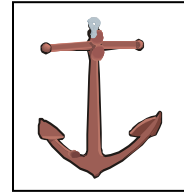


St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
10 Old Newark Road
Newark, Delaware 19713
302-368-4655
Email: St.Nicholas.Newark@Juno.com
The Rev. Elizabeth Rust Masterson, Rector



JUNE 2010

THE ANCHOR of our soul is Jesus (**Hebrews 6:19**)

Office Hours (for our secretary): Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Our website: www.dioceseofdelaware.net/churches/stnich.html



End-Of-Year Picnic & Multi-generational Celebration

Sunday, June 13, at approx. 12:30 p.m.

Bring a side dish or dessert. Hot dogs and hamburgers and drinks provided.

CELEBRATING THE END OF CHURCH SCHOOL & THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER.

From the Pastor's Pen
Greetings,



Good news or sad news; sunshine or rain; flowers or weeds—often we see our lives in terms of opposites. We have trouble imagining that what we long for and what we dread can happen within hours, days or weeks of each other.

The writer of Ecclesiastes notes that there is a season for everything under heaven. The Apostle Paul proclaims that he can rejoice in all circumstances. In recent years the expression, "Let go, and let God . . ." is used to say we should trust in God no matter what is happening.

If we give God credit for the good times in our lives, does God get the blame for the bad times? Or deep down, do we feel it is our sinfulness that creates the bad times?

Although God has given us free will, which allows us to make good and bad choices, we must be cautious when assigning blame or credit for what happens in our lives. Rather, we will be better off if we are able to ask God to grant us the wisdom, patience, and humbleness we need in both times of joy and times of pain.

If our lives are focused on loving God and those who share our lives, then accepting what comes our way—including our emotional reactions to what happens, we can trust God to fill us with "the peace that passes all understanding." In his letter to the Romans Paul says that "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." May we experience that love at all times and in all circumstances.

Faithfully, *Elizabeth+*



UNITED THANK OFFERING

The Spring Ingathering Offering of the United Thank Offering (UTO) will be observed at St. Nicholas on the Sundays of June 13th and 20th.

The United Thank Offering was established in 1889 to support the work of female missionaries. Over the years it has been suggested that everyone (women, men and children) pray daily and drop money in the UTO blue box or blue envelope (found on the table in the narthex) for their daily thanks for what God has given them. More than ever this year our donations to the UTO will be put to good use here in our own country and worldwide to help rebuild the areas damaged by floods, earthquakes, tornados and volcanoes.

Your UTO offering can be placed in the offering plate either on June 13th or June 20th. If you are giving by check, please make it out to "St. Nicholas Episcopal Church" and in the "Memo" write "UTO". After all the offerings are in, a check will be sent to the UTO Coordinator of the Diocese of Delaware.

---Jean Meredith

SENIOR WARDEN

Are they mitzvahs, blessings, or just signs of our healthy family?

Over the past few weeks, I have been impressed by the many ways that St. Nicholas folks show their pride in our home. At first, I thought I would leave out any identifying names in writing about what I've seen. (Especially since that lets me avoid forgetting someone who should be recognized.) But, hoping you will forgive me with oversights, I do want to say "Thank You" to so many who jump up and take on projects which they see needing to be done.

First, please take a note of the clean up done by Liz and Steve around our big sign on Route Four. Not only have the weeds been removed, but also a wonderful array of flowering plants is now encircling the patch well fertilized for the summer season. If you've ever looked out after a service, you've probably seen a stooped figure wondering around the perimeter either picking up old bottles or pulling weeds. It's most likely David C. helping to neaten our property which he "religiously" does before he heads home each week. And let's not forget all the numerous hours Mark has put in keeping our vast lawn mowed.

Both of our restrooms have had toilets out of order for some time. Steve has promised to take on the task of replacing both defunct units at no expense to the church. Again, thanks for taking on this necessary repair.

Yesterday, we celebrated the long life that Allen Goodfellow shared with us and learned some wonderful stories from earlier friends while sharing the Eucharist together. So many people responded to the request for some tea sandwiches that you would think we were re-living the loaves and fishes parable in Newark. In addition to vestry members and their spouses Lynn was there to start organizing, and LuAnn followed, after working late, just to be sure that

things got cleaned up afterwards. If (or better, when) we build a bigger and better kitchen, it should be named for those two!

