

VISION

NEWSLETTER OF THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
SAINTS ANDREW AND
MATTHEW

JULY - AUGUST 2008

Search Committee Progress Report

by Alice Smith

The eleven members of the Rector Search Committee have been working diligently since December, 2007. The members, appointed by the Vestry, are: Jim Ballard, Max Bell, Walt Cheatham, Eudel Drain, Pat Hampton, Tom Roberts, Alice Sawyer, Wanda Smith, Cheri Tyree and Bob Young. Alice Sawyer and Walt Cheatham share the leadership of the group.

Bishop Wayne Wright has been personally interested and engaged in our process, and he has assigned two Delaware clergy to help guide us: Anna Waid, Rector of Grace Church, Brandywine, and Mark Sullivan, Rector of St. Peter's, Smyrna.

We completed a Parish Survey in May with a remarkable number of parishioners responding...145 out of 200 mailed. In addition, further comments were gathered at topic tables at the Annual Meeting on June 1. Here is a sampling of responses.

Parishioners commented that diversity, sermon quality, music, and spirituality are the top reasons they attend SsAM.

Programs and activities that members enjoy are adult education, choir, fellowship activities, Sunday school and

youth activities. Respondents felt that these experiences gave them opportunities to meet other parishioners, which they valued.

Most parishioners gave church facilities good to excellent scores, but certain facilities are in need of refurbishment, including the kitchen, older bathrooms, and the Chapel, and inadequate heating in Crypt Hall.

Although we are a multi-racial parish, respondents felt that there is more to be done to bring various groups together to discover common ground and establish relationships.

In order for this parish to progress spiritually and productively, the survey indicated that we need a rector with a unique set of characteristics and gifts. The leading quality would be a strong spiritual leader, who is capable of articulating a clear vision that is inclusive of and valued by a majority of the members of this diverse, multi-racial parish. Other qualities included caring about social justice, appealing to young members, and encouraging good stewardship. Respondents were clear that our new Rector should provide leadership to guide us to new places and the ability to partner with the laity.

If you would like a summary of the survey results, please contact the church office.

This important gathering of information and comments will be used to create a Parish Profile which will go to the Bishop's office and the Standing Committee in September. Because it will reflect who we are as a parish and who we want to be, it will help us to attract the "right" candidates called here to be our Rector.

Once the profile is completed, we will begin the next steps of screening, interviewing and visiting the candidates in their home churches which will lead us to discerning and recommending a candidate to the Vestry. We will continue our monthly updates following the 8 and 10:30 services, articles in the VISION, and information posted on church bulletin boards to keep you well informed of our progress.

Your Search Committee respectfully asks for your prayers, your patience and your participation as God leads us all forward together in this exciting journey of faith.

*Almighty God, bless and give
guidance to the Vestry, the Search
Committee and this congregation in
our search for new clerical leadership.*

*Open our eyes to your vision and
our hearts to your will. Amen*

Services held for Clara Hall and the Rev. Fred Guyott, III

A memorial service was held at SsAM on Sunday June 16, 2008 at 3:00 pm for Clara Hall a long time member of St. Andrew's and since 1995 a member of SsAM. Clara was the oldest member of SsAM. She was 97 years old when she died. In her working years Clara was an Executive Secretary in the DuPont company. At St. Andrew's she belonged to the Business and Professional Women's group (BPW) for many years. She was often present for the Wednesday Eucharist. Her sprightly good humor and quiet devotion endeared her to her friends at SsAM.

The Rev. Peter Huiner Completes Interim Rector Term on August 31

It is with sadness that the Vestry announces that the Interim Rector position will become vacant on August 31, 2008. Peter Huiner has informed the Vestry that he is unable to extend his contract beyond that date. He will take his one month accrued vacation during August. Therefore, the last service that he leads will be held on July 27th. It is Peter's plan to return to his previous role as a member of the bass section in the Adult Choir.

Peter's service as our Interim Rector has been extremely important to SsAM during this period of search and discernment. He has led us to examine our programs and our financial position with a critical eye. He has offered up sermons that, with humor and insight, have moved us forward.

In the months ahead we will use supply clergy when available and will counsel with the Diocese regarding the appointment of an Interim Rector who will lead us until we call a new Rector.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday June 18, 2008 for the Reverend Frederic Francis Guyott, III. Fred died at age 60 at home. From 2001 to 2004 Fred served as an Associate Rector at SsAM. He was a warm and caring person and his service was a benefit to SsAM. Because of health problems Fred had retired from active ministry.

