

# VISION

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
SAINTS ANDREW AND  
MATTHEW

JULY–AUGUST 2009



New Vestry members, left to right, Nancy Miller, Monica Oates, Beatrice Polk, and Pat Saunders. Photos by Danny Schweers

## Vestry Report

by Geoff Sawyer

The Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew & Matthew was held on Sunday, June 7. At the meeting, the four candidates for the three-year Vestry term were elected by acclamation. They are Nancy Miller, Monica Oates, Beatrice Polk, and Pat Saunders. The four members retiring from the Vestry are Carolyn Haon, Herb Harvey, Michelle Hastie, and Bob Richmond; their hard work and dedication for the Vestry is very much appreciated. In addition to the election, there were reports from the retiring Senior Warden (Michelle Hastie), clergy (Carl Kunz and

Rod Welles), and the Search Committee (Alice Sawyer) as well as reports on finance (Michelle Hastie in Beatrice Polk's absence) and property (Jim Linderman). *Please note: copies of the Annual Report distributed at the Annual Meeting are available by contacting the Church office.*

At the first meeting of the new Vestry on June 10, the following officer were elected: Geoff Sawyer, Senior Warden; Tracy Lea-Dorsey, Junior Warden; Monica Oates, Clerk; and Beatrice Polk, Treasurer.

## Disappointing News...

by Geoff Sawyer

As you may or may not have heard, in terms of our search for new spiritual leadership, we have had a setback. The candidate who was selected by the Search Committee and approved by the Vestry has sadly declined the call.

This is obviously very disappointing but as we all know, God works in mysterious ways. I have every confidence that we will find a spiritual leader even better for SsAM...and that we will end up saying, "Ah, now I see God's will for us. He has truly opened our eyes to his vision."

The Search Committee is meeting to decide on their path forward: looking at the remaining candidates or deciding to broaden the search. They have done a wonderful job, and we are

blessed that they have committed to continue the search on our behalf. As they have done so well all along, the Search Committee will keep the congregation informed as decisions are made.

Obviously, we all are very disappointed by this turn of events but as one of the Search Committee members said:

"A setback is a setup for a comeback."

Please remember to include this prayer in your daily devotions, now more than ever:

*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.*

## Property and Maintenance Corner

by Jim Linderman



**SsAM Maintenance:** Two significant items of building repair have occurred recently that are under active work. First, a section of the ceiling in the balcony, over the organ pipes became

weakened and fell onto the pipes. It was determined that the cause was due to the age of the ceiling structure and the weight of an unusually thick coat of plaster rather than to water damage. All plaster was removed, and a contractor installed a heavy grade of drywall on the surface. Repainting will be done at the first opportunity by internal workers. Second, a separation of the overhang structure above the front door of the church from the exterior wall has been found, and contractors have been assigned to repair the structure before further damage occurs. Also, eight new kneelers have been assembled to replace some of the worn and damaged kneelers that exist in the sanctuary. The upholstery covering will be installed soon, and they will be placed in service.

## Construction Begins on Shipley Lofts

by Geoff Sawyer

The interior demolition of Shipley Lofts on the corner of 7th and Shipley Streets, which was leased to the Shipley Village Community Development Corporation by SsAM, is complete. According to the experts, the outside "shell" of the building is in pretty good shape.

The construction of 23 subsidized artists' lofts will now begin, with a completion date of December 31, 2009. If you know of anyone who might be interested in renting one of the units, have them call 302-654-9113.

## Email VISION

SsAM is now offering the option of receiving the VISION by email instead of by postal mail. If you wish to receive the VISION by email, let Lucia Robinson know by emailing [LRobinson@ssam.org](mailto:LRobinson@ssam.org).

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## Youth Group News

### AKAette Scholarship Program

by Gloria Williams

I am co-president of the SsAM Soul Youth Group and a rising senior attending Pencader High School. For the last two years, I have participated in the AKAette Scholarship Program, a leadership program founded by the Sigma Zeta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The program meets every first and third Wednesday of the month and focuses on guiding sophomore, junior, and senior females into college, while providing us with a sense of security. We are always reminded that we are the future leaders of the county and that we can succeed in college.

We participate in a variety of workshops that help us become more prepared for the upcoming years of college and life after graduating from college, and we do volunteer work in the community. The hours from our volunteer work can be used to gain community service credits.

This year, I participated in the program's annual PLUSH (Pretty Ladies Uniting for Scholarship and Honor) Premiere Pageant held Saturday, June 13. We competed for awards, scholarships, and the Ms. Pink and Ms. Green titles. One of the requirements for pageant participants was to write about a learning experience that had a powerful, positive impact on ourselves and how we could apply that lesson to our future. I wrote about diabetes and how it runs in both sides of my family. Diabetes has had a big impact on my life because there is a 99% chance that I could get the illness because of genetics.

Through my participation in the program I have gained knowledge, friendships, and connections that will prepare me for success in the future.

### Upward Bound

by Kyana Bailey

Upward Bound Classic is a six-week summer program dedicated to supporting participants in their preparation for college. To attend Upward Bound you must be a first generation college student or in a low income family. Every participant is given classes and has tutors in numerous subjects. Tutoring, counseling, mentoring, cultural enrichment, and work-study programs also are supported. Whether you plan on going to a community college or a big state university Upward Bound helps.

My experience at Upward Bound has been nothing but positive. It's really neat to see that there are other people who are almost the same age as you in almost the same situation as you. Almost everyone there has a positive attitude and is eager to learn. I am very thankful for the Upward Bound program because I wouldn't know where to start when it came to college preparation. Upward Bound has raised my grades and my standardized test scores. The summer only marks the beginning of Upward Bound; throughout the school year, Upward Bound has study hours at University of Delaware's Academic Enrichment Center where we receive academic help and tutoring.

