

# the Joyful Noise

of St. James' Episcopal Church

## “Dear Dunstan ... Dear B.J.”



*Guest columnist, BJ*

The following correspondence took place recently between our dogs, BJ and Dunstan. It all began when BJ had some surgery and had to wear a “lampshade” collar to protect the stitches. Dunstan sent BJ an electronic “get-well” card, BJ e-mailed Dunstan to thank him, and Dunstan replied. As of this writing, the pen pals still haven’t met, but obviously they’re well on their way to getting acquainted.

We decided to publish this correspondence in the hope that it would encourage other pets in the parish to send in their questions or to join the correspondence. BJ and Dunstan seem eager to take on the role of advice columnists, and pets certainly have lots of issues to discuss. More perhaps than most of us humans, their lives are about relationships—with other animals, with things, and with humans—and these relationships have their ups and downs, just as ours do.

But why is a church newsletter an appropriate place for such correspondence? After all, wasn’t it Snoopy the beagle in the “Peanuts” comic strip who declared that the only theology dogs understand is “supper dish”? One could respond that there are theological issues implicit even in “supper dish.” One could even note that Jesus himself was remarkably canine in this respect, since meals, bread, wine, flesh, blood, banquets, feasts, suppers, etc. play such an important part in his life and teaching. We leave it to the reader to decide.

February 24, 2005

*by Damon Hickey and  
Celia Smart*

Dear Dunstan,

My “mom” takes off the lampshade when she’s at home, but otherwise, I do have to wear it—and I feel so silly with it on! My real Mom, Penny Pooler, would probably take all of these stitches out if she were here, so I’m not allowed to see her till they’re taken out by my doctor!

I feel much better now that I received your very thoughtful card—that dog on my card looks just like me! You are such a good friend to remember me—in such a special way!

Your “parents” must be wonderful people—as I can tell that you are a wonderful dog! My “mom” told me how special your “mom” is to her! We both have really great homes and families, so we must be lucky dogs!

I asked my mom which of the dogs at that website most looked like you, and she wasn’t exactly sure! Humans! So Dunstan, would you be so kind as to send me a photo? All she could tell me is that she has seen you at the door, but not up close—that you are large, like me—but white and fluffy hair. My hair is short and grey! I weigh 91 lbs, but mom says you weigh more. If I weren’t so scared of everything (except

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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

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**Spring Ingathering for United Thank Offering is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.**

Joyce Roe



UTO Everyday is a reminder that by sharing out blessings we can make a joyful witness to Christ's presence both here and around the world.

UTO boxes are available on the table in the Parish Hall and on the tract stand in the south-west entrance. Checks may also be made out to St. James marked "U.T.O."

**Saint James Episcopal Church**

Corner of East North and Market Streets, Wooster, OH (330) 262-4476  
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*Holy Eucharist Services*  
8:00 am and 10:00 am Sunday, 7:30 am Wednesday

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When there is no priest available, call Senior Warden, Liz Glick at (330) 263-4048, or Junior Warden, John Hockett, at (330) 345-7825 in case of emergency. Stuart Ling is available to make pastoral calls.

*2005 Vestry*

Jean Barnes (06) New Member Ministry	(330) 345-8586
Gwen Bayless (Vestry Clerk)	(330) 264-1874
Brad Burns (07)	(330) 263-7504
Velda Cross (06) Worship	(330) 345-1416
Liz Glick (05) Senior Warden	(330) 263-4048
Sue Gorman (07)	(330) 262-0973
Ben Gard (05)	(330) 263-0540
Mary Hickey (06) Outreach	(330) 262-7059
John Hockett (05) Junior Warden	(330) 345-7825
Jim Richard (06) Hospitality / Fellowship	(330) 264-2608
Celia Smart (07)	(330) 262-0299
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 Epistle

My dear Friends,

What a relief to be at getting beyond winter. We have been hit hard with bad weather on too many Sunday mornings for months and people getting laid low with flu or just trying to avoid it. I look forward to everyone being back on Sunday mornings and the renewed energy that your presence brings.

