

The Epistle

August, 2001

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St. Ann's Embarks on New Eucharist In September

St. Ann's will embark on a new Sunday Eucharist beginning September 9th at 11:30 a.m. This Eucharist is a first step in a plan to nurture growth in the parish by offering a vehicle for liturgical flexibility and innovation. The Eucharist will be in keeping with our Anglican heritage in that we will use the lectionary for Scripture readings; we will observe the usual rhythm of the liturgy, and we will sing hymns that are familiar. But there will be a few twists.

There will be no bulletin for this worship experience or prayer books; instead we will invite participants to be fully attentive to the actions as they occur. We will use incense and process the Gospel, pausing to allow worshippers to acknowledge the Word. We will sing a cappella with the aid of six cantors who will be trained to lead the singing.

The language will be inclusive, while the hymns may be from other traditions. We will be experimenting with movement to prayer and song. There will be a time to comment or question the sermon, and silence to contemplate God's Word to us. We may even have a gong or bells.

St. Ann's has been traditional in its liturgical style for the principal Eucharist and we will remain so in the future. The offering of this new Eucharist is an attempt to honor the ancient traditions of the Church, while at the same time acknowledging that liturgy is a tool to broaden our worship of God. Many folks at St. Ann's and in Nashville are looking for a spiritual home which allows them to worship God in a way that acknowledges the role of the body and mind in prayer and yet is not flaky. We are treating this

mass as experimental and subject to change.

Research in congregational development has shown that when seating in a room is 85% full; the room is experienced by a newcomer as 100% occupied. The perception is that there is no room for one other person. This is the situation we are currently facing at the 9:30 Eucharist.

Part of the rationale for this new Eucharist, therefore, is to make room for the stranger and to make a place at the table for them to be fed and to feel at home.

To be effective, we need at least 20 committed people to serve as the seed. If you are interested in being a participant as a greeter, acolyte, or reader for this Eucharist, contact the church office.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES. . .

The echo of the Consecrations Service's final "Thanks be to God!" has faded and already the 2001-2002 St. Ann's music program season is upon us. There will be several new offerings and a few changes made to the existing program this coming year.



The People's Choir rehearsals move from Wednesday to Thursday evenings and begin August 30. The annual choir Retreat will be August 24 & 25 at Penuel Ridge Retreat Center. It was a great time of work and play last year. If you are interested in joining this fine group of musicians, please contact the music office or call 599-5878 for more info.

The Young Children's Chorus will move its rehearsal time to Wednesday evenings, from 5:15 to 6:00 pm preceding the Wednesday Evening Service. Ages for participation in this group will be 6 (or reading) through 12. We will continue our study of the innards of music - what makes it work - and will perform periodically through the season. These rehearsals begin September 5. The West Gallery Quire will resume its rehearsals September 4 and remain in the same 7-9 pm Tuesday time slot.

With the addition of the Contemporary Communion service September 9, there will be new opportunities to offer gifts musical. A new group of cantors begins training for leadership in these services soon. The music will be quite unlike that of the 9:30 traditional service.

St. Ann's Handbell Musicians begins its inaugural season this year. The group will decide rehearsal time and frequency during their organizational meeting immediately following the 9:30 service August 19.



The Second Sunday Series returns and other opportunities for performance unfold soon. More on these later.

If you are interested in any of these programs or groups, contact the music office or call 599-5878.

Blessings,
Sheldon Curry

Vestry Notes by The Reverend Lisa Hunt

The Vestry met for its monthly meeting on July 16. The bulk of the work was a review of the progress of the Strategic Planning Committee. The committee was asked to generate more specific recommendations before submitting its plan to the parish in a questionnaire to be sent in late August. The Vestry learned that the Gay and Lesbian Center will not be renting space at St. Ann's. However, the Victim/Offender Reconciliation Program, which sponsors mediation for juvenile offenders, is interested in renting space. Andy Peterson and Ned Overton will meet to discuss details.

The Vestry also received recommendations from the stewardship committee regarding the fall canvass and our current pledge shortfall. Currently, over one third of pledging communicants are behind in their commitments. While expenses were correctly targeted for our new building, our pledge income is \$10,000 behind. Quarterly contribution statements will be sent along with a letter from the chairs of the Stewardship Committee.

