

The Messenger

Summer 2007

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
15 East Green Street
Middletown, Delaware

Editor Andrea Kasprenski
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A Farewell from the Rector

A few years ago when I was entrusted with facilitating the ordination process in the Diocese of Virginia, I said to the soon-to-be-ordained, "Remember, it's not about us." I said this to remind them and myself that the ministry we are called to as ordained people is a ministry of sacramental and pastoral leadership that is to call people into a deeper relationship with the one who made them!

I believe that the call I live is primarily about being a vehicle to invite people into a deeper relationship with God. On this score, on this day as I write to you for the last time as your Rector, I want to promise you that I did everything in my power to live this belief with you, and I have been blessed to watch the community of worshippers at St. Anne's grow deeper in their relationship with God.

St. Paul writes in his second letter to the new believers in Thessalonica, "But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits of salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I leave with gratitude in my heart for you, my brothers and sisters. So many of you have lived with me and one another an honest passion to grow in spirit and as human beings doing compassionate and brave things. You have taken on challenges to grow deeper by venturing into new ministries, by taking part in formation opportunities, by stepping up to take on leadership with young people and those in need, by being open to varied opportunities for worship, and by daring to discern what new future God may have for you in terms of shape, size, and yes, even location of your physical properties! You do so not out of whim and in direct opposition to apathy. You do so because you



believe deep in your heart that you are called to "proclaim the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." This, my friends, is a thrill and has been a thrill to be part of! I give thanks for you.

My belief that it is "not about us" means that I have to be open to what God may be saying to me for my ministry; I pray the same will be true for you. This is, of course, what pulls me to a new venture and with grief in my heart away from you. The challenge now, of course, is that you continue to make your journey about God's hope for your individual and corporate lives! Every day I will pray for you and your corporate journey to a new and Godly place. You probably by now have figured that the strength of the church, God's church is you, the baptized! Be about the Godly journey!

Finally, one last personal note! How can I thank you for allowing me and my family to be among you as fellow pilgrims on the way? How can I put into words those of you who have trusted me to invite me into your sacred spaces at times of challenge, death, birth, crisis, pain, suffering, celebration, joy, and complete redemption! These times both difficult and triumphant are personal times and therefore sacred times. I cannot express day to day how profoundly blessed I am as a priest to be invited into those moments and be present as the third party (the other being of course the Holy). In the end I still contend it is "not about us"but it is about Who we are as a people of God! Thank you for being God's people with me! Your future is bright and full of excitement, and my regret is that I will not experience it fully with you. But I will give thanks for you every day and as I stay posted on your new discoveries of the Holy wherever they may take you, I will join you with a thankful heart!

Blessings my friends! With Love!

Tony

Stewardship Corner

If you are reading this article, you probably have great value for St. Anne's and consider it you spiritual home.

However, you may not realize that financially St. Anne's is in a difficult place. Here's some background information. While St. Anne's is growing and adding new parishioners each year, we are also running a deficit this year of about \$125,000! Much of this deficit has been the result of expensive and necessary repairs to our aging facilities. At our current rate of expenditures, we are depleting some of our endowments at the rate of \$75,000/year.

Unfortunately, this is an unsustainable financial situation. Soon, the vestry will have to scale back some of our ministries, making our Parish less attractive to new members and to future leaders.

What can you do? Consider increasing your weekly pledge sooner than later! No need to wait for the Fall Stewardship campaign! If you currently do not formally pledge, please consider starting by calling our Financial Administrator at 378-2401. Of course, you can increase your giving each Sunday without formally pledging, but a formal pledge is very helpful when it comes to budget planning.

As others have described, if everyone increased their weekly giving by only \$5, we could raise an additional \$32,000/year. That's a reasonable portion of our deficit!

Please also consider how a longer term gift might work for you. In the fall, the Finance Committee will begin to communicate more information about Planned Endowment Giving.

St. Anne's has served our community and congregation for over 300 years. If we all work together, we can ensure that St. Anne's financial future is as bright as its past.

Jim Cronin
Stewardship Committee

Sunday School Registration September 9

Come one, come all!

We will register children and volunteers. Kim George and Ethel Young are in desperate need of volunteers for the Christmas pageant, Halloween, All Saints, Easter, Youth Sunday, etc.