In the last issue of Episcopal Life there was an article about the national advertising campaign which is scheduled to be released in the late summer and early fall. There were two diocese highlighted in the article, one in which the parishes of the dioceses simply invested in an advertising campaign. They had lots of visitors to their churches but almost no one came back. In the other diocese, the parishes deliberately prepared to receive visitors and what they needed to learn about themselves and what changes they might need to make in order to be open to visitors who would come back and eventually be incorporated into the parish.

The national church has made it easy for us to prepare for the national advertising campaign by developing a program for parishes to learn concrete ways to accomplish their goals. The vestry and I support our participation in this campaign.

After Easter, we will start the program designed to help us be successful in opening our doors to a wide variety of people. I hope you will make a commitment to learning how we can invite people to be a part of our community. The more people who learn what we can do, the more successful we can be.

We have a wonderful church community and more than once I have heard you say that the Episcopal Church is one of the best-kept secrets. Let's get intentional about being visible in the county.

In the joy of our Risen and Inviting Lord,

Evelyn



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.

# Special Thanks



To my dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. James Episcopal Church,

Thank you so much for such an outpouring of love to my two children and me. We absolutely love our apartment! It is truly a blessing from the Lord. (Thanks for being His vessel.) You have made our new home so special by providing so many unexpected housewarming gifts. We promise to be good stewards of the household items so gracefully provided so the next family who is blessed to receive this great apartment will also be touched by your kindness.

May God bless you for your kindness in helping me and my family start a new life.

Respectfully,  
Robin, Sarah, and Simeon

# Treasurer's Report



The parish's operating revenues for the first two months of 2005 were as follows:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
January	\$24,021	\$17,327	\$6,694	38.6%
February	<u>9,878</u>	<u>14,637</u>	<u>(4,759)</u>	(32.5%)
2 months	\$33,899	\$31,964	\$ 1,935	6.1%

Although receipts in January were much higher than last year, the February receipts were very disappointing and a little ominous.

Operating revenues for the year ended February 28, 2005 are 1.3 percent lower than for the year ended February 29, 2004.

The projection/budget presented at the annual meeting assumed 2005 revenues would increase 2.5 percent. Even with this increase there would be a normal operating deficit of \$6,400 and, after the costs of outreach, the audit and sabbatical, the projection showed a potential deficit of \$18,100. 2005 operating revenues need to exceed 2004 by 12.4% to eliminate the entire deficit.

## Dear Dunstan ...

(from page 1)

my mom and dad), we could have a “play date”, but my mom tells me that you are afraid of things too, she thinks. Something about a difficult childhood, before your family now? I was so sorry to hear that!

I moaned a lot last night—I think my tooth extraction hurts the most—maybe. Since I sleep in the bed next to Mom, we neither one slept much last night. But I’m better today and eating some awesome canned food, which I NEVER get, so that part’s good!

Thanks again, Dunstan! You’re a great friend, and in my prayers, I will thank God for sending you to me! (My mom helps me with my prayers!)

Your friend,

BJ

February 26, 2005



*Guest columnist, Dunstan*

Hi BJ,

My mom agreed to help me send just a quick note to let you know how much I appreciated your great email. I tried to get her to help me reply sooner, but she kept saying she was too busy. Humans!!! She and my dad finally got home about an hour ago (they never take me to those “concerts”) and now I hear them talking about going out early again tomorrow morning—even though it’s Saturday! I hope they will get home in time to help me write and tell you more about myself.

I hope you’re feeling lots better. My family is all praying for you too.

Take care,

Dunstan

February 27, 2005

Dear BJ,

My dad agreed to help me reply today. He’s the Dog! Anyway, about a week ago he gave me a really delicious rawhide chew. It was called a “Dingo.” I loved to chew it, especially because it had chicken in the middle. Dad said it’s for giant dogs like me (BTW, I weigh over 200 pounds), and is supposed to last a long time. Ha! My motto is, “Don’t let the sun go down on an unfinished Dingo” (or, if you get it late in the day, “Don’t let the sun rise on an unfinished Dingo”). So he gave me this Dingo, and then took pictures of me while I was chewing it. I wasn’t too sure how close I should let him get. You know how humans are—they give you a yummy rawhide chew, but you can never be sure they won’t try to take it back to chew on themselves. I had to growl a little if either of my people got too close when I was working on it.

