

# the Joyful Noise

of St. James' Episcopal Church

## In Our Backyard *Evelyn Manzella*

It has been 63 years since the General Convention of the Episcopal Church met in the state of Ohio. The General Convention meets every three years in a different location each time. It is exciting that GC 2006 (yes, the shortened form of The General Convention of the Episcopal Church 2006) is meeting in Columbus, Ohio from June 13 – June 21. There are many ways we can participate without being diocesan deputies.



largest legislative body in the world. As well as volunteering, people are welcome to visit the Convention. There is an Exhibit Hall, which The Rev. Dr. Gregory S. Straub, (the Secretary of the House of Deputies), describes as, “The exhibit hall reminds me of an oriental souk: it is a marketplace of goods and ideas in which the organizations and interest groups within the church present their wares, recruit members and do their best to influence legislation. It is a colorful

part of convention, and it would not be General Convention without it.” He adds, “General Convention is a combination of legislative assembly, bazaar of goods and services and a family reunion. It is one of the most exciting and, truth be told, one of the awe-inspiring gatherings in the world.”

At this Convention, a new Presiding Bishop will be elected on June 19<sup>th</sup>, and will then be installed at the Washington National Cathedral on November 4, 2006. There is a Diocese of Ohio day and reception and many organizations from throughout the church have reunions and gatherings. On Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> there is a Convention

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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](mailto:astolat@sssnet.com)

### Contributors this month include:

Richard Figge  
Susan Figge  
Sue Gorman  
Damon Hickey  
Mary Hickey  
Mark Hollingsworth  
Evelyn Manzella  
Joyce Roe

### Folders for the last issue were:

Jean Barnes  
Ken Plusquellec  
Flo Sprosty



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



**Astolat**  
Publications

Do you have a blue UTO box? There are some on the table with the poster in the parish hall, and there are some on the tract stand in the southwest entrance.



The United Thank Offering Ingathering takes place this month on Sunday 7th May.

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## 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: [saintjameswooster@earthlink.net](mailto:saintjameswooster@earthlink.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 - Stewart Fitz Gibbon	(330) 263-7676
Liz Glick - Bookkeeper	(220) 263-4048
Joyful Noise Editor - Russell T. Cross	(330) 345-1416

When there is no priest available, call Senior Warden, Jim Richard at (330) 264-2608, or Junior Warden, Celia Smart, at (330) 262-0299 in case of emergency. Stuart Ling is available to make pastoral calls.

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### 2006 Vestry

Jean Barnes (06)	(330) 345-8586
Gwen Bayless	(330) 264-1874
Brad Burns (07)	(330) 263-7504
Velda Cross (06)	(330) 345-1416
Sue Gorman (07)	(330) 262-0973
Mary Hickey (06)	(330) 262-7059
Peggy Hockett (08)	(330) 345-7825
Roger Kienzle (08)	(330) 262-4262
Jim Richard (06)	(330) 264-2608
Jane Richardson (08)	(330) 264-4342
Celia Smart (07)	(330) 262-0299
Tim Urang (07)	(330) 682-0118

*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.

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## In Our Backyard *(from page 1)*

Eucharist at 10 am, with the national UTO ingathering. I hope we can gather to attend that service as a parish.

We will make special publications available nearer the Convention. For more information check the website either directly or through the Diocesan site [www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org).

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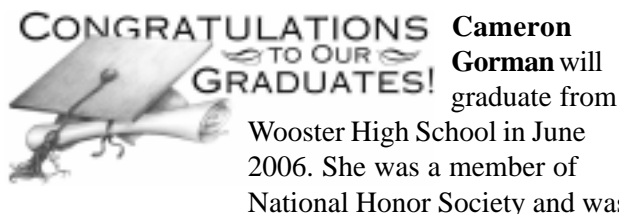


### Special Thanks from Evelyn

Thank you to the Altar Guild, the Acolytes, the Choir, the Musicians, the Lectors, Chalice Bearers, Greeters, and Hospitality people and participants who made Holy Week such a prayerful journey into the joy of Easter. I also thank those who participated in the Monday evening Lenten discussions. I have gained much valuable information and direction from you. A special thanks to Susan Figge and Celia Smart for the Taize services, which were prayerful and peaceful.

