

The eNET

St Andrew's Episcopal Church Newsletter

New Providence, New Jersey

March 2009

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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

Henry Nouwen writes,
"In the midst of a turbulent, often chaotic, life we are called to reach out with courageous honesty to our innermost self, with restless care to our fellow human beings, and with increasing prayer to our God. To do that, however, we must face and explore our inner restlessness, our mixed feelings toward others, and our deep-seated suspicions about the absence of God."

Lent is the opportunity to give ourselves time and space to reflect on inner work. Do you need a chance to explore your restlessness or to find a fresh way to pray? St. Ignatius calls it an examen of conscience, when we ask what is it that guides us.

Take me anywhere Lord, only go thou with me. The hope is that we stay connected to Jesus on the journey to Jerusalem and to the cross. These "Forty Days of Healing" mark the acceptable time for seeking reconciliation with God.

In Christ,

Peggy+

The Reverend Margaret Hodgkins
Rector

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR LENTEN STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP

Thursday Eves during Lent March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 2

6pm	Evening Prayer
6:30pm	Simple Supper
7pm	Lenten Study "Peace & Compassion" Meditations to Heal a Hurting World
8pm	Choir Rehearsal

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church & School Saturday, March 7 10am-12pm

Meet our rector, Peggy Hodgkins
school director, Mary Donohue
and members of the St. Andrew's parish community

Learn about our wonderful ministries, nursery school & kindergarten, and
summer camp.

Take a tour of our facilities and beautiful grounds.

Refreshments will be served.

Come join us to learn about us!

For more information, please call our church office at (908) 464-4875.

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Sundays

March 1: 1 Lent

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir
11:30-Forum, "Diocesan Convention Report" given by
our delegates to the convention

March 8: 2 Lent

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir
11:30-Forum, "Just Neighbors"

March 15: 3 Lent

Sunday School Youth Service
8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir
11:30-Forum, "Just Neighbors"

March 22: 4 Lent

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir
11:30-Forum, "Just Neighbors"

March 29: 5 Lent

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am-Bible Study with the Rector
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir
11:30-Forum, "Just Neighbors"

Midweek Eucharist every Wednesday at 11:35am

(Timed so that nursery school parents & teachers can join us.)

MARCH YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Senior Youth Group

- March 8 "Bring a Friend" Sunday
Sunday Night Eucharist at 5pm in sanctuary, followed by a meeting with dinner at 6pm in the parish hall
- March 22 Senior Youth Group & J2A Movie Fundraiser in parish hall

Junior Youth Group

- March 15 Junior Youth Group, 6pm in the parish hall
- March 22 Senior Youth Group & J2A Movie Fundraiser in parish hall
- March 29 Junior Youth Group, 6pm in the parish hall

Friends are always welcome at Youth Group activities!

TREASURY TALKING POINTS

Below are highlights of the treasury report from the last vestry meeting:

- January 2009 was a slow one financially for St. Andrews.
- January income finished at 80% of our budgeted target: \$24,925.69 vs. budget of \$30,984.73 -- about \$6,000 short.
- January expenses finished over-budget by \$1,816.07: \$46,045.43 vs. budget of \$44,229.36.
- Finally, Net Ordinary Income (Income less expenses before investments) for January finished at -\$21,119.74 vs. budget of -\$13,244.63 -- missing budget by \$7,875.11.
- Net Ordinary Income shows the combined effects of being under on income and over on expenses.
- We did generate \$650 in investment income in January, and so our final January Net Income (Income less expenses plus investments) finished at -\$20,469.74.

SUMMER TIME MEANS CAMP TIME!

Action Campers Begins in June

Chill of winter got you dreaming about the joys of summer?

It's time to begin thinking about enrolling your child in our wonderful summer day camp. We provide a fun-filled, enriching summer program which includes music, arts & crafts, water and sand play, sports and games, and special weekly entertainment. Our camp program is for the children of St. Andrew's Church & Nursery School as well as children from the surrounding communities. Our dedicated teaching staff is trained in CPR and First Aid as well as being trained under the requirements of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey for abuse awareness.

