

VISION

NEWSLETTER OF THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
SAINTS ANDREW AND
MATTHEW

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2008

Search Committee Reports on Progress

Phase I – *Planning* – has been completed. The committee spent the past nine months surveying the parish in order to develop the Parish Profile. The profile describes the congregation – its membership, skills, special traditions and traditional strengths, budgets, building, program emphasis, and the community we serve.

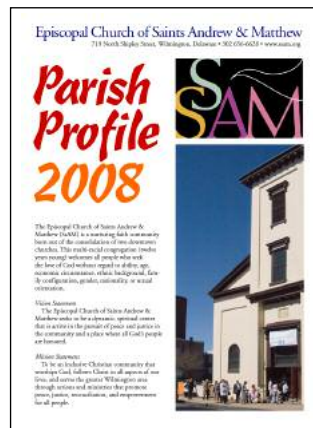
The profile was reviewed by the Bishop and the Standing Committee before its final publication. According to our consultant, the Reverend Anna Waid, the Standing Committee described the document as “joyful” and “very focused” – one of the best profiles they had ever seen.

Although the content was a joint effort by members of the Search Committee, we would like to acknowledge the editing skills of Ida McCall and the design prowess of Danny Schweers in bringing forth the final document. Members of the parish can find the profile on our website, www.ssam.org. Hard copies can be

obtained by contacting Alice Sawyer.

Copies of the profile have been sent to the Diocesan Deployment Office and the National Deployment Office for review by interested applicants.

Now begins Phase II – *Searching*. All applications are received by the Bishop and Standing Committee, who will check the background of the potential candidates. This review process, and the upcoming Christmas season, means that interviews will not begin until January. In this phase and the next one – *Choosing* – we will be dealing with sensitive and confidential personal information so the committee will be limited in what can be discussed. We will continue, however, to report on how things are going. It is the committee’s hope and intention that we will have agreed on a new Rector by the spring.



Delaware Valley Chorale Performs at SsAM

The Delaware Valley Chorale will perform at SsAM on Sunday, November 16 at 3:00 p.m.

The program, entitled “From Lament to Joy,” includes *Jephthah* by Carissimi, *Lux Aeterna* by Lauridsen and *Chichester Psalms* by Bernstein. David Christopher conducts.

Featured artists include Augustine Mercante, countertenor; Kimberly Doucette, soprano; Philip Doucette, tenor; Anne Sullivan, harp; Thomas Blanchard, percussion; Riyehong Hong, organ; and David Christopher, harpsichord.

Ticket prices are \$20 adults, \$16 seniors (60+) and students, \$8 children under 12. Purchase tickets online at www.delawarevalleychorale.org or call 302 325-4110.

Season of Creation Continues

November 2 - All Saints Celebration

Guest Speaker - Tammy Wooliver, Chaplain at Wilmington Hospital

Service to remember the faithful departed, in the Garden of Praise following the 10:30 service

November 9 - World Peace Sunday

Guest Speaker - The Honorable John Parkins, Superior Court Judge of Delaware

November 16 - Stewardship Sunday

Thom Jensen, preaching - PLEDGE SUNDAY

November 23 - The Cosmic Christ

Thom Jensen, preaching; Alex Tyree, bagpipes

Interim Rector's Page



Not everyone embraces change with joy.

We don't have a choice, though, do we? Change is everywhere. Whatever golden age we remember, it's a cinch we can't go back or reproduce the glitter.

"Futurists" talk about "new paradigms." We are in the middle of a major shift in the paradigm of "church."

What does that mean? It means we can't expect everything to happen at SsAM on Sunday mornings. We can't

expect the active membership to be with us every week. We can't plan on staying in touch only by finding our friends at coffee hour. In short, we are always searching for ways to communicate better and to "get the word out" about what our faith community is doing.

Part of that is a size issue. If we expect new members with new ideas and programs, we have to somehow let them know us and our parish life. The celebrant's announcements on Sunday morning just aren't enough anymore.

