

The Bell of Zion

March, 2009

The Rev. Mark Stielger
Rector
585-226-3722

The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh
8th Bishop of Rochester
473-2977

Rector's Corner

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This month we will be submitting our grant application for Zion House to the Veterans Administration. This will be our third submission and we pray our last. As we approach the submission of our application and because we have made a great deal of progress in our Zion House mission over the last year, and I thought it appropriate to give you an up date on our development.

Because of the importance of the VA Grant/Per Diem program and the money involved (\$15 million this year) the VA contracted with a training company to offer training on how to successfully write this grant proposal. John Gaehring, Sharon Walburn (a member of our Zion House Board) and I attended a two day training seminar in Buffalo for this purpose. We learned a great deal and have brought this information back to our grant writing. One of the things that we learned is that our history of being turned down twice is not unusual. In fact the first application is virtually guaranteed to be rejected. As a result of our education, much of the grant has been re-written or polished up. Those giving the seminar read our last grant and said that it was good. They also volunteered to review our 2009 grant application and give us any hints necessary for success. This does not guarantee a success, but no one has been turned down who has had such a review. We are in the process of getting a draft to this agency.

The Vestry has approved the Policies and Procedures for Zion House and the Management Structure. Also, the Vestry has approved the Governing Board and Financial Officers. They are: (I include military affiliation so you know we have experience with veterans) From Zion – Sandy Walker, Donna Sullivan, Mike Davis (Sgt. National Guard); From the American Legion – Kurt Zobel (CDR. USNR, Ret.) Marjory Martin

(US Army Vet.), Clare Russell (Legion Aux.); from the community at large – Sharon Walburn (Lt. Col. USAR, Ret.), Cheryl Hilton-Vadner (M. Sgt. USAR), Dr. Robert Hayes (MD). Financial Officers are: Treasurer – Paul Tilly (Zion & US Army Vet), Financial Secretary – Tom Ippolito (Legion & US Navy Vet). We have also appointed our program staff pending receipt of the grant. They are: John Gaehring, Chair; Elaine Chichester, Liv. Co. Mental Health Assoc. (Case Management – paid 10 hrs/ week); David Chichester, Independent Consultant (Case Management, Substance & Job Counseling – paid 10 hrs/week); Turi Gilbert, Independent Consultant (Conflict Management –volunteer 2 hrs/week). All have master degrees and are experienced social workers with more than thirty years of experience each.

We have also had many volunteers of time and goods. For example, the Blue Star Mothers have offered all the linen for Zion House as well as a large TV and furnishings. Another organization has offered all the silverware. Ann Bahrenburg, a licensed beautician, has volunteered to give our veterans classes in grooming for a job application. Others have volunteered clothing and the like. Once we get up and running there will be a lot of volunteer jobs and chances for good ministry.

In so far as the capital improvement part of our grant application is concerned, it will cost approximately \$150,000 to \$160,000 in improvements to the house to meet VA requirements. Of this amount, we must contribute one-third of the money to qualify for the grant. Our one-third responsibility is approximately \$60,000. We may supply this in dollars or in-kind volunteer labor and materials. I am pleased to report that we have already reached this goal. We have collected over \$20,000 in cash and pledges, and we know more is on the way. Further, the 7th District of the Sons of the American Legion has pledged to donate 1,500 hours of skilled and

unskilled labor with our contractor. At the VA allowable rate of \$15/hour this equals \$22,500. One of the Sons of the Legion, a licensed sprinkler system installer, has also donated all the labor to install the sprinkler system, our single largest expense. The worth of this donation is approximately \$25,000. And our contractor has donated a steel fire escape worth \$2,500. All of these donations equal \$70,000, well more than what we need for our leverage. This means that money and pledges that come in from this point on can be designated for the operation of Zion House. (Some have already pledged this on a continual basis.)

In addition to these donations we have received wonderful support from the Village, Town and County. The County Department of Work Force Development is considering, and putting together, a Memorandum of Understanding between Zion House and Livingston County. The purpose of this agreement is to show a partnership between the county and Zion House in making job search for our veterans, training for such, and vocational training where appropriate, easily available to our veterans. Also, The College of Nursing at Nazareth is assisting with a portion of the proceeds for a seminar they are having in April.

As you can see many people and organizations are donating support for Zion House in time, treasure, and talent. We thank them for their support and we especially thank God for this opportunity for mission and ministry. In Matthew 25, Jesus calls us to a ministry of feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, welcoming strangers, and visitation to the sick and those in prison. If we consider prison as the prison of homelessness, and the welcoming of strangers as a place to live, Zion House has headed us in the right direction in meeting the criteria of this call. Jesus further says, *“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”* This says it all.

