



Saint Gabriel the Archangel

The Trumpet

June/July

2009

Be a Blessing!

Chris+

We all have favorite parts to the Sunday liturgy. I've always been drawn to the concluding blessing that is what is pronounced over God's people as we prepare to go out into the larger world.

The celebrant gives the blessing and the people go forward to love and serve others in the name of Christ, having received the spiritual refreshment and strengthening found at the Lord's Table.

One of my favorites is the blessing of Aaron, brother of Moses and first high priest of the Hebrew nation. You will recall its frequent use when I am praying or celebrating ... "May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you...."

A blessing, according to its use in Scripture, is a bestowal of some kind of good, often of the material variety. Christians are called to bless and to be a blessing, not only to seek God's blessing – although we do certainly ask our loving heavenly Father for granting us health, happiness, security and so on. God wishes to bless us, and He *has*, chiefly in sending the Son to be with us and to offer his atoning death so that we might enjoy God's life, and in giving the gift of the Holy Spirit to be our guide, comforter and advocate.

Several years ago I came across a simple notion, one that is wrapped up on the theme of grace that we cling to, tightly. And this notion is that to receive God's blessing we are to *be* a blessing. What does it mean to *be* a blessing? What does it mean to seek to bless and not curse? What does it mean to seek to be Christ-like in bestowing some kind of good? What does it mean, finally, for a church community to *be* a blessing?

During our vestry meetings, we often talk about St. Gabriel's being a blessing to our neighborhood(s). I recently wrote to a friend saying that I want more and more for St. Gabriel's to incarnate the love and truth of Christ here in this place – to find ways to be a blessing to Cherry Hills Village and our surrounding neighborhoods. In this way, we can *do* evangelism, we can *grow*

spiritually, we can *receive* all that God intends for us as a community – and we are blessed by being a blessing. It's not an original thought, nor a profound or complex notion, but it struck me – and still strikes me – as the way for us to get more out of being a follower of Jesus. It's simply the whole "it is more blessed to give than to receive" notion that we know implicitly as baptized recipients of God's grace (and yet struggle sometimes to put into practice).

The following are some simple opportunities for us to bless those around us this summer:

Caring Cookies

On June 2nd, we need a few volunteers to go with me to the University of Denver, the purpose of which is to distribute as many cookies as we can to students undertaking their final exams. But we also need many more volunteers who are willing to bake the cookies, bag them, and bring them to the St. Gabriel's kitchen by Monday, June 1.

We're not there to proselytize or even invite people, necessarily, to St. Gabriel's – if people ask where we're from, we're happy to answer – but the purpose is to say simply, "We love you. We don't know you, but we're here to say 'hi' and may you be blessed this week. We've been where you are. Good luck with your finals." That's it! It's that simple.

Water Wednesdays

Another project I am launching this summer is something called "Water Wednesdays." The idea here is to reach out with Christ's love for the local community. During the week we have a veritable parade of joggers, walkers, cyclists, moms and nannies with babies in prams, using the bike path on Quincy. I catch glimpses of them morning and afternoon from our office windows.

What if, on Wednesday afternoons, folks from St. Gabriel's were to take an hour out of their *continued*

Be a Blessing! *continued*

day to distribute bottled water to the people crossing our path (literally!) on Quincy Avenue? We could set up a card table with a hand-made sign that says "Water Wednesday" and invite people to stop and find refreshment. We would collect the empty bottles for recycling, or people could take their water with them.

I'm looking for a coordinator for this idea; someone who's willing to put up some dates and encourage people to sign up for this. It could be senior adults or middle school students, families with children or singles. Again, the idea is to simply be a blessing – to bestow good on someone else. What better thing could we do? Jesus himself was thirsty and came to a woman who offered him a drink. He then turned and offered her living

water, the water of God's flowing love, redemption and salvation.

You might be encouraged to think up your own means to be a blessing this summer. If so, please share your ideas with me and others. Most of all, find a way to **be** the blessing in someone's life. All for Christ's sake!

Chris

General Convention of the Episcopal Church

Chris+



Please keep in your prayers the General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in Anaheim,

California, July 8-17. To find out more about General Convention, please visit www.EpiscopalChurch.org.

