

St. George's Spearhead: to parish, neighbor, and world

St. George's Anglican Church - a CANA Parish
56 Main Street, Helmetta, New Jersey 08828

Fall 2011
Volume 496

Getting from There to Here Our Search Process

Steve Bauman, Co-chair Rector Search

Over this whole search process I kept reminding myself that God allowed us to remain in Helmetta for His glory and purpose. To do that, we needed to discern who He had chosen to lead us into that place. Fr. Bill told us before leaving that we needed our Joshua, as did the children of Israel to lead them across the Jordan into their Promised Land. God chose our Joshua and I want to share, as much as I can, about how He did that. Anyone on Search or the Vestry can witness how we saw the Holy Spirit work in this process.

When Fr. Bill announced he was leaving, Arch Deacon Julian Dobbs prophesied that God had already chosen the next Rector for St. George's. Many of us thought, "Right! That's nice to say, but we've got to organize, do a proper search and pick the right one." We did have to "organize" and go through a process but the end many of us anticipated did not come to pass. I'll take you down the path we followed to show what I mean.

The Vestry nominated Search Committee candidates from whom a selection was made to reflect the parish in terms of age, gender and time in the parish. The members were Rich Capobianco, Peter Cirrotti, Bettie Linke, Beth Miles, Jessica Thompson, and co-chaired by Chris Palmer and myself. I thank them all from the bottom of my heart for their efforts and discernment as we grew together to the task.

We met in February to outline our tasks. After agreeing to be guided by the Holy Spirit, we developed a parish survey and correlated the results to craft a Parish Profile that would be listed on the ACNA and CANA websites with our position posting. It was to let prospective candidates know who we were and what we were seeking. We knew communicating our progress to the Parish was critical so we reported meaningful updates on a regular basis.

Responses came in – and boy, did they! By the time our "deadline" came, we had 27 applicants from as far away as Uganda and as close as South Jersey. We even accepted one applicant after our deadline, but I'll get to that later. We split up the names and independently prioritized the list. If any candidate did not seem to "fit", he/she was taken off our "dig deeper" list. Some candidates came with strong endorsements from our Bishops that we considered in our selection. Bishop Dave Bena said one candidate's name came to him while praying about St. George's after his recent visit. It was after the deadline but out of respect for Bishop Bena, I called the individual. That candidate didn't have a resume' but was very interested and promised to forward his material. That duty done, the Search Committee went back to work carving out a "short list" to interview from our other 27 candidates.

We did teleconference calls with candidates on our "dig deeper" list and welcomed some to visit St. George's for in-person interviews who "happened to be in the area." One of the "top seeds" kept putting off my phone calls and eventually reneged on his agreement to supply for us! Another took his name out of contention since he did not want to leave his existing parish. Some candidates even visited to covertly "supply" for us - no, I won't tell you who they were!

All was not peaches and cream on the Search Committee but we learned to put our personal agenda and egos aside for the good of St. George's and focus on the task at hand. We had to be flexible and open since often the last person interviewed had the advantage, unless of course it was a bad one. We had one of those too. One candidate who was removed from our "short list" got back to us saying he really felt this was a calling and requested reconsideration. We put him back on the list but subsequently, we did not get the same revelation he did and he went off the list again. We also learned that what looks good on paper did not necessarily look good in person.

Finally by mid-September we were down to our final four. All were great candidates, recommended by bishops, who had good credentials and track records. Our initial list, which peaked at 28, had been whittled down to four after much discussion, prayer and discernment. Our job now was to submit one to four names for Vestry's consideration. Some Vestry members expected three names but we were willing to let the Holy Spirit make that call.

We decided to meet and let each member of the Search Committee speak, without interruption, about each candidate for about five minutes, then go home and pray about what we had heard. After a night's sleep, we were to put our top name(s) in a box anonymously, have Deacon Greg pray over the box at the next 10 o'clock Service then meet to tally the votes. A candidate had to receive at least four mentions to make the cut. Two names emerged with one being an overwhelming favorite. These individuals, along with all the documentation they submitted and links to their sermons, were given to the Vestry without preference from Search. We wanted a fresh set of eyes to consider and rate the two.

After an initial discussion, the Vestry opted to invite both candidates to Helmetta for some social time along with a formal interview. The two candidates were given the exact same set of questions to help Vestry compare them. Barbara Raczynski graciously offered her home for a more relaxed setting. Douglas Wilson used his catering gifts to prepare two excellent meals of lemon chicken.

