



MAY 2009

RECTOR'S NEWS AND NOTES

Changes . . .

One of those insightful Greek philosophers claimed that it – CHANGE – is the only constant in the universe. And he was right. Nothing remains the same. The problem is we all would like it to.

This is true of our liturgy.

Good liturgy is composed of

- Language – words of praise, repentance and confession, thanksgiving, and adoration that match what we believe
- Music – melody, rhythm, meter and lyrics that match the words we profess
- Choreography – movement that flows, that is fitting to the words it accompanies and the space in which it occurs
- Setting – furnishings and physical elements that visually convey the unspoken reality of divine worship
- Predictability – providing a consistent framework in which to lose oneself in the expression of praise, repentance and confession, thanksgiving, and adoration to our God

Of these elements these past few months have seen the most change in the setting of our Sunday liturgy.

What has changed?

- In addition to the Prayer Book we are providing the words and directions of our liturgy in a full Service Bulletin. This has proven in many churches over and over to be an effective tool in bringing people with non-liturgical backgrounds in our wonderful worship.

If we are to grow, we will do it by bringing people into our parish family with little or no liturgical background. We would be derelict in our effort to reach out to them by not making our liturgy easy to follow from the moment they first join us on a Sunday morning.

- The sanctuary hangings have been reduced in order to reveal the physical beauty of our altar and to highlight it as the central focus of our worship
- Sunday liturgy starts with the Gospel Book set in the middle of the altar. This is to emphasize the first of the two parts of our liturgy delineated by the Prayer Book – THE WORD OF GOD. We are fed by God's Word in the reading of Holy Scripture and in the sermon.
- The chalice, paten, bread, and wine are brought to the altar from the credence table at the start of the second part of our liturgy – HOLY COMMUNION. Here we "set the table" as we prepare to be fed by God's presence in the consecrated bread and wine.

These two changes bring the setting of our liturgy and the choreographic movement in line with this reality – at our Sunday worship God feeds his people with his holy Word and his presence in Holy Communion.

- One additional change that will be made to the choreography and setting of our Sunday liturgy will entail bringing the altar forward approximately 20" so that the celebrant of the Eucharist can face the congregation as they lead them in consecrating the bread and wine.

Unlike Roman Catholic theology Anglican/Episcopal priests must celebrate a mass with a Christian community. This is because the celebrant does not consecrate the bread and the wine. We do it TOGETHER.

Our consecration culminates with the congregation voicing their assent at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer with their proclaim the great AMEN

Christ instituted the Eucharist at a table, at a meal with his friends. When he did this, he did not get up and stand against the wall to tell them what he was doing and why.

Anglican theology emphasizes the full participation of the Christian community in the life of the Church – participation which begins Sunday at the celebration of the Eucharist.

What has not changed?



- The Rite I and Rite II liturgies that we follow on Sunday morning remain the same
- The music we sing remains the same. Only one of Ellen's 144 music selections that we have sung in the past 6 months has been changed. This is evidence of the great gift that we enjoy in her music ministry and leadership.
- The sermons, as best as feedback indicates, have remained faithful to the traditional faith and theology of the Church. I hope that they will always remain devoid of any novel interpretations or innovations.
- The overall flow of the liturgy remains the same – from our procession . . . to the gospel reading and the sermon . . . to the Prayers of the People and the announcements . . . to the offertory and consecration . . . to the receiving of communion and the recession.

With the 20" forward movement of the altar the Eucharistic Liturgy we celebrate Sunday morning will become, once again, predictable. A new normal will be established – one in which we will again be lost in the expression of praise, repentance and confession, thanksgiving, and adoration to our God.

We have a responsibility to consider everything that we do in our life as a Christian community. We must constantly ask ourselves, "How can we be more effective in fulfilling the mission we have been given – to bring the world to a saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ?" This applies to our worship, our Christian formation, our evangelism, our outreach to the world, and the nurturing of ourselves as a parish family.

Some things we do will remain the same, some things will change, some things will be exchanged for things that are new.

But we must never stop asking, "Can we be doing this better?" And if we find that we can, we must be ready to joyfully embrace the changes that our discoveries provide.

Your brother in Christ,

Jim +

The Arpad Darazs Singers



We have been blessed to be able to host The Arpad Darazs Singers on Sunday, May 3 at 4:00pm. They will offer an acclaimed selection of choral music featuring "Animals and Alleluias." A reception will follow in the Parish House.

This is a great opportunity to introduce a friend or new acquaintance to our St. John's family. We hope that you will take advantage of this evangelistic opportunity to invite someone to join us for this most enjoyable afternoon.

Admission is free to this gift of music although an offering will be taken to help defray expenses of the choir.

