

# The Stone's Throw

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## THE RECTOR'S FOCUS ON...

### SAINTS, SINNERS and SEEKERS

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. [Hebrews 12:1-2]

Dear Friends,

Sunday, November 1, is All Saints' Day. It is a time when we remember with thanksgiving that "great cloud of witnesses", those men and women we look to as examples of seeking Jesus, sharing Jesus, and serving Jesus.

Some of those in that great cloud are persons from the New Testament – those we call the "Red Letter" saints (St. Stephen comes to mind!), others are from our heritage in the Church Catholic (St. Francis), some are specific to Anglicanism (Richard Hooker) while some others may be remembered by only a few (Sr. Teh Ai of the Community of the Transfiguration). What is important is not how many of us in this world remember them, but that they are remembered by God, and that they can serve as examples for you and for me.

All of them are *Saints* – just like you and me - because of their baptism and confession of Jesus as Lord. All members of the Church are called to be saints [Romans 1:7].

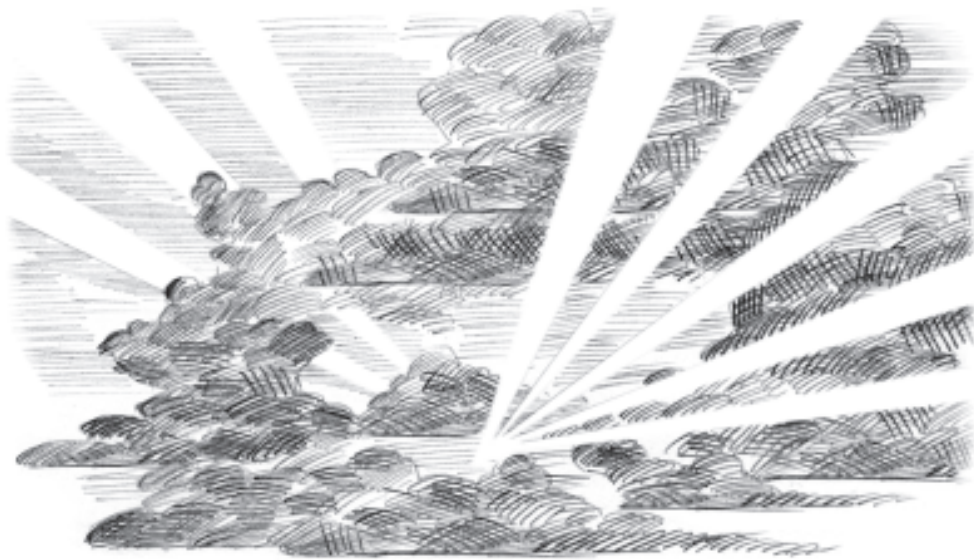
All of them are *Sinners* - just like you and me – because all humans "have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" [Romans 3:23].

All of them are *Seekers* – just like you and me **should be**. "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect" [Romans 12:1-2]. It is those who truly seek to present themselves as a living sacrifice, those who truly seek to be transformed by the renewing of their minds that are the saintly examples we seek to emulate today.

On November 1 we will also celebrate the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed – otherwise known as All Souls' Day. If you would like to have a departed loved one remembered during the Eucharistic Prayer, please drop me a line at [revdabb@aol.com](mailto:revdabb@aol.com), place their names in the collection plate on October 25, or send me a letter by October 29.

Your fellow saint, sinner and seeker,

David+



*All Saints' Day*

## Consecration Sunday - November 8th!

Our annual Consecration Sunday will be November 8th. Dick Tuttle, co-chair of the Diocese Stewardship Commission, will be our guest speaker. We will have a single service that day, with lunch following the service. As in the previous two years, there will be no pestering for pledges. If you are not able to attend Consecration Sunday, please let Nancy McCarthy know (mccarthy.family@britefiber.net or 825-7637) and she will send you a pledge card.

Consecration Sunday is when we make the treasure portion of our Stewardship commitment. Look for more information to come in the mail and in the Sunday bulletins. And most of all, please prayerfully consider what you are being called to do!



## Volunteers Needed to Prepare for the Convention (at St. Stephen's)

St. Stephen's has been presented with the challenge of stuffing the registration envelopes for the diocesan convention in November. This is a labor-intensive labor of love that has the advantage of being concentrated into a very short period of time.

The raw materials will be delivered to St. Stephen's on Tuesday (election day) or early Wednesday. Throngs of our volunteers will immediately begin stuffing all of the needed forms and announcements into the registration envelopes. The task will probably take all of Wednesday (November 4).

We need all the volunteers we can muster. Although the job will take all day, no single volunteer need stay the entire day. Those that do will be gratefully bribed with lunch (probably pizza, the universal volunteer lunch). St. Stephen's will not be alone in this. We will be asking for volunteers from every congregation in the West Deanery. However, I expect us to carry most of the load.

If you are willing and able to participate in this exciting opportunity to serve God and our diocese, please use the form on the bulletin board.

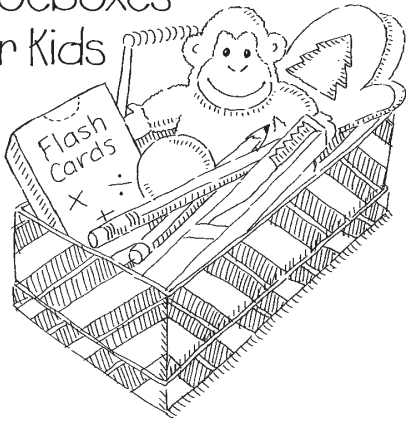
Thanks, Don Welti

## Taize

Our first Taize service, after our summer break, was held on October 4. It was also our first Taize with our new Taize service coordinator, Terri Cerimale-Rieger, who, along with Carina Spindel, the new leader of our Joyful Noise ministry, led us in song. We had some new faces among the seventeen people who came to worship, for what was a beautiful and uplifting service. We hope you'll consider joining us, and bringing a friend on November 1 at 7:00PM for our next Taize service.

