

VISION

NEWSLETTER OF THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
SAINTS ANDREW AND
MATTHEW

JUNE - JULY 2007

Dear Sisters and Brothers,



My, how time flies when you're having fun! It's hard to believe that ten years and a few months have passed since we first celebrated our new ministry together. Now, mine as your Rector and Pastor, has come to an end.

This is a bittersweet moment for me. As I look forward with joy to where the Holy Spirit may be leading me, I am already feeling pangs of sadness at leaving you, the members and friends of Saints Andrew and Matthew.

I shall miss you and the ministry we share in Christ's name. Many of you remember that service on the Ides of March in 1997, and that prophetic sermon from the late Dr. Verna Dozier, one of the Episcopal Church's foremost preachers and teachers of Scripture. In her sermon she remarked that "God has been waiting and longing for the likes of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew."

Well, here we are. Since that time, SsAM has really "come online" as a significant parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware and as a contributing community member of our city and state. To be sure, we've encountered some "bumps in the road," and it is certainly safe to say that we are not yet all that we aim to become.

That having been said, however, step back a bit and observe the unfolding of this very special faith community.

First of all, we are now so much greater than the sum of our parts. The two former congregations have become one, not only in spirit, but in actuality. Hasn't it done your heart good, over the years, as we continue to welcome seekers and new members, some of them newcomers to the area? They are making the conscious choice for membership in SsAM because they are drawn to God through our worship, particular vision and mission, and choose to walk their faith journey with us.

Consider our growing list of ministries and programs: pastoral care, education and spiritual formation, arts and culture, communications (including a great website and newsletter), parish fellowship, witness and outreach to the neediest of our community, and advocacy for peace and justice.

In addition, we have achieved major capital improvements and maintenance of our facilities – a beautiful and functional

sanctuary for worship and program. We have very sound fiscal management policies in place to help assure SsAM's longevity as a parish. Through our Shipley Village Community Development Corporation, we are poised to begin this summer the development of our property at 701 Shipley Street as Shipley Lofts, an affordable housing project.

Our greatest assets, however, are you, the members and friends of SsAM, who dream up, create, implement, support and participate in these various and sundry activities. Without your love and dedication to SsAM, your regular presence and participation, and the offering of your financial resources and time, where would we be? You make it happen because of your Holy Spirit-given courage to step out with full assurance that God is with us in our efforts and will continually bear us up. As I take my leave as your Rector, I praise and thank God for each and every one of you.

Now SsAM comes to a crucial and vulnerable place in its ministry – a period of transition in leadership.

Let my final words in this column be a reminder that what is called for now, more than ever, is the continuation of your faith, courage, vision, and total support. Hold on to the vision, stick to the mission, keep up and even increase your prayers, regular attendance at worship, full participation in parish life, and your ongoing financial support. Finally, join in the work of the Vestry and parish leadership in the work of charting the future course for SsAM and completing the transition to the Second Rector of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew.

I close by thanking each of you for the love and acceptance shown to Shirley and me. We shall always remember you and keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Please keep us in yours.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Meet the Vestry Nominees

Adrian Allen



I was born in Brooklyn, NY and was brought up in the Episcopal Church. I became a member of SsAM in early 1998 when it became apparent that it provided, for me, an excellent blend of liturgy and spirituality. I had been searching for just such a church. Currently I am on the Downtown Arts and Finance Committees. Skills in project management, financial management and marketing are talents that I could offer as a member of the Vestry.

After receiving an MBA degree from Delaware in 1977, I was hired by the Delaware Office of Minority Business Enterprise to help small business owners to develop loan packages to start or improve their businesses. Subsequently I founded my own company to continue working with this clientele. I have served as treasurer of the NE Wilmington Federal Credit Union and on the finance committee of WCCNPAC.

Ernestine Brock-Walker



I was a member of St. Matthew's from age 14 and have been a member of SsAM since its inception. I have been active in several ministries at SsAM: Pastoral Care (co-chair two years), Episcopal Church Women (currently Corresponding Secretary), Choir member and SsAM Soul Youth Group volunteer when needed. I retired from employment with the city on December 15, 2006 after 38 years of service. Since

retirement I have been a volunteer for "Read Aloud Delaware" at the Kingswood Day Care Center. I am the mother of five children, 17 grandchildren and two lovely great-granddaughters.

