

# VISION

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
SAINTS ANDREW AND  
MATTHEW

JANUARY 2007



## *Prayer of Blessing*

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come:*

*+Bless this capsule as a repository of moments in our journey thus far, as the Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. By faith we bury it, sending forth these treasures to our descendants in an age yet to come. Through the artifacts contained herein, we bequeath to them, our abiding faith in you, Creator and Lover of the Universe and all of its creatures. We bequeath to them our unrelenting hope in the coming reign of Christ, when peace, love and justice shall reign in the hearts and nations of all humanity. And we bequeath to them the love we share for one another in Christ which through the Holy Spirit has knit our parish family together in bonds that remain unbreakable through all the chances and changes of life. May our descendants be inspired by the same Spirit to continue on this sacred journey of witness and mission, trusting in the One who is the same yesterday, today and forever throughout the generations.*

*Amen*



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This comes with my prayers and best wishes for a New Year filled with hope and peace.

As I write this, we as a congregation have just concluded the final official event of our Tenth Anniversary year of celebration – the planting of our Tenth Anniversary Time Capsule in the Shipley Street Churchyard, to be opened by the next generation in 2026. The artifacts contained in the capsule will

tell a powerful story of our founding decade. What a milestone for us to have achieved!

Recently I found myself thumbing through the Annual Reports from throughout this period, and experiencing anew our emerging journey. It was revealing to note the several ways in which we structured and conducted our various annual meetings, the succession of vestry elections – and of parish goals and objectives, reports from committees and ministries as they came on line, with their descriptions of budgets and statistics – most of the time good news, but not always – and all sorts of liturgical, pastoral, educational social, cultural, and outreach activities and events. A significant number of these activities and events have already become annual traditions.

As for our tenth year celebration, all that has happened at SsAM has been an outstanding culmination of our mission and ministry for this period. Here I wish to single out the

Tenth Anniversary Committee, co-led by Sandy Johnson and Max Bell, and the Diocesan Convention Planning Committee led by Matt Shipp with administrative leadership from Michelle Hastie, and the scores of our members, including many of our youth members, for planning and executing all the events and activities marking our Tenth Anniversary and carrying off so professionally our hosting of the 221st Convention of the Diocese of Delaware. And I single out each and every one of you for your unending support, cooperation and participation. So many unforgettable moments!

Now we begin a new year – a year of great transition– “Going forward in faith and service,” as our anniversary theme puts it. The Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew may go forward in faith confronting whatever challenges present themselves and seizing opportunities for greatness, trusting that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and sustain this parish, and strengthen its missionary endeavors to serve the world in Christ’s name.

I suggest that each of us take the substance of this theme to heart personally as we enter the new year. God, who has brought us this far in life, will certainly walk with us into 2007 through whatever choppy waters we may encounter, and lead us to new levels of human and spiritual fulfillment, enabling us to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. Happy New Year.

Peace,



*“We receive this Time Capsule for Blessing and Planting as a gift to our descendants of a future generation.*

*May they receive it as a sign of our love, and our hope in their future.*

*In this sacrament we join our voices with theirs, in praise for the One who gives himself for the life of the world.”*

# Living Together in Unity: the 10th Anniversary Celebration Comes to an End

by Sandy Johnson & Max Bell, Co-Chairs

Perhaps the 133rd Psalm says it all, "Oh, how good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity." One could describe the planning and execution of events over the past year as a virtual picture of unity and accord. God has truly smiled on us. We are now where we always wanted to be, in a place where it makes no difference from whence we came, just where we are now, going forward in faith and service as we chart our future ministry.

We give thanks to the initial work of Sylvia Banks who moved the celebration from concept to a real plan with real activities. Thanks also to Steering Committee members Joe and Karen Johnson, Lu Soukup, Carolyn Haon, Walt Cheatham, Bob Richmond, Kitty Esterly and Danny Schweers, Ken Francis, Devere Patton, Pat Griffin, David Christopher, Tom Roberts, Jeanne and Jim Linderman, Jean Kuhl, Linda Jackson and Pat Hampton who served as Team Leaders. And to all the many other generous spirited volunteers.

We believe about 60 percent of our congregants had something to do with at least one activity of the celebration. Our work together was nurturing and open to the Spirit. We were focused because we believed that members wanted memorable events. Our goal was also to stay within the budget approved by the vestry. Reciting the words of our Anniversary Prayer raised the importance of this work.

