

Clergy and Staff

Church Office: (847) 446-2850

Rector: The Rev. Edward S. Prevost, ext. 33

rector@christchurchwinnetka.org

Asso. Rector: The Rev. Patricia Snickenberger,
ext. 24, revpatti@christchurchwinnetka.org

Sunday Associate: The Rev. Heather Voss

Seminarian: Nancy Threadgill

nthread@comcast.net

Choirmaster: Richard Clemmitt, ext. 22

rclemmitt@christchurchwinnetka.org

Director of Children's Ministries: Melly Turner,

ext. 36; children@christchurchwinnetka.org

Parish Administrator: Molly Ethridge, ext. 23

mollydsm@christchurchwinnetka.org

Bookkeeper: Cathy O'Brien, ext. 28

bookkeeper@christchurchwinnetka.org

Admin. Assistant: Rena Kowalski, ext. 21

rena@christchurchwinnetka.org

Rummage Coordinator: Irene Maniewski, ext.

35 or 26; rummage@christchurchwinnetka.org

Facilities Manager: Jim Caldwell, ext. 31

Asst. Organist & Choirmaster: Kirstin Synnestvedt

Primary Choir Director: Elizabeth Clemmitt

Sextons: Mario Ruiz, Dominic DiPaolo,

Sylvester Bona, Julian Collins (Rummage)

Parish Paper Editor: Charlotte McGee

Parishpaper@christchurchwinnetka.org

Worship

Sundays: 7:45 am HE; 9 am HE & Young
Children's Liturgy of the Word; 10:10 Adult &
Children's Formation; 11:15 am HE or MP &
HC (3rd Sunday with healing) (Church on the Hill)

Wednesdays: 9:30 am HE (Chapel)

THE PARISH PAPER OF CHRIST CHURCH (UPS 421-300)

Published semi-monthly by Christ Church, 470 Maple Street, Winnetka, Illinois 60093;

847-446-2850; FAX 847-446-8640. Periodicals postage paid at Winnetka IL 60093

www.christchurchwinnetka.org

POSTMASTER: Address Service Requested

Vestry

Carol Schroeder, *Senior Warden*

Jeremy Farmer, *Junior Warden*

Beth Anaclerio

Esther Berry

Kenneth Gould

Steve Hudson

Dietrich Knoer

Richard Jones

Elizabeth Lind

Gary Martin

Jennifer MacRitchie

James McGee

Susie Sprowl

Curt Voges

Elisha Gray, *Treasurer*

George Harmon, *Clerk*

Molly Lien, *Chancellor*

PARISH HOUSE, CHAPEL, RUMMAGE &
MAILING ADDRESS:

470 Maple Street, Winnetka, Illinois 60093

CHURCH ON THE HILL & CHURCH
HOUSE:

784 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093

Website: www.christchurchwinnetka.org

THE PARISH PAPER

is published twice monthly during the school
year, by regular mail the first of the month, and
electronically for the mid-month issue. It is pub-
lished monthly in July and August.

The deadline for submitting information or
articles for the next issue, on-line (Late May)
is **Tues., May 9**. Please submit materials to
Parish Paper Editor, at the Parish Office or at
parishpaper@christchurchwinnetka.org

DATED MATERIAL

THE PARISH

CHRIST CHURCH

PAPER

WINNETKA, ILLINOIS



MAY 7 & 14, 2006

VOL. 46, NO. 5



“No man ever stood so tall as when he stooped
to help a child” - Barb Potts

THE CHURCH SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

Now is your chance to sign up to work with a team of teach-
ers for next year. You won't regret it! There are many ways to
serve. If you have questions or ideas, don't hesitate to call Melly
Turner, our Director of Children's Ministries.

A typical model for teaching is as follows: Teaching teams of three to five adults prepare lessons and activities from various curricula and resource materials supplied by program staff. Teams share leadership responsibilities for planning and presenting lessons based on their individual schedules, talents, interests, etc. Usually at least two members of the team are present each week. The average time spent is one to three hours a week dependent upon the grade and season.

During the summer, the team will meet together with the director of children's ministries for two or three planning sessions to coordinate strategies for implementing the curriculum. Early in September teams meet to prepare the classroom and organize necessary materials and supplies. There are one or two all-teacher gatherings during the year and ongoing support from program staff as needed.