He was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in 1971, the Episcopal Divinity School in 1993 and earned a Master of Sacred Theology from the General Theological Seminary in 1997. Fred was ordained Deacon in 1993 and Priest in 2000. He served parishes in Teaneck, Salem and Mullica Hill, NJ, and also in Stroudsburg, Allentown and Philadelphia, PA. Prior to ordination, Fred was a stockbroker. He had a long interest in playing squash and coaching young players. He will be missed greatly by all who knew him.

Family Night at SsAM

The Rector Search Committee hosted "Family Night at SsAM" on June 6 with approximately 65 persons of all ages in attendance. The purpose was twofold: to gather further information from the congregation for the profile and to respond to the survey results which indicated that the parishioners want more family events.

The evening started off with prayer. Everyone was invited to write a word or phrase or to add a figure to a mural created by Carol Scott titled "SsAM's Journey to the Future." The mural remains posted in the auditorium, and anyone who has not had a chance to add his/her thoughts is encouraged to do so.

After a light supper, the group socialized by participating in interactive activities. One of the activities involved working in small groups where fun topics were discussed and later shared with the large group. Our teenagers discussed their ideas of "church"...this was interesting and eye opening! The little ones played tic-tac-toe and other games with Ann Gibson.

An evaluation of the event was completed by 41 of those who attended. All liked the idea of having Family Nights. Most thought the events should occur on a monthly basis with similar activities as those at the June event, as well as word and card games, Pictionary, karaoke, sing alongs, line dancing, story telling, role playing, bingo and salsa dancing. When asked if respondents might be interested in serving on a committee, the majority responded in the affirmative.

The evening ended with our Corporate Prayer. "A good time was had by all"... this cliché sounds trivial, but from the evaluations, nothing else seems more appropriate to describe our night.

Letters from the Sudan, June 9, 2008



June 9 Welcome to Sudan

I am loving Sudan, even though it is the hottest place I have ever been. Everyone that I have come in contact with is warm, friendly, generous and patient. Not only with me, but with their life situation.

Besides learning some Arabic, I have learned a new phrase that is used a lot. "Welcome to Sudan."

If the water stops,
Welcome to Sudan.
If the electricity

disappears, Welcome to Sudan.

If the traffic lights however few there are, blink, Welcome to Sudan.

If the fruit, vegetable or fish trucks do not arrive, Welcome to Sudan.

As Phillip Stephens says, it is what it is.

My days are full, making new relationships and partnerships, working with different groups that have many computers, accounting and other financial questions. Imagine running a society on cash. No credit cards here. And, it is as you go for electricity and cell phones. No land lines that I can find in the Episcopal Church. Twice I have run out of electricity because I did not look at the meter. Argh.

I have been attending the English speaking service at 6 PM at All Saints Cathedral. But yesterday, I was asked to come to the ordination into the diaconate for one individual. It was held in Khartoum North, a good distance from where I live and work. Tito Angelo, my accounting assistant, banker, driver, friend, took me to the service.

We arrived late, which is not only an Episcopal tradition, but a Sudanese one as well. Over 500 people were sitting inside the church and they had set out a shaded area for children and mothers. Overhead fans provided air circulation. I planned on discreetly sitting in the back. No chance. I was the only Caucasian person in attendance and I was ushered into the second row.

The service of ordination and communion was totally in Arabic. For one-half of the service, I understood the words for God, peace and water. The music was wonderful. Sapanna Arona, one of the priests in attendance and a Provincial employee, seeing my joy but confusion, sent over a translator. Even though I have been to numerous ordinations, I can truthfully say that hearing it in Arabic was a totally different experience. I became a face watcher to get an indication of emotions.

Following the end of the service, I was asked to greet the congregation. I have been doing that a great deal and I always bring them greetings for The Episcopal Church of the United States, Bishop Wayne Wright and the people of the Diocese of

Delaware. I tell them what I am doing, where I will go next, and how wonderful they are to lovingly embrace me. Yesterday, I had an Arabic translator, so I had to learn to speak and stop, speak and stop. I began in Arabic and ended in Arabic. Lots of clapping, hooting, shouting and trilling.

This past month, Bishop Kondo, Bishop of Khartoum Diocese, has been ordaining lay readers, deacons and priests throughout the Diocese. Yesterday, he "ordained" 9 lay-readers and 17 deacons. The Episcopal Church of the Sudan is growing rapidly and joyously.

And the children. Most of those in the outskirts of town, have never seen a white woman. They come up just to touch me. To see if the color rubs off. To stare. To shake my hand. I am humbled and I bend down to their level, say hello and greet them all. Tito just laughs.