Many thanks to the Sunday School Teachers and Helpers throughout this year: Cameron Maneese, Celia Smart, Jeff Baker, Chris Reynolds, Mary and Brad Burns, Bruce and Lynn Clayton, Louise Plusquellec, Janet and Denny Brayer and the parents who stayed and helped throughout the year. The last day of Sunday School will be May 14<sup>th</sup>.

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**Cameron Gorman** will graduate from Wooster High School in June 2006. She was a member of National Honor Society and was Academic All American and Academic All Ohio for swimming. Cameron was also a senior leader for this year's class and helped to run the Community Service Day. Cameron has been an active member of St. James parish for over 8 years and has served as an acolyte and torch bearer as well as participating in Youth Group.

In August, Cameron will head to Boston for 2 weeks of Navy training before becoming a member of the class of 2010 at Boston University. She has accepted a navel ROTC scholarship and after college will put in 4 years of active duty in the United States Navy. Cameron plans to major in Biology with minors in Environmental Science and Photography.

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## Soda Bread Recipe

Those of us who attending the Monday evening Lenten Program really enjoyed Brittany Bullard's homemade Irish soda bread. She kindly supplied

us with the recipe, so here it is, just in time for St. Patrick's Day in 2007.

### Irish Soda Bread

Preheat oven to 375 degrees

#### Ingredients

1 and 2/3 cups buttermilk  
1/4 cup butter, melted  
4 cup flour (may use part whole wheat flour)  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1 egg, beaten  
1 cup raisins  
1 egg, beaten separately, for glazing loaf

(Salt is optional; spices to taste – cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, or a combination; or a savory combination without the sugar; cheese and bacon were also a delicious variation)

Combine dry ingredients in large bowl. Make a well in the center. Mix buttermilk, melted butter, beaten egg; pour into the well and combine.

Turn onto floured surface. Knead 4-6 times until dough forms and doesn't stick to surface.

Form into a ball and flatten into circle about 1 1/2 inches high. Cut 1 1/2 inch deep slashes in a cross across the dough. Brush with beaten egg.

Bake on stone or sheet pan for 50 minutes or until done. Bottom of loaf will sound hollow when thumped.

With thanks to Brittany and to everyone who provided such delicious soups, breads, fruits, veggies, and cheeses for our "simple suppers."

# The Bishop's Annual Appeal and Episcopal Community Services

by Mary Hickey



God calls us to reach out to people in need, not only as individuals and as a parish, but also as a diocese. Each of us at St. James is also part of the Diocese of Ohio. In 1990, Episcopal Community Services Foundation (ECSF) was begun as the outreach arm of our diocese. This year, our diocese's vision of outreach has expanded

with the birth of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, and has also become more focused through a new statement of mission and core values adopted by ECSF.

The Episcopal Community Services Foundation exists as a faith-centered organization which works to bring restoration, healing and liberation to the needy.

## OUR MISSION:

The mission of ECSF is to promote a reconciling Episcopal witness that encourages justice through service, compassion, and liberation; empowering both those being served, and those who serve.

## OUR OBJECTIVES:

- To serve those in critical need through Episcopal parish programming, parishioners, and collaborative community services;
- To encourage liberation of those in need through education and through advocating for change in systems that create need;
- To adhere to our theological mandate to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8)

## HOW WE LIVE OUT OUR MISSION:

- Through the collection and organization of programmatic and financial resources for the journey, in particular conducting an annual campaign;
- Through grant distributions to Episcopal congregations and collaborative community initiatives that serve the needs of the community;

- Through support to Episcopal congregations and collaborative community initiatives that educate and advocate for systemic change, justice, and liberation;
- Through strategic grantmaking initiatives that increase Episcopal presence, expand Episcopal witness, and promote the reconciling love of God in the lives of the needy and oppressed in our community.

