

# NET WORK

## The parish newsletter of St. Andrew=s Episcopal Church

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August 2009

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### From the Rector's Desk



Dear Friends,

This month I would like to offer some thoughts on the evolving church. This is a situation we need to embrace. In writing this piece, I am aware that it may not appeal to everyone. Also, I am aware that if I say too much I will lose people's interest. In turn, if I say too little the message lacks any substance. Thus, I must try to say enough, and in the right manner, to challenge people to think about the evolving church.

Throughout much of Christian history, the Church operated with the overarching attitude of "**we expect people to come to church on our terms.**" For us, this model seems controlling, manipulative and elitist. Yet, it was a product of time and culture. About sixty years ago, following the end of World War II, the rise of the post-war building boom, the development of suburbia, television, and changing social values, such as secularism, were pivotal factors leading to the decline of the historical model of the church.

We could explore many of these factors and others in detail, but considering the rise of secularism is important. In my view, secularism gained hold because of people who experienced the horrors of war, and were becoming increasingly better educated than any other generation. With these events taking place people began to ask questions. The answers provided by the church that "worked" no longer seem appropriate. Consciously and unconsciously, people became frustrated without new answers to new questions. Consequently, people began to

see the church becoming less relevant in their lives and less relevant in society. Thus, the church began to become marginalized. While this was taking place, the church in North America was experiencing its largest growth in centuries; it failed to see that, "the times, they were a-changin'." In fact, while the church in North America was growing, it was in fact getting smaller. While numerous congregations were founded, churches built and rolls swelled, the general population of the continent was growing at a faster rate. Likewise, the number of people not attending church was also growing. We might say the church took the "insiders" view and refused to look at or accept outside influences. Sadly, this continues to be true!

Today, some traditional mainline denominations and some newer denominations perpetuate the historical model of ministry. Typically, they continue to operate with top-down thinking. These are linear models where clergy dominate (with "father knows best thinking"). In this model, questions are rarely tolerated and people who deviate from the "party line" are admonished.

Today, the predominate model in European and North American Christianity is "**we will come to church on our terms.**" This is a complete reversal of traditional thinking and acting. This is a shift from images of the "divine right of Kings," and the "divine right of the Church," to the "divine right of the individual."

Today, some churches thrive on their ability to provide people what they want. Sometimes, this

means worship that is more entertainment than substance. Many churches, however, wrestle with the notion of trying to find the right balance, and right forums between what people want, and what people need! This is a challenge.

We can summarize the penultimate image of the church responding to the needs of people in the sentence and image of, "Hatch, match and dispatch." This refers to the church being present and valuable for people at times of baptism, weddings and funerals. In turn, many do not see any other reason to be involved or committed to any church. In recent years, this "hatch, match and dispatch," image began to decline as people began to see the church as even less relevant than a generation ago. In other words, fewer people are choosing to be married, and married by the church; fewer people are choosing to have children baptized; and fewer people are seeking the services of the church at the death of a loved one.

Twenty-two years ago, Reg Bibby, in his seminal groundbreaking work, **Fragmented Gods** described this reality. He described present and future Western Christianity as, "Religion A La Carte." Thus, just as people walk through a buffet line and choose what they want to eat, people will go to a church that has the menu they desire and then choose what they want from the services being provided. In a phrase, this translates to the image where one moves from, "how can I serve the church," to one where we center on "how can the church serve me." Fortunately, through the efforts of people serving others, those who tend to be "me focused," are learning to see the broader, richer and deeper reality that God would like us to live.

Much other research indicates that people are deeply spiritually, but they just do not like going to church. And in turn, given the role of two income families, extended children's and parents' agendas, people tend to give church a low priority. In a phrase, many in Western Society see church, faith and Jesus, as "consumer commodities." This is not a broad sweeping generalization. It is a bold reality of our culture.

Some suggest, whereas in the past, the church help define people; the modern reality is that they tend to define themselves by shopping! One of the leading remedies for depression is "retail therapy". This an interesting image, that at some point, bears examination.

Sadly, we sometimes market Jesus as a commodity. Sometimes people shop for a church or shop for a view of Jesus that they feel meets their needs. With this consumer model, we have created God in the image of man. Sometimes Jesus is portrayed as having the values and mind of a white, blue-eyed, middle-class American instead of a swarthy, Mediterranean Jew of 2000 years ago. Therefore, how do we respond to this complex dilemma?

