

VISION

NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINTS ANDREW AND MATTHEW

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2005

Season of Creation Theme – Intelligent Design

The Bible teaches us that through the Word of God, all things came into being, and what came into being was life (John 1:2). The Word which brought the universe into being, set into motion the continuous unfolding of all beings. In other words, whether trees and land, the waters, or inhabitants of earth, sea and air, human beings of all tribes and colors and tongues, and all other creatures, we all share the same story of origin.

Moreover, from the very beginning, God has declared that, at its essence, all of creation is “very good.” This biblical truth puts to shame all human claims of supremacy of one group, tribe or nation above another, and the arrogant assumption of human beings that the planet and all of its creatures exist solely for our exploitation and abuse. Does the scientific view contradict any of this?

Through an exciting spiritual journey of six Sundays, which features a creative blend of contemporary liturgy and readings, together with music, dance and other art forms, we celebrate and embrace the whole of God’s creation. That is, we celebrate and embrace the Bible’s vision of the earth in which all of God’s creatures – human and other forms – live out our destinies in a peaceful and harmonious environment, sharing equitably the rich and sustaining resources of the planet. We also acknowledge a painful reality – that in all aspects of creation, this vision is blurred or hidden by human division, arrogance, war, greed and the abuse of our natural environment.

Each Sunday concentrates on a particular aspect of creation – human, other living creatures, the environment – and offers ways that we may be instruments of peace and restorers of justice and harmony in each area.

On the sixth Sunday, Stewardship Sunday, we seek the commitment of our members to contribute our personal finances, prayers and energy for our shared ministries of worship, education, and service toward healing the division and brokenness in ourselves, our local communities and in the world. On the final Sunday, we praise the Cosmic Christ “through whom God was pleased to reconcile to God’s self all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.” (Colossians 1:20)

The schedule for *Season of Creation: Intelligent Design: In the Beginning was the Word* may be found on page 6.



Swingin’ at SsAM’s Fall Jam Is September 24

The Swingin’ at SsAM Fall Jam will be held on Saturday, September 24 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

This promises to be a fun time for all ages.

Jean Kuhl will provide an entertainment area for children. Child care will be provided, but kids are welcome to mingle with the adults during the party.

For those who enjoy cooking or baking, there will be a chili cook-off and a bake-off. In addition, finger foods will be provided. For the musically inclined, there will be a DJ and dancing. Line dancing, with instruction by Greer Peacock, will be offered. Karaoke will be available for budding singers.

Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$10 for families. Purchase tickets from Diane Clarke Streett, Leroy Burks, or through the office.

**Bring-A-Friend Sunday,
September 25!!**



Letter from the Rector

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As I write this, tens of thousands of people of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana have been hard hit by the fury of Hurricane Katrina's relentless storm and punishing wake. Except for the images on television, it is hard to imagine what they have been through and are still going through. We are saddened by the untold numbers who have died in the flood, many having drowned in their own houses, in nurseries and nursing homes; others in the deep canals that once were streets. We feel for the bereaved and brokenhearted left behind, many themselves now homeless, without livelihood, sick, injured, in shelters and scattered in a kind of diaspora far from what used to be home. Some are separated now by many miles, unable to reach or be reached by one another, not knowing whether they are dead or alive.

We could not have missed the fact that the majority of these people are among the poorest citizens of the region, most of them black. You could say that they were actually left behind. When the others were evacuating, most of these did not have the wherewithal to escape: no car, no money for gas, or a plane ticket or a hotel. Most of them had no option but to stay where they were, huddled into attics and on roofs, to fend for themselves for survival, as the water rose up around them, waiting, hoping for rescuers to come. Moreover, most of the homes of the poor were apparently in the lowest lying, least desirable areas, and the most vulnerable to flooding.

There is a lesson here. Hurricane Katrina is not the underlying cause of the suffering these folks are now enduring. Underlying racism and poverty are the reasons they have had to endure so much of the hardship meted out by Hurricane Katrina. It is heartening to see the continued rescue efforts by government and private agencies and volunteers, providing shelter, food and clothing, some financial assistance, and even resettling opportunities.

