



# St. Hugh's News & Views

February, 2008

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## Skepticism AND Faith?

Is it possible to embrace both? I have discovered that I have to embrace both. Without them both, I don't think I could be a Christian, much less be able to step into the pulpit. Let me try to say why.

Skepticism involves continual questioning, and keeps both fools and wise folk from letting either eager hopes or blatant trickery carry them away. It also requires an ongoing testing of facts and beliefs to match appearances against reality. Faith, on the other hand, requires the suspension of disbelief in order to grasp a larger whole, a larger, more coherent, and worthwhile understanding of life's value.

Skepticism is the basis for science and the scientific method, in which facts are observed, then testable hypotheses are constructed to fit the facts into a framework of understanding, and then the hypotheses are tested. If they are reliably and repeatedly verified, then hypotheses are gathered to build a theory. By the way, a scientific theory is not a pie-in-the-sky piece of "ivory-tower" conjecture, which is our usual understanding of "theory," i.e., that it is not something practical. Scientific theories are eminently practical because they are built and tested "from the ground up." They also are continually tested by new facts and

discoveries.

Faith, on the other hand, has little to do with facts. Faith is rooted in personal beliefs and experiences. It is often, perhaps too often, a "first principle," an *a priori* understanding into which other experiences and beliefs are placed, or from which they are rejected. Faith is often deeply part of a "world-view" which forms the evaluative basis for making judgments about the world, about other people, and about moral and ethical concerns. Faith is often "inherited" from one's social setting -- family, and friends, and the larger community. If everyone you talk to believes that black is "blue", you won't be able to talk with them about black unless you call it blue, too. Call black "blue" long enough, and sure enough, it is blue.



For centuries untold, many people have understood Faith and Skepticism to be in conflict, and have believed that they are fundamentally (no pun intended) irreconcilable. I do not hold this view, although education and experience, plus a scientific leaning that I have found thrilling, have kept me from the farther reaches of Faith. Like many technically-oriented people, I was more comfortable with first-hand experience than with stories and beliefs passed down through the centuries, stories which I could neither confirm nor deny. Many around me did deny, but that seemed as unrealistic to me as the confirmations that I

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heard. I was a quintessential agnostic -- "one who doesn't know." And that describes many, perhaps most, of us -- we believe, or don't, in parts and pieces, neither fully accepting, not fully rejecting. Perhaps, like me, you have intended to "wait and see." While I've waited, somehow a bridge between skepticism and faith has been built for me.

For me, Lent is a season that places the most strain on the supports that hold my Skepticism-Faith bridge up. Lent is about both reflection *and* denial, about confronting both belief *and* unbelief, about both examination *and* surrender. Life has a way of upsetting both facts and beliefs. Faith without Skepticism can lead to Jonestown or suicide bombers. Skepticism without Faith can lead to the loss of identity and removal from the social fabric. I suspect that those without skepticism ultimately end up isolated and lonely, trapped in what Bruno Bettelheim has called "the empty fortress" of their beliefs. I also suspect that those without faith are those who have never personally experienced the inbreaking of the mysterious, of the divine, and so have never had their "faith" in skepticism challenged by an experience of the unseen-yet-real.

For me, the bridge to embracing both Faith and Skepticism has been those undeniable personal experiences of the inbreaking of the divine in my life, in ways that my skepticism can neither deny or explain, and which speak to, and for, faith in the unseen-yet-real. For me, age is a blessing in this bridge-building. It seems to me that the older we get, the more life offers us to consider and ponder in our hearts. I deeply delight in the continual unfolding of human knowledge and awareness of the substantive reality all about us, while I also treasure and long for the inbreaking of the divine which passes through the veil and directly into my heart.

I pray that your Lenten experience builds such a bridge for you.

*Dick Moore*



## 'MARDI GRAS' for SHROVE TUESDAY

Circle Tuesday, Feb. 5,  
5:30 for a special evening  
at church! The theme will  
be 'Mardi Gras', and the

meal will be New Orleans dishes, Gumbo, Shrimp Creole, Beans and Rice, French Bread and Tasty Fruit Cobbler. Plan to wear your favorite costume or hat. Jim will show slides of the places in New Orleans that they saw on their 2 weeks trip to help the flood victims - Wilma is chairman of the event, and will have a sign-up sheet out for HELP on her committee. Plan to come celebrate this festival before Lent. This will be fun; SIGN UP TO ATTEND on the sheet in the Narthex!