This summer I will be off to Upward Bound as a rising senior. I am more than elated to go because just being there makes me happy (well, sometimes). I'm always happy to receive academic help, and Upward Bound is helping me reach success academically.

## Wilmington Interfaith Coalition

by Rob Gurnee

The Interfaith Coalition is a diverse set of faith-based organizations, all responding to a common call of understanding and service. We were formed in the spring of 2005 in response to growing violence in the city. I got involved four years ago because it was a place to cross boundaries and live out my faith in a way that I hadn't been able to do in a traditional church setting, and I have served as Executive Director for the past several years.

We have engaged in monthly interfaith dialogue and community meetings, introduced developmental asset building for youth, explored how to strengthen families, helped survey

congregations in Wilmington and build a database of findings, and collaborated with a host of faith and community based organizations to instill a more holistic and spirit-lifting approach to addressing concerns and opportunities in our neighborhoods. Much of our work is done in West Center City, an area adjacent to SsAM. We welcome you to our monthly meetings, details of which can be found at [www.interfaithcoalition.net](http://www.interfaithcoalition.net), or of course you can catch up with me at church (I usually attend 8:00 am chapel service). I look forward to talking with you soon.

## Community Outreach: SsAM Supports Dance Program at Baylor Prison

by Alice Smith



Dancers from the Baylor's Women's Correction Institution perform. Photo courtesy of Avodah Dance Ensemble

This spring, SsAM provided a \$500 grant for the fifth year to help underwrite the cost of the Avodah Dance Ensemble, a program organized by Pacem in Terris. The dance ensemble held a week of residency of Baylor's Women's Correctional Institution on May 18-22.

This year, Julie Gayer-Kris, who is the artistic director of the Avodah Dance Ensemble, took as her theme, "Seasons." She and the Baylor women thought about all of the seasons in nature, as well as the seasons that we pass through in our life journeys as we try to explore and discover who we really are deep inside ourselves—in that part of ourselves that bears the image of God and marks us as His/Her child. They collectively worked out dance steps to portray these images as part of a visual and kinetic language.

Sally Milbury-Steen, director of Pacem in Terris, wrote the following letter to SsAM: "On behalf of Pacem in Terris, I wish to thank you for your very generous grant of \$500 to help us underwrite the cost of the Avodah Dance Ensemble week of residency at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution this spring and the follow-up programs thereafter. The women at Baylor were really excited by the week of residency that they participated in this year. The Baylor women who danced at the final performance showed such a spirit of grace and calm, flowing with the music, fully present and free from self-consciousness. It was simply remarkable."

Carolyn Haon and Pat Saunders, who are also involved in the Threshold prison mentoring program, represented SsAM at the performance. Carolyn's enthusiasm is evident in the following statement: "What an uplifting, touching, loving experience Pat Saunders and I had when we watched some of the Baylor women in their dance routines. The smiles and laughter and just good old fun were very evident in each one as they performed."

According to Sally Milbury-Steen, "It was amazing to watch each dance unfold in a rich, beautiful, and uplifting mixture of music, motion, and emotion. The Baylor women dancers are now doing much of the choreography themselves as part of a strengthened partnership with Avodah. They worked together as an ensemble with great skill, maturity, good will, and mutual respect. It was truly impressive—and the audience, which included some of the relatives of the Baylor women, was just as in awe and enthusiastic as we were. One young woman said, 'I didn't know how much fun you could have without drugs and alcohol.'"

SsAM's contribution to this program came from the AIM fund, which members of the parish support with the biweekly offering. For further information on the Avodah dancers, go to <http://www.avodahdance.org/>. For more information on the Thresholds mentoring program, see Carolyn Haon, Pat Saunders, or Hugh Wallace.

## Trip to Africa

by Tanisha Julius

I have been given a wonderful opportunity to travel to Ghana, Africa, for a month with students from James Madison University in Virginia.

For the first two and a half weeks I will be taking two courses: Special Topics in Women's Studies and Introduction to African History. In the afternoons I will participate in volunteer activities. For the last ten days of the program I will visit historic and cultural sites. In addition our group will travel to developing areas or ecological areas each weekend.

I am extremely excited and cannot wait to embark on this journey. I will be keeping a blog while I'm away. Please keep in touch with me at [tanisha-gonetoghana.blogspot.com](http://tanisha-gonetoghana.blogspot.com). See you soon!



Linda Jackson with conferees Kyana Bailey, Antonette Grant, Veronica Oates, Onalenna Babatunde, Iyabo Babatunde, and Bishop Wayne Wright. Photo by Monica Oates

## Birthdays

### July Birthdays

1 Edythe Bryant • 2 Ann Tate • 6 Elizabeth Gaskell • 7 Cecily Gordon • 13 Anya Malloy • 14 Henry Gaskell • 15 Cassidy Nwanekwu • 17 Yvonne Gordon • 19 Dell Venarde • 22 Sandra Holt • 26 Leroy Ames, Ogechi Nwanekwu • 27 Lora Byrd

### August Birthdays

3 Kyana Bailey, Leroy Burks • 4 Naa-Okailey Annan, Alphonso Brock, Louise Lewis, Lucia Robinson, Patricia Saunders, Martha

Wallin • 5 Orlen Washington • 6 Ernest Jackson, Richard Jones • 7 Iyabo Babatunde, Joseph Johnson • 8 Tiffany Wisher • 10 Nancy Miller • 12 Patricia Griffin • 15 Delores Cotman • 16 Devon Clark, Peter Huiner • 18 Tracy Dorsey, Charles Hines • 19 Kelly Bethea • 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 Robert Young • 29 Karen Johnson, Ann Marie Ackerman • 31 Diane Streett



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