



THE RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS...

By Rev. Kershaw

I recently purchased a smaller than normal mouse to use with my laptop. It is wireless and uses a tiny transmitter that is inserted in the USB port. The computer recognizes it as a "human interface device." Supposedly this computer device was called a "mouse" because in the early days, the shape resembled a small rodent, complete with a cable "tail" and two button "ears." It's a good thing that only one mouse is needed per computer because I'm not sure whether the plural form is mice or mouses!

There isn't any logical reason to accept any claim of similarity between the computer device and a small rodent, but we do. A new meaning for the word "mouse" has crept into our vocabulary and our understanding of reality. It's smooth, familiar, and non-threatening.

"Human interface device," on the other hand, sounds very high-tech and mysterious. In many ways, the phrase is much more descriptive of the purpose of the device. The mouse serves the very important function of allowing a human to operate the computer by simply pointing and clicking. Without the human interface device (and the keyboard, of course), the computer is an expensive box taking up space on the table or desk.

I'm not interested in writing an essay on computers. I simply find myself contemplating the full dimensions of the phrase "human interface device," especially during this time of the year we call Epiphany. Isn't that what Epiphany is about—the human

interface devices that God uses to reveal God's self to humanity? The visit of the kings bearing their gifts, Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan, and the first miracle when Jesus changes the water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana—are all human interface devices, ways that God comes into our midst, reveals the kingdom, and gets our attention. Without these human interface devices—which are just the beginning because God is still interfacing with us—we wouldn't have those amazing "ah-ha!" moments of discovering the divine presence. God chooses to love us and be known by us.

When used as a noun, the word "interface" means a surface regarded as the common boundary of two bodies, spaces, or phases. When used as a verb, the word means to bring together, or to connect or mesh. What a marvelous way to look at the rich mystery of revelation celebrated during Epiphany: God's bringing together, connecting, meshing with creation. What a wonderful image of life in God's kingdom as the common boundary to two beings, spaces, bodies (as in body of Christ?).

Epiphany reminds us that whatever interfacing, connecting, or meshing occurs is always at the initiative of God. God is always interfacing with humans, primarily in Jesus the Christ. God is not waiting for us to discover God. God is always seeking us out--human interfacing.

Peace,

Susan +

Reminder:

The next issue's articles are due on the 15th of the previous month..

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

By Rev. Kershaw

At the heart of the liturgy on Ash Wednesday are these words from the Book of Common Prayer:

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

We gather on Ash Wednesday to begin a holy Lent, to start the long process self-examination and to make a right beginning of repentance. This is a somber day. The liturgy is rich and meaningful. Please join in one of the services at St. John's Church on Ash Wednesday, February 17: Noon and 7 p.m.

40 HATS/SCARVES FOR 40 DAYS

By Rev. Kershaw

Wednesdays, February 24 - March 24, 3:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall.

We're knitting hats and scarves to donate to the seafarers. We've set an easy goal of a total of 40 items made during the 40 days of Lent (even though 127 items were made and donated in 2009). We'd love to surpass the goal of 40 items (perhaps even surpassing 127?). Help us meet our

St. John's Church Mutual Ministry Goals

- Start a Mom's Play Group
- Be Intentional About Mission Giving
- Expand Art After School program
- Learn a New Song/Hymn Once a Month
- Start Breakfast & Bible study group
- Start Fifth Sunday effort of involving children in liturgy

ANNOUNCEMENTS and NOTICES



February 2010 Calendar

Mid-week Eucharist

Wednesday, Noon

Soul Friends prayer fellowship

Friday, 10:30 a.m.

Walpole Clergy breakfast

Friday, 9:00 a.m., at Murray's

Art After School – Winter Session

Art After School continues through Wednesday, February 10, 3:30, in the Parish Hall. We're having a great time exploring the use of color and texture as we create beautiful artwork. Racheal Scott and Joan d'Alessio share their artistic skills as they inspire these young artists to explore the world of creativity. The program is free, thanks to a generous grant from the Hubbard Foundation. Any child in grade 1 or higher is welcome to attend.