Action Campers runs nine weeks, starting June 8 and ending August 7.

Primary Campers - 5 Day Program

4-7 year olds, from 9am-1:30pm

Wee Campers - 5 Day Program

3 year olds, from 9am-noon

Enrollments are now being accepted. For more information, please call the parish office at (908) 464-4875.

Looking forward to a fun-filled summer with your kids!

Terry Machin, Action Campers Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT

Sunday School Spring Happenings

Youth Sunday Service is March 15

Come and see our Sunday School children in Grades 6-Preschool be a part of the Youth Service on March 15! We are all getting ready in Sunday School! A red altar Communion bread will be baked and special drawings made for the bulletin cover. We will have readers, ushers, acolytes and singers! The youth sermon will be by Rev. Peggy and Joyce Kern, which is a Godly Play story called "The Ten Best Ways" and about the Ten Commandments. Please note that we have regular Sunday School and parents are asked to have the children in class promptly at 9:45 so we can prepare for the service and be in the processional at 10am. We will sit in the front pews since children in all the classes will take part in the service.

Spring Schedule for Children and their Families

March 15: Youth Sunday; classes meet at 9:45 in classroom to prepare and process for service.

March 8: Last day for Winter Term teachers; March 15 is the first day for Spring Term teachers!

April 12: Easter Sunday, Flowering of the Cross at 10am Service.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL; NURSERY ONLY

EASTER EGG HUNT, following the 10am Easter Service;

Rain or shine; bring a basket!

Teacher Appreciation

Many thanks go to each of the Winter Term Teachers for a wonderful winter session! A big welcome to the Spring Term Teachers for continuing to make it possible for children to have a religious education each Sunday. You are all serving God as teachers by building a foundation of faith at St. Andrew's!

Information about the Season of Lent

Liturgical Color: purple, for royalty and penitence (being sorry); Ashes: prepared from the previous year's palms for Ash Wednesday to symbolize our mortality and sorrow for our sins; Vestments: more solemn and flowers may be omitted from the altar. Shrove Tuesday: the day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a custom to use up all milk, eggs and fat, not allowed in the strict fasting of Lent.

Lent at Home

Lent can be a time to find a quiet place with your child...discover the Bible by reading or listening to stories; read about Lent in the Take Home papers; open the Book of Common Prayer and discover the prayers, services, and Outline of Faith; discuss the Golden Rule; read the Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments; talk about what it means to be a Christian: a follower of Jesus' teachings; talk about how to help others; attend church Lenten events and activities as a family.

Lenten Outreach Project

We will make Easter Cards for Mariners during Lent! Who are mariners? They are people who are working on ships at sea and on the river. The Seamen's Institute sends gift packages with the cards tucked inside to mariners who are away from their homes, families and children. We will do an outreach project that goes around the world!

Come, experience and share the seasons of Lent and Easter with your child at St. Andrew's!

Joyce Kern, Director of Religious Education

VARIED UNDERSTANDINGS: DIFFERENT LENSES PROVIDE DIFFERENT VIEWS OF SCRIPTURE

By Katharine Jefferts Schori, February 24, 2009 [Episcopal Life]

The primates' meeting has come and gone, and I'm sure there will have been abundant commentary by the time this is published. I'd like to reflect on some of the deeper issues behind our conversations about sexuality, particularly the influence of our understanding of gender. The most intriguing conversation I had in Alexandria was with a primate who asked how same-sex couples partition "roles." He literally asked if one was identified as the wife and one as the husband, and then wanted to know which one promised to obey the other in the marriage ceremony. Several of us explained that marriage in the West is most often understood as a partnership of equals, and has been for some time.