### Tuesday Book Study

The Tuesday  
Book and  
Discussion

Study Group will resume meeting Tuesday, February 12th. The group meets Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, and anyone is welcome to attend and participate. During Lent we will be reading and discussing BREAD AND WINE, Readings for Lent and Easter. Publisher's weekly writes that it is "Hard-hitting and beautifully written," a compilation of essays for the season by some of Christendom's most celebrated masters. Authors include C.S. Lewis, Kathleen Norris, Barbara Crafton, Frederick Buechner (one of my favorites!), Madeleine L'Engle, Dorothy Day, Mother Teresa, and Henri Nouwen. These are just a few, there are many others, including Meister Eckhart, who is quoted in the

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introduction; "that those of us who have the hardest time with Lent are 'the good people.' Most of us are willing to give up a thing or two; we may also admit our need for renewal. But to *die* with Christ?" On the jacket we read that Lent is "A time for self-denial, soul searching, and spiritual preparation...a fitting season for daily reading and reflection." This book offers a wide selection of meditations from classic to contemporary scholars, writers and teachers.

We have a dozen books, which can be purchased in the narthex now for those who would like a head start with the reading, and Garby will order more in they are needed. Think about using the book for your personal Lenten study even if you choose not to join in the study and discussion, and we would love to have you join us if you like diversity of thought and lively discussion.

*Christie Logan*

## Annual Meeting

**Sunday, Feb. 10**



Hear ye! Hear ye! The St. Hugh Annual meeting will be held after Sunday Eucharist on February 10<sup>th</sup>. The morning will begin with

our Eucharistic Celebration at 10AM as usual. We will then have a delicious brunch during which the Annual Report will be passed out. Following brunch the meeting will begin, with each of our St. Hugh ministries reporting on what they have accomplished in 2007, and their hopes and plans for 2008. This is a great opportunity for all our community to learn how Total Common Ministry functions at St. Hugh, and for everyone to learn the duties and functions of each ministry. There will be a time for questions and answers after each

ministry presentation. The meeting will end by 2:00 PM

We are a Spirit driven community, with each member sharing his or her gifts. We firmly believe that our membership has the gifts needed to keep our parish community healthy. This has been proven again and again. If you are new to St. Hugh give yourself plenty of time to discern your gifts and let the Spirit guide you as you discover the many opportunities for service. You will know if you are called to a certain ministry because you will have the energy and commitment for it

I send this invitation to each of you, knowing that if at all possible you will join us for the annual meeting.

*Garby Elmore,  
Senior Warden*



## Brunch Before Annual Meeting

On Sunday, February 10th, between the Worship Service and the Annual Meeting, a special Brunch will be served. Donna Graham and Betty DeVigne will co-chair this effort.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the help they are counting on.

1. Set-up day before
2. Food items to bring,
3. Making coffee & serving
4. Clean up after.

**Types of foods:** breakfast casseroles, juices, fruit trays, sweet rolls, breakfast meats, etc.





Ash Wednesday, falling this year on February 6, marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is the forty days before Easter, a time set apart from what the church calls ordinary time, to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the resurrection of our Savior

Jesus the Christ on Easter Sunday. It is a time for us to be especially aware of God's presence and guiding help. It is a time to examine our lives with deliberation, to see how we measure up to the calling of Christ and where we stand in our relationship with God.

Our beginning place is Ash Wednesday. The ashes for Ash Wednesday are the remains of the Palm Fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday. On that Palm Sunday the congregation joined in procession waving their palms and crying out, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord." In this rite we reenact Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the crowd hailed Jesus entering Jerusalem Yet only a few days later this same crowd will turn against him crying, "Crucify him, Crucify him!" It is a time when we come face to face with our human weaknesses, the preponderance of our ego and our proclivity toward sin. It seems that no matter how good our intentions are, we continually find ourselves back sliding into self-centered, slothful ways, magnifying our own wants and needs while ignoring the needs of others.