We are also looking for help in what we are calling our **church school service project committee** that will coordinate projects for the 5th – 7th grades. Our goal is to increase the number of service activities within our church family as well as outreach projects that are held annually. This might be something for those of you who are not comfortable leading a group of children in a classroom setting but would enjoy getting involved in a more peripheral manner. Please contact Melly by May 15 if you are interested in helping with this vital ministry. She can be reached at the church office (847-446-2850 or children@christchurchwinnetka.org. Many thanks in advance for your participation and support!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

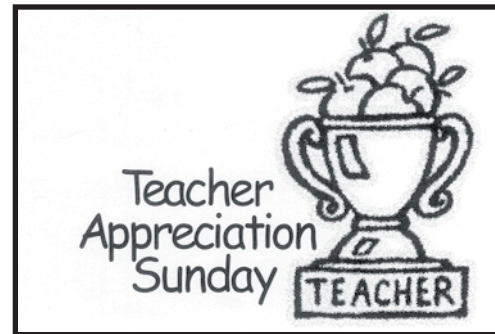


On **May 7** we will welcome the **Rev. Stacy Alan**, Chaplain at Brent House, which is the Episcopal campus ministry at the University of Chicago. Continuing with the theme of Anglicanism 101, Stacy will talk with us about the nature of campus ministry in general, and the particular vibrant ministry taking place in the Episcopal tradition at the University of Chicago.

On **May 14**, the **Rev. Dr. Ruth Meyers** will be with us to offer an overview of the current state of relations in the Anglican Communion and outline the topics to be discussed at the

upcoming General Convention in Columbus, Ohio this June. These topics will include a response to the Windsor Report, commissioned in response to the election of Gene Robinson, Bishop of New Hampshire; the election of a new Presiding Bishop to succeed Frank Griswold; the confirmation of Episcopal elections (bishops elected in a number of dioceses); national and international affairs; ecumenical partnership with the United Methodist Church; and new liturgical materials. This forum will help us become better informed about the actions within the Episcopal Church and its relations with member churches in the Communion.

Our end of the year **CHURCH SCHOOL CELEBRATION and OPEN HOUSE** will take place on Sunday morning **May 21, beginning at 9:00 am**. Teachers will be recognized for another year of dedicated service and our 21 new confirmands will be presented. Please come to offer corporate and individual thanks to all for their accomplishments this year. **All are invited to a reception and church school open house at 10:15.**



Information, Please

Is there a graduate in your family this spring? High school, college and post-graduate degrees will be included in an upcoming issue of the Parish Paper. Please send your information to Charlotte McGee, Parish Paper editor at parishpaper@christchurchwinnetka.org or deliver it to the parish offices. Please include your graduate's degree

or school and future plans, if known. We also need photos which will be returned to you (graduation pictures are perfect!) of our high school graduates.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF CHRIST CHURCH FROM RICHARD AND BARBARA JONES, ELIZABETH AND PETER.

IN MEMORY OF HER BROTHER HIDEHIKO NOGUCHI FROM KEN AND KAZUKO WAKABAYASHI.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR RICHARD CLEMMITT AND THE CHRIST CHURCH CHOIR FROM STEVE AND MARY ANDERSON.

IN THANKSGIVING FROM SINCLAIR WINTON.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE RT. REV. LEWIS BLISS AND HELEN CRAWFORD WHITEMORE FROM THEIR DAUGHTER, VIRGINIA PACKER AND GRANDCHILDREN BLISS, JULIE AND CHUCK.

IN MEMORY OF FRIEDA AND WALTER ZEGERS AND MARY K. AND ROBERT DOOLEY FROM WILLIE DOOLEY.

IN THANKSGIVING FROM CHARLOTTE F. ZARTMAN.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR EMILY AND MIKE, AND ROGER AND ERICA FROM SUSAN AND ROGER LUMPP.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR SARAH KATHLEEN JUDD ALT AND JOHN BRYAN PRIEST AND OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN FROM BARBARA AND TOM ALT.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN C. MEEKER AND RICHARD D. RYAN FROM THE STEVEN RYAN FAMILY.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR MY PARENTS FROM BILL MUSSETT.

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET BEGG, SUSAN KOCHS JUDEVINE FROM NELSON AND JUDY SHAW.

