

# VISION

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
SAINTS ANDREW AND  
MATTHEW

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2008

## New Interim Rector Announced

by Michelle Hastie, Senior Warden

It is my very great pleasure to announce that the Vestry has called the Rev. Canon Thomas B. Jensen to be the Interim Rector of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew.

Father Jensen has received training in Intentional Interim Ministry and will assist SsAM during our transition. He will fulfill our parish needs like any rector would, with regular services, funerals, weddings, visiting the sick, and so forth. Furthermore, he will help us during this time between Rectors to tell our story and to discern our new direction.

As a priest for over 30 years, Fr. Jensen most recently comes from Immanuel Church, Highlands in Wilmington where he was the Interim Rector. Before serving at Immanuel Church, for 13 years he was the Rector at St. Thomas's Parish in Newark and was the Rector at St. Luke's in Seaford from 1986 – 1994.

Fr. Jensen is a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, CT. He attended Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, graduating with honors in 1976. In 1977 he was ordained a priest in Ogden, Utah.

In 2003, Fr. Jensen was made an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral of The Isles, Cumbrae, Scotland. He organized and planned the Celtic Pilgrimage in 2003 where over 20 clergy and spouses traveled to Argyll & The Isles. He has been an active leader in our Diocese where he has served on the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council and the Commission on Ministry. He has been a Deputy to the General Convention (twice and alternate once).

The Wardens and the Vestry are managing the “temporal” matters of the church. We are continuing the programs and initiatives that are important to SsAM, while also ensuring that new opportunities are explored. Your comments and suggestions to the Vestry have been very important and are always welcomed. Most importantly, your faithfulness and dedication to SsAM during our transition is greatly appreciated.

Our new Interim Rector, Fr. Thom, starts at SsAM on September 2, 2008. He will officiate at both services on Sunday, September 7. I hope you will join us on that special day in welcoming him to our church family.

*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*



**from  
Fr. Thom**

I am looking forward to being your Interim Rector at SsAM and helping in a small way with your search process for a new Rector. One of my major interests and concerns is having good communications. To that end my cell phone is (302) 229-8449. My mini-blog

is at <http://twitter.com/CanonThom> and I am active on Facebook. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to you.

# Search Committee Progress Report

The Search Committee is currently involved in the second major step of the calling process. Through the parish survey and focus groups, we have accumulated information which is being used to create a portrait of our parish – the parish profile. This document will tell potential candidates who we are as a parish, what our community is like, and what we are looking for in our new Rector.

One of our new members, Ida McCall, is organizing the material for the sub-committee responsible for this document: they are Cheri Tyree, Alice Sawyer, Max Bell, Jim Ballard, and Bob Young. The document will be reviewed by the entire committee, SsAM's Vestry, and the Bishop and Standing Committee before its official publication.

In addition, Search Committee co-chairs Alice Sawyer and Walt Cheatham worked with Diocesan deployment officer Gary Rowe and clergy consultants Anna Waid and Mark Sullivan in developing the Clergy Deployment Office (CDO) form. This form initiates a national or regional search for a new Rector through the National Episcopal Church's CDO office in New York City. This document defines ministry priorities for a new Rector and parish goals for the next few

years. Here is a sample of the information provided in the CDO form:

Description of our parish: Sts. Andrew and Matthew is a nurturing faith community "born" out of the merger of two downtown/urban churches. The new multi-racial congregation (12 years young!) is known for its joyful and varied liturgy and music. We face the challenges and opportunities of an urban location with strong outreach programs and desire for more community collaboration. "SsAM" is a beacon of hope that welcomes all with dignity through the power of faith and service.

Goals of the parish (the following goals were kept short to adhere to the computer form that requires no more than 45 characters per goal):

- **Goal 1:** Expand diversity/inclusion of multi-cultural participation
- **Goal 2:** Growth with emphasis on families and youth
- **Goal 3:** Opportunities/outreach to urban/downtown community/need
- **Goal 4:** Better stewardship of financial and human resources.

## BRING-A-FRIEND SUNDAY

begins a great season at SsAM on Sunday, September 21 at the 10:30 a.m. service.