So Dad took these pictures and then he put them up on something called a “Web site.” It’s sort of like an e-mail message that anyone can see anytime. I don’t understand these modern technology things—I’m just a simple e-mail dog. But maybe your mom would know how to get these pictures on your computer so that you could look at them. Dad says to tell her to go to a “URL” called “<http://homepage.mac.com/damonhickey/PhotoAlbum9.html>” (pretty silly name, huh?). Mom took a couple of pictures of Dad lying next to me (after I’d hidden my Dingo) so that everyone could see what a funny dog he’d make. He’s big for a human, but he has a really tiny head (don’t they all!). Guess we know what that means, don’t we? :-)

You mentioned my puppyhood. It was okay, I guess, but there was this man—my first human “dad”—who got really mad at me whenever I knocked something over—like the baby. Most of the time I didn’t mean to, and in fact, I usually didn’t know I’d done it. My tail does things I don’t even know it’s doing sometimes. Well, he would hit me on the head when I did that. I felt like biting him, but you know what they say, “Never bite the hand that feeds you.” So instead, I’d get mad at people (especially men) I didn’t know, and try to bite them. I guess my first human “parents” must not have liked that, because after awhile they took me back to “Doc,” the human who caught me when I first came out of my doggie mom. She kept me for a little while, and then these other people came to see me. I didn’t trust them any more than any other strange humans. But they didn’t

*(cont. next page)*

## Dear Dunstan ...

(from page 4)

give up or stay away for long. In fact, they seemed to want to play with me and give me treats, and feed me, and take me for walks, even though I acted angry with them. One day I just decided, “Hey, I think these people are okay. I’m going to trust them.” So then they took me to their house for a visit, and the next day they came and got me again and took me home for good! (Except when they went away and I got to go visit other dogs, or when they take me back to Doc’s house to play with her dog Putter. Doc gives me treats.)

I’m still scared of strange humans, especially men, but Dad and Mom tell me it’s all right, and sometimes I believe them. If Dad gets me to sit down and lean on him, and he pets me, I’m not as scared (as long as strangers don’t get too close). But I really like other dogs. I bark at them whenever they go by, but it’s not because I’m afraid of them. I want them to come play with me. There’s a girl dog down the street named Angel, and I get to visit her sometimes. She used to be a puppy. Boy, puppies run around a lot! I had a cat friend in my first home. Cats are okay too. Whenever I see one, I lie down so as not to scare them too much (until they get close; then I jump up and watch them run away!). I really enjoy playing with a black dog named Brooker when he and his mom come by for visits. He’s not as big as I am, but he’s lots of fun. His mom is nice too. She usually has treats for him and me. I’m not afraid of her now and I don’t try to bite her anymore.

My dad says he’s getting tired of “taking dictation,” so I guess I’ll have to stop. I hope you get rid of that lampshade soon, and that you feel lots better. Too bad they wouldn’t let your doggie mom take out those stitches. I sure hope you get to play with her again soon. I’m praying for you too—at least that’s what Dad calls it. I think it means when I’m thinking about you and hoping you’ll feel okay. He says that I’m a Saint, and that I’m named for a human saint, and that all saints pray. Whatever. (Putter is a Saint too, but we’ve never talked about praying, so maybe it’s optional.)

Your friend, (Saint :- ) Dunstan

Please direct your pets’ questions and correspondence to [ccsmart@ssnet.com](mailto:ccsmart@ssnet.com) or to [dhickey@wooster.edu](mailto:dhickey@wooster.edu).

Celia and Damon

## Editor’s Bit

Having only limited space available for this month’s bit, I decided to go for a “Strange but True” story, culled from that endless source of all things bright and beautiful; the Internet. Just heading off on a tangent for a second, the word has now become the lower case “internet” in *Wired*, one of the premier computer glossy magazines, but which the *Associated Press* and *Chicago Manual of Style* still keep recommend upper case “Internet.” I’d like to state for the record that the Joyful Noise in-house style manual recommends upper case, if only so that I get at least some exercise by having to use the shift key once in a while.



Back to the story: the *Deccan Herald*, an august Tibetan newspaper that is probably not on the shelves of your local news vendor’s store, reports that an Indian bride, named Savita, was left in the lurch by her good-for-nothing fiancé, who failed to turn up for the wedding and thereby made a lot of folks unhappy. His excuse was that he had been caught in a snowstorm on the Indo-Tibetan border – a likely tale indeed. More like he had a hangover from a night out with Mongolian yak herders.

