

We will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 8:15 with Night Prayers, otherwise known as Compline. Bring your Bible although some texts will be available for you.

**Soup & Bread: A Parish Lenten Dinner – Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Please mark this date on your calendar. Over the next few weeks you will hear more about our Lenten initiative which will be highlighting the Ministry Trust Fund of Christ Church Bells Corners. On Friday night, March 27<sup>th</sup>, we will gather as a parish for simple meal (it is Lent after all) and to learn more about the Ministry Trust Fund and the ways in which we can support it.



**February 2009**

**Annual Vestry Meeting  
Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Fellowship at 6 p.m. Potluck Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Meeting to Follow**

February is the season of annual Vestry meetings. At a Vestry meeting the congregation of a parish hears reports, elects officers, discusses issues, and passes a budget for the coming year. A great deal of effort, consultation, and prayer goes into the preparation of a Vestry meeting. For example, budget planning began months ago and involved a great many people. Sometimes folks seek clarification concerning complex matters in our parish finances. Again this year we will hold two information sessions prior to Vestry to talk about our parish finances in a relaxed atmosphere. These financial information sessions will take place upstairs in the Lounge on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and again Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer.

A parish Vestry obviously involves more than just financial matters. For example, through the autumn, the Nominations Committee put together a full slate of nominees for the various positions to be elected at Vestry. Care is then taken to ensure that all nominees are duly screened in order take on a role of trust and leadership within our parish community. In the event a person is nominated for a position from the floor of Vestry and is then elected, s/he would only take office following successful screening.

Many ministries of our parish submit reports on their activities of the previous year and their hopes for the future. The Vestry Package containing these materials will be available beginning Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. As you can imagine, a Vestry meeting is an important time in the life of a parish. It should reflect the mind of a congregation – its leadership as well as its members. It is also a good way to become further informed about the ministry and operations of the church. Please make every effort to attend this year's Vestry meeting to be held on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Bales for the North (A Start)**

Our St. Andrews's Group/A.C.W. needs your help in gathering articles to send to our friends in the North. A display of items for MOTHER'S BAGS is available in the foyer along with bags for filling. Contact Marg Spearey (613-828-6747) for more info.

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – 5 to 7 p.m.**

Cost is \$6 for adults; \$3 for children twelve and under; or \$15 for a family. Sign-up sheets for helpers of all sorts are in the foyer – tickets will be available from the Duty Warden or Karen and Ed Daley on Sundays or from Heidi during office hours. Everyone is welcome – tell your friends and neighbors!

### **Ash Wednesday at CCBC Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Children's Activity Day** Registration Forms are available from Susan or Donna and are due back by Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. In conjunction with CCBC's Mission & Outreach Committee the children will be preparing winter kits for The Well/La Source, a community ministry of our diocese which celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Items needed include: ladies gloves, hats and mitts; toothpaste,

toothbrushes and dental floss; small individual toiletries; small bottles of baby powder; hair brushes and combs; hair elastics and bobby pins; and ladies slippers. They tell us they can never get enough ladies warm socks, underwear and deodorant. Please bring your items to CCBC as soon as possible – donations may be left in the labeled box in the foyer until February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The children attending the Ash Wednesday Activity Day will join the seniors in their time of worship, fellowship and refreshment at our **monthly seniors' service** in the afternoon (2 p.m.). **CCBC's traditional Ash Wednesday liturgy** will begin in the chapel at 7 p.m. following the Activity Day. Please return blessed Palm Crosses from past years to CCBC for burning prior to Ash Wednesday. There is a box on the shelf in the foyer for palms and palm crosses.

### **Lenten Meditations on the *AI AM* Sayings of Jesus in the Gospel of Saint John**

**By our Teacher-in-Residence, Bishop Peter Coffin  
Tuesdays, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> – 7 to 8:15 p.m.**

When Moses heard the voice of God speaking from a burning bush and instructing him to set his people free he asked: *Who shall I say sent me?* The voice (God) replied: *AI AM WHO I AM...* Say this to the people of Israel, *>I AM'* has sent me to you. (Exodus 3)

When Jesus was taunted by those who would entrap him he said to them: *Truly, truly I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am.* (John 8:58)

What does this mean? There are a number of instances in Saint John's Gospel where Jesus prefaces his description of what he does and who he is with the mysterious *AI AM*. *AI am the light of the world.* *AI am the way, the truth and the life.* *AI am the gate.* And there are more such sayings all saying something profound about Jesus.

The Bible studies at the Lambeth gathering of bishops last summer were based on these *AI AM* sayings and the insights shared were profound. Perhaps they would be good to ponder throughout Lent in the quiet of the evening.