

MAGNIFICAT

PARISH NEWS FROM THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LADY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
APRIL 2009

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FROM THE RECTOR



On May 17th we will once again call our parish together for a table talk session. These are much more than our seasonal planning sessions. The table discussions are holy conversations. I use this term quite intentionally. When we gather as a congregation for prayer and Eucharist on Sundays, we are in a holy conversation. When we meet for our Lenten programs and our Parish Planning Sessions, we are in holy conversation. Each of these conversations plays an important role in our identity as Episcopalians and our identity as people of faith in this place.

Our Eucharistic gathering is probably the most clearly articulated holy conversation. We journey from around the community to come and be a community in the name of God. The pilgrimage to the altar each week is a sign of our devotion and obedience to God and one another. As you know, the term *liturgy* is a Greek word for “work of the people”. We

create the spirit of our gathering as a community and the expression of our worship is both personal and corporate. The wider Church has a saying that the way we pray, shapes our believing. This means that our understanding of faith comes from how we express it with one another in the intimate act of worship.

Our Lenten programs and other educational offerings like Bible study, Sunday School and Adult Forum are an extension of our holy conversations where we share our understanding of faith and live into the questions that shape us. We may not be so great at answering all of the questions, but we find ways to be faithful in the midst of our great questions. To me, this is a greater witness to a vast faith than pat answers that can become demeaning of our searching hearts and our God.

The last pieces of holy conversation that have formed our parish are our planning sessions and our table discussions. These engage the entirety of our congregation in both our inward care and fellowship for each other, and our outward, public witness of our community of faith. The planning sessions are quickly becoming the central focus of how we plan for the near term. The conversations are focused around our passions and interests. We engage the creativity of our people to plan our offerings to the community.

The table discussions have only happened once before. These are conversations focused around two or three questions, and church leaders will continue to offer them as a way for our community to direct the longer term planning that your vestry has undertaken. This is an ongoing process, and since we are

committed to being a relational community invested in the Spirit's direction through our people, we will continue to ask for your participation in these discussions. When we all participate, the voice of God is more clearly heard. I believe this, and I am committed to inviting that Voice as a way to direct us into the future.

"Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth." (Hosea 6:3)

See you in Church,
Fr. Clyde+

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Like many parishioners at Annunciation and in the Episcopal Church, I was raised Roman Catholic. When confronted with the choice of being either a "bad" Catholic or a "good" something else, I discerned that God was moving me, and in fact, had been moving me all along, to the Episcopal Church. It was nerve-racking, I'll tell you, informing my parents that our new daughter was not going to be baptized in the "One True Church." They were disappointed. I imagine they still are; we don't talk about it. We didn't, however, have Rosie, or Grace or Hank for that matter, baptized at Annunciation. We were attending a different parish at the time and they were baptized there.

We left that Parish for a number of reasons, a couple of which I remember well. The specifics are hazy now, to tell you the truth – time does heal all wounds, if you let it. I do recall the hurt though, and the confusion and the anger that caused several families, not just ours, to move on. I get it then, when new people come to Annunciation from other parishes in the area. I welcome them and I hope they can find here what I have found, which is healing, community and a way to Christ. I also pray that the people who have left Annunciation, for

reasons of their own, find what they are looking for.

I was thinking of why people come and why people go, and at first I thought it had to do with anger. But then I realized it couldn't possibly be that, because I have been as angry at some of the people at Annunciation as I have ever been at anyone in my whole life. Really, really angry...more than once!...and yet here I remain. If it were only anger that caused people to leave, then we'd be greeting 50 newcomers a week and wishing farewell to the same number!

So what is it? Why do I stick around? For me, it has to do with hope and health. I believe in the underlying health in the parish and in my relationships with the people in it. My hope that we can overcome any problem with God's help is real. So far, I have not been disappointed. What Annunciation is, is bigger than one person or one issue or one problem or one argument. I couldn't say that at my last parish. Perhaps you couldn't say that about your last church and that's why you're here. I can't say you won't get angry here or that you won't have any problems, but it is my prayer that you will always have hope.

Have a blessed remainder of Lent and a happy Easter!

-Maggie Attiyeh

REVEREND KATE IS RETREATING (BRIEFLY)

I will be attending a CREDO conference from April 20-27 at the Lake Logan Conference Center in Canton, North Carolina.

The eight-day conference provides participants with the means to find direction and clarity in four component areas: spiritual, physical, vocational, and financial. CREDO provides a foundation for participants to embrace wellness and to prayerfully discern the direction of their vocation.

