

# VISION

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
SAINTS ANDREW AND  
MATTHEW

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2008

## Another Year of Grace

by Peter B. Huiner

The traditional symbols for the changing of the year are an old-man figure of Father Time, which signifies the death of the old year, and a baby figure for the year coming to birth, with its endless opportunities for newness. It is the newness that we celebrate.

Real life does not always work that way. We are not always ready to give up the past, because it holds many memories and achievements that are precious to us. We are similarly not eager to embrace the new, because it is unknown. It could be frightening, and it might demand change from us.

The New Testament is full of references to the new.

A new birth: "Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from above.'" —John 3:3

A new creation: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" —2 Corinthians 5:17

A new reality: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.... And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'" —Revelation 21:1,5

A New Year's carol in the Hymnal expresses it well:

*His love abundant far exceeds the volume of a whole year's needs;  
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.  
With such a Lord to lead our way in hazard and prosperity,  
What need we fear in earth or space in this new year of grace?  
"All glory be to God on high and peace on earth," the angels cry;  
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.*

—Hymnal #250

May this forward-looking, life-giving outlook be ours, as individuals and as a congregation, during 2008.

## Choral Evensong

The next Choral Evensong will be Sunday, Feb. 24 at 5:00 p.m. It will feature a guest choir from Immanuel on the Green, New Castle, with Lee Dettra, Organist and Choir Director.

## Carnival Sunday, Ash Wednesday and Lent

Even though most of us have not yet taken down our Christmas decorations, the Church is busy planning for Lent, which begins early this year.

Carnival Sunday will be February 3 this year. Our celebration will take place at the 10:30 a.m. service.

The service will feature Missa Criolla (sung in Spanish) by Ariel Ramirez with Philip Doucette, tenor, and Jubilate Deo by Paul Halley with Tina Betz, contralto. There will be an instrumental ensemble.

This is the Sunday to break out the masks, feathers and hats for a joyous celebration.

Ash Wednesday is February 6. This year we invite you to join in a custom observed in many churches. If you have palms from last Palm Sunday, bring them to church in

January and place them in the marked box in the Narthex. We will burn these for our Ash Wednesday ashes.

Holy Eucharist, with Imposition of Ashes, will be offered at 8:30 a.m. and at 12:30 and 5:15 p.m.

The First Sunday in Lent will include the traditional solemnity of the Great Litany.

On five Tuesdays in Lent: February 12, 19, and 26 and March 4 and 11, we will be presenting half-hour recitals for organ and voice at 12 noon. Come for the recital and stay for the Lenten Luncheon.

We will offer Holy Eucharist with the Service of Healing each Wednesday during Lent at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

The Holy Week and Easter service schedule will appear in the next issue of the *Vision*.

# Highlights of the November and December Vestry Meetings



## November 14

Although early in the "Forward in Faith" campaign the results so far have shown a modest upswing in average giving. Plans were established for follow-up letters later in the year and for continued attention during weekly services.

An initial and preliminary 2008 budget was discussed. With the

exception of the Music, Property and Office Operations portions of the budget there has been no input from other committees. It was agreed that due to the uncertainty of timing and costs for the search, hiring and compensation of a new Rector that it may be necessary to handle these areas with a budget amendment in 2008 when more information is available. All committees were encouraged to get their input to the Finance Committee.

Although there has been widespread discussion about the pros and cons of selling the Rectory at 732 Nottingham, we now understand that any such action must be approved by the Diocesan Standing Committee. The Bishop has stated that such a sale would be a mistake that probably would result in greater expense for the parish. Accordingly it is planned to retain the Rectory at least until a newly-called Rector decides whether to reside there or to reside elsewhere with a housing allowance. In any event, a survey of the property and house showed that there are a number of minor things that need to be repaired or replaced after the house is vacant. The Property Committee will undertake these items in the first quarter 2008.

A large number of parishioners' names were suggested as members of the Search committee. These suggestions were narrowed down to a list of 11 names, including two Vestry members.

## December 11

The Bishop attended the first part of this meeting to express the importance of our work in diligently and prayerfully preparing for the call of a new Rector. He stated that this was an exciting opportunity for SsAM to determine where and who we now are, and then to decide how best we can do God's work in downtown Wilmington. This will then drive the candidate selection process to identify a person who can best meet these needs.

