

St Andrew's Episcopal Church Newsletter

New Providence, NJ

May 2009

In This Issue

WORSHIP & EDUCATION

MAY YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT

NURSERY SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

A NOTE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

WE NEED MORE USHERS!

UPCOMING DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS

ACTION CAMPERS

LOOKING AHEAD

SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY FORUM

A NEW CROSS FOR OUR CHURCH!

**PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT AT TRINITY
CATHEDRAL**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD
LEADERS!**

GARDENING NEWS

CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION

PARISH MILESTONES

THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE

HELP THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

OUTREACH

REACH OUT AND READ

ENDOWMENT FUND

From the Rector

PASTORAL MATTERS

Dear Friends,

Need to Talk?

Sometimes we need to talk to someone trustworthy: about life, relationships, stress, or God. Your priest and deacon are persons you can talk to when you need someone to listen to you, or when you are seeking spiritual counseling. All conversations are confidential.

In the Hospital?

Your priest and deacon would like to make a pastoral visit either before surgery or during hospitalization, and offer a prayer, if that would be supportive to you. We hope to serve the parish in this way. Unlike former days, current federal privacy laws keep clergy from knowing if you are in the hospital unless you or a family member tell us. Please know that the clergy will always honor your privacy. We will not put you on the prayer list at church unless you wish your name to be included in the Sunday prayers.

Updated Prayer List

Please help us keep the Sunday prayers current. Beginning June 1, we will start a fresh new prayer list. If you would like a name to be added or kept in the parish prayers, please give that name to Bridgett in the parish office at 464-4875 or info@standrewschurch.org. Thank you.

Communion for the Homebound

Eucharistic Ministry for the homebound is an important pastoral ministry of our church. Let Rev. Peggy know if you or a family member are not able to get to church and would like to receive the communion at home or in the hospital.

Yours in Christ,

Peggy+

The Rev. Margaret Hodgkins
Rector

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Sundays

May 3: 4 Easter

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
11:30am-Forum, "Neighborhood Watch/Home Security"
led by Dick Kern

May 10: 5 Easter

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

May 17: 6 Easter

**Guest Preacher and Celebrant:
The Rev. Peter Stimpson of Princeton, NJ**

8am-Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am-Bible Study
9:45am-Sunday School (PreK-Grade 6)
10am-Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir

May 24: 7 Easter

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
11:30am-Forum, "Loon: A Marine Story"

May 31: The Day of Pentecost

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
11:30am-Forum, "Godly Play" with Joyce Kern

Midweek Eucharist every Wednesday at 11:35am
(Timed so that nursery school parents and teachers can join us.)

MAY YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Senior Youth Group

- May 15-17 **Spring Youth Event**, Camp Lebanon, NJ
Register at www.newjerseyyouth.org
- May 30 **Relay for Life**, meet at Gov. Livingston High School, Berkeley Heights at 5:30pm. Contact Scotland Preston to sign up.
- June **Service Project**, watch for our **bake sale** in June to support the children of Trinitas Hospital.

Junior Youth Group

- May 3 Junior Youth Group meeting with dinner, 6pm
- May 15-17 **Spring Youth Event**, Camp Lebanon, NJ
Register at www.newjerseyyouth.org
- May 30 **Relay for Life**, meet at Gov. Livingston High School, Berkeley Heights at 5:30pm. Contact Scotland Preston to sign up.

Friends are always welcome at Youth Group activities!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT

2009-2010 Teacher Sign-up Time!

It's time to plan for Sunday School next year and I have a question for YOU! Why should YOU be a Sunday School teacher? Here is why: as a teacher YOU serve God in the Children's Ministry; YOU teach about God's Love, His word and Christian values; and YOU experience the scriptures and lessons by teaching!

Sign up with a friend, spouse or other interested adult as a co-teacher and choose a term. Student assistants can sign up for one term. The Teacher Sign-up Chart will be located on the bulletin board in the entry area until **June 14**. There are three terms to choose from: fall, winter and spring. You will be provided with excellent leader guide books by Rock Solid, Godly Play and Living The Good News Episcopal curriculum, which states: "We provide the curriculum lessons for class... YOU provide the LOVE." We would love to have you join us next year!

Godly Play "Wonders"

We had a wonderful half-year of Godly Play for Kindergarten and Grade 1! And now we have enough story sets and new bookcases in which to safely store these "wonder" filled sacred stories. We've had great comments from parents and children, too. Good News! Next year we will have a full year of Godly Play for some of our classes!

Early Communion Class

Early communion class is available this year for children in Grades 2 and 3. Classes will be held on two afternoons, **May 20** and **May 27**, from 3:30-4:30pm with Rev. Peggy and Joyce Kern. Early Communion will be held at the 10am service on **June 7**. The classes will include refreshments, lessons with Rev. Peggy, and making red altar communion bread with Joyce Kern. Please reply by email to Joyce at jodi1959@aol.com by **Wednesday, May 13** if your child can attend this important class.

