

# VISION

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
SAINTS ANDREW AND  
MATTHEW

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2009



*The building at 7th and Shipley may look like the artist's sketch at the left when renovations are complete. At right is the present reality.*

## Construction Begins for Shipley Lofts

You may be grumbling about the barriers and construction going on down Shipley Street from the church and around the corner on 7th Street but PLEASE DON'T! This upheaval represents a major accomplishment in the life of SsAM.

Sixteen years ago, Saint Andrew's Church purchased the large building at 701 Shipley Street from United Way. The intent was to convert it to individual housing units for the homeless. Unfortunately, anticipated commitments from various funding sources fell through and the plan was abandoned.

The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew then created the Shipley Village Community Development Corporation and that organization spent the last decade working on a plan to make that building into a positive contributor to our neighborhood and the community overall.

After many frustrating false starts, construction finally began on December 9. The building, to be called Shipley Lofts, will be converted into 23 efficiency artist apartments, designed specifically to meet the needs of painters, sculptors, musicians and other artists.

Exhibit space has been designed into the first floor and the

basement. The historic exterior will be restored to its original impressive façade.

Some of the apartments will be subsidized; others will be rented at market rate. The demolition and removal of the inside of the building should be completed by February 1. The construction of the lofts should be completed by the fall of 2010.

SsAM has given Shipley Village Community Development Corporation a 99-year lease on the property. Funding for the project has come from grants and loans from local foundations, area banks, federal and state tax credit programs and the City of Wilmington.

Special thanks for this entire endeavor need to be extended to the Rev. Canon Lloyd Casson and also to Chris White, who had the vision and gumption to stick with it through some very difficult times.

It has been a long road but the end result will be a very positive addition to our neighborhood and our church. So please grin and bear it when you get detoured or delayed due to the construction down the street.

# Interim Rector's Page



It has been my great joy to be with you these past several months. I have come to love the special worship and life of SsAM in many ways I never expected. I am happy for you that the process of calling a new Rector is proceeding as expected but I am also imagining a time of personal grief as I anticipate moving on. Please know that I am committed to being with you until your new priest is "on the way."

BUT, we're not there yet and

I am excited about the good work we will share in the New Year. Here are a couple of opportunities I hope many of you will share with me:

Wednesday, January 21st will be the day after the Inauguration of Barack Obama as our 44th President. Will you join me at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium for a discussion and sharing time? There are so many stories that need to be told, so many emotions to express. Perhaps some of you who will have attended the festivities in Washington will tell us about it. Others who grew up in the pre-Obama United States may have experiences you want to talk about.

## Search Committee Report

The Vestry and Search Committee are happy to announce the appointment of Tracy Lea-Dorsey as a new vestry member of the Search Committee. Tracy also served on the last SsAM Search Committee. She and her husband Shawn have three children. We welcome adding her unique perspective to our search for a new Rector as we begin the interview process in the near future.

A number of potential candidates have applied to the Diocesan Office asking to be considered. Currently, the Bishop and Standing Committee are reviewing the background of these candidates. When this process is completed, we will be forwarded the names of three or so candidates.

We expect to begin the interview process sometime in January. In this phase of the process, and the next – "Choosing" – the committee will be dealing with sensitive and confidential information which cannot be open to all.

However, we will continue to report in general on the progress we are making. It is our hope that we will be able to announce and introduce a new Rector in the spring.

Beginning the following week, I look forward to sharing a special Adult Education opportunity. It's called *Saving Jesus*.

Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right or the Secular Left? *Saving Jesus* is an exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. The DVD program features leading religious voices of our day. Join Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, James Forbes, and a host of others for a conversation around the relevance of Jesus Christ for today.



The class will continue on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. We won't meet on Vestry Wednesdays or on Ash Wednesday (2/25) or the weeks around Easter. The final schedule will be published in the *Weekly Vision*. There are a total of 12 sessions. We will conclude the end of May.