However, this disaster reveals two major issues which we as a nation, at all levels (and the rest of the world, too), really must step up and address. The first issue is poverty. Tens of millions of Americans are living below the poverty line, many of them women and children, barely eking out an existence. The second issue is racism, which still defines the way opportunity and resources are distributed in areas of education, employment, health care, and more. Our future as a nation and world depends upon our setting and implementing priorities for the elimination of these two evils. For us, as Christians, our faith response absolutely requires it. In our Baptismal Covenant, we commit to "striv(ing) for justice and peace among all people, and respect(ing) the dignity of every human being."

I pray that in the days to come, we at SsAM will join efforts to this end.

Peace,

Hurricane Relief Efforts Continue

SsAM will collect a second offering through the month of September to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Parishioners wishing to donate further may do so through the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Fund, <http://www.er-d.org>.

So far, ERD has partnered with the Dioceses of Mississippi, Louisiana and the Central Gulf Coast to provide relief to affected communities. ERD is supporting evacuees and displaced families in the Dioceses of West Texas, Western Louisiana and Alabama. ERD is providing health kits to people in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas through a partnership with Church World Service.

Can You Provide Housing for Hurricane Victims? If you have individual housing available for victims of Hurricane Katrina, contact the Delaware State Housing Authority at (302) 739-4263 or visit <http://www2.state.de.us/dsha/>.

Can You Provide Food for Hurricane Victims? The Food Bank of Delaware is collecting non-perishable food and grocery items. Items can be dropped off, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Food Bank, 14 Garfield Way, Newark, DE 19713 or at Congressman Mike Castle's office, 201 North Walnut Street, Suite 107 in Wilmington. Visit their website for more information on what is needed, <http://www.fbd.org/>.

Can You Provide Furniture, Household Goods or Clothing for Hurricane Victims? Volunteers of America is coordinating a database of people who have items to donate to individuals and families as they are relocated to housing in Delaware. To be listed in the database, call VOA at 856-854-4660 or 800-899-0089. They have no storage space, and will contact you as the need arises for your donated items.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Gulf Coast region, and give generously to ERD and other organizations assisting in relief efforts.

Thresholds Seeks Volunteers

Thresholds, a prison ministry, is seeking volunteers to teach responsible decision-making and problem-solving skills to inmates. The next training session for volunteers is scheduled on Saturday, October 1, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Dolores Baylor Correctional Institute.

The purpose of Thresholds is to foster personal autonomy and self-determination, to eliminate reactive thinking and behavior, and to erase the image of self as victim.

Thresholds is offered to inmates at Gander Hill, Baylor C.I., and Delaware Correctional Center in Smyrna.

There are six sessions in this workbook course, and sessions are usually two hours in length.

If you are interested in participating in this ministry, contact Hugh Wallace at 658-7662 for more information. You must pre-register to attend the October 1 training session.

Come Into the Quiet: Choral Evensong & Dinner

Choral Evensong will be held on Saturday, October 8, December 3, March 25, and May 27. The service will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be followed by a potluck fellowship dinner.

The roots of this service lie in the pattern of monastic worship, which began to develop as the Christian faith developed. This particular form of Evensong was created by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) and is a fusion of the two monastic evening offices of Vespers and Compline.

In Choral Evensong words and music come together, each enriching the other. Choral Evensong is essentially a service of reflection – of leaving oneself open that God may speak to us through the psalms, readings and canticles which are the core of the service. Please share with us in this worship where beauty in language and music can speak of God in a rich and diverse way. Within this hallowed space may you forget the ceaseless activity of daily life and be still.

Is Your Child Interested in Singing?

All children, kindergarten through second grade, are invited to participate in the Cherub Choir.

The choir will sing two or three times a year. Rehearsals will be held on Sundays after church for several weeks preceding each performance. To register your child or for more details, call the church office at 656-6628.