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CREDO was founded in 1997 by The Church Pension Group. Episcopal priests, deacons and bishops from virtually every diocese in the country have taken advantage of the CREDO benefit. Participants are selected at random from all active clergy with more than one year in the Pension Fund.

Through this discernment and visioning process, and with the help of a faculty team of professionals, each participant builds a CREDO Plan – a personal covenant based on his or her work at the conference, and a formal expression of the experience. The CREDO Plan provides a personal baseline and strategy for effective implementation.

Thanks to all of you for making this opportunity possible for me!

-Rev. Kate

STRETCHING YOUR \$

Chef David O'Dowd would like to lead a class: Creative cooking for a family for four for less than \$50 - \$75 a week. Is there someone out there who would like to chair this project for Annunciation and work with David? This workshop would be open to the public, so your communications committee will work along with you to advertise the event. There will be a small charge per person attending to help defray the cost for the food. Please contact Fr. Elledge or Linda Lutter if you are interested in this community project.

SOJOURNERS IN SPIRIT

In March, to honor Women's History Month, our women's group learned about Christine de Pisan, the medieval French author of *The Book of the City of Ladies* and its sequel *The Book of Three Virtues*, which are the first works by a woman in praise of women. We discussed what sort of virtues we would want in a city of our own building (trust me: these would be

cities you'd want to live in!) and then went on to talk about our own personal histories.

Each month in Sojourners we learn about a new "woman who dared," and our discussions grow out of the topic, so you can jump in to this group at any time, and you'll never be out of the loop. Join us on April 20th at 6:30 for fellowship and fun.

- Maggie Attiyeh and Rev. Kate



SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!

The snow has finally melted, and the bulbs we planted last fall are breaking through the cold ground. As you plan your summer gardens, keep in mind that we will be having a flower sale as a fundraiser for the Dustans. We have printed order forms or you can go to the church website (<http://www.annunciationgurnee.org>) and download the form. Our website also has images of the flowers so you can see what they look like. We are offering a nice selection of flats and hanging baskets of traditional annuals, and an assortment of perennials recommended for our area by our own Steve Kooyenga. All orders and checks (made out to Annunciation) will need to be received by May 3rd. We can also accept payment via Visa, Master Card, Discover or American Express. Pickup will be Saturday, May 16, here at the church from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Please share the order forms with your friends, co-workers, neighbors, and families so we can raise a large sum to help the Dustans.

EASTER CROSS



Speaking of flowers... please bring a flower on Easter Sunday to put in our "flower cross." We'll start with a barren, wire cross, and with your contributions, create something beautiful together. Any flower you like will do – just like people, we don't need to be identical to be beautiful.

-Rev. Kate

ATRIUM NEWS



In the atrium, the presentations are simple. They are visual and tell one parable or historical story or emphasize one gesture or concept at a time. In training, I was given the words to use for each presentation and "wondering" questions to ask the children after each presentation. It is very important not to give them answers to these questions. They find the answers in their heart. When I give a presentation in the atrium, and those precious faces look to me during the reflection, I wonder if they get it. Sometimes, one of the children will say something remarkable. In those moments I feel I have given them a gift. When I see those same adorable faces looking back at me, silently blinking their eyes, I have to bite my tongue. I have been told by my trainers that all the children will "get it" in their own way and time. Sometimes the quiet share their thoughts at home.

Two weeks ago, I presented The Good Shepherd and the Found Sheep, Luke 15:4-6. The children always enjoy The Good Shepherd work. After the presentation, I asked some questions. The children responded in a way that made me feel that they understood that the Good Shepherd has such a great love for his sheep that He will not rest until a lost one is

found and brought back to the fold. Later that week, Beth Hagen told me a great story. Her 5 year old daughter, Kelsey, was in the tub with her rubber duckies. She picked one up that belonged to her brother and said, "This one is not of my fold, but I will wash it anyway. I think it is lost so I will carry it on my shoulders." When Beth told me that story, I felt as though she had given me a gift. The children are listening and learning all the time and the Good Shepherd is in their hearts.

-Mary Oesterlein

WHO'S IN THE PEWS



Meet the Hagans

During our church service there are several families I try not to sit behind because they are so darn cute! I spend most of the service watching them instead of paying attention to the service. One of these families is the Hagan Family ... Beth, Bill, Kelsey, and Will. I spent an enjoyable hour one Saturday getting to know them better so I can help you get to know them better too!