We met the first candidate on a Friday night, the second on the following Monday night and that Wednesday met as a Vestry to discuss the results. The Vestry followed the same format as Search but this time with only two names. The discussion clearly indicated Fr. Gus was the best match for St. George's, but we did not vote that night. We went home to pray and later put names anonymously in the box for prayer at the next service. The next Sunday, Deacon Greg prayed over the box and the Vestry met thereafter to tally the results. Fr. Gus was the unanimous choice. By the way, he was the 28th candidate on our applicant list – the one who came in after our deadline but whose name was revealed to Bishop Bena in prayer. God knew all along!

As Senior Warden, I must admit I was having angst about our policy of unanimity. If we could

not agree on a candidate after two Vestry meetings, calling a new rector would have had to be tabled until after the next Annual Parish meeting and a new Vestry was seated. That would be February 2012. A new Search Committee and candidate list would be needed since the list would too old to offer available candidates. However, I turned it over to God since after all, it was His business and not mine. However, I did lose some sleep!

Had we stuck by our "system" or personal agenda, we would have missed the one person that God had chosen to be our new rector. There is no limit to what God can do if you let him. We closed each Search Committee meeting with the simple prayer, "God help us" and you know what, He really did! Praise be to God and we look forward to going into the new Promised Land with Fr. Gus so St. Georges can grow His kingdom! Hallelujah, hallelujah!

"For no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"

(1 Cor. 2.9).

The doors of St. George's will not be able to contain the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we enter this next phase of parish life together.



The mission of St. George's Church is to know Christ as our Lord and Savior, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, to love Him, serve Him, and witness His love to the world.

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St. George's Vestry:

Wardens:

2011: Steve Bauman– Senior Warden
2012: Barbara Raczynski – Junior Warden

Vestry:

2011: Jim Charlton, Peter Cirrotti, Douglas Wilson
2012: Bruce Eckman, Doug Miles, Chris Palmer
2013: Jose Gomez

Treasurer: Jan Kwiatkowski

Vestry Clerk: Bev Bauman

Parish Prayer Cycle

Pray each day for revival in the parish, the community, the nation, the world.

Monday: Parish Staff, (Rector, Parish Administrator, Choir Director, Sexton), Vestry, Treasurer

Parish Directory: Albergo-Briggs

Tuesday: The Sunday School, Youth Ministry, Youth Directors, Teachers, Helpers, Nursery and Parents.

Parish Directory: Capobianco-Gomez

Wednesday: Outreach, Evangelism, Alpha, Hospitality Activities, Newcomers Committee, Communications.

Parish Directory: Gray-Lackey

Thursday: Pastoral Care, Prayer Chain, Order of St. Luke, Alcoholism Counseling, AA Group, Al-Anon Group, South County Day Care and Prison Ministry.

Parish Directory: Lashomb-Ogden

Friday: Stewardship, Finance, Property, Scholarship Committee, Publicity, use and care of earth's resources.

Parish Directory: Oros-Simonelli

Saturday: Worship leaders, Choir, Praise Band, Musicians, Lectors, Chalice Bearers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, Altar Guild, Ushers, and Greeters.

Parish Directory: Smith-Zeintek

Sunday: Come and Worship!



ANGLICAN DISTRICT OF THE NORTHEAST

By, Deacon Greg Ventura

Why do we need to belong to the ADN?

What is the ADN you say? It is the Anglican District of the Northeast. It is a group of churches in the northeast of the United States that belong to CANA. Every year these churches gather in a Synod, much like the CANA Council, but on a

smaller scale. The October Synod, which by the time you are reading this, will probably already have taken place. This year they will be talking about the future of the ADN. Should it become a diocese of ACNA (Anglican Church in North America)? Should it join the Anglican Diocese of the Northeast? There are many options, which I am not going to go into detail on. What I would like to tell you is that I strongly believe that we need to be a part of this organization. I think that it is important that we have a connection to other Anglicans locally. In case you were not aware, we are the ONLY CANA church in NJ. The other churches in the ADN are mostly from Connecticut and New York, though there is one in Pennsylvania, we are in New Jersey and there is an associate parish in Maine.

If you would like more information about these other churches, please see the website: <http://www.anglicandistrictnortheast.org/>

For the time being, CANA plans to continue as an organization. However it is not Archbishop Okoh's desire that CANA hang around forever. His desire is that the churches that belong to CANA eventually join some other organization that will eventually be recognized by the Anglican Communion. The logical choice would be to join ACNA (Anglican Church in North America), however they have not been recognized. We hope that will happen soon. What we can do is have dual citizenship. As a member of CANA, we are considered a part of ACNA, but we are not considered a part of any diocese. I believe that we need to consider our next step. In order to do that we will need to be a part of the process. In the future, we will need to consider whether we will elect separate delegates for CANA Council and the ADN Synod. I think that we should since it may be a burden on people to have to go to both. Other churches, like those in the Great Lakes have formed their own diocese and now no longer come to CANA Council. They have taken the big leap. We do not need to do so. We can maintain our dual citizenship. However, if we want ACNA to succeed, then we need to cast our vote for them, by joining them in some capacity more than we have.



