



August 2009 The Grapevine

A Newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Brandywine Hundred, Delaware



A Word from Father Karney

Dear friends in Christ,

Usually in the morning I read the comic strip PEANUTS. Most of us are familiar with the characters. Even after the death of Charles Schultz the "little people live on". The other day when Lucy said "good grief" the words jumped out at me. 'Good grief' seems like a paradox. What could possibly be good about grief? I have a friend who is a grief counselor for Hospice of Delaware. That, it seems to me, is a very sad and challenging job. We usually relate grief to a sad experience or event. Death is a cause of grief. Divorces, illnesses, failures, even recessions cause grief. It is far more likely that I receive a call when someone is grieving. I must confess that to be with people who are grieving is, for me, both challenging and heartbreaking. But, very often, if we can listen, God speaks to us in our sadness and grief.

So what about this 'good grief'? What could possibly be good about it? Grief might be good because it makes us aware of what we have lost. We get a greater appreciation of what we had and may in the future work to make things better. Citing PEANUTS once more, Charlie Brown reflects on the saying that we learn from our mistakes. Charlie muses that he must be the smartest person in the world because of all the things that seem to happen to cause him grief. We also can learn from our grief and our mistakes.

The church teaches us a great deal about 'good grief'. At funerals and other services the reader says "the gospel of the Lord" when she/he finishes reading a passage from one of the four gospels. The word 'gospel' does not refer to the life of Jesus (although the gospels contain stories of His life and ministry). The word gospel means 'good news'. The good news is the story of God sending His Son to die for us - again hardly good news unless we know the whole story. The good news is not just that He died, but also that He was raised from the dead. The grief of His followers turned to 'good grief'. It was so good that we now call what seemed to be the worst day 'Good' Friday not 'bad' Friday. For Christians grief is ultimately good. The grief we feel when life does not go the way we hope will be healed. The grief of separation from those we love is temporary. For the person who believes in Christ, grief is good. God does not forsake us.

Peace,

GJK

Please note: Although Fr. Karney is not in the office daily, he is available for any pastoral need. Please contact him at (302) 994 3659 He asks you please to call him whenever anyone is hospitalized.



AROUND ST. ALBANS

Food Closet

FOOD BANK



Your contributions for the Food Closet are needed during the summer months. Items particularly needed at this time are:

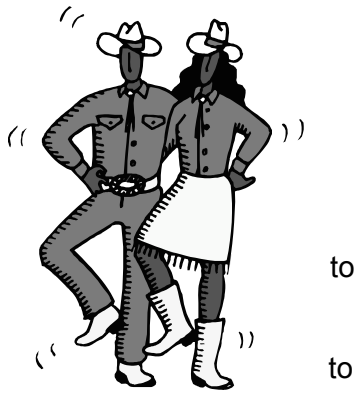
*Breakfast items: dry cereals, pancake mix, syrup
Lunch items: tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly
Also: dry juice mixes (lemonade, punch)*

Thank you for your continuing support.

Sister Sheila Brigid

Come out and learn Country Western Dancing

Saturday, August 14th there will be country western dance lessons proceeded by a pot luck supper. Dancers of all ages please join us for this summertime fun event. Dinner will start at 6:30 with dance lessons follow. A \$5 contribution per person will be collected cover the dance instructor fees. There will be a sign up sheet at the narthex. St Albans is hoping to see members from St. Grace Church join us on this fun night. Questions? Call Enie Cuprak at 762-4152.



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Coffee Hour

Although many people are away over the summer months, we still have Coffee Hour after the 10:30 am service. What a great opportunity to learn about our Coffee Hour needs and procedures in the more relaxed smaller group that attends in the summer. We still have openings for "Coffee Hour" – please sign up!

Knitting Group

The next meeting of the knitting group will take place on Wednesday, August 26th at 3:00pm in the Vestry room. Our goal is to make at least 30 seamen's hats for the ditty boxes St. Albans will provide at Christmas time. The instructions are the same as last year and it was requested that we use synthetic yarns. If anyone needs a copy of the instructions, call Joan Lynch (302) 478-3137

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Remembrance Trio

Don & Claudia McFarland, Barbara Tilton
Present

"Songs from Around the World"

Tuesday, August 4th, 7:00 pm
Downs Cultural Center, Ingleside Retirement
Apts.
1005 North Franklin St., Wilmington, De 19806

Episcopalian Notes

The Episcopal Church has three different clergy levels. These levels are referred to as 'orders'. It is from this word that we derive the services of ordination. Ordination simply means that different people are given different levels of responsibility.

