

February Birthdays



Dave Blaasch 10
 Kristina Davis 11
 Pam Schlosser 11
 Kimberly Schlosser 12
 Julie Vail 12
 Pam Brownlee 14
 Bill Hickman 14
 Brian Sands 14
 Lauren Barczak 16
 Joseph Sardo 16

Michelle Calder 1
 Sam Casalvera 2
 Taylor George 2
 Drew Vaughn 2
 Jonah Tuohy 3
 Evan Adams 4
 Rachel Mandes 4
 Katie Lawrence 5
 Charlie Wolf 6
 David Hipp 8
 Brianna Wade 8

Earl Ball 19
 Matt Blaasch 19
 Wendy L'Heureux 19
 Todd Owens 19
 Christa Pederson 20
 Kimberly Kline 21
 Edward Malcom 21
 Tyler Needham 21
 Diana Lapierre 23
 Samuel Cochran 25
 Hunter Kreshock 25

Parish Prayer List

Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. Use this form to add a name or to continue a name for another month, then please place in the collection plate or bring/mail to the office. You may also call the office (378-2401) to add, continue, or remove a name.

Please continue to keep on the prayer list:

Please add to the prayer list:

Requested by: _____ Date: _____

The Messenger

St. Anne's Episcopal Church

February 2009



Bytes from Mother Jo Ann's Apple. . . .

What a joy it was for me to worship with you on January 11 and get to meet so many of you for the first time as well as renew the acquaintance of others whom I met during the Search process. I praise God for nudging me into this process and for the Holy Spirit who, in her infinite wisdom, matched me to your congregation. I believe God knows just where we should be and, if we are obedient, we will be led on eagle's wings.

I have bought a house in Springmill and will close on February 17, so my first Sunday with you as your Rector will be February 22. On that last Sunday of the Epiphany, we will reflect upon the Transfiguration, where Jesus shows Peter, James, and John His glory before going back to Jerusalem for what awaits Him: His crucifixion and death. We will celebrate with each other on that Sunday before we begin our Lenten journey.

Change comes with giving up and taking on. I am living with one foot in one world and one in another. My congregation here in Jonesboro, AR, is loving and supportive, and we need these next few weeks for grieving as we say our good-byes. I just want you to know that I am energized as I make all sorts of plans leading to the move to Delaware. But I ask you to be patient with me as I want to carefully take care of what needs to be done here.

The possibilities are endless if we listen to what God is telling us. I want to get to know each and every one of you and to help you discern the Spirit's calling in your life. Together as the Body of Christ we can do so much to bring the Kingdom of God to Middletown! I ask your prayers and look forward to our ministry together.

In God's love,
Mother Jo Ann Barker+



February 22
Mother Jo Ann's first
Sunday at St. Anne's

February 24
Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
 See Page 6

February 25
Ash Wednesday Services
 7:00 a.m.
 10:30 a.m.
 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Adult Education
 See Page 2

Lenten Suppers
 See Page 3

Adult Education and Formation Sundays, 9:40 to 10:20 p.m.

February 1, 8, and 15

The prayer for Social Justice in the Prayer Book says:

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

How can we make this prayer come true? Join us in exploring the theological and personal implications of Barack Obama's speech on race, given last March.

Pick up a copy of the speech in the Foyer Cafe or read it at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/18/us/politics/18text-obama.html>.

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Have you experienced hardship or tragedy in your life? Have you ever been deeply angry with God or cut off from God's love? Have you read *The Shack*? Join us in reading and discussing this intriguing work of Christian fiction which explores a man's confrontation with God after surviving an unspeakable tragedy. It asks tough questions and delivers non-traditional answers.

Patrick M. Roddy, Emmy Award Winning Producer of ABC News writes:

The Shack is a one of a kind invitation to journey to the very heart of God. Through my tears and cheers, I have been indeed transformed by the tender mercy with which William Paul Young opened the veil that too often separated me from God and from myself. With every page, the complicated do's and don'ts that distort a relationship into a religion were washed away as I understood Father, Son, and Holy Ghost for the first time in my life.

Call or e-mail the office by February 16 to order a copy

(approximate cost \$8.50) or read it now and bring your own copy to the discussions.

Would you like to help lead this discussion series?

Contact Louise Howlett at lhowlett@saintannesschool.org.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
15 East Green Street

Mailing Address
P. O. Box 421
Middletown, DE 19709

Rector
The Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Barker

Interim Rector
The Rev. George J. Karney

Phone: 302.378.2401

E-Mail
office@st-annes-church.com

Web site
www.st-annes-church.com

Newsletter Editor
Lois Crouse

Send articles to
newsletter@st-annes-church.com

**Articles for the
March Messenger
are due Monday, February 16.**



FACTS: Who are we and where did we come from?