As many of you have discovered, I have jumped into the high-tech world of the Internet in many ways. I know that not everyone uses computers in the same way. Perhaps one or more of these paths will keep you closer to your church and give you more ways to receive spiritual benefit and serve others in your particular ministries.

First, a word of encouragement. If you do not use a computer, let me know and we'll figure out a way to give you the benefits others are obviously enjoying. This may mean partnering you with a person who will simply print out the messages as they arrive and giving them to you in "hard copy" or even phoning you and reading you the news. Don't miss out on the very exciting life of SsAM's worship and activities because you don't know what's happening.

We need to know your e-mail address! If you are not receiving e-mail from SsAM, it's because we don't know how to reach you. Let me know. Let the office know.

Here are the opportunities so far:

1. Our website is always up-to-date with news and links.
<http://www.ssam.org>
2. Miss church and want to hear what happened? Just want to hear the sermon again? Want to hear the worship service on your iPod while you walk or exercise?

Worship: http://drop.io/SsAM_Worship

Sermon only: <http://drop.io/SsAM>

3. Each week I communicate directly with the parish through our "googlegroup." Join yourself at ECofSsAM-subscribe@googlegroups.com or send me your email, and I will add you. The *Weekly Vision*, the wonderful

announcement newsletter that is part of the weekly bulletin, goes out each week to your e-mail inbox.

4. Are you on Facebook? Join the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew & Matthew group for intra-parish communication and to share pictures and passions.

Well, that's all for now. I am loving being with you and want nothing but the best for SsAM. Let's make this interim time a season of energy and growth!!

Faithfully, Thom

Sandy Johnson and Buck Smith Head '08 Stewardship Committee

The Vestry is pleased to announce that Sandy Johnson and Buck Smith will co-chair this year's stewardship campaign. You will be hearing from them and other committee members in the mail, on your email and in church. We are hoping that you will pledge and pledge BIG this year.

We all know our economy is not in great shape. As a result, the needs of the community that SsAM serves in worship, fellowship and outreach are growing even higher. To support our mission, SsAM must make every effort to maintain, if not increase, our level of outreach. We have started down the right path of budgeting within our means to sustain our parish and outreach programs, without dipping into capital as much as we have in the past.

However, we can and must do better.

HOW? By continuing to control costs and by increasing our pledges and the number of people pledging.

SsAM NEEDS YOU!

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

Vestry Update



VESTRY

In September, the Vestry held their annual retreat. In addition to incorporating the regular September Vestry agenda, we divided into groups and worked with the Search Committee survey from last Spring concerning feedback on the church worship experience, outreach, the facilities and those church activities about which participants felt strongly. Each group discussed and reported on key

information, surprising things learned and areas for action.

From that, we prioritized and selected the following areas where we are implementing actions to address the needs expressed by survey participants:

- **Communications** - Charles Annan, Michelle Hastie, Geoff Sawyer;
- **Making Visitors/Newcomers Feel Welcome** - Walt Cheatham, Carolyn Haon, Carol Scott, Martha Wallin;
- **Transportation for those that need it** - Carolyn Haon, Tracy Lea-Dorsey, Carol Scott; and,
- **The Demby Room** - Dot Dorsey and Carolyn Haon;
- **Encouraging More Diversity in Youth Activities & Church School** - Herb Harvey, The Rev. Thom Jensen, Carol Scott; and
- **Major Capital Expenditure Feasibility Study**, including the organ - Charles Annan, Chip MacKelcan, Bob Richmond.

The Vestry is working on these areas of parish concern and may be asking you to help with our efforts. At the same time, if you have ideas or suggestions or would like to join in one of the above specific action committees, contact one of the Vestry members listed.

October means the start of budgeting and planning for the next year. We are blessed to have Bea Polk agree to serve as SsAM's Treasurer. It also means the start of the annual stewardship campaign and we are doubly blessed because Sandy Johnson and Buck Smith have graciously agreed to co-chair this year's campaign.