Lastly we all need to count our blessings for having Elizabeth + stretch for us and Good Shepherd, our guests, for almost a year together knowing that they can step forth shortly in a stronger way as a sister church in the Glasgow-Bear area.

Thanks to all of you who are valuable parts of our loving family at St. Nicholas.

--- Nick Simons



OUTREACH

A steady stream of cars came to park and people came to look and buy at our yard sale on Saturday may 15th. As of this writing our total was over \$700 dollars. A big thank-you to everyone!

The raffle was won by Andy Dehel who won two sessions with a fitness trainer and Ruthann Disabatino who won the kitchen basket.

Our next project will be our "Fill the Bus." "Fill the Bus" is a project that we did last year where we bought school supplies, and we gave them to a local elementary school. This year we will be sending the school supplies to Jenny Smith Elementary located on Bender Road, behind Kirk Middle School. Items needed:

Crayons, glue sticks
Spiral notebooks, composition books
Pencils, pens, pocket folders
Rulers, construction paper

Loose-leaf paper, erasers
Flash-cards (grades k-3)
Markers, colored pencils

This project will be on going until August 31st when we will be taking the supplies to the school.

---Eileen Clemens

OUR FOOD PANTRY NEEDS - Liz Hankins, coordinator for the Food Pantry, thanks you for all you have contributed to this ministry in the past month! We continue to need different items. Please check the Blue insert in the weekly Service Bulletin for that week's needs.



Parish Life

Current Calendar of Events

- JULY 18 Ice Cream social 3-5 pm - Ice Cream Sundaes and Dave Zipse on the keyboard!!
Contacts: Jean Grieten & Elizabeth Osborne
- AUG Blue Rocks game with fireworks; contact: Carolyn Bowman
- SEPT National Cathedral (weekday tour); contact: Alice Edgell
- OCT "Antique" sale/auction fundraiser
- NOV Stewardship brunch
- DEC 5 Luncheon for Bishop
- DEC Christmas dinner (with gift exchange?)
- JAN, 2011 Annual Meeting luncheon
- FEB 5, 2011 Souper Saturday & Bake Sale; contact: Alice Edgell

The National Cathedral makes reservations for groups no sooner than three to four months from the desired time. Therefore, we should know the date for our trip in September soon. Be on the watch for the date so you can reserve a place in the group!

---Alice Edgell



WORSHIP

AND THE SAGA CONTINUES...

WHEN I PRAY ... HAVE FAITH IN GOD ... DO NOT DOUBT IN MY HEART

Just as it is hard to live by Jesus' Word from the Bible, it is very difficult for many of us to believe, without doubt, that God truly answers our prayers and makes miracles happen. Like many others in the Bible and like Steven Luongu in Africa, we pray for healing, peace, and other vastly important things in our lives and those of others. We want to pray with

expectation that God will fulfill our needs and hopes, but it seems like old thoughts and feelings of doubt creep in. What do we feel and think when we pray?

We've learned that God is all-powerful and all loving and wants the world to be whole. So why do we doubt even for a second that God will fulfill his promise to heal? Is it because we don't want to feel terribly let down if things don't work out the way we want them to? Why do we doubt? We only have to pray, and then get out of God's way. In other words, "Let go and let God," and celebrate God's Love as our way of life.

This is a continuing subject of worship reflection, one that many of us face every day. I can't seem to control the doubts, however hard I try. Why? Is it because we feel alone in our doubt, ashamed and embarrassed about calling ourselves Christians???

There is a way out. As Jesus did before His Crucifixion, we can surround ourselves with Christian friends in fellowship. This empowers us to share our problems together and find solace, in that others share our experiences, empathize with us, and offer love and support. We're all in the same boat together, and Jesus is with us. When we reach out and touch each other and pray together, all of us are enabled to keep trying and keep focused on the power of the Holy Spirit. This can truly be our Reality as Christians. Amen, Shalom.

---Amen and Shalom, Jean Grieten