IN MEMORY OF AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF DAVID E. GORMANOUS FROM HIS CHILDREN, JEFF AND JENNY AND HIS WIFE, SHERRY.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN L. CLEMMITT FROM RICHARD, ELIZABETH, ETHAN AND ADAM CLEMMITT.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR GRACE'S NEW KNEE FROM MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM T. KIRK, JR.

IN MEMORY OF FLOWY LOUIS TAWNEY, BETTY GIBSON HODGES, MURRAY H. HODGES, AND MARGARET STEIN HODGES FROM GAIL AND TOM HODGES.

IN MEMORY OF MARY LOUISE AND JAMES JUDD FROM ANN AND MARY JUDD.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS, MARGARET AND HENRY PETRY FROM SHIRLEY AND LEWIS PETRY.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE MUSIC PROGRAM AND EVERYBODY INVOLVED FROM THE GLARBO FAMILY.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LAWRENCE JAMISON AND LAWRENCE VEZIN, AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR ELIZABETH PREVOST AND MIKE GUENTHER AND MARNIE PREVOST.

IN MEMORY OF ALL MY LOVED ONES FROM JOAN RICHARDS.

IN CELEBRATION OF RICHARD CLEMMITT'S CONTINUING MINISTRY FROM SUSIE AND BILL VOLCKENS.

IN MEMORY OF PHILIP AND FAYE SCHWARZ AND WILLIAM AND IDA ADAMS FROM PHILLIP AND SYLVIA ADAMS.



Kudos to our Parish Administrator extraordinaire, **Molly Ethridge**, who won 5 (yes, count them, five) awards at the recent 2005 Design & Production National Episcopal Communicators' Conference. She won two awards for the production of *The Church On The Hill: The Story of One Hundred Years* (Bob Bradner-author) and one award each for: her production of the Welcome Brochure (in collaboration with George Smith) the production of the Stewardship Campaign materials (authored by Julie Flood) and the production of the Christmas Service Program.

We are all lucky to be the weekly beneficiaries of Molly's keen eye for production detail. It is nice to have her efforts recognized on a national level. For a full list of the other winners you may go to www.episcopalcommunicators.org/pbwinners.pdf

This year's Confirmation Service will be at St. Luke's in Evanston on Saturday May 20, 2006 - 11 am.

Members of Christ Church to be confirmed are: William Barnard, Edward Challenger, Clare Cutler, Sophie Durbin, Alexander Findlay, Philip Glarbo, Andrew Hambleton, Brian Hickey, Sara Koepfgen, Lauren Lees, Jesse Liebl, Peter Martin, Christopher Mayer, Lauren McGuiggen, McKenzie Murdoch, Genevieve Nielsen, Andrew Peters, Alexander Peterson, Parker Scully, Rosie Shanley, William Sido, Robert Voges.



These young people will be recognized at the 9 am service at Christ Church on May 21, 2006. Please join us.

New Photos Available on the Web

Photographs from our Easter celebrations and egg hunt are available for viewing on our web site, linked from the Photo Collections page. Turn up your speakers!

Go to: www.christchurchwinnetka.org



THE RECTOR'S CORNER

Christ Church Churchyard

The Christ Church Churchyard for the interment of ashes is one of our parish's true treasures. It is a beautiful place of serenity, peace, and meditation that has been a part of our parish life since 1939. It is in the tradition of the hallowed churchyards of English country churches with the exception that ours is for the

exclusive burial of ashes. Parishioners who wish to purchase plots in our churchyard may direct their inquiries to Molly Ethridge, Parish Administrator, mollydsm@christchurchwinnetka.org, 847-446-2850, ext. 23.

The Churchyard was originally conceived as a "green garden." In more recent years parishioners have adorned the spots where their loved ones are buried with small, white flowering plants, both perennial and annual, as well as with flowers of other colors. In order to provide some guidelines in these matters the following suggestions are made:

It is preferred that natural materials be used and that they not be of a height that would obscure plaques. Also, these plots are quite small and we need to be sensitive to those plots belonging to other parishioners that are immediately adjacent. Plastic materials are inappropriate. The Churchyard Committee is charged with maintaining the Churchyard and asks that parishioners be reminded that the watering of plants or flowers is the responsibility of family members or friends. There is a watering system in place for the grass and the euonymus that is not designed for any other plantings. Wreaths and other seasonal offerings should not remain beyond their maintaining a green and fresh appearance.