But rather than let him get away with it, Savita’s relatives allowed her to be married off instead to a clay pot, behind which was placed a picture of her intended. Apparently the ersatz groom was able to produce an “I do” and the ceremony was duly completed. The report doesn’t mention whether she then had to kiss the pot, but fortunately it wasn’t a Greek wedding, otherwise the surrogate may have ended up like the real groom – smashed.

Bizarre as this event may seem, there was an upside to her predicament. For most women, it can be many years before they find out that their husband is just a useless, empty vessel that just sits around gathering dust. Savita knew from the word go.



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

## April Birthdays

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Sarah Fierbaugh   | 15 Jann Gallagher |
| 2 Chuck Timothy     | Jay VanHouten     |
| Ron Hustwit         | 17 Shirley Iceman |
| Sue Gorman          | 19 Cathy Cook     |
| Lauren Bowen        | 21 Norm Lathrop   |
| 4 Justin Evans      | Dick Figge        |
| 5 Alexandra Varga   | 22 Bill Blanchard |
| 6 Nancy Grifo       | Abigail Anderson  |
| John Slaydon        | 24 Lynn Lange     |
| 7 Katherine Sanford | 28 Chip Cook      |
| Samantha Graser     |                   |
| 10 Ted Sharp        |                   |
| B. J. Anfang        |                   |
| 12 Kimberly Symonds |                   |



## Holy Week Thanks

Thank you to all the people who made Lent and Holy Week and Easter Day so meaningful: to the individuals who lead Stations of the Cross on Fridays, and to Celia Smart for leading the Lenten Program and Marilyn Blanchard for making sure the dinners were organized. Thank you to the the Altar Guild and the leadership of Velda Cross and Connie Cook for all the extra work and dedication, and for the Choir, Jason Metheny, and Ned Brooks who all enhance and heighten our worship. Also thank you to Gladys Hunter for keeping Evelyn calm and getting all the worship bulletins done without fret, and to all the people who volunteered to read, pray, and serve during Holy Week.

## April Anniversaries

- 2/66 Al and Rosanne Burgers  
 2/77 Troy and Alison Schmidt  
 18/87 Ben and Jeannie Helbert



## Brown Bag Series

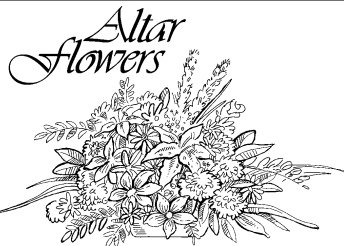
- April 7** Karen Gardener, saxophone  
 Christina Matthews, piano  
 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Quartet
- April 14** Thomas Wood, violin
- April 21** College of Wooster Trombone Choir  
 Jeff Lindberg, Director
- April 28** College of Wooster Piano Quintet  
 College of Wooster Clarinet Choir
- May 5** College of Wooster Woodwind Quintet
- May 12** Musica Felice  
 Ken Shafer, harpsichord  
 Marna Mateer, cello  
 William Mateer, recorder
- May 19** Stephen Brown, organ pops

Donations benefit the Viola Starzman Free Clinic.  
 Complimentary coffee and tea provided.



Evelyn will be on vacation April 15 through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have an emergency, please call the office, Liz Glick, Sr. Warden, or John Hockett, Jr. Warden.

If you do not have e-mail and would like a call if there is updated information throughout the week, please call the office and we will arrange to have someone contact you.



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.

- April 3 Troy and Alison Schmidt in celebration of their 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
 10 Joan Stanford in celebration of the birthdays of her husband and son  
 17 Stuart and Terry Ling in celebration of the birthdays of their daughters, Karen and Kati  
 24 Janice Hutton in memory of loved ones.

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



*from Ruth Brown*

I was lucky enough to be part of the CAMO (Central American Medical Outreach) team that went to Honduras in February of

this year. As many of you know, I lived in Tegucigalpa, Honduras from 1970-1974 and graduated from the American School. My father was a Foreign Service officer and stationed at the American Embassy.

