

VISION

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
SAINTS ANDREW AND
MATTHEW**

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2010

In last month's *Vision* I shared how I hope more people from the parish will get involved in the total ministry that occurs at SsAM. This is an exciting time with many new ideas being planned as we move forward. This edition of the *Vision* highlights some of the programs and goals that will be tried this fall. I wish to continue to reflect upon our life together, paying particular attention to how we are intentional about developing relationships with one another and how we might invite others to experience a new kind of faith community that works hard at building relationships among a diverse congregation.

Let me start with a confession. This building of community is not easy. I am a cradle Episcopalian, and I do not remember at any point in my childhood and young adulthood where I was encouraged to build bonds with others. Church was a place to go on Sunday morning where we heard a sermon (sadly, I remember very few), attend Sunday School (which I did every Sunday), and then go home. Even my first two years of seminary were focused on study. It was not until I completed an intern year in Washington State that I first experienced deep sharing of faith in small groups.

This small group gave me the chance to share my relationship with Jesus and how I lived that in my daily life, along with sharing the struggles that come with such a commitment. A powerful moment occurs when one shares deeply about faith and doubt and that is the realization that we are not alone along this faith journey.

The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew has a history of forming small groups that provide support for all of us. After this year's annual meeting's table discussions, I heard from many people how they hoped this could happen more and that this type of sharing occurred during the time when consolidation was being discussed and planned. In June, I had the opportunity to share communion with the Disciple group led by Judi Gregory. This group (and those from years past led by Alex and Cheri Tyree) allows a small group of people to study and share, in an intimate way, their faith and love of God as well as to be a source of encouragement in living as a follower of Jesus today.

We shall continue this rich experience this fall in various and diverse ways that will allow many to participate according to their time and outside commitments. Beginning after Labor Day, small groups will form to take part in the Reading the Bible in 90 Days Challenge. I hope that you will take this challenge, as reading the bible from cover to cover can be fun and educational as well as a way to support others to complete the challenge (even through Leviticus). It would be great to see many small groups meeting throughout the week, either here at the parish or in homes, reading and praying the Word of God.

This fall, various adult education offerings will happen on Saturday and Sunday mornings, as well as several weekdays.



Praying before the start of the Parish Picnic. Photo by Danny Schweers

These will also allow for small group sharing as we worship, study, and work to make real the Kingdom of God.

It is also important that the youth of SsAM have an opportunity to develop small groups and to be active in Sunday worship and study. At the moment, I plan to spend one Sunday a month with our younger kids during the first half of the 10:30 am liturgy (details to follow) and preside at Children's Chapel. I also plan to be active with the older kids, who will be led this year by Ida McCall and Ben Kiel and Christine and Rayon Pinnock.

There is also time to gather socially at home and in church. Some in the parish wish to renew supper clubs. This is a great idea, and I would love it if a few folks would prayerfully consider taking this on beginning in October. Another exciting opportunity is the potluck suppers and discussions that will occur every other month in place of the monthly vestry meeting. These occasions will be a time to share, enjoy refreshment and, as was done at the Annual Meeting, have small-group discussions around a specific topic. They will allow Vestry and members of the parish to meet with one another and share what is on our minds and in our hearts. Topics will follow up the table discussions from the annual meeting. An example would be how we live as stewards of all that God has given to us.

On a personal note, these activities excite me and allow me to live into a new vision of what it means to be the body of Christ. This coming year will be a time to experience, in new and tangible ways, what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus. This experience is not set in stone but is fluid and allows for freedom and to move where the Holy Spirit leads us. For me that is the Good News, and I look forward to walking with you along the Way.

Peace,
+Fr. David

Letter from the Senior Warden

By Tracy Dorsey

Hello SsAM Family!

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the summer. Our newly formed Vestry has met. I have challenged them with four main goals for 2010-11, and they have graciously accepted them (smile).

We believe these goals will be fulfilled in the upcoming year. They are as follows:

1. Increase interaction and communication between the Vestry and the congregation.
2. Spiritual and personal financial enrichment.
3. Create a structured and stimulating curriculum for all youth of SsAM. Help them grow spiritually and provide opportunities for fun and social and personal bonding.
4. Outreach to current members not actively attending church on a regular basis.

