

The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

January 9, 2011

Feast of the Baptism of our Lord reveals God's power in Jesus

By Fr. Ron Baird

The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord is celebrated on the Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany, which this year is Jan. 9. The reason that this feast stands in such a prominent position is because it was the first time that God manifested his power in Jesus in public.

When Jesus came to John to be baptized, John was appalled at the idea. He claimed he was not worthy to untie Jesus' sandal. Why should he baptize Jesus for the forgiveness of sins when Jesus was obviously so much more righteous than anyone John had ever known?

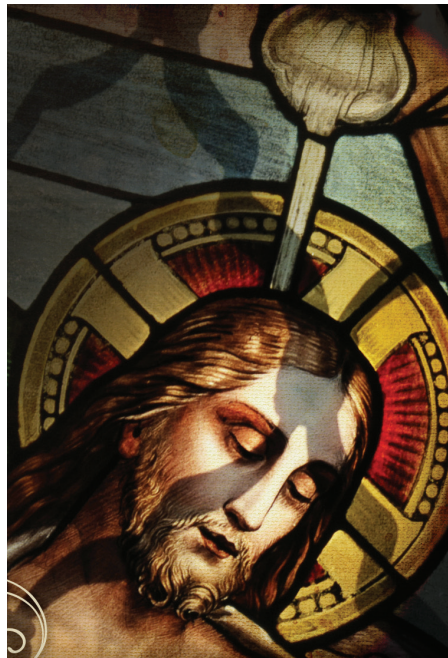
John tells Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you..." (Matthew 3:14). But Jesus answers him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Why does Jesus insist on this? Why does he need to be baptized?

The answer is one that John gave earlier in Matthew 3:11. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me...will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

This is the baptism that Jesus receives. A baptism to be filled with the Holy Spirit. A baptism of the power of God. To this the Father testifies, "This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased." God's public testimony of the person and power of Jesus the Christ.

Others would come, at the Transfiguration, through signs and healings: The blind shall see, the lame shall walk, the deaf shall hear, the dumb shall speak. And then through that ultimate sign of the power of God: The Resurrection.

When we come to be baptized as Christians, we come not only to be baptized



with water for the forgiveness of sins. That was possible even before Jesus. John the Baptizer could do that. No, we come to share in the baptism of our Lord. To paraphrase St. Paul, if we share in a death like his through the drowning of baptism, we shall surely share in a resurrection like his.

In our own baptisms, Christ has been revealed to us. The Holy Spirit has descended upon us and given to us the power of God to bring the Gospel (the Good News of love, forgiveness and acceptance) to the whole world. In this first public revelation of Jesus, he was declared to be the Son of God. In our baptisms, we are declared to be the adopted sons and daughters of God. Filled with the Holy Spirit, we too are sent out into the world to declare to

a sinful and broken world the Good News of God's salvation through Jesus Christ.

With the power of God with us, we are called to open the eyes of the blind, open the ears of the deaf, enable the dumb to speak and the lame to walk. In other words, we are to set those who are captive to sin free from the darkness to walk as the children of light!

Young Adult Life Group invites others to join them

With the start the new year, the Young Adult Life Group is beginning a new Bible study, and invites new people to join them as they re-group on Thursday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. The next study will be selected at this meeting. The group is hosted by **Karen Osmond**, 2092 Willowick Square, Columbus, 43229. **Wes** and **Natali Sutermeister** lead the study. Singles and couples are welcome. For more information, please contact Karen at 614- 975-0878 or khosmond@gmail.com.

Vestry available today to answer budget questions

Members of the St. Andrew's Vestry are available between services today to answer questions related to the 2011 budget. Vestry members will be in Room 104 between the 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services, and in Room 105 between the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services, and after the 11 a.m. service.

2011 giving envelopes available

If you requested giving envelopes for 2011 on your pledge card, they are in your mail slot in the Gathering Area. If you would like to have envelopes, but didn't request them previously, please contact **Ruth Eller** at 614-423-4250.