Faithfully,  
Thom

*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*



*Alex Tyree and the Rev. Thom Jensen both dressed in a kilts on Sunday, Nov. 23 to celebrate their Scottish heritage. Alex also played the bagpipes.*

## Vestry Update



The major work of the Vestry during October and November has involved the 2009 budget. Working with our new Treasurer, Beatrice Polk, and the Finance Committee, we have been able to complete the second draft. Now, with some final tweaks, it should be ready for approval by the Vestry at the January meeting. Obviously, in the existing difficult economic situation, this has not been an easy task. We continue being unable to raise enough pledge, contributions and investment income to meet our budgetary needs. However, since our endowment has lost considerable value over the last eight months, this is not an acceptable time to dip into our investments to pay operating costs. Unfortunately, at the same time, recipients of our outreach ministries are in an ever-increasing need for funds because of an exploding demand for services.

### VESTRY

While the almost-approved 2009 budget may necessitate some liquidation of capital at the end of the calendar year, the results of the annual pledge drive have been very reassuring. And we are always looking for ways to cut costs in every area of church operations. (The Property Committee continues to do a wonderful job of decreasing costs while maintaining our aging buildings in great condition.)

Geoff Sawyer, Junior Warden

## Soup's On Again! – February 1



SsAM's annual Souper Bowl Sunday has been sponsored for several years by the Community Advocacy Committee. Souper Bowl Sunday is a charity drive by church congregations nationwide to help feed the hungry in their communities.

Cups of soup made by the chefs in the congregation will be sold after the 10:30 a.m. service on Super Bowl Sunday. Several tasty varieties of soup will be sold either to eat in or takeout.

Funds raised by this effort will support Community Advocacy programs. If you are willing to cook a pot of soup to support this effort, please contact Alice Smith at 376-0200.

# Birthdays

## JANUARY

5 Vern Oates  
6 Carol Scott  
Anne Gibson  
8 Helen Thomas  
12 Lillian Ramsey  
14 Susan Hengel  
15 Matthew Johnson  
Lawrence Melton  
Jorge Williams  
17 Cynthia Oates  
Sharon Bryant

19 David Julius  
24 Theora Wisher  
25 Geraldine Barnes  
27 Phyllise Wilkins-Church  
29 Walter Cheatham  
20 Jacquelyn Spencer  
Margaret Scheu  
31 Lucille Soukup

## FEBRUARY

2 Eudel Drain

3 Paul Gaskell  
5 Sheila Dorsey  
6 Jennifer Christy  
Wanda Smith  
Bert Nicholls  
8 Theodore Spaulding  
12 Courtney Streett  
14 Diana Myers  
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 Sierra Dorsey  
28 LaVerne Cheatham



# Community Advocacy News

Thanks to all who participated in providing Christmas gifts for our Friendship House Sunday breakfast guests, as well as for the Angel Tree and Adopt-a-Family programs.

For the Friendship House Sunday breakfast guests, SsAM parishioners donated many brightly wrapped gifts which were distributed to the homeless who eat breakfast at our church each Sunday.

In addition, twelve children received five gifts each through our participation in the Angel Tree program. Thanks so much to all who bought gifts for the children and gift cards for the caregivers of these children. In order not to forget the children's parents who are incarcerated and away from loved ones, the committee sent cards to let them know what gifts their children received in their name.

Finally, SsAM supported a family including four children who lost their mother and a cousin last year. These five children are being raised by their grandmother. Gift certificates were given to the family so they could purchase clothes, shoes, and toys for the holiday. As always, the generosity of our parish was remarkable!

# Adult Education Schedule for January and February

The topic for the next two months is "Blacks in America."

January 11	Freedom without freedom: 1865-1968 Today- legislated equality, but with a legacy Nirvana - when?
January 18	How is it in education?
January 25	How is it in business?
February 1	How is it in church?
February 8	How is it as seen by young people?
February 15	How is it in politics?
February 22	Time for review, catch up, and to plan ahead

# Sunday School News

Welcome back! We hope that you had a joyous Christmas.

The Sunday School has been busy finding new ways to share God's love with friends and family. We painted pictures for the residents of Regal Health Care, whom we visit once a month, and we made Christmas Cards for the Angel Tree families. We spent lots of time together rehearsing for the Christmas Pageant. We learned creative ways to show love.

