

# The Arimathean

Sermon for Trinity Sunday, 2008  
May 18, 2008, Holy Eucharist

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Well, today we have the world's longest first lesson. Congratulations to Jennifer for doing such a good job with that incredibly long reading. And thanks also to our other Jennifer who had the world's shortest lesson from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth. And then there is the Gospel reading, another very short reading – which is Matthew's version of the Ascension, where the risen Lord says good-bye to his disciples, and returns to God. Except that Matthew's version doesn't mention that after these words, Jesus leaves the disciples and goes to be with God, something that the other gospel writers do tell us.

There is an amazing coincidence here, an amazing coincidence that this Gospel reading falls today, because today I have some news to tell you, and it is news about going away. I certainly don't mean in any way to compare myself to Jesus, but only to comment on the coincidence of preparing to go away. Many of you know that I have had physical problems for some time. Most of this came about because of some yoga that I did about six years ago which caused herniated discs in my neck. None of the problems are life-threatening, fortunately, but they do affect my work, and my energy. A few weeks ago, I finally realized that it was really becoming too difficult to keep going, and that I was not able to do for St. Joseph's what I wanted and needed to be doing. After consulting with some wonderfully helpful people in the diocese, I decided that I would apply for what is called "short-term" disability through the Episcopal Church pension system. That application will be sent in about three weeks time, and in a week or more after that we I should have an answer as to its acceptance. When I send in the application in early June, I will stop working as my doctor is advising me to do. You will then be able to call an interim pastor, and begin the process of preparing to call a new rector. If you have an important event scheduled with me, please talk with me and we will work out a way that this



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## Addie's Letter, continued.

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can happen.

I say this all very matter-of-factly, but I certainly do not feel matter-of-factly about it at all. In fact I am filled with very deep emotions of sadness as I think of not being with you. But, I also feel relief because the burden of work will be lifted, and hopefully I will have time and space to heal, and you will be getting the help you need. And I feel deep gratitude for all that we have shared, and for all that you have given me through these last ten years. We have shared great joys; new babies and baptisms, welcoming of new members, and the joy of new friends and deepening relationships with each other and with our God, the ways we have all grown in faith, and the work we have done together to help our community and the world. We have also shared deep sorrows at the loss of dear friends by death, and the loss of so many members who have moved away. We

have shared wonderful projects of outreach to help our neighbors near-by and around the world. I am especially happy, as you know, about the Carpenter's Kids project in Tanzania, where we are helping sixty children to have hope for better lives.

We have struggled with being a small church with a big responsibility, the beautiful building and grounds we have inherited. If there is one consolation for me, it is the state of the parish at this point in our lives. We have wonderfully caring, committed, and capable leadership in our wardens, our vestry, and our other leaders.

We have a wonderful congregation of believers - all of you, who worship here and take your faith out into your daily lives. You have a bright future ahead of you, God will be with you, and you will continue to grow in faith and in service.

As St. Paul finishes his letter to the

church, which he had founded in Corinth, he writes to the Corinthians, "Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order... agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you." These are perfect words for us all to hear as we each begin this new phase of our lives. I wish you God's love and peace as you begin this new phase in the life of St. Joseph's. I wish for you trust in God and in each other. I wish for you courage and strength as you make new decisions. I wish for you love and peace as you worship, and learn, and work together.

You are part of God's good creation and you have wonderful gifts to use to further God's Kingdom. You have a wonderful staff in Alex - our organist, Gretta - our secretary, Patty-our new project manager, and Zibby, our sexton, and wonderful leaders in Rick Ewen your senior warden, and Connie Barrett, your Jr. Warden, and your

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**Sunday, June 8th**

**Addie's Last Service**  
Followed by the  
**Annual Church Picnic**

*Shared with our sister congregation from the New Jerusalem Church*

*Please sign up to bring a dish to share. There will be a Steele Drum band, games, and lots of fun for all.*

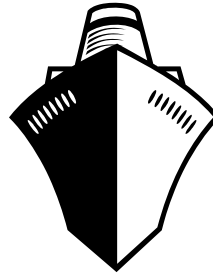
## Planning a Holiday!

Are you thinking about a vacation? Having trouble deciding what to do or where to go? Have you ever thought about a cruise? Our own Matilda and John Scheib recently returned from a long overdue vacation. They have graciously agreed to share a little about their trip with us. Perhaps it will help you plan your own!

### **Where did you go?**

The trip began in Bayonne NJ, where they boarded the Royal Caribbean cruise ship. They were at sea for two days before arriving at the first Port in Haiti where Royal Caribbean owns a section of beach. There they had a bar-b-q prepared for them to enjoy. Matilda said the ship itself was beautiful. As a matter of fact, the fifth floor was opened from port to starboard filled with boutique and restaurants opened 24 hours per day! It looks like the Champ Elysees! There was also a chapel on board where a wedding was taking place.