During this Easter season, to prepare ourselves for fresh and creative opportunities to minister and serve, we are invited to join with the Bishop and ECSF in expanding both our vision and our participation. Please read carefully Bishop Hollingsworth's letter in this issue of *The Joyful Noise* and consider prayerfully how you are called to respond to the 2006 Bishop's Annual Appeal, which embraces both ECSF and funding for new ministries of service.

Enclosed are a gift/pledge card, return envelope, and brochure (which features Wooster's Viola Startzman Free Clinic as its centerfold!). If you have any questions or would like additional information, please talk to me or to Evelyn (we're both on the ECSF Development Council) or to Bishop Hollingsworth or Cheryl Joseph (Trinity Commons, 800-551-4815 in Ohio, or 216-771-4815), or go to the Diocese of Ohio's web site, [www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org).

## Brown Bag Concerts: 28th Season



May 4 Musica Felice with Special Guests Susan Shaw, flute, Thomas Shaw, organ and Andrew Trembath, violin

May 11 Wendy Barlow, harp and Bob Bellamy, hammered dulcimer

May 18 Stephen Brown, organ pops

Donations benefit Viola Startzman Free Clinic. Complimentary Coffee and Tea Provided.

## Letter from the Bishop: The Bishop's Appeal



Dear Friends

In these first eighteen months of serving as Bishop of Ohio I have recognized that the only regular vehicle for financial participation in the mission of the diocese, other than through parish pledging, is the Episcopal Community

*Bishop Hollingsworth* Services Foundation campaign. In order that we may together respond to the mission opportunities God puts before us, I am convinced that we need to broaden our opportunities to give.

To this end, I have worked with the Development Council of ECSF to create a new, broader annual campaign that will fund both ECSF's important work and provide financial resources for new mission initiatives. This work has resulted in the establishment of The Bishop's Annual Appeal.

As you know, Episcopal Community Services Foundation continues to be central to our common Christian witness in the Diocese of Ohio. The mission of ECSF is "to promote a reconciling Episcopal witness that encourages service, compassion, and liberation for 'the least of these.'" ECSF is able to award grants largely because of the annual fundraising appeal in our parishes. In 2005, because of your generosity, we collected over \$150,000. We were able to partner those campaign dollars with designated endowment dollars and award grants totaling \$400,000 to 70 area programs.

This year, in order to prepare ourselves for fresh and creative opportunities to minister and serve, I am asking Episcopalians in the diocese to join me in expanding both our vision and our participation. By giving generously to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, we can continue strong support for ECSF and, at the same time, initiate new ministries of service in our congregations, Diocese, and Communion – "maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." *Eph. 4:3*

To support your parochial efforts, the Office of Stewardship and Development will follow up by direct

communication with parishioners in the Diocese of Ohio at subsequent times during the year.

Our 2006 campaign goal is \$250,000, and we are hopeful that your parish can help us realize this goal. Donors will be given the option to specifically designate gifts to ECSF, and know that at least 50% of the total raised will support the efforts of ECSF.

If you have any questions, please give me a call or be in touch with Cheryl Joseph.

Gratefully,

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.  
Bishop of Ohio



If you or a family member is graduating from high school or college, you may e-mail a picture and information about your future plans to the editor at [astolat@sssnet.com](mailto:astolat@sssnet.com).

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### Joyful Noise articles

Don't forget: If you want to submit to the Joyful Noise, please send any materials by 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. E-mail is preferred, sent directly to [astolat@sssnet.com](mailto:astolat@sssnet.com) or via the church office via [saintjameswooster@earthlink.net](mailto:saintjameswooster@earthlink.net)

Times New Roman at 11 point is the standard font and size for the Noise, with Microsoft Word being the word processor of choice. Here's your chance to be read by all.