The SsAM Treble Choir is open to children in third grade and above who wish to participate once a month in worship at SsAM. Many of these choristers are members of the Wilmington Children's Chorus, but the group is open to all children in the parish. Choir members will receive private voice and music training.

In 2005 the Treble Choir will sing in worship on September 25, October 16, November 13, and December 24 at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant. In 2006 the choir will sing January 29, February 26, March 19, April 9 (Palm Sunday), May 14, and June 25 (Youth Recognition Sunday).

For more details or to sign up, call the church office at 656-6628, or call Director Dave at 654-9729.

The Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi will be celebrated on Saturday, October 1 with the blessing of the animals at 1:00 p.m. All pets such as dogs, cats, fish, birds, and hamsters are welcome. Unusual pets will also make their appearance. If you have an animal that might require special handling or precautions, please contact the church ahead of time.



Adult Choir Rehearsals Begin

The Adult Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7:00p.m. It resumes singing in worship on "Bring a Friend Sunday," September 25.

If you have had experience singing (even a little) and would like to join this important ministry, we urge you to consider contacting Director Dave at 302-654-9729 or call the church office for more information. You can also speak to a current member of the choir. High school and college students are welcome!

Piffaro: The Renaissance Band Returns to SsAM

Piffaro: The Renaissance Band will hold a concert at SsAM on Sunday, October 9 at 4:00 p.m.

The London Waits: music of a fabled Renaissance town band is the title of this season's first concert. Follow this fabled band of city musicians through its musical adventures in London of the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Whether ceremonial occasions of state or intimate soirees of the chamber, these *waits* adorned each event with music appropriate to the moment. The concert draws on the works of some of the great English composers of the time, including Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, Thomas Morley, Thomas Weelkes, Augustin and Jerome Bassano, and more.

Tickets may be reserved by calling 215-235-8469 or visit www.piffaro.com.

Flower Guild Workshop Announced

A second Flower Arrangement Workshop will be held on Saturday, October 1, from 10 a.m. until noon. This workshop will feature altar flowers. Decorations for the Season of Creation and preliminary ideas about Christmas decorations will be discussed.

Bring your own vase – you'll take your arrangement home.

There is no charge for the workshop but please make a reservation with Peter Huiner or call the office so that we may have sufficient materials for everyone. Call Peter at 478-3963.

Friendship House Dinner Planned for October

Members of the Pastoral Care Ministry will host a dinner for the gentlemen of Friendship House on October 14 at 5:30 p.m. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for anyone who would like to help.

PeaceKids Camp 3

by Jean Kuhl and Jennifer Christy; photos by Ken Francis



PeaceKids Camp 3 was a great success! Boys and girls were at SsAM all day, learning and experiencing peacemaking skills. They learned PEACE is a choice and practiced making that choice.

Thirty three children were involved in the program. Some were helpers, most (28) were campers. Campers were divided by age: Nails (11 years old), Hammers (9-10 years old), Saws (7-8 years old), and Lumber (5-6 years old). We had many new campers this year from the neighborhood. Eighteen children lived in Wilmington, eight in Newark and two in New Castle.

Each morning we gathered to hear Scripture and some children would recite the previous day's lesson. One young man said "I get a WHOLE dollar?" His face glowed with pride when he received it.

Canon Casson spoke each morning and helped the children see the relevance of the lesson to their lives as peacemakers. The first day he had a cap and tool belt and explained that each group is necessary to accomplish any building project – and the purpose of camp was to learn to build Peace.



Each day the children learned about Bible bread, both herb and sweet, and prepared it with their own hands to be baked and eaten each afternoon.

The Wilmington Fire Department brought a fire engine and talked about fire safety. The Police Department brought two trained dogs and talked about their jobs as peacemakers in the community. We went bowling, swimming, roller skating and visited the Delaware Natural History Museum.

Thirty three volunteers contributed 637 hours of their time. Their efforts made PeaceKids Camp a great success .

None of this would have been achieved without your love and support! We would like to thank everyone for their generosity in contributing to the AIM Sunday collections, donating supplies, cleaning and painting the education suite,



as well as the teachers' aides, chaperones on the bus trips, and help in the kitchen.