It all began several years ago with a committee that was called "VISION FORCE." This was a Biblically based group that looked at how God may be calling St. Anne's to respond to the community needs around us. The congregation participated in this process by completing a survey, and then members were asked to participate in one of the discernment groups that met for a period of six weeks. Each person that attended was given the opportunity to give input as well as ideas as to how St. Anne's might focus our ministry in and throughout the community.

A Strategic Plan Committee or "Dream Team" was assembled in response to the Vision Force outcome and was charged with assisting the Vestry in prioritizing and allocating resources to help carry out our ministry more efficiently. The Dream Team received and reviewed the report from the Vision Force. The Strategic Plans goal was to study the long-range planning for St. Anne's and to address the concerns and needs of the church in the future. The committee was also dedicated to helping St. Anne's continue to move from a pastoral-sized church (100-150) to a program-sized church (150-200) with as much organization and structure as possible.

The Strategic Plan final report, dated January 6, 2006, recommended the following:

Priority 1: Facilities

Goal 1: Plan, finance and develop facilities for worship, ministry programs and administration sufficient to accommodate current parish needs and projected future growth, which may include a new church.

Goal 2: Maintain and restructure current environment to meet immediate and short term future needs.

Priority 2: Organizational Structure

Goal 1: Establish an organizational structure for St. Anne's.

Goal 2: Identify and fill needs for parish staff that will support and develop current parish needs and projected growth over next 3-5 years.

Priority 3: Ministry Programs

Goal 1: Establish pastoral care ministry to provide comfort, care, counsel, and connection for the people of St. Anne's and the community.

Goal 2: Improve and expand youth ministry to St. Anne's and the community to raise healthy and whole disciples for the work of God's church.

Goal 3: Expand Open Door Ministry through a formal comprehensive marketing and communications plan.

Goal 4: Improve, expand and enhance existing ministries by recruiting, training, and supporting lay ministers and by providing organizational guidance.

The Space Needs Assessment Committee (SNAC) was formed in response to the Strategic Plan, specifically Priority 1, goal 1. However, SNAC's main goal was to work objectively, with the Town Church as well as Old Saint Anne's, and remove the emotional component of any building decisions in order to determine if either location could meet the needs of the Strategic Plan. This was accomplished by hiring an architectural firm that determined that Old Saint Anne's could be ruled out as a suitable building site due to land restrictions and the Town Church could not be effectively renovated due to building restrictions. Therefore, in order to fulfill the congregational directives as outlined in both Vision Force as well as Strategic Plan, it was SNAC's recommendation to the Vestry during the congregation meeting in January 2008 that, because neither location currently owned by St. Anne's was sufficient to accommodate plans, alternative worship sites and locations should be investigated.

Finally, this is where the FACTS (Feasibility, Architecture/Design, Communication, Town Church, and Site) Committee comes into play. This group is investigating and obtaining factual information as requested by the Vestry. We are attempting to answer the question: "The Vestry is concerned for the ongoing viability of the ministries of St. Anne's given the current configuration of the parish facilities. The Vestry charges the FACTS Committee with looking at financial options and site options, and reporting back to the Vestry with more defined choices."

FACTS continues to work diligently on answering the above question. Hopefully, the walk down "memory lane" will help answer the question that some of you may have regarding FACTS, who we are and what we are doing.

Lea Hutchins

**J2A Pilgrimage
July 10 – 18, 2009**

Our J2A group has decided, after a long reconsideration process, to pilgrimage to South Dakota—more specifically, Borderlands Ranch in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

We had originally chosen Peru, but having received welcome response from the congregation and our families, we revisited our pilgrimage selection process. With all of your blessings, we reconsidered our choice and came to the conclusion that, maybe, Machu Picchu wasn't the right pilgrimage place for us.

We decided to start with a clean slate. After a long lock-in at the church and after several possible opportunities opening up for us, God directed us toward a little place called Borderlands Ranch.

It's nearly an hour from the Rapid City Airport, which means that it's in a very secluded, very serene environment. The ranch is miles from any sort of civilization and is surrounded by beautiful mountains and prairie.

The ranch is named after the Celtic word for the "in-between" places. For instance, mist is between air and water, so Borderlands is between earth and sky. It is where the prairie meets the mountains. The Black Hills have often been thought of as a special place to the First Nation peoples.