Being involved with the children is fun and fulfilling, and you receive all the support you need or want from the Sunday School teachers. Contact Kim at 376-6396 or Ethel at 378-5373.

Support an activity, support your children!

From the Vestry

Please discuss the following two questions at all official and unofficial meetings and gatherings:

- ❖ Are you familiar with the SNAC Committee Report?
- ❖ What do you think about the report?

From the Membership Committee



We're looking for people to help welcome new prospective members to St. Anne's. If you love meeting and talking with people and have a warm, welcoming heart, we need YOU. Please contact Kathy Masso at kcmasso@verizon.net.

Rite 13 Leader Wanted and Needed!



Please consider (or re-consider) how you, a male member of the congregation, can help out! Yes, it is a commitment beginning the fall of 2007, ending the spring of 2009—but not even two full years. Time flies—isn't that the saying? Especially when you're having fun! St. Anne's has enjoyed four years of the Journey To Adulthood program, and we are ready to begin our next two-year cycle. **We just need one more male leader.**

There is a misperception that youth leaders are parents of youth. Youth leaders are adults of all ages, who can be good listeners, mentors, and be ready to grow with the youth. The youth are today's church, just like the adults. They are here and now! Let's celebrate that!

We have had lots of suggestions for leaders and people who are willing. Here's the rub—our rising Rite 13 group is a big group. Adult relatives of the youth may not be leaders of their children, nieces, nephews, etc. This is a good rule; the youth will form trusting relationships with other adults in the church, in addition to their parents or aunts or uncles. So many who have expressed interest simply are not eligible to be a leader at this time.

I urge you to consider joining the Journey To Adulthood program as a Rite 13 leader. As one who has personally experienced the program as a J2A leader and have had two children participate in Rite 13, I can only say wonderful things about it. I grew with the program alongside of the youth and my co-leader. My children grew and established relationships with their adult leaders. We all grew in wisdom and spirit!

An excerpt from an article in CloserLook 2004.

Journey to Adulthood, better known as J2A, trains adults to appreciate youth. It is a program and rite of passage for junior high and high school students...sending 3,000 on pilgrimage each year and providing a curriculum focused on their gifts and a set of skills we all need, yet it sometimes has its greatest effect on adult parishioners.

J2A enriches whole congregations by reinserting the *oomph* that only adolescents can bring. That's why Herzer's voice takes on an edge when she refers to the annoying church-of-tomorrow cliché. Teen-agers are the church of today, she says emphatically. We need them just as they are today, not because they'll make great vestry members in 2035. We need their energy and their enthusiasm and their laughter and their questions and their ideas ... and we need them now."

Please contact Laurie Wolinski at Laurieg4@verizon.net or at 302-376-1772 for more information or to express interest!

Thank you.

Mail Notes

Please address mail to the church to P. O. Box 421. The 15 E. Green Street is no longer valid.

Have UPS and FedEx packages delivered to the office at 19 E. Cochran St. to avoid delays.

J2A NEWS

On June 23, 14 pilgrims (11 youth and 3 adults) departed from St. Anne's Church, embarking on a seven-night, "Anglican Roots" pilgrimage to England. For two years, this group has been growing together emotionally and spiritually, as well as working as a team to raise money to fund the pilgrimage. Thanks to the generosity of family, friends, members of the congregation, and the community, the pilgrimage became their reality!



So what's it all about? They went to:

- Find an awareness of God in new and different ways, and in surprising places.
- Explore and develop an understanding of St Anne's Anglican Roots
- Experience inner growth as they leave a familiar world for expanded horizons.
- Discover the spirituality within themselves and the stranger

They visited Canturbury and the Cathedral, learned about its history and also the concept and practice of pilgrimage. Their days included meditation, a candlelit service at a nearby ancient parish church, and a return to the Cathedral for Evensong. Their nights were spent in the homes of host families.

Next, their pilgrimage took them to Sussex Beach for reflection and on to South Petherton for two overnight stays at The Community of St. Francis, an Anglican Religious Order of sisters. They took a walking tour of Salisbury, visiting the Salisbury Cathedral and also the Winchester Cathedral, the largest medieval church in Europe.