You have to love this place! Please keep me in your prayers. I miss you all.

June 29: Traditions worth forgetting

Ah, tomorrow morning, June 30th. A special day here in Khartoum, especially for the government. It was on June 30th, some years ago that the government of Khartoum took control of the whole country. Until last year, this was a national holiday.

But in light of the peace agreement signed in 2005, this seems kind of awkward, so there are some Sudanese that expect everything to be closed and some who do not.

I have been hearing about lots of traditions in Africa. This afternoon, I received hand markings, similar to henna, from my hosts in Omdurman. Pictures will follow, but it is hard to take pictures while typing.

If you are married, you may apply the color to the soles of your feet and up your ankles. Single women may only decorate their hands.

If you are widowed, traditions vary from wearing white and not leaving your house for four months and 10 days, to three days of prayer and get on with your life.

Of course, traditional dress in Khartoum is everywhere. Men in long white robes and white turbans. However, under a lot of the robes are western dress. There are times I wonder what city I am in. Women styles range from complete covering of the entire body in black to western clothes, such as jeans, and wearing head dresses.

It is only foreign western women that do not cover their heads.

There is the tradition of an Arab or African man taking more than one wife, the norm is around 4.

There are repercussions to living this tradition if you are an Episcopalian in Sudan. You may not take communion.

As I attended a service today, I realized that there were many more women at the communion rail than men.

continued on page 7

Birthdays

JULY

1
Edythe Bryant
7
Cecily Gordon
17
Yvonne Gordon
19
Dell Venarde
22
Sandra Holt
26
Leroy Ames
Ogechi Nwanekwu
27
Lora Byrd



AUGUST

3
Leroy Burks
4
Nikki Annan
Al Brock
Louise Lewis
Lucia Robinson
Patricia Saunders
Martha Wallin
5
Orlen Washington
6
Ron Jackson
Richard Jones
7
Joe Johnson
8
Tiffany Wisher

10
Nancy Miller
12
Patricia Griffin
15
Delores Cotman
16
Peter Huiner
Carmen Thomas
18
Tracy Dorsey
Chuck Hines
20 Jazmyn Holt
22
Douglas MacKelcan
23
Shannon Faulk
Elizabeth Hunt

24
Maryann Byrne
26
Alex Oates
27
Jeane Downs
Leona Ellison
Sandra Johnson
28
Bob Young
29
Ann Marie Ackerman
Karen Johnson
31
Diane Streett

Property Corner

The members of the Property Committee would like to acknowledge the tremendous amount of time and effort that Jim Ballard has invested as Property Committee Chairman over the past several years. His dedication in upgrading the cleanliness, appearance and operation of our facility has helped SsAM in innumerable ways. As of June 30, Jim is retiring from the Property Chair position. Our sincere thanks go to him for his efforts.

In preparation for moving forward with this work, the Property Committee has decided that the Chairperson position should be simplified so the incumbent is not expected to be present at all times to fix, clean, paint, etc. because that asks too much of one individual. Others are available to perform those tasks. Accordingly, we will search for someone who, as property chair, will be willing to hold monthly or bi-monthly committee meetings and who can be a conduit for bringing to the committee, staff- and parishioner-identified problems that require professional or volunteer corrective action.

Recently completed work includes new "staff only" parking signs on five parking spaces along Shipley Street. On Sunday mornings two of these signs will be replaced with handicap parking signs. This is an attempt to provide easy, church-accessible parking for two of our elderly and handicapped members. It is requested that other persons with handicap

parking cards try to avoid using these spots and continue to park in the larger lot.

In response to continued requests for more electric power in the kitchen, a new circuit box has been installed that has two separately-fed duplex receptacles. This will solve the perennial problem that has occurred at Pancake Suppers and on other occasions.

Vestry Highlights

At the June 11 meeting of the Vestry, newly elected members, Charles Annan, Tracy Lea Dorsey, Geoffrey Sawyer and Carol Scott were welcomed into the group. Departing members Max Bell, Yvonne Gordon, Patricia Griffin and Jim Linderman were thanked for their service over the past three years.

The new Vestry reelected Michelle Hastie to serve another year as Senior Warden. Geoffrey Sawyer as elected Junior Warden and Martha Wallin was reelected as Secretary. A Treasurer will be elected in the near future.

Two SsAM Members Receive College Degrees



Congratulations to Jazmyn Holt and Sara Hengel who recently earned college degrees and have successfully found positions in their chosen vocations.