Rector's Note

Dear People of God,

One of the strange facts about St. Ann's is that while many of us are politically and socially very liberal, many of us are liturgically conservative. This dichotomy finds expression in a variety of ways. Some of us would love to hear more familiar Gospel hymns, while others can't get enough incense. Some of us would love to chuck the Prayer Book for more contemporary language and images, others of us long for a steady diet of Rite I.

One of the joys of our life together is that we are able to tolerate, if not embrace, a variety of spiritual expressions. From centering prayer, to healing, from icons to Anglican chant, our prayer life has always been multi-vocal. One thing is for sure though, we want liturgy well done and in good order.

By expanding our Sunday schedule to include another, less traditional, Eucharist we are acknowledging the challenge of our mission--to be inclusive and to embrace the risks of ministry. It is the case that as the parish grows we will have to work with greater intention to know people's names. The people we invite may not be like the people who are here now. We may not have the same degree of intimacy we once enjoyed because we don't all attend the same service. However, we will be fulfilling God's call to grow deeper and to widen our view of God's kingdom.

In AA they have a saying, Do the next right thing. As we are settling into our new building and moving out of our postpartum building depression, it is time to do the next right thing, as we perceive it--to reach out and make room for change among us. It is important to recognize that this change may not be for those of us who are already at St. Ann's. It may be for people who haven't been to church in years. People have a hunger for God's healing and life giving love. It is our charge to offer it to them in open and growing community.

Peace,
Lisa

Financial Highlights as of June 30, 2001 are:			
<u>Operating Budget Year to Date</u>			
	Budgeted	Actual	Annualized Percentage
Income	\$104,917	\$ 95,981	46%
Expenses	106,252	106,092	50%
<u>Remaining Capital Budget</u>			
Total 2001 Budget	\$1,035,953		
Total 2001 Expenses	627,612		
<u>Combined Balance Sheet</u>			
Assets	\$395,759		
Liabilities	39,445		
Equity	356,314		

MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR AUGUST

	<u>8/5/2001</u>	<u>8/12/2001</u>	<u>8/19/2001</u>	<u>8/26/2001</u>
Acolyte	Thomas Greer, Louis Claus	Troy Villager, Max Farrar	Mary Kantanie, Androlic Brooks	Lyn Bingham, Keith Hime
Altar Guild	Donna George, Cathy Sanford, Chip Boykin	Meg Sherrill, Sandra Bennett, Thomas Greer	Terry Lawrence, Gayle Bradley	Meg Sherrill, Sandra Bennett, Thomas Greer
Bread Guild	Sue Carpenter	Allen Finley	Roberta Thomas, Jane Thompson	Maggie Thomas
Chalice	Bob Wyatt	Troy Villager	Peggy Hardin	Jim Hughson
Counters	Bruce Farrar, Laura Weems	Ned Overton, Sandra Bennett	Leigh MacMillan, Joe Taylor	Jim Hughson, Pat Campbell
Greeters	Gayle Bradley	Jeff Swoner, Lee Russell	Kris Dixon, Isabel Rice	Larry Brown, Robyn Smith
Lector	Gayle Bradley	Sue Ross	Alvin Burt	Carol Downton
Prayers	Bruce Farrar	Rosemary Burdeshaw	Tom Hardin	Lyn Bingham
Hospitality	Meg Sherrill, Mark Brown			
Altar Flowers (in memory of)		Harry Gibson Joy	Sue Ross Bill Ross & J B DeLaughter	
Evening Prayer Officiant	Andy Peterson	Gayle Bradley	Bruce Farrar	Roger Ferris

If anyone would like to be a Greeter, please call the office to be put on the schedule.



Bible School

Thursday * August 9 * 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
 Friday * August 10 * 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
 Saturday * August 11 * 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

A joint Bible School with East End United Methodist Church will be held here at St. Ann's. The theme this year is Traveling to Bethlehem and the children will get a cool pair of binoculars to check out the sights.



Bob Barrett, Patty Harmon, Vicki Brown and Jane Thompson have all agreed to teach and William Taylor will be providing musical instruction for the children. Sheila Reynolds has volunteered to provide snacks one night, but would probably welcome some help if someone else is interested.

If you haven't enrolled your child yet, contact Vicki Brown at 297-6773 or call the church office.