The Colorado diocesan deputation is composed of the following lay and clergy deputies: Larry Hitt, chair, George Wing, Jack Finlaw, Lilith Zoe Cole, the Rev. Brooks Keith, the Rev. John Wengrovius, the Rev. Christy Shain-Hendricks and the Rev. Andrew Cooley. Lelanda Lee, Erica Hein, Jacqui Scott, the Rev. Max Bailey, the Rev. Lyn Burns and the Rev. Catherine Tran are alternates. You can also follow the deputation's

blog at coloradogcdeputies.blogspot.com

In his role as both Bishop of Colorado and president of Episcopal Relief and Development. Bishop O'Neill will enjoy the honor of preaching at Convention alongside other notables, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and the presiding bishop.

3rd Annual Parish Camping Event

Bob Leaman

This year's event will be held at Mueller State Park, August 28 thru August 30. Mueller is one of the most beautiful of all the state parks and was the site of last year's camping event. We were a bit spread out, however, last year. This year the church has reserved the Group Camping Site which has spots for 11 rigs and 4 tents.

Due to the limited availability of tent sites, participants are urged to borrow or rent a pop up camper or other type of RV for the weekend. Plan to arrive Friday afternoon or evening and depart by noon on Sunday. As always, we will have a Sunday morning

Eucharist celebrated by Father Chris. In addition, we are also planning other spiritual times to include Morning Prayer and/or Compline, and some special programs for the entire family.

We are asking you to pre-register with a \$20 (non-refundable) deposit not later than Monday June 29. We will have to accept registrations on a first-come, first served basis due to the limited availability. Full payment will be due by the end of July. We will divide the total cost of the group campground by the number of families attending and will let you know the exact cost early in July. Anticipate the cost for the

campground fee to be in the range of \$40 to \$45.

A Sign Up sheet and an envelope for your

deposit are on the bulletin board, so register early to be sure you are guaranteed a spot for what promises to be a fabulous weekend for all ages! Questions may be directed to either Bob Leaman (bobleaman@comcast.net) or George Evans (evanscycle@msn.com).



Lector Refresher and Orientation

Current lectors and individuals who wish to explore the ministry of public proclamation of God's word, are invited to one of two lector workshops taking place June 14 & 21. Participants may choose a day that is most convenient to their schedule.

We will gather in the nave following the 9:00 service for a "hands-on" review of the lector ministry. We will ask that readers choose a lesson from the lectionary to prepare in advance, and be ready to proclaim Good News, with helpful and constructive feed-back

from your fellow lectors. Father Chris will lead both sessions and he asks that you sign up on the bulletin board for either the 14th or 21st.

Thank You!

On behalf of the whole parish community, we would like to thank Junior Warden Rob Tate and his captains for initiating the parish clean up day May 16th. The trimming, window washing, and repairing that day is leading to a renewed commitment on our part to caring for the building and grounds of our beloved church campus.

Individuals are signing on to adopt a portion of the landscaping and lovingly tend to its upkeep and flourishing.



They join an already significant group of church members who, behind the scenes, quietly and

devotedly attend to the kitchen, nursery, altar, church office and store rooms, etc.

If you haven't yet asked yourself how you, too, can become involved, now is the time to do so! There are plenty of people to welcome you to some small ministry. Together, the building and grounds will demonstrate our love, hospitality, and our

hopefulness that St. Gabriel's will continue to be an outpost of gospel ministry in Cherry Hills Village.

Sign Up Now for VBS

Jan Benedict

June marks the 10th year of Vacation Bible School at St. Gabriel's. It's always been a time of awesome Christian formation and fun, plus it's one of our most visible and successful forms of outreach to our immediate neighbors.



This year's VBS takes place **June 15-18 from 9 to 11:30** each day. Parents can register their children online at www.stgabriels.org by clicking on the VBS button on the home page. Registration cards will also be available at the church office and from Jan Benedict.

This year's VBS theme is *Studio GO! Game Show*. A brief description follows:

At *Studio GO! Game Show* kids will participate in the excitement of a real game show, experience God's Word in the Primetime Bible

Challenge, meet real-life servants at the Service Showcase, plus explore and create through crafts, snacks, and games. They will see how God works in the lives of everyone who trusts Him. And through it all, kids will discover that with Jesus everyone wins!

From the Parish Register

Sharon Stewart

New Addresses:

Karen Howland
1331 S Magnolia Wy
Denver, 80224

Bruce Kennedy & Heather Twidale
6339 S Monaco Ct
Centennial 80111

New e-mail:

Patricia Skurnik
paskurnik@q.com

Godspeed to Fran Schrag who transferred to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Fort Mill, SC.



