



THE APOSTLE

FEBRUARY
2012



FROM THE RECTOR

The Episcopal Church may be the best hope for the world today. Not that I'm biased, of course! But really, at our best, we Episcopalians know how to deal with the messiness of life. What I mean is that right from the very beginning, with Bishop William-White here in Philadelphia, there was a desire to let everyone in on the act, to give room for as many voices as possible, instead of leaving the decision-making to carefully chosen and self-perpetuating elite. Hence White, in framing the constitution of the Episcopal Church, made provision for the laity to have a voice in the governance of the church. Unheard of!

So that when we are at our best (and granted, we are not always at our best) we have the flexibility and the wisdom to respond creatively to new situations. Bishop White again provides us with a good example in his ordination of the former slave Absalom Jones. Or, more recently, the consecration of Gene Robinson in 2003, the first openly gay bishop.

Of course these decisions drew fierce criticism, because they were things that simply weren't done. But they were the right decisions to make, and they were creative responses to the emerging realities of their time. And, as our world continues to shrink and our society becomes more pluralistic, we need examples of how to live and

thrive in the midst of diversity. The Episcopal Church can be such an example.

A friend of mine, the Rev. Lane Denson, is fond of introducing himself by saying, "I am a member of no organized religion. I am an Episcopalian." Well, that's not all together accurate, but there is something within our very DNA that defies organization. Lane goes on to say this about the Episcopal Church.

"We distrust judgmentalism, biblical literalism, election, predestination. These ideas lead to division, then hatred, alienation, and even killing. We embrace inclusiveness, moderation, and toleration.

"We live comfortably with ambiguity and do not require certainty in all things. We argue. We fight. But then, we come together once more for common sense, Common Prayer, and Eucharist. This is our way. We seem actually and rather quaintly to prefer vagueness and imprecision. We practice a generous and forgiving orthodoxy, an ordered freedom. We are the oxymoron of the Christian view of things."

This is a skill set desperately by the world today. Let's not be bashful about inviting people to come and see what our life together is all about.



February

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Sunday Worship Schedule

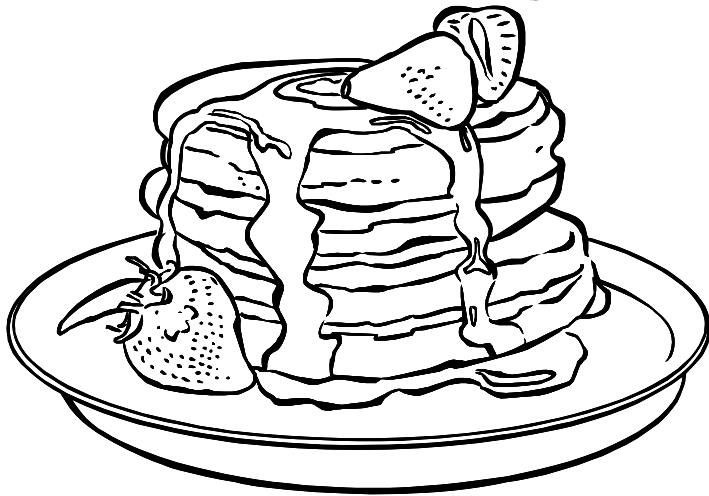
Holy Eucharist
8:30 a.m. - no music
10:00 a.m. - with music

Sunday School
10:00 a.m.

Choir Practice
9:00 a.m.

Parish News

Shrove Tuesday



Pancake Supper

Join us in the parish hall on February 21st, for a delicious pancake supper. Check future announcements for start time.

Celebrate



2012 is

A silhouette of a person in mid-air, jumping over the word "Leap". The person is wearing a hat and a suit. The word "Leap" is in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and "YEAR" is in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font below it.

Leap YEAR

ASH WEDNESDAY

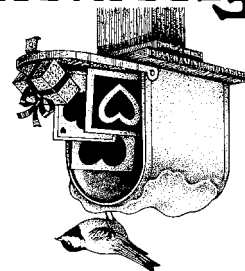
Services for Ash Wednesday will take place as follows:

12 Noon—Welcome Church, Logan Square

7:00 p.m.—Church of the Holy Apostles

www.cha-pa.org

FEBRUARY



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