The celebration kick-off took place on February 12 after snow fell on the initial January date. During the Fellowship Hour following church services, we reflected on the journey of the consolidation of the two churches. There were laughs, tears and pauses as "pre-consolidation" members sketched their memories.

In March we hosted the Diocesan Convention with the magnificent video produced by Danny Schweers of SsAM's community and ministries. At the Convention we unveiled our new banner to the diocese. There was quite an able "get ready crew," thanks to the recruitment of volunteers by Anita Young and Jim Linderman. Together, they cleaned, polished, painted and planted as the convention date approached. How great it was having visitors from all over the diocese, many of whom were visiting us for the first time. Absolutely glorious!

After breaking for Lent and Easter, the celebration picked up again in May and June as we planned the July Community Fair. You read about the fun, fish fry and other tasty goodies, performances, face painting, and the balloon bouncing in the September/October *Vision*. Discussions are scheduled in January around a 2007 Fair.

September was highlighted with the Youth 10 Block Walk

to St. Michael's organized by the teens of the church. The trek to see the renovations to the former St. Matthew's brought tears to many who had been baptized, confirmed, married there as well as those who had worshipped, prayed, sang and played there. Recognizing the invaluable benefit of the additional space to the community, tears quickly turned to smiles as the group toured the library and classrooms. It was quite a bittersweet event.

The October banquet was over the top, receiving rave reviews on the organization of the event, the food, slide show and the entertainment. The invitation created by Shirley Casson was so wonderfully designed that it deserved framing for a spot in the Demby Room. Bishop Wright's inspiring comments included his saying that he believed Canon Casson to have the best job in the diocese.

Pat Hampton and Lu Soukup did a marvelous job of unfolding our history. With much spirit and music from the choir, almost 200 attendees traveled with us as our past and present stories were told. Madeline Johnson peppered the evening with a bit of jazz as only she can do. Kitty Esterly reveled in her personal roasting of various members.

The acknowledgement of Winifred Primo's presence with a standing ovation was icing on the cake.

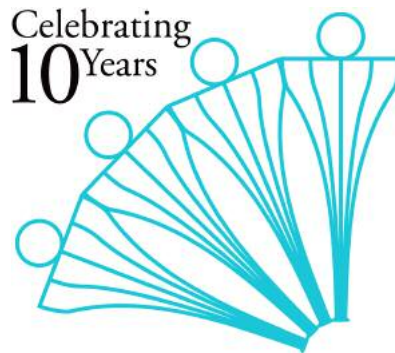
Underscoring the entire evening was the recognition given to our Partners-in-Mission during the 10 years: Delaware Futures, F.A.I.T.H. Center, Friendship House, Pacem in Terris, and Sojourner's Place.

In December, on the first Sunday of Advent following the 10:30 a.m. service, we planted the Time Capsule filled with many artifacts collected during our 10 years in the Shipley Street Garden. It is marked with an X. This event was planned by Carolyn Haon, Jean Kuhl and Buck Smith.

The Time Capsule will be opened in 2026. The big question is: Who will be present to open it?

In the Time Capsule is a copy of "Te Deum," a Choral composition commissioned for the 10 Year Anniversary celebration. It was composed by David Schealat, organist and Director of Music at First & Central Presbyterian Church. The premiere of the piece will be early 2007. The plan is to make a 10 Year Anniversary recording of this work and other favorites.

While we admit that we did get a bit tired from the fast pace, we would do it all over again – and we sincerely mean the work for the 10th Anniversary Celebration as well as the consolidation work. We certainly hope you feel the same way. May God continue to bless our unity as we grow in love, faith and service.



## *Dear Members of the Community Advocacy Committee,*

On behalf of Pacem in Terris, I wish to thank you, Canon Lloyd Casson, and the members of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew for inviting me to your beautiful 10th Anniversary Banquet and Celebration and for honoring Pacem in Terris as one of your Partners in Mission with the wonderful certificate. While I expected the delicious dinner, I was completely surprised by the lovely award for Pacem. Thank you so much.

It means so much to us to have the support of the Community Advocacy Committee in helping us bring the Avodah Dance Ensemble back each year to the women at Baylor. The dance program has touched the hearts, minds, and spirits of the women who participate in it, in more ways than we will ever know. That you value experiences for transformation as deeply as we do means so much to us. Such experiences only have a starting point, for we never really know how widely they ripple out or how large their circles of life-change and influence become. Thank you so much for being there with us at the launching point of such goodness.

It is always such a privilege for me to be with the folks from SsAM. The vibrancy, diversity, and love that abound in your congregation are truly a seek-peek of Paradise. Thank you once more for inviting me to be part of your joyous and inspiring celebration.