Walt Cheatham



Currently serving on the Adult Education, Finance, and Property Committees. I am a former Junior and Senior Warden of SsAM and a former member and Vice President of the Diocesan Council. I retired from DuPont as an Engineering Manager after more than 27 years. I am interested in providing leadership during this transition time to a new Rector and in developing the next steps for the parish.

Dot Dorsey



I have been married fifty years, and have two daughters, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. I'm a retired banker and now am quite active in Parish activities. I was an active member of St. Matthew's from the age of 14 and now a very active, ten-year-member of SsAM. My activities include Altar Guild, Lector, Usher, Chair of Lenten Luncheons, active member and past treasurer of ECW. For several years I have chaired their

Christmas Luncheons and other activities. I am currently involved in banquet and program preparations for Canon Casson's retirement. I have served on Vestries at St. Matthews and on SsAM's first Vestry. I love our Lord, and His Church, and feel in some small way I might have a positive input in its growth and transition, as a Vestry person.

Sandy Johnson



Ten years have passed since I served on the Vestry. It was the year of our consolidation. Prayer about my purpose in working into our next decade has led me to put my name on the ballot. My belief in God's saving grace, in the people, ministry and great fellowship of our congregation is so very powerful. My continual prayer is that you and God will find value in the contributions I hope to make in our journey.

Martha Wallin



I have only been a member of SsAM for two years but have found it to be a very welcoming congregation. It has been a great pleasure to meet with such an interesting mixture of people and clergy, which has led me to promptly take part in several church ministries.

I currently am a member of the Liturgy, Pastoral Care, and Membership Committees and serve as the Vestry's Recording Secretary. My driving passion at

SsAM is to find, and help develop, ways to encourage others who are now outside our parish family, to visit, to become excited about this congregation, and to become members. My family consists of two children and four grandchildren.

Chip MacKelcan



I started attending St. Andrew's in 1950 and was confirmed here in the 1960s. Upon returning to Wilmington as Headmaster of Sanford School in 1998, I rejoined SsAM and found a touchstone for my reentry into this community. I love the church and the people and know that my life has been enriched immeasurably by the strengthening of my faith through this congregation. I donated a kidney last fall to the husband of my wife's cousin, and I feel certain that my recuperation was accelerat-

ed by the many people here who kept me in their prayers. Currently I am serving as a Lector and previously served a term on the Vestry and on several church committees and was asked to deliver two Lenten Luncheon speeches. With the upcoming retirement of Lloyd Casson, SsAM will be experiencing a profound transition. I stand ready to help in any way to sustain the momentum SsAM has generated over the last decade.

Annual Parish Meeting Scheduled June 10

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Parish of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew will be held on Sunday, June 10 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will occur within the context of the Sunday Parish Eucharist.

Please note: There will be no 8:00 a.m. service on that day, in order that all members of the congregation may participate in the meeting.

In addition to worship, the agenda will include:

- election by ballot of four new members to the Vestry;
- annual reports from the Vestry and various ministries and activities of the parish;
- general discussion by all present around the issues presented and critical concerns raised by the body; and
- other action as may be required.

The meeting will begin with the Celebration of the Eucharist.

The meeting is open to all members and friends of the parish. However, those eligible to vote in the elections and on actions before the meeting are those who meet the requirements set forth in Article 6 of the Parish By-Laws: qualified voters are persons who are

- baptized,
- at least 16 years of age, and
- have been an active and contributing member for at least the six months prior to the meeting.

downtown FESTIVAL

WILMINGTON

SATURDAY • JUNE 30 • 2007

Plans are well underway for an exciting and joyous festival for the whole city of Wilmington to be held on June 30th in the church and the adjoining parking area.

Following the success of the festival last summer it was agreed that this event should be repeated for the second year.

Committees are hard at work on preparation for this event. Chairpersons of important committees have enlisted

volunteers and are finalizing the details in each area.

