

VISION

NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINTS ANDREW AND MATTHEW
FEBRUARY 2005

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I begin with an Ash Wednesday vignette:

The priest dips a thumb in the bowl of ashes, forms a cross on my forehead and says: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." As this happens, I feel some of the ash falling down on my face and resting upon the bridge of my nose.

The combination of the words and the falling ash hits me like a ton of bricks, and instantly, in my mind I am transported to another time and place. Some dirt from the ground is being thrown over my body as someone says: "...and we commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust..."

I open my eyes and move along, having been reminded once again, that I am mortal, that my life on this earth is finite. The death of my body is inevitable.

At SsAM, the ashes used are made by burning some of the dried palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday, along with scraps of paper money, newspaper and other artifacts of human life and enterprise. What a vivid reminder that all of those things in every sphere of human life, which we struggle so mightily (even to the death) to gain and hold on to – personal recognition and relationships, power over others, worldly possessions, positions in society, ideologies, tribes, races, institutions, nations, military might and so on – can never be the source of ultimate security, meaning and fulfillment for which we all crave.

They have no standing or permanence at the center of our being. God alone claims this place. They are merely extensions of the human body ... just things of our own making. They are only dust, and to dust they shall return! Yet, see how our inordinate struggle for any of these brings

on so much unhappiness and insecurity! So much personal and group hubris, and selfishness; so much addiction, lust and greed. So much exploitation, abuse and untruth. So much fear, prejudice and hatred. So much violence and war. So much dealing in pain and death. So much separation from one another, separation from the rest of creation and separation from God. In other words, so much sin. This list touches each one of us in some significant way.

Ash Wednesday, and the season of Lent which it introduces each year, is meant to shock us both into recognizing the shortness of life and realizing and owning up to the true extent of our sinful separation and its impact on those around us. Moreover, Lent is intended as a journey which leads us back into unity with God and with each other. Lent is a journey to lasting freedom and lasting peace for all who are willing to take it. I urge you, please take advantage of the Lenten services and programs at SsAM to guide you on your journey.

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (*The Book of Common Prayer, page 265*). ❖

Peace,



Canon Lloyd S. Casson



PARISH HOUSE CONSTRUCTION WORK ENDS

by Bob Richmond, Chair, Facilities Planning Committee



Four months later than expected, the SsAM Parish House “Elevator Project” is complete. This is in quotation marks because, while the elevator installation drove the project, it did not limit the scope of the renovations. That was obvious to anyone who attempted to move about the Parish House during the construction period and encountered obstacles at every turn. With this behind us, we believe that this Parish House is much more inviting and user-friendly than ever before.

New doorways, restrooms and ramps meet the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, which SsAM chose to comply with, although churches generally are exempt from the Act's requirements. Most floor levels of the building are wheelchair accessible. Exceptions are the Education Suite in the Parish House, the Chancel and Gallery in the Church, the Chapel and adjacent corridor. Our goal of making fifty percent of the facilities accessible has been fulfilled.

Security in the Foyer will be maintained as previously, with limited access beyond this area during business hours. Immediately inside the secure area are the elevator and a gentle ramp leading to the auditorium and kitchen. A custom-made decorative iron railing graces the ramp. Panic bars have been installed on the inside of doors to the inside

corridor and Crypt Hall, so that no one will be locked in.

New flooring has been laid in Crypt Hall and the stage was enlarged. The adjacent acolyte and choir vesting rooms have been refurbished. The contractor's work in the Parish House is complete with the installation of exterior doors and structural reinforcement in the basement and kitchen. Other facilities issues outside the scope of the Elevator Project will be studied and addressed in the future. ❖

KEYBOARD INSTRUMENT SOUGHT FOR CHAPEL

SsAM would like to replace the old Hammond organ which is used to accompany hymn singing in the Chapel on Sunday mornings. We are looking for a replacement instrument that would be suitable for the Chapel.

Perhaps you have, or know of, a neglected piano or organ that is taking up valuable space and longing for a new home. If you or someone you know is a potential donor, please call Bob Richmond at 302-429-1906.