June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

3: Tom Eggert
4: Joan Madrid
8: George Shyne
9: Susie Johnson
9: Loretta Pegg
10: Anne Pickard
11: Carter Dorighi
11: Vivian Shyne
12: Karen Cain
12: Gail Parsons
12: Rusty Pickard
12: Marilyn Schneider
12: Lee Thrailkill
13: Charlotte Kurz
14: Joan Kuntz
17: Bill Dahlberg
19: Jill Ellis
24: Joe Carbone
24: Bo Ward
25: Betty Williams
26: Barbara Holmes

27: Sally Doty
27: Margie Langstaff
29: Liz Armstrong
29: Mac Blount
29: Emily Geras
30: Grace Ditzenberger
30: Judy Schlechten
28: Will Lively
28: Susie Street
31: Jack Armstrong
31: Eleanor Fielder

Anniversaries

1: Jennifer and Joel Johnson
3: Kathy and Ed Santaus
4: Lindsay and Bob Leaman
8: Marilyn and William Schneider
11: Shari and Neil Gillette
15: CC and Eric Dick
15: Susie and Parke Street
17: E. J. and Jay Pulis
20: Amy and Bob Greene
20: Betty and Dick Williams
22: Barbara and Larry Holmes
22: Margot and Mike LaBree
23: Van and Walt McMahan
23: Sandy and Hugh Sweeney
25: Theres and a Bill Blumberg
25: Brooke and Bret Fox
27: Frances and Bob Brown
27: Jean and Jim Talman
28: Karyn and Michael Bristow
29: AK and Greg Cotton

Vestry Highlights – May 5, 2009

- Discussed the assigned chapter on evangelism in the book *The Living Church*.
- The organist/music director search committee will begin interviews the week of May 18.
- Chris+ is seeking input regarding a Morning Prayer service at 7:30am on Sundays.
- Approved the following people as delegates to the Diocesan Convention in October. Jennifer Johnson, Larry Ellis, Karen Howland, David Ariss and Bob Leaman.
- Approved a fundraising effort for \$100,000. \$50,000 would be for deferred maintenance projects, \$25,000 would repay the operating fund for the parking lot drainage project completed in 2008, and the remaining \$25,000 would reimburse for the Master Plan.
- Treasurer, Kay Ward, reported that total income for the month of April was \$31,182 (under budget by \$1,039). Total expenses were \$30,055 (under budget by \$1,434). Year to date expenses are \$120,657 which is under budget by \$888.

Vestry minutes and financials are posted on the bulletin board.

Sharon Stewart
Clerk of the Vestry

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

2: Alma Howen
5: Durae Kubat
6: Ann Robinson
8: Claire Fielder
8: Jordan Johnson
9: Jerry Nelson
13: Priscilla Garrett
16: Justin Bristow
17: Donald Corley
17: Roger Rhodes
18: Libby Coombs
18: Marge Hedges
19: David Ariss
19: Catherine Geras
20: Mike Sayler

20: June Travis
21: Bob Cottle
21: Ed Santaus
21: Lisa Swenson
23: George Dick
24: David Geras
26: Aldis Sides
26: Jim Talman
27: Jan Benedict
27: Ann Young
28: Kalia Casani
59: James Threlkeld

Anniversaries

1: Ginger and Jack Anderson
3: Margie and Sam Langstaff
5: Jennifer and John Casani
12: Muffy and Bill Dahlberg
12: Margi Stewart and Ford Mautz
16: Joan and John Kuntz
24: Tracy and James Methe
28: Jill and Larry Ellis
31: Ann and Stephen Lacks