On that date, Sunday School begins; the Adult Choir and Choral Scholars return; and we will celebrate with a Choral Eucharist featuring Schubert's "Mass in G" with the Adult Choir and Choral Scholars.

## Sunday School Starts September 21 Registration on September 7 and 14

The Sunday School Advisory Committee has met several times this summer and has planned a wonderful program for the upcoming year. We will meet again to finalize the registration packets and plan the agenda for opening day. We are using the curriculum from Logos, entitled Seasons of the Spirit. This year we purchased additional resources, including posters, musical selections, and congregational life (a planning resource). These resources will allow us to fully utilize the program and give the children a quality Sunday School education. We have recruited eight teachers and three volunteers and are hoping to recruit three others.

Sunday School will begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at the conclusion of the church service. During this time the children will participate in group worship, age-appropriate

lessons, music, arts and crafts, community outreach projects and group activities. In addition, this year there will again be a children's choir that will perform more advanced music. They will have the opportunity to robe and process for the service. There will be three services scheduled during the year. Sunday School will end on May 17. Recognizing the children for their accomplishments is very important, and we will create several opportunities to do so throughout the year.

Registration will be held September 7 and 14 following both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services. For details on the program and to learn how to get involved, please contact Tanisha Julius at 302 656 6628 or [tjulius@ssam.org](mailto:tjulius@ssam.org).

*Tanisha Julius, Sunday School Coordinator*

## Outreach Opportunity – Fall Clothing Drive

The Community Advocacy Committee encourages members of the parish to remember the Clothing Bank of Delaware as you clean out your closets in preparation for the fall and winter. The Clothing Bank of Delaware is currently celebrating 10 years of partnering with the community. Administered by Friendship House, this ministry empowers the community by connecting women with jobs (32 women in 2007); volunteers with opportunities (682 on-site volunteers in 2007 and more than 300 community partners); and community members with the clothes they need (156,000 pounds of donated clothing distributed in 2007). Please consider participating in the Community-Wide Back-to-School Clothing Drive.

You can drop off your new or gently worn children's clothing during September. Please bring the clothing in

plastic bags that are easier to transport to the Clothing Bank. Charles Lewis will be responsible for receiving any donations; or you can take your contribution directly to the Clothing Bank during their open house on Sunday, September 14, from noon til 3 p.m. at the Clothing Bank's warehouse, 1603 Jessup Street, Wilmington (corner of Vandever Avenue and Jessup Street). Donors are encouraged to bring their children to see how your donation creates jobs and changes lives. Refreshments will be served. Call 302-654-1390 for information or directions.

Thanks to the outstanding contributions from the parishioners, SsAM contributed an abundance of combs, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap and other personal items to the Women's Center of Friendship House in July.

## Friendship House Women's Center Receives Gift

Thanks to the collaboration of a graduate class at Springfield College, SsAM's AIM Fund, and other generous donors, the Friendship House Women's Center received a very special gift last month. The class that has been studying Planning and Implementation, was charged with creating and funding a service project. Professor Jeanne Nutter provided the students with seed money. Jerome Jackson, James Washington and Pius Juwle, the students involved in the project, raised additional money through fund-raising projects, donations from Springfield College, SsAM's AIM Fund, and other individuals.

The students created a "survival" tote bag for women at the center. AARP Delaware provided small first aid kits to be included in the totes. The students were able to complete 30 tote bags which contained personal hygiene products, hand

gel, socks, mats, blankets, deodorant, body butter, flashlight, toothbrushes, toothpaste, some canned food, and a rain poncho. The totes were delivered on August 8.



*Left to right: Jerome Jackson, Pius Juwle, Professor Jeanne Nutter, Bill Perkins, James Washington*

## Eight College Scholarships Awarded to SsAM Members

The Community Advocacy Committee is proud to announce that eight college students will receive scholarships for school this fall. The scholarship winners are all members of the parish and were recognized during the August 10 service at 10:30 a.m.

The scholarship program has been a part of SsAM's outreach program for over five years. Last year, the program was renamed the "The Reverend Canon Lloyd S. Casson" Scholarship Program, in honor of our retired rector. The program is partially funded by the Community Advocacy Committee's budget and through the AIM Fund. This year, the committee designated both AIM offerings in June to go to bolster the fund. Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful members, \$1250 was contributed.