Those of you with a few more years on you may remember that the marriage service in the 1928 (and earlier versions) of the Book of Common Prayer did indeed have language about the wife obeying her husband. It's pertinent here to note that the 1662 English Book of Common Prayer is still the norm in many provinces of the Anglican Communion, and it uses the same kind of language about obeying in the marriage service.

As I traveled from the airport to the hotel where we met, I noticed that almost every woman on the street past childhood was veiled, with at least her hair covered with a scarf, and in a not-small number of cases, covered head to toe in a long, flowing garment. I even observed a couple of women whose coverings were so thorough that I couldn't even see a slit for their eyes -- the fabric must have been thin enough for them to see through, but not for others to see in. The hotel had only a handful of female employees, mostly professional women who worked behind the desk. Only a couple of them wore no scarf.

The striking thing was that the meeting room where the primates' deliberations took place, the hotel's largest and principal conference room, was bedecked with several large paintings of half-naked women. It was a space that, in normal circumstances, apparently was used only by men. I found it striking that public expectations of women are modest dress and covering, yet there is evidently a rather different attitude toward men's entertainment.

These complex and conflicting gender expectations have something significant to do with attitudes there and in other parts of the world toward male homosexuality. The greatest difficulty in many cultures, including parts of North American society, is the perception that one of the partners in such a union must be acting like a woman -- and that is most definitely not a socially desirable status! It is an attitude directly involved in the handful of scriptural references to male homosexuality in the Hebrew Bible. The New Testament references have more to do with abusive and exploitative behavior.

At the same time, one could readily observe public behavior in Egypt that would be identified as same-sex affection in our own culture -- women and men holding hands with others of the same gender. Yet in that culture it is seen merely to express friendship and is not associated with sexuality.

All of which is to suggest that all of us read Scripture through the lenses we have -- our cultural norms, our scientific understanding and our theological understanding of the purpose of marriage. We also privilege particular parts of Scripture in the way we build our lectionaries.

One morning at worship at the primates' meeting, we heard the reading from Corinthians that says women should be quiet in church and ask their husbands at home if they have questions (1Cor 14:33b-35). It was followed by the Gospel passage that recounts Salome and Herodias' request for the head of John the Baptist. I don't believe that section of the Gospel, alone, is ever read at Eucharist in the Episcopal Church -- because there is precious little good news in it.

I had one other pertinent encounter in Fort Worth, Texas, after the primates' meeting. I was greeting a long line of people at the end of the day of the reorganizing convention for the diocese. I spoke with a man in a wheelchair who appeared to have had a stroke.

The next person in line began by telling me that the guy in the wheelchair was a retired obstetrician/gynecologist and that "he's the most interesting gay man I know, and I'm proud to call him a friend." Rather an unusual conversation starter. And then he went on to say, "All of this is really about male supremacy, isn't it?" His words, not mine, but worth consideration.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

(The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori is presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church.)

GARDENING NEWS

Spring MUST be just around the corner, because GOSA activity begins this month!

Our kick-off meeting will take place after the 10am service on **March 8**.

Please join us for this meeting to discuss some gardening thoughts for 2009.

Our 2009 gardening calendar has been finalized and has been distributed to our dedicated group.

The St. Andrew's Spring Parish-wide Garden Clean-up will take place on **Saturday, April 18** from 9am-1pm, and our GOSA Garden Gathering Clean-up and Flower Planting will be on **Saturday, May 16** from 9am-1pm. We are seeking additional hands to help us on these days. Come spring, there is plenty to do around our landscaped grounds! Gardening experience not required, just a desire to help make our church gardens beautiful this spring.

Remember our GOSA motto: *WE can do it, YOU can help!*

Please contact Joyce Kern or Rick Anderson, GOSA Co-Chairpersons, with any questions.