There are opportunities for everyone to share their talents. Committee chairpersons are listed below. Please contact any of them to volunteer your assistance.

Judi Lane Gregory says that this event is a fun way of advertising SsAM and bringing new families into our church. It is a major outreach event to and for the community.

Downtown Festival Committees: Volunteer NOW!!

Internal Communications
External Communications/Publicity
Logistics and Property
Budget
Entertainment/Food & Ride Vendors

Attic Treasures
Church Tours
Fish Fry

Festival Chair

Diane Clarke Streett
Danny Schweers
Jim Ballard
Pat Griffin
David Christopher, Pat Hampton
Tina Betz
LaVerne Cheatham, Dot Dorsey
Bob Richmond
Tom Roberts, Lionel Hampton

Judi Lane Gregory

The Rector Search Process Explained

Since we are entering a period of intensive work aimed at finding the path forward for SsAM, it is appropriate for everyone to understand the process that is usually followed in the Diocese of Delaware.

The following was obtained from the Rev. Canon Gary Rowe, who is the Diocesan Deployment Officer. After an Interim Rector is installed, the Vestry will appoint a search committee as discussed in items 2 and 3.

Frequently asked questions for the transition and interim time:

1. What is a Transition Committee?

The Transition Committee exists as an “umbrella” committee to oversee the entire transition process from the announcement of a rector’s leaving through the first year of a new rector.

2. What is a Search Committee?

The Search Committee is charged by the Vestry to work with a consultant to develop a parish profile, including how the parish sees its future and goals for the parish. The Search Committee also works with members of the Standing Committee to advertise for and screen candidates, interview candidates, and recommend one candidate to the Vestry to serve as the next Rector.

3. Who serves on the Search Committee?

Active, pledging members who are regular in attendance make good candidates for a Search Committee. Search Committees reflect the demographics and nature of the parish. They are diversified by age, gender, race, areas of parish life and ministries.

4. What are the Vestry’s responsibilities during transition?

The Wardens and Vestry are responsible for day-to-day parish life and administration. The Vestry contracts with a consultant, the interim rector and the new rector. The Vestry also charges the Search Committee with its tasks.

5. How is an exit interview used?

An exit interview with a departing rector (or interim rector) is conducted. The insights gained from this interview are helpful to the bishop and the vestry in considering the ministry of the parish, its life, its strengths and challenges.

6. Why have an Interim Rector and what does an Interim Rector do?

The Bishop’s Office will provide the vestry with the names of potential Interim Rectors. A letter of agreement will be written and signed by the vestry and the interim rector. It is important to welcome the interim rector in a special way.

The interim rector provides the leadership necessary to maintain stability during the period of transition. A key task is to help the congregation complete its disengagement from previous chapters in its life as it begins the self-study related to the search process.

Specific tasks are decided with the vestry and may include helping the parish come to terms with its history and relationships with previous clergy; discovering the congregation’s special identity, what God is calling it to be in the future; dealing with shifts in leadership roles that naturally evolve in times of transition, allowing new leaders to come to the fore constructively; renewing relationships with the diocese so that each may be a more effective resource and support to the other; and building commitment to the leadership of the new rector in order to be prepared to move into the future with openness to new possibilities.

7. Why do interims take so long?

During the interim period the bishop assumes the role of rector and the wardens and vestry are responsible on a day-to-day basis. Lay leadership is very important during this time. The interim time allows a healthy transition and effective ministry while a congregation seeks a new priest. The interim period offers a congregation the time to look at themselves during a self study; to separate from the leadership of the departing rector; to strengthen and inform lay leadership; to clarify mission and direction; to find a priest to lead the congregation in that mission and direction.

The temptation at this stage is to want to rush through the interim. This is unwise for several reasons.

The tasks that need to be accomplished during the interim period, which must be completed by part-time volunteers, take time. The need for self-examination and reflection requires time in order to be insightful and beneficial. When a vestry tries to hurry the interim period, the result is often the call of a rector who is either a clone of the previous rector or a 180 degree opposite. Realistically, it is difficult to attract competent interim rectors for time periods of less than one year.