The Great Gregory of Nazianzus Picnic

On Saturday, May 16 at 4:00pm our parish family will gather on the lawn next to the Parish House to enjoy a Spring Picnic. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be grilled, accompanied by beans, chips, brownies and soft drinks.

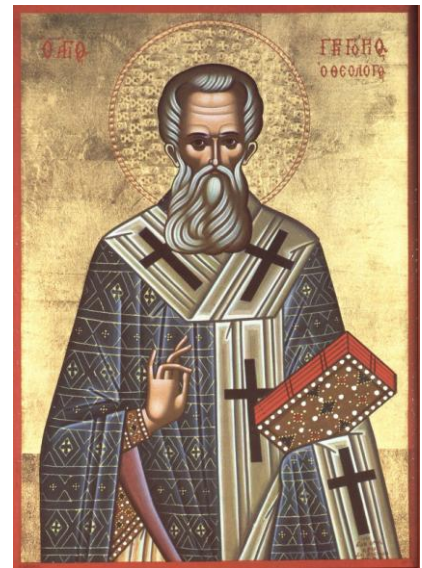
Games – croquet, bocce, horseshoes, and badminton – will be played on the lawn.

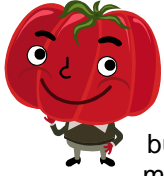
The young kids will have an opportunity to discover just where in the world is Nazianzus. Everyone will have an opportunity to stop at the Historical Marker to learn more about Gregory.

This is another great evangelistic opportunity to introduce a friend or an acquaintance to our St. John's family. Please be thinking of whom you will invite.

The only thing you or your guest will need to provide apart from an appetite is a lawn chair and, for the adults, beer or wine, if they would like to enjoy something other than sweet tea and sodas.

What could be better than enjoying a burger grilled to perfection in the company of old and new friends!





Cook Book News

So that the committee will order plenty of cookbooks, please notify Ellen Nicholson of the approximate number you would like to buy. The exact price will be determined by how many, etc., we purchase. 337-8870 or

enicholson@truvista.net

I'll try to find out an approximate price by publishing time!!
Thanks, Ellen

Men's Prayer Breakfast- 5/10/09 Committee: - Steve Brakefield, Gordon Doty, and William Hawkins.

All men and boys are welcome for good food and



fellowship. Times: 8:00a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel; Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Outreach Corner - The outreach corner continues to need blue ink pens, used-but-good shoes, and metal teaspoons, in addition to the usual scarves, sunhats, ball caps and sunglasses. Also, since summer is coming: collect travel-size lotion, shampoo, conditioner, and cosmetic kits. Thanks, Leann

The Search For The Eighth Bishop Of The Diocese Of Upper South Carolina

www.bishopsearch.edusc.org - Your source for news and updates from the Search and Transition Committees.

This is the official website of the Search for the Eighth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. Here you will find news and updates from the Search Committee and Transition Committee along with information about upcoming events related to the process. All members and congregations of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina are invited to offer daily prayers for this important process. As we move further along in the process, this page will be updated to provide you with the most current information. Ongoing summaries of committee meetings and activities will be posted on the Search Committee and Transition Committee pages.

Diocese Launches Job Connection Blog

Check out this brand new resource connecting employers and job seekers.

It is our hope that "Job connection", the brain-child of

the Midlands convocation, will serve as a resource to job-seekers and employers throughout Upper South Carolina.

Check it out at www.edusc.org/jobconnection and start connecting today.

10-Day Bible Lands Seminar

The Revs. Elizabeth and Harold Morgan will lead a 10-day trip to Israel departing March 1, 2010. Brochures are in the undercroft for this exciting trip.

Camp Gravatt 2009

Camp Gravatt offers boys and girls from first through twelfth grade a Christian-centered, community-based summer camp experience, focused on demonstrating God's unconditional love to every camper. The Camp Gravatt program and activities vary by session, depending upon each age group, and include most of the traditional things associated with camp--archery, arts and crafts, canoeing, nature, time to play and swim in the lake, challenge course events, campfires, songs, skits, as well as time for worshipping and developing camp community. The goals of the camp experience are for campers to grow spiritually, make friends, share in an affirming, Christian camp community, and have a lot of fun in a safe and healthy environment. Email www.bishopgravatt.org for registration information.



Staff

The Reverend Jim Neuburger – Rector
The Reverend Margaret Todd – Deacon
Ellen Nicholson - Minister of Music

Vestry

Walter Deierlein -Senior Warden
Harold Jones – Jr. Warden Emeritus
Ellen & John Nicholson – Treasurers

2009 - Walter Deierelein, Ernest Ferguson, Harold Jones
2010 - William Hawkins, Nancy Williams, Martha Wood
2011 – Logan Doty, Brenda Miller, John Nicholson

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