

## **"I Was So Sure..."**

**Opinion by Judy Krug**

Joy, the hotdog lady at Central and 6th Street, is one of my downtown friends. We talk when I go out to move my car from one 2 hour parking spot to another. I like her a lot.

Central to everything about Joy is this: she's a huge Jimmy Buffett fan. I'm certain she has Jimmy Buffett genes in her DNA.

Joy's husband has been laid up recently and all the "heavy lifting" that comes with their two hotdog stands has fallen on Joy. She says she unwinds when she's running errands in her truck. She pops in a CD and refreshes.

I asked what she listens to, fully expecting it was a Jimmy Buffett tune from Margaritaville.

Her answer? She listens to Maurice Ravel and to the symphonies of Anton Dvorak.

So I learned once again that I never fully know anyone. I expected Joy's answer to be Jimmy Buffett and I got classical Dvorak instead.

Now here's why I'm telling you this story. We have a new presiding bishop, a new leader. A lot has been said about Katharine Jefferts-Schori. Absolutely certain predictions made. Lines drawn; sides taken. Episcopalians, it seems, are either wringing their hands or jumping for joy.

But experiences with *continued on back page*

## **Returning Next Sunday, Fr. Lee Jaster Sends This Note to St. Augustine's**

**The Spirit of Jesus is warm and joyful, and I am really looking forward to sharing that with you all.**

**No matter what happens in the organizational church, we shall be praying that it keeps (or gets, wherever it is lacking) that Spirit of Jesus -- which you all have! And without which, it doesn't make any difference what the organization is!**

**I believe God made us to have smiley faces so we could more easily carry HIS radiant love. (And smiles make our work less difficult too!)**

## **Words, Yes; Good Words, Hopeful Words**

### ***What Happened in Columbus?***

At the 75th General Convention last month, delegates approved these statements. The items printed here are condensed from the Legislative Summary published by the Episcopal News Service.

...reiterated opposition to the war in Iraq and called on Congress and the president to immediately develop a plan to stabilize Iraq that will allow U.S. troops to come home; called on all Episcopalians "as an act of penitence, to oppose and resist through advocacy, protest and electoral action the continuation of the war in Iraq."

...compile resources to promote vitality of mission and ministry in small congregations...develop opportunities for leadership training in small church ministry.

...reaffirmed the Episcopal Church's support of gay and lesbian persons as children of God and entitled to full civil rights.

...affirmed that Global Warming threatens the future of God's good creation...resolved that the church and all its members should seek to reduce Global Warming, including advocating for legislation.

...declared the institution of slavery was and is sin that continues to plague the common life in the church and the culture; expressed profound regret "that (a) The Episcopal Church lent the institution of slavery its support and justification based on Scripture, and (b) after slavery was formally abolished, the Episcopal Church continued for at least a century to support de jure and de facto segregation and discrimination;"...asked for a report to the next Convention "on how the Church can be 'the repairer of the breach, (Isaiah 58:12),"...requested the Presiding Bishop to name a Day of Repentance and hold a Service of Repentance at the National Cathedral, and each Diocese is requested to hold a similar service.

...stated "an acceptance of evolution is entirely compatible with an authentic and living Christian faith;"

...called for church members to encourage legislatures and school boards to "establish standards for science education based on the best available scientific knowledge."

...requested funding for the three Episcopal historically black colleges at \$3,807,000 (St. Augustine's, St. Paul's, and Voorhees).

"Lesser Feast & Fasts" / Church Calendar. ... added Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall on May 17 and Genocide Remembrance Day on April 24.

...endorsed the Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations.

...set the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as a mission priority, and urged each diocese, congregation and parishioner to commit to 0.7 percent giving toward the goals by July 7, 2007.

...mission priorities ranked in order: justice and peace; youth, young adults and children; reconciliation and evangelism; congregational transformation and partnerships for 2007-09.

## Common Prayer: Our Roots

St. Augustine's is Episcopalian and Anglican as well. So what's up with that?

More than 70 million people in 163 other countries call themselves Anglican. But why?