Cathy Skiba

## Shoeboxes for Kids



## Operation Christmas Child 2009

There are four weeks left before our shoeboxes need to be packed and shipped.

### What is Operational Christmas Child?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse which ships shoeboxes full of small gifts all over the world. In 2008, nearly 8 million shoeboxes were collected in the United States and ten other sending nations. The boxes go to countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. To learn more visit: [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org).

### What goes into the boxes?

School supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads, paper, solar calculators, coloring books

Toys: Balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes (no toy cars are needed; we have enough)

Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap in a plastic bag, comb, washcloth

Other: hard candy and lollipops, mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** used or damaged items, war-related items, toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, breakable items, aerosol cans

### What can I do?

1. Provide any of the above items by Sunday, November 15th. Collection boxes are in the back of church.
2. Bring in shoeboxes or Christmas wrapping paper before Sunday, November 8th. You can also bring a pre-wrapped box (wrap lid and bottom separately).
3. November 8th: Stay after the 10:30 service and help wrap boxes.
4. November 15th. Stay and help pack the boxes.
5. Provide \$7.00 for shipping costs for a box. Nancy Healy will have special envelopes for the checks.

## How to get Boar's Head Tickets

Tickets for the 70th annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival at Christ Church Cathedral are available for congregations and individuals.



Group tickets for congregations will be for the Jan. 2 (dress rehearsal) performance from 2 to 3:30 p.m. On church letterhead, mail a note requesting up to 15 tickets with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: BH Groups, c/o Christ Church Cathedral, 318 E. 4th St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. Let us know in advance if you need handicap seating. Request must be received by Dec. 11 before all tickets go to the public.

For individual tickets, come to Christ Church Cathedral on Dec. 12. Doors open at 8 a.m. Ticketing starts about 8:30 a.m. That morning we will give away the remaining tickets to the waiting public for all four performances: Jan. 2 at 2 and 5 p.m. and Jan. 3 at 2:30 and 5 p.m. Pickup limit of two tickets per adult, 18 and older. For festival information, visit [www.boarsheadfestival.com](http://www.boarsheadfestival.com).



## News from The Dohn Family

### **The Fuzzy Future**

The developing theme for the week was vagueness, haziness, and ‘fuzziness’ as different groups and individuals were making plans for the future.

We are wondering whether it would be wise (or even possible) to start any new initiatives at the Clinic in 2010 given the financial and other considerations. Plans for the future of existing programs were also uncertain. Lots of unknowns next year.

On a more individual level, a visitor was discussing her call to cross-cultural mission work. She was trying to see what might be ahead for her as a missionary somewhere in Latin America. It was all looking a little vague to her. At some point during the week, someone quoted Psalm 119:105: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

We are reminded fairly frequently (thanks to the electric outages here) that a candle or lamp at night does not illuminate much more than the next couple of steps. All we can be certain of is where to put our feet now. Beyond that, all is in darkness.

More than ten years ago, we gave up our lives and headed into the mission field with four daughters (ages then from 4 to 14 years). We tried to see the future, but without much success. It felt supremely uncomfortable and insecure from financial, professional, educational, and family perspectives. But, we continued taking the subsequent steps as they became clear to us; then further steps were revealed. It seems to have worked out and continues working out so long as we stay faithful to discerning that next step.

People sometimes ask us how long we are going to continue as missionaries. Well, we can clearly see the work we are called to do for the next year or so, but beyond that it all seems a little fuzzy. If everything were always clear to us, there would be no role for faith, I suppose.

Keep praying, Michael

### **Where everybody knows your name ...**

Hoyo del Toro is a small, rural community where everybody knows everyone else. The Clinic has started its newest group of volunteer health promoters there. I was at the meeting when the sponsoring community group assigned houses to each of the volunteer health promoters to visit. Every promoter went forward in turn to get a notebook, a tote bag, and other materials as well as their list of assigned homes.

Because the community is small, the assigned houses were identified by the first name or nickname of a resident in the household (as opposed to larger communities where assignments are usually made by street or sectors within the neighborhood).

The third promoter in the line listened as her assigned families were read. Suddenly, after one name, the other twenty-two promoters erupted into a mixed cacophony of guffaws, laughs, chortles, and expressions of sympathy! The promoter at the front was just standing there with her mouth open and blinking slowly. Obviously, some households in Hoyo del Toro are more challenging than others. The process proceeded through the other twenty promoters with several house assignments evoking similar reactions of various degrees.

There are conceptual reasons for encouraging community involvement in the community health program: sustainability, to encourage self-reliance, support community autonomy, etc. However, there are also more practical reasons, like assuring that the household assignments are based upon a real knowledge of the situation. While some promoters received the less enviable families, the distribution was generally conceded to be fair (and those with the most difficult assignments got a family or two less as compensation).

Keep praying, Michael

*Anita and Michael Dohn are physicians serving as South American Missionary Society missionaries with La Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana at the diocesan Clínica Esperanza y Caridad. They live along the southern coast in San Pedro de Macorís in the Dominican Republic.*



Dick Meagher	November 3
Joe Rose	November 3
Nancy McCarthy	November 10
Beth Bailey	November 10
Tim Murphy	November 11
Mike Murphy	November 15
Jimmy Duncan	November 18
Jim Healy	November 18
Lisa Elmendorf	November 23
Charlie Healy	November 25
Megan Meyers	November 25
Elizabeth Scholz	November 29

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Address Correction Requested