The Christmas Pageant was a great success this year. Many members of the Sunday School participated in the pageant and all performances were spectacular! Look for pictures on the website ([www.ssam.org](http://www.ssam.org)).

During the weeks of Epiphany we move to focus on celebrating that God shows us new things that were hidden before. 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 to the world.

If you have a child who would like to attend Sunday School, please visit with us any Sunday.

Sunday School starts at 10:30. We provide child care for infants and young children beginning at 9:15 a.m. during Adult Forum. As always, we continue to pray for each child in the Sunday School. We ask that you and your family include us in your prayers.

## Ministries' Sunday Coming Soon

Ministries' Sunday will be on Sunday, January 25 in the Auditorium following both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.

Tables will be set up around the room and manned by those representing many SsAM ministries and organizations. They will answer questions and talk about their specific activities.

This is your opportunity to get more involved in SsAM and to find out what that involvement might entail – how much time, specific skills, etc. While there is certainly no commitment, we are planning on almost 20 widely varying ministries to participate. Hopefully it will be easy for you to find something that would interest you.

Ministries' Sunday is for newcomers and not-so-newcomers. Those that are participating already and those who are looking to join in, as well as those who may be "burned out" and are looking for a new way to help SsAM in meeting its vision and mission.

Come and find out about volunteer opportunities at SsAM on January 25!

Dear Lord,

God of our yesterdays,

our today, and our tomorrows.

We praise You for Your greatness.

Thank You for the year behind us  
and for the year ahead.

Help us in Your new year to fret  
less and laugh more.

Help us to stop and listen to You,  
so that we may know You  
better and better.

We rejoice in the world.

Thank You for another new year and  
for new chances every day.

We pray for peace,

for light, and for hope,

that we might spread them to others.

We rejoice in Your gift of a new  
year and we rejoice in what's ahead.

Amen

# Youth Group News

This continues to be a very exciting season for the Junior and Senior SsAM Soul groups.

The Junior group for middle schoolers has formed and activities are underway. Members include Jordan Anderson, Iyabo and Onolenne Babatunde, Taylor Jones, Veronica Oates, Eric Polk, Alana and Felicia Walker.

In September, members were welcomed by Dr. Dorsey, Mrs. Jackson and Senior SsAM Soul members to the first 'official' meeting. During October, we learned how to be ushers from Mr. and Mrs. Hampton. In November, we moved into the Nave for Acolyte training led by Mr. Annan and Mr. Jackson. In December, we took a break from training to join the Senior SsAM Soul group at Dr. Dorsey's for our Annual Holiday Party and Cookie Bake (to support the ECW cookie baking project). We also found time to help Senior SsAM Soul with fund raisers as they prepare for their mission trip to New Orleans.

This year, we look forward to learning more about each other and the SsAM community as we welcome Pastoral Care leader, Mrs. Haon and Altar Guild leader, Mrs. Cheatham for training sessions. We will also participate in service activities and prepare for the Annual Spring Fashion Show and Banquet.

The Senior SsAM Soul group continues to prepare for their mission trip to New Orleans. A group of twenty-five volunteers including SsAM Soul members, adult chaperones and parishioners from Immanuel Church Highlands and the Church of the Nativity will travel March 14 – 21 to participate in the continuing rebuilding effort.

The group will perform clean-up and repair work for a community still devastated by the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. The cost of the group accommodations at

the Episcopal Church in Louisiana Urban Ministry Center, and two daily meals, breakfast and lunch, are covered by the local mission fund.

However, SsAM Soul members and chaperones are responsible for round-trip airfare, dinners and any incidental expenses. To defray the costs, the group has sponsored baked goods and crocheted scarf sales. We invite the entire congregation to our Noon, January 25, New Orleans Style Kick-off meeting. We are filled with a sense of joy and purpose as we prepare for this meaningful, memorable trip. We thank you for your continued prayers and support.