Life was very good for us in Honduras. We had a perfect climate all year round and plenty of household help so I wasn't expected to do chores. My mother was, however, very big into the idea of noblesse oblige so helping poor people in Honduras was not a new concept for me. In fact, the public hospital in Santa Rosa looks much like the one I volunteered at 30 years ago.

It was Saturday afternoon when we arrived and the primary elections were being held the next day, Sunday. Because of that, there was no alcohol served on Saturday or Sunday. With the enormous amount of people coming in from the surrounding villages to vote, the police didn't want any trouble, so all bars and stores were prohibited from selling any alcohol. To avoid the problem of people voting twice, they dip their little finger in permanent black ink that will wear off in about a week.

The day after we arrived was spent in the warehouse unpacking equipment and each team getting organized for their week. Because I was going to be working in Administration with Kathy Tschiegg, the director of CAMO, I didn't have anything to unpack so I helped Barb unpack toys and books. She works with the dental team and after the children go through the process of being anesthetized and getting their teeth filled, they get to see Barb, who has spent the year obtaining a big supply of toys and books. The children get to go see her after they are done and pick out a toy. Of ten times this is the first time they have ever had dental work so they are not too happy. After seeing Barb's toy store, they all leave with a smile on their face.

Starting Monday morning, everyone was expected to be downstairs for breakfast at 6:30am. We all ate together and then had devotions. On Monday, Kathy took me on a tour of all the programs and projects that CAMO is involved with or responsible for in Santa Rosa. There

are too many to mention them all and they are as varied from providing fetal monitors for the hospital to rebuilding a kitchen in the day care center to providing a dental chair for the prison. The prison was an interesting visit. CAMO had donated a dental chair and the prison had had a fire the month before. They were asking CAMO to replace the dental chair and help repair the damage from the fire. After we looked at the damage and decided what could be done, they wanted us to take a tour. Not exactly what I was interested in doing but something we needed to do. It was a prison for 500 men and 14 women, who are an overflow from the women's prison. There is a big carpentry shop there for the men so they have something to do but because they are an "overflow", the women have nothing to do. They really want to sew but have no materials and no one to supply them.

We went from there to the Public Hospital, where, with the help of Scott Zacharias from McClintock Electric, they are rewiring the hospitals' electrical and phone system. CAMO is also overseeing the construction project of a neonatal intensive care unit. Since they have provided incubators and provided education for the nurses and doctors, this hospital has the lowest infant mortality rate in the country.



The day ends at different times for each of the teams depending on their schedule. Plastic surgery never finished until the evening. The dental team takes a bus out everyday to a remote village. One evening they didn't return until 8:00 pm because they had a flat tire. Everyone who drives in Honduras has to know how to change tires. I changed many myself when I lived there.

Tuesday night I got to attend the meeting with the Mayor of Santa Rosa and Dr. Morales, who visited

*(cont. next page)*

## CAMO *(from previous page)*

Wooster in January. He is initiating a 911 system in Santa Rosa and had visited here to see how it worked. There are no 911 systems in the country so this will be the first. It was a meeting with all of the people who will be involved with this new program.

Wednesday I got to help an 11-year-old girl with a spinal injury from birth, who couldn't walk, get fitted into a wheelchair for the first time. She also had developed a pressure sore on her back, which she had had for ten months. We managed to find all of the things I would have used in the United States for a pressure ulcer in the CAMO warehouse and I was able to show the family how to clean and dress the wound and give her supplies. It was a great feeling to totally change the way this child lives. The family had traveled hours to get to Santa Rosa in hopes that CAMO could help them.

I got to spend a morning with the plastic surgery team, which was extremely interesting to me. They repaired a 1½ yr. olds cleft lip. They will repair the palate next year as it takes 2 operations. This little boy came last year when he was 6 months old but he had pneumonia so they couldn't do the surgery. At his age, he only weighs 16 lbs. Unfortunately the recovery room is the hallway so anesthesia has to work hard to get the child woken up and stabilized so he can go to the 60 bed ward where there are often two to a bed. Our surgeon and anesthesiologist also bring their own post op pain medications as otherwise the patients will only be offered Tylenol.

All in all it was a great week. I got to make friends with the local Hondurans and practice my Spanish, which I believed had disappeared. I am looking forward to returning next year and bringing my husband and daughter.

