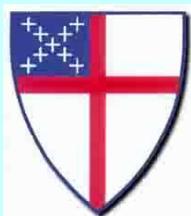


June - July
2015

The Anchor



Office Hours

Thursday

10:00 a.m.

to

1:00 p.m.

Look inside for:

Events &

Services

Birthdays &

Anniversaries

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SUNDAY

WORSHIP

@

10 AM

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WEBSITE:

stnicholasde.org

St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church/ 302-368-4655

The ANCHOR of our soul is Jesus - Hebrews 6:19

From the Pastor's Pen 

Greetings!

In St. Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue in New York City, tucked away above an interior doorway to the left of the entrance is a frieze of a stylized battle scene from World War I. The theme of this entrance from Fifth Avenue is "peace" with remembrances of soldiers who perished. The particular frieