



October 2009
The Grapevine
A Newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Brandywine Hundred, Delaware



A Word from Father Karney

Dear friends in Christ,

The last few years in the church have been very disturbing to me. I am not sure whether it is me or whether there has been a change in attitude among people. The current financial crisis is one example. The language which is now "acceptable" to use on TV and radio floods our airways. Most of this is in the spirit of free speech--a right in which I firmly believe. In the face of this we find ourselves in a world where "children are having children" and the sanctity of marriage is mocked. I am not intelligent enough to figure out the definitive "whys" for these things, but greed and self-interest come to mind. An attitude that reflects "if it makes me feel good" it must be okay also comes to mind.

However, I would like you to consider this as a possibility. People **PLAY** according to the rules but do not **LIVE** according to the rules. By this I mean that some people treat life like a game where there are umpires to monitor behavior. This attitude allows us to cut corners or use trickery as long as one does not get caught. In sports there are penalties for infractions of the rules, but the game goes on. In life there are penalties for breaking the rules if you get caught, but life goes on. Thus a person can rob or murder or a company can exploit customers. When they are caught they seem amazed that they should be punished. How many times have you read or heard of someone who is sorry for what they did and you realize that they are not sorry for what they did but only for being caught?

Bernard Mahoff stole billions of dollars. Was he sorry for doing it or sorry for being caught? Banks were playing by the rules, making money and heading for disaster. When officials caught up with those breaking or bending the rules we all paid dearly. It seems to me that what we need is not people who PLAY by the rules as much as we need people who LIVE by the rules.

The rules are a simple two part statement - Love God and love your neighbor. There are no rules greater than these. You cannot play at loving God. You cannot play at loving your neighbor. Loving God and your neighbor is a way of life. Really great athletes, really great artists and really great people do not have to know rules. Their actions are their way of life. Sometimes we think of this as "second nature". God has given us a second nature at baptism. Let us live according to God's nature

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

Vestry Highlights

At the September meeting of the St. Alban's Vestry, the members voted to consolidate with Grace Episcopal Church. The first meeting of the St. Alban's/Grace Committee will be on Sunday, October 4th.

Food Closet

There continues to be great demand for food items at the Food Closet.

Suggested breakfast items are:

*Dry Cereals Oatmeal
Pancake Mix Syrup
Fruit Juices.*

Needed lunch items include:

*Canned Soups
Tuna fish
peanut butter
jelly.*

Thank you all for your contributions.

Sister Sheila Brigid

Ditty Boxes

We will be collecting items for ditty boxes in November. Our goal is to fill thirty ditty boxes and each box should contain the following:

*Soap
Playing cards
Toothpaste*
Chap stick
Toothbrush
Hand lotion*
Comb
Shampoo*
Razors
Candy/gum
Sewing kit
Cough drops
Pens/stationery
Knitted hat/scarf***

*Travel size

**A group of us are knitting hats. Let Joan Lynch or I know if you can help us meet our goal.

Sister Sheila Brigid

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study group continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We will be studying the Book of Revelation.

Sunday School

Sunday School was off to a great start on September 13! We have one small but very active and fun class. We welcomed back Carla, Julia, Kaylynn, Kelsey, Allie and Jason this year. Look for our inspiring artwork as we decorate the church bulletin boards!

June Roux, Sunday School Director

Pot Luck Dinner

Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m. The meal will be followed by an Uganda trip slide show presented by Mrs. Carolyn Karney, assisted by Fr. Karney. A sign-up sheet is in narthex.

Calling all Dirty Cars

Car Wash on October 10th at the Exxon Station on Silverside & Foulk Roads - proceeds to benefit Sojourner's Place.

Call to Confirmation

If you are interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, please contact Father Karney, 478-7778.

The Lighter Side

The Top 10 Reasons to be an Episcopalian (from the comedian Robin Williams, who is an Episcopalian, on a recent HBO special)



10. No snake handling
9. You can believe in dinosaurs
8. Male and female God created them, male and female we ordain them
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door
6. Pew aerobics
5. Church year is color-coded
4. Free wine on Sunday
3. All of the pageantry – none of the guilt
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized

And the number one reason to be Episcopal

1. *No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you*

Choir is in the Air

With the return of fall, our St. Albans Choir will return to regular service and rehearsals. As always, the choir is open to anyone, age 6th grade and up, who has an interest in being a part of the music leadership in worship. Yes, you should enjoy singing and NO, you do not have to read music “like a horse” (as they say in conservatory schools about the country.) You should be willing to regularly rehearse on Thursdays at 7:30-9 PM, and be regular in attendance on Sundays. With that in mind, why not join us, we’d love to have you. your favorite hymns. Please know that I am most willing to try and schedule a favorite or special hymn as requested and will always appreciate knowing what you like. Share your thoughts anytime with me.



God bless you all!

Don



Fall Flea Market

Ginny Hartman and Enie Cuprak report that the St. Albans Flea Market, held on September 19th, was a wonderful success. It was exciting to see so many shoppers from our community. Income from the event was a little over \$1500. At this time, plans are to donate some of the money to Emmanuel Dining Room, run by the Ministry of Caring, with which Susan Barefoot is very active. Possibly some will be donated to the Claymont Food Closet and the remainder will be saved for additional outreach as the need arises.