He believes that there are two essential things that must be considered; how best we can grow in both membership and financial support, and that we develop a plan to get to a balanced budget over a period of years. He applauded the work done in recent years to address our staffing expenses. However, the ongoing draining of the endowment leads to an underlying fear in the congregation that has a spiritual impact which in turn leads to anger and conflict. He asked, "How

does SsAM handle conflict," which led to a round-table discussion.

A verbal and written presentation was made by Sandy Johnson regarding several important things that need to be considered during this period of transition. We should have a widely used corporate parish prayer similar to the one used during the consolidation period that keeps us connected each day and mindful of our mission. She suggested one as a possibility. Also we need to be mindful of our outreach into the community and the ministries that have been carefully developed over the past twelve years. We are known in the community by our ministries and the community depends upon them. This needs consideration as we set our budget for 2008. With regard to the search process we must remember that our history and our vision for the future are compelling. We have a lot to share about our past and a lot to create for our future. This needs to be shared with whomever comes to us as the new Rector. Later in the meeting the Vestry agreed to have such a prayer. The Vestry issued a Charge to the Search Committee outlining the tasks to be accomplished. These include the requirement to obtain frequent parish input regarding the preparation of the SsAM profile and also to make certain that the Vestry, and thus the parish, are constantly informed of the progress that is being made.

Next, the 2008 financial budget was addressed. Alice Smith presented the history of the Community Advocacy program over the past several years and the need to continue funding it at the current level. It was agreed that the Advocacy budget would remain unchanged for 2008. In addition it was agreed that the Diocesan apportionment would be reduced from \$103,000 to \$75,000 (which is slightly above the minimum), staff personnel would get a cost-of-living adjustment and various other changes. In total, the budget forecasts total income of \$481,000 and total expense of nearly \$580,000. This leads to withdrawing approximately \$100,000 from the endowment principal - significantly less than in recent years. It is recognized that this budget does not include all of the search and hiring expenses for a new Rector because they are not yet fully identified. They will be handled by a budget amendment next year.

The United Way of Delaware has approved SsAM to be a designated recipient of United Way of Delaware donations for the first time. This will allow the congregation to help SsAM while they help the United Way. We received a \$10,000 endowment from the estate of Ann Lingo, a long-time member of St. Andrew's.

Financial data through November 30: Income \$489,436 Expenses \$632,274.

2008 pledge status through December 11: 108 received \$254,408.

The Vestry thanks Alice and Sandy for their presentations. It is highly valued when people communicate their concerns directly to them. Remember Vestry meetings are open to all.

# Search Committee Holds Its First Meeting

by Alice Sawyer

The first meeting of the Search Committee was held December 6. The members of the committee are: Alice Sawyer, Chair; Walt Cheatham, Vice-chair; Pat Hampton, Secretary; Jim Ballard, Max Bell, Eudel Drain, Tom Roberts, Alice Smith, Wanda Smith, Cheri Tyree, and Bob Young.

The Reverend Anna Waid of Grace Church, Brandywine Hundred, and the Reverend Mark Sullivan, St. Peter's, Smyrna, are our two consultants who will help guide us through the discernment process.

## Soup's On....Again!

Coming February 3 – Souper Bowl Sunday!

SsAM's annual Souper Bowl is sponsored by the Community Advocacy Committee. Cups of soup will be sold after the 10:30 a.m. service on Super Bowl Sunday. You may eat in or take out. This is a charity drive by church congregations nationwide to help feed the hungry in their communities. If you are willing to cook a pot of soup to support this effort, please contact Alice Smith at 376-0200.

## SsAM to Offer Code Purple Winter Sanctuary

Each winter New Castle County gets six to twelve days of bitterly cold weather. For the homeless sleeping in cars, tents or abandoned buildings, such cold can be lethal. On these nights, the City of Wilmington declares Code Purple and opens an emergency shelter in the Salvation Army building at 5th & Orange Streets. Unfortunately, this space is only available between 9 pm and 5:30 am. For the homeless, the problem is finding a warm place from sunset to 9:00 p.m. To solve this, Friendship House is partnering with us to offer winter sanctuary on Code Purple evenings in SsAM's auditorium from 5:00 -9:00 p.m. Bill Perkins and his staff will organize six teams to provide hospitality, a warm meal, and security for the guests. Phil Murphree has offered to organize a team from SsAM. It is unlikely that it will be called upon more than once a season. If you are interested in offering your services, at quick notice, for this outreach, please call Phil at 427-0392.