### SPECIAL REQUEST:

I am collecting material, scraps, yarn or any other sewing supplies for the women in the prison in Santa Rosa. There is a CAMO truck going to Honduras in May that I would like to have these supplies on. Once it gets there, Carmen, a Santa Rosa CAMO employee will make sure it gets to the women. If you could bring any item you might have lying around to church and mark it CAMO, I will pick it up there. It is a small thing to do that will mean a great deal. Thank you.

Ruth Brown

## “Bishop’s Partners” in ECSF

*by Damon and Mary Hickey*



On February 16, Mary, Evelyn, and I attended a reception at Bishop Mark and Susan Hollingsworth's home in Shaker Heights for current and prospective “Bishop’s Partners” in the Episcopal Community Services Foundation (ECSF). Evelyn and Mary were invited as members of the ECSF Development

Council; I went along for the ride, and to gawk at the bishop's home.

Despite the fact that Mary is on the Development Council, I didn't know all that much about ECSF. To me, it was just one more Episcopal “good works” organization. I knew from church that ECSF gives grants to worthy projects, including the Viola Startzman Free Clinic, Wooster Interfaith Housing, and People to People Ministries here in Wooster. But that was the limit of my knowledge.

What Bishop Mark had to say that evening put ECSF in a whole new context. He pointed out that the first two people he had had a chance to ordain since coming to Ohio had gone to fields of service outside of the diocese and the state. Meanwhile, St. Paul's in East Cleveland has closed down. The Church of the Transfiguration on East Euclid in Cleveland, across from the Cleveland Playhouse in a neighborhood where a lot of new housing is going up and close by the Cleveland Clinic—exactly the sort of place you would want to plant a new parish if you didn't have one there already—is struggling to stay open.

ECSF isn't doing anything to address those issues directly, but they illustrate a larger problem that ECSF does address: the inadequacy of local resources in certain situations and the role of the wider church in helping parishes to meet their opportunities for ministry. To receive an ECSF grant, a program has to be supported already by a parish in the diocese and it has to do its own fundraising. It can't depend on ECSF alone. In that sense, ECSF operates much like the United Way in a local community. When a parish such as ours gets involved in supporting a local program, but lacks the resources to do it all alone, ECSF makes it possible for the wider church, represented in this case by the Diocese

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## Vera Drake

Mike Leigh's **Vera Drake**, set in early 1950s London, tells the story of a loving, kindly working class cleaning woman whose nature it is to help people in need. This gentle, goodhearted woman fits into our idea of what community and neighborhood are supposed to be. We see her dropping in on lonely people and invalids, putting the kettle on for a nice cup of tea, seeing how they are doing and reminding them they are not alone. She is a loving wife and mother and a loyal, cheerful friend. A shy neighbor who looks as if he were not eating properly is invited for supper, is befriended, and will eventually become part of the family.

A couple of times a week, Vera also helps out young women who are in trouble. That is her expression for it and that is how she understands it. She never uses the word abortion. In her world, and indeed in the England of that age, sexual matters seem never to be addressed openly, only by indirection and understatement.

Although she is aware that what she does is illegal (abortion was legalized in England in 1967), Vera can see only a human need and never takes any money for what she does. She is confident in the procedure with lye soap and warm water, assuring the women that everything will be "right as rain," and seeing no need for follow-up visits. Her family has absolutely no idea of what she has been doing for many years. Then one young woman nearly dies, and before long the police arrive in the middle of a Drake family celebration. At this point Vera's whole world falls apart.

In a parallel storyline involving a wealthy family for whom Vera cleans, the daughter is raped by a boyfriend and becomes pregnant. It is a devastating experience for her, and she can hardly bring herself to talk about it, even to her doctor. But those who can come up with 100 pounds, we learn, can gain access to a legal abortion: Her doctor refers her to a psychiatrist who asks her leading questions about her emotional state and the mental history of her family before recommending a legal procedure. Those without the financial means must turn to illegal and questionable treatment. Everywhere

there are signs of hypocrisy and double standards. Vera's son Sid (Daniel Mays), looking for adventure, goes with his friends to dance halls to pick up girls. Apparently he never considers the possible consequences, but when he learns about what his mother has done, he can barely bring himself to speak to her.