ANTI-RACISM TRAINING: TEACHING/ADVANCED ORGANIZING

When: April 29 to May 2

Where: Ocean Grove Conference Center, Ocean Grove, NJ

To those who have previously attended a two-and-a-half day ART workshop: you are encouraged to attend this three-and-a-half day advanced workshop on anti-racism. This workshop, part of the training series, also facilitated by Crossroads Anti-Racism Training and Organizing, is designed to develop specific skills to continue to help our diocese. Issues of racism and the specific tasks we need to undertake to dismantle racism will be viewed from spiritual, ethical, political and social perspectives. There will be opportunities for worship, sharing our experience and practicing the work of the team members. The goal is to equip participants to carry out anti-racist actions and to combat racism within institutions and society.

If you have questions about the training or the anti-racism work of our diocese, please feel free to contact Rev. Terrence W. Rosheuvel at (732) 747-1039.

Note: Tuition, course materials, overnight lodging and all meals are provided at no cost to participants. Participants may choose to "commute" and not stay overnight. Full participation in all workshop sessions and meals is required, so that the group can share the full, common experience.

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA!

St. Andrew's has a number of parish activities needing image media recordings, such as baptisms, special services, St. Francis Blessing of the Animals, fundraising events, Children's Time during the 10am service, Bishop's visit, Confirmation, Welcome Back Picnic, and other church events.

We are seeking active members of the parish who enjoys photography to take photos of various church events throughout the year, sometimes on a candid, impromptu basis. These images would be stored for use on posters, publicity, eNETs, our church website and St. Andrew's historical archives. If you have an interest, please contact Rick Anderson.

A GAELIC BLESSING

*Deep peace of the
running wave to you.*

*Deep peace of the
flowing air to you.*

*Deep peace of the
quiet earth to you.*

*Deep peace of the
shining stars to you.*

*Deep peace of the
gentle night to you.*

*Moon and stars pour
their healing light on you.*

*Deep peace of Christ,
the light of the world to you.*

John Rutter,
arrangement of a Gaelic blessing

WORKSHOP INTRODUCING BREAD FOR THE WORLD'S 2009 OFFERING OF LETTERS CAMPAIGN

When: Saturday, March 7 from 8:45am-12:30pm

Where: Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Avenue, Newark

- What if our nation could help thousands or even millions more people around the world lift themselves out of hunger and poverty...without spending more money?

- What if fighting hunger, poverty and disease in sensible, sustainable ways was the cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy?
- What if our nation partnered with vulnerable communities to find solutions together?

"What if" is coming in 2009. Congress plans to reform foreign assistance on a massive scale in 2009 -- wholesale reform that hasn't been seen since 1961. Join us in 2009 for Bread's Offering of Letters as we press Congress to modernize Foreign Aid and make poverty assistance more effective, more sustainable, and more important as an expression of U.S. policy.

For more info, please call (973) 497-4341 or email furlanca@rcan.org.

USHER NEWS

USHERING TAKES ONLY ONE LITTLE HOUR A MONTH!

Seeking adult and youth ushers for both the 8am and 10am services. Ushering is an important part of the service, but not a difficult task for anyone. Please help us out! We are flexible, and our monthly ushering schedule will fit your schedule. **GIVE IT A TRY!**

Please contact Les Medford (8am) at 582-4676 or Rick Anderson (10am) at 464-8911. Usher instructions provided.

SUNDAY FUNNIES

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

(Thank you, Tom Kelsey, for this submission!)

THE ST. ANDREW'S ENDOWMENT FUND CELEBRATES ITS FIRST BIRTHDAY

The St. Andrew's Endowment Fund is now one year old! The fund exists to enable the Parish to more completely fulfill its mission by developing its ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating fund. Distributions are limited to capital needs of the Parish, outreach ministries or grants, to establish seed money for new ministries, special one-time projects and such other purposes as are specifically designated by donors. Funds are invested in a balanced investment account at Vanguard.

