

The Bell of Zion

May, 2009

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Rector's Corner

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Recently I have read two excellent short articles. The first was Pastor Dan Jones' (Avon Wesleyan Church) letter to the editor in the Sunday, April 26, issue of the Democrat and Chronicle. The second was an article titled *Creating the New Economy* in the latest "Trinity News" from Trinity Church Wall Street. This was written by the rector of that parish, The Rev. Dr. James H. Cooper.

In his letter to the Democrat and Chronicle, Pastor Jones, spoke about the conflict younger generations profess between spirituality and religion. Pastor Jones stated that many younger people claim to be spiritual, and have a need as such, yet they turn their backs on organized religion. His conclusion was that we, as church, need to meet people where they are and not attempt to mold them into what older generations might expect. I agree with all he had to say.

In his article *Creating the New Economy*, Dr. Cooper started by stating that we have traditionally looked at Jesus' act of cleansing the temple as a violent act against the establishment. Dr. Cooper suggested that instead of just a violent act, Jesus, may have been establishing a new way of doing things. Through his actions Jesus was throwing out the old and establishing a new *economy*, an economy that did not require religious dogma, money changers, and the like in order to establish a relationship with God.

Both of these articles about new thought and new beginnings reminded me of a phrase that I heard for the first time in seminary. That expression was the *economy of God*, or the work of God. I was aware of the works of God, those already done, all one has to do is look around and you will see it all over the place. But God having an economy – or God in the process of working – was a twist I had not thought much about.

During the Easter season, which goes until May 31, we celebrate the economy of God, the working of God, for the purpose of our salvation through the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. On May 31, the Day of Pentecost, we receive the Holy Spirit. With the receiving of the Holy Spirit, we are call to continue God's economy in the world around us.

We know that the world is changing around us. We are being challenged by the changes of global warming, war, and the economy. We are also being challenged by changes in institutions that are part of our fabric – education, how we make a living, family and marriage, and the church. And we are being forced to consider and live with the views of others that may be very different than ours.

The world and the economy of God is always in a state of change; however, the changes seem to be acute right now. As we face all these changes in the world, as we see the money changers' tables being turned upside down (maybe with some of our money on them), as we hear others admit to a need for God yet they reject our established practices (ones close to our hearts) or reach to God in a different manner, as we see destructive forces at work in the world; we have to ask ourselves, how does our economy compare to the *Economy of God* and how do we live out the answer?

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

Fabulous Ham Dinner 2009

The dinner is over. The dishes are all cleaned
and put away. The dinning room and kitchen are
quiet. The good smells of our Fabulous Ham
Dinner have long since left the building. Once
again we have accomplished the alchemists' dream
of converting base elements into gold. We have
made the difficult look easy.

Whatever your contribution we want to thank
you all one more time.

Doris and Ed

Spring

***UTO Ingathering
Sunday, May 17***

***Come with your "coins"
And say, "Thank You,"
To God.***

If you will be away on May 17th, you can bring
your UTO offering to Zion *before* or *after* the
Ingathering. If you wish to convert your "coins" or
"Greenbacks" into check form, make it out to Zion
and write UTO on the Memo line.

Remember: Thanks be to God!

Acolyte Recognition Sunday Sunday, June 7th

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

Kathryn Riedener

Pat Sapienza

Mike Davis

Leslie Mack (Sr.)

Doris Milton

Matt Phillips (Sr.)

Samantha Riedener

Graduations

The following young men and women of Zion will
graduate from college during May. We
congratulate them and their parents and wish them
all "God Speed" as they enter the next phase of
their lives.

Amelia Feller from Hartwick College
in Nursing

John Gaehring from Hartwick College
in Biological Chemistry

Grace Leonard from Cornell University
in Chemical Engineering

Emily Turner from the College at Brockport
in Biology

Circle Nursery School

The 2008-2009 school year is fast approaching
the end. What an exciting, but sad time, for the
graduating class. The teachers have planned for the
graduating preschoolers to take a bus ride to Avon
Primary School and tour their new school.

**A Graduation ceremony will be held the first
weekend of June.**

In the mean time they have been busy with fun
and creative art work, Mother's Day projects, and
learning about butterflies. They have cocoons in
the class room and will watch those come to life.
They have also been able to plant sunflower seeds
and watch them grow. Both classes have tied their
alphabet into the projects they are working on.

They have been reading many books and have
been working on rhyming. The book fair was very

successful, and we were able to add to our collection. The children are working on their own creative art piece as a fundraiser where families can purchase their own child's work on note pads etc. Mrs. Shutt has met with and sent progress reports out to all parents. The Easter pasties were very exciting. The teachers are continuing to work hard with the students and are excited about next year's numbers too.

Respectfully submitted by:
Shannon DiFranco

Why do we go to church?

I have always gone to church, be it Sunday Feast Days or Midnight Mass. I leave feeling comforted and refreshed.

I go to church because of the congregation, the people: some of whom are my friends, with nearly all of whom I feel comfortable.

With these church people I sense a group who, like I, strive to help others no matter who or where they may be.

They are people who see Jesus as a loving father who gives us a life of many choices and chances. This is a group to which I want to belong.

I go to church because I love to sing, and singing is my way to praise God.

Church attendance appears to be not what it used to be. We sit in meetings and worry about why there are not more attendees. This is a real concern because it reflects on the whole health of the body, and not just in the financial aspect.

Perhaps we approach this "problem" from the wrong direction. Perhaps we should begin by asking why one does go to church.

I received this unsolicited piece from a person who shall remain anonymous (not me,) and I solicit such thoughts from others for future *Bell* publications.

Bob

Happenings

There are a number of gatherings of Zionites that enhance life at Zion.

The **Adult Education Class** meets most Sundays at 9:00, before the 10:00 service. **Mike Meath** has collected information about "The Burnt Over District", an area pretty much following the course of the Erie Canal through central New York State. During the early part of the 19th Century, a time of great political upheaval in our country, many political and social movements began. The Shakers, Mormons, Spiritualists, and many lesser know and lived sects came to life. We've had lots of interesting conversations about the histories and practices of these groups.

A small group have gathered for breakfast on Saturday mornings at the Countryside Diner, the old Dutch Hollow Restaurant. Participants simply have coffee or a meal and share a few laughs.

On the first Monday evening of each month about 7:00 some Zionites and some from other traditions have gathered at the **Pasteria** in Lima. Convened by **Jason McKinney**, this gathering's purpose is to share thoughts on many topics, sometimes religious, sometimes purely secular. This mixed group, male & female, conservative & liberal, with participants from two full generations have lively conversations.

These small gatherings, to which all are welcome, add to the lives of the participants and "grow" the culture of Zion Church.

Happy May Birthdays

1 st	Betty Lou Tilly
12 th	Alyson Kluth
15 th	Kurt Zobel
18 th	Marcia Barrett
25 th	Bob Fisher
26 th	Ed Milton
30 th	JoAnn Boyce
31 st	Jake Dziekonski

Happy May Anniversaries

8 th	Charles and Susan Feller
24 th	Jim and Mary Lou Miller
26 th	Mark and Kathryn Riedener