

# The Bell of Zion

June, 2009

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## Rector's Corner

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

### Waiting for the Second Shoe to Drop

Today we seem to live in a lot of tension. Then again, living in tension is nothing new to the human experience. How would you like to live at a time when you constantly had to look over your shoulder to see if the Huns were coming over the hill to rape the women and pillage your village? That is what we can classify as real tension.

Some of the tensions we face today are: job – no job, retirement – no retirement, war – peace, enough funds to operate the church – no funds to operate the church, the list can go on and on. Tensions can be great or they can be small. They can be as great as just described or as minor as, do I eat that brownie or do I say, “Well, just one more will not hurt.”

I am sure that I am centered on tensions today because, as I write this, I am waiting for a Fed Ex delivery that I know has a letter from the Veteran's Administration regarding our grant application. It is like waiting for the second shoe to drop – I know a notification is on the way but, do we get the grant or not? Tension – tension – tension. The irony of the situation is that if we are notified that we are to receive a grant, we will have to make a second submission to the VA with our financial plan fully explained; another shoe to drop – more tension.

Maybe living in tension is part of God's plan. Within our Christian faith we are theologically asked to constantly live in tension, the tension between the *Jesus of the now*, the Jesus in our life today, and the *Jesus yet to come*, the Jesus of the reward of salvation. We are also asked to live in the tension of yesterday, Jesus' incarnation and ministry, and the Jesus of today.

Tension of this type really is not any different than the every day tension in our lives. Our lives consist of the past, the present, and the future. A well balanced life, whether it is our

spiritual life or daily living, depends on the proper tension we experience between these three aspects. If we live in the past, for better or worse (good memories or bad), and ignore the present and future, the tension can overwhelm us. If we live in the future, for better or worse (hope or dread), the same can happen. Further, if we live only in the present, without learning from the past and with no hope for the future, we will have a shallow existence, albeit tension free.

Tension is good as long as it is kept in balance. When thinking about tension, think about a suspension bridge. A suspension bridge is built on tension, the tension of the supporting cables going from pier to pier along with the bridge deck holding the piers apart. All is in proper balance or it does not work. Jesus gives us a model of this tension and balance in his life and example of past – present – future. We find the way in his Good News as given in the past. We live the way in his Holy Spirit of the present. We look forward with great hope in what is to come in the future. Might this not be the way to live in all aspects of our lives?

Good news, the Fed Ex delivery just arrived. My tension (anxiety) has been relieved. The letter is good news. We have been awarded \$ 96,015 to remodel the rectory and we have been awarded a *per diem* for each veteran we house. As expected, award is made conditionally pending the submission of our Second Submission, mostly affirmations of our financial commitments, and a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the VA. If this all goes through, and we expect no problems, the final award will be given in October. More information will be given to you at our quarterly meeting.

(Let's see now, my only concern with this notification is that pesky word *conditionally* – here we go again with the tension! Well, all I have to do is remember the words Jesus used as he appeared to his disciples after the Resurrection and while

they were wondering about their future – “Fear not, God’s Peace be with you.”)

Peace and Blessings,  
*Fr. Mark†*

### ***Attic Days***

(Tune: Burger King)

“Check your attic, check your cellar  
Then call Kathy up and tell her  
that you’ve got some stuff to donate  
to the yard sale...

Zion’s Yard Sale on June the 6th,  
(part of Attic Days) It’s coming up quick!”

Zion will once again take part in

Avon Attic Days,

holding a yard sale on our lawn,

Saturday June 6th.

Clean, usable household items  
are needed.

***We are unable to accept computer equipment,  
Televisions, or clothing.***

Please mark your things “Attic Days,”  
leave them upstairs in room 14  
of the education wing,  
or call me, and I will pick them up.

Volunteers are needed to help sort and price items,  
as well as set up and work the day of the sale.

If everyone pitches in, even a little bit,  
we can make this event a real success.

If you have any questions please call  
Kathy Maltby at 475-9017.

Thank you.

***Kathy Maltby***

### ***Acolyte Recognition Sunday Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>***

Our Acolytes are a treasure for Zion. Their service each Sunday throughout the year adds so much to our worship. A very warm thank you is extended to all acolytes, especially our **graduating high school seniors** who have been so faithful to us for so many years.