*Dr. Sally Milbury-Steen, Executive Director*

## Thanks for Your Generosity at Christmas

The Community Advocacy Committee put out a call at Christmas to provide gifts for those less fortunate and the response from our parish was phenomenal. We take our mandate from Matthew 25:40 : The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (NIV)

As a result of your generosity, over 100 gifts were passed out to individuals who attend the breakfast on Sunday morning. And eighteen children from seven families each received four gifts from the Angel Tree Project. Volunteers from our church delivered these gifts.

There is so much joy that comes with sharing Christ's love with kids who have a mom or dad in prison. And the caregivers, who are often grandparents, are almost in tears in having a wonderful Christmas provided to their loved ones. Acknowledging their commitment to caring for these children, we also gave the caregivers a gift card to be used for their own needs this holiday season. Finally, the committee sent a card to each prisoner describing the gifts that were given to their children in his/her name.

Special thanks goes to Sandy Holt who organized the Angel Tree project. And to Geoff Sawyer who makes sure that all of our Sunday breakfast guests receive a gift for the holiday.

## Friendship House & SsAM Are on a Roll!



And we need your help! Friendship House, at their ten residential and day centers, uses approximately 380 rolls of toilet paper a month! In an effort to help them defray their growing expenses, we are making January "Give a Roll to Friendship House" month at SsAM.

When you buy toilet paper during January, buy an extra package or two and bring it to SsAM. Just drop it off in the box in the Narthex.

As you know, Friendship House is a non-profit Christian organization with a very close relationship to SsAM, including senior homeless men's housing, Andrew's Place, and the Sunday breakfast.

Friendship House is committed to making a difference in the lives of the homeless people of New Castle County

through the traditional spiritual ministries of hospitality, education, empowerment and community.

Call Geoff and Alice Sawyer, 655-5530, for details or if you have any questions.

And don't forget to keep our January toilet paper drive ROLLING!

## Time Capsule Thank You

I would like to thank all of you who helped in any way to put the Time Capsule to rest.

Special thanks to Jean Kuhl, Clifton Gordon and Ken Francis for interviewing and producing the DVD, Dot Dorsey and Pat Griffin for helping select and prepare items, all who contributed items, and to Buck Smith for sealing the capsule, providing the vault and marker and preparing the site.

*Carolyn Haon*

# Community Advocacy Committee Survey Results

by Sylvia Banks

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey distributed earlier this year by the Community Advocacy Committee. We want to especially thank Phil Murphree for summarizing the responses.

We received 23 responses from 180 households. While we wish we had heard from more people, this is actually a good response rate.

## 1. Is the quality of life in the Wilmington community going in the right direction?

Most felt Wilmington was making progress but still had a lot of room for improvement.

## 2. What is the #1 problem facing the Wilmington community?

Violent crimes/guns (12); drugs (6); poverty (3)

## 3. Rate your concern for the major issues (poverty; pregnancy/parenting; childcare; K-12 education; health issues; transportation; incarceration/re-entry support).

All issues except transportation were rated as "very concerned" (highest level) by all respondents.

## 4. How familiar are you with the SSaM's outreach programs (11 listed)?

The following programs were listed as having no knowledge: Sojourner's Place (4); Delaware Futures (4); St. Michael's (2); Primo Fund (5); F.A.I.T.H. Center (3); Angel Tree (1); Pilot Congregation (5); Academic scholarship fund (4); SURJ (3). *Note: The Community Advocacy Committee is actively exploring ways to address this issue.*

## 5. Rate each of SSaM's outreach programs as to how you believe they address the key issues in question #3.

Most respondents felt that most of our programs help address these issues. The least effective might be the Primo Fund for Racial Justice. Some felt that it no longer focused on Wilmington now that it has been rolled into the USA Forum. *Note: The Primo Fund for Racial Justice is no longer associated with Forum USA Delaware.*

## 6. Rate each of SSaM's outreach programs as to how you believe they address the Vision and Mission of SSaM.

The following is a list of the most effective ratings (to a great extent): Friendship House (21); Sojourner's Place (15); Delaware Futures (13); St. Michael's (16); Primo Fund (9); F.A.I.T.H. Center (several did not know what it was); Angel Tree (14); Sunday Breakfast (18); Pilot Congregation (10); Academic Scholarships (15); SURJ (10).

## 7. List other programs you believe would address question #3 issues or SSaM's Vision and Mission.

The Home Way; Head Start; Thresholds; Habitat for Humanity; Peace Kids Camp.