Knitters Fellowship

Here's a great cure for cabin fever or the winter blues: come out for a bit of good conversation and uncomplicated fellowship on Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Bring your knitting, or another project, or just yourself! There's no agenda to the gathering other than fellowship. If you are a knitter, please come out and bring a friend or two! This gathering is aimed especially at those knitters unable to attend the Knit & Nibble mid-day group that resumes during Lent to knit hats and scarves for the Seafarers. If you want to learn to knit, this is the place to pursue that skill! All are welcome.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. So it's time out for all the temptations of dessert and excess from our cupboards, all those things that challenge our attempts at Lenten self-discipline! Come out on Tuesday, February 16, at 6:00 p.m., for a delicious pancake and sausage dinner! We'll also burn last year's leftover palms to prepare ashes for the following day. Sign up in the Parish Hall to indicate you are coming and what ingredient you will donate for the dinner.

FEBRUARY

February 7, 2010		Holy Communion Rite I		5 Epiphany	
Isaiah: 6:1-8, [9-13]	Ellen Adams	EM: Pete Harrison	Ushers: Mary Schoppmeyer Pete Harrison	Psalm: 138	Mary Schoppmeyer
1 Corinthians: 15:1-11	Pete Harrison	Cruc.: Pete Harrison	Teaching:	Nursery: Whit Aldrich	
Luke: 5:1-11	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: Greg Pierson George Curchin	Altar: Mary McHugh	Flowers: Janet Wickwire
			Coffee: <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
February 14, 2010		Holy Communion Rite II		Transfiguration Sunday	
Exodus: 34:29-35	Clif Cooke	EM: Greg Pierson	Ushers: Greg Pierson George Curchin	Psalm: 99	Jack Pratt
2 Corinthians: 3:12-4:2	Greg Pierson	Cruc.: Greg Pierson	Teaching:	Nursery: Dave Adams	
Luke: 9:28-36,[37-43]	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: Nancy McAuliffe Jack Pratt	Altar: Mary Schoppmeyer	Flowers: Lyn Cooke
			Coffee: <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
February 17, 2010		Holy Communion		Ash Wednesday	
Isaiah: 58:1-9		EM: TBD	Ushers:	Psalm: 51	
2 Corinthians: 5:20b-6:10		Cruc.: TBD	Teaching:	Matthew: 6:1-6,16-21	Rev. Kershaw
			Nursery:	Altar:	Flowers:
			Counters:	Coffee: <i>Pls check the board.</i>	
February 21, 2010		Holy Communion Rite I		First Sunday of Lent	
Deuteronomy: 26:1-11	David Adams	EM: Sarah Downing	Ushers: Jim & Nancy McAuliffe	Psalm: 91	David Adams
Romans: 10:8b-13	Sarah Downing	Cruc.: Sarah Downing	Teaching:	Nursery: Whitney Cadmus	
Luke: 4:1-13	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: Jim McAuliffe George Cheney	Altar: Betty Williamst	Flowers: Janet Wickwire
			Coffee: <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
February 28, 2010		Holy Communion Rite II		Second Sunday of Lent	
Genesis: 15:1-12, 17-18	Chas Street	EM: Mary McHugh	Ushers: Chas & Delores Street	Psalm: 27	Elinor Ackerman
Philippians: 3:17-4:1	Mary McHugh	Cruc.: Samantha Scott	Teaching:	Nursery: Ellen Adams	
Luke: 13:31-35	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: Mary Schoppmeyer Peter Harrison	Altar: Georgie Haight	Flowers: Judy Harrison
			Coffee: <i>Pls check the board.</i>		