Oh, and the June edition will be the last one before we take a two-month summer break. After that, the next issue will be printed in September 2006 - deadline August 15th!

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## May Birthdays

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Barbara Sharp                       |  |
| 2 Barbara Brooks<br>Marcy Richard     |  |
| 3 Christine Anfang                    |  |
| 4 Cameron Maneese                     | 19 Jim Smart                               |
| Michael Richard                       | Susan Brooks                               |
| Jamey Smart                           | Campeon                                    |
| 5 Jessica Sanford                     | 22 Susan Figge                             |
| 6 David Grenert                       | 23 Betty Martin                            |
| 8 Janet Brayer                        | 24 Mary Lou Lathrop                        |
| 10 Peggy Hockett                      | 25 Roseanne Anfang                         |
| Michael Peterson                      | Tyler Kraker                               |
| 11 Lauren Grifo                       | 26 Mary Harriman                           |
| 12 John Zoller                        | 27 Louise Hamel                            |
| 17 Sarah McGinty<br>Crabtree          | 31 Jean Barnes                             |
| 18 Thomas Fitz Gibbon<br>MalloryEvans | Laila Dutton<br>Barbara Breeden<br>Schmenk |

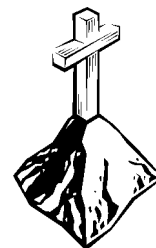


## May Anniversaries

- |       |                            |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 5/78  | Mark and Barbara Kraker    |
| 9/85  | Dwight and Molly Mathias   |
| 16/80 | John and Cathy Cook        |
| 18/96 | Brian and Susan Anderson   |
| 22/93 | Brad and Mary Burns        |
| 24/92 | John and Peggy Hockett     |
| 25/85 | Phil and Karin Harriman    |
| 27/67 | Damon and Mary Hickey      |
| 30/92 | Bill and Marilyn Blanchard |
|       | Peter and Jill Sanford     |

## In New Life

Stephanie Perrone, April 12, 2006.  
John McQuigg, April 16, 2006.



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.



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 black mailbox in front of the office is being used by the apartment upstairs for mail. Please **do not put items in there for the office.** You may use the mail slot or leave items between the doors to the right of the mailbox, but please let the office know.



Please note that **Nursery Care** will be provided in a new way this Spring. If you desire Nursery Care, a schedule of available providers will be sent to you. You can then call them when you plan to use the Nursery.



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 Velda Cross, altar guild directress, from *Com-Patt-ibles*, who sends a bill to the parishioner. If you have special instructions, please indicate it on the calendar or give Velda a call on (330) 345-1416. The flowers are yours to take after the 10:00 service

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 7  | Jim and Celia Smart in celebration of Jamey's birthday       |
| May 14 | Robert Davis in memory of his wife, Marilyn                  |
| May 21 | John and Peggy Hockett in celebration of their anniversary   |
| May 28 | Shirley Buytendyk in honor of her grandson Andrew's birthday |

The 2006 flower calendar is posted in the North Street entrance, if you would like to provide flowers for the Sunday services.

Garry Wills, *What Jesus Meant*. Viking, 2006.  
143 pages. \$24.95

I have been a fan of Garry Wills for decades, partly because I admire his versatility as a scholar and thinker. The first book of his I read was *Nixon Agonistes* (1970), a biography of the late president written before Watergate, in which Wills presented Nixon as a compulsively self-made man obsessed with proving himself over and over by repeatedly facing (if not creating) crises and triumphing over enemies. It was a brilliant book, and no other has explained Nixon's later actions better. But nothing he wrote prior to 1978 prepared the scholarly world for Wills's breathtaking *Inventing America*, a new look at Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence. Until then, most Americans viewed the Declaration through the lens of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, while most historians assumed John Locke was the primary source for Jefferson's ideas. Wills showed convincingly that Jefferson owed as much or more to the moral philosophers of the "Scottish Enlightenment," and that Lincoln's interpretation was not the same as Jefferson's.