One of the essential roles of the Vestry is to make sure we operate on a sound financial and fiscal basis and that we are good stewards not only of our facilities but also our financial investments – investments that have been for the most part bequeathed to us in the belief that we will use the money wisely and in the proper spirit. We have done well with the budget so that we are relying less on the need to sell investments in order to operate on a day-to-day basis. However, we need to do better, particularly since the stock market is in a severe decline. We can accomplish our goal of being self-sustaining, utilizing only the income from our investments by:

1. Increasing our giving. We do very well as a parish in terms of average pledge but we can do better. Our congregation is very generous but we need to have a greater

proportion of pledgers (vs. those that simply give weekly into the plate).

2. Lower costs. We have made strides in this area, making every effort to assure that new, unplanned expenses are minimized and that when they are necessary, finding ways to fund them from already planned amounts. We have prioritized activities, eliminating some that have less congregational support in order to save money.

The SsAM Vestry needs your support and assistance and feedback. Our meetings are open to all. They are held the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Crypt Hall. If you have thoughts, opinions, suggestions, or even gripes, let us know.

Charles Annan	Walt Cheatham
Dot Dorsey	Carolyn Haon
Herb Harvey	Michelle Hastie
Tracy Lea-Dorsey	Chip MacKelcan
Bob Richmond	Geoff Sawyer
Carol Scott	Martha Wallin

Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Committee is trying several new activities that will allow members to help those with handicaps, illness or loss. If you can help with any of these please call the office, 656-6628.

Card Mailing

How would you like to participate in a pastoral care activity from your home?

Perhaps you are unable to come to church but you could mail cards to those who are ill, in the hospital or who have had a death in the family? We would provide the cards and stamps and deliver them to you.

Card Making

Now is the time to have a fun gathering and also show your hidden talents. Would you like to gather as a group to make cards for our church members who are ill, in the hospital, or are grieving the loss of a loved one?

Kitchen Genies

We are gathering a group together who will prepare meals for any church member who is unable to cook, due to a temporary situation, illness or returning from hospital.

Remember to call the church office if you are interested in any of these projects, 656-6628.

Daylight Savings Time is ending

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, November 1, so you can be at church on time on Sunday, November 2.

Birthdays

NOVEMBER

6	Michelle Hastie	13	David Christopher
7	Alaya Blalock	14	Leah Harvey
8	Alex Tyree	15	Jeanne Lindermann
9	Valerie Alexander	16	Christian Harvey
10	Ty Ewing	17	Jorge Williams
11	Dorothy Dorsey	18	Sherlee Love-Saunders
	Veronica Oates	19	Christina Brennan Lee
	Evelyn Poe	20	Keith Barkley
	Taylor Jones	21	Anita Young

30
Keith Barkley, Jr.

DECEMBER

1
Harvey Smith, Jr.

2
Joyce Matlack

5
Audrey Collins

7
Chase Bethea

11
Gloria Conner Bungy

12
Charlotte Lednum

16
Corey Smith

24
Yvonne Jensen

25
Gregory Conner

27
Lori Williams-Fistzgiles

30
Cynthia Martin



Remember Our Sunday Breakfast Friends

Thanks to your generosity last December, we distributed more than 165 presents to our friends who attend the Sunday breakfast.

It is that time of year again. Gifts of a scarf, hat, warm gloves, socks or toiletries are very much appreciated. Please remember that 99% of our breakfast friends are male, so plan accordingly. A gift package for a woman needs to be prominently marked. The cost of each gift, individually wrapped or bagged, should be \$5 to \$7.

Please leave presents in the box marked "Breakfast Gifts" in the Narthex no later than Sunday, December 14. You may also drop gifts off at the church office no later than December 19. They will be distributed on December 21, the Sunday before Christmas. Thank you for your continuing generosity. Your gifts mean so much to those who receive them. If you have any questions, please contact Geoff Sawyer, 655-5530.