The second Port was in the Dominican Republic, which was a little disappointing. Interestingly enough however, it was in the third port, the beautiful island of St. Thomas; which is a U.S. territory, that they were boarded by Custom Officials. It was at this point passengers were required to show passports and cabin cards. This action



eliminated the need to go through customs when they returned to New Jersey. The fourth and final port was at San Juan, Puerto Rico. Matilda said it was very nice indeed. Every night there was entertainment. Two nights was a formal affair with a photographer available on board for a fee of course. There was also an art gallery with auctions for purchasing paintings. **How far in advance did you make your reservations?** The

reservations were made in February, the trip was in April. **Should I purchase travel insurance?** Yes, definitely! If there is a medical reason you cannot attend, the cruise line will send you a form you and your doctor has to fill out and return. This is the only way to get your money back. However, if you simply change your mind, you are out of luck and will not be refunded for the trip.

**What was your favorite part of the trip?** Matilda: "Not having to shop, cook or clean!" John:

"The shows! As well as watching two parades right on the ship! "The costumes were colorful and some outlandish. There were even men on stilts!"

**What did you see that you enjoyed the most?** Matilda: "The scenery, the beaches, clear water full of fish." John: "Walking around the different Ports."

**What did your cost include?** Traveling on the ship, all meals and

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## What is the Project Manager doing Now?

Hello Friends! Well I have been keeping busy since my last entry. As some of you may have seen, there is a bright light in the darkness these days, as you drive by the church at night. Located temporarily for now, is a spot light in the front of the building about half way down the steps.

The reasoning behind this is simply, to light the way for people to find us day or night! Once all the bids are in, we will make a selection of an electrician to install permanent lighting facing the bright red doors, as well as the tower. This way, if you are traveling either direction on

the Saw Mill River Road, you will see St. Joseph.

A wonderful designer named Gary Jerolman is working on a design for the labyrinth, which in his creative mind, will also include a contemplation garden and gazebo! We are still in the first phase of this idea. The development and details will be shared with everyone as they become available.

Joan Cameron and I went on a road trip to view several churches and their signs. I must confess I felt like I was playing hooky

with Joan as we drove around the county taking pictures and admiring the beautiful church buildings. It was a fruitful adventure that we hope will help in the creation of a new signage of some sort, to allow the community to easily find us.

I also wanted to thank you everyone for making me feel very much appreciated and welcomed into this amazing family. I look forward to enjoying all the completed projects in the future.

**Monday, June 9th**

*Vestry Meeting  
7:30 pm*

### Save the Date!

Please join us on Sunday, June 8th after the 10:30am service for our Church Picnic!!

## Planning a Vacation! continued

snacks, everything except alcohol and anything you purchased. Any extras like tours or luxuries like spa treatments or salons were extra. **Would you do it again?** Matilda said

that the best cruise she ever went on was on the Grand Princess Lines, leaving Barcelona, Spain, traveling the coasts to France, Italy, Ephesus, Greece and Istanbul. Yes, she

would absolutely go again. "You unpack once and enjoy, not having to pack again until you're ready to return home! "Save your money and go on a cruise" suggests Matilda! John agrees.

## Consumer Watch

Under federal law you have the right to make or revoke your objection to receiving telephone solicitations pursuant to the national do-not-call database maintained by the federal government. You can

do this by visiting [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling 1-888-382-1222.

Remember to call for each cell phone you have too! Each number or line that you have must be called separately;

you cannot call and expect to list several numbers. However, it takes less than a minute to put your number on a list. Please do this for yourself and your loved ones.

## Wish List!

We made a wish or two and they came true! Many thanks to Mercel and Charles White for the two new fry pans in the kitchen! I'm sure many great meals will be prepared in them! We also must thank Carollee Metroka for the lovely coffee table and side table in the McNeely room – they

really make the space look cozy and inviting! A special thanks to our own church secretary Gretta Perrotta who brought a crystal bowl to grace the coffee table, along with several accessories, vases, silk flowers, coasters and baskets tucked in the bookcase

Thank you all very much!  
What else could we wish for? Well, I'll tell you! If anyone has an unused wall clock for the McNeely room, that would be wonderful  
Right now the only clock on that level is located in the kitchen.

## Gentle Nudges

Even if you cannot attend the Woman's Workshop during the day, you can always take some simple stitching home with you. Your thoughtfulness would be greatly appreciated.

We're ALWAYS looking for more hands to help make sandwiches on the last two Wednesdays of the month! Come join the fun and companionship during the Sandwich Brigade!

It is truly an act of kindness to prepare a meal for those less fortunate than us. Yet, unfortunately, it seems that the same people prepare the meals taken to the Valhalla Residents each month. Won't you please make an extra main dish, salad, dessert, whatever you can so that we may keep this very important program going? If not, we may have to bring our service to an end. Please sign up!