Special thanks to the teachers: Pat Hampton, Jennifer Christy (third year for each), as well as Carol Scott and Ernestine Brock-Walker (both joining the fun for the first time). Lucia Robinson shared her gift of music and brought engaging activities so the children could sing together and, literally, pass the peace. Ken Francis took photos. Buddy Gray taught martial arts and self-control each morning to the entire group. Beatrice Polk arranged all the outings and scheduled the bus each day. More thank yous to all the volunteers in the next Vision .

Time to Think about the Christmas Pageant

It's time to sign up for the Children's Christmas Pageant which is held on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m.

Give the church office a call soon to make sure your child has a part in this year's pageant.

Day of Quiet Reflection Announced

A Day of Quiet Reflection will be held on Saturday, October 1 at St. Paul's Church, Georgetown.

A day of quiet reflection is a gift of time we give ourselves as we try to live at a sacred pace. Participants should bring a bag lunch. There is no charge for the day. Contact the church (302-856-2894) directly for details.

New Pictorial Directory for 10th Anniversary

A new pictorial directory of our church family is being created in conjunction with the beginning of our celebration of SsAM's 10th anniversary.

Please plan on participating in this directory. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Auditorium. Sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.

You will come to the church only once – your photograph will be taken and portrait selection will take place at the same appointment. Everything should only take 15-20 minutes.

You may dress formally or casually. You will have the opportunity to order/purchase portraits during your scheduled appointment time. **No purchase is necessary to participate!** In addition, there will be a number of pages in the new directory that chronicle the history of SsAM. We are asking your help in creating these pages.

If you have photos taken of church events during the last 10 years that could be included, please identify the event, persons pictured, approximate date, as well as your name. Put them in an envelope and address it to Danny Schweers. Envelopes may be left at the church office. They will be returned to you after they have been scanned.

Questions? Contact Sandy Johnson or call Danny at 302 475-0998.

SsAM at Hockessin Hills

The fourth Sunday of each month SsAM is in charge of the Sunday service at Hockessin Hills Nursing Home. SsAM will conduct Holy Communion of September 25 and October 23. The service begins at 2:00 p.m.

If you can help bring residents to the service from their rooms or assist in the service in any way, please call 656-6628.



Sandy Johnson (second from left), Membership Committee chair, hosted a recent potluck dinner for newcomers to SsAM. The dinner gave newcomers (left to right) Danny Schweers, Martha Wallin, Barbara Henry, and Louise Bergen an opportunity to enjoy fellowship over a meal with a group of parishoners.

*Deadline for the November-December Vision is Oct. 10.
Contact Barbara Henry at (302) 475-0998.*

Upcoming Activities & Events

September

- 24 5:00 p.m. Swingin' at SsAM's Fall Jam
25 10:30 a.m. Bring A Friend Sunday, Peace Kids Reunion
10:30 a.m. SsAM Treble Choir sings
2:00 p.m. SsAM at Hockessin Hills
30 7:00 p.m. ArtSlam at SsAM

October

- 1 10:00 a.m. Flower Guild Workshop
1:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals
All Day Day of Quiet Reflection, St. Paul's Georgetown
8 4:30 p.m. Choral Evensong, Fellowship Dinner
9 10:30 a.m. Worship: *Creation: Intelligent Design: In the Eyes of Faith*
4:00 p.m. Piffaro concert
14 5:30 p.m. Friendship House Dinner
16 10:30 a.m. Worship: *Gaia: Out of One, Many: The Living Planet*
SsAM Treble Choir sings
23 10:30 a.m. *The Human Family: In the Image of God: Remembering Who We Are*
2:00 p.m. SsAM at Hockessin Hills
28 7:00 p.m. ArtSlam at SsAM
30 10:30 a.m. *World Peace: Swords into Plowshares: Restoring Justice on Earth*

The Daily Parish
Calendar can be
seen on the
SsAM website—
www.ssam.org.



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

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