A Tax Update

On October 3, 2008, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R.1424) extended the IRA Charitable Rollover for two additional years. Originally passed in 2006 as part of the Pension Protection Act, the IRA Charitable Rollover allows individuals age 70 and older to make direct transfers from their IRA in 2008 and 2009 to the charity or charities of their choice, without having to count the transfers as income.

This generally has a positive impact for those who are required to make a Minimum Required Distribution (MRD) but who do not itemize their deductions on their tax returns because it reduces their taxable income and therefore their tax.

Angel Tree Project Needs You



The Community Advocacy Committee is again sponsoring the Angel Tree project that provides Christmas gifts that incarcerated parents and grandparents can give to their children and grandchildren.

As always, you can select a "gift angel" and purchase the gift indicated on the angel.

Sandy Holt, our dedicated project coordinator, will have "gift angels" to distribute hopefully as early as November 16. Angel Tree gifts are to be wrapped, with the "Angel" attached.

For more information, call Sandy Holt or Alice Smith (376-0200).

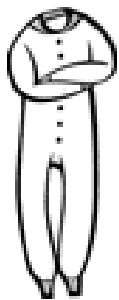
If you wish to participate but are unable to shop, you may contribute funds from which the committee will purchase additional gifts. Please make checks payable to "The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew," and put "Angel Tree" in the memo line. Cash contributions can be given directly to Sandy Holt or Alice Smith.

Angel Tree gifts and funds that will allow the purchase of Angel Tree gifts are due no later than Sunday, December 7.

ECW Christmas Luncheon

The ECW cordially invites the women members of SsAM to our annual Christmas Luncheon to be held on Saturday, December 13 at 12:00 noon in the auditorium.

Undee Sunday Approaches



With the winter and cold temperatures approaching, our homeless friends are in dire need of long underwear.

The Community Advocacy Committee has once again declared Sunday, November 16th to be UNDEE SUNDAY. Along with your pledge of talents and dollars during this stewardship season, please think of giving this small token of love to our needy friends.

Please bring at least one set of long johns and deposit them in the box provided in the Narthex in order to fill this need for the Friendship House. In case you cannot find long underwear, you may submit a donation, and we will procure a pair for you (see Phil or Susan Murphree).

Let's see if we can break our record of 62 pair from last year!

Piffaro Returns to SsAM



Piffaro: the Renaissance Band, returns to SsAM for a concert entitled *Nouvelle, Nouvelle!* – Christmas in Renaissance France, on Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 p.m.

In many rural cathedrals of 16th century France, a midnight mass on Christmas Eve was a joyous

celebration filled with music, dance and theater. Parishioners heard not only sacred chant and polyphony, but also the rustic texts and tunes of French noels.

A 16th-century manuscript of these old texts, housed in the Rare Book Collection of the Free Library of Philadelphia, is the source for these noels, and the *Missa Voulant Honneur* by Claudin de Sermisy, based on a French chanson, will provide the framework of the program.

The manuscript's illustrations of dancing peasants, musicians playing shawms, recorders, hurdy-gurdy and the like, even featuring a bagpipe playing pig and a dancing dog, will also play an important role.

Piffaro members, together with soprano Laura Heimes and tenor Philip Anderson will be joined by actors Mark Jaster and Sabrina Mandell, who will help bring the characters from this manuscript alive.

Tickets: \$35 Preferred, \$30 General and preferred Senior discount, \$25 General Senior discount, \$15 Students

Call (215) 235-8469 to order tickets or visit www.piffaro.org.

ECW Luncheon, Creche Festival and Christmas Concert



This year the ECW is planning several new activities to enhance the annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 13.

A Creche Festival will take place simultaneously with the luncheon.

The luncheon will be at 12:00 noon in the auditorium.

Friends and members are invited to bring in and display their personal creches in Crypt Hall.

