

The Messenger

October 2007

St. Anne's Episcopal Church

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15 East Green Street
Middletown, Delaware

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Newsletter deadline: October 15, 2007
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Interim Rector's Corner

Dear friends in Christ,

One of the things I enjoy is sharing the meaning of words with others. So today I am going to do something which I enjoy. The first word is "amateur." Very often this word conveys a connotation of something which is not well done. A job done on a lawn in an amateur way might be unacceptable to a fussing person. (My remembrance of our sons cutting grass was that they were not always doing it in a manner acceptable to their mother and me.) The word "amateur," however, should not always, if ever, be connected with poor workmanship.

Actually, the word comes from the Latin word "amor" which means to love. Who can forget the drill in Latin 101 of our school days, amo, amas, amat—I love, you love, he loves. The word amateur means someone acts out of love and not for money. An amateur athlete is not paid for his or her performance. When viewed in this way, we can see many amateurs around us, people acting out of love and not for pay. And who are these people? They are the ones who set the altar, assist at communion, sing in the choir; they answer phones in the church, help maintain the physical plant, take communion to the shut-ins, deliver flowers, teach church school, work with youth—the list is endless. Amateurs are also in the secular world—in nursing homes, Big Brothers, homeless shelters. All are seeking to improve quality of life without seeking pay or praise, but out of love. So being an amateur is a compliment.

The second word is "volunteer." One of the first things we learned in the military was not to volunteer—you might get shot. The word volunteer also comes from a Latin root, "voluns," It means an act of the will--something a person does because he or she wants to, not because they have to. When you put amateur and volunteer together in the church, you get the essence of the Christian life—acting out of love because you want to, not because you have to. The greatest act of love and willingness to serve was Jesus' act of dying on the cross. The actions of Christians everywhere are motivated by love and done freely.

God bless all amateurs and all volunteers!

Peace,
George J. Karney

Dates to Remember

October 3

Wednesday Bible Study
begins
10:30 a.m.
Rector's Office
19 East Cochran Street

October 14

Congregational Meeting
after the 10 a.m. service.

You can review the SNAC
Report in the office or on our
Web site:
www.st-annes-church.com.

October 16

Fundraiser at Friendly's
Habitat for Humanity

October 20

Day of Quiet Reflection

November 3

Five Wishes Program

November 4

Celebration Sunday

NEW

To keep up with current
happenings at St. Anne's, see
our new online calendar at
www.st-annes-church.com.
Calendar is updated regularly
throughout the month.

Coming Soon

A New St. Anne's Directory!

The Membership Committee
Needs Your Help!



Pictures will be taken of each family for the **new St. Anne's Directory** on three separate Sunday evenings in October from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Pictures are scheduled based on the first letter of your last name:

A-I October 14, 2007

J-Q October 21, 2007

R-Z October 28, 2007

We ask for everyone's cooperation in making this endeavor a success!

THANK YOU!

If you have any questions or scheduling conflicts, please contact Karin Cooney Newton at (302) 378-1309 or at kjnewton@verizon.net.

A Day of Quiet Reflection



You are invited to a Day of Quiet Reflection hosted by St. Anne's Episcopal Church and presented by Barbara Tucker, Spiritual Companions, Diocese of Delaware.

St. Anne's Church
Corner of Cox and Green Sts.
Middletown, Delaware

Saturday, October 20, 2007
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Take time for a day of quiet reflection. Come away from our busy world with all its stresses and anxieties. Sink into the quiet and relax in the peacefulness.

The topic for the day is Ruth's Story. The Book of Ruth gives a strong message about trusting God, even in the hard times. This story of God's grace during difficult circumstances can help us glimpse God's grace in our own lives.

Beverages and snacks are provided. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Bring a journal, if you wish to record your thoughts.

For directions or further information, call St. Anne's Church (302) 378-2401 or Nancy W. Woodward (302) 378-1718.

Note:

If you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital, please call the office at 302-378-2401 or Father Karney at 302-994-3659.

Celebration Sunday – It’s Coming!