8. How do we say “good-bye” to the previous Rector?

Encourage the rector to take time and make the effort to achieve a sense of closure with parishioners. Plan a celebration of ministry event. Provide an opportunity and/or space for parishioners to express their feelings over the departure of the rector. How the goodbye is handled will impact how both the parish and the rector will move forward in their lives. Good leave-taking is beneficial to the spiritual and emotional health of the congregation and the departing rector.

9. How do we welcome a new Rector?

Plan a welcoming event. Plan “get acquainted” sessions for the rector and members of the parish. Work together to plan a Celebration of New Ministry. The bishop will be in contact with the new rector and the wardens to schedule this service.

Welcome the new rector into the life of the congregation. Provide a support group for the new rector during the first year(s). Plan for a Mutual Ministry Review after the first six months, which will review goals stated in the parish profile. Engage outside resources as necessary for a successful entry.

A Tribute to Louise Lewis: Chair of the Fellowship Committee Board of Directors

The company for this Board of Directors does not appear on the New York Stock Exchange or NASDAQ, nor is it listed as a Fortune 500 operation. It does not meet in lofty mahogany paneled rooms, but over a butcher-block table in the kitchen off the auditorium. This Board does not collect proxy votes, and the share dividends are not regarded as profits – at least in the usual sense.



Simply put, the business of this company is fellowship and the customers are SsAM's members and visitors. The board's primary function is to assure that the Sunday fellowship hour is supported with good food and drink, inviting great opportunity for networking as we stuff ourselves with tasty morsels of this, that and the other.

Louise Lewis reigns supreme as the Chair of the Board. Her authority, though without election, is fully recognized by

SsAM members. She is a hands-on Chair because she makes a lot of what we eat. Please note that she makes some of the best black-eyed pea soup in the world, which disappears in minutes.

Such recognition is easy for us because her life is one of extraordinary volunteerism for which she has received numerous community awards. Giving service, for her, is as natural as rain and spring flowers. Her primary hobby is visiting the sick and shut in, and making others feel good and welcomed. She is another extraordinary example of a quiet generous spirit, one of faith and Christian duty.

At 85 years plus, she is as young as any. Many members were present when her daughter, Rosalie, gave her a surprise birthday party at SsAM. Louise Lewis, we truly love you!

Members of the Board of Directors of the Fellowship Committee are Linda Smith, Sharon Brown, Diana Myers, and Diane Clarke Streett. Like clockwork, they all quietly leave the service a bit early to assure that everything is set out and ready for worshippers anxious to quell their hunger and commune in a less formal way.

We thank you Louise Lewis and all the Board members. Your faithful service to our church community keeps us connected.

Birthdays



JUNE			
1	13	30	17
Chris White	Michele Roberts	Lois McGinnis	Yvonne Gordon
Evyline Nwanekwu	14	JULY	18
Logan Malloy	Ernest Barnes	1	Sarah Kuhl
	Linda Smith	Edythe Bryant	
3	16	2	19
Tanisha Julius	Lillie Tyler	Ron Charles	Dell Venarde
William Young			
4	18	6	22
Kayla White	Eric Polk	Ann Schneider	Sandy Holt
	Jayne Britt	Gracie Gaskell	
5	21	Trudy Shipp	26
Charles Annan	Patricia Hampton	7	Leroy Ames
		Cecily Gordon	Ogechi Nwanekwu
7	27	13	27
Shirley Bynoe	Juanita Gibbs	Anya Malloy	Lora Byrd
	Keith Butler		
8	Tyler Byrd	14	31
Scott Zimmerman		Joshua White	Gabriella Henry
	28		Owen Peck
11	Alana Walker		
Carolyn Haon			

Vestry Highlights

Starting with this issue of the *Bimonthly Vision*, Vestry meetings will be summarized in more detail than in the past, as a response to congregational requests for more information regarding the actions of the church's elected governing body.

March 1, 2007 Meeting

Chris White presented a status report on the proposed 701 Shipley Street project. Funding for the proposed Artist Loft concept will be completed as soon as the City of Wilmington budget is approved. This is anticipated in the next month or two. Following that, an official announcement will be made and renovations will begin in early summer.