Jean Batzing

Susan Feller

Michael Meath

Jeff Phillips

Mike Davis

**Leslie Mack (Sr.)**

Doris Milton

**Matt Phillips (Sr.)**

Kathryn Riedener  
Pat Sapienza

Samantha Riedener

### ***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.

This year’s Spring Ingathering total was \$192.50. Thank you for your contribution to Mission. I know that we at Zion thank **God** each day for all **He** has given us. However, many of us do not utilize the UTO Box as we thank **God**. This could be because we thank **God** as we go about our busy schedules, and we don’t carry our UTO Boxes with us.

It might be useful to incorporate the UTO into our evening devotions. As we relax with **God** in the evening and think about our day, we can say, “Thank You,” and drop a coin into the UTO Box. Dropping a nickel into the UTO Box each day adds up to \$18.00 in a year, and the coins we give are added to the coins from other parishes to carry our **God**’s Mission and reflect **His** love.

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

### ***Graduations***

Three valuable members of Zion will graduate from Avon Central School and move on to college this year: Lesley Mack, Matt Phillips, and Matt Turner. They have all served as Acolytes and will be missed at Zion

All three have been academically successful, being on Honor Roll and in Honor Society.

**Lesley** has been active in both band and chorus and has participated in the various musical productions (can we forget her roll on our own *Godspell?*) and was on the Soccer team.

Outside school she has been active in 4H, raising rabbits and showing both rabbits and goats.

She will attend **Nazareth College**, studying Physical Therapy.

**Matt Phillips** is perhaps best known for his roll in ACS's successful basketball team which won all but one game in the last two years, becoming the **New York State Class CC Champions** this year. He is also a member of the baseball team.

Matt has participated in the **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Peer Mentoring** and the **Mini Hoops** programs.

He will attend **Cazenovia College**, studying Sports Management and Journalism.

**Matt Turner** has been Class President for 4 years and has been on Student Council for 3, being Vice-president this year. He has volunteered in the **Muscular Dystrophy** department at Strong Hospital and **Habitat for Humanity**.

He will attend **St. John Fisher College**, studying Biology and Secondary Education.

### ***Circle Nursery School***

Well, another school year has come to an end! It is great to watch these kids grow throughout the year.

The 2 day class finished with Nursery Rhymes. They studied the authors Eric Carle and Leo Lionni. They took the annual trip to Tillys' garden on Oak Street. The trains are always a big hit.

The children have again lined the hall with their art work, and the three day class saw their butterflies off. They have finished the last few letters of the alphabet as well as reviewing numbers. The 2 day and 3 day classes finish the year off with a picnic.

The trip to the Avon Primary School was a great experience for the children; what a great opportunity for them to see their new school!

Graduation will be held on Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>. Good luck to the 3 day class. We have enjoyed you at Circle.

We look forward to seeing the 2 day children next fall.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Shannon DiFranco*

### ***Great Western Bean Pot***

1 package (1 pound) dried Navy or Great Northern beans, or Black Eye peas  
8 Cups water  
1 large onion, chopped  
1 clove garlic, minced  
peppercorns to taste  
2 teaspoons salt  
2 bay leaves  
1 pound Polish Kielbasa or frankfurters  
cut into ½ inch pieces  
½ cup catsup  
¼ cup firmly packed brown sugar  
¼ cup prepared mustard  
Tabasco sauce to taste

1. Pick over the beans and rinse under running water. Combine the beans and water in a large kettle. Bring to a boil; cover & boil 2 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand for 1 hour.
2. Return kettle to heat; bring to a boil. Add onion, garlic, peppercorns, salt, & bay leaves. Lower heat; simmer 'til the beans are tender (approx. 45 min.)
3. Add Kielbasa, catsup, brown sugar, & mustard; stir until well blended. Simmer ½ hour longer, or until beans are very tender.

### ***Happy Eating***

#### ***Happy June Birthdays***

1 <sup>st</sup>	Wil Trewer
4 <sup>th</sup>	Charlie Leonard
10 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Turner
15 <sup>th</sup>	Jerry Rowe
16 <sup>th</sup>	Tobie Smith
19 <sup>th</sup>	Wanda Rowe
20 <sup>th</sup>	Rick Williams
24 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Milton
25 <sup>th</sup>	John P. Gaehring
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Lou Miller

#### ***Happy June Anniversaries***

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wil & Renee Trewer
9 <sup>th</sup>	Dave & Rebecca Sharman
29 <sup>th</sup>	Ralph & Betty Frisch