*Members of the SsAM Soul Youth Group have been raising money to cover the costs of their mission trip to New Orleans.*

## Honor for Phil Glass

Phil is a student at Alexis I. DuPont High School in his Junior year. Phil has been a member of SsAM Soul since its beginning and serves as the group Historian.

Along with SsAM Soul, Phil participates in the Jack and Jill youth program and the YMCA sponsored Black Achievers Group, serving as its president.

On December 4, during the Annual Achievers Dinner, Phil took the stage, before guest speaker Spike Lee, to speak. Phil said, "I hope I can be an inspiration to people younger than I to show them that it is OK to step outside of the box and be a leader."

Phil's interests are music, Black history and photography.

## SsAM Soul to New Orleans

*by Jen Mason, Editor, Delaware Communion*

Immanuel Church, Highlands has scheduled their third Mission Project to New Orleans for March 14–21, 2009. Linda and Ernest Jackson and members of our church's SsAM Soul Youth Group will be participating.

This annual trip to New Orleans has changed the lives of the volunteers who've traveled to help the Diocese of Louisiana continue to rebuild their beloved city.

There are still a few openings for adults interested in experiencing New Orleans through community service. Please contact Vicki Anthos at 588-7607 for details.

Preliminary plans are in place for a FUNraiser at Immanuel Highlands in February. Please look for this FUN announcement in the February issue of the *Delaware Communion*, the newspaper of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware.

Also, the volunteers would like to thank everyone in the diocese who has supported their efforts in New Orleans. They could not have done their volunteer work without that support.

# Details on Important Upcoming Events

## 2009 Kick-off Meeting

Please join us at noon on Sunday, January 25, for the joint Junior - Senior. SsAM Soul New Orleans Style Kick-off meeting. Meet the group members and families. Learn about the Junior and Senior group activities scheduled for the New Year. Hear more about the mission trip to New Orleans while enjoying New Orleans style gumbo and jambalaya.

## Senior High Winter Camp

Join high school students January 23 – 25, for the annual Wintercamp, sponsored by the Diocese of Delaware. This year's camp location in Lake Champion in Glen Spey, New York. The camp fee of \$100 is due no later than January 2. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact Teri Valente, 302-945-0610, or [terivalente@gmail.com](mailto:terivalente@gmail.com).

## 30 Hour Famine

Junior and Senior SsAM Soul members will join youth throughout the world in an international youth movement to fight hunger.

During the February 27 – 28 overnight lock-in, members will fast for a period and raise funds to help feed and care for children around the world. This experience promises to bring our group closer together and to God, feed hungry children, and change our world forever.

# Youth Calendar

## January

11	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	Junior and Senior SsAM Soul meetings	Teen Suite
23 – 25		Senior High Wintercamp	Lake Champion, NY
25	12:30 – 2:00pm	Junior and Senior SsAM Soul Joint New Orleans Style Kick-off Meeting	Crypt

## February

8	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.	Junior and Senior SsAM Soul meetings	Teen Suite
21	5:00 p.m.	Jambalaya Dinner	Immanuel Highlands
22	12:00 – 2:00 pm	Senior SsAM Soul meeting	Teen Suite
24	after school	Pancake Dinner – a joint Junior & Senior SsAM Soul service project	Auditorium
25		Attend Ash Wednesday Service	Nave
27 – 28		30 Hour Famine Lock-in	SsAM

## March

7	10:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Diocesan Acolyte and Choir Festival	Cathedral Church of Saint John
8	10:30 – 12:00 noon	First Youth Confirmation Class	Teen Suite

## April

25	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	3rd Annual Spring Fashion Show and Banquet	Auditorium
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# Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates

## Many Voices Proclaiming Peace – an Interfaith Concert for Peace

Sunday, January 18 4:30 p.m.

A free will offering will be taken to benefit Pacem in Terris which seeks to change community attitudes and help people understand that peace is not a dream, but a necessity, now and in the future.

## Carnival Sunday

Sunday, February 22 10:30 a.m.

## Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 24 4:00 p.m.

## Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 25 7:30 a.m.; 12:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINTS ANDREW AND MATTHEW  
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