New Year's Eve Fun

Doris Kisler-Lewis, left, and Susannah Reeves enjoy one another's company at last week's New Year's Eve Social, hosted by the Sunday Morning Apostles Life Group. This is the second year for the event, which is open to the parish. We would like to thank all who helped to make the New Year's Eve party a success, especially Marcia Johnson, Christy Becker, Mother Nancy, Marty Scott, Ruth Robinson, and the Sunday Morning Apostles Life Group members Susannah Reeves, Jim and Didi Loeth, John McGuirl and Ann Schnapp (and her husband Tim and son Paul for cleanup). Thanks also to all who came, brought delicious food, and shared a good time welcoming in the new year!

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH

Following the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, please pray today for **Bishop Timothy Stevens** and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Leicester (pronounced "Lester"), England. Leicester is a large diocese, with 324 churches and 99 schools. Please pray especially for the diocese's mission "Shaped by God". Following the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, please pray today for **Fathers Kelly Irish** and **James Burr** and the people of St. Anne in the Fields, Madison, Ohio.

THE DAILY LECTIONARY

Week of the First Sunday after The Epiphany • Jan. 9-14

Sunday, Jan. 9 — Psalms 146, 147/111, 112, 113; Isaiah 40:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-7, 19-20, 29-34

Monday, Jan. 10 — Psalms 1, 2, 3/4, 7; Isaiah 40:12-23; Ephesians 1:1-14; Mark 1:1-13

Tuesday, Jan. 12 — Psalms 5, 6/10, 11; Isaiah 40:25-31; Ephesians 1:15-23; Mark 1:14-28

Wednesday, Jan. 13 — Psalms 119:1-24/12, 13, 14; Isaiah 41:1-16; Ephesians 2:1-10; Mark 1:29-45

Thursday, Jan. 14 — Psalms 18:1-20/18:21-50; Isaiah 41:17-29; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 2:1-12

Friday, Jan. 15 — Psalms 16, 17/22; Isaiah 42:(1-9)10-17; Ephesians 3:1-13; Mark 2:13-22

Saturday, Jan. 16 — Psalms 20, 21:1-7(8-14)/110:1-5(6-7), 116, 117; Isaiah 43:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21; Mark 2:23-3:6

Note: *The first set of Psalms and readings are intended for the morning, and the second set for the evening.*

Does the bell toll for you?

The St. Andrew's Hand Bell Choir is in urgent need of ringers in order to continue its ministry. It is helpful if you read music, but *not* necessary. The Choir will gladly teach you what you need to know. The Hand Bell Choir meets Friday nights in the sanctuary from 7 to 8:30 in order to allow those who travel for work to participate.

If you are interested in exploring this ministry tell **Fr. Ron Baird**; **Mother Nancy Stanton**; the director, **Susan Sommerville**, or any of the ringers: **Tom James, Dan McNelis, Janet McNelis, Christine Brill, Betsy York, Ann Schnapp, Robert Williams** or **Gary Sommerville**. You may also e-mail Susan at sgsommer@columbus.rr.com.

Volunteers needed for Common Ground on Saturday, Jan. 15

St. Andrew's will serve at the Common Ground Free Store in Delaware on Saturday, Jan. 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed to work the store and serve lunch to patrons. If you can help, please contact **Ginny Ribbans** at 614-330-5304 or vrribbans@sbcglobal.net.

Common Ground Free Store Ministries is a partnership between churches, businesses, civic organizations and caring citizens that believes God's mercy doesn't come with a price tag. Everything is available to everyone free of charge — from clothing, shoes, diapers and linens, to small appliances, books and toys. There are no income requirements, no questions and no scrutiny—only the support of people who care. The store's philosophy is that everyone is on "common ground."

Have an instrument in the closet? Can you shake a tambourine?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, the St. Andrew's Hand Bell Choir can use your abilities on a temporary basis. This would be a way to participate in the choir's ministry without making a long term commitment.

There are a number of pieces that make use of instruments other than bells. The alternate instrument parts are *very* easy, so even if your instrument has been in the closet for years, don't be reticent.

We'll give you plenty of notice (time to practice up). Our upcoming pieces make use of a trumpet, flute, tambourine, and triangle, but if the choir had a list of potentially available instruments, it would be helpful. To volunteer, please contact **Susan Sommerville** at 846-2015 or sgsommer@columbus.rr.com.