Initially, we will do the following for each goal:

1. Starting in October, every other month, instead of a vestry meeting, we will hold potluck dinners with conversations based on topics taken from the annual meeting feedback. (See the schedule on this page.)
2. Stewardship will be an ongoing process at SsAM, and we will educate ourselves through seminars, workshops, and group sharing on dealing with money on both personal and spiritual levels.
3. A meeting with the new youth group leaders and middle and high school students is scheduled for September 12. Leaders will introduce themselves and the new curriculum.
4. Each Vestry member has been asked to compile a list of persons they personally know that are no longer present at SsAM on a regular basis in order to contact them personally.

I would like you all to know that I feel very strongly about letting the congregation know they are always welcomed to a Vestry meeting and that communication between us all needs to be improved. Please know that the Vestry and the wardens are available to you whenever you have a question or concern. My only request is that if you have a concern/problem that you please share with us your personal solution on resolving the matter, whatever it may be. My motto is "No whining allowed if you do not plan to help resolve the issue"; we are in this together, and respectfully we will make positive change. I can personally be reached at 302-229-3348 or via email at leadort@yahoo.com. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, I am honored to be Senior Warden at SsAM and feel blessed to have David as Rector, Pat as Junior Warden, and the rest of the Vestry members by my side. I am also extremely grateful for the congregation's support of the Vestry in helping us better serve SsAM and the community. Please continue to lift us all up in prayer as we dutifully serve you according to God's will.

Peace and love,
Tracy

Schedule of Vestry Meetings and Potluck Suppers for 2010-11

The vestry meets on the second Wednesday of every month, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. All SsAM members are welcome to attend, and the minutes are available for review in the church office. The Potluck Suppers & Conversations will take place at the same time and are also open to everyone. Topics will be published in upcoming weekly *Visions*.

September 8	Vestry Meeting
October 13	Potluck Supper & Conversation
November 10	Vestry Meeting
December 8	Potluck Supper & Conversation
January 12	Vestry Meeting
February 9	Potluck Supper & Conversation
March 9	Vestry Meeting
April 13	Potluck Supper & Conversation
May 11	Vestry Meeting

The Reading the Bible in 90 Days Whole-Church Challenge, September-November

Registration for the Whole-Church Challenge has been extended to September 12. Once you have registered for the challenge Fr. David will be available to meet at the following times;

- Thursday, October 7: 12:00-1:00 pm
- Saturday, October 9: 10:00-11:00 am
- Sunday, October 10: 12:30-1:30 pm

Each of these sessions will cover the same material and serve as an orientation to kick-off the challenge. Please contact Tanisha at the office and let her know which session you will be attending.

During the challenge we will be using the New International Version (NIV) bible. If you already have this version, then you will only need to purchase the participants guide, you will be given a daily companion reading guide. If participants do not have the NIV bible, it may be purchased along with the participants guide from the church.

Fr. David encourages each of us to prayerfully consider joining the Whole-Church Challenge and partner with one another to explore the word of God.

Sunday Morning Adult Formation: September 12

God Views: Seeing Clearly The One Who Loves You the Most. This is a DVD study that will help us explore our understanding of God. Please call the office to sign up for this thought provoking series.

Morning and Evening Prayer at SsAM

By David Andrews

Our life together is grounded in our weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist. At that time we gather to hear the Word of God as expressed in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, a sermon that attempts to connect the readings to our lives as followers of Jesus, and an affirmation of faith that grounds us in the tradition of the church. We share our intercessions for the mission of the church, peace in the world, our concerns for friends and one another, and the blessings we wish to give thanks for. These actions lead us to remember the commandment of Jesus given to his disciples the night before he died: "Do this in remembrance of me." To receive the bread and wine each week reminds us that the living presence of Christ goes with us out into the world to live again as his disciples. Interspersed throughout the liturgy is music offered by our choir and communal hymns that move us to depart in joy to love and serve in Jesus' name.