Borderlands is no stranger to pilgrimages. It's one of their specialties. Nearly 12 J2A groups from all over the United States will go to the ranch on their spiritual journeys this summer, including us from July 10 to July 18. To learn more about our destination and the reasons we chose this special place, please visit www.borderlandsranch.org.

We are very excited about the spiritual journey that awaits us in South Dakota. We believe that our pilgrimage will have us finding God in one of the most beautiful places in the United States, and we believe that seeking God there is the best plan for us.

We ask for your prayers and continued support as we take this journey together, experiencing God and Jesus in the world.

2007-2009 J2A

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
February 24, 5 to 7 p.m.**



Please plan to attend our Annual Pancake Supper in the Parish Hall, held as a fundraiser for J2A. J2A will do the cooking, and Rite 13 will help with setting up and cleaning up.

Cost is \$5 per person, maximum of \$15 per family.

Donations of supplies will be greatly appreciated. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Library door.

**Save the Date!
March 29, 2009**

Fourth Annual J2A Dinner/Auction at St. Anne's Episcopal School from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will help support the J2A Pilgrimage to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

We are seeking artwork/crafts from our talented and creative congregation. Please see Tom Vail, Lea Hutchins, Elizabeth Walker, Dan Bennett or Tracey George if you have any items to donate.



Thank you and hope to see you there!

**Thursday Evenings in Lent
March 5 through April 2**

(Time and menu will be announced later.)

Liquid: Crossing features five stand-alone episodes based on stories from the book of Joshua. Each story illustrates a situation that can either be controlled by fear and insecurity, or where God can reach out and help His people cross to a better place. Crossing always calls for uncommon courage, faith, and obedience, just like Joshua exhibited when leading nearly two million people across the Jordan River. But the results are always beyond what was imagined before crossing.

Liquid is a DVD-based experience featuring 5 10-minute episodes in each series, as well as a 112-page Reflection Guide with questions and leader's tips. Each episode introduces present-day characters whose problems and struggles mirror biblical stories, illustrating that God's word is as true today as it was when it was written. With emotionally provoking videos, introspective questions, and tips for leading a small group, *Liquid* is the perfect experience for small group study.

Would you like to help lead this discussion series?

Contact Louise Howlett at lhowlett@saintannesschool.org

From the Music Director

In spring of 2008, we purchased a new Yamaha Clavinova for Old St. Anne's to replace the small Johannus organ. The Yamaha comes in a great number of configurations and is basically an "upscale" electronic piano with many voices and very good organ stops. Those of you who came to Old St. Anne's last summer surely enjoyed the sounds.

The Johannus organ, in turn, was to replace the elderly and ailing Kilgen pipe organ at the Town Church; however, the tonal resources and power were inadequate for the size of the church.

The Vestry approved enlarging the Johannus, and Scott Lawrence, a Vestry member and choir mainstay, contacted a Johannus dealer in Pennsylvania and learned there was an organ available, one that had been built for an Episcopal church that was unable to pay for it. Scott, Janet Vines, and I went to see and hear it and were delighted.

The organ is by Makin, an English firm with close ties with Johannus. It has three keyboards and 41 stops, all digitally sampled from pipe organs—the equivalent of more than 3000 pipes. A pipe organ of this size costs well above a million dollars. We will likely have a dedication ceremony for the Makin and demonstrate its many capabilities. A nice postscript is that Makin can come with us to the new church.

Norman P. Thompson

Lectionary Readings for February

	First Lesson	Response	Epistle	Gospel
1	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
8	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-12, 21c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
15	2 Kings 5:1-14	Psalm 30	1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Mark 1:40-45
22	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9

From our Interim Rector

As of December 31, I have completed 16 months of service among you. These months have been among the most pleasant in my ministry. Sharing life experiences with God's people is a gift which God gives to His clergy. I try never to forget to give thanks for the opportunities He has given me.

During the past year, there have been services of the Holy Eucharist on Sundays and weekdays. I've taken communion to homes and hospital rooms and officiated at weddings, funerals, baptisms, and confirmations, all signs of growth. The high average attendance in relation to the total membership is a sign of commitment to God. These are encouraging signs. In a time of economic uncertainty, the continued level of financial support reflects that you recognize the role of St. Anne's in the community.

St. Paul reminds us that when one rejoices we all rejoice and that when one has sorrows we all have sorrows. Truly, the concern shared one for another at St. Anne's is fulfilled through prayer and support of our outreach programs. The acceptance of new faces into our community shows not only love for God but also for our neighbors. Sometimes it is hard for an individual member to recognize the implications of what is announced in a bulletin, newsletter or at service. I would ask you to consider these ideas. Our prayer list is not just a list of people who need our prayers but also an opportunity for us to reflect on our own lives. Such prayers also motivate us to help those in distress either by kind words or offering of material help. Our outreach programs are not just money given to "poor people" but our opportunity to serve Christ in every person.