For all the concern with social inequities, however, this is not simply a tendentious film, and its distinction as being on a par with Mike Leigh's finest work lies in its honesty in dealing with his characters and their situations. The police, for instance, are not seen as mindless enforcers of questionable laws. On the contrary: Detective Inspector Webster (Peter Wight) and WPC Best (Helen Coker) are fully realized characters, and in doing their duty, they still show genuine decency and compassion for Mrs. Drake.



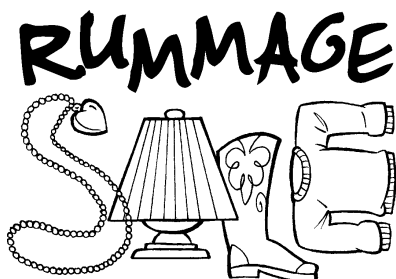
Part of the film's power derives from Leigh's uncanny ability to make us feel almost at home in Vera's family. Dick Pope's cinematography suggests the drabness and privations of postwar working class life, giving the perfect setting for the subtle and moving portrayals by all the characters. Phil Davis is Stan, Vera's auto mechanic husband, Alex Kelly is her painfully shy daughter Ethel, and Eddie Marson plays Reg, the shy neighbor who falls in love with Ethel. The awkwardness and vulnerability of this young couple provide some of the most touching scenes of the film, and we rejoice in the family's loving embrace and support for them in their hopes for a happy life together.

It is all so affecting because of the extraordinary ensemble work here. Mike Leigh is an actor's director and regularly spends weeks or months rehearsing with his players in improvisations and development of scenes. Much of the dialogue and interaction we see was worked out in this way. Leigh often does not begin production with a finished script. This has led to difficulties in finding producers to fund his work, but his results prove the effectiveness of his methods. I am told that none of the actors aside from Imelda Staunton knew what Vera did until it was revealed with the arrival of the police. Hence there could be no signaling of anything to come,

*(cont. page 11)*

# April 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> SPRING FORWARD! 8:00 am H.E. 9:00 am Choir 10:00 H.E. 11:00 Coffee	<b>4</b> 2:00 pm Wardens' Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:30 am H.E. 5:30 pm Soup and discussion 7:00 Choir	<b>7</b> 12:05 pm Brown Bag Series 7:00 Outreach Meeting	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00 am H.E. 9:00 Choir 10:00 H.E. 11:00 Coffee	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:30 am H.E. 11:00 Book Group 7:00 pm Choir	<b>14</b> 12:05 pm Brown Bag Series Noon - 5:00 Rummage Sale  EVELYN AT FRESH START	<b>15</b> 9:00 am - 8:00 pm Rummage Sale  <i>JN Deadline</i>  EVELYN ON VAC.	<b>16</b> 9:00 am - Noon Rummage Sale  EVELYN ON VAC.
<b>17</b> People to People 8:00 am H.E. 9:00 Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 H.E. 11:00 Coffee EVELYN VAC.	<b>18</b> EVELYN VAC.	<b>19</b> EVELYN VAC.	<b>20</b> 7:30 am M.P. 5:30 pm Soup and Discussion 7:00 Choir EVELYN VAC.	<b>21</b> 12:05 pm Brown Bag series EVELYN VAC.	<b>22</b> EVELYN VAC.	<b>23</b> EVELYN VAC.
<b>24</b> 8:00 am H.E. 9:00 Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 H.E./Baptism 11:00 Coffee	<b>25</b> EVELYN AT ECSF RETREAT	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:30 am H.E. 11:00 Book Group 5:30 Soup and Discussion 7:00 Choir	<b>28</b> 12:05 pm Brown Bag series	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



The Rummage Sale will be held April 14, 15 and 16 in the Parish Hall. Let's make this the biggest and best sale we have ever had. Save and deliver your gently used items to the church the week before the sale. If you have very large item that you cannot deliver, please call John Hockett and he will pick it up. There will be sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the North Street entrance. If you can help with sorting and/or selling, please sign the appropriate sheets for the time and day you can help. Thanks to everyone at St. James for helping make this a great money raiser for our church.

## Speaking of Movies

(from p.9)

and the shock and disbelief are all the more credible.

