

Quilting the Pieces of our Lives

By Jennifer Mahnke

I started gathering fabric for my first quilt almost 20 years ago. I had the idea in my head that it was a process I needed to try at least once in my life—just to be able to say I'd done it. Being self taught, I stumbled along in the process and ended up with a beautiful blue and yellow postage-stamp quilt, with a little white and red thrown in, that I gave to a friend as a wedding present. I was hooked. Quilting became more than something I had to try once.

I'm not one for following patterns very well, although I have on a few occasions. I also tend to make things up as I go. I love most of the process of quilting. I feel a sense of real purpose as I go through each step. I like to count things too. I'll start a quilt with a pile of squares in the hundreds and as I work the total number of pieces to sew together becomes less and less as the pieces become bigger and bigger. The quilt takes shape before my very eyes. By the time I get to hand sewing the binding, or edging,



Quilt by Jennifer Mahnke

onto the back of the quilt I am sitting all cozy on the couch under the quilt and it's almost a completed piece.

Quilting reminds me so much of our lives with God. When I make a quilt, I start with little pieces of fabric of different colors and patterns, and sometimes different shapes. How will they all look once put together? How like our lives, made up of many and varied experiences, some deeply broken and dark and others bright and beautiful. Sometimes when I quilt I make such a big mistake I have to take out my little seam ripper and cut out all the stitches and try again. By the grace given us through Jesus we are able to try again. To have new life. New chances. God's mercies are new every morning. All the pieces of a quilt come together to create a

whole—a vision held in the mind of the quilter. The dark pieces provide shade and contrast to the lighter ones. Colors that might not stand out all on their own suddenly pop because of their placement next to a complementary one.

Just like the quilter, God has a vision for our lives. The complete picture in his mind's eye. So he is able to take the pieces of our lives and sew them together perfectly—all the dark pieces that highlight the lighter ones, all the colors put together in just the right way. We won't see the completed picture of what God is sewing until Jesus returns, but we can trust that the ultimate Creator has vision and skill to make the most beautiful thing we will ever have seen. So I learn from the Lord as I sew and participate in his creative process.

Recently I've begun a new journey in my quilting. I've felt God leading me to start making quilts for women who have been rescued from being sex trafficked. I'm in the middle of my first one, for a teenage girl out in Colorado. I desire to give these women something of incredible beauty and value in the hope that it becomes a reflection to them of their own beauty and value as they go through their healing process. That they would see God taking all the broken pieces of their lives and sewing them together into something new and useful. Something with purpose and worth.

An exhibit of Jennifer's quilts is currently on display at The Peabody Institute Library in Danvers—16 quilts showcasing a variety of techniques and patterns. Exhibit runs through March 31.

Today at CTR



FORUM SERIES: 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall, Eric and Jennifer Kiefer discuss "Loving our Neighbor through Adoption" with Fr. Tim. Part of our *Keep Calm and Love Your Neighbor* series.

THE ANCHOR: Junior High Youth group today at the Keifer home from 2-4pm. Snacks, games, Bible Study. Contact Fr. Brian for info, brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org.

SENIOR HIGH LUNCH: Senior High School students (grades 9-12) have lunch and discussion together with Fr. Brian, following the 11 a.m. service (12:30-1:30 p.m.) in the Sacristy.

This Week at CTR

PRAYER ROOM OPEN THROUGH LENT: The Baptistry will remain open for prayer (as it was during the Lenten Prayer Vigil) at the following times: Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 noon; Wednesday 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 12 noon every Friday during Lent. Stations of the Cross is a guided meditation through Christ's passion, from his trial to his burial. As we follow the cross around the church, we stop at each of the fourteen stained glass windows that tell the

story, with relevant Scripture readings and prayers corresponding to each image. It is held at noon on Fridays during Lent, the hour when Jesus hung on the cross, and lasts around a half hour.

JEWISH EVANGELISM SEMINAR: Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at CTR. Sponsored by Chosen People Ministries, this seminar is to help equip the church to reach out to Jewish friends and neighbors with the Good News of the Jewish Messiah. Contact Fr. Malcolm for more information, malcolm.reid@ctr-anglican.org.