Setup of the creches will be from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

and break down will be from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Please contact Tanisha Julius in the church office or visit the SsAM web site (www.ssam.org) for more information and to register your display. You will need to sign up and provide the office with a description of your creche and the amount space it will need.

Everyone is invited to share in the beauty and solemnity of these displays. The SsAM Creche Festival will conclude at 2:30 p.m. At that time, Tina Betz and David Christopher will present a 30 minute program of Christmas music, featuring the beautiful carol "Some Children See Him" and carol singing by all. A free will offering will be taken.

Francis of Assisi instituted the custom of the nativity scene. After receiving permission from the Pope, he erected the first one during the Christmas of 1224 in a cave outside the town of Greccio in Italy. It was not a handcrafted display, but a live scene. When people gathered to watch the spectacle, Francis stood in front of the manger and would recite the Gospel relating to the scene; then he would deliver a sermon.



The ECW's "Troubled" Choir (a pun on "Treble" Choir), performed on Sunday, October 19, aided by men of the Adult Choir.

Youth Group News

Activities are underway for the Fall Season. The new Junior SsAM Soul Middle School Group continues to have fun and fellowship learning about the SsAM Faith Community and its ministries. Over the next few months, we will learn about the duties of an Acolyte and about Pastoral Care. We will participate in a joint SsAM Soul activity in support of the ECW, and celebrate the holiday season.

The SsAM Soul High School Group continues to focus on preparation for the Mission Trip to New Orleans. The group also serves as mentors for the Middle School Group. We are in the midst of planning our New Orleans Cook-off and Food Tasting Fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information.

Update on Recent Graduates

Former SsAM Soul President, *Nikki Annan*, is continuing her studies at Howard University. Howard, located in Washington, D.C., is a comprehensive research university rich in tradition. Her father Charles also attended Howard.

Tyler Byrd, daughter of Laura and Kimble Byrd, a graduate of the Baldwin School, is enrolled in Elon University, in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. Elon is known for its excellent arts and science programs.

Remi Poindexter, son of Flora and Wally Poindexter, a graduate of Mount Pleasant High School, is attending the University of Delaware in Newark.

After graduation from William Penn High School, *Derrick Rice*, son of Nicky B and grandson of Pat and Lionel Hampton, enlisted in the Army. He recently completed Basic Training and is now awaiting a duty assignment.

SsAM Soul Sponsors Canned Food Drive

The combined Junior and Senior SsAM Soul Groups will sponsor the 2nd Annual Canned Food Drive.

Members of the parish are encouraged to place canned foods and non-perishable goods in boxes located in the Narthex throughout November. The donations will be given to a local food bank selected by the SsAM Soul Group.

Diocesan Youth Council

Newly appointed Diocesan Youth Council members Pere Gaddis and Gloria Williams met at St. Thomas for the Fall Council Meeting.

The group's discussions focused on what the Youth Council means, a vision for the Youth Council and a calendar of events for the new year including the much anticipated Bishop's Ball/Bash hosted by the SsAM Soul Youth Group.

Spotlight on Youth Advisor Dr. Sheila Dorsey



Dr. Dorsey, aka Doc, is a life-long Episcopalian. From birth she has attended only two churches - St. Matthews and SsAM. She resides in Middletown, but remains strongly connected to the Wilmington community.

Dr. Dorsey, a graduate of Morris Brown University (which explains her affinity for purple), Delaware State University and Widener College, is an educator who teaches at Newark High

School. She serves as the academic resource for the SsAM Soul Group, motivating our youth to set and achieve high educational standards.

With a focus on SAT, college preparation and educational development, members of the group continue to benefit from her wisdom and experience.

Dr. Dorsey is an active member of the SsAM ECW and the Morris Brown and Delaware State University Alumnae and Scholarship committees.