The Churchyard Committee would be happy to enlist the hands-on help of any parishioners who could devote some time in the spring, summer, or early fall. Elise Covey is the current chairperson of the Churchyard Committee which includes Sinclair Winton, Buff Winston, Mädel Abbott, Sherry Gormanous, Shirley Petry, Gill Farmer, Curt Voges, and Marie Burnside. We offer them our great thanks for a loving commitment to the Churchyard and its beauty.

IN MEMORY OF MARY LOUISE AND JAMES JUDD FROM ANN AND MARY JUDD.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF HER DAUGHTER, BARBARA H. LUTTON AND HER PARENTS, MADELINE B. AND CLARENCE L. MELLOR FROM SHIRLEY AND LEWIS PETRY.

IN MEMORY OF VIRGINIA CHALMERS FROM JACKIE LANG.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF BARBARA HOLMES MCCONNAUGHEY, EARL G. HOLMES, STERETT AND BETTY PREVOST, JEAN AND ALLYN EVANS, AND MATHILDE SCHACK.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST CHURCH AND FOR THE BAPTISM OF OWEN JOHN WHITE FROM THE REV. LYNN AND MICHAEL WHITE.

IN MEMORY OF ROGER F. AND GWENDOLYN T. SHERMAN FROM SALLY SHERMAN PULFER.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR ERIC SANTIAGO ADAMS AND MARGARET FAYE ATKINSON FROM PHILLIP AND SYLVIA ADAMS.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR OUR GRANDCHILDREN, MEGAN ELIZABETH AND MARY GRACE FROM THE WALTHERS.

Easter Music Gifts are given to the Glory of God:

IN MEMORY OF DAVID A. BRIDEWELL, ALEXANDER H. BRIDEWELL AND JONATHAN BRIDEWELL FROM MARY FRANCES BRIDEWELL.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JAMES HAMILTON HEALD FROM HIS FAMILY.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM J. NEILL AND MILDRED AND THOMAS FORT FROM MRS. WILLIAM J. NEILL.

IN MEMORY OF AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR LINDSAY REED PENDRY AND JAMES REED PENDRY FROM MARGARET M. PENDRY.

IN MEMORY OF FRANCES COOLEY, WILLIAM COOLEY, AND RICHARD YAGER FROM THE WILLIAM H. COOLEY, JR. FAMILY.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES B. LIEN AND CORNELIUS AND DONNA BEUKEMA FROM MOLLY AND JOHN LIEN.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR OUR FAMILY FROM JANE AND LAWSON WHITESIDES.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS FROM LOREN AND ESTHER BERRY AND FAMILY.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR OUR CHILDREN FROM BETH AND NICK ANACLERIO.

IN MEMORY OF MYRT HANSEN FROM LOUIS AND BARBARA CARPENTER.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR OUR FAMILY FROM JUDY AND GEORGE HARMON.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES S. CONNELL FROM HIS FAMILY.

IN MEMORY OF HELEN AND ELISHA GRAY II FROM ELISHA AND NINA GRAY.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES BABSON FROM HIS LOVING WIFE, JEAN.



Easter Flower Gifts are given to the
Glory of God:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JAMES HAMILTON HEALD
FROM HIS FAMILY.

IN MEMORY OF AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR LIND-
SAY REED PENDRY AND JAMES REED PENDRY FROM
MARGARET M. PENDRY.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN AND LOUISE BOUCHER FROM
BRUCE BOUCHER.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDPARENTS, DON

AND DOTY GRISSOM AND LAWSON AND ELIZABETH WHITESIDES FROM TRIP, ELLEN AND MARGA-
RET WHITESIDES.

IN THANKSGIVING FROM THE KNOER FAMILY.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF BRAD SPENCER FROM BOB, BARBARA AND BRIAN.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR LINDSEY CATHERINE GEORGE FROM THE GEORGE FAMILY.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES S. CONNELL FROM HIS FAMILY.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE JOHNSON AND ROSIGNOL FAMILIES FROM ELISHA AND NINA GRAY.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES BABSON FROM HIS LOVING WIFE, JEAN.