## 8. How do you prefer to get more information about SSaM's outreach programs?

Website (5) Bimonthly *Vision* (17); Sunday bulletin insert (16); Forums (6); Other: occasional fairs, guest speakers during service, announcement time. *Note: The Community Advocacy Committee is actively exploring ways to address this issue.*

Among the comments received were:

*I want this group to be more accountable to the parish.*

*This committee expresses the Vision/Mission. I applaud them.*

*Need timely follow-up and communication to the parish.*

*What actions are the committee taking?*

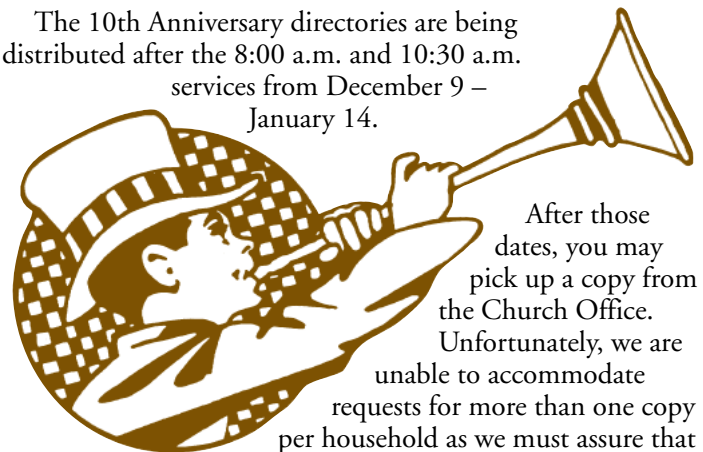
*Committee needs to maintain a clear focus; can't be everything to everybody.*

*SSaM needs a health team to address physical and mental health concerns.*

*My overriding concern is that this committee makes decisions for the parish without going through the budget process. How are funds accounted for in the audit and parochial report??*

## Directories Are HERE!

The 10th Anniversary directories are being distributed after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services from December 9 – January 14.



After those dates, you may pick up a copy from the Church Office.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate requests for more than one copy per household as we must assure that all members get original copies.

We have been asked when pictures will be taken again. It is unlikely that studio pictures will be taken before 2009. However, we are now able to print directories using the current pictures and to add our own pictures of new members and those of members whose pictures are not in the directory.

### CORRECTIONS

Change the name under the picture of Nancy Ware to Betty Townsend and change the name under the picture of Betty Townsend to Nancy Ware.

Change Gwenita Walker's phone number to (302)427-0786.

# ECW Christmas Luncheon Well Attended

In December, more than fifty women of SsAM enjoyed a festive Christmas luncheon. Held annually, it is one of the traditional events sponsored by ECW (Episcopal Church Women).

The theme, "Wreath of Peace," commemorated the ten year anniversary of The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. The gorgeous tree in the church auditorium was erected by Wanda Smith and decorated with beautiful snowflakes by the children in Sunday School. While the wreath symbolizes unity, the snowflake symbolizes the importance of each individual.

## Upcoming ECW Events – Plan Now to Help!

The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is February 20, 2007. Many volunteers are needed for the preparation and execution of this big event. Committee assignments will be made at the January 13 meeting. If you cannot attend, but wish to join a committee or volunteer your services for that day, please call Karen Johnson at 765-2218.

We need volunteers (men and women) to clean and prepare the chicken for cooking and cooks to prepare the pancakes and side dishes. Decorating the auditorium is usually done on Monday evening and volunteers are needed for this.

During Lent, the Lenten Luncheon committee continues the traditional Tuesday soup, salad, sandwich and homemade dessert lunches. This will be the 11th year of its operation at SsAM. There are many ways to contribute to the success of this project, so contact Dot Dorsey, Betty Townsend or Nancy Ware if you are interested in helping.

In May, we will join with the Pastoral Care Committee in honoring congregation members at the Golden Age luncheon.

Please join us in planning these events and please feel welcome to participate at whatever level of involvement is appropriate for you. We need your ideas and spirit. New activities are being considered – such as cookie walks, a church bazaar and festival.

## Keep the Dates

The 2007 dates for ECW meetings are January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, September 8, October 13, and November 10. The annual Prayer Breakfast will be September 15. The Christmas luncheon will be held on December 8.

## Thanks for Your Help

Thank you to all who contributed to the Boscov Fund Raiser for non-profits – Friends Helping Friends. We plan to participate again in the fall of 2007.

