

September 2008

The E-Net

St Andrew's Episcopal Church - Newsletter

New Providence, NJ

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Dear Friends,

Watching the race for President unfold this fall, we have seen glass ceilings shatter. The choice of a woman and an African-American as candidates for national office was a calculated risk to fight sexism and racism by the two major political parties. As you weigh the platforms offered to lead our country to a better future for all, be sure to vote for positive change.

St. Andrew's strives to effect positive change by being "the church" and living out our baptismal promises. We are the local mission front of the worldwide Christian enterprise in the Anglican tradition, and our every decision (or lack of it) impacts our community, our children, and our future.

Our daily decision-making doesn't have to be national in scope to have an impact on the national political process. Our own Christian process involves the commitment to:

Pray for peace - Love your neighbor -and Work for justice!

Our actions count. As peacemakers, as people who discern right action in prayer, we impact on our daily surroundings. With committed love, we can do small things that add up. Our faith in Christ allows ordinary people like us to believe we can make the world a better place.

Faithfully,

Peggy+

The Rev. Margaret Hodgkins
Rector

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2008

Is Anything Too Wonderful for the Lord?

Our response to this question would be "Of course not!" This is our theme for the 2008 stewardship campaign. Think of all the things we do to give thanks and praise to the Lord - our Time, our Talents and our Treasures.

This year our financial pledge goal is \$325,000 to support the work of St. Andrew's - our buildings, outreach, youth, pastoral care and the many ministries that make up our spiritual community.

Save the Date - OKTOBERFEST!

On **Saturday, September 27th** beginning at **5:30pm**, we will kick off our stewardship campaign with an Oktoberfest celebration. Come and enjoy the St. Andrew's version of German favorites - the grilled "wursts", German Potato Salad, Beer, along with roast chicken, root beer, pretzels, other favorite foods, fellowship and fun.

Sign up sheets will be available in September.

If you would like to help with Oktoberfest or have questions concerning the stewardship campaign, please don't hesitate to speak with any of our committee members:

Nancy Murray, David Waite, Cathy Egan, Jennifer Carriker, Chris Dalton, Jane Weltmer and Jean Lachowicz

Hope to see you on the 27th!

Nancy Murray, Stewardship Chair

New Nursery School Director Begins as School Opens Sept. 5

Welcome to Mary Donohue as she starts her first year at St. Andrew's Nursery School & Kindergarten!

After many months of anticipation and excitement, I am happy to have the opening of the 2008-2009 school year upon us. Having had time to settle in during the quieter summer months it will be a welcome change to have the flurry of activity that September brings. I will be pleased to meet and get to know students, families, staff and members of the extended St. Andrew's community.

After a successful season of Action Campers, our dedicated staff and volunteer network hopped to the task of preparing our school for September. Our classrooms have been painted, cleaned and decorated to create a warm, festive, welcoming environment for all our young arrivals.

We are grateful to Dave Morris for taking charge of various tasks to beautify the grounds of our school. We also owe thanks to the Boy Scouts for completing projects at the Kinder House and on our play areas. Lastly, our weekly office volunteers made quick work of our multiple mailings. Our school looks impeccable, both inside and out, thanks to a collaborative effort of many people. Thank you for a wonderful introduction to the St. Andrew's community.

As the school year unfolds, I know the children will flourish under the guidance of our faculty who are prepared to offer fresh, creative, developmentally-appropriate practices in a nurturing, respectful environment. I invite you to visit the classrooms so you can see firsthand all that makes our school such a special place.

Mary Donohue, Director

For a tour or to register your child in the school, please contact Mary Donohue at director@standrews-school.org or 908-464-4878.

Worship and Education

SUNDAYS

September 14: Pentecost 18 Welcome Back Sunday!

8am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Choir season begins

9:45am Sunday School begins (details below)

Guest deacon: The Rev. John Hartman
of the Seamen's Institute

Meet our new school director, Mary Donohue

11:15am: Parish Family Picnic follows the service in the
garden with Balloon Magic for Kids!

Sign up to bring food on the poster in the Narthex

September 21: Pentecost 19

8 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
with Choir

11:30am - Forum: Children and Music
led by Howard Dreizler

September 28: Pentecost 20

Stewardship Kickoff Sunday!

8 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Guest preacher and deacon: The Rev. Don Krautter

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Eucharist - Every Wednesday at 11:35am
(timed so that nursery school parents and teachers can join
us) This mid-week service is meditative and observes the
Lesser Feasts and Fasts, which honor the men and women
whose lives represent heroic commitment to Christ and
who have exemplified faith even at the cost of their lives.

Take inspiration from the history of our church found in
the Anglican calendar used around the world. The
commemoration of these saints does not obscure the central
focus upon Christ's death and resurrection which is at the
heart of our liturgy. The holy persons whom we want to
remember were sanctified in their lives of faith and are not
meant to become the primary focus.