One of the missions of the Endowment Board is to raise the awareness of the fund and encourage long-term planned giving by parishioners of St. Andrew's. Donations can be made by outright gifts of cash or securities, bequest through one's will or trust, or by naming the Endowment Fund as a beneficiary to retirement accounts or life insurance policies. Anyone interested in making a gift can speak to any of the board members: Bob Ashmun, Amy Evans, Dave Hannaford, David Morris or Tom Kelsey. All gifts or bequests should be made in the name of St. Andrew's Endowment Fund.

UPCOMING EVENT AT ALL SAINTS' IN SCOTCH PLAINS

On **Thursday, March 19**, All Saints' Church in Scotch Plains will host The Rev. Peter Stimpson from Trinity Counseling Center in Princeton. He will talk about facing such issues as the crumbling economy -- losing one's job, being unable to pay the mortgage -- while still maintaining faith. Where is God? How do we pray? How can we continue in faith?

The evening will begin with a potluck supper at 6:30pm, followed by the lecture afterwards at approximately 7:30pm.

For more information, please call (908) 322-8047.

A DAY OF GODLY PLAY

Sponsored by the Diocese of New Jersey: Committee on Lifelong Formation.
Leader: The Rev. Emily Griffin, Asst. Rector, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church,
Pennington.

This day-long workshop offers both an introduction to Godly Play and a refresher for those already using this method of spiritual formation. After experiencing a complete Godly Play session and exploring storytelling techniques, we will examine issues of classroom management and teacher roles, learn techniques for deepening wondering and art response with different age groups, and conclude with a session on classroom space and materials (aka, Godly Play on a budget!).

When: **Saturday March 14 from 9am-3:30pm**

Cost: \$25 per person, lunch included. \$60 maximum per parish.

Where: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 300 South Main Street, Pennington
(609) 737-0985

Register by Friday March 6

Registration: Email preferred to spaige@newjersey.anglican.org. Or fax registration form (see Joyce or Peggy) to (609) 394-9546, mail form, or phone Sarah Paige at (609) 394-5281, ext. 10.

HELP PREVENT SUICIDE

CONTACT We Care is the 24-hour caring and crisis hotline offering the gift of listening to callers in need throughout New Jersey. Part of a nationwide network of crisis hotlines affiliated with CONTACT USA and, internationally, with Lifeline International, CONTACT We Care is dedicated to preventing suicide and making a positive difference in people's lives. The service, provided by highly trained volunteers, is free and confidential.

CONTACT's local hotline number is (908) 232-2880.

Interested in volunteering? Please see CONTACT's website at contactwecare.org for more information on its volunteer training programs.

CONTACT We Care is also a member of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, for which it answers calls to 1 (800) SUICIDE and 1 (800) 273-TALK. CONTACT is the primary responder to calls made to these national hotline numbers from many area codes within New Jersey.

VESTRY RETREAT

Saturday, March 14 from 9am-1pm at All Saints in Millington.

VESTRY DAY WITH BISHOP COUNCELL

When: **Saturday, March 21 from 9:30am-2:30pm**

Cost: \$10, lunch provided

Where: Trinity Cathedral, 801 West State St., Trenton, NJ

Register by Friday, March 6

Registration by email is preferred to spaige@newjersey.anglican.org. Or fax registration form to (609) 394-9546, mail form, or phone Sarah Paige at (609) 394-5281, ext. 10.

Contact: The Rev. Canon Lee Powers at (609) 394-5281, ext. 21 or at lpowers@newjersey.anglican.org.

"Is Leadership of the Church Good for Your Soul?" - reflections by our bishop, who will also lead worship.

Workshops offered to equip rectors, wardens, finance officers and vestry members for their ministries include Chief Financial Officer Wanda Green of the Diocese, Robert Becker of the Diocesan Audit Committee, Trustees for the Diocesan Investment Trust, Chancellor John Goldsack on the Constitution and Canons of the church and the New Jersey Statutes applicable to the Episcopal church, and roles and responsibilities of clergy, vestry, financial officers, and wardens.

Elizabeth Jordan, *Editor*

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Deadline for April issue of the eNET is March 20.

Submissions may be edited.

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