Peace and Blessings,
Fr. Mark†

Zion Lenten & Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 5th:

Holy Eucharist & Palms 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 9th:

Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 10th:

Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.

(There will be a basket at the back of the church for a freewill offering that will go to the Diocese of Jerusalem.)

Easter Day, April 12th:

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Lenten Study:

On Thursday evenings from March 5th thru April 2nd, there will be a Lenten Study beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Haak Room. Holy Eucharist will follow at 8:00 in the chapel. The study will center around the sermon of the week as selected by our National Church Office.

Tuesday Ecumenical Lenten Luncheons:

Please see the bulletin boards for information

Faithful in little things

The vestry wants your creative ideas on ways we can increase our income at Zion, as well as ways to cut costs. Please submit your ideas to any vestry member.

A couple things we can all do is remember to **TURN OFF LIGHTS** when leaving a room (rest rooms are frequently forgotten) as well as **SETTING BACK THE THERMOSTAT** to 60 degrees if you turned it up. If we all cooperate, this can result in a tremendous savings.

Thank you.

Kathy Maltby

Women of Zion

The Spring Rummage Sale in the Dining Room will begin in the morning of March 6th and end at noon on the 7th. Set up will begin at 9:30 am, Thursday, the 5th.

The February “Blanket Sale” was a success, raising about \$350. The funds will go to Episcopal Relief and Development this year.

Zion's turn to host the Lenten Luncheon will be Tuesday, March 10. All contributions to offset the cost and workers (both men and women) are always greatly appreciated.

UTO

Remember to continue giving daily thanks to God using our "blue boxes".

Our thank offerings, along with those of the other parishes, will be used to do God's work throughout the world. Let us remember, "All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine Own have we given Thee.

Circle Nursery School

The preschool kids have not felt any winter blues. The teachers have been keeping them busy with learning and classroom parties. Both classes had their winter carnivals and Valentine's parties. The 4 year olds did a great job with writing out their names on the valentine's.

Julie is due back from maternity leave March 2nd. She has done a great job in making sure that she stays in touch with the kids and has brought her daughter in on several occasions.

Karyl has done an excellent job and has continued to work closely with the kids. Thank you to the substitute teachers who have also done a great job with the students. The teachers made everything a nice transition and the children received it all very well. SUNY Geneseo people have been in for the 3-day class and have screened the students that were signed up for speech evaluations. They will work with the 2 day class in the following weeks.

Registration for the new school year began on January 25th. This year, *Circle* is signed up to offer information at the preschool fair held at HFL. Please share any information about *Circle* with family and friends. We feel that we have a **great** program to offer that really helps prepare children for Kindergarten.

Shannon DiFranco

Food Pantry

The *Food Pantry* is alive and well and very busy. The call for aid increased from 25 households and 50 people in January 2008 to 25 households and 70 people in January 2009. Fortunately, food supplies at the *Pantry* remain stable at this time.

Due to the shortage of volunteers for the Thanksgiving and Christmas packings, we would

appreciate each church ask **at least** two (2) persons to volunteer for the Easter basket packing.

Easter baskets will be prepared at Central Presbyterian Church. The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, March 31st

rearrange tables following the Lenten Luncheon;
many hands make light work!

Wednesday, April 1st 9:00 A.m.

Groceries will arrive from TOPS Market and placed on tables. Boxes will be labeled and numbered. Boxes for diabetics will be packed.

Thursday, April 2nd, 9:00 A.M.

All remaining boxes will be packed.

Saturday, April 4th

7:00 A.M. Meat will arrive from TOPS.

8:30 A.M. Drivers arrive and deliveries begin.

Persons who wish to deliver baskets should contact Barb Cole at 226-3444.

Beat the Blahs

We received the following from Patty Chapman, Recreation Manager of Episcopal SeniorLife Communities as Brentland Woods:

Here are a few ideas to Spring in the fun and be healthy too:

1. *Drink one or two glasses of red wine a day (red wine has antioxidants.)*
2. *Eat dark chocolate (higher than 65% cocoa helps lower blood pressure and cholesterol.)*
3. *Smile (counteracts stress.)*
4. *Physical exercise (moving helps with energy levels.)*
5. *Get plenty of sleep (7-9 hours a night.)*
6. *Exercise your brain (puzzles, read, etc.)*
7. *Spend time with loved ones (protects against loneliness and depression.)*
8. *Relax (relaxation helps your body rest, heal, and function better.)*
9. *Pet an animal (this can be soothing.)*
10. *Be positive (Having a positive attitude can add more than seven years to your life.)*

Happy March Birthdays

3 rd	Christopher Williams
5 th	Emma Dunham
7 th	Kurt Zobel
17 th	John F. Gaehring
21 st	Kathryn Riedener
22 nd	David Sharman