Wills first made his mark as a conservative journalist with William F. Buckley's *National Review*. He drifted away from Buckley and the far right (a journey chronicled in *Confessions of a Conservative*, 1979, which he modeled on St. Augustine's *Confessions*), but few historians expected a "mere" journalist to write a groundbreaking work in American studies, especially since his academic training had been in the classics. Yet his classicism stood him in good stead when it came to the founders of the republic, who were steeped in classical images of republican Rome, which they hoped to recreate in America. George Washington, for example, consciously modeled himself on a legendary Roman consul who twice surrendered absolute dictatorial power in order to return to private life on his farm. *Cincinnatus* (1984), Wills's exploration of this theme in Washington's career, has influenced every subsequent biography of our first president.

Because of his historical scholarship, Wills was offered the chair in History and American Studies at Northwestern University, from which he retired a few years ago to speak and write full-time. He has written on the Constitution (1981), the Gettysburg Address (1992), several presidencies, and a host of other subjects. But his abiding interest has been in Christianity, especially Roman Catholic Christianity. A former Catholic seminarian, Wills wrote scathingly about American Catholicism in *Bare Ruined Choirs* (1972). In *Papal Sin* (2000) he alleged that the Vatican had turned a blind eye to the Holocaust. His charge generated so much anger against his supposed anti-Catholicism that he found it necessary to follow *Papal Sin* with *Why I Am a Catholic* (2002).

More recently Wills has written several books on St. Augustine, and most recently on the rosary (2005, reviewed in this column in March) and *What Jesus Meant* (2006)—the latter two suggested to him by his publisher. *What Jesus Meant* is a short book that is both conservative in its interpretation of the New Testament and radical in its understanding of Jesus and the church. Wills begins by dismissing the evangelical "What Would Jesus Do?" (WWJD) slogan, pointing out that much of what Jesus did was unique to him and who he was and cannot be repeated by anyone else. If one believes Jesus was indeed the only-begotten Son of God, one can hardly expect to do what he did.

Wills also dismisses the Jesus Seminar and its quest for the "historical" Jesus behind the Jesus of the gospels, likening it to Jefferson's attempt to excise from the gospels anything supernatural, thereby reducing Jesus to a moral philosopher.

According to Wills, the Seminar assumes that the Jesus of history was much less than the Jesus of the gospels, whereas, he says, the first Christians believed that Jesus was much more than they could ever express. (As evidence of the Seminar's trivialization of Jesus, Wills cites its leader Robert Funk's characterization of him as "the first Jewish stand-up comic.") The New Testament

(cont. next page)



## Scriptorium

writers viewed their words as inadequate expressions, not exaggerations, of who Jesus was and what he meant. Wills calls the Seminar the new fundamentalism, obsessed with the literal truth about Jesus at the expense of the much larger truth to which the New Testament writers point. For Wills, such an effort renders the early Christians' willingness to die for their faith in him utterly incomprehensible.

For Wills, "What Jesus Meant" is a lot more than what we think he meant. The book's title is a subtle play on words: what Jesus meant by what he taught, and what Jesus meant to the early church. Over and over, Wills shatters our expectations and familiar interpretations of Jesus, whose unpredictability and outrageousness we often overlook. Wills employs his expertise in classical languages to provide startlingly fresh readings of the gospel texts, which were written in a very unpolished, unliturgical, everyday Greek notable for its directness and energy. He denies that Jesus ever intended to found a priesthood, institute the mass as a sacrifice, establish a hierarchy, or gain political power. He re-presents the gospel story from Jesus' birth to his resurrection, as he taught his followers about "heaven's reign" and called them into "gatherings" (the literal translation of the Greek word usually rendered "churches") to carry on his risen life in the world by caring for those who are poor, hungry, thirsty, and naked, and by reconciling those who are alienated. "If Jesus opposed wealth and power, hierarchy and distinctions," says Wills, "he must have opposed their invariable instrument, violence. And of course he did. More than any other teacher of nonviolence—more than Thoreau, than Gandhi, than Dr. King—he was absolute and inclusive in what he forbade." In the face of Jesus' thoroughgoing radicalism, Wills says, "Tremendous ingenuity has been expended to compromise these uncompromising words. Jesus is too much for us. The churches' later treatment of the gospels is one long effort to rescue Jesus from his 'extremism.'"