November 4

It is the day that we at St. Anne’s Church pledge to be faithful stewards of our church so that we can continue to do God’s work. We do this by coming together to celebrate our community, our time for worship, our opportunities for learning and for building relationships, for the love, faith, and hope that we know are ever present in our lives because of a loving God. As we do this, remember

“How Great Thou Art”

Celebration Sunday and the weekly services that precede it will provide you time to reflect and grow spiritually. Please join us each Sunday to hear members of the congregation share their stories about their faith and how God’s love has made a positive difference in their lives. As you reflect on their stories, I urge you consider how God’s work at St. Anne’s Church and in our community has impacted your lives. On Celebration Sunday, you will have the opportunity to grow spiritually and help others grow spiritually through financial pledging. Stewardship is our tangible way of giving to the glory of God—to grow in relationship with God by doing our part to keep our church a sound and welcoming house.

“How Great Thou Art”!

Peter Hall, a member of St. Anne’s Church and of the choir, sang the hymn “**How Great Thou Art**” as a solo during one of our summer services at Old St. Anne’s. When my daughter, Katie, and I were later talking about it and how touching it was, she looked at me in surprise when I told her it was Peter Hall singing—she thought it was a recording as it was so well presented. I saw Peter later that week and was telling how much we enjoyed his gift of song. And Peter said “**Thank you, thank God!**” This is truly a beautiful hymn. I hope the words (and if you know the music) reminds and inspires each of you to want to praise and thank God for the many blessings we have - in our church, in our community, and in our world.

“How Great Thou Art”

*Swedish poem - Mr. Carl Gustaf Boberg
Translation and music by Stuart K. Hine*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

(Refrain) Then sings my soul, My Saviour God,
to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I
wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.
(Refrain)

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.
(Refrain)

When Christ shall come, with shout of
acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou
art!"
(Refrain)

A Note From the Editor

As the fall and holidays approach, please remember to get those newsletter articles in on time. **The deadline is the 15th of the month**—with small flexibility of a couple days.

Also, we will be starting a new column: “A View from the Pew.” I receive, at times, small thoughts, insights, stories of the everyday, and quotes, and I am going to compile them in this column for you each month. Please feel free to send them in to **newsletter@st-annes-church.com** and I will put them in as space allows. This month’s story is special to me, and although a bit long, please enjoy our first edition.

Thanks for your continued support to make our newsletter informative and interesting!

A View from the Pew

Many of us are affected by various health issues over the course of our lives; however, none is more disturbing than when a child in our lives suffers and we cannot treat or diagnose the problem. I have personal experience with this and I want to share my story and how prayer to Jesus allows hope and answers when we are really ready to listen. I was desperate; it was 2 a.m. and my child up was vomiting with another one of her “episodes.” My only flicker of hope was that maybe we would ride this out at home, as the number of hospitalizations had decreased significantly since she was two.

“Why?” I asked Jesus. “Why?.What’s the answer?” We have gone through this since she was a baby. And now at four years old, curled up in her bed looking no older than that newborn I brought home from the hospital so many moons ago, I was pleading with Jesus. “Please, protect this child and help me to figure this out.” I touched her little hand and she gently grasped my finger. I knew Jesus was with us. I sat and I prayed with tears streaming from my eyes. I needed an answer and although we had been through various testing and several doctors, no answers.

About two hours later, I emerged from her room and although exhausted, sat down at my computer. I typed in a few “key words” and then it popped up at 4:08 a.m.:”Cyclic vomiting syndrome—a rare and under-diagnosed syndrome with episodes of extreme vomiting followed by periods of relative health. A migraine equivalent.” It all sounded strangely familiar. The symptoms, the age of the child , the desperation of the families and friends to fix this. I felt empowered and for the first time since she was 15 months old, I felt hopeful.. Jesus was giving me the answer; now it was up to me to find out what to do with it.

A few hours later, I began to make phone calls. I asked the doctors what their experience had been and what to do. Within a month, we had seen our beloved pediatrician who, after hearing my full story, was surprised herself that we didn’t put this

“together” sooner. We went to neurology next. Things were looking brighter.

