

LENT 2009

the

# Evangelist

St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church  
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## From The Rector's Desk

Welcome to our Lenten issue of the Evangelist.

We're delighted to offer a fresh version of the Rev. Ken Cook's world famous Baker Book Briefs as well as share some great news regarding the library. You'll also find a list of some of the key events coming up through Easter. We hope you find these things informative and stimulating for your souls!

One more note: as we approach Easter, we receive a large number of conflicting messages, from the cutesy images of bunnies and colored eggs, to the gruesome reminders of our desperate need for a Savior. You'll find some examples of those images scattered through this newsletter.

Though some of those messages may tend to confuse us, it is our earnest desire that you'll not be confused about this great truth: "... a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, is that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1.15), among whom Paul was not ashamed to number

## Holy Week 'n Stuff

Beside the regularly scheduled events at St. John's, also note these:

3/14 – "Navigating Today's Waters," 8:30 am to 12 noon, a men's workshop

3/15 – Food Pantry donations are due

3/25 – *The angel Gabriel's Annunciation to Mary* (see Luke 1:26 and ff.)

3/28 – Pairs and Spares\*, an adult social evening for singles and couples, 6 to 9 pm

3/29 – Fifth Sunday Food and Fellowship

4/5 – Palm Sunday (no Sunday School)

4/9 – Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:30 pm

4/10 – Good Friday Service @ 2 pm

4/11 – Easter Egg Hunt @ 10 am

4/12 – Easter Day services @ 8 am and 9:30 am (no Sunday School)

*\*This is a bowling term; however, the evening will be a non-bowling social event for couples and singles together.*



*Rector's Desk, continued ...*

himself the greatest. Why was he so bold about his sin? The reason is that he was equally bold about his Savior! -- *Pastor Mark*



"Lamb of God," Kathleen Giles

*Rev. Cook's "Baker Book Brief"*

Greetings in Jesus Christ, risen from the dead!

The last month has proven to be a time of significant developments for our parish library. Just prior to Christmas, word came to the staff that the interim rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, (the Rev.) Dr. Barbara Abbott, intended to return our former library to St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church. By a few days after Epiphany, this transaction was complete. For this we give thanks to Dr. Abbott and the people of St. John's Episcopal Church. As well, we give praise and thanks to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! Bill Kenney and I were able to take "the cream of the crop" of our old (now new) library. As well, Mark and I were able to move the card catalog and all of its card files to our present site. Pray for Carol and Dennis McKnight (and their assistants) as they have embraced the formidable task of ordering our expanding resources. Perhaps

*"Baker Book Brief" continued ...*

you can help them. Why don't you ask?

In the meantime, let me briefly draw your attention to three new volumes. Last year's preaching series on Deuteronomy may have drawn your attention to many themes which you might want to consider at a greater depth. The matter of idolatry may be pursued by a perusal of Gregory K. Beale's We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry. Dr. Beale is a professor of New Testament at Wheaton College Graduate School in suburban Chicago. His numerous weighty publications in recent years have developed themes that run throughout the Bible. This new work demands careful and thoughtful reading, but is very thorough. Idolatry and its disastrous effects are considered throughout

the Old Testament. Then follows a study of every New Testament passage relating to idolatry in the Gospels, Acts, Paul's Epistles and the Revelation. Every reader will find that he

has much for which to repent. Let us remember that we are called to worship God alone!

Also look for The Lord's Supper, Five Views: Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Baptist, Pentecostal. As the title suggests, this volume will raise plenty of questions, including "what happened to the Anglican teaching on Holy Communion?" One way or the other, this work (edited by Gordon T. Smith, formerly of Regent College, Vancouver) offers a great deal of helpful insight into eucharistic – and sacramental – theology and practice. Essays are provided by

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## “Baker Book Brief” continued ...

representative authors of each of the positions considered within the book. Each essay is followed by a brief evaluation by the other four authors. Within the framework of this slender volume, Anglican doctrine is considered to be most similar to the Lutheran position. While that supposition could be debated, there is much to learn here. No doubt, most readers will find themselves disabused of some misconceptions regarding the positions of other ecclesiastical traditions, while being able to learn some things about our beliefs and worship.

One final recent addition also supports sacramental reflection. I was recently able to find a copy of The Biblical Doctrine of Infant Baptism by Pierre Marcel. It is worth noting that this book from 1952 found its way into English translation by Philip E. Hughes, long-time Associate rector of this congregation. Here is a full study of the biblical doctrine of the covenant and an equally complete consideration of the family, circumcision and baptism in that context. If you have questions about infant baptism, this book will be of help to you.



"The Lamb of God in the Heavens," on the ceiling of the Vatican Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria.

### MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU

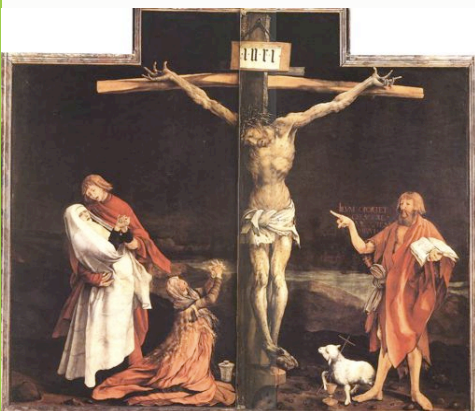
*Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy (1883-1929)*

BLESSED are the eyes that see  
The things that you have seen,  
Blessed are the feet that walk  
The ways where you have been.

Blessed are the eyes that see  
The Agony of God,  
Blessed are the feet that tread  
The paths His feet have trod.

Blessed are the souls that solve  
The paradox of Pain,  
And find the path that, piercing it,  
Leads through to Peace again.

## The Lamb Of God



*There is a great deal of historic imagery surrounding the theme of the lamb of God. From the scene of the crucifixion by Matthias Grünewald (ca 1515) to the more modern image of the Lion and the Lamb to the right, the Biblical messages of salvation in the blood of Christ alone (the suffering servant) and the ultimate victory over the chaos wrought in the fall (the victorious sacrifice) have long captured artists, as well as musicians and writers.*

*These themes are inspired by the theology of the atonement throughout Scripture. See Isaiah 11.6, John 1.29, and 1 Corinthians 5.7, among many other texts, for such themes.*