As Episcopalians we are fortunate to have as a resource the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) which is not only our book of worship but also our theology. In other words we pray what we believe. Included in the BCP are the liturgies of Morning and Evening Prayer that allow us to pray on our own, outside of our regular attendance on Sunday morning. A community that prays together and for one another is a community that is alive. I would like to begin to offer to the SsAM community, as well as folks who pass our church every day, an opportunity to come and pray together at the beginning and the close of the day.

What I have in mind are volunteers who would come and lead one of the prayer offices either in the morning or late afternoon. For our purposes we will use a modified and shortened prayer service with the psalms and lessons from the Daily Prayer office lectionary. A group met in late May to learn about this idea, and now that the new program year is upon us, I would like to meet again with a group that is interested in leading one or more prayer services throughout the week.

I wish to have this meeting on Thursday evening, September 9, at 7:00 pm. If you are interested, please come to either learn more or to sign up as part of a team. The Morning Prayer office would be said at 8:30 am and the Evening Prayer office would be said at 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday, if we have the volunteers. This schedule may be revised depending upon how many teams we can form in early September. For more information, please call me at the church office (656-6628) or email me at Dandrews@ssam.org.

Rediscovering Values by Jim Wallis: Summer Book Study and Follow-Up

By David Andrews

Summer is often the time of year to slow down a little, go on vacation, spend time in the yard, or in the case of a group from the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew, read a book about values.

Jim Wallis is the founder and CEO of Sojourners, an organization dedicated to living our faith in the marketplace and in politics. In July, a group of 18 parishioners met for three weeks to reflect upon Wallis's new book, which was written in response to the economic collapse of 2008. Wallis believes that as Christians, we must return to the biblical values of community: being neighbors and caring for the poor, instead of buying into the predominant value we see all around us today that proclaims "It's all about me!"

This book study allowed us to form community and to come up with a small step to relieve the suffering of many in our community: every Sunday we are asking parishioners to bring canned and boxed food items to be collected and brought to one of three local food pantries. This is a result of the news that food pantries in Wilmington are being stretched beyond their means to assist folks who have lost their jobs to put food on their family tables.

So please bring in some canned or dry goods the next time you come to church!

Episcopal Church Women

By Gloria Conner-Bungy

The speaker for our Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, September 18, will be Marcy Perkins, director of Women's Ministries for Friendship House.

Marcy will speak on this year's theme, "God's Gift of Compassion." The event begins at 9:00 am, and the cost of tickets is \$12. Tickets can be purchased from any ECW board member. For further information, call Gloria at 302-654-7630.

Sunday School News

By Tanisha Julius

It's time to start thinking about Sunday School! Here are some important dates:

September 12, 12:00 pm, Education Suite: Sunday School Registration & Welcome and Orientation for Parents

September 19, 10:30 am: Sunday School begins!

Detailed information on the program will be available at the Welcome and Orientation, and teachers will be present to answer any questions you may have. This year, the children will participate in Children's Chapel each month with Fr. David, along with a Mystery Box! Look for more information on this year's Sunday School program in Weekly Vision and on church bulletin boards.

Youth Group News

By Christine Pinnock, Rayon Pinnock, Ida McCall, and Ben Kiel



Rayon and Christine Pinnock, Ben Kiel and Ida McCall

We are excited to begin working with the middle- and high-schoolers of SsAM this year. We will use the Confirm not Conform youth curriculum (<http://www.confirmnotconform.com>), along with the youths' ideas, and our own ideas, to explore Christian formation, find ways to become more active in Sunday services, add new members, serve the community, and of course, have fun!

We look forward to meeting with the youth on September 12 at 12:00 pm in the Teen Suite to hear your ideas and to share our thoughts with you. The first meeting of the SsAM Soul Youth Group this fall is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Friday, October 1.

We look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting all of you. Here is a little bit about us:

Christine Pinnock: Allow me to introduce myself! My name is Christine Pinnock. I am committed to give of myself to the SSAM Youth Group. I was a member of the youth group at a previous church and would love to share some of my past experiences. My ultimate goal is to share with the youth the joy of learning about the Lord! One of my main focuses in the initial stage will be to invite the youth from our surrounding communities. It would be great to have them share in what the SsAM youth group has to offer. I look forward to meeting all the youth this September 12 for our first talk.