In part, the post-modern church that wants to grow must learn to be more "user friendly." Some define user friendly as being – friendly, functional, fellowship and flexible. In the past, people often chose churches according to family ties, community identification and denomination loyalty. In many ways, we can say these were "head centered" decisions. Today, people often choose a church where they feel emotionally supported. Today, people often choose a church based on "heart centered" decisions. In terms of adapting to being more user friendly, it must be noted that traditional denominations often face greater struggles adopting and adapting than newer denominations because they have a longer history and more entrenched attitudes to overcome.

While we cannot address the full breadth of this complex issue, let us look at one aspect, which in turn, can shed light on the evolving church. We could spend time outlining issues regarding images of "hatch, match and dispatch," however, for brevity, let us look at weddings.

First, I see every request as genuine. As such, I try meeting the emotional needs of the people rather than laying out church doctrine. Sadly, I have heard of many stories where clergy tried to force couples into coming to church. This perpetuates the perception that the church knows best and further drives people away. As for me, I operate with a very different approach. I try to

meet the couple's emotional and spirituality needs while upholding the church. When couples approach me for marriage, I hand them a copy of our Marriage and Wedding booklet. In this material, we say we undertake marriage building not wedding construction.

Apart from many years of parish ministry, I come to pre-marital education from an academic and professional background. In 1996, I earned an M.Ed degree where I wove adult learning theories with images of couples preparing for marriage. In turn, for many years I chaired the Diocesan Marriage Committee. In addition, I served for four years on the national marriage committee. I heard countless views and thoughts. I heard clergy who wanted weddings removed from the church. And, I both read an article from an esteemed colleague, Reverend Dr. David Rolfe, and heard him speak saying that when couples come to us requesting to be married in the church "we owe them excellence." I hold that thought every time I meet with a couple (in fact I hold this as a benchmark for much of my ministry). Sometimes, even though I know it is highly unlikely I see the couple following the wedding, I still quietly try to present Jesus and the church as a supportive community.

Besides focusing on the needs of couples seeking marriage, I see this approach as quiet evangelism. We do not read of an "over the top" ministry of Jesus. Instead, we read of Jesus who quietly walked with people and entered their lives. In many cases, he brought new vitality to people's lives and their relationships. In the evolving church, we must follow this path.

Finally, we must also somehow help people shift from the image of, **"it's all about me,"** to **"how I can go spiritually into myself to grow, and also learn serve others."**

Clearly, many questions are before us. When we consider these questions of the evolving church, we can begin to understand how Western Christianity, the Episcopal Church, our diocese, our congregation can face the future.

As always,

David +



If you are interested in being Confirmed by Bishop Baxter, on Sunday, November 29, please call me, 843-3868, so we can schedule times together and determine topics of interest.

### Email to David

Recently we discovered that email being sent to:

rector@st.andrewsyork.org,  
david@st.andrewsyork.org, and  
priest@st.andrewsyork.org

were not forward to djr6@comcast.net. It seems they were being filtered as spam! Thus, if you sent an email to one of these addresses it was lost. This was most unfortunate because I respond to email and phone messages. This is good management and good pastoral care.

### Newcomers Wine and Cheese

**This fall we will host another Newcomers Wine and Cheese. The date will be announced in the near future.**

We are blessed to have Deacon Carol providing us much leadership. Currently, Carol is pulling together the research report of the Worship Survey. When she has this completed those who offered submissions will meet, review the material and then publish the results. The completed report will be sent to the Worship Committee and Vestry. Carol will also take this report and use it to help her in dealing with the Mutual Ministry Review. With these instruments in place the Vestry will develop short term and long term ministry goals. In today's church we must be proactive. We must set goals. In the past, instead of setting goals, congregations, and diocese sometimes got caught in the trap of responding or reacting to situations. Thus, much energy was spent dealing with the past, or present circumstance without moving forward. Besides undertaking these substantial efforts, Carol traveled to General Convention of the

Episcopal Church where she volunteered her services while Harry undertook his duties as one of our Diocesan Deputies.

**This fall, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, will spend a few days in the diocese. We are planning to attend a diocesan service being held on Saturday, September 12, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill. If you are interested in attending, please call the office - 843-3868. We may book a bus for this event!**

Here is an interesting Creed written by a Confirmation Class. The source is unknown.

#### Crede Formamentum 2009

We believe in a God  
of mystery, peace and love, who created  
and continues to create the universe.  
By this creative energy, God heals,  
evolves, and resurrects.