## Martin Luther King Sunday, January 20

We will give thanks for the ministries of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Rt. Rev. Quintin Primo, Jr., one-time rector of St. Matthew's and Suffragan Bishop of Chicago, who passed away on this day. The office will be closed on Monday, January 21, in observance of the holiday.

Our next meeting on Saturday, Dec. 15th will continue our organizing for this important work. We are all in agreement that we must keep the church community involved and informed. Your input and guidance throughout the process are essential for the successful completion of this all-important journey.

We are off and running!

## Loaves and Fishes?

The Gospels tell us Jesus used the contribution of a boy's lunch – five loaves of bread and two fish – to feed a large crowd. Our Coffee Hour volunteers are asked to provide hospitality after the 10:30 a.m. service each Sunday with the “lunches” we contribute. Unfortunately, they do not have the ability to multiply the snacks and sweets. They remind you that all are asked to help feed the SsAM Coffee Hour multitude.

If you are new to the congregation, you may not know how this works: people with last names beginning with letters A - F contribute the first Sunday of the month; letters G - L the 2nd Sunday, letters M - S the 3rd Sunday, and letters T - Z the 4th Sunday. On a fifth Sunday, members of the Vestry and Committees are asked to contribute. Drop off your food

## Birthdays

### JANUARY

- 5 Vern Oates
- 6 Anne Gibson  
Carol Scott
- 8 Helen Thomas
- 12 Lillian Ramsey
- 14 Susan Hengel
- 15 Jorge Williams  
Lawrence Melton  
Matthew Johnson
- 17 Cynthia Oates  
Sharon Bryant
- 19 David Julius
- 24 Theora Wisher
- 25 Geraldine Barnes
- 27 Phyllise Wilkins-Church
- 29 Walter Cheatham
- 30 Jacquelyn Spencer  
Margaret Scheu
- 31 Lucille Soukup



### FEBRUARY

- 2 Eudel Drain
- 3 Paul Gaskell
- 5 Sheila Dorsey  
Thomas Kerr
- 6 Bert Nicholls  
Jennifer Christy  
Wanda Smith
- 8 Theodore Spaulding
- 12 Courtney Streett
- 14 Evelyn Poe  
Linda Hunter-Moss
- 15 Cheryl Tyree  
Eugene McGowan
- 16 Helen Jones  
Valerie Gilliam
- 19 Erica Jones
- 23 Patricia Richmond
- 24 Elizabeth Feasel
- 25 Tona Huiner
- 26 Willard Johns
- 27 Lois Ridout  
Sierra Dorsey
- 28 Derrick Rice  
LaVerne Cheatham

# Generosity Abounds at Christmas ... Thank You!

The generosity of our congregation was lavishly evidenced during the holiday season just past. Thank you to David and the choir for your inspiring music, to the Altar Guild, decorating volunteers and contributors for the beautifully adorned church, to the Sunday School children and staff for the Christmas pageant, to Tanisha and Lucia for superb office support, and to Charles for the extra hours spent in cleaning up.

Thanks to all those who contributed and to the SsAM Soul Youth Group for the food collection and thanks to the ECW for the festive Christmas luncheon.

Thanks to all who participated in providing Christmas gifts for our Friendship House Sunday breakfast guests and the Angel Tree families. For the breakfast guests, SsAM parishioners donated brightly wrapped gifts which were distributed to the homeless who eat breakfast here each Sunday.

In addition, seventeen children received four gifts through our participation in Angel Tree. Thanks so much to all who bought and/or delivered gifts to the children. We also delivered gift cards to the caregivers of these children and sent cards to their incarcerated parents to let them know what gifts their children received in their name. As always, special kudos to Sandy Holt who organizes this program for us every year and who is our voice to these families.

Thanks to all of you who helped make Undee Sunday a success. With your contributions and donations, we were able to provide 62 complete sets of thermal underwear to our needy friends. We gave all 22 of our friends that reside in Andrew's Place a nice set that was sized to fit their needs. The remaining 42 sets were donated to the Friendship House Clothing Bank to be distributed to those in need. In addition to this we had several packages of regular underwear to give the Clothing Bank as well.

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



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