Upcoming Events

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS: Mark you calendars! Youth Night (grades 6+) in the Parish Hall, Wednesday March 22 from 5:30p.m.-7:00 p.m. Additional dates—Wednesdays, April 25 and May 24.

ANNUAL EASTER POTLUCK: Our annual dinner will be held at 1:00 in the Parish Hall on Easter Sunday following the 10:00 service. There will be appetizers available at noon, and dinner will be served about 1:00. All are welcome to attend—singles, couples, students, and families—or anyone who wants to enjoy a nice dinner with fellow parishioners without preparing the entire meal themselves. The church will provide lamb and ham, but we will need culinary contributions from those attending, such as vegetable dishes, potatoes, salads, rolls, desserts, or drinks. To let us know how many are attending and what food you will be bringing, please contact Becky Cottingham, rebeccacottingham@hotmail.com or call 978-526-7412.



LA VIDA PARENT-CHILD TRIP: This summer with Fr. Tim. La Vida, the outdoors education program of Gordon College, is offering a parent-child backpacking trip this summer in the Adirondacks, led by experienced La Vida staff and with Fr Tim as chaplain. Dates are July 29 - August 5, and the cost is \$1100 per pair. If interested, please contact Fr Tim, tim.clayton@ctr-anglican.org.

COMPLINE

Tonight at 7 pm

Guide us waking, O Lord
and guard us sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

-Antiphon from Compline



Regular Events at CTR

TUESDAY:

Weekly Bible Study: Meets in the Sacristy on Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact Richard Thorndike, 978-922-3618, for more information.

WEDNESDAY:

Seraphim Choir (grades 4 +), Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15p.m. Contact Dan McKinley dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org.

Cherubim Choir (grades 1-3), Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00p.m. Contact Cyndi Kreyling kreylingc@gmail.com.

THURSDAY:

Moms In Prayer International.: Thursdays during the school year from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. For more info, contact Flora Lee, floraisabella@gmail.com or 978-626-1179.

Women's Bible Study: A weekly Bible study for women of all ages. Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Contact Kim Ober, kimwober@msn.com, with questions or to request materials.

Choir of Christ the Redeemer, for adults and high school students, rehearses in the church, 7:15 p.m. -9:15 p.m., Thursdays. New members are welcome and needed. Contact Minister of Music Dan 978-774-3163x105; dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org.

Other Notes

CTR MEAL DELIVERY: If you, or someone you know, needs a meal, email us at mealdelivery@ctr-anglican.org. CTR volunteers cook and (sometimes the same, sometimes different) volunteers deliver the meals, with minimal fuss, as an expression of love to those who are sick, had a new baby, etc. For more info. contact Dcn. Adam, adam.gosnell@ctr-anglican.org.

SCHEDULING ROOMS AT CTR: The spaces at 188 Elliott Street are in constant use by our various ministries. If you wish to use a room for your meeting or event it is essential that they are scheduled on the church master calendar. Contact David at the church office to inquire about availability and to schedule your meeting or event 978.774.3163 ext. 101 or david.greening@ctr-anglican.org.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
LOVE
YOUR
NEIGHBOR**

**Sundays 10 a.m. in the Parish
Hall**

26 March

**The Spiritual Questions
of Our Student Neighbors**

The Rev'd. Tom Haugen,
Gordon College Chaplain.

2 April

**A Life Loving Neighbors in
New England**

Bishop Bill, born and raised in Pea-
body, and
New Englander ever since.

Dear Sisters and Brothers at Christ the Redeemer:

I would like to draw your attention to the Jewish Evangelism Seminar, sponsored by Chosen People Ministries, to be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The seminar will be led by the dynamic Bill Siegler, a licensed minister of Chosen People Ministries and their leader of the North Shore Messianic Fellowship.

Bill began coming to faith in Jesus as Messiah through reading the Sermon on the Mount in a friend's Bible. He puts it like this: "Jesus words about the Law and living out the Law from the heart spoke to him like nothing else ever had. It connected with so much that he had been taught as a child but had never really understood. It was from this time forward that he began to read the New Testament and to explore the proposition of Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah of Israel.