Ladies Night Out ~ Christmas Dinner

Jan Kwiatkowski

Our very special covered dish dinner is scheduled for Friday, December 9th, appetizers at 6:30 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM, in Ericson Hall. To make it an extra special night, plan to share your special "company best" dish, and, just for the fun of it, let's "dress for the occasion". Don't want to get all dressed up? – that's just fine – it's your company that we really desire.

This special night is too special to keep to ourselves. Invite your daughter, mother, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, sister, etc. to this lovely evening. It is always a great time of fellowship and delicious food.

To help with the planning process, in mid-November, signup sheets will be available in the Bell Tower. Help is particularly needed Friday afternoon with set up and decorating.

Men – *We need the assistance of 2 able-bodied men willing to handle the clean-up. See the sign-up sheet in the Bell Tower. Your ministry of washing the dishes and putting them away is a blessing to the Ladies!*



9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE

By Bruce Eckman, Vestry Worship Liaison

OUTSIDE SERVICE

Doug Wilson was the creative force behind our recent 9/11 Memorial Service. This service was attended by over 60 people including most parishioners, guests and special Helmetta dignitaries- Mayor Martin, Police Director Andrew Ely, and two uniformed officers. The service began with the raising of a brand new flag on our pole by Chris Palmer and local boy scouts. The flag was then lowered to half-staff to note the losses so many suffered.

We were then scheduled to hear The "Battle Hymn of the Republic" played on the bagpipes by Monroe Township police officer Dan Lang. Unfortunately, to his credit, Officer Lang could not be present because he

had been requested to work overtime because of a heightened alert condition. This service is certainly more important than the little bit of music he would have made for us.

We created an appropriate set of special prayers chosen from the 800 page section of our Book of Common Prayer. (You should open up this part regularly. It contains many prayers for concerns and thanks we don't always remember completely in our regular services.) We said prayers for Heroic Service of First Responders and their families/survivors, for all The People in the United States, and St Francis prayer for forgiveness and love.

Rich Bennett rang the Church Bell at appropriate times between these prayers, which were read by members of the congregation.

Finally we processed into the church to the tune of Amazing Grace, and our combined 8 am and 10 am service began.

INSIDE SERVICE

The service was an enhanced version of Eucharistic Prayer Form A. The Prayers of the People included special emphasis on the human frailties which led to 911 and asked for the blessing of the wonderful work done by caregivers and volunteers then and since. We prayed for all nations to get along without hatred or bitterness, and prayed for healing for those still suffering 911 after effects. The special intercessions ended with us asking God to guide us with His Divine Presence.

I am proud to say we prayed for the members of the Armed Forces as we do every week, not just on special occasions. The service concluded with appropriate patriotic hymns- "My Country 'tis of Thee", "America the Beautiful", and the 2002 song "God, We've Known Such Grief and Anger". I have never heard more enthusiastic singing.

The day ended with a pot luck brunch featuring the biggest assortment of food I have ever seen at St Georges, and that is saying something.

Thanks to everyone who made this day such a success.



Simply Amazing!

By, Jan Kwiatkowski

Our summer vacation at Florida's Disney World this August did not proceed exactly as planned. Oh, let me clarify that statement – it didn't proceed exactly as "I" had planned. Allow me to list a few of the stumbling blocks He placed in our path: 1) Hurricane Irene was initially predicted to slam Florida while we were there (it never did); 2) My grandson broke his leg 4 days before we were to leave (he wasn't able to travel); 3) My younger daughter, mother of said grandson, could not travel until the leg was able to be set and cast; 4) Hurricane Irene now predicted to hit Florida on Friday – the day my younger daughter could travel (she flew just fine on Friday); 5) Hurricane Irene directly hits Connecticut causing power outage at older daughter's home and cancels her homebound flight from Florida. Oh, and let's throw in that earthquake that occurred while we were away! Enough already!

So we survived it all, although as I am typing this my older daughter is now on Day 7 without power. But we declared her to be a "trooper" and somehow she and my son-in-law and 2 grand-cats are managing.

So, what was His plan? Well, part of it was so that my older daughter and I could spend some time together. She has a busy life working as a mechanical engineer by day and gym instructor at night. As a result, we don't get to be in touch as often as Mom would like. We had a lovely time together, just the two of us for 4.5 days.

One of the things we had planned was to attend La Nouba, a Cirque du Soleil show on Wednesday evening. I had 4 non-refundable tickets, but just 2 of us made it to Florida by Wednesday. At dinner that night during Grace, I asked God to show us who He wanted us to give the tickets to. We arrived at the theater and I'm trying real hard to not look like a scalper!!! I kept praying.