Pentecost

We will have regular Sunday School classes on Pentecost, **May 31**. Please wear red to signify the "tongues of fire" which symbolize the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is known as the birthday of the church! It is the day that the Holy Spirit gave power to the church through the apostles to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Spring Program: "Caring for God's World"

Bring your child on **May 17** to learn about the beauty of nature, conservation, and serving the church by planting flowers during our regular Sunday School time. All grade levels will plant flowers in the round white containers located on the red door terrace. Each child will have the chance to plant a flower, learn how we can serve the church, sense the beauty of nature and then watch the flowers grow! A gardener once said, "How can a person look at a flower and not believe in God?"

Joyce Kern, Director of Religious Education

ST. ANDREW'S NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Late winter/early spring was a busy time for our school community. In February, the children were treated to performances by Stretch the Silly Man, courtesy of the Parents' Association. Many laughs and much silliness were enjoyed by all. As we moved into March, we celebrated *Read Across America Day* by coming to school in our pajamas to enjoy "bedtime" stories. In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, we ate red and white snacks like strawberries and marshmallows. The staff attended a professional development workshop on literacy development among young children. We were pleased to see so many of our own practices acknowledged as appropriate and necessary among early learners.

Families had the opportunity to come together for Craft Night. Students and siblings demonstrated their artistic prowess, making their mark on reusable tote bags and backpacks. Trying to be optimistic about the prospect of warmer days, all classes set their sights on exploring signs of spring. From robins and daffodils, lions and lambs, the classes used the season to connect learning in all curricular areas.

The year has gone by so quickly! We are looking forward to many festive end-of-year activities and before we know it, we will be welcoming new friends.

The children have come so far thanks to the gentle guidance and expertise of our staff. This is the time in a school year when you can't help but marvel at the process of education. We all consider it a privilege to play a part in the lives of these young children.

As always, the doors are open. Please feel free to visit our classes before the end of the year.

Mary Donohue, Director

A NOTE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Have you received your Stewardship 2009 thank you note this week? Through an error made in the parish office, 26 parish families did not receive their thank you notes in a timely manner. We at St. Andrew's appreciate your support of our church and ministries, and apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Bridgett Golubieski, Parish Administrator

HELP, WE DESPERATELY NEED NEW USHERS! Our 10am service usher group is dwindling!

Ushering is fun and easy to do! And it only takes an hour or so of your time each month. Give it a try and see how YOU can make a difference!

Anyone interested should contact either Les Medford (8am) at 582-4676 or Rick Anderson (10am) at 464-8911. Usher instructions are provided and scheduling is very flexible.

UPCOMING DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS

Spring Youth Event, Camp Lebanon in Lebanon, NJ

for 6-12 graders and their adult sponsors

May 15-17

\$75 per person (scholarship and early registration discounts available)

Camp Coast Care in Long Beach, Mississippi

for 16 year olds through just-graduated 12th graders

July 25-August 1

\$500 per person (scholarship and early registration discounts available)

register by June 1 and receive \$50 off!

Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, NJ

for all ages!

August 15

\$40 each (includes admission to two parks AND a catered lunch!)

quantity discounts available

SUMMERTIME MEANS CAMP TIME!

Action Campers Begins in June

It's time to think about enrolling your child in our wonderful summer day camp. We provide a fun-filled, enriching summer program which includes music, arts and 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, beginning 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. We're looking forward to a fun-filled summer with your kids!

Terry Machin, Action Campers Director

LOOKING AHEAD

June 6	Regional Confirmation, Grace Church in Plainfield
June 7	Early Communion for 2nd and 3rd Graders
June 8	Action Campers Begins (thru August 7)
June 14	Ice Cream Social, Last Day of Sunday School, Choir Recognition
June 21	Summer Schedule Begins -- One Service at 9am Berry Baptism
July 12	Recovery Sunday, a 12-Step Eucharist with Rev. Cathy Brunson at 9am

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY FORUM

Author Jack McLean will lead a forum on his new book, Loon, at 11:30am on **Sunday, May 24**, Memorial Day weekend. It is a memoir of his service in Vietnam while in the U.S. Marines. All are welcome to attend and join in the discussion.

COMING SOON: A NEW CROSS FOR OUR CHURCH!

After gracing the exterior stone wall of the St. Andrew's sanctuary for approximately 46 years, greeting all who enter our lovely landscaped grounds, our white wooden cross will soon be replaced. The wooden cross has withstood years of weather, but has been showing signs of wear and tear for some time now, and repairs have discovered rotting wood.

Earlier this year, parishioner and dedicated church office volunteer Pat Barry approached Rev. Peggy with an offer to financially support the replacement of the deteriorating cross with a new one, in memory of her late husband James, who is buried in our St. Francis Memorial Garden. Pat's offer was discussed at a Buildings & Grounds committee meeting in January, and a Cross Committee was formed to seek suppliers of a replacement cross. The Cross Committee obtained quotes from three suppliers, reviewed them with Pat, selected a supplier, and presented a formal new cross proposal at the April vestry meeting, which was approved. Delivery of the new cross should be around the end of May.