My first question in most of my interviews is "What brought you to Annunciation?" and their answer was it was close! Too funny ... but we lucked out because they also enjoyed the people and the service. Growing up, Bill went to St. Gregory's in Deerfield, and although he had a wonderful experience there, he enjoyed Annunciation for a more inviting atmosphere.

Beth and Bill were high school sweethearts at Deerfield High School. They dated 10 years prior to getting married, although about 7 of those years were long distance dating. It started in college when Bill attended Northern and Beth Perdue. Beth went on for her masters in Industrial Engineering and Bill started work after his graduation. Bill moved to several states before he was transferred back here and 17 years ago Beth and Bill got married on the anniversary of their first date! How romantic.

Beth is now a stay-at-home-mom taking care of the other half of the cute family ... Kelsey and William. Kelsey "is 5 going on 8" says her dad. She let me know that she is "the older sister because she was born first." Right on! She loves to color and read. Will is 3 and loves to read, play with his toys, and collect rocks and sticks, and he is not real picky about the rocks and sticks he keeps. Both Will and Kelsey LOVE to go to the park, and Will is elated that now he can go on the big boy swings!

Beth loves to do many things, but taking care of her little ones leaves her little time to do it all. She loves to scrapbook and although she has not done much, she has all the supplies so whenever she gets a big chunk of free time she will be ready! She also loves to read and Bill gives her all the credit for their children being avid readers. Beth has been a great help in many ways at church. She is a member of Altar Guild and bakes some of the bread we use at communion – she loves this ministry. She also enjoys helping out in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd chapel; she helped with Bradley's party; she helped with the picnic; and she chaired the recent Annunciation Day Potluck.

Bill has been working in a new sales position for Mabis DMI Healthcare for a year. He is a member of our vestry and is a member of Building and Grounds. He loves to spend time with his family, but when he has a free moment he enjoys golf, watching sports, baseball and going to at least one Cubs game a year with the family. I think this is going to be Will's first year to see the Cubs play ... bring them luck Will! Bill and his older brother were Eagle

Scouts, and once a year for a week they take off to the boundary waters in Minnesota where you can only travel by canoe. They enjoy the solitude of the great outdoors when the ringing of their Blackberry has been replaced by the tunes of the birds and chirping of the insects.

The Hagens have a wonderful philosophy of life. Talking to them gave me such a warm and loving feeling. And as a bonus, I also found out that there are all kinds of nutcrackers besides the ones that look like soldiers. Beth has over 250 of them! The time spent with the Hagen's was delightful and we are blessed to have them as part of our church family.

-Linda Lutter



Our mission is to know God and to make God known. Our office is open Monday – Thursday from 9-1. The vestry members who guide our church are:

Maggie Attiyeh, Senior Warden
Rich Ringhofer, Junior Warden
Deb Gallinger
Bill Hagan
Laura O'Connor
Greg Percival
Deb Rakestraw
Gary Riemer
Dale Sander

LET'S CELEBRATE!



If you should be on this list,
and you're not, please make a
note on the Parish
Administrator's clipboard in
the office. Thanks!

April Anniversaries:

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Lynn & Tom Christensen | 4/10 |
| Kristy & rich Gallaher | 4/12 |
| April & Brent Gossett | 4/17 |
| Karen & Jim Ashley | 4/20 |
| Jeanette & Rick Van Horn | 4/24 |
| Terry & Bill Kline | 4/26 |

April Birthdays:

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Ryan Craffey | 4/1 |
| William Potochnik | 4/1 |
| Clarissa Mellen | 3/1 |
| Vic Oesterlein | 4/2 |
| Hank Attiyeh | 3/2 |
| Sally O'Dowd | 4/3 |
| Matthew Craffey | 4/5 |
| Jeanette Van Horn | 4/10 |
| April Gossett | 4/10 |
| Charles O'Morchoe | 4/14 |
| Terry Kline | 4/14 |
| Brynne Boyke | 4/14 |
| Marcus Haworth | 4/14 |
| Angela Moreno | 4/15 |
| Walter Whitcomb | 4/16 |
| Allie Peterson | 4/16 |
| Mary Jones | 4/17 |
| Greg Percival | 4/23 |
| Mary Oesterlein | 4/26 |
| Deb Modde | 4/26 |
| William Ryan | 4/26 |
| Virginia Holt | 4/27 |
| Jennifer Haworth | 4/28 |
| Charles Adkins | 4/28 |
| Scott Haevers | 4/29 |
| Kaitlyn Gallaher | 4/29 |
| Casey Craffey | 4/29 |