

The Bell of Zion

July, 2009

The Rev. Mark Stielger
Rector
585-226-3722

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8th Bishop of Rochester
585-473-2977

Rector's Corner

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As many of you know, a prospective tenant for our rectory and I rescued a baby duck as he (or she) dashed across the Zion lawn headed for routes 5 and 20. I took the little tyke home to give him some sort of lease on life. Because we cannot tell the sex of this little bird I will call him a he for the sake of this writing. He was very small, approximately the size of a baby chicken. Not being poultry people, we could only guess at his age, we guess him to be about a week old. Boy were we wrong; but, more about that in a minute.

Shirley and I first put him in a guinea pig cage but he quickly squeezed out between the bars that were spaced three-quarters of an inch apart. We discovered again how fast he was as he ran around the living room waving his little wings. We caught him again. Next we put him in a birdcage and this worked well. Getting water to him was no problem, we used Stuart's water fountain that we take on trips when we take Stuart. Food was another problem. This involved a trip to Tractor Supply and the purchase of a twenty-five pound bag of chick and baby duck feed. (Boy, I hope this guy stays around for a while.)

All seemed to be going well except he thrashed about in the cage trying to get out. He became so violent at this he caused his beak to bleed. All was going well that is, until we went to church. When we came home the cage was empty! Shirley and I looked everywhere for this no name baby duck for an hour. I then went to the hospital to visit a couple of people and Shirley continued the search for another two hours. Stuart finally found him – behind the grandfather clock. The duck now got his name – Houdini!

By Monday afternoon Houdini looked bedraggled and depressed. We came up with the idea of getting a companion for him. With a little bit of research we found someone who had two-week-old Mallard ducks (same breed as Houdini)

and we purchased one of them. This is where we found that we knew little about determining the age of baby ducks. The two-week-old duck was at least four times the size of Houdini. In other words, Houdini was probably less than a day old, certainly no more than two days old when we found him. This age difference has work well though. The older duck has been teaching Houdini how to be a duck, how to eat, how to drink, and how to stay warm. He has also turned out to be a protector for Houdini, herding him into a corner and standing in front of him when we reach into the box in which we keep them. We have named the older duck "The Professor" because he has become a great teacher.

The wonderful thing that Houdini and the Professor have brought us is seeing that love and need for a loving relationship is a life giving and transforming occurrence. When we first put Houdini and the Professor together, Houdini quite literally jumped for joy. He jumped up and down waving his little wings, peeping as loud as he could, and rubbing his head all over the Professor. He even draped his neck over the Professor's neck when the Professor was lying down. After an initial knock on the head with his beak, the Professor took on the roll of caring for, teaching, and protecting his new little follower.

The story of Houdini and the Professor cannot help but remind one of our relationship with God through Christ. St. John in his first letter says in chapter four, verses seven and eight, "... everyone who loves is born of God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love." Houdini and the Professor through their actions were born of God and set an example as best as a baby duck can of what God wants for God's creation. When we see little critters such as them interacting, we know that **God Is Love**.

Celebrating God's Love and Peace,
Fr. Mark+

Attic Days

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make our Avon Attic Days yard sale a success! Because of your efforts we were able to make \$577.60 for the church general fund, as well as benefit the community by providing clean, useful household goods at reasonable prices. We would not have been able to do this without all of you who helped donate items, sort and price, set up, sell and take down. It was truly a group effort. Thank you all for your support.

If you have an idea for a parish fund raiser, please speak to any member of the Vestry.

Kathy Maltby

UTO

The **United Thank Offering** is important in our lives as Christians. First of all, it reminds us that everything we have comes from **God**. Secondly, we need to thank **God** every day for **His** many blessings. And finally, as we thank **God** for **His** blessings each day, the coins we contribute are used to further **God**'s work in the world.

There is UTO information on the table in the Vestibule. Please help yourself to any of it. Take a UTO Box home with you and see how your prayers of thanks can add up by October for the Fall Ingathering

Jean Fisher

UTO Chairman

Farmers Market

We had a very successful opening for the first **Avon Market Day** on Wednesday, July 1, 2009. Many people came to help, and even in the pouring rain, and between storms, we raised \$97.75 for Zion's general fund. Paul Tilly has found his true calling in life as a hot dog griller and peddler.

Thanks Paul!

It was a good start, and now we need to improve on it by having more participation. Please consider becoming an "exempt" baker so we can have more baked goods to sell. If you need information on this, please see me.

Thankfully,

Josie Buckley

If you are a crafter, consider a donation. We can use anything but living plants. The more we have, the more we can raise for Zion

Happy July Birthdays

5th Lorri Jo Turner
8th Jean Fisher
13th Elizabeth Benham
17th Sandy Walker
23rd Barb Cushing
28th Amy Leonard

Happy August Birthdays

9th Grace Leonard
13th Linda Zobel
18th Susan Feller
22nd Pat Sapienza

Happy July Anniversaries

12th Norm & Marcia Barrett
13th Doug & Jane Phillips

Happy August Birthdays

5th Dennis & Brenda Mack
10th Bob & Jean Fisher
14th Don & Kathryn Denham
24th Bob & Sandy Walker
26th John & Sarah Gaehring
30th Charles & Amy Leonard

Summer Stuff

Please remember to pay your pledges. Although we are on vacation, church bills do not stop during the summer months.

The next quarterly meeting will be held July 26 after the regular Eucharist service.

I am taking a small vacation from this responsibility. The next ***Bell of Zion*** will be published near the end of August.

Let us hope that September will bring renewed vigor for Zion Church. We will have our annual **Lasagna Dinner**, our biggest fundraiser, and all regular church activities will get new life.

Bob