Rayon Pinnock: I grew up in the Anglican Church in Jamaica and came to the US in 1997. I was a member at the Cathedral for a few years, and then joined SsAM in April 2009. Christine and I were married at SsAM in June 2009. I'm a software developer, and I recently completed the Discipleship program at SsAM.

Ida McCall: Ben and I have been members of SsAM for about three years. We've taught Sunday School, are ushers, and we edit and design the bi-monthly *Vision*. I have recently become a member of the Vestry. As a camp counselor at an Episcopalian summer camp for several summers while I was in college, I enjoyed working and developing spirituality with young people, and I look forward to similar kinds of work with the youth of SsAM.

Ben Kiel: I grew up in the Luthern Church, but married into the Episcopal family when Ida and I were married in 2006. I was a Boy Scout and active member of my church's youth group as a teen and I am looking forward to giving back to the SsAM youth group. Day to day, I work as a typeface designer and teach at MICA and the University of Delaware.



Alexander and Cynthia Oates. Alexander received a scholarship for his freshman year of college at Lincoln University.

Nine College Scholarships Awarded to SsAM Members

By Alice Smith

The Community Advocacy Committee is proud to announce that nine college students have received scholarships for school this fall.

The scholarship program has been a part of SsAM's outreach program for more than six years. The program is officially named the "Reverend Lloyd S. Casson Scholarship Program," in honor of our former 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, the fund received \$549.30.

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

- Naa-Okailey (Nikki) Annan - Howard University junior
- La'Erica Conner-Sims - Delaware State University sophomore
- Jazmyn Holt - Graduate student at Wilmington University
- Tanisha Julius - Goldey Beacom College senior
- Matthew Johnson - Villanova University post graduate work
- Alexander Oates - Lincoln University freshman
- Charlene Ralston - Springfield College sophomore
- Carl Webster - Wilmington College post graduate work
- Gloria Williams - Benedict College freshman



Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 19

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY with Festival Choral Eucharist,
10:30 am

RECTORY OPEN HOUSE, 4 pm - 7pm

Saturday, October 2, 1:00 pm

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, December 5, 5 pm

HILDAMAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 19, 4:00 pm

WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT by PIFFARO: The
Renaissance Band

SEASON OF CREATION (Sundays at the 10:30 am service)

October 10 - In the Beginning

October 17 - The Planet Earth

October 24 - Our Common Humanity

October 31 - All Saints

November 7 - The World at Peace

November 14 - Stewards of God's Creation

November 21 - The Cosmic Christ (The Reign of Christ)

There will be innovative liturgies with guest speakers,
musicians, and artists.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES at SsAM

Friday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

11:00 pm CANDLELIGHT CHORAL EUCHARIST
(Festival Prelude begins at 10:30 pm)

Saturday, December 25,

10:30 am CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

Sunday, December 26,

10:30 am LESSONS AND CAROLS



Above: Blessing of the Animals from 2009, photo by Danny Schweers.

Middle: Children's Christmas Pagant from 2009.

*Below: Eric Polk playing the 10:30 service postlude on August 29: Lloyd
Larsen's "Come We That Love the Lord." Photo by Danny Schweers*

Birthdays

September

3 Karen Edwards
7 Beatrice Polk
10 Linda Jackson
13 Kelly Holt
14 Charles Bungy, Joshua Martin
15 Joyce Bemby, Seth Faulk
16 Andrew Hengel
17 Danny Schweers
19 Karen Brown
25 Christina Russell, Gloria Williams
26 Phil Murphree
27 Rochelle Harvey, Shemaury Emory
28 Max Bell

October

1 Cheryl Thomas, Michelle Jones
2 Hugh Wallace, Geoffrey Sawyer,
Gregory Bell
8 Ernest Barnes
10 Neonta Crain
11 Kitty Esterly
15 Matthew Smith, Clifton Gordon
17 Sandy Hines, James Ballard,
Ernestine Brock-Walker, La'Erica
Conner Sims
19 Susan Murphree
21 Monica Oates, Jarithia Bailey
22 Rayon Pinnock
23 Barbara Davison
24 Bob Richmond
25 Marvin Nwanekwu
28 Ana Washington
29 Anand Alexander



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