We believe in Jesus, the Son of God,  
who opened the door for us  
to know and love God,  
was crucified for His teachings,  
died, and was buried.  
His life infuses his disciples,  
who have resurrected him  
and spread his teachings around the  
world.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is given to  
each human to love others,  
and whose energy infiltrates us all.

We, as children of God, are called:  
to be co-creators of the universe,  
to be in communion with other

Christians,  
to be in fellowship with those who are  
seeking,  
to be inspired by others speaking truth,  
to accept God's grace and power,  
to evangelize, and to actively cultivate  
our relationship with God.

adequate copies of materials. I thank you. -  
David

## **An Evening Exploring the Episcopal Experience**

a.k.a. - "An 4E Night"

**Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> - 7 PM**

For this program, we are soliciting opinions and thoughts on what topics people would like to explore. Given the potential of a number of topics, several evenings would be dedicated to this opportunity. For example, people might be interested in various Episcopal liturgical practices, or Episcopal history, or the development of the Book of Common Prayer. Other potential questions may be, "How is the Episcopal Church governed?" In turn, people might be interested in an Episcopal overview of scriptures.

**What specific topics would you like  
addressed?**

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I will structure the evenings based on these results. The dates will be announced later in the summer. In addition, while you can fill out this sheet anonymously, it would be help to glean some idea who might attend these evening. Thus, you can sign either this sheet or email me - djr6@comcast.net. In this way I can prepare

### **A Note: General Convention 2009 From Deputy Harry H. Snell, III**

Carol and I have returned from 13 days in Anaheim California where the Episcopal Church gathers triennially to discuss our Mission and Business as it relates to our Church. We brought lots of information home to share with you. Bishop Baxter held a General Convention Review on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

More detailed information for those interested will be made available in the near future.

## *Scripture Reading for August*

August 2	2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a	Psalm 51:1-13	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
August 9	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	Psalm 130	Ephesians 4:25—5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
August 16	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	Psalm 111	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
August 23	1 Kings 8:1, 6, 1-11, 22-30, 41-43	Psalm 84	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
August 30	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

June 7	8:00 a.m. - 45	10:30 a.m. - 80	10 a.m. - Wed. - 12
June 14	8:00 a.m. - 47	10:30 a.m. - 80	10 a.m. - Wed. - 15
June 21	8:00 a.m. - 47	10:30 a.m. - 71	10 a.m. - Wed. - 15
June 28	8:00 a.m. - 33	10:30 a.m. - 83	10 a.m. - Wed. - 12
July 5	8:00 a.m. - 35	10:30 a.m. - 77	10 a.m. - Wed. - 11

### NEW X WORK

a newsletter by and for the St.  
Andrew's community

#### Editors

Nancy Bush  
Neita Houseal

#### Bulk Mailing Support

Bert & Bill Campbell  
Edna Douglas  
Dolores McBride  
Gloria Moore  
David Sipe  
Stacy Sipe

#### Contributors

Jenn Fimiani  
David Robson  
Alma Rooney  
Dan Rooney  
Ed Stogoski  
Mary J. Watt

### PARISH MILESTONES

#### *Baptism*

Andrew John Clark on June 28, 2009

On July 5, 2009  
Arieta Lee Beamesderfer  
Ava Madelyn Beamesderfer,  
Claire Sophia Beamesderfer,  
Coen Michael Beamesderfer

#### *Change of Address & Phone No. & E-mail Address*

Terry Kline  
CURRENTLY: PO Box 61712  
Harrisburg, PA 17106  
AFTER: September 11, 2009:  
395 Pebble Beach Dr.  
Mt. Wolf, PA 17347  
Phone 717-266-0776

**The St. Andrews Third Annual Golf Outing** will be held Saturday, September 12th at Springwood Golf Course with a 12 Noon Shotgun Start. This Golf Outing will benefit the Journey To Adulthood kids on their 2011 Pilgrimage as well as other youth mission trips. We are looking for hole sponsors, donation of baskets to be raffled, and items that can be raffled including gift cards, gift certificates, etc. We also will be in need of donations of soda and water as we near the Golf Outing date. We are also looking for players.

Please contact Ed Stogoski at 717-246-6370 if you have any questions. Thanks for your support.

## From Your Parish Disaster Preparedness Committee

### AUGUST: "Hurricane Safety"

Hurricane season officially starts June 1st and lasts until November 30th. Hurricanes can sometimes spawn tornadoes. If you live in a hurricane prone area, make sure you know where all of the evacuation routes are. Always listen to the radio and television for the latest information and instructions for your area.