Despite his extremism, why was Jesus executed by the Romans if he did not seek political power? Wills answers that Jesus was killed and his followers were persecuted precisely because he proclaimed his kingship—a kingship "not of this world" that the authorities could understand only in political terms. For Wills, all rulers are tempted to assume divine authority. Roman authority, for example, was supported by the cult of the "divine"

emperor. Whenever someone else claims divine authority, Wills says, rulers automatically assume he must be a political rival. White House prayer breakfasts, "faith-based politics," and outright emperor-worship, Wills would argue, are merely different ways of claiming divine authority for the kingdoms of this world. And any kingdom of this world that claims divine authority cannot comprehend or tolerate any other kind of kingship, even—especially—the kingship of Jesus.



### OUTREACH

Susan Figge and Janice Miller have been attending meetings of the recently organized group **Ecumenical Communities for a Compassionate Ohio** (ECCOHIO), a forum in which people of faith may share their views and raise their questions with area legislators. According to the ECCOHIO Mission statement the group's goal is "to develop mutually accountable relationships that promote public policies and legislation furthering social justice with regard to poverty, tax structures, health, housing, education and civil rights." ECCOHIO represents one way to articulate what Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold calls "a religious voice in the public square."

The group meets about once a month with Ohio legislators. Meetings focus on current legislative issues, identified by participants in the group and announced in advance. Discussions this winter and spring with Representative Ron Amstutz (R) have dealt with health care and the education budget. The last meeting, attended by Susan Figge and Janice Miller from St. James, brought together members of many different local churches, including First Presbyterian, Trinity UCC, St. Mary's, Unitarian Universalist, Mennonite, and Grace Brethren, among others. We spoke with Representative Jim Carmichael (R) about pending legislation on predatory mortgage lending practices, which have helped create especially high numbers of foreclosures in Ohio. Issues for future meetings will include raising the Ohio minimum wage and regulating pay-day lenders.

ECCOHIO meetings are open to anyone interested, and we invite members of St. James to attend meetings or to raise questions and issues of concern with us. We will announce upcoming meetings in the bulletin and post information about pending Ohio legislation on the bulletin board. The next meeting will be held Monday, June 5, time and place to be announced.

## Spring Capers

Spike Lee's **Inside Man** is a well crafted, clever, and highly entertaining heist film. You know the rules: we are meant to be kept guessing and putting the pieces together in different ways to make sense of it. The first shot is of the actor Clive Owen looking directly and steadily into the camera. "My name is Dalton Russell," he says. "Pay strict attention to what I say because I choose my words carefully and I never repeat myself." He puts the elements out in front of you, perhaps like a master of the old shell game. At the end of the film, contradicting his opener, he will repeat himself, and you may find yourself saying, "So that's what he meant! Now I see it."

Cut to the opening action: One morning a group of four people dressed as painters enter a Wall Street bank with a lot of equipment. So bored and businesslike do they appear that no one thinks to question them. With impassive efficiency one of them disables the bank's camera surveillance system with an infrared beam, then suddenly the doors are locked, everyone is forced to the floor, and the bank is taken over. Keys and cell phones are taken away, and everyone is forced into outfits that make them look just like the masked robbers.

Everything seems to have been thought out. The perfect bank robbery may have been planned. A smoke bomb is thrown whose only possible purpose seems to be to attract the attention of the police. Soon the place is surrounded and we are dealing with a hostage situation. Enter Detective Keith Frazier (Denzel Washington), the smartest, coolest head on the force, to negotiate the situation. An airliner is demanded for the bank robbers and all hostages. In the case of non-compliance, the robbers will start killing the hostages. And yet, curiously, the bank robbers seem in absolutely no hurry to have their conditions fulfilled.