Continuing on they traveled to Old Sarum and Stonehenge and finally the last stop, London, for guided panoramic sightseeing which included tours of St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

A successful pilgrimage involves a commitment to leave one's problems behind and to enter into the journey with a heart and mind open to God's special graces, praises, petitions, and thanksgiving. Your prayers have brought our Pilgrims home safely, and they returned home transformed, renewed, and restored by the abundant blessings received.

Tedi Dessin, Leah Lamborn, Anna Masso, Karina Masterson, Tom Young, Brian Willey, Drew Vail, Brody Widener, Brian Smith, Jamie Richards, Liam Rafferty, Kate Rokosz, Charlie Wolf and the Rev. Tony Pompa.

St. Anne's Crisis Prayer Chain

The Pastoral Care Committee has created a Crisis Prayer Chain. If a crisis occurs in your family or circle of friends (for example, an accident, an upcoming operation, a sudden diagnosis of a serious disease, waiting for test results, or a sudden trip to the emergency room), contact a member of the Prayer Chain and that member will pray for that crisis situation and pass on the request to the next person on the prayer chain. Your request will remain confidential unless you say otherwise.



Current members of the prayer chain:

Nancy Woodward	378-1718
Beth Lamb	378-8758
Nancy Koenig	373-6650
Norene Taylor	449-0181
Kevin Lamborn	378-6059
Donna Menzen	376-3915
Sue Norfleet	376-5034

If you would like to join, please call Nancy Woodward.



Congratulations!



United in Marriage

Robin Szczuka and Andrew Slaw on July 7, 2007, on Dickinson Street in Dewey Beach, Delaware. Parents of the Bride are Paula and Frank Szczuka. Parents of the Groom are Lee and David Slaw.



Birthday Wishes

July

August

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|----------------------|
| 4 | Sue Truitt | 1 | John Cochran |
| 5 | Brigette Shetzler | 1 | John DeBenedictis |
| 5 | Paula Szczuka | 2 | Forrest Brown |
| 6 | Ian Maier | 2 | S.R. Smith, III |
| 6 | Ron Truitt | 4 | James Newton |
| 7 | Kevin Lamborn | 5 | Ann-marie Baker |
| 7 | Louis Vitola | 5 | Leslie Hickman |
| 8 | Jessie Crisfield | 5 | Rachel Machulski |
| 8 | John Garton | 6 | Georgia Hitchins |
| 8 | Patricia Kerr | 7 | David Foster, Jr. |
| 9 | Shannon Hughes | 7 | M. Kit Rehrig |
| 10 | John Dessin | 8 | My-Kell Jataun Davis |
| 11 | Christopher Widener | 8 | Taylor Shetzler |
| 13 | Dino Capp | 8 | Brody Widener |
| 13 | Emily DiAngelo | 9 | Andrea Casalvera |
| 13 | Kim George | 9 | Boden Davis |
| 13 | Edmundo Ocalagan | 10 | Samuel Biddle |
| 13 | Charlotte Webb | 11 | Nancy Branner |
| 13 | Everett Williams | 11 | Nathan Schreppler |
| 14 | Jacqueline Dessin | 13 | Donald Webb |
| 14 | Alec Wolinski | 15 | Kara Halpern |
| 15 | Katie Lillard | 15 | Edwin Masterson |
| 15 | Cody Miller | 15 | Taylor Vitola |
| 15 | Kevin Young | 16 | Kaitlyn Collins |
| 16 | Laurie Capp | 16 | Dillon Pompa |
| 16 | Louise Howlett | 17 | Laura Rowley |
| 17 | David Biddle, Jr. | 19 | Bob Willoughby |
| 18 | Cameron Garton | 20 | Kathy Masso |
| 18 | Kevin Lamb, Jr. | 20 | Catherine Sardo |
| 23 | Dean Dannaker | 23 | Kenin Davis |
| 24 | Lauren Slaughter | 23 | Kristen Machulski |
| 24 | Helen Wolf | 24 | Landon Archangelo |
| 26 | Ena Williams | 25 | Christopher Garrod |
| 26 | Cecilee Young | 26 | William Murphy |
| 28 | Samuel Young | 27 | Gabrielle Mills |
| 29 | Sarah Gail Beall | 28 | Kathy Means |
| 29 | John Cook | 30 | Michael Richards |
| 29 | Michael Kline, Jr. | 31 | Don Voshell |
| 29 | Dorothy Willoughby | | |
| 31 | Peter Hall | | |