There is a shortfall in stewardship pledges received so far this year. This amounts in a shortfall of nearly \$60,000 from the amount anticipated in the 2007 budget. An effort will be made to contact those who have not yet pledged and encourage them to do so. Unless this situation is corrected, the expense budget will have to be reduced to keep control of the amount that must be drawn from our long-term investments.

The process for the hiring of an interim Rector has begun with the submission of a requirement profile with the Diocese. They will search for candidates who are a suitable fit.

April 11, 2007 Meeting

Bob Richmond was appointed as Vestry liaison to the Music Committee and Choir Director. Concern was expressed that expenditures for this budget area have been running higher than budgeted.

A concern about new IRS tax regulations that restrict the deduction of charitable gifts that are made in cash anonymously was discussed. This ruling will affect cash donated to the AIM

fund as well as open plate offerings. Use of checks instead of cash is encouraged to maintain deductibility.

A letter from the Rector to persons who have not yet pledged was sent. Six new pledges were received bringing the total to 110 versus 132 last year. Now the budget shortfall is approximately \$50,000.

A new office assistant, Bobbi Chandler, was hired and she is off to an excellent start.

Three potential candidates for the Interim Rector position have been received from the Diocesan office. Interviews with the Vestry are taking place.

Invitations for the May 30th dinner and celebration have been mailed.

Five resolutions were proposed by the Rector to the Vestry for presentation at the Diocesan Convention to be held next week. All were approved.

May 9, 2007 Meeting

Interim Priest Candidates who were suggested by the Diocese have been interviewed in the past month. The Vestry will now determine the path forward.

The Vestry Nominating Committee has obtained seven candidates for the election to be held on June 10.

Finance Committee reported that pledge income was still behind forecast; however expenditures also are a little below forecast so we remain in a satisfactory cash position.

Chris White reported that all financing is now firm for the 701 Shipley project and that construction work will begin in July.

This was the last Vestry session that Canon Casson will attend. A separate exit interview with the Vestry will be scheduled prior to June 3.

Property and Maintenance Corner

by Jim Ballard – Property Committee chairman

Stained glass windows in the Nave: Shenandoah Glass Company has promised to reinstall the repaired stained glass windows before the Bishop visits on May 27.

The AA Room: The walls were repaired and painted during our Spring Clean-Up Day in April. The room is cleaner, brighter and provides a more pleasant atmosphere in which to conduct meetings. We want to again thank the people who worked on this project. We still need to repair and paint the ceiling and repair the street entrance door.

Windowsills on Orange Street: Five or more windowsills have rotted over the past 70 years and need to be replaced before we paint this side of the building this summer. Jim Linderman and James Thomas have completed two of these and are working on the others. Painting should start this month (June).

Windowsills in the Narthex and the Nave: We are in the process of sanding and re-staining the faded and worn windowsills in the church. Please notice the change and thanks to Ron Jackson for his help with this project.

The stairwell outside the education suite leading to the roof: The water leak causing the paint to flake off the stairwell walls has been repaired and the section has been repainted.

Vinyl tile floor in the Auditorium: In May we had a contractor install a new vinyl tile floor over the old cracked and broken tiles in the auditorium. We hope you are pleased with this upgrade.

Outside painting projects done in May: We hired a painter to paint a section on the right hand side (as viewed from the inside of the building) of the outside wall in the Garden of Praise and a section of roof on the same side.

New electrical outlets: Additional electrical outlets were installed in each of the three bedrooms in the shelter. This will allow for some incremental electric radiant heating on very cold nights and allow us to lower the thermostat set point for both the shelter and Auditorium. In addition, a new exterior outlet was installed on the Chapel wall that will help with grass mowing and other outside activities.

Spotlight on Tyler Byrd



Tyler is 16 years old attends the Baldwin School and is a rising senior. She lives in the Wilmington water-front area with her mother Lora and father Kimble. Tyler is a great student and enjoys all subjects. She is often described as friendly, cool and a great dresser.