Jazmyn, a graduate of Delaware State University and the daughter of Kelly Holt, is currently employed by PT Plus, an affiliate of Christiana Care in Greenville.

Sara, a graduate of the University of Delaware and the daughter of Susan and Steven Hengel, is beginning a nursing career at Christiana Care. She is participating in the Sponge Program, an orientation for operating room nurses, and then in September begins an internship in the OR.



AIM Fund at Work

Members at SsAM generously donate to a special offering twice a month which the Community Advocacy Committee administers to provide resources for the needs of members our congregation, the greater Wilmington community, and mission of the Episcopal Church. Here are some of our donations since the beginning of 2008.

- SsAM provided a \$275 grant for the fourth year to help underwrite the cost of the Avondah Dance Ensemble, a program arranged for by Pacem in Terris. The dance ensemble held a week of residency of Baylor's Women's Correctional Institution on April 14-18.

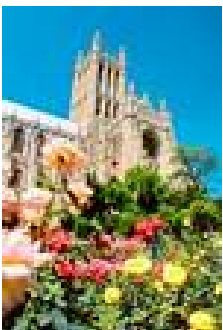
This year's theme, "Layers," helped to identify the layers of anger, selfishness, addiction, self-doubt, confusion, and fear, which were replaced by self-knowledge, love, responsibility and friendship, and openness that the participants exhibited through the medium of dance. For the first time, a Baylor woman choreographed a dance which she performed as a solo. Kitty Esterly represented SsAM at the performance.

- Our church sent a \$500 check to the Episcopal Relief and Development "Myanmar & Cyclone Response" fund through the AIM offering and a plant sale. Episcopal Relief & Development is working with our partners in Myanmar to provide assistance to those suffering from the devastation caused by Cyclone Nargis in May 2008.

- Limen House dedicated its newly renovated facility on April 7.

Since opening in 1973, the nonprofit house has served about 250 residents. The residential therapeutic treatment program for recovering men and women alcoholics began with its men's house, which opened in 1969 and is believed to be the nation's oldest continuously operating halfway house for recovering alcoholics.

Limen House was created by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Under the leadership of parishioner Ruth Lipscomb, St. Andrew's raised private donations to run the program, named it and assembled its first board of directors. SsAM recently made a contribution of \$300 to help continue Limen House's good work.



Delaware Day at the National Cathedral

Delaware Day at the Washington National Cathedral is Sunday, September 14. For details, call Pat Walbert, 656-6086.

Lambeth Conference



The Lambeth Conference will be held in London, England from July 17-30, 2008. Bishop Wright will be attending this gathering held every 10 years of 800+ Anglican bishops from all over the world.

The theme of the 2008 Conference is Equipping Bishops to Fulfill Their Leadership Role in God's Mission.

Lambeth Conference Prayer

Pour down on us, O God, the gifts of your Holy Spirit, that those who prepare for the Lambeth Conference may be filled with wisdom and understanding. May they know at work within them that creative energy and vision which belong to our humanity, made in your image and redeemed by your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Disciple Bible Study Recognition

During the 10:30 Sunday service on June 15, the members of the 34-week Disciple Bible study group were recognized and given certificates of completion for their commitment to reading nearly 80% of the Bible. They had attended a two and a half hour weekly class to hear biblical scholars on a DVD, read supplemental material, and dig into the scriptures to better interpret and discern deeper meaning from them, with creative group exercises.

Most importantly, together, they discovered the power of God's word to speak to them in today's world. The object was not solely to learn particular meanings of scripture, but to experience how God touches us personally, through the Holy Spirit, when we come together to seek God out by both challenging and being challenged by the Bible. We have supported and cared for each other over these past months; prayed, shared and wrestled.

In our 33rd week meeting we helped each other discern

our spiritual gifts based on Paul's letters, and how to use these gifts in service of God at SsAM and in the world. Some of our members were requested to consider becoming facilitators to lead the next Disciple group.

We ended our last meeting with a moving communion service in the Sanctuary where different members shared parts of the liturgy. Rod Welles, who also attended the group with his wife, Sue, was the celebrant.

This class of 2007-08 joins the first SsAM Disciple Bible study group of 2005-06 making 29 graduates of this program. The members of this year's study are Ann Marie Ackerman, Anne Aleman, LeRoy Ames, Ernestine Brock-Walker, Edythe Bryant, Karen Edwards, Rob Gurnee, Ron Jackson, Karen Johnson, Sandy Johnson, Nancy Miller, Cynthia Oates, Pat Saunders, Elmore Walker, Jr., Rod Welles, and Sue Welles. Alex and Cheri Tyree were facilitators.

