

MARQUAND READER

Week of March 24, 2008

A newsletter furthering the educational mission of Ecumenical Daily Worship at YDS.

THIS WEEK IN MARQUAND

Services begin at 10:30, All are welcome!

Monday, March 24: *An interfaith celebration of Purim*, led by Vicki Hoffer and Becky Wexler with East Rock Klezmer.

Tuesday, March 25: *Celebrate with the Gospel Choir*, with Mark Miller

Wednesday, March 26: *Sung Morning Prayer* drawing from Songs of the Americas, homily by graduating senior Christine Carter..

Thursday, March 27: *Word and Worship:* Graduating Student Kathleen Turner preaching.

Friday, March 28: *Ecumenical Community Eucharist, in the style of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco*, Al Tisdale Preaching and Allie Perry Presiding.

PURIM

-- BY VICKI HOFFER

Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. The brilliance of Esther, the biblical base for the celebration, is that it is both frighteningly serious and gutbustingly funny. Yet a persistent question about the holiday remains. Is the original story true? Some say yes, and some say no. But, would it be any less wonderful a tale if it did not happen exactly as it is told in the Bible? It is a story, after all, as modern as it is old, featuring a pompous, capricious king, silly but powerful advisors, an insatiable, arrogant sycophant, a bureaucracy that thrives on excess upon absurd excess, and brave individuals who risk their lives in a time of danger.

Join us on Monday for an interfaith celebration of Purim. Vicki Hoffer and her class will be performing the lively story of Esther. Becky Wexler with East Rock Klezmer will lead us in music. Although Vicki's class will be performing the story, there is a role for you in this service, so bring your keys to chapel. As with the Purim tradition, we will have cookies and some drinks so if you are able, please bring a mug with you.

GREGORY OF NYSSA

--BY EMILY SCOTT

March 9 was the feast day of St. Gregory of Nyssa (ca. 335-ca. 394). We had just begun our spring break, so to mark the occasion, we will celebrate Eucharist on Friday, March

28 by celebrating in the style of the Episcopal Parish of St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco, as we have done several times in the past.



Gregory, bishop of Nyssa, is one of the so-named Cappadocian Fathers along with his brother Basil of Caesarea and his friend Gregory Nazianzus. The three theologians were instrumental in constructing Trinitarian and Christological doctrine of the early church councils against Arianism. Gregory of Nyssa, like the other Cappadocians, were influenced by a revived interest in classical Greek philosophy, science, and literature, reflected both in their style of writing and in their use of Platonic and Aristotelian ideas; Gregory's writings were not as well-known in the Western church as they were in the East, but remain among the most influential early writings on apophatic theology, mysticism, spiritual progression and the ability and obligation of each to discover God's action in human life. He writes: "the one thing truly worthwhile is becoming God's friend."

The Episcopal parish of St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco draws heavily on Gregory's optimism toward human creativity and agency, discovery, and spiritual progress, in developing a worship life which values ancient traditions, interaction, shared experience, inclusivity, and ongoing engagement with theological scholarship, dance, music and visual arts. For more information on St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, visit their homepage at www.stgregorys.org.

The Marquand Reader is edited by the chapel staff and issued on Monday when classes are in session. It both reflects on past services and highlights upcoming services and other special opportunities and events. Additional articles by the Chapel Staff and the faculty will explore historical, liturgical, theological and ecumenical topics, in order to further the educational goals of Marquand Chapel. Contact Patrick Evans or Christa Swenson if you have any suggestions, comments, or questions.

The Marquand Chapel Team:

Patrick Evans, *Acting Dean of Chapel, Director of Chapel Music*
James Aveni, *Senior Chapel Administrative Assistant* * Christa Swenson, *Liturgical Coordinator*
Mary Lou Bozza, David Dill, Johanna Johnson, and Rachel Valente, *Chapel Ministers*
Mark Miller, *Gospel Choir Director* * Dominic DiOrio and Soo Yeon Lee, *Chapel Choir directors*
Zach Hemenway and Tim Weisman, *Organists*