March 7, 2010		Holy Communion Rite I		3 Lent	
Isaiah: 55:1-9	Chas Street	EM: Pete Harrison	Ushers: Darrow Clark, Sue Bauer	Psalm: 63	Eric Herr
1 Corinthians: 10:1-13	Pete Harrison	Cruc.: Pete Harrison	Teaching: Mary Schoppmeyer	Nursery: Mary Schoppmeyer	
Luke: 13:1-9	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: George Curchin Greg Pierson	Altar: Mary McHugh	Flowers: Janet Wickwire
			Coffee: <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
March 14, 2010		Holy Communion Rite II		4 Lent	
Joshua: 5:9-12	Eleanor Ackerman	EM: Greg Pierson	Ushers: Whitney Aldrich Jim Wickwire	Psalm: 32	Jim Wickwire
2 Corinthians: 10:1-13	Greg Pierson	Cruc.: Greg Pierson	Teaching: Sue Bauer	Nursery: Sue Bauer	
Luke: 15:1-3,11b-32	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: Darrow Clark Jean Aldrich	Altar: Mary Schoppmeyer	Flowers: Lyn Cooke
			Coffee: <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
March 21, 2010		Holy Communion Rite I		5 Lent	
Isaiah: 43:16-21	Mary Schoppmeyer	EM: Mary McHugh	Ushers: Mary Schoppmeyer Pete Harrison	Psalm: 126	Jack Pratt
Philippians: 3:4b-14	Mary McHugh	Cruc.: Samantha Scott	Teaching: Delores Street	Nursery: Delores Street	
John: 12:1-8	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: Nancy McAuliffe Jack Pratt	Altar: Betty Williams	Flowers: Janet Wickwire
			Coffee: <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
March 28, 2010		Holy Communion Rite II		Liturgy of the Palms	
Isaiah: 50:4-9a	Nancy McAuliffe	EM: Sarah Downing	Ushers: Greg Pierson George Curchin	Psalm: 31	David Adams
Philippians: 2:5-11	Sarah Downing	Cruc.: Sarah Downing	Teaching: Nancy McAuliffe	Nursery: Nancy McAuliffe	
Luke: 23:1-49	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: Jim McAuliffe George Cheney	Altar: Georgie Haight	Flowers: Judy Harrison
			Coffee: <i>Pls check the board.</i>		

MARCH

(Continued from page 2)

goal and provide warm gifts for the seafarers. Patterns are available online (<http://www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea>) or we can print them out at church. Knitters/crocheters are asked to use the SCI patterns, and to use yarn that can be laundered by machine for all garments—4-ply or worsted weight yarn for all but the socks, which are knitted with 2-ply or sock-weight yarn. When choosing colors, remember most mariners are men. Rose, pink, lavender, and other pastels are not appropriate colors. Please do not mix yarns within the garment. For variety, it is OK to use ombre, variegated, tweed, or flecked yarns.

Here's a little information about how the gifts we make are used:

Since 1898, during the Spanish American War, volunteers of the Seamen's Church Institute have knitted, collected, packed, and distributed gifts to mariners who are miles away from home during the holidays. The gift consists of a hand-knit garment, a personal letter, and information on SCI's services for mariners. In addition to this, SCI also includes several useful items like hand lotion, lip balm, and toothbrushes—things difficult to come by when working long stretches on the water.

Knitting groups around the country connect with SCI in weekly knitting meetings at churches and at knitting-sponsored events. Through online sites like Ravelry and the CAS blog (blogs.seamenschurch.org), the Institute works with hundreds to make the program effective.

The historic name of this volunteer program, Christmas at Sea, only partially describes the work of the people who make holidays a little warmer for mariners. While gift distribution happens during winter months, collection and creation of items happens year round, and while many gifts go to international mariners working "at sea," thousands of gifts also go to mariners working on inland waterways here in the United States.

—From the SCI website

We send our hats and scarves to the SCI in New York and the Seafarer's Ministry in Portsmouth, NH. What a great way to observe Lent—instead of just practicing self-denial, we pursue a "spiritual discipline" that adds to the warmth and comfort of others!

Please— join in!



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The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, *Presiding Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, *Bishop of New Hampshire*
The Rev. Susan de Puy Kershaw, *Rector*

Vestry

Sue Bauer, *Warden*
George Cheney, *Warden*
Dave Adams, *Treasurer*
Sarah Downing, *Clerk*
Jean Aldrich, *Vestry*
MaryAnn Longever, *Vestry*
Daniel Scott, *Vestry*

Other Leaders

Colby Baker, *Organist*
Peter Harrison, *Plodge Treasurer*
Janet Wickwire, *Altar Guild*

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