Cut to the office of Arthur Case (Christopher Plummer), the founder and director of the bank, who is informed of the terrible situation. "Dear God," he says. He must be worried about all those innocent people in the bank. Maybe.

Cut to the office of Madeline White (Jodie Foster), a somewhat mysterious figure who seems to know everyone important, who can drop in unannounced on the mayor of New York and address him as upon equal terms, and who can fix any problem. Case calls on her for help and explains that he has a safety deposit box in the bank, the discovery of whose contents could cause him great difficulty.

If we were to go just by heist-flick rules and formulas, it would be hard to account for the satisfactions of this film. Many plot elements are predictable; indeed, it has been pointed out that the film is a remake of the 1990 film *Quick Change*, itself a reworking of the 1985 film *Hold-Up*. Most heist films are tautly constructed. So is this one for the most part, but when the initial situation has been set up, the pace slows way down. There is, for example, a red herring involving a foreign language overheard in the bank; amusing, but it does go on.

A number of reviewers have suggested that the Jodie Foster character could have been cut out altogether for all the good she does the plot. This is not their only objection.

Item: Why should the Clive Owen character, in the middle of the robbery, take time to be concerned about the violence depicted in a little boy's computer game? And why would he lecture Frazier on the inability of money to buy happiness?

Item: Neither the developing story nor the resolution involves the kind of violence and mayhem we might have anticipated. Have we been short-changed?

Item: All along we have those flash-forwards, in which Frazier and his partner Detective Bill Mitchell (Chiwetel Ejiofor) are interviewing the hostages after the fact, so that we know in advance that everything comes out all right, and there goes another piece of suspense.

But these objections can better be used as prompts to look further rather than excuses to fault the film. In fact they become essential points. It is, after all, directed by



# May 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 am Bible Study  Evelyn at area clergy meeting	3 7:30 am H.E. 6:00 pm GC2006 7:00 Choir	4 12:05 pm Brown Bag - Musica Felice	5	6 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Stewardship Development Workshop
7 UTO Ingathering 8:00 am H.E. 9:00 Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 H.E. 11:00 Coffee/ Grubby Sunday 5:00 H.E.	8	9 10:00 Bible Study	10 7:30 am H.E. 11:00 Book Group 6:00 pm GC2006 7:00 Choir	11 12:05 pm Brown Bag - Wendy Barlow and Bob Bellamy	12	13 9:00-12:00 am Regional GC 2006, Mansfield
14 8:00 am H.E. 9:00 Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 H.E. 11:00 Coffee	15 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting  <i>JN Deadline</i>	16 10:00 am Bible Study	17 7:30 am H.E. 6:00 pm GC 2006 7:00 Choir	18 12:05 pm Brown Bag - Steve Brown, Organ 4:00 Evelyn at meeting, Cleveland	19	20
21 People to People 8:00 am H.E. 9:00 Choir 10:00 H.E. 11:00 Coffee 5:00 pm H.E.	22	23 10:00 am Bible Study	24 7:30 am H.E. 11:00 Book Group 12:00 Evelyn at clergy day	25  Evelyn at Fresh Start	26	27
28 8:00 am H.E. 9:00 Choir 10:00 H.E. 11:00 Coffee	29 MEMORIAL DAY Office closed	30 10:00 am Bible Study	31 7:30 am H.E.			

Remember, you can check the St. James' website for calendar information and updates. Just go to <http://www.stjameswooster.org>.



## The Editor's Bit

Those of you who might at some time in the future find themselves wanting to be squeezed into a large metal tube and moved, at speed, to Chicago, may want to keep in mind the following code: D28.

If you book a flight from Cleveland to Chicago's Midway airport on Continental (Work Hard; Fly Tight) check your ticket to see if the

combination D28 appears hidden away next to the word Gate. If you see it, make sure to wear your walking boots, pack some sandwiches, and leave instructions for your next of kin in case you should go missing.

