



The Messenger

St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church

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Vicar's Corner

New beginnings.

One cannot help but think of new beginnings this time of year. 2008 brings the opportunity to start fresh – New Year's resolutions abound. It is an optimistic time.

I am reminded of a young woman I worked with shortly after being ordained to the priesthood. She had recently become engaged and was exuberant with the thought of wedding planning. Young, in love and joy filled, she talked excitedly about how her life would be as a married woman. As she listed the changes, her mood suddenly shifted – in one breath she went from smiles to tears as she realized she “would never have Christmas Eve with her mother the same way again.” Change brings joy and sorrow. Never had I seen that truth played out as succinctly as I did that day.

New beginnings bring opportunities, no question about it – and along with the opportunities come challenges. When we grow, something gets left behind, when we begin anew, something ends.

Epiphany, having just arrived, is about to end. The light that came to us in the form of a star just a few days ago waits to be turned inward as we seek to uncover and understand the hidden places in our lives. Starlight turned inward has the power to help us see what needs to be left behind, what needs to end. It helps us find the courage and strength to endure the growing pains of what can and should be a very personal season, the season of Lent.

The Epiphany season has illuminated Jesus, has given him to us as our guide to travel the hidden roads of our lives. He is our companion along the way. With him we know that all things are possible, we can let go of things that are not life giving, the things that limit our ability to love as we have been loved.

The Epiphany star led the wise to Christ, may the light of that same star bring us to that place where we can truly begin anew.

Blessings,
LouAnn+

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Home communion is available for those who are unable to attend Sunday worship service. Contact Jeanne Koppel at 503-520-0240 to arrange for an appointed time.

Speaking of *new beginnings*, we will soon begin online publication of *The Messenger*, to those of you with email addresses. For those without email, your newsletter will arrive in the mail just as before. If you have email, but still prefer to receive hard copy of the newsletter, you may pick up a copy at the church, or request continued hard copies via US Mail, at stgabe@stgabrielonline.org. If your email address is not in our Parish Directory, please call the church office to update your contact information.

We look forward to saving postage and processing costs. Please contact us at messenger@stgabrielonline.org if you have questions or comments.

The Mission of St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church is to share the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and to help each other on our spiritual journey with God.