*"The imposition of ashes gives us an image of ourselves being reduced down to a bare minimum, the stark essentials, what we are after all vitality and usefulness has been burned off. The ash speaks of reduction and regression and worthlessness, of disintegration and death – of the ultimate defeat of not only our bodies but of our most hard-won and cherished progress and accomplishments." In other words, Lent serves as a reality check, when we remind ourselves that after years of spending time and money beautifying, primping, deodorizing, dressing up our bodies, they will be reduced to dust.*

*The purpose of this exercise, and indeed of Lent, is not to make us depressed, but to remind us of our humanness, our mortality. We must remind ourselves of our humanity in all its inadequacy and imperfections as the first step towards spiritual growth and development."*

*Fasting is an ancient spiritual discipline but I would like to suggest that as a Lenten discipline, we engage in a spiritual fasting, as outlined in the following anonymous meditation. As you go through Lent, concentrate on a different one each day.*

*Fast from judging others;  
feast on Christ dwelling in them.*

*Fast from fear of illness,  
feast on the healing power of God.*

*Fast from words that pollute;  
feast on speech that purifies.*

*Fast from discontent;  
feast on gratitude*

*Fast from anger;  
feast on patience.*

*Fast from pessimism;  
feast on optimism.*

*Fast from negatives;  
feast on alternatives.*

*Fast from bitterness;  
feast on forgiveness.*

*Fast from self-concern;  
feast on compassion.*

*Fast from suspicion;  
feast on truth.*

*Fast from gossip;  
feast on purposeful silence.*

*Fast from problems that overwhelm;  
feast on prayer that sustains.*

*Fast from worry;  
feast on faith.*

The Rev. Colleen O'Conner

*Submitted by Jennifer Pratt*





## St. Hugh Gardens

On January 6, Terry Hershey joined us after worship and presented his ideas for enhancing our landscaping. This was our fourth meeting with Terry. He accepted ideas and concerns that will be incorporated into a refined master plan. The intent is to provide a long-range master plan of projects we can implement, as funds and energy are available.

The objective is to enhance our existing beautiful gardens and make them more accessible, useable and to provide a visual sense of serenity and peace that would be inviting for the community as well as our church family.

Terry's vision is that our total property is the Lords sanctuary (not just inside the building). Our gardens can be divided into unique areas (or rooms), each with a purpose. These rooms would be linked by pathways wide enough for strolling and provide access to the different rooms.

A summary of the garden rooms follows:

- A. Entry Garden (Both sides of driveway entering parking lot) Includes a new entry sign and provides a welcoming invitation to Serenity and Peace
- B. Memorial Garden / St. Francis Garden (existing memorial garden and pet area) Provide an area for Interment Services and establish a sense of reflection, remembering and prayer
- C. Pathways (begin off parking lot and intersect existing lawn areas) Provide for strolling and access to all garden rooms
- D. Reflection Walkway (Path in back of church overlooking North Bay and Mt. Rainier) Provide for strolling with benches for meditation and lookout to water.
- E. Worship and Community Courtyard

(Existing "back garden and yard" off narthex) Provide space for warm weather fellowship, social gatherings and outdoor Eucharist's or special liturgies. A labyrinth could be incorporated in this hard surface area.

- F. Parking Island (grassy planting between parking areas) Provide backdrop to entry and soften parking area visible from inside church.

More information is available in the narthex and from anyone who attended the discussion. We expect to receive the refined master plan by the end of January and it will be available for discussion at our annual meeting on Feb. 10.

*Submitted by Jim Neal*

## Receiving Eucharist

Sharing the common cup at the common table is a central unitive act of our faith. In it we symbolize we are indeed one body. Scientific studies have shown that the presence of alcohol, the nonporous surface of the silver chalice, and the practice of wiping the rim after each person are sufficient to eliminate any bacteria. If you have a cold or other illness, you may either receive just the bread then cross your arms over your chest when the wine is offered or you may wait to receive both bread and wine from the pottery intinction vessel.

## Online Google Group

I have created a Google Group for St. Hugh members only, which is by invitation only. Any one who hasn't gotten an invitation can email me or give me their email address, and I will send an invite. I have sent out quite a few so far. This Group, which is hidden from the rest of the world, is a place for St. Hugh members to share information, opinions, events, etc.

Dick Moore - dickmoore@hughes.net



## 'GINNY'S CALICO BEANS'

Brown 1 to 1/2 lbs. hamburger until browned and no more pink remains.

Add 1/4 C. chopped onions and 1/4 lb. chopped and browned bacon.

1 can (26 oz.) B&M beans

2 cans (15 oz.) chili beans (I prefer S&W brand)

1 or 2 (15 oz.) seasoned butter beans (I prefer Glory brand from Albertson's)

Add 3/4 C. brown sugar, 1/2 C. tomato ketchup,

and 1 tsp. dry mustard.

Add meat mixture and mix well. You may add any other kinds of beans, if you wish.