I approached a couple at the ticket window and asked if they were attending the evening's

performance. The man turned to me and said "No English". Ok, guess that wasn't the right one. I prayed further and saw two men approaching the ticket window. I walked up to them and told them I had two extra tickets to the show; that my grandson broke his leg and he and my daughter could not travel. I explained I was not looking for any money, I just wanted to give them the tickets and that we would all be sitting together. They smiled, thanked me, and took the tickets.

As my older daughter and I were walking away, she noticed they seemed a little confused. She went over to them and encouraged them to walk with us into the theater. We all settled into our seats and started chatting.

Ok, here's where it gets really interesting. Remember "His" plan? The two gentlemen sitting with us were missionaries from Brazil. They were in the US to raise funds so they could plant additional churches in Brazil! I kid you not. <http://www.gbfcflorida.com/MissionariesII.html> is a link to their website. When my older daughter heard Bernardo say he was a missionary, she just looked at him and said, "You just made her day."



THE POINT OF CRISIS

By Kathryn Hackett-Fields

At times in our lives, most of us have come to some point where a leap of faith needed to be made. Either we leapt, or we were pushed off of the cliff by the crisis. Alas, many of have chosen the harder way, and gained some hard experience by being battered, bruised and disillusioned – at best! But when on those rare times we can take the leap of faith, we find ourselves flying along on the very wings of the Holy Spirit, and we gain great wisdom – at least. Sometimes we gain an insight into our selves that can turn our whole future in another direction. That is definitely a pearl, but one of great price.

Script-writing, as in our wishful thinking of how life *should be*, can be a nearly unconscious habit. It has

little use in real life, yet we so often cling to an illusion of control. I guess we know deep inside our hearts that acceptance of people as they are, and the events of each day, is grueling, humbling spiritual work. We inwardly plead for an easier way – *our* way, of course!

Yes, there are days when I wish my script would be accepted by the “Director” of my life, but when I do the hard work of acceptance, I usually find a long “to-do” list involving my errors in judging the situation. After all, the only person I can control is me – and humbly accept that Jesus said we would have tribulation in this world. How can I make it easier on myself? I can burn the script, drop the rock of resentment, and do what I know to be right, as soon as I possibly can.

Something came to me this morning, thinking of the Bible’s account of Jesus making that whip of cords and “cleansing” the Temple while in a state of great anger and anguish [John 2:13-17]. I have always felt He was 100% right, since I want to have a way to justify some outbursts of my own. But today I found myself wondering, *what if some very poor man had just purchased one of those doves for his sacrifice, and in all the commotion, it got loose and flew away?*

There are often unintended victims when we choose anger and its partners. I wondered if the Father had some wise words for His Son when they spoke that evening...much like the ones He has for me when I come back to myself, and pick up my Charity from the dust. I suppose that is the “point” of crisis – an opportunity to forgive and keep heading for glory.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER

- 6 All Saints’ Day
- 6 Daylight Savings Ends
- 10 Vestry Reports due
- 19 Spaghetti Dinner [EH]
- 21 Vestry Meeting 7:30 PM
- 23 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:30 PM
- 27 First week in Advent

DECEMBER

- 8 Vestry Reports due
- 9 Ladies Night Out
- 10 Boro of Helmetta [EH] 5-9 PM
- 19 Vestry Meeting 7:30 PM

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays:

- Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 am
- Sunday School
- Fellowship following each service

Tuesdays:

- Discipleship Group 1 pm
- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 8:00 pm

Wednesdays:

- Men’s Discipleship Group 8:30 am {Panera’s}
- Morning Prayer and Women’s Bible Study 10 am
- Healing Service 7:30 pm
- Discipleship Group [Smith’s] 7:30 pm

Thursdays:

- Serenity Seekers (Al-Anon) 1:00 pm
- AA Step Meeting 7:00 pm
- Choir Practice 7:00 pm
- Praise Band Practice 8:00 pm

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR OTHER IMPORTANT DATES AT WWW.STGEORGESHELMETTA.ORG.

ST. GEORGE'S

Thoughts like Autumn Leaves

by Kit Rockwell

Dear Lord,

How beautiful the autumn leaves were today. The sun seemed to light each one. They shone and flickered in the wind like little candles.

Dear Lord, let my thoughts, like the leaves, shine like candles on the altar of my life.

May some be golden thoughts shining in adoration. May some thoughts gleam like bronze with patience, understanding and trust. May some thoughts flame scarlet, full of courage and fortitude.

May all thoughts be alight with love of You.

Love, *Kit*