Leigh's film may leave us with plenty to think about in terms of what could happen if abortion were to be re-criminalized and driven underground. But in the end it is the simple truthfulness of his treatment of his characters and their world that makes this sad and haunting film so memorable.

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## “Bishop’s Partner”

(from page 8)

of Ohio, to say in a tangible way, “We support what you’re doing. You’re not alone in this. We stand together with you.” And *that* means that maybe in the future parishes such as St. Paul’s in East Cleveland and the Church of the Transfiguration won’t have to shut down for lack of support. And maybe future candidates for the diaconate and priesthood from this diocese won’t have to go to another diocese in order to find fields of ministry that can support them and their families.

The bishop’s remarks struck a familiar chord with me. My academic field is history, specifically church history. I’ve studied the post-Civil-War Quakers in the South; an early Quaker-turned-Anglican, George Keith, who became the first domestic and foreign missionary for the Church of England; and, most recently, Philander Chase, the first bishop of Ohio. There’s a common theme in these different histories: inadequate resources and lost opportunities. Post-Civil-War southern Quakers used evangelism to recruit new members, but almost died out anyway because they lacked a system of paid ministers to integrate the new converts into the existing Quaker communities or to start and sustain new ones. In the early eighteenth century, George Keith made impressive gains in winning converts to the Church of England in the northern counties, but then saw them drift away because the state-supported clergy were too apathetic to follow up. When he went to America, Keith was again successful in winning converts. But the church’s refusal to send a bishop to the American colonies meant that there were never enough clergy to hold on to them. English clergy were not interested in making the dangerous trip to the “American wilderness,” and few Americans were willing to go the other direction in order to study and be ordained in England. Over a century later, Bishop Chase faced an equally-stubborn refusal by the bishops of the eastern seaboard to support a seminary in Ohio where local priests, who would be willing to

endure the hardships of frontier life, could be educated without having to travel “back east” to New York. Chase had to go to England to find funds to found Kenyon College and Bexley Seminary, and then to spend the rest of his life in back-breaking farming in order to keep the new institutions going.

It was a stretch for us to make the leadership gift required of ECSF Bishop’s Partners. But after hearing the bishop’s appeal and in the light of what I know of the church’s history of inadequate resources and lost opportunities, we decided to make the commitment. We invite everyone in St. James to become part of the work of ECSF by making a contribution this month, and, if you’re able, to join us as Bishop’s Partners. (*Damon Hickey*)

We all receive so many requests for donations, many from very worthwhile organizations that we would like to support. Most of us, however, are not able to give substantial amounts of money to every good cause. What I especially like about giving through ECSF is that it is our church’s way of reaching out as the body of Christ in our local area. For me, the desire to give as much as I can to help other people stems from my faith. It is a way of expressing gratitude for all that I have and of responding to God’s gifts of life, of love and of grace. St. James—a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio—is where I found that faith and where it is nurtured. It is the center from which I live out my faith. We give to support the life, ministry, and outreach of St. James parish and through it, our Diocese; through ECSF, we can also give to support our church’s reaching out to help people in need throughout the Diocese.

Donation forms and envelopes will be available at church during the month of April. Damon and I hope everyone at St. James will join us in supporting ECSF to the extent we are able. ECSF need many small gifts as well as large ones, one-time gifts as well as pledges. Annual contributors of \$1,000 or more are designated Bishop’s Partners. (*Mary Hickey*)

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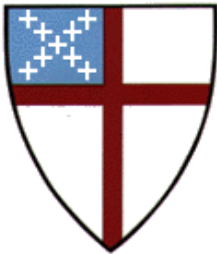
## Home Communion

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.



The Episcopal Church

St. James Episcopal Church  
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## What's Happening at St. James

- 7th Apr                      **Brown Bag Concert, 12:05 pm**
- 14th Apr                    **Brown Bag Concert, 12:05 pm**  
**Rummage Sale, Noon - 5:00 pm**
- 15th Apr                    **Rummage Sale, 9:00 am - 8:00 pm**
- 16th Mar                    **Rummage Sale, 9:00 am - noon**
- 21st Apr                    **Brown Bag Concert, 12:05 pm**
- 28th Apr                    **Brown Bag Concert, 12:05 pm**

### April, 2005

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### May, 2005

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