June 2009

St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 9am Morning Prayer	<i>2</i> 9am Staff Meeting 6pm Families First Parenting 6:30pm Vestry	<i>3</i> 7am Men's H.C. & Breakfast 9am H.C. 10am Bible Study	<i>4</i> 9:30am Artist's Workshop	<i>5</i> 8:30am Centering Prayer 9:00am Morning Prayer	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> Holy Communion 9:00 am Parish Picnic	<i>8</i> 9am Morning Prayer	<i>9</i> 9am Staff Meeting 6pm Families First Parenting Golf & Graze	<i>10</i> 7am Men's H.C. & Breakfast 9am H.C. 10am Bible Study Golf & Graze	<i>11</i> 9:30am Artist's Workshop	<i>12</i> 8:30am Centering Prayer 9:00am Morning Prayer	<i>13</i> 9am Daughters of the King 9am Men of the Covenant
<i>14</i> Morning Prayer 7:30 am Holy Communion 9:00 am	<i>15</i> 9am Morning Prayer VBS 9-11:30	<i>16</i> 9am Staff Mtng 6pm Families First Parenting Class VBS 9-11:30	<i>17</i> 7am Men's H.C. & Breakfast 9am H.C. 10am Bible Study VBS 9-11:30	<i>18</i> 9:30am Artist's Workshop VBS 9-11:30	<i>19</i> 8:30am Centering Prayer 9:00am MP 9:30am Prayer Quilt 1pm June-July	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> Morning Prayer 7:30 am Holy Communion 9:00 am	<i>22</i> 9am Morning Prayer	<i>23</i> 9am Staff Meeting 6pm Families First	<i>24</i> 7am Men's H.C. & Breakfast 9am H.C. 10am Bible Study	<i>25</i> 9:30am Artist's Workshop	<i>26</i> 8:30am Centering Prayer 9:00am Morning Prayer	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> Morning Prayer 7:30 am Holy Communion 9:00 am	<i>29</i> 9am Morning Prayer	<i>30</i> 9am Staff Meeting 6pm Families First Parenting Class				

A Small Group Reminder

Jennifer Casani

Remember to sign up on the bulletin board (on the wall in the parish hall as you head toward the sanctuary) and indicate your interests for small groups. Some leaders have felt called to kick-off with specific topics, while other leaders feel called to kick-off with topics suggested by group members. Each group will

ultimately support the overall mission through prayer, study, mutual care and service.



As sign-ups progress the topics, dates and times for each group will be solidified. You will ultimately have complete freedom to choose the group that works best for you. Our goal is to be a Christ-centered faith community where everyone is welcomed into meaningful relationships.

St. Gabriel's Receives \$500 from ULA Matching Time Program

United Launch Alliance instituted the ULA Matching Time program, which is a program that will allocate 300 grants in 2009 to acknowledge and reward individual volunteerism. John Casani, a ULA employee, volunteered 40 hours to St Gabriel's which facilitated a \$500 grant from ULA to St Gabriel's.

"I am proud to be affiliated with St Gabriel's and ULA for their focus on community service" said John Casani. The Reverend Chris Ditzenberger stated "On behalf of St Gabriel's, I would like to express our appreciation to John for his active involvement and to ULA for their dedication to corporate citizenship. These funds will be used to bolster our children's and youth program at St Gabriel's."

Formed in 2006, ULA combines the successful Delta and Atlas expendable launch vehicle programs to offer cost-effective and reliable launch services to U.S. government customers, including the Department of Defense, NASA, the National Reconnaissance Office and other organizations. ULA program management, engineering, test and mission support functions are headquartered in Denver, Colorado.

*ULA * One Community * One Mission * One Team*



John Casani and Chris Ditzenberger, Rector of St. Gabriel's

New Wine Conference at Christ Church

Christ Church in Denver is offering a weekend conference, June 26-28, to help people deepen their relationship with God. The conference is titled, "Unlocking the Kingdom," and will be led by the New Wine team from Finchly, England.

Over the course of the weekend conference participants will be taught how to hear God's voice, learn how to minister as Jesus did in the power of the Holy Spirit,

and to learn the importance of faith in their everyday life. The conference leaders will enable people to encounter God through inspired worship, orthodox teaching with doctrine and ethics founded on the person of Jesus Christ and ministry that discerns each person's calling and expresses God's love through the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit.

There is anointed leadership that is visionary, courageous, humble,

consistent, and full of faith that releases church members into their God-given ministries. They will also learn how new leaders can be identified, equipped and released into effective leadership roles. You can learn more about this conference and how to register by going to the Christ Church website at www.christchurchdenver.org and clicking on Conferences.

A Note From Dan Oelrich

Dear Saint Gabriel's family,

I can't tell you how much it meant to me to receive such a wonderful send-off last Palm Sunday! Your well-wishes and generosity are

greatly appreciated, though I feel they are undeserved. It was my privilege to serve the Lord in your midst, amongst so many marvelous, gifted children of God. I know that you will continue to support your

new musicians, as together you lift His praises! God bless you through Christ.

Dan