New Orleans Mission Trip

Seven SsAM Soul members and chaperons will travel to New Orleans, March 14-21, as members of the Delaware Katrina Mission Team to assist with the rebuilding efforts. They will become members of a group of twenty-five volunteers that have traveled to New Orleans over the last two years in response to the continuing need for help as workers transform New Orleans, one house at a time.

While in New Orleans, the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana Office of Disaster Response will match our group with an appropriate work project and provide housing in the Diocesan Urban Ministry Center Chalstrom House.

In preparation for the trip, there will be an information session offered by trip coordinator, Vicki Anthos, and various fund raising efforts.

Please stay tuned for more information. The Mission trip has been described as wonderful, surprising, educational, inspiring, fatiguing, and most of all transforming. We look forward to the challenge. We ask for your prayers and support as we prepare for this life-changing experience.

Phil Glass Elected

Phil is the newly elected president of the Black Achievers Teen Group. The Black Achievers in Business and Industry organization is sponsored by the YMCA.

With the support of local minority professionals who serve as role models and mentors, youth are encouraged to develop educational and career awareness with the assistance and guidance of African American mentors from diverse career fields.

Congratulations, Phil!

Beautifying the Church for Christmas



You can help add to the festivity of our Christmas services. Here are three ways in which you can contribute:

- Make a donation, in any amount, for Christmas poinsettias, greens and tree. Your gifts may be made in thanksgiving or in memory of family members and friends. Gifts must be received by Tuesday, December 16 if you wish to have

names listed in the service leaflet on Christmas Eve.

- When you are pruning your evergreen shrubs, save the branches and deposit them in the Memorial Garden outside the auditorium. These will be used for our decorating. Boxwood or magnolia would be particularly welcome.

- Plan to stay after the 10:30 service on December 21 to help hang the wreaths and place the flowers.

To make a donation or to learn more about beautifying the church for Christmas, contact Tanisha Julius in the church office at 302-656-6628 or e-mail at tjulius@ssam.org.

Hildaman Chorale Concert

The Hildaman Choral will hold its annual Holiday Concert at SsAM on Sunday, December 7, at 3:30 p.m.

Blessed Advent, Merry Christmas, and Joyous Epiphany!

In Sunday School, during Advent, we will prepare for the birth of Jesus by looking at some of the Psalms, passages in Isaiah, as well as Luke.

We will also send home a resource sheet called "The Twelve Days of Christmas." We encourage you to choose to do some of the activities to spread the true Christmas spirit to your family and others during this season.

During the weeks of Christmas and Epiphany, we move to focus on celebrating that God shows us new things that were hidden before. In these seasons, we will primarily focus on the gospels, especially the gospel of Mark, as we learn how Jesus teaches us new ways to show God's light and love in the world.

During the coming seasons, we will be praying for each child in Sunday School, and we ask that your family also include us in your prayers as we celebrate Jesus' birth and the beginning of his ministry.

Youth Calendar

November

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

December

7	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	Middle School Meeting Pastoral Care training	Teen Suite
14	12 noon - 2:00 p.m.	Middle School Meeting Cookie Baking Project	TBD
21	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	High School Meeting	Teen Suite
24	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service	Nave

Sign Up Now for Christmas Pageant

It is time to sign up to for the Christmas Pageant. Any child in first grade or above may take part. In order to participate, you must attend all rehearsals.

There are a limited number of solo parts. Anyone interested in a solo part should contact David Christopher no later than December 14.

Parents and friends are encouraged to help with props and costumes.

Rehearsal Schedule:

December 20	music rehearsal/run through	10:00 - noon
December 23	dress rehearsal	5:30 p.m.
December 24	warm up rehearsal	3:30 p.m.
December 24	Pageant	5:00 p.m.

If you plan on taking part, you must register by Sunday, December 7. Call the church office, 656-6628.

Christmas Services Schedule

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant

10:30 p.m. Christmas music

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Choral Eucharist

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 28

8 :00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Service of Christmas Lessons and
Carols with Holy Communion



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINTS ANDREW AND MATTHEW
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