



So Little News This Summer -- What Should a Newsletter Do?

See answer below *

Scripture for Next Sunday, July 27th
Genesis 29:15-28 Donna McRae
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b Richard Smith
Romans 8:26-39 Mordecai Walker
Matthew 13:24-30,36-43 Deacon Bauknight
Prayers of the People Shirley Davis

more



from **St. Augustine's**

#140, Sunday, July 20, 2008



With parish news slimmer in these hot months, we expect to maintain readers' interest by exploring your investment in the larger church – the world beyond our small boundaries. Here's how.

St. Augustine's is not a non-denominational church. It is Episcopal and it *belongs* -- it is a church connected. It is in communion with Anglicans worldwide. That collective makes our existence more complicated than "going it alone."

So today there's another installment on what's going on in merry old England at the Lambeth Conference.

And because we are a struggling church, yet a connected one, today's newsletter has a pithy editorial from the Protestant publication *Christian Century*, one that might stir your sense of what a church needs to survive. Read it below and connect the dots from NYC to our own efforts here at feeding the hungry.

Something Christlike

From the Editor's Desk by John M. Buchanan, *Christian Century*, July 29th, 2008

The version of Christianity that appears in the media often embarrasses me: it's narrow, sectarian, exclusive, and sometimes mean-spirited.

So it was a joy to find in the May 26 *New Yorker* an article by novelist Ian Frazier about a church being a church in the best sense.

Frazier conducts a weekly writing workshop at a church soup kitchen in New York City, and he regularly encounters gifted men and women who, for one reason or another, are homeless and hungry. The Church of the Holy Apostles is a landmark, with a high arched ceiling and gorgeous stained glass windows. Over the years the Episcopal congregation dwindled in size as the neighborhood changed until the 200 members could no longer afford to pay the bills to keep it going. A new rector suggested that "if Holy Apostles is going out of business, it might as well do some good before it does."

So in 1982 the church launched a free-lunch program. Thirty-five people showed up. The program grew and attracted more people and outside support. In a few years the congregation was serving 900 lunches daily and burst the seams of its mission house.

In 1990, during roof repairs *continued, page 2*

Here's Peeking Inside Lambeth

The Sounds of Lambeth by Arkansas Bishop, Larry Benfield, The Bishops' Blog: *Episcopal Life Online*
"At each of the worship services (during the three day Bishops' Retreat at the Lambeth Conference, people are asked to pray the Lord's Prayer in their own language.

Suddenly hundreds of voices rise up in a multitude of languages ... and the commonality of the phrases and where we pause to breathe becomes clearly apparent.

At about the same moment all the voices cease, and 'Amen's' are heard around the room. It is as clear a sign as any I have experienced of the common faith that gathers us together.

The Retreat in the Canterbury Cathedral by Bishop Stacy Sauls, Diocese of Lexington, from *Episcopal Life Online*.

"...We began with a three day retreat in the Canterbury Cathedral ... with prayer and that gets spiritual priorities straight. Episcopal ministry ought to be grounded in prayer When the bishops sang, the sound would linger. It felt like the prayers of the bishops mingling with the hundreds of thousands of people who have preceded us ... Each day we hear two addresses by Archbishop Rowan that draw on the Archbishop of Canterbury's greatest strength, which is spirituality."

Bishops say Lambeth Retreat Set Strong Foundation By Mary Frances Schjonberg, *Episcopal News Service*, July 19. *continued, page 2*

Cynthia Allen Is Ebony Scholar

Last evening this email came from **Koren Allen**:

"I received a letter in the mail today (7/19) informing me that Cynthia has been selected to be honored for 'demonstrated excellence in academics, leadership, and attendance for the 2007-08 school year.'"

Thus **Cynthia Allen**, Koren's eldest, becomes this church's newest Ebony Scholar.

Established 24 years ago by **Vyrle Davis**, a retired teacher in St. Petersburg, the Ebony Scholars Program has motivated and shaped thousands of African-American students.

Each year, the program targets elementary students whose principals recommend them for this award. **James Steen**, principal of Campbell Park Elementary School, *continued, page 2*



School days, tool days. For the next four weeks our food basket could teem with new colors. In anticipation of school's opening in August, our church will begin to collect school supplies for the area's poorest families. Everything is needed, from calculators to erasers, notebooks to backpacks. *Operation Attack*, that agency that so capably distributes the foods we collect for the poor, will handle this distribution as well. Of course funds are also welcome, so if you don't care to shop for the specifics, you could cut a check to St. Augustine's and our **Koren Allen** will make purchases at Target using her employee discount.

St. Augustine's
81st Anniversary
DINNER
DANCE

We invite you to join us on
Friday, August 22nd, 2008
to
Dine and Dance
from 6pm to 11pm at the
St. Petersburg Country Club
2000 Country Club Way South
to the music of the
International Jazz & Blues Band

Dress is semi-formal

Donations of \$45 per person
are requested in advance

Please return the enclosed response card
and payment by August 12th to
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
2920 6th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, 33712

Over 400 mailed. Sent just five weeks in advance, so they don't get lost or forgotten ... response card is included... more available after church today for you to address & mail ... confirmations will be by phone.