IN THANKSGIVING FROM RICHARD AND BARBARA JONES.

IN THANKSGIVING FROM SINCLAIR WINTON.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF CHARLES WALLACE PACKER FROM HIS WIFE, VIRGINIA AND CHILDREN,
BLISS, JULIE AND CHUCK.

IN MEMORY OF PAMELA SCHREINER, COLE SCHREINER, WINIFRED SCHREINER, OLIVE GETZ AND
WILLIAM WRIGLEY FROM THE REV. DR. AND MRS. CHARLES F. SCHREINER.

IN THANKSGIVING FROM BRUCE AND CAROLYN O'BRIEN AND NATALIA WENTINK.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROGER LUMPP AND ADELAIDE AND JOHN GRIFFITH FROM SUSAN AND
ROGER LUMPP.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN C. MEEKER AND RICHARD D. RYAN FROM THE STEVEN RYAN FAMILY.

IN THANKSGIVING FROM DAVID FARGO.

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET BEGG, SUSAN KOCHS JUDEVINE FROM NELSON AND JUDY SHAW.

IN MEMORY OF AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF DAVID E. GORMANOUS FROM HIS CHIL-
DREN, JEFF AND JENNY AND HIS WIFE, SHERRY.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN DENTON BRUNDAGE FROM ANN BRUNDAGE.

IN MEMORY OF FLOWY LOUIS TAWNEY, BETTY GIBSON HODGES, MURRAY H. HODGES, AND MARGA-
RET STEIN HODGES FROM GAIL AND TOM HODGES.

O U T R E A C H



Special Rummage Spring Pick Up May 22

Please contact our very competent Rummage Coordinator, Irene Maniewski, at 446-2850, ext. 35 or email her at rummage@christchurchwinnetka.org to add your name to the list.

She is also looking for additional Summer Rummage volunteers. Have a few extra hours? Please call her.

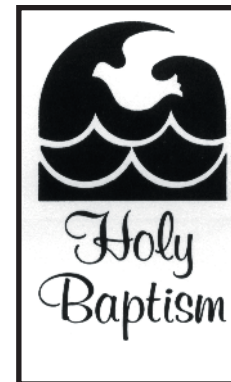
C U R R E N T S & T I D I N G S

June 2 - 7 pm



at the home of Rick & Barbara Jones, 170 Spring Lane, Winnetka. Please call Barbara at 847-446-9274 or email her at bj222@comcast.net to let her know if you would like to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, entree, dessert or beverage.

Baptism Class Offered



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be offered at Christ Church on June 4 at 10 am at the Church on the Hill; July 9 & August 6 at 9:30 am at Maple Street Park; and November 5 at 9 am at the Church on the Hill. If you are considering baptism at Christ Church, please plan to attend the Saturday instructional session scheduled for **May 6, from 9:30 -11:30 am** in the Lea Room of Church House.

For more information or to register, please call Patti Snickenberger at 847-446-2850, ext. 24 or e-mail her at revpatti@christchurchwinnetka.org, indicating whether you will require child care during the class and the ages of the children needing care. Please note that this class is open to parents and godparents of candidates for baptism.

Rector's Sermon
April 16, 2006, 9 & 11 a.m.
Easter Day

I am sick and tired of dying and death. A 17-year-old girl driving home from a hockey match. A husband of but 2 ½ years. Four more twenty-somethings in Iraq...where does it end? And then this young man in the Middle East, a political prisoner who was humiliated and tortured. Thirty-three years old. He died, too. I am sick to death of it all, aren't you?

“Now wait a minute, Ned, you can't fool me. That last person was Jesus, wasn't it? Jesus was 33, more or less, when he died. Wasn't he just as much a political liability for the Romans? We know he was tortured and Jerusalem is as Middle East as it gets.” And you know what, you are absolutely right. I was thinking of Jesus and his dying and death 2,000 years ago, and I'm just as sick to death about that.

Don't you think the women who came to the tomb early that Sunday morning were of the same mind? Mark identifies them as Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome. Like our world, their world was filled with violence and innocent suffering. Crucifixion was a favorite Roman choice of execution, and Jesus certainly wasn't the first to be crucified in that hotbed of sedition that Jerusalem represented. The women were sick to death of it all and now it had gotten personal. These three women were Jesus' friends. They knew better than anyone else how tragic his death was. They had come to the tomb to anoint his body, part of death's loving ritual for the pious Jew. They were tired, they were depressed, they were mind-numbingly sad. And then the angel appeared to help them see a new thing.