She's an active member of the SsAM Soul group and serves as an usher. Tyler recently attended her school prom which was by coincidence on the same day as the recent SsAM Family Spring Banquet

and Fashion show. Although she was not able to model, she assisted the group as they planned and rehearsed for the big day. Thank you Tyler.

SsAM Soul Elects New Officers

New officers were elected at the April 29th SsAM Soul meeting and will serve during the upcoming year. The new officers are President Nikki Annan, V. President Alex Oates, Secretary Jordan Hastie, Treasurer La'Erica Conner-Sims, Activity Manager Phil Glass and Historian Remi Poindexter.

Each officer has been active in the SsAM Soul group and signed the SsAM Soul Officer Pledge agreeing to attend all meetings (unless circumstances do not permit, i.e. school or family); uphold SsAM Soul rules; be committed to the responsibilities of a SsAM Soul officer; maintain a 2.0 grade point average in school; regular participation in SsAM ministry for year in office; regular attendance in SsAM Sunday services; participation in the SsAM Youth Day service; and meeting the 13 years of age and 7th grade membership requirement.

Congratulations Clifton Gordon



Congratulations to Clifton Gordon, who has been selected to be a member of the All State Swim Team.

Clif swam the 100-yard butterfly (finishing 6th, 54.22), and 100-yard backstroke (finishing 4th, 55.22).

Clif is a rising 9th grader attending Tower Hill School and was the only 8th grader selected to the All State Swim Team.

Summer Prayer

Lord, Creator of all, thank you for summer!

Thank you for the warmth of the sun
and the increased daylight.

Thank you for the beauty I see all around me
and for the opportunity to be outside
and enjoy your creation.

Thank you for the increased time I have to be with my
friends and family,

and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer.

Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am
or what I am doing.

Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence
and light my path with Your Word.

As I enjoy Your creation,
create in me a pure heart
and a hunger and a thirst for you.

Amen

SEED Scholarships Available

The Delaware SEED (Student Excellence Equals Degree) scholarship program provides tuition for full-time students enrolled in an associated degree program at Delaware Technical Community College or the Associate of Arts program at the University of Delaware. The program is for Delaware students who stay in school and work hard. To qualify for the SEED Scholarship:

Student must graduate from a public or non-public Delaware high school beginning in 2006.

Student must meet the residency requirements of the enrolling institution.

Student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4 point scale or 80% on a 100-point scale, as indicated on the student's official high school transcript.

Student must satisfy the admission standards of the enrolling institution.

Student must enroll in college level courses at Delaware Technical CC or the Associate of Arts program at the University of Delaware no later than the Fall immediately following graduation.

Please see their website: www.seedscholarship.delaware.gov

Delaware Technical & Community College website:

www.dtcc.edu.seed/

University of Delaware's AA program website:

www.udel.edu/advisement/aa/

Youth Program Thrives; Spring Fashion Show a Hit!

Thirty-one children and youth participated in the first Annual Spring Family Banquet and Fashion Show presented by the SsAM Soul Group on April 21st .

The theme for the fashion show was Welcome to Hollywood. The first scene presented models designated as the 'little ones', followed by models wearing the latest in sporty, casual and dressy wear as guests dined on delicious baked/fried chicken dinners.

Participating in the fashion show were Jordan Anderson, Nikki Annan, Isabel Casey, La'Erica Conner-Sims, Forrest Fistzgiles, Pere' Gaddis, Peter Gaddis, Gracie Gaskell, Phil Glass, Cecily Gordon, Clifton Gordon, Jordan Hastie, Tyler Hastie, Devon Jackson, Kamryn Matthews, Kori Mobley, Alex Oates, Veronica Oates, Remi Poindexter, Sophie Poindexter, Eric Polk, Abigail Poole, Bradford Poole, Brandon Rice, Derrick Rice, Dymin Marie Thomas, Savion Thompson, Cheyenne Tanner, Alana Walker, Felicia Walker, and Gloria Williams.

Special thanks to our SsAM Soul families and friends, BHW Catering, Ron Jackson, Charles Lewis, Briana McReynolds, the Rev. Peter Huiner, Sierra Dorsey, Carolyn Haon, Tyler Byrd, Stacy Lea, Keela Fowler, Devere Patton, Lucia Robinson, and to all who made this event a success.



