

## E-Portion – June 2008

### Greetings,

Rich has shared his summer reading lists with us in years past. This summer, with Rich on sabbatical, we've compiled recommendations from a few folks on vestry, our Education for Ministry (EfM) group, and our curate. (Of course, Rich added one, too!) Enjoy.

#### **Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life** by Barbara Kingsolver

"This book was such an eye opener for me, regarding the huge business of food production in this country, as well as the fossil fuels needed to sustain it, and how the government policies have affected the family farms (and many other issues I've never thought too much about)." – Dawn Rooke

#### **You Are, Therefore I Am: A Declaration of Dependence** by Satish Kumar

"This book traces the journey of Satish Kumar – child monk, peace pilgrim, ecological activist and educator. In it he traces the sources of inspiration which formed his understanding of the world as a network of multiple and diverse relationships. So Hum ('You Are, Therefore I Am') is a world view well known in India, which is based in relationships and the connection between all things, rather than the maxim of Rene Descartes 'I Think, Therefore I Am,' which is a philosophy of dualism, division, and separation. A great read for those of us eager to discover and promote a way of life that can bring healing to the Earth and people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." – Nancy Brunelle

MaryAnn DiPinto adds, "I heard the author speak at a summer conference (NOFA) a couple of years ago. He was raised by his mother from the time he was four years old after his father died. He was raised in the Jain tradition in India, but draws on many other faiths in his travels."

#### **Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time** by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

"I was totally inspired by this one man's promise and his dedication to keeping that promise to build a school (and then many more). Greg Mortenson not only 'pays back' to the community that helped him after his failed attempt to climb K2, he 'pays it forward' many times over. He denies himself (food, comfort, money) in order to do the work he feels called to do." – Cynthia McIntyre

#### **Pillars of the Earth** and **World Without End** by Ken Follett

"I read these captivating historical novels back to back!" – Robin Carlo

#### **Water for Elephants** by Sara Gruen

"This was my favorite read of the year!" – Robin Carlo

#### **Gilead** by Marilynne Robinson.

"The best way to describe the book is quiet. The book just glides along and is difficult to put down. I really enjoyed it." – Laura Caswell

#### **Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion** by Sara Miles

"*Take This Bread* is about an atheist's conversion after wandering into an Episcopal church and receiving communion one day, and how her experience of communion inspired her to open food pantries for the needy. I thought it was very readable and thought provoking." – Julie Mankowsky

#### **Pillars of Flame: Power, Priesthood, and Spiritual Maturity** by Maggie Ross.

"This is a challenging book; it's not technically hard to understand, but provocative in ways that shake up our worlds. In spite of the title, it is really a book for all Christians ('priesthood of all believers') and not just clergy. I've read some terrific books so far on sabbatical, but this one is in a league of its own and has stirred up my own thinking in new and creative ways." – Rich Simpson

#### **Christianity for the Rest of Us** by Diana Butler Bass

The whole vestry is reading this one and it has led to some great conversations so far!

And, finally, from our curate Jill Williams, "I have been reading the books by **Jodi Picoult**. They are not only brilliantly written with excellent characterization and really thought-provoking human dynamics, but they are also a great fun way for Christians to start thinking about real life ethical situations. I have read several now and highly recommend them as the perfect blend between a beach book and a theological study."

What a great way to start summer with a "beach book and a theological study." Happy reading!

Cynthia McIntyre, member of vestry

P.S. There's one more, but you may have to wait until after summer for this one: **Memoirs of a Journey in Faith: An Informal History of St. Francis Episcopal Church (1948-2008)**. Alice Carr has been leading the effort to publish this informal history of St. Francis. As soon as it's published, you'll hear lots more!

**Congratulations** to the following eight EfM (Education for Ministry) graduates for 2008 from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Thanks to their mentors for providing first rate guidance.

Graduates\*

\*Robin D. Carlo

\*Beatrice M. Kayigwa

\*Jonathan O. Phelps

\*Clare H. White

*Mentors are Robin Carlo and Richard Simpson*

\*Nancy Elizabeth King

*Mentors are Lee Young Cheek and Anne Ryder*

\*Jocelyn S. Linnekin

*Mentor is Veronica Chapman*

\*Brian Richard Cooper

*Mentors are Brian Cooper and Stephen Houghton*

\*Verna Mae Kosiba

*Mentor is William Martin*

**Joan Gilchrist is our diocesan EfM coordinator.**

### **Congratulations and Good Luck to our 2008 High School Graduates**

Jennifer Brown will attend the University of Denver

Meaghan Dunn will attend Bucknell University

Jack Holden will attend the Isenberg School of Management at UMass

Nicole Lonardo will attend Fitchburg State

Willie Pope will attend Gordon College

Kayla Rayworth will attend WPI

Connor Rooke will attend Fitchburg State

Bry Scalley will attend Boston University

Molly Wiley will attend Assumption College

If any graduating high school senior has inadvertently been missed please accept our sincere apologies and notify the church office.

### **Mission Matters**

A second trip to El Salvador is in the works for February school vacation week. Hopefully, you'll read this in time for the discernment meeting after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, June 1. Please, give it some thought.