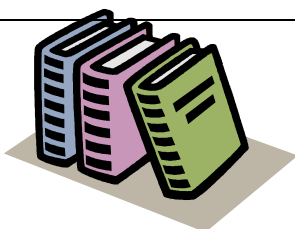
All this work takes more than one person. The word "volunteer" is based in a Latin word which means "will." St. Anne's depends on volunteers to function. It is impossible to name individually all our volunteers. Your vestry and wardens have

faithfully met and guided the material aspects of our work. They all deserve your thanks. We must remember the people who come in on a regular basis to answer the phones and help with the preparation of the Sunday bulletins and the monthly newsletter. The pastoral care committee volunteers to maintain the cycle of prayers and services for the ill and shut-ins. The women who make up the altar guild are the unsung heroines of church life. Many hours of work go into making our worship beautiful and meaningful. We have men and women who give countless hours to the care and maintaining of our property both inside and out. Some have a special ministry to Old Saint Anne's. All together these people have made my time with you a great joy. Thanks to them.

It is impossible to end my ministry among you without mentioning the hard-working and some times long-suffering members of the staff. Lois, our parish administrator, manages the day-to-day activities of St. Anne's. We added to our staff this year Dr. Norman Thompson who has greatly enhanced the music of the church. In late spring, Becky Cronin left us after several years of service as bookkeeper. She deserves our thanks for her many years of service. We hired Kathy Lyon who has proved to be a valuable addition to our staff. Besides my personal thanks, they deserve your thanks as well. Finally, I wish to thank Louise Howlett for her constant support and advice. Her leaving as a part of the staff is a great loss. Her staying with St. Anne's as a member will be a great asset. Louise has been a solid addition to the ministry of this community. Please express to her your thanks for her hard work over the years.

I will miss all of you. About the only thing I will not miss is the 26-mile (each way) commute. I appreciate your acceptance of my shortcomings and tolerance of my quirks. God bless you all.

Peace
Father Karney



Book Reviews

by **Father Karney**

As many of you may remember, it is my custom to read at least one book while on vacation. It is one of the most relaxing things I do.

AMERICAN LION by Jon Meacham is the history of the presidency of Andrew Jackson. Except for some background leading up to his election and a brief chapter covering his life after being president, the book is about Jackson's eight years in the White House. I was amazed at the furor and changes Jackson generated. He directed the removal of most of the Native Americans to west of the Mississippi. In so doing, he violated many treaties. He also took on what he considered to be the "establishment" bankers. He vetoed the congressional act authorizing the renewal of the charter of the national bank. In trying to balance the budget and get the nation out of debt (what a unique idea), he backed a tariff which put particular strain on the southern states. In South Carolina, the reaction was so strident that many in the state were urging nullification, which is the idea that states can nullify laws they disapprove. There was a fear of secession from the union. By force of will, Jackson avoided this possibility. It is during his administration that the debates on the union were begun. Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, and John C. Calhoun argued the merits of power being centered in the hands of the federal government. Ultimately, of course, some 20 years later, the Civil War settled what words could not. Ironically, Jackson was not opposed to slavery. He owned many slaves and freed none at the time of his death.

This account of his presidency is most noted for the revelation of his personality. He was self-confident almost to a fault with a burning desire to lead the people. He felt and acted on his idea that the president represented the best interests of the people. He opposed the idea that the congress

represented the people—he was one of the first presidents to run against the establishment. Moreover, he was the first one to use his power to reward his friends and punish his foes. He replaced over 900 civilian employees. His total number of replacements was 800 more than all of his predecessors. If you, like me, enjoy more than broad stroke history, you will enjoy this book.

THE FAITH CLUB is a book written by three women and tells of their need and desire to get to know more about the three major religions of the West and Middle East. It is edited by one of them, Priscilla Warner.

The book is hard to write about because it is the record of several gatherings in their homes during which time they asked each other questions on the faith and practices of the other. The thing that makes this book worth reading is that it is at once self-reflective and self-revealing.

Ultimately, the questions these women ask are the questions which we might ask of a Jew or Muslim if we knew them well enough not to fear offending them. The way the trio grew over the years is an indication to me that we need to have more long-term groups to study religious differences rather than trying short term-fixes

Reminder:

Please return any books you borrowed from Father Karney.