The new cross will be very similar to the existing cross, of Celtic style, approximately the same size and painted white, but fabricated out of aluminum, guaranteeing a long life. Details of both crosses, including photos of them, will be available to parishioners in the near future.

Please contact Cross Committee members Barbara Pape or Rick Anderson with any questions.

SUN & SHADOW - The Soul of Brazil: Photographs by Amber Palecek

Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, is host to a new exhibition of photographs by Amber Palecek. In 20 striking images, in both black & white and color, Palecek captures the many faces of the city of Salvador, Brazil, where she spent six weeks as a volunteer with Cross Cultural Solutions.

The exhibition will be in Synod Hall at Trinity Cathedral, 801 W. State Street, Trenton, until **June 26**. Please call for hours at (609) 392-3805.

Sponsored by *The Episcopal Church and Visual Arts* in the Diocese of New Jersey.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD LEADERS!

Would you be interested in spending time with our youth as a Journey to Adulthood leader? It's a fun and rewarding experience for all involved! Please contact Eileen Fairchild at either (908) 464-8799 or bobeikev@comcast.net for more information.

GARDENING NEWS

GOSA gardening activity began in April with our first Garden Work Party on the 18th. With 7 parishioners in attendance, we made a dent in our spring project list, but there's plenty more gardening to do and we could use some extra hands! PLEASE come out and join us, even for just an hour. It will make a difference!

Thanks to the following parishioners who helped out that day: Sheila Silverstein, Michelle Harlan, Jan Miller, Barbara Pape, Joyce Kern, Elizabeth Jordan and Rick Anderson.

Our next Garden Work Party will be on **Saturday, May 16** when planting of flowers in beds/containers will take place. Come out and have some fun planting with us!

Weekday Lay Weeders

If there are any parishioners interested in doing some light gardening during the week, either in the morning or afternoon for an hour or so, please contact Rick. Our once a month GOSA gardening work parties are just not enough time to accomplish what we need to do in the spring.

Seeking Fountain Friends

We are seeking parishioners to help us maintain the Memorial Garden fountain.

It is now back in operation, and we will need help this spring and summer keeping the water in the fountain clean and free of debris.

If you like playing with water, we NEED you! PLEASE help us out. The look and sound of the fountain adds such a special touch to the St. Francis Memorial Garden, where many find solace. Please contact Rick for details. Thanks.

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

Rick Anderson and Joyce Kern, GOSA Co-Chairpersons

CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION

Confirmation and Reception into the Episcopal Church will be held in our region of the diocese at Grace Church in Plainfield on **Saturday, June 6**, with our bishop, the Right Rev. George E. Councill. Please let Rev. Peggy know if you would like to take part.

PARISH MILESTONES

I regret to share with you the sad news of two deaths of former members of our parish:

Harold Milton Anderson, 99, was a former member and warden of St. Andrew's. Milton helped found the school system in New Providence. A service was held on May 2 at United Methodist Church, followed by a graveside burial service at St. Andrew's, with many family and friends in attendance.

Olive Prout Montaigne, 89, a former member of St. Andrew's, died March 6. A memorial service was already held in Kennett Square, PA. Her family plans a May 9 graveside burial service at St. Andrew's.

Please keep their families in your prayers.

Peggy+

THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA KNITTING PROGRAM

Thanks to all who have been knitting so diligently over the winter. We have a great array of knitted items already and hope to have many more by our November cut-off date.

During our recent Open House we were fortunate to have two new knitters join the program, both ladies from outside the parish.

Anyone needing extra yarn can see us after church any Sunday. We have a lot of new yarn in and more on the way. This ministry, which was started by Louise Anderson in 1992, has been growing every year since and we hope to keep up the good work.

Thank you!

June de Bang and Georgia Jervey

A STEWARD'S WORK...IS NEVER DONE!

Tom Macdonald is Chair of the Stewardship Committee and he is looking for anyone interested in participating to contact him by email at tom@skylandgroup.com or by phone at (908) 665-1100. Thanks!

OUTREACH

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY IN OUR AREA!

Food supplies at the pantries are critically low and we can all do our part to help our fellow neighbors obtain the essential nutrients they need. In order to do this we have set aside one Sunday each month to collect food for the Star-Fish Pantry in Plainfield. After the food is collected, we organize the food and deliver it to the pantry. Anyone who wishes to volunteer in helping with this drive, please contact either Sandy Davies or Diane Lapara.

Upcoming Food drive dates: May 17, June 21, July 19 and August 16.

Sandy Davies and Diane LaPara, Outreach Co-Chairs

REACH OUT AND READ

St. Andrew's has partnered with Reach Out and Read (ROR) as an outreach service. ROR is a national nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy by making books a routine part of pediatric care. At designated ROR sites, children are given age-appropriate books at each well visit from 6 months to age 5. **We will be collecting new books for distribution through ROR from now until June 3.** Donations can be dropped off at the school office. Thanks!

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.

Elizabeth Jordan, *Editor*

ehjordan@comcast.net

Deadline for the June issue of the eNET is May 20.

Submissions may be edited.