Youth Sunday a Success!

Youth Sunday was celebrated at the 10:30 service on April 29th. It is a Sunday in which we encourage our children and youth to be active participants in the service. SsAM Soul youth served as acolytes, ushers, lectors and Sunday School assistants. Thanks for sharing your God-given gifts with us, helping us to see the light of God in one another.

Youth Calendar of Events

June

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|
| 3 | 10:30 a.m. | Attend service (Canon Casson's last Sunday) |
| 10 | 12:30 a.m. | Youth outing. Dave & Buster's, Philadelphia |
| 30 | 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. | SsAM Annual Downtown Festival |

July

- | | | |
|----|------------|----------------------|
| 15 | 12:30 p.m. | Youth outing |
| 22 | 12:30 p.m. | Annual Parish Picnic |
| 30 | 12:30 p.m. | Youth outing |

Employment Opportunity

CAMPFRESH, a movement to educate and empower youth to improve the eating habits of their community, is sponsored by Christiana Care Health System's Community Outcomes Department, which is now hiring Wilmington teens 14-18 years old to become community health advocates.

Where? The Preventive Medicine Rehabilitative Institute at 3506 Kennett Pike, Wilmington (near A.I. Middle School). Contact 302-428-6524 or email brahmer@christianacare.org for information.

SsAM Contributes to the 22nd Diocesan Convention

In the eyes of the two convention delegates from SsAM who prepared this summary, the meeting and Eucharistic celebration in Smyrna were powerful reminders of the important roles that SsAM has in the diocese. The clergy were well represented by Rod Welles, Jeanne Linderman and Canon Lloyd Casson. Bishop Wright honored Canon Casson, who is soon to retire, for his long and significant ministry. He received a standing ovation from all of the attendees.

The SsAM delegation presented six important resolutions to the convention. The voting delegates unanimously adopted all of these, after a short discussion of each.

1. To commend the members of the Anglican Women's Network for their contributions to the 51st United Nations session on the Status of Women, and their commitment to remain always in Communion with and for each other and resolute in solidarity with one another. Sandy Johnson was recognized for her selection as one of the participants in this UN session.

2. To affirm the UN Millennium Development Goals and to urge the diocese and the individual churches in the diocese to give 0.7% of their overall budgets to support these goals.

3. To commend the work of AIDS Delaware and to establish a program of HIV/AIDS awareness, training and ministry.

4. To affirm the actions of the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church regarding slavery which acknowledged its participation in the institution of slavery, expressing profound regret and apologizing for its part. But also recognizing the part many Episcopalian churches played in the eventual abolition of slavery.

5. To call on corporations doing business in Delaware to support our important non-profit agencies and furthermore to be mindful of the impact of their decisions on their employees.

6. To urge the Delaware Senate to follow the House of Representatives in repealing the mandatory minimum drug sentencing laws in this state.

Many other parishioners participated in the proceedings. Jenna Christy and Sharon Bryant attended as alternate delegates; Walt Cheatham was responsible for conducting the balloting for various diocesan positions with Pat Hampton and Joyce Bembry as ballot counters. Danny Schweers was introduced as the website editor for the Diocese, a new adjunct position on the Bishop's staff. Shirley Casson spoke at the display for the Katrina workers who traveled from Wilmington to help with reconstruction. Judi Lane Gregory participated in the Diocesan report on finances and Master Fund A in her role as Diocesan Business Manager. Michelle Hastie, who is one of nine new permanent diaconate inquirers, was introduced.

Diocesan Election Results

Standing Committee: the Rev. Celeste O. Cox, Sr. Jacalyn Hild Fossler

Trustees: Mr. Jim Bray, the Rev. Cal Wick

Diocesan Council: the Rev. David DeSalvo, the Rev. Elizabeth Masterson, Mr. Mark Persells, Ms. Susan Potts, Mr. Jeff Sweet

Lay Area 1: Ms. Ann Nichols

Constitution and Canons: the Rev. Mark Sullivan

Trial Court: Mr. Daniel Bennett

The 2008 Convention will be hosted by St. Phillips, Laurel, the Rev. Rita Nelson, Rector

Prepared by Diane Clarke Streett and Jim Linderman, SsAM delegates to the Convention

Interfaith Resource Center: Your Library for Religious Education



Have you ever been interested in obtaining books, DVDs or other material you have heard about, that concern the Bible, spirituality or other religious topics? Perhaps you found that they were too expensive to purchase.