Because, like The Episcopal Church USA, they belong to congregations with origins similar to ours, strongly rooted in the Church of England.

Those roots were put down by missionaries and by settlers who brought The Book of Common Prayer and Anglican clergy to new places.

They formed new congregations that resembled each other in basic ways, yet they reflect individual cultures.

Thus member churches of the Anglican Communion are joined together by choice but they have no authority over one another. In some Anglican churches, clergy and lay people elect their bishops,

This arrangement often seems complicated, and it has led to some tensions. For the last 30 years, leaders of some of the 38 member churches have said they are "out of communion" with the Episcopal Church because of several of our decisions. The differences get headlines: first about ordaining women, then the blessing of same-gender relationships and consecrating an openly gay man as a bishop.

Thus the Anglican Communion has been called a mystery. Many say that living in this often-imperfect web of relationships is impossible; others are certain that it is a gift from God.

Indeed, we believe we are all called by God to be an example of how different people might be held together by our belief that Jesus invited everyone to the table.

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*O God of unchangeable power and eternal light:  
Look favorably on your whole Church,  
that wonderful and sacred mystery . . .  
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 280*

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## "I Was So Sure..." *continued*

my hotdog lady tell me this: "Wait and see."

Let's get to know Bishop Jefferts-Schori and learn from her the direction and attitude of her leadership.

Lets actively wait before pronouncing judgment.

To get us started, here are a few recent quotes from Bishop Jefferts-Schori that might help us see into the heart of this new Presiding Bishop.

*"During our long afternoon in the House of Bishops (the day of the election), two images continued to rise in my mind: one of Jesus bending down to write in the sand when confronted with those who would have stoned the woman caught in adultery; and the other of Jesus sending the servants out to invite the passersby to the wedding feast, because others would not come.*

## Imagine This

### Living the Questions

If the vision for this church -- that St A's becomes an adult education center for the region -- is starting to gel, it may be that a new adult education series is just what we are looking for.

Imagine a course of study where the key questions are not at all fluffy; where the videos are blessedly brief and not academic puffery; where the table discussions put value on your faith struggles. Imagine a course where your opinions really matter.

Called "Living the Questions," this would be a meaty religious study for grown-ups. "Evil, Suffering and a God of Love" is one topic. "Restoring Relationships" is another. Note that these are not subjects addressed to teens or to casual practitioners. Instead the program proposes realistic ways to live out our beliefs: things to try in the real world.

This course could be offered here before the summer wanes, and it would be available to people from any church -- a fine opportunity to invite friends to your parish. It could even be offered with staggered starting dates: a kind of multiple opportunity to step in when you can (Mondays or Thursdays, afternoons or evenings maybe).

Interested? Talk to **Judy Krug**, chair of our Education Committee.

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*I will continue to reach out to those who do not feel welcome at the feast, whether they are my aggrieved brothers and sisters this day, or those who have not yet heard the good news of God's love. I pray that you will do the same."*

*"I value most its (the Episcopal Church's) historic ability to live with diversity and to celebrate that diversity...to not define everything, to allow for a varied interpretation...To be created in the image of God doesn't mean just one thing."*

*"I think that building trust in other parts of the (Anglican) Communion is crucial because there is anxiety about the place of the Episcopal Church in the communion...we want to show that the main thing is that we aren't here to argue about matters of sexuality. We are here to build a holy community."*

*"The Christian faith is about the eternity of hope. Once we give up hope, I think we cease to become active, engaged Christians. If we have no hope, we have repudiated the basis of our faith. There is always the possibility of reconciliation, resurrection, renewal."*

Insight and wisdom come to us in many ways. Sometimes even in conversations around a hotdog stand. I know now that I don't have my friend Joy, the Jimmy Buffett/Anton Dvorak fan, all figured out.

And it's too soon to pigeon-hole Bishop Jefferts-Schori. We don't know her yet. We don't have enough information or experience with her leadership style to make predictions or take action.

Besides, I like the idea that in our discovery of who Bishop Jefferts-Schori is, we just might discover more of God's gracious surprises. It'll be a grand adventure.

Ready?