If you donated items for the Flea Market, there are tax donation forms available in the narthex.

There will be an Arts and Craft Fair on December 12th. This event will feature vendors. It is hoped that St. Alban’s will raise additional money for outreach in the community.



Pecans!! Pecans!! Pecans!! Pecans!!

St. Albans will be selling pecans this year. A small quantity has been ordered so you may want to place your order early. When they’re gone, they’re gone. The shipment will arrive mid-October. The price is \$7/lb. Please contact Helen Graham at 764-2532 or Bettye Stout at 762-1000 to place your order.

Knit In

Since attendance at our Wednesday knitting afternoons has been slim, I am going to try a different day. If you knit or want to learn, come to the Vestry room on Tuesday, October 13th at 3:00pm and join the knitters making hats. I hope this time is a better fit. The more members we have the more fun it will be.

Joan Lynch

Dancing Returns

The City Slickers/Country Kickers will return to St. Alban’s on Saturday, November 14th. More great food, more foot-tapping music, more fun, more laughter and camaraderie are coming your way. Get out those hats and boots and join the fun!



Parish Life

October Birthdays

William Gail	10/1	
Bob Wright		
Dennis Quinlan	10/13	
Helen Graham		10/13
Coley Bye	10/20	
Bruce Stanley		10/29
Mary Wright	10/31	

September Anniversaries

Kevin and Melanie Lane	10/7/89
Don and Claudia McFarland	10/12/74
Coleman and Jane Bye	10/28/61

**CHORAL VIGIL FOR ALL SAINTS
ST. ALBANS CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2009 AT 4:00 PM**

*A celebration in music and Holy Scripture to honor the Saints of
the Church*



**Participants will include the clergy and choirs of
Calvary-Hillcrest, Grace, St. David's and St. Albans,
and guest choristers from other parishes**

**Members of all parishes are warmly invited to join in this
special gathering to celebrate All Saints Day**

**Everyone is encouraged to submit the names of loved ones who
have passed away that they would have remembered in special
prayers at this service**



**Hymns and special music will be accompanied by
the Johannes Brass and Timpani**



The combined choirs will offer special anthems for All Saints Day



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Parish Life Day

Save the Date! November 21, 2009 is Parish Life Day at St. Anne's School in Middletown. This is a great day to learn something new, refresh what you already know, relate with other parishes and people, and reconnect with friends. Flyers are available on the table in the Narthex.

Volunteer Opportunity

Delaware Hospice Volunteer Program. If anyone is interested in this rewarding ministry, please contact Jessica Whitehead at Delaware Hospice 302-478-5707 ext. 1105, for information about training.

Emmanuel Dining Room

Summer was busy at Emmanuel Dining Room South. We served 150 to 190 people each month. We have just served our September meal to 125 people.

Thank you for keeping the cupboard stocked and ready for us to use. We always feel as if we are able to serve anyone who walks into the dining room. We have heard stories of other groups running out of food on an unexpectedly busy day, but we have always been well prepared.

If you are planning to make a donation of goods soon, let me suggest spaghetti sauce and fruits as we are a bit lean on those in the storage cupboard.

The food staples we take each month are:

Spaghetti sauce
Canned green beans and corn
Canned fruit salad or fruit
Lasagna noodles
Parmesan cheese

Ground beef, ricotta cheese and mozzarella cheese are purchased fresh each month.

Finally, homemade cookies have been a part of the St. Albans meal but a number of our regular cookie bakers have had to stop baking. If there are any bakers who would like to bake for a good cause, please let me know, 479-5871. Any amount of cookies would be welcome.

Thank you,
Susan Barefoot



Annual ECW Gathering For All Women & Clergy of the Diocese

Saturday, October 17, 2009

Christ Church, Dover
South State & Water Streets,
Historic Dover
8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

*Come to learn, enjoy
fellowship, and worship!*

- 8:30 AM **Registration**, Coffee and Fellowship
9:00 AM **Greeting**, Introductions, ECW Business
9:45 AM **Workshops**
+Church Periodical Club and its mission to assist church
+ Sunday schools and children in need, led by Florence Keith
+Ministry to Women in Prison/Millennium Development
+Goal #3 on Empowering Women, led by Barbara Del Mastro of The Way Home
10:30 AM Break
10:45 AM **Workshops** (as above)
11:15 AM Break
11:30 AM **Speaker** Judi Gregory (on her sabbatical in Sudan)
12:30 PM **Catered Lunch**
1:30 PM **Holy Eucharist**
Celebrant: **The Rt. Rev. Wayne P. Wright**

Childcare available at no additional cost. Parent provides child's food.

- - - - **tear here and complete form** - - - -

Return this form and your check to:

Christ Church
P.O. Box 1374
Dover, DE 19903

Questions? Call 302-734-5731 or email
ChristChurchDover@verizon.net

Registration fee \$18 (payable to Christ Church) **Deadline:** October 6

Name: _____
Parish: _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Need childcare? _____
If so, ages of children _____