The Interfaith Resource Center here in Wilmington is a central place where much of this material is available for loan to member churches in the Wilmington and Eastern shore area.

Since SsAM is one of these members, our parishioners are also eligible to use these services. The Center, located at Saint Alban's Episcopal Church, 913 Wilson Road, Wilmington has a collection of about 7000 resources to lend. Their mission is to "provide support and resources so that one can study the scriptures, share the faith, minister to others and praise God."

For additional information call 302-477-0910, visit the website www.interfaithresourcecenter.com, where an online catalog is available, or email resource.ctr@dol.net.



Canon Casson receives a standing ovation at the Convention in recognition of his years of faithful service.

Diocese of Delaware 222nd Convention Report

by the Rev. Sheila N. McJilton, Interim Rector of St. David's Parish, Wilmington

In the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy, intentional silence and prayer for the murder victims and all young people opened the 222nd Diocese of Delaware's Convention on April 20th.

The theme of the two-day convention, hosted by St. Peter's in Smyrna, was "There Are a Variety of Gifts," and focused on gifts offered to the Church by chaplains – in schools and universities, hospitals, prisons, and the armed forces. Chaplains who serve all those institutions – most of them diocesan clergy – led convention worship and workshops.

Bishop Wayne Wright welcomed the Rt. Rev. George Packard, Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces, Healthcare and Prisons, as Friday evening's speaker. Packard's address was timely, informative, and laced with warm humor. He noted that over one thousand Episcopal chaplains "take the love and compassion of Christ into some very difficult places" as companions in suffering, trauma, and times of terror.

Packard emphasized that "chaplaincy is practiced by all Christians, just practiced more intentionally by some than others," posing the question, "How much chaplain is in you?" Then, challenging convention by noting the huge prison population in the state of Delaware, he asked, "Where have we yet to see Christ in Delaware?" Packard suggested that Delaware Episcopalians need "acuity, sensitivity and wise eyes" in order to minister to the suffering of their incarcerated brothers and sisters. Packard's final challenge was, "Will we have the resources of character to accept the challenges set before us?"

Bishop Wayne Wright reiterated this challenge in his Saturday morning address during Eucharist. He reminded the Con-

vention of the apostle Paul's challenge to proclaim resurrection power to the world through many gifts. When that is done, "faith in Jesus Christ changes lives, transforms communities of people, and renews the face of the earth." Wright commended the work of chaplains who bear the gospel "into the chaos and violence of war," serve "so many forgotten men and women in Delaware's too-crowded prisons – too many in one small state," bring Christ's love and presence to hospitals and hospices. In light of the Virginia Tech tragedy, Wright also blessed chaplains in schools and universities who both share faith with young men and women, and minister "in times of unspeakable horror and sadness."

Bishop Wright praised the diocese for its thoughtful, prayerful discussions and consensus around current issues of inclusion and welcome in the Church. He noted these issues have been discussed through three episcopates, and emphasized, "there is a place for everyone at our common table."

In business sessions, the diocese enthusiastically welcomed Good Shepherd in Glasgow as an official mission. Led by church planter and vicar the Rev. Jay Angerer, most of the new congregation, including babies in arms, processed joyfully to the front. Father Jay told convention that this young mission has already raised up its first person for ordained ministry.

Two other exciting signs of growth were a goal to establish "a cohesive diocesan youth ministry," with a commitment to hiring a fulltime diocesan Director of Youth Ministry and the new Diaconal Ministry, as nine permanent diaconate inquirers were introduced.

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

Save the Dates

**2nd Annual Downtown Festival
Saturday, June 30**

**Annual Parish Picnic July 22,
Fox Point Park**



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

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