Member Ann Aleman, who has a gift for poetry composed the poem below describing her experience of Disciple:

Abundance of Gifts

[Dedicated to the Disciple group May 2008]

by Ann Aleman

Counselor, minister, political pro,
Teacher or preacher, prophet aglow;
Activist, leader, mover and shaker,
Worker, bereaver, Eucharist-taker--
Each having gifts we bring to the table
Defining, refining them as grace would enable.

We are ushers, choristers, servers or brothers,
Neighbors, parishioners, human being lovers,
Planners and helpers, exhorters and givers—
With talents so numerous our bowstring it quivers
Awaiting our aim--the target, our world
Where arrows spread blessings once they're unfurled.

Abundance of gifts are ours for the sharing;
We're like a basket of fruit awaiting the paring,
Apples and peaches, pears and sweet plums--
Fruit of the month club, that's a label that comes
From spirited Sue giving clear explanation
Of what her group read in John's Revelation.

Reading we did, for thirty-four weeks;
We fought to decipher, explain how it speaks
In the book and those notes, in this chapter, that verse;
So much reading to do I needed a nurse
To hold my eyes open and keep me awake
To finish my reading before morning's break.

We have plunged in the Bible to learn of God's Word;
To let our lives mirror just what we have heard,
Hungry or famished for food that is free--
Food of the Spirit, for you and for me.
We're disciples at table awaiting the feast,
Where the last will be first and the first will be least.

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge our leaders--
Alex and Cheri, our spiritual feeders--
Faithful and fearless, kindhearted, true,
I could not have read all this stuff without you.
Week after week you gave us your best
We give you an A for passing our test.

Traces of the Trade: two Delaware screenings



In *Traces of the Trade*, producer/director Katrina Browne tells the story of her forefathers, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history.

Given the myth that the South is solely responsible for slavery, viewers will be surprised to learn that Browne's ancestors were Northerners. From 1769 to 1820, the DeWolf family (a historic northern Episcopal family) trafficked in human beings. They sailed their ships from

Bristol, Rhode Island, to West Africa with rum to trade for African men, women and children.

The Diocesan Committee on Slavery in Delaware will show the film on September 12, 6:30 p.m. at Christ Church, Dover and September 13, 10:00 a.m. at Christ Church, Christiana Hundred. Members of the DeWolf family will be with us to lead the discussion afterwards.

To register, send an email to Cynde Bimbi, cyndebimbi@dioceseofdelaware.net, or call 565-5441 x 106.

Later in the fall, on October 4, there will be a national service of repentance in Washington, DC. See below for details.

National Service of Repentance for Slavery

A National Service of Repentance for Slavery, will be held on October 4 at 10:00 a.m. at the Washington National Cathedral.

Buses will leave from Dover, Georgetown and Wilmington at 6:30 a.m. and arrive about 9:00 a.m. This service, led by our presiding bishop, will be a time for fellowship and a time to seek healing of the wounds of slavery still present in our church and our country.

To register for the Dover or Wilmington bus trip, please send a check for \$30 (payable to Episcopal Diocese of Delaware) to Cynde Bimbi, 2020 N. Tatnall, Wilmington, DE 19802. For questions, call 656-5441 x106. Registration deadline is September 15.

Letter from Sudan, *continued from page 3*

However, when I was standing on the receiving line at the end of the service, there were a lot of men that I had not seen come forward.

The reason, multiple wives. Of course, what is good for the goose should be good for the gander. I could write a whole column about this.

This is a tradition worth forgetting.

I have seen a skit, written and performed by young African Episcopalians, that was about spousal abuse.

The skit started out with the wife holding the job, brow beating the husband. The wife leaves for work, the husband for the market. He encounters a friend. This friend tells him that he should not take this. He should return home, throw his shopping at his wife, strike her a few times and take the position of authority.

The entire audience started to laugh when the tables were turned.

I was the only person that did not understand laughing at violence. It was explained as part of the culture.

The past two days, I and others have been working with a young woman who was attacked in her father's home by a young student boarder. This woman's father is an Episcopalian that I have come to know.

This father did nothing. It is the Sudanese culture. It is different. I do not understand.

I understand spousal abuse very well. I understand aggravated assault very well. I understand violence very well.

So, this woman spent the day with us out of her father's house. Alternative shelter is available to her. Financial assistance is available to her. She has individuals to call tonight if something else happens. She has been told, it is not your fault. She has been reminded that she is not chattel but a child of God.

This is a tradition worth forgetting.

Judi Gregory