Parish thanks go to Kathy Diehl and Mary Jude Pigsley who have agreed to co-chair St. Francis participation in the Cropwalk next fall, filling in for Sue Delorme who deservingly steps down after many years service. Kathy and Mary Jude attended the first meeting of the ecumenical committee behind the Cropwalk where they were told that St. Francis has the best youth group in town.

Speaking of walks: According to *The Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual WALK for the Homeless drew 1,000 walkers and raised \$100,000. Thanks to those from St. Francis who were there and to those who contributed more than \$2,500 through our Easter offering.

More thanks to those who bought Abby's House pins for Mother's Day. We sold 30... half the consignment and raised \$450.

Finally, we need to remember to keep the Wachusett Pantry stocked over the summer. Keep those generous donations coming.

### **Prayer Shawls 4 Fallen Soldiers**

In a recent newsletter from founder Cozette Haggerty, she speaks of her visit to South Florida where she met 3 women involved in the Prayer Shawl Ministry. One of those women was our own Beryl Turner who told her of the wonderful work being done here at St. Francis.

Cozette spoke of the Gathering of Circles Event in Hartford, CT on the first Saturday of November—for a minimal cost of about \$15 you spend the day with hundreds of other knitters. Lunch is included.

Prayer Shawls 4 Fallen Soldiers was started in 2007. She states that in six months this program has grown to 129 prayer shawl groups and individuals who have made a total of 712 prayer shawls for fallen soldiers' families.

For more information on this program speak to Beryl Turner....or contact Cozette Haggerty directly at ps4fs@earthlink.net or <http://home.earthlink.net/~ps4fs/shawls>.

### **Here's What's Happening in Church School!**

**March 30 – June 1<sup>st</sup>:** We prepared a pageant called, “The Rich Man, The Builder and The Feast” during the Sunday AM Church School time. It was a great opportunity to learn three valuable parables through drama and song! A great big “Thank You” to Julie Mankowsky for being our musician, and for all the parents and teachers who helped!

**June 7/8:** Year-end banner parties – We will make a new banner for the walls of Fellowship Hall and have a party to celebrate another wonderful year together in Church School! The children will be out for the whole service on these dates.

### **Summer programs (beginning June 14/15)**

- Children's worship bulletins and crayons will be available each week at the door.
- We will be offering a “Good News Theatre” movie series this summer! Children up to eight years of age are welcome to go to the nursery on Sunday mornings (10:00) to watch a video each week. If parents would like to get their children for the Eucharist at 10:30, they may. Otherwise the children will be welcome to stay in the nursery until the end of the service.
- Many families travel or spend special time together during the summer. Take Jesus with you! A Jesus doll will be available for children to borrow as a reminder of who is with us wherever we go! Families will be invited to take a picture with Jesus to display on the Church School bulletin board!

### **St. Francis acolytes serve at the Cathedral**

On Sunday, April 20, Jay Carlo, Alex Heinricher and Sandy Olesin, traveled with their parents to serve as visiting acolytes at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield.

Jay, Alex and Sandy did a great job assisting at the service, presided by the Very Rev. James Munroe, and did a wonderful job representing St. Francis as ambassadors to the cathedral's Visiting Acolyte Program. Their duties were a little more complicated than usual, but they rehearsed before hand and handled the changes well. Before the service, we had a short tour of the beautiful, historic church. The organ alone was an interesting site to see and joy to hear, along with the choir, which had about 30 members. In addition, it was wonderful to experience meeting and talking with parishioners in Springfield. Everyone at the cathedral was very welcoming. After the service, we spent time talking with parishioners during coffee hour.

- Nancy Olesin



Join us for  
Vacation Bible School

**For children ages 5—12**

- Where: St. Francis Episcopal Church
- When: July 28th through August 1  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
An extended day (until 5:00 p.m.) is available for an additional charge.
- Cost: \$50 per child
- Sign up: on the table in the narthex  
email the church office at [stfran@verizon.net](mailto:stfran@verizon.net)  
call the church office at 508-829-3344

Please be sure to give the names and ages of each child along with name of parent or guardian and a contact phone number or email.

For more information please contact Dawn Rooke (508-829-7124) or [dtsar39@aol.com](mailto:dtsar39@aol.com), or Jill Williams (508-829-3344) or [jwilliams@diocesewma.org](mailto:jwilliams@diocesewma.org).

**Thank you**

May God's grace and peace be with you. Thank you for the check in the amount of \$186.00 from my visit to St. Francis on April 26th. I have designated that it be forwarded to the Alleluia Fund.

It is always a joy to be with all of you at St. Francis, and my prayers continue for you.

Gratefully yours,  
Gordon P. Scruton  
Bishop

**The deadline for the Summer Little Portion is  
Thursday, June 19th**

Please have all information and service schedules to the office by this date. Articles may be put in the Office mailbox or emailed to [stfran@verizon.net](mailto:stfran@verizon.net).

The Little Portion will be mailed on Thursday, June 26th.

Please note this issue is for  
both July and August.