A friend of mine recently saw an angel who helped him see a new thing. His name is Jim Kowalski and he is the Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, the largest cathedral in the world, a massive church in Morningside Heights adjacent to Columbia University. As many of you know, St. John's is often called “St. John's the Unfinished.” Despite the vibrancy and scope of its extraordinary ministry which welcomes hundreds of thousands of people every year to its worship and programs and outreach, a visitor cannot fail to notice that the building itself is, well, unfinished. When Jim went there to be Dean, he realized what a daunting task he faced not only in raising some \$200 million to complete the Cathedral, but to stabilize the Cathedral's finances before they could even think to attract capital donors. To top it off, there had been a devastating fire in one of the Cathedral's transepts that would require some 20s and 30s of millions of dollars in interior restoration. That work has now begun and he wrote this to his friends,

Recently, I climbed up to the very top of the Cathedral, and I found myself in awe at the sight of great beauty. The restoration was underway, and the giant scaffolding was in place. Up we climbed, way above the top tier of stained glass windows. Up to the very roof. There, hundreds of feet above the sight of worshipers or visitors we found an angel. It was the face of a serene and beautiful angel, carved long ago by sculptors in the Cathedral's earliest days—far above, far away from where anyone would visit. And as I looked beyond her in the dim light, I realized that she was not alone. She was but one of a heavenly host. I found that just a wonderful inspiration—that in our glorious (but as yet unfinished and unrestored) building, high above us, there are angels—ever praying for us, ever interceding with God for us—permanent and very beautiful.

Jim had an experience I would liken to that of the women on that Easter morning who saw an angel in Jesus' tomb. He was looking at the Cathedral in a new way, from a new perspective. He could remember that out of the devastation of the terrible fire, out of decades of work begun but then unfinished, that God was ultimately to be trusted, that a new thing could happen to bring hope and faith.

That's what happened to the women on Easter morning. They came upon an angel unexpectedly, St. Mark simply describes him as a young man dressed in a white robe. The angel tells them that Jesus is not here, that Jesus is risen. They came to the tomb expecting to find death. And don't we all? But the angel helped them to see a new thing, that death had been conquered, that death had been defeated, that life is God's final answer. To be sure, the women's first reaction was fear. As yet, how could they understand, really understand, what God had accomplished? They would, in time, come to that full knowledge of the revelation as Paul describes it, “Now we are looking through a glass darkly, then face to face.” Their “face to face” with Jesus would follow, but for now the messenger was an angel, a kind, beautiful angel sent from God to help them see a new thing.

Every one of us here today brings with us some knowledge, some experience, some feeling about death: something very near, something very distant, but something inescapable. And so this story, this Easter story, has to do not just with those women or the rest of Jesus' disciples, as if a piece of Christian history to be trotted out once a year and embellished with trumpets and flowers. It has rather to do with you and me today, this very hour, this very minute, as vital as the next breath we take. And it has to do with the 17-year-old who was killed on her way home from a hockey match, with the husband of but 2 ½ years, with those four twenty-somethings who died in Iraq. And moreover, because death is so pervasive, so all-encompassing, Christ's resurrection is huge. There's nothing sentimental or sweet about our claim that Christ has been raised, and because Christ has been raised we shall be raised. Paul says if there is no resurrection we are fools and most be pitied. I would add that without the Resurrection life is meaningless, random, a victory for the Devil.

But that angel comes to our tomb and says that Christ has been raised, that life has meaning and possibilities we can barely imagine. Despite every bit of evidence to the contrary, Christians are those who dare to say, “Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia.” We dare to say it in the face of every cynic, every doubter, every bit of hesitation even in our own hearts, because we are sick and tired of dying and death, and so, thank God, is God.

And so to those friends of the 17-year-old, to the wife of her husband of but 2 ½ years, and to the families of the four twenty-somethings, and to everyone here, the angel who appears at the tomb of Jesus is showing you, is showing us a new thing.

Through the veil of our tears
the Risen Christ will begin to reveal himself
and we will find rest and comfort for our souls.