A HURRICANE WATCH issued for your part of the coast indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This WATCH should trigger your family's disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated. Especially, those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat and leaving a barrier island.

A HURRICANE WARNING issued for your part of the coast indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once this WARNING has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

#### BEFORE A HURRICANE:

Have a disaster plan.

Have a pet plan. Before a storm threatens, contact your veterinarian or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency.

Board up windows.

Bring in outdoor objects that could blow away.

Make sure you know which county or parish you live in.

Know where all the evacuation routes are.

Prepare a disaster supplies kit for your home and car. Have enough food and water for at least 3 days. Include a first aid kit, canned food and a can opener, bottled water, battery-operated radio, flashlight, protective clothing and written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water.

Have a NOAA weather radio handy with plenty of batteries, so you can listen to storm advisories.

Have some cash handy. Following a hurricane, banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed.

Make sure your car is filled with gasoline.

#### DURING A HURRICANE:

Stay away from low-lying and flood prone areas.

Always stay indoors during a hurricane, because strong winds will blow things around.

Leave mobile homes and to go to a shelter.

If your home isn't on higher ground, go to a shelter.

If emergency managers say to evacuate, then do so immediately.

#### AFTER A HURRICANE:

Stay indoors until it is safe to come out.

Check for injured or trapped people, without putting yourself in danger.

Watch out for flooding which can happen after a hurricane.

Do not attempt to drive in flooding water.

Stay away from standing water. It may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.

Don't drink tap water until officials say its safe to do so.

## *August Birthdays*

01 - Charles Leigh  
03 - Sarah Myers  
05 - Denise Sutton  
05 - Dennis Heinle  
06 - Mary Jane Watt  
08 - John Wampler  
09 - Katherine Leigh  
10 - Penny Dixon  
11 - Karen Rutter  
13 - Norma Bankenstein  
13 - Kathryn Singer  
14 - James Gemmill  
14 - Abigail Tarburton  
15 - Collin Raborn  
15 - Nancy Young  
15 - Robin Chamberlin  
15 - Mitchell Clarke  
15 - Rev. Hilary J. Smits  
16 - Harry Snell V  
16 - Franklin Cornish  
16 - Caitlyne Mackin  
16 - Samuel Rooney  
16 - Mary Stevenson  
17 - Autumn Ayers  
17 - Cordell Kline  
19 - William Reardon  
19 - Gary Dixon  
22 - Amy Bracher  
22 - Elizabeth Clarke  
23 - James Clark  
23 - David Strausbaugh  
25 - Diane Folkenroth  
25 - John Kildea  
25 - Kathleen (Myers) Raborn  
26 - Connie Simons  
27 - Gary Copenhaver  
27 - Skylar Newman  
28 - Robert Vaughn

If your birthday is not listed  
please call Neita at the church  
office 843-3868.

## *August Anniversaries*

07 - Daniel & Tiffeny Hall  
08 - Paul & Becky Hoeft  
12 - Mary & Christopher Blood  
13 - Patrick & Dina Ishler  
22 - Frederic & Mary Stevenson  
22 - Larry & Dorothea Troutman  
24 - Steve & Donna Welty

If your anniversary is not listed  
please call Neita at the church office  
843-3868.

### **The Rt. Rev. Dr. Nathan D. Baxter, Bishop of Central Pennsylvania**

#### ***Diocesan Mission Statement***

We are partners in Christ with the  
love of God  
on our lips and in our lives.

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**Diocesan Web Site -  
[www.diocesecpa.org](http://www.diocesecpa.org)**

## **ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Rev. Dr. David J. Robson,  
*Rector*  
The Rev. Frederic G. Stevenson,  
*Pastoral Associate*  
The Rev. Charlene Leigh-Koser,  
*Pastoral Assistant*  
The Rev. Carol B. Snell, *Deacon*  
Susan B. Stiller,  
*Interim Organist/Choir Director*  
Alma Rooney,  
*Christian Education Director*  
Magali Blount, *Nursery Attendent*  
Neita Houseal, *Parish Secretary*  
Granger Reid, *Sexton*  
Nancy Bush, *Senior Warden*  
Philip Blaker, *Junior Warden*  
Andy Krebs, *Treasurer*  
Al Hassett, *Financial Secretary*

#### **Vestry Members**

Philip Blaker  
Leigh Dalton  
Ralph Dixon, Jr.  
Ron Fimiani  
Alyce Peiffer  
Dan Rooney  
Harry Snell, III  
Tom Watt  
Paul Weber

#### ***St. Andrew=s Mission Statement***

It is our purpose to serve  
Christ and his people through  
faithful worship, study,  
ministry, and mission,  
so as to reflect  
God=s love for all.