Bake uncovered, 350 degree oven for 1 to 1 1/2 hrs.

Baking a little longer, makes the mixture saucier.

Ginny Green

### February Lectionary Readings

**February 3, Last Sunday after the Epiphany:** Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2 or Psalm 99, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

**February 10, 1st Sunday in Lent:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

**February 17, 2nd Sunday in Lent:** Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John:1-17

**February 24, 3rd Sunday in Lent:** Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42



**In Our thoughts & Prayers** Adam, Ardele, Bernie Faubel, Bill McCoy, Brian, Bob Potter, Chris & Virginia, Damian & Brandon, Dan, David, Denise Cieply, Dick Stearns, Don & Ginny Green Don Beeber,

Doug, Doug Allison, Doree & Jesse, Dorothy Watson, Fran Bledsoe, Gary Johanson, Georgia Huntley, Gretchen, Jacob & Family, Janie McClain, Jasper Williams, Jennifer, Joseph, Kyle Vance, Loren, Lucille, Mandy, Margaret Barnard, Mark Denham, Mary Forman, Mo, Nancy Evans, Neil Seljestad, Nicki, Norma White, Orv & Mona Anderson, Patricia & Family, Paul & Peggy Meyer, Pauline Smith, Rebecca, West, Robert Lingaas, Ron & Joanne Quiring, Richard & Karin, Rita Staley, Sheri Lamar, Tracey

**those who have died** Betty DeBerry, Helen Pesola, John Schreier, James Cotant, Sue Paisley, Ted Runyan, Larry Gasper, Those who sacrificed their lives in service to their country

**those who mourn** LeighAnn & Mark Gasper, Carol Kennedy & Carol DeBerry, Brenda & Perry, Gwen Runyan, Gertie Schreier, Families of Servicemen & Women

**those in service to our Country** Ann, Chris & Nick, Erik Von Fischer, Gary, Ian Larson, James Bruno his unit & bomb dog Arno, Jed & Ryan, Kyle Coppinger, Richard Garrett, Sajen Garrido, Zack



...to the Pritchards. Donna F. Carol, for bringing flowers last month.

...to Brenda, Jinx, Donna F., Hazel, & JoAnna, Donna G. & Betty for hosting fellowship time

last month.



Sunny Cotey 2-4

Roy Ferguson 2-5

Hazel Dinius 2-6

Jinx Cromwell 2-6

Sheri Simpson 2-7

Denise Hays 2-8

Dick Moore 2-10

Ginny Wallace 2-27

*Please let us know of any birthdays we missed or listed incorrectly. Thank you!*

# FEBRUARY

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

					1	2
3 Palestinian Children's offering Food Bank/Youth Sunday Transfiguration of the Lord Worship 10:00	4	5 Circle of Friends 10-3  Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras 5:30	6  Ash Wednesday Service 6:30	7 Choir 10:30	8	9
10  <b>First SUNDAY IN LENT</b> Worship 10:00 Annual Meeting	11 ECW 10:00 @ the Church	12 Circle of Friends 10-3  Book Study 6:30	13  <b>Busy church cleaner</b>	14 Choir 10:30 Memorial Committee 1:00  <b>Newsletter DEADLINE</b>	15	16
17  <b>Second SUNDAY IN LENT</b>	18  <b>Presidents' Day</b>	19 Circle of Friends 10-3  Book Study 6:30	20	21 Choir 10:30	22	23
24  <b>Third SUNDAY IN LENT</b>	25	26 Circle of Friends 10-3  Book Study 6:30	27  <b>Busy church cleaner</b>	28 Choir 10:30	29	

St. Hugh Episcopal Church  
 280 E Wheelwright  
 P. O. Box 156  
 Allyn, WA 98524

360-275-8450  
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Sunday Worship 10:00 am

office hours  
 Wednesday's & Thursday's  
 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## Sunday Schedule

	Presider	Preacher	Deacon	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Guild	Flowers	Coffee Hour
<b>February 3</b>	Jennifer	Jennifer	Sylvia		Heidi Helen	Karen S.	Ginny W.
<b>February 10</b>	Christie	Garby	Sylvia		Ginny G. Brooke	Lent	ECW
<b>February 17</b>	Jennifer	Dick	Sylvia		Heidi Arlene	Lent	DeVonne & Dick
<b>February 24</b>	Jim	Robin	Sylvia		Brooke Ginny W.	Lent	Helen & Wes