Scholar continued

recommended Cynthia.

Ebony Scholars must maintain a 3.3 grade point average throughout all three years of middle school to stay in the program.

At last May's Ebony Scholars' award program, Nathaniel Tindall III, guest speaker, former Ebony Scholar and son of Cheryl Johnson-Tindall, told current scholars that "Being involved with the Ebony Scholars I learned the things you need in college and everyday life."

Koren's email concluded with this: "The program (introducing the newest scholars) will be held on Monday, September 15th at 7pm at the Pasadena Community Church. I will be requesting that night off from work. Will not miss this event for anything."

Something Christlike continued

to the main sanctuary, a fire broke out that caused major damage. During insurance-covered restoration and renovation, and while the pews were out, members came up with an idea: Why not leave the pews out and use the worship space, which was empty and unused Monday through Friday, for the lunch program?

Now the church is serving 1,200 meals a day. Volunteers do most of the work. They take the tables down on Friday afternoon and set up folding chairs for the weekend. The budget is now \$2.7 million, which comes from businesses, foundations, the city -- and the 200 members, who, instead of closing down a church, are part of a vital and compelling community of faith.

The program rules are simple: no proselytizing and no one turned away. If anyone wants more food, that person can go outside, stand in line, get another ticket and eat again. Frazier asked Elizabeth Maxwell of the Holy Apostles staff about the religious motivation behind the program. She said: "Well, we do this because Jesus said to feed the hungry. There's no more to it than that. Jesus told us to take care of the poor and hungry and those in prison.... In all the intricacies of scriptural interpretation, that message -- feed the hungry -- could not be more clear. Those of us at Holy Apostles feel we have a Sunday-Monday connection. The bread and wine of the Eucharist we share on Sunday becomes the food we share with our neighbors during the week."

There has long been an important debate in the church about whether its mandate is to feed the hungry or to address the social, economic and political structures that cause people to be hungry. We are in a major global food crisis. It is a crisis that ultimately will not be addressed by food aid. If you want to take Jesus' moral imperative seriously, sooner or later you have to think about politics and economics.

In the meantime, it is important that the world see in the church something of the kindness, compassion and justice of Jesus which is behind the advocacy for social and political change. It's a matter of both/and.

Maybe the world would find churches more interesting and compelling if they showed something of the love of Jesus in their lives and practices.

Maybe there is no more important and life-giving strategy for every church than finding something Christlike to do.

For more about The Church of the Holy Apostles go to their website: <http://www.holyapostlesnyc.org/>

Inside Lambeth continued

"...Archbishop Williams challenged the bishops to seek out another bishop who made them fearful or anxious and ask that bishop to pray for them.

"Bishop Assistant Sergio Carranza of Los Angeles said he sought out African bishops. 'All of them were optimistic and said it's going to be alright,' he told ENS the next day. 'Everybody with whom I talked is concerned we find a way to stay together, and not break communion.'"

Face to Faith by The Rt Rev Gene Robinson, Bishop of New Hampshire, from July 12th, 2008 issue of the British newspaper: *The Guardian*

"The debate raging in the Anglican communion . . . belies a much deeper question: did God stop revealing God's self with the closing of the canon of scripture at the end of the first century, or has God continued to be self-revelatory through history, and right into the present?"

"... Jesus says a remarkable thing to his disciples at his last supper with them: "There is more that I would teach you, but you cannot bear it right now. So I will send the Holy Spirit who will lead you into all truth." ... Could it have been God's plan all along to reveal more and more of himself and his will as the church grew and matured?"

"... It is the brilliance of Anglicanism that we first and foremost read scripture, and then interpret it in light of church tradition and human reason. No one of us alone can be trusted to such a process because, left to our own devices, we recast God's will in our own image. But in the community of the church, together we are able to discern God's will for us."

Chocolate, chocolate. To a few it is absolutely disgusting; to most of us it is delicious. And, from the point of view of this chocolate lover, I have seen many types of chocolate, but I have truly one favorite: Dark chocolate.

Dark is one of the richest types of chocolate I have ever tasted. Just the idea of chocolate makes my mouth water. And just a note for adults: Forget about reading this column because this one is from a child's point of view and it may become completely absurd at times.

But don't worry. There are plenty other articles to read here. Go on, turn the page over. Did you hear me? I said turn over the page!!!!

Fine. Face the consequences. My poem: Chocolate Rules! Chocolate Rules!

I shout it out every day. It's what I snore when I sleep! Yet it's what I eat only rarely. I love all types -- milk, dark, even with peanuts. Chocolate makes me go bananas!!!!!! May I borrow that piece please?



Cynthia Allen is 10.