SSAM'S COLLABORATION WITH FRIENDSHIP HOUSE: HOW YOU CAN DO YOUR PART

Many members of our parish heard Bill Perkins speak about the plight of the homeless in the December education series and during his participation as a preacher at one of our services. As executive director of Friendship House, Bill helps to create and coordinate those programs that attempt to fill the gaps in New Castle County's homeless network. The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew has been a part of that mission for many years.

Andrew's Place.

After being closed for July and August for repairs, Andrew's Place re-opened on September 12th for its 16th season of emergency shelter. Located in the basement of our church, the shelter received some much needed maintenance and renovations during the summer, including new paint, carpets, and bathroom renovations. As a testimony of Andrew's Place increasing success at moving its clients to independent housing, all but three of last year's residents are no longer homeless.

Women's Center.

The numbers of women coming to the daytime Women's Center (also housed in the same space as Andrew's Place) has been rising steadily. The center provides hot beverages, restrooms, phones, mail and message services to an average of 71 women each day.

Sunday Breakfast and Chapel.

Volunteers prepare breakfast for about 70 people each Sunday morning. Alice and Geoff Sawyer, with help from the Jacksons and the Murphrees, host a chapel service following the breakfast.

Clothing Bank of Delaware.

SsAM is one of over 250 churches, businesses and community organizations that collect and distribute over 150,000 pounds yearly to more than 7,500 needy individuals.

Winter Sanctuary.

SsAM joins First and Central Presbyterian and Trinity Episcopal Churches to provide a winter sanctuary to the homeless on weekends from November to April.

How can you help?

1. Sign up to join one of SsAM's breakfast teams (see Geoff Sawyer).
2. Call Friendship House to volunteer to provide dinner for Andrew's Place residents on one evening.
3. Join the Community Advocacy Committee when we host our next parish-wide dinner with Andrew's Place residents sometime in May.
4. Volunteer to "host" the winter sanctuary on Saturday afternoon from 1-3 p.m. sometime between now and the end of March (see Phil Murphree).
5. Participate in the upcoming "Undy Sunday," where we will be collecting long underwear for the homeless.
6. Contribute coffee, sugar, creamer, etc., that Friendship House can use for their hospitality programs (more details to follow).
7. Bring in used clothing for the Delaware Clothing Bank. Place in a trash bag marked "Delaware Clothing Bank," and leave with our Sexton. ❖

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Ash Wednesday – February 9

- 8:15a *Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes*
12:15p *Eucharist / Healing Service and Imposition of Ashes*
5:30p *Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes*
7:00p *Choral Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes*

Tuesdays in Lent

Lenten Lunches

- 11:30a – 1:30p
Homemade soups, salads, sandwiches, desserts and beverages

Noontime Worship

- Musical Meditations at noon*
February 15 Angelyn Robinson
February 22 Kimberly Doucette
March 1 Philip Andrew Doucette
March 8 Tina Betz

- March 15 Madeline Johnson
Sermon Series at 12:15p
“Faith for These Times”
The Rev. Canon Lloyd S. Casson,
Speaker
Meditation Class at 7 pm
Guided and Silent Meditation
Wednesdays in Lent
12:30p Healing Service
*The Laying on of Hands,
Anointment and Prayer with
Holy Communion*

Thursdays in Lent

- Prayer and Meditation** 11a – 1p
Intercessions for Peace noon
Bible Study through Bibliodrama 7p
Re-enacting biblical stories in small groups; combining the study of scripture texts with the sharing of personal experiences.

Sunday, March 6

Mid-Lenten Choral Evensong with Faure’s “Requiem” 4:30p

Saturday, March 12

- A Special One-day retreat led by Canon Casson**
“The Silent Temple”
8:30a Continental Breakfast
9:00a Retreat



Vision is a monthly publication of The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew, the Reverend Canon Lloyd S. Casson, Rector. Submit articles to VISION by the 15th of the month preceding the publication. Email submissions to LRobinson@ssam.org.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINTS ANDREW AND MATTHEW
719 NORTH SHIPLEY STREET
WILMINGTON, DE 19801

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NUMBER 251
WILMINGTON, DE

WELCOME



TO OUR DIVERSE
community of
Christians who
worship, pray and
work together to
achieve justice,
peace and love in
Wilmington,
Delaware and
beyond.