## Culinary Corner

Okay friends, I've given you a Strata brunch recipe, with a number of variations to make it as savory as you wish. I've also give you an Eggplant Gratin for a delicious dinner. Now I want to share one of my family's favorite decadent desserts. A simple custard, as rich and creamy as a cheese cake, but with a macadamia nut crust. I hope you enjoy my:

### **Pear Custard Bars:**

½ cup butter or margarine softened  
 1/3 cup sugar  
 ¾ cup all purpose flour  
 ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract  
 2/3 cup chopped macadamia nuts

### **Filling**

1 package (8ounces) cream cheese softened  
 ½ cup sugar  
 1 egg  
 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

### **Topping**

1 can (15 ounce) pear halves drained  
 ½ teaspoon sugar  
 ½ teaspoon cinnamon

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Beat in the flour and vanilla until combined. Stir in the nuts. Press (not too hard) into a greased 8 inch square baking pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until lightly browned.

Cool on wire rack. Increase heat to 375 degrees.

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Add sugar, egg and vanilla; mix until combined. Pour over cooled crust.

Slice pears into 1/8 inch sections and arrange in a single layer over the filling. Combine sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over the pears.

Bake at 375 degrees for 28-30 minutes. Cool on rack for at least 45 minutes. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 2 hours before cutting.

I usually make these in the evening and refrigerate over night.

Please remember to store in the refrigerator.

Yield: 16 bars.

Dear Parents of the wonderful children here at St. Joseph.

Please take a moment and check to see that if your child is playing unsupervised in the Sunday School room, or anywhere else in the church, that you help them put things back and tidy up. I have heard children assure parents they have, and then discovered books and toys on the floor and tables. Taking just a moment to double check would be appreciated very much.

Thank you!

## Addie's Letter, continued

*(Continued from page 2)*

vestry.

I pray that you will trust each other. I pray that you will support each other. I pray that you will forgive when you hurt or disappoint each other, because as human beings this is part of what we do. I ask the grace of being able at some time to come and walk the completed labyrinth, which was your lovely gift to me when I returned from sabbatical three years ago.

We are told in the book of Genesis that when God finished his creation he "saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good." You are part of that good creation. I hope you will hear and trust those words, and re-

member them. If you have times of sorrow, or times of discouragement, or frustration – remember that God is with you, and loves you. And remember to remind each other of that love. I know that you will trust in God to bring you through any difficulties you might experience. Good things are ahead for St. Joseph of Arimathea. There will be new members, new projects, new leadership, new faith, new challenges, and new blessings. When God saw his finished creation, God saw that it was very good. Remember that you are all part of that good creation. God will watch over you, as you continue God's

work here in this place.

And my final word for today is that I have not gone yet! For the next three weeks I trust that we can be with each other, and work together to help make this transition as seamless as possible. I will certainly be keeping you in my prayers and I ask you to keep me in yours. And we all have Jesus' promise that we heard in the gospel today as Jesus moved to a new relationship with his disciples - "Remember," he told them, "I will be with you always, to the end of the age." He is with us, and will be with us, wherever we are. AMEN

## Prayer List

Veronica Hewling (Billie-Ann Grant's mother),  
 Brenda Letford, (Billie-Ann Grant's friend), the Udogwu family,  
 the Barnaby family, especially Zach, Alexander (Alla Borzova's  
 father), Arianna Fujimoto Harris, Luise Farfalla,  
 Jane Dunne & Carol Vanecek (friends of Mary-Carol Miller)  
 Merlene Chambers (Charles White's sister), Dottie Cunningham &  
 Linda Dralle, (Barbara Brown's co-workers), Gordon Hecht,  
 Sheila White (Charles White's niece), Maggie Jensen,  
 Elizabeth Graces, (friend of Jennifer Larrow),  
 and the Carpenter's Kids in Mbabala, Tanzania



**ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA**

2172 Saw Mill River Road  
White Plains, New York 10607

(June 2008)

Life is either a daring  
adventure or nothing.  
~ Helen Keller

The Rev. Adelaide S. Clark, Rector  
Rick Ewen, Sr. Warden  
Connie Barrett, Jr. Warden

Vestry: Ben Alexander, Joan Cameron, Catherine Gmoser, Lucy Knight,  
Chris Larrow, Donna Rosengren, Althea Serrant, Sharon White, Richard Wisniewski  
Donna Rosengren, Treasurer \* Grady Jensen, Historian

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Catherine Gmoser, Layout

Glad Tidings!

**Happy Birthday to ...**

06/05	Jordan Grant
06/07	Christopher Barnaby Terri Patterson
06/08	Virginia Kinney
06/09	Sally Ewen
06/11	Andrew Gmoser
06/13	Carollee Metroka
06/18	Hiromi Motohashi
06/20	Peter Oberdorf
06/21	Sharon White
06/23	Christopher Jalicki
06/24	John Miller
06/30	John Joseph Caley