It seems that one of the ways that airlines are able to cut prices on some routes is by making you walk about half the way to your destination. In the case of D28, this gate appears to be somewhere in the region of 27 miles away from the check-in desk. The time it takes to get from entering Cleveland-Hopkins to boarding the plane at D28 is about the same as the actual flight from Cleveland to Chicago. And at least on the flight you can sit down, read a book, drink some coffee, and pretend you're on a roller coaster when you hit severe turbulence.

To make matters more interesting, gate D28 seems to be the boarding point for multiple destinations. Last week, there were no less than three – yes, three – planes boarding at the same time. As I walked down the stairs to the exit to the tarmac, there was a large whiteboard with the words “Midway – brown, O'Hare – red, Philly – blue.” And by the sign were three doors. Choose wisely, young seeker-after-knowledge!

There is, of course, no explanation of the words. I thought at first it might be the color of the airplane, but that turned out to be spectacularly wrong. In fact, all the planes were the same color, shape, and size.

Neither were the attendants wearing colored hats, colored uniforms, or holding large balloons. And bear I mind that I only had seconds to try to work out the code before needing to choose a door.

Give in? Well, so did I. In a typically un-manly move, I actually asked for directions. “Left door, sir.” Humiliated, I took the left and proceeded to the plane. It was only

when I reached the steps and looked down that I saw a vague, faded stripe of brown. Glancing back, I noticed the brown stripe running from the door to the plane. Midway – brown.

Sometimes, even the simple things in life seem hard.

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## Speaking of Movies

(from p.9)

Spike Lee, who, if he is turning his hand to this genre for the first time, is surely going to put his own stamp on it.

Unlike most caper flicks, this film takes real pleasure in its closely observed characters – not only the superbly performed leads, but also the whole ethnic mix celebrated in Lee's depiction of New York City. There is anger at obvious and not-so-obvious racism. Frazier calls a police officer to account for a casual racial slur but quickly moves on to the matter they are both dealing with. His great moments in this area are reserved for his final exchanges with the aptly named Madeline White. The script by Russell Gewirtz is often also deliciously playful and witty, as when a turbaned Sikh hostage, an employee of the bank, angrily complains about his rough treatment by the police, who take him for a possible Arab terrorist. Indeed, he says, this is how he is treated wherever he goes. Frazier wickedly cuts into the rant, “But you can always get a cab, right?” And the man tops him: “It's one of the perks.”

The main characters are in themselves interesting, and the script develops different levels at which they interact. It is the human dimensions worked into a formulaic story that sustain a lingering delight in the film. They also prompt us to look beyond stereotypes. Surfaces are deceiving – often intentionally so – and the real terror may be smiling benignly. Watch closely: Spike Lee's film is not the cave-in to the Hollywood entertainment mill that some have claimed.

Paul McGuigan's **Lucky Number Slevin**, on the other hand, is an over-the-top exercise in cleverness for its own sake. In a case of mistaken identity, a young man (Josh Hartnett) finds himself caught between two gangs whose leaders are deadly enemies, each seeking to use Slevin to destroy the other. The plot is elaborately complicated, unlikely, and might not be worth the effort of following to the whopping revelations at the end were it not for the deft performances of Morgan Freeman, against type, as The Boss and Ben Kingsley as Shlomo, aka The Rabbi.

The Episcopal Church



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## What's Happening at St. James

- 3rd May**                      **GC2006: The Polity of the Episcopal Church, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**
- 6th May**                      **Stewardship Development Workshop, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**
- 10th May**                     **GC2006: Truth, Justice, and the Anglican Way, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**
- 13th May**                     **Regional GC2006, Grace Church, Mansfield, 9:00 am to noon.**
- 17th May**                     **GC2006: GC2006, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**
- 29th May**                     **MEMORIAL DAY**

May, 2006

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28	29	30	31			

June, 2006

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