The following students have been awarded \$500 scholarships for the fall semester:

- Naa-Okailey (Nikki) Annan – Howard University, freshman
- Nii-Ayitey Annan – George Washington University, senior
- Tyler Victoria Byrd – Elon University, freshman
- Devon Clark – University of Hartford, sophomore
- Christian Harvey – LaSalle University, junior
- Matthew Johnson – Villanova University, 2nd semester junior
- Darren Saunders – Ursinus College, sophomore
- Courtney Streett – Wellesley College, senior graduating in December

# Birthdays

## SEPTEMBER

3  
Karen Edwards  
7  
Beatrice Polk  
10  
Linda Jackson  
13  
Kelly Holt  
14  
Charles Bungy  
Matilda Lewis  
Joshua Martin  
15  
Joyce Bembry  
Seth Faulk  
16  
Gerald Hastie  
Andrew Hengel  
17  
Danny Schweers

19  
Karen Brown  
25  
Jordan Hastie  
Christina Russell  
26  
Phil Murphree  
27  
Shemaur Emory  
Rochelle Harvey  
28  
Max Bell  
20  
Yancey Barnes

## OCTOBER

1  
Michelle Jones  
Gregory Bell  
Geoffrey Sawyer  
Hugh Wallace

3  
Taylor Banks  
6  
Reginald Banks  
8  
Ernest Barnes  
10  
Neonta Crain  
11  
Katherine Esterly  
15  
Clifton Gordon  
Harvey Smith  
Matthew Smith  
17  
James Ballard  
Ernestine Brock-Walker  
La'Erica Conner Sims  
19  
Susan Murphree  
Logan Peck

21  
Monica Oates  
24  
W. Roberts Richmond  
25  
Marvin Nwanekwu  
28  
Ana Washington  
29  
Anand Alexander



# Discipleship Group Feedback

Being a member of the discipleship group not only helped me in my understanding of the teachings of the Bible, but it also helped me in clarifying some things about myself and my relationships with others.

At first, I doubted I would be able to attend a "Bible Study" for thirty- six weeks. These doubts I shared with the group at the first meeting. I am so proud, I only missed four meetings and that was when I was out of town. Not once did it occur to me to miss a meeting because "I didn't feel like going."

These meetings were as much about the people attending as they were about gaining knowledge and understanding of the Scripture. We, as a group, shared our thoughts, feelings, experiences, and beliefs without feeling judged or silly. Each person felt accepted, loved, cared about and important. The discussions were wonderful because we could share different viewpoints of the same readings. What an enlightening experience this turned out to be.

I can not adequately express how wonderful Alex and Cheri Tyree were as our leaders. They certainly were an inspiration to me. You could feel, at all times, their love, sincerity and commitment to each person.

Going into these studies with an open mind and heart helps one to come out a more loving, giving and caring person. You will start questioning your true relationship with

God and you will re-evaluate your relationship with all you come in contact with. Learning to be a disciple is an on-going, life-long experience. However, it is an experience that helps you to continually seek to be a better person.

If you are contemplating joining the next Disciple Study Group, I would encourage you to "just do it." I think you will gain a lot more than you can ever imagine.

*A member of the Disciple Study Group*

# Calling All Singers

If singing is your gift, becoming a member of the Adult Choir is a great way to serve the church in a personally satisfying and artistically enriching manner. As a member of the SsAM Choir, you will become part of a dedicated team of leaders who not only lead worship, but who also grow together as Christians supporting each other in their spiritual journey. Rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 18 and the choir will begin singing in worship on Sunday, September 21 (Bring-A-Friend Sunday). If you are considering becoming part of this dynamic and growing ministry at SsAM, give Director Dave a call at the church office (302-656-6628) and learn more about what it means to be a member of the choir.

# Season of Creation 2008: *Explore the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*

The Season of Creation begins October 12, 2008, at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Season of Creation is a spiritual journey of seven Sundays into all aspects of creation, human, other living creatures, and the natural environment; featuring guest speakers, storytellers and artists, contemporary liturgy, readings, dance, music and other art forms. The purpose is to celebrate the wonders of God's creation, and to commit ourselves to being peacemaking stewards in our own selves, our local communities and the world.