SsAM's cookie elves truly did a spectacular job in providing over 100 dozen cookies to the Church Women United Cookie Project.

The catered luncheon celebrated the women of the congregation and provided an opportunity for fellowship and fun.

This year we assembled a huge donation of toiletries to be distributed to the women of Friendship House. In addition, we collected money to buy umbrellas for the women of Limen House.

## What is ECW, Anyway?

All women of the church are members of ECW and we enthusiastically encourage each of you to become actively involved. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. One of our newer venues is a quarterly book discussion and these have proven to be quite successful. On January 13, at 11:30 a.m. we will discuss *Kindred* by Octavia Butler. Cynthia Oates will share some background information about the importance of slave narratives. A light luncheon will be provided for participants.

## Birthdays

### January

5  
Vern Oates  
6  
Anne Gibson  
Carol Scott  
12  
Lillian Ramsey  
14  
Susan Hengel  
15  
Matthew Johnson  
Lawrence Melton  
Jorge Williams  
17  
Sharon Bryant  
Cynthia Oates

19

David Julius

24

Theora Wisher

25

Geraldine Barnes

27

Phyllise Wilkins-Church

29

Shirley Casson  
Walt Cheatham

30

Margaret Scheu  
Jacquelyn Spencer

31

Lu Soukup



## Undee Sunday Results

The Community Advocacy Committee thanks all of you who helped make UNDEE SUNDAY the biggest success yet!! We were able to provide 76 complete sets of thermal underwear to our needy friends.

We were able to give each of our 17 friends who reside in Andrew's Place a nice set that was sized to fit their needs. The remaining 59 sets were donated to the Friendship House Clothing Bank to be distributed to others in need. In addition to these 59 sets, we also gave The Clothing Bank 16 sweaters and 3 sets of sweats. This year far exceeded our donation last year. We thank you for your participation in making this worthy cause a big success!!

# Adult Education 2007

## *January*

### **The relationship between religion and politics**

- January 7      A historical view of religions and politics. Max Bell will be the presenter and discussion leader.
- January 14     Charisse Rogers will discuss former Senator John Danforth's book "Faith and Politics" which discusses how the moral value debate divides America. Charisse will also lead the discussion.
- January 21     Rod Welles will lead the discussion about the book "God's Politics" by Jim Wallis. Wallis, an Evangelical Christian, says that "the political Right in America has hijacked the language of faith to prop up its political agenda and the political Left pursues an unrealistic separation of religious values from morally grounded political leadership".
- January 28     An open discussion of the interrelationship between religion and politics. We will also talk about where SsAM fits into the discussion and what involvement we might possibly have about certain issues.

## *February*

### **Investigating racial issues in response to Black History Month**

- February 4     What it means to be a black man in America
- February 11    What it means to be a black woman in America
- February 18    Issues African American students face on college campuses
- February 25    The restoration of apartheid schooling in America

## *March*

### **Investigating women's issues**

## *April*

### **The state of the Episcopal Church**

Part of the basis for these sessions will be the online dialogue held on December 6, 2006, entitled "State of the Episcopal Church". That discussion was led by Diana Butler Bass, the author of six books on American religious practices. Copies of the dialogue will be provided after the March 25 session.

## *May*

### **Controversial subjects in America today, including stem cell research & poverty**

## *June*

### **What does it mean to be a Christian and an Episcopalian?**

Discussions will focus on our religious beliefs and expectations in the complex world in which we live.

# Upcoming Activities & Events

## January

- 1 Church offices closed
- 7 10:30 a.m. AIM Sunday
- 11 5:30 p.m. Downtown Festival Planning Meeting
- 14 12:30 p.m. Parent Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. Teen Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Interfaith Concert for Peace
- 15 Martin Luther King birthday observed; offices closed
- 19-21 Senior High Winter Camp
- 21 10:30 a.m. AIM Sunday
- 28 2:00 p.m. Regal Healthcare Center

**Bill and Marcy Perkins are scheduled to preach at the 10:30 a.m. service, Sunday, January 28, 2007. Bill is Executive Director and Marcy is Director of Women's Ministry of Friendship House. For details, see [www.friendship-house.org](http://www.friendship-house.org)**

The Daily Parish Calendar can be seen on the SsAM website—[www.ssam.org](http://www.ssam.org).

## Next *Vision* Deadline

The copy deadline for the February-March *Vision* is January 10. Please contact the editor at [soupgal@comcast.net](mailto:soupgal@comcast.net) to discuss story ideas or photos. Please put "Vision" in the subject line of all emails.



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