(from Preface, Lesser Feasts and Fasts)

Sunday School 2009

Theme: Creation

*"The earth belongs to the Lord and everything in it;
the world and all its people." Psalm 24:1*

Sunday School Opening Day: We can't wait to see you!

When? Sunday, September 14 at 9:45am

Who? Nursery (1-2 yrs), Preschool, Grades 1-6

What's Happening? Registration in classrooms; children join the service during the Peace for sharing Eucharist with their families; parish picnic follows the service.

**Simon the Balloonist visits the children
with fantastic balloon magic!**

What will your child learn in Sunday School this year?

Exciting things are planned!

We will have: lessons from top curriculum, new Godly Play program, and Praise Music, along with Episcopal Study by age levels: The Lord's Prayer, The Golden Rule, Church Seasons, Creeds, Psalm 23 and Psalm 100, Twelve Apostles, Overviews of the Bible, Prayer Book, Books of the Bible, Hymnal and Episcopal heritage.

Inspiring Programs about God's Creation:

Fall: Seeing Eye Puppy Training Visit. Trainers and puppies visit on St. Francis Sunday

Winter: Creation Conservation Program: Help our world by Recycling and Reusing

Spring: Raptor Trust Visit: Live birds will be used to show how to help God's creatures.

Meaningful Outreach Projects

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts; Help Raptor Trust; Make Easter Cards for Mariners at Sea, Plant Spring Flowers.

Spiritual, Festive and Fun Events

Christmas Narrative; Spring Youth Sunday Service; Easter Egg Hunt.

Come for a year of wonder while learning, sharing and sensing God's Love and Word with the church community at St. Andrew's Sunday School!

Joyce Kern, Director of Religious Education

Choir News

The Senior Choir will resume rehearsals on **Thursday, September 11** at 8pm. All are invited to join us. Try us out - you will find a warm welcome as well as a great sense of friendship and support. At the first rehearsal we will prepare for upcoming Sundays as well as discuss plans for the year.

I want to thank the people who supported our summer choir this year. These folks deserve a round of applause for getting to church for an early rehearsal as well as for leading the services. Kudos to all!

Howard Dreizler, Minister of Music

Remember your pledge please

From the Finance Office: Please make every effort to bring your pledge payments up to date. We have fallen a bit behind during the summer months. Thank you!

Outreach

FEED THE HUNGRY IN OUR AREA!

The Outreach Committee is launching a new food drive campaign. Starting in September we will be seeking food donations to be brought to the Star-Fish Pantry in Plainfield. As we all know food supplies at the pantries are critically low. We can all do our part in helping our fellow neighbors obtain the essential nutrients they need. In order to do this we will set aside the third Sunday of each month to collect food for the pantry. After the food is collected we will 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.

Food drive dates: Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 & Dec. 21.

THE GIFT OF BLOOD IS LIFE!

Roll up your sleeves for St Andrew's first blood drive. On **October 7 from 2 to 8pm** in the parish hall you will have the opportunity to save a life as St. Andrew's hosts a blood drive for the American Red Cross. Visit www.givelife.org for more info and eligibility.

Sandy Davies and Diane LaPara, Outreach Co-Chairs

GOSA News

Gardeners Of St. Andrew's (GOSA) had two garden work parties this summer during July and August.
Upcoming Garden Work Parties; Saturdays, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 1(tentative).
Next GOSA meeting; Sunday Oct. 19 at 11:30am in the library.

Summer gardening has been active, but we have not been able to complete some projects due to GOSA members being away. Our volunteer watering team has been busy keeping plants moist during the hot summer days. We could use additional helping hands this month. Please come out and join us for an hour or two in the gardens. Green thumbs not required, just a desire to help beautify our landscaped grounds and gardens.

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

Parish Milestones

DEATHS

We mourn the passing of our fellow parish members in August, and hold their families in our prayers:

John Strachan

Carroll Schwebel

BIRTHS

Luke Tallone, son of Christine and Joe Tallone.

Congratulations to three of our teachers who celebrated the birth of grandchildren this summer: Linda Baureis, Pat Cannavo, and Allison Temple.

Ushers Wanted

Please consider helping with our ushering ministry. We are 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.

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

Your Name Is?

The ushers encourage parishioners to please wear your **name tags** while attending church activities. This helps the ushers, as well as other parishioners, to easily identify you and remember your name. Name tags, in various colors, are located on narthex table.

Thanks very much. -- Rick Anderson

Say "CHEESE"

CHURCH FUNCTION PHOTOGRAPHERS

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 10am service, Bishop's visit, Confirmation, and other church events. We are seeking an active member 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, NET, church website, and St. Andrew's historical archives.

If you have an interest, please contact Rick Anderson.

Next E-Net Newsletter deadline is **September 15, 2008**.
Send your submissions to me at hodgkinsp@gmail.com.

Interested in working on the E-Net newsletter? Please let me know.

The Rev. Peggy Hodgkins, Rector 908-464-4875

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