Finally, before her sixth birthday, we were given the diagnosis: “cyclic vomiting syndrome/abdominal migraine.” Of course, the diagnosis is not the end of the story. We have tried medications with little success and have continued to be held captive for four-five days at a time at home when she has an episode which can occur four-six times a year, this month being no exception. However, we took a trip to A.I. DuPont Hospital this time. And, as I sat in the ER with this listless child, I continued my ritual of prayer. I thought to myself, “What had I done wrong. Why didn’t our normal “hospice” for her work?” I held the hand of my son and we prayed together as we sat at her bedside.

We were admitted to the hospital, and as if Jesus were standing beside me, her attending doctor was introduced to us. I started to tell “our story” for the fifth time that day. And as he sat on my daughter’s bedside, he said to me he was very familiar with this syndrome and had successfully treated children as outpatients. We talked about options. You see, although I thought we had few options, Jesus spoke through this stranger to show us more of the bigger picture.

We have since been to see this new doctor, with new testing and new treatment options. We listen to the doctor and we hear Him. I truly believe Jesus had called us to the hospital that Saturday morning so we could meet our “new team member.”

We pray each time for her to recover quickly and we pray for ourselves to continue to be open and hear Jesus as He answers our prayers and gives us the knowledge to be able to use His strength and guide us to finding the answers. On a final note to this story, I was once told when I spoke with a parent years ago whose child lay hospitalized with my daughter, “God gave you that child for a reason and He will give you the answers to figure this out. Just pray with your heart and the answers will come.” Peace.

Finding Peace of Mind With *Five Wishes*

The St Anne's Pastoral Care team is hosting a unique opportunity for the parish to learn of a new program called *Five Wishes*. No one wants to think about a serious health condition, but the *Five Wishes* document helps you express how you want to be treated if you do become seriously ill and unable to speak for yourself. It is unique among all other living will and health agent forms because it looks to all of a person's needs: *medical, personal, emotional and spiritual*.

***Five Wishes* lets your family and doctors know:**

- Which person you want to make health care decisions for you when you can't make them.
- The kind of medical treatment you want or don't want.
- How comfortable you want to be.
- How you want people to treat you.
- What you want your loved ones to know.

Debra Lewis, of the Delaware Ecumenical Council, will present the benefits of the *Five Wishes* program, review the document, and answer questions. This program is designed for people at all stages in life, and you are encouraged to invite your family and friends to this beneficial program.

Saturday, November 3

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Cost: \$5

St. Anne's Parish Hall

Register by phone: 378-2401

or E-mail: office@st-annes-church.com

Happy Birthday!

October

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Peter Brownlee | 1 |
| Donna Leathrum | 1 |
| Anne Nutter | 1 |
| Joe Archangelo | 2 |
| Brian Smith | 2 |
| Ryan Cook | 4 |
| Pattie Smith | 5 |
| Debbie DeFriece | 6 |
| Josh Hitchins | 7 |
| Jen Lamb | 7 |
| Emma Barczak | 8 |
| Janet Vines | 9 |
| Elizabeth L'Heureux | 10 |
| Verna Murphy | 12 |
| Nicole Webb | 12 |
| Nancy Bennett | 13 |
| Malia Davis | 13 |
| Judy Fisher | 13 |
| Bucky Cronin | 14 |
| Andrea Kasprinski | 14 |
| Sandy Lind | 14 |
| Steve Stegg | 14 |
| Justin Richards | 15 |
| Tracey George | 16 |
| Irene Richards | 16 |
| Larry Hutchins | 17 |
| Kevin Lamb | 17 |
| Emily Hudson | 18 |
| Chris Willey | 19 |
| Claudia Sardo | 20 |
| Melanie Zurzolo | 22 |
| Dawn Ball | 21 |
| Jessie Ventura | 23 |
| Jessie Ventura | 23 |
| Robert Hughes | 24 |
| Clayton Vaughn | 25 |
| Colin Brownlee | 26 |
| Mag Frieberg | 27 |
| Avery Widener | 27 |
| Edith Schreppler | 28 |
| Erin Hutchins | 29 |
| AnnMarie Maier Smith | 30 |
| Grace George | 31 |
| Emily Seeley | 31 |

