:00 am H.E. 9:00 Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 H.E. 11:00 Coffee	28 EVELYN AT TRINITY COMMONS	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p>CHECK THIS...</p> </div> </div> <p>Effective January 1, 2005, we will no longer post "in-kind" contributions to individual accounts in order to be in compliance with IRS regulations. Each person should retain those records for themselves for tax purposes.</p>				

Speaking of Movies

(from p.9)

race, and so he proposes a toast to Peru and a United Latin America.

The faces of the ordinary people whose plights we have come to know along the way have burned themselves into Che's consciousness and are displayed again at the end of the film in posed black and white shots. Our first impression is that these are documentary photographs. But as the images are held, we realize we are looking at black and white movie footage. The people blink and move ever so slightly. They (and their ongoing struggles) are living before us, and they are looking directly at the camera, as if to suggest that they and their conditions are not things of the past and that they are asking us what we are going to do about it.

The Germans have a proverb, endlessly arguable, that *Reisen bildet*: travel educates. Most tourism—let's face it—serves more to confirm preconceptions than to open new worlds and new eyes. In a cartoon in this week's *New Yorker*, a tourist tells the travel agent, "We just want a vacation—we don't want to learn anything." Part of the broader charm of *The Motorcycle Diaries* is the beautifully conveyed evidence that a *Wanderjahr* can indeed lead to a discovery of both world and self.

Short Take: In 2002 Oliver Stone spent three days with Cuban dictator Fidel Castro. Their 30 hours of talk were edited down to 99 minutes to make the highly intriguing documentary **Comandante**. The film was to be shown on Home Box Office, but the cable company cancelled it with the justification that the documentary wasn't "objective" enough. Thus, aside from the Sundance Festival, the film has not been screened in this country. I saw it last week in Berlin at a packed sneak preview prior to its general release in Germany.

What you will not see in this film is a lot of tough and persistent questioning. Stone does ask about the human rights record, about torture in Cuban prisons and the persecution of homosexuals, but there is precious little follow-up questioning. Castro asserts that no one has ever been tortured under his regime, and Stone lets it go by. Sometimes Stone lets the ironies speak for themselves, however, as when Castro claims he is constantly self-critical, then launches into an encomium on his splendid record.

What you do get to see is an up-close and personal view of Castro in many settings, and it is fascinating. The

man is highly intelligent, witty, and capable of great charm, obviously adored by people we see on the street and by the students at Havana's medical school. He and Stone clearly hit it off well and seemingly admire one another. It is intriguing to listen to their spontaneous banter and witness the quickness of their off-the-cuff wit. Stone, for instance, suggests he could bring Viagra from the United States. They reflect that the medication puts a strain on the heart, and Castro says that would be just the way the American government would like to polish him off. The two men collapse in laughter. At one point, Stone asks him whether he has ever been to a psychiatrist. For one moment, Castro (he says he has never even considered it and has been much too busy) is completely thrown at being asked a question no one has ever asked in all these years.

It is particularly interesting to hear Castro's reflections on the Bay of Pigs, American foreign policy under Kennedy and other presidents, the complicated relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union, and his assessments of Soviet and American leaders.

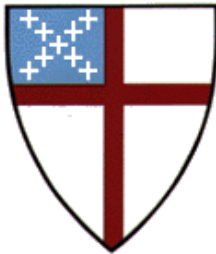
Castro, a politician to his fingertips, has articulate answers to nearly every question. Of course he is a dictator, he says, "but in the end I am a slave to my people. This [office] is my cell." He clearly enjoys the give and take, even congratulating himself on how he has evaded certain queries. Interestingly, he is least forthcoming in answering questions about his personal relationships.

However much we might like to hear tougher questions from Stone, the fact remains that, since Castro has been so thoroughly demonized by the American government and media, Stone's film opens a window that has been closed for 45 years. The film raises more questions than it answers, particularly, by implication, about US policy toward Cuba. Why, we may wonder, should this tiny, blockaded island be seen as such a threat at the same time that our government grants favored-nation status to China? Just as there is room for a closer look at Che Guevara's later years, so we may hope for a deeper consideration of Cuba's enigmatic and tenacious leader.



When you or a member of your family is in the hospital, please let the office know. Due to new privacy regulations, the hospital is no longer allowed to give us that information.

The Episcopal Church



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What's Happening at St. James

- 6th Feb** **Bishop's Visit for Baptism and Confirmation, followed by brunch
10:00 am onwards.**
- 8th Feb** **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper; Church Hall, 6:00 - 7: 30 pm**
- 9th Feb** **Ash Wednesday
Imposition of Ashes, 7:00 am, noon, 7:00 pm**

February, 2005

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March, 2005

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