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**St. Andrew's Web Site -  
[www.standrewsyork.org](http://www.standrewsyork.org)**

#### **Deadline for 2009 Net X Work**

August 10<sup>th</sup> for September newsletter  
September 14<sup>th</sup> for October newsletter  
October 12<sup>th</sup> for November newsletter

#### **Notice From The Office**

**Bulletin Deadline each week is  
Wednesday 8 a.m.**

## **Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!**

### **Time is running out to make your reservations for the ECW Cape May Retreat.**

The weekend of September 25-27<sup>th</sup> the women of the Diocese will gather at the Marquis de Lafayette Hotel in Cape May for fellowship and a bit of "girl" fun. The retreat leader is our own Carol Snell and will be based on the book by Ann Lindbergh, "Gifts of the Sea."

Friday night is the "meet & greet". Saturday morning starts with Eucharist on the beach so you want to be sure take your lawn chair or beach blanket. Several learning and soul nurturing sessions are held on Saturday to led by Carol and of course on Saturday afternoon time to visit the unique shops of Cape May to bring back that "little something" for those at home. On Sunday morning we'll attend the 8:00 am services at the local Episcopal Church followed by a wonderful breakfast at our hotel before we head for home.

Rates vary depending on the room selection and the number of persons in the room for example a triple (3 persons ) in a Victoria room would be \$131.96 each for the weekend, and 3 in a Cape May Suite would be \$153.36 each and this includes breakfast both mornings. Reservations are due by August 21<sup>st</sup> by calling Joan Haber ext 151 at 800-257-0432. So everyone can take advantage of the various group rates in the rooms, let Carol Snell, Lynn Robson or Alyce Peiffer know if you are planning to attend and would like a roommate.

Hope to see all you Ladies there!!

## **Mark your calendar**

CROP Walk will be held Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **God's Master Class**

### **New Adult (YAC and up), evening, Lay-led Christian Studies of the Arts.**

Starting this Fall St. Andrew's would like to offer a look at the arts and the Christian Faith Journey.

Our mission is to have participants bring along those Art inspirations (Music, art, literature, etc.) that have brought them closer to God.

Webster defines A master class as a class given to students of a particular discipline by an expert of that discipline—usually music, but also painting, drama, or any of the arts. Within this series God will be the expert within our own personal faith journey.

This group will not involve agendas, pledges, planning, or budgets. Just fellowship, friendship and most of all a reverence and worship of Christ's majesty. Attendance will be fluid with everyone welcome at anytime. Guests are encouraged.

We are hoping to have childcare available.

If interested, please contact Jennifer Fimiani ([jfimiani@epix.net](mailto:jfimiani@epix.net)) or Robin Chamberlin.

Dates and times to follow. Jennifer Fimiani 717-843-9440

# Sunday School News

Volunteer opportunities abound in this coming year! Please consider helping with the special events that St. Andrews offers. If you are interested in any of these opportunities please contact Alma Rooney 854-1860 or snowvetta@msn.com

- September 13<sup>th</sup>      2 volunteers to help with Sunday School Registration
- October 4              Blessing of the Animals service; bring your pets and have them blessed or enjoy other people's pets.
- October 31            Halloween Open House come and help hand out candy
- All Saint's Procession      2 volunteers to help organize the Sunday School procession in and out of the church
- Shut-in Gift bags      2 volunteers to coordinate the craft, making of the craft and delivery of the bags
- Advent Pageant      This is being coordinated by Blythe Sobel and Lauren Farah; if you are interested in helping please let them know.
- Palm Saturday      Volunteers to coordinate this fun day.
- Procession of the Palms 2 volunteers to help organize the Sunday School procession in and out of the church
- Festival of the Spirit 2 Volunteers to coordinate this fun day for all
- VBS                      2 volunteers to coordinate a week long fun filled Vacation Bible School

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER	13	9:15	Covered Dish Breakfast with Sunday School Registration
			Penny vote for Sunday School Charity
		10:30	Commissioning Sunday School Teachers
	20	10:15	Sunday School Classes begin
	27	10:15	Regular Sunday School
OCTOBER			
	4	10:00	Blessing of the Animals
		10:40	Morning Prayer Service (No Sunday School)