Guest speakers and artists will include:

- Griots Wa Umoja - African Drumming Ensemble
- Sister Suzanne Golas, CSJP - founding "mother" of WATERSPIRIT
- Rev. Tammy Wooliver - Chaplain at the Wilmington Hospital
- The Honorable John Parkins - recently appointed Superior Court Judge of Delaware
- The Rev. Canon Thom Jensen - Interim Rector of SsAM
- The Rev. Rod Welles - Associate Priest at SsAM

This year's themes are derived from the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (seen at right). This year's schedule is:

October 12 - CREATION SUNDAY "Where there is injury, pardon: Peace Within"

October 19 - GAIA SUNDAY "Where there is darkness, light: Peace and Justice in the Living Planet"

October 26 - THE HUMAN FAMILY "Where there is discord, union: Peacemaking in the Human Family"

November 2 - ALL SAINTS "Lord, make us instruments of your peace: All are Saints"

November 9 - WORLD PEACE "Where there is despair, hope: Peace among the Nations"

November 16 - STEWARDSHIP "It is in giving that we receive: Being Stewards of Creation"

November 23 - THE REIGN OF CHRIST "Where there is doubt, faith: The Cosmic Christ"

For more information and updates about our Season of Creation, visit the SsAM web site at [www.ssam.org](http://www.ssam.org).

Over the past 12 years, SsAM has participated in the development of the Season of Creation as the newest season in the liturgical calendar. In the summer of 2009, a proposal will be presented to the General Convention to make the Season of Creation an official part of the liturgical year for the entire Episcopal Church.

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
Grant that we may not so much seek to  
be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to  
eternal life. Amen.*

## ECW Prayer Breakfast

The 12th Annual ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Prayer Breakfast will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 20th in the Auditorium.

This year's theme is *Moving to Christ Through Your Gifts*. Bebe Ross Coker, a well-known local playwright and activist, is this year's guest speaker.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from ECW members or the church office.



## ECW Singers

All women from SsAM who can "carry a tune" are invited to join this year's ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Singers. The group which is being organized by Ernestine Brock-Walker and directed by David Christopher, will sing for the Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, September 20 (9:00 a.m.). The music is easy and fun and a great time will be had by all. The rehearsal schedule is:

Thursday, September 11 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 14 - 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 18 - 5:30 p.m.

To sign up, please call Ernestine at 302-540-2717.

# What Is SsAM Soul? What Do You Do?

SsAM Soul members meet to socialize and to participate in service to SsAM and our wider community. With a continuing focus on Education, Leadership, Mission and Worship, Jr. and Senior SsAM Soul members will purposefully glorify God by our words and actions, serve others, share the good news of Christ, and explore social and personal issues in a safe atmosphere of fellowship and support.

Many of our activities are now a part of the SsAM Soul tradition. While supporting SsAM ministries, we will also participate in the 2008 AIDS Walk, the Diocesan Youth Council, Joint Ascension/ SsAM/ Trinity Dinner & Movie nights and the 30 Hour Famine Project. We will continue to sponsor the Fall Canned Food Drive and the Annual Spring Family Banquet and Fashion Show.

## Middle School

For the first time, middle school members will meet on the 2nd Sundays from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Teen Suite. Along with opportunities to have lots of fun, members will meet with parishioners representing various ministries within the SsAM faith community; acolyte, lector, music, pastoral care and usher for training that will prepare them to regularly partic-

## AIDS Walk

Make Delaware a healthier place by participating in this year's AIDS Walk that will be held in Rockford Park on Sunday, September 28. The walk begins at 2 p.m., with registration beginning at noon. Information tables will be set up and free food will be available. Arrive by 1:15 p.m. and be a part of the Guinness world record for the world's largest "Human AIDS Awareness Ribbon."

## Fund Raising Events

This season, SsAM Soul will introduce two events.

The first is a New Orleans Style Cook-off and Food Tasting. Members, family and friends are invited to prepare their favorite New Orleans food for a fun evening of food tasting and judging. Bring your appetite.