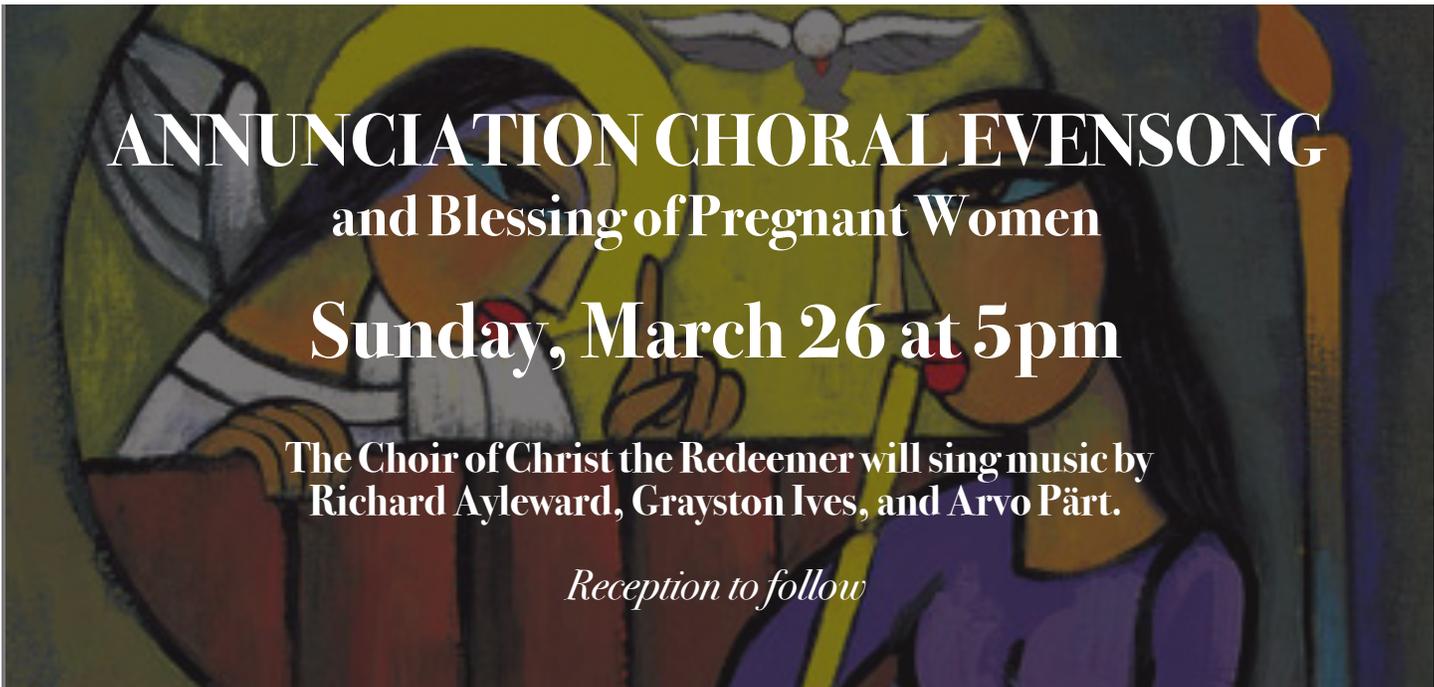
About six months later he was alone in his dormitory room reading aloud about the Gospel when he arose from his bed and confessed faith in Jesus as the Jewish

Messiah. At that moment he felt the presence of God come upon him and he knew that what he had just confessed was indeed the truth."

Speaking personally, I'm very eager to hear what Bill will teach me about "sharing the gospel from the Hebrew Bible," answers to "common Jewish theological objections to Jesus," "understanding modern Judaism," Jewish people and the state of Israel," "sharing my personal testimony with Jewish friends," and more. Surely all of us who hear Bill speak will come to understand our faith much more, and even better, come to love Jesus more profoundly than we ever have before.

You can register at <http://northshoremessianicfellowship.org/Events>. If that escapes you don't worry, just come Saturday morning March 25 at 9 a.m. If the \$8 (for lunch and outstanding materials) is a difficulty come anyway and we will cover for you.

Shalom,
Fr. Malcolm



ANNUNCIATION CHORAL EVENSONG and Blessing of Pregnant Women

Sunday, March 26 at 5pm

The Choir of Christ the Redeemer will sing music by
Richard Ayleward, Grayston Ives, and Arvo Pärt.

Reception to follow