First order - Bishop: The word bishop is derived from a greek word which means "overseer". The twelve apostles who followed Jesus were the first bishops. According to the Gospel of John and the Book of Acts, they received their 'orders' directly from Jesus. In the Book of Acts the eleven apostles replaced Judas by electing a follower of Jesus named Matthias. As the church spread throughout the world more men were selected to replace and supplement the work of the apostles. This is called the apostolic succession. Bishop Wright is in this line of succession. Bishops may read the gospel, preach, celebrate Holy Communion and baptize just as any clergy does. They have, however, the sole authority to ordain others to be bishops, priests and deacons. They are also the only clergy who can bring people into full membership in the church via confirmation.

Second order - Priests This order is by far the most numerous of persons who are ordained. Early in his ministry, St. Paul recognized that persons were needed to lead the local churches. The persons selected were usually older, more mature members of the local congregation (hence the term 'father' came to be commonly used to describe their role). Priests or elders are able to read the gospel in a service, preach, celebrate holy communion and baptize. They may not confirm or ordain others.

Third order – Deacons: First mentioned in the Book of Acts, deacons are to serve the church as needed. The word deacon derives from a Greek word which means 'one who waits table'. Deacons may read the gospel in service and preach when permitted by the bishop. Very often the deacon prepares the altar for Holy Communion. The categories of deacon include transitional and vocational. Transitional deacons are men or women who have felt called to the priesthood and are observing the ancient tradition of the church of service first followed by the gift of being a priest. Vocational deacons are men and women who maintain their place in the world but take on the tradition of serving in the name of Christ to this broken world. Sister Shelia will be ordained a transitional deacon in late fall.

Next month there will be a short article on the titles of clergy i.e.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Registration is now open for Grace Church's Vacation Bible School "Camp EDGE-Experience and Discover God Everywhere". The VBS runs from Monday-Friday, Aug. 3-7 from 5:39 p.m. to 8:35 p.m. You may register online at <http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/GraceCampEdge/ce/>.

Questions? Call the church office: 302-478-9533.

Camp EDGE brings children and adults closer to God by discovering that God is with them at all times, in all places, and in all circumstances, always ready to help and guide them. The evening begins with a simple supper, followed by a brief joint worship time, and then we split into age appropriate classes. Children travel to four different stations; each will reinforce the daily message. The adults will be lead by Pastor Anna Waid and Seminarian JoAnn Koskol. Background and reflection questions will introduce the relevant Bible text for the evening, followed by group discussions and individual reflection. At the close of the evening, the entire group will join together for an ending worship service in church. The daily offering will be given to Nets for Life, a program that sponsors mosquito nets to combat the spread of malaria in Africa. (Over 3,000 children (the majority are pre-school age) die daily in sub-Saharan Africa from malaria.)

August Birthdays

Jackie Gail	4 th
Richard Edkins	5 th
Francis Mariner	7 th
Blane Collins	9 th
David Yoncha	11 th
Tommy Cloutier	12 th
Sheila Coffin	13 th
Matt DeLuca	15 th
Beth Yoncha	18 th
Talbot Crane	19 th
Julia Wright	21 st
Jack Harris	25 th
Anne Yoncha	27 th
C. Frank Mannion	30 th
Charles Pell	30 th

August Anniversaries

Al and Susan Barefoot	8/1/81
Rob and Tracey Housel	8/3/96
Jack and Doris Wright	8/4/45
Bob and Mary Wright	8/5/89
Richard and Sr. Sheila Sharpe	8/6/66
Jim and Diane Wegner	8/19/89
Jim and Doris Cummings	8/20/65
Rick and Ginny Hartman	8/22/70
Gary and Nancy Young	8/23/75
Leonard and Margaret Chandler	8/30/47

Current Vestry members

Bill Gail - Sr. Warden (2011)	302-478-8511
Al Barefoot - Jr.Warden (2011)	302-479-5871
Amy Harra - (2011)	302-761-9198
Greg Cuprak - (2012)	302-762-4152
Joe Weed - (2010)	302-239-7077
Lisa Goodwin - (2010)	302-453-8763
Phil Stanley - (2010)	302-479-9121
Sheila Coffin - (2010)	302-478-4872
John Norman - (2012)	302-478-7317
Fr. George Karney	302-478-7778