

# Calling All Artists Hither

The Renaissance Faire is six months away, and the Planning Guild is getting serious. We're starting to nail down an actual map of the Faire, contact potential vendors, make a budget, and get really excited.

But now it's your turn to get in on the fun. We're having a T-Shirt Design Contest (there's just no way to put that into Elizabethan English). We need everyone in the parish with any sort of graphic design or artistic talent to take a piece of paper (or boot up your computer) and make a picture that totally captures the spirit of the little village of St. Francis-upon-the-hill. The Planning Guild will choose the three best designs, and everyone can start voting on St. Francis Day, October 4, during the big parish picnic.

The voting is the fun part. We'll put the designs on a table with a jar next to each one. To vote, you just put money in the jar by your

favorite picture. After a couple of weeks, we'll count up the money, and the design that earns the most wins. (Tricky, aren't we?) We'll use the money to get the shirts printed up, and then we'll sell them at church and especially during the Faire itself.

Each design needs to say St. Francis Episcopal Church Renaissance Faire, as well as March 6, 2010. (We want them dated so they'll be collector's items. No sense in planning small.) Try to make it around 12"x12", and a plain line drawing so



we can print the design on a colored shirt. The winner gets the thrill of having his design all over town, along with a free shirt once they're printed.

Have fun, collaborate, even get your arty friends involved! But start working now—the deadline for submissions is absolutely, positively October 1. Questions? Contact any member of the Planning Guild. We can't wait to see what you come up with.

## The Planning Guild

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## Another look at environmental stewardship

Traveling by train is an enforced and much-welcomed slow-down time. There is plenty of time to see morning glories twining through trees and wild underbrush, deer making their own trail in the tall grass, ponds with thousands of lily pads. And then...the discarded tar bucket, car tires, rusted machinery. How does all this stuff get here? Do workmen just leave it behind or do people dump refuse near the tracks because it's convenient? Not only has the beautiful view been damaged, but the health of that which surrounds it, as well. All kinds of harmful chemicals can leak out of this trash.

Why do we not pay attention to what we are doing? Early man had to pay attention to his natural surroundings; he lived closer to nature and his survival depended on it. We first faced how to work with the natural world by observing and learning its wonders—recognizing how we fit in, being part of its scheme of things. This changed.

We no longer pay attention. We no longer fit in. We are riding roughshod over it all, leaving a trail of garbage behind us.

A recent Epistle lesson (Ephesians 5:15-20) exhorted us to "be careful how you live, not as unwise people but as wise." We must once again learn how to pay attention and live in concert with our beautiful world. Slow down a bit and consider what you do in your daily life. Then you will be "singing and making music from your heart to the Lord."



—Amy Johnson (riding the AMTRAK Texas Eagle)