The second event is billed as "Legends Evening." Join in the celebration of our SsAM Legends. This is our opportunity to honor and celebrate our SsAM senior members who have been meaningful to SsAM over the years and have served as trailblazers setting the example for our faith community.

Stay tuned for more information!

ipate in ministries vital to the well being of our community.

## High School

We are excited about this new season. Members of the original SsAM Soul Group are now in high school. As a result of their desire to participate in a major service project, they will travel to New Orleans this spring as members of the (Immanuel Highlands) Katrina Mission Team. to help in the rebuilding effort. In preparation for the trip, they will meet 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., on the 4th Sundays in the Teen Suite to do research, volunteer, and plan fund raisers/special events. This promises to be a true demonstration of their focus on Education, Leadership, Mission and Worship in action. Their desire to be of service to the New Orleans Community speaks to their maturity and vision.

Our high school members will also embark on the 1st Annual SsAM Soul College Tour to colleges within the Delmarva area. The students will learn about the admission process, student life, and explore college campuses. Stay tuned for more information.

## Spotlight on Alex Oates



Alex is a junior and attends the Howard High School of Technology. Alex's favorite subjects are English and Computer Networking. His interests include playing tennis (he is ranked #9 within the state), talking on his cell phone, downloading music and hanging at the mall with fellow SsAM Soul member, Phil Glass.

Over the summer, Alex completed the UD High School Writers Course, met tennis great Venus Williams and participated in the (New York) Arthur Ashe Tennis Tournament.

# Acolyte Festival

Friday, October 10, through Sunday, October 12, members will travel to the Washington, D. C., National Cathedral to participate in the 29th Annual Acolyte Festival.

Acolytes and leaders from parishes and dioceses around the country will come together for an exciting weekend. The highlight of the weekend is The Festival Service of Holy Eucharist with Rededication of Acolytes occurring at 10 a.m., October 11, followed by lunch and a variety of workshops and tours. We ask for your support and blessings.

For more information regarding SsAM Soul Activities, please contact the church office, 302 656-6628, or Youth Director, Linda Jackson, 302 762-2400.

## Autumn Prayer

*Lord, we come before you in thanksgiving  
for the gifts you have given.*

*The color of this season reminds us of the beauty  
you alone can create.*

*We are thankful for the food  
you provide in the harvest.*

*You have filled the earth with your gifts.*

*You have blessed us.*

*We are ever grateful, Lord,  
and will never stop praising you.*

*Thank you, Lord.*

*Amen*

*Author Unknown*

## Calendar

### September

14	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	Middle School Meeting	Teen Suite
21	10:30 a.m.	Bring a Friend Sunday	Nave
28	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	High School Meeting	Teen Suite
28	2:00 p.m.	AIDS Walk	Rockford Park

### October

10–12		National Acolyte Festival	National Cathedral (Wash., D.C.)
12	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	Middle School Meeting	Teen Suite
		Usher training	
26	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	High School Meeting	Teen Suite

### November

9	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	Middle School Meeting	Teen Suite
		Acolyte training	
23	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	High School Meeting	Teen Suite

### December

7	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	Middle School Meeting	Teen Suite
		Pastoral Care training	
21	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	High School Meeting	Teen Suite

# The SsAM Children's Choir

In addition to a wonderful new music program in the Sunday School, we are delighted to offer a new and improved choir program for children in grades 3 and above.

The SsAM Children's Choir is an opportunity for children and youth who want a greater musical opportunity, learning more challenging music and participating as a vested member of worship periodically throughout the year.

Rehearsals will be held on Sundays after church in the Demby room three weeks preceding each performance.

To sign up or to learn more about this exciting opportunity, please contact the church office at 302-656-6628.

The dates that the Children's Choir will sing in worship are:

**November 2** - 10:30 a.m. (All Saints)

**December 24** - 5:00 p.m. (Christmas Pageant)

**February 22** - 10:30 a.m. (Carnival Sunday)

**April 12** - 10:30 a.m. (Easter Sunday)

**May 31** - 10:30 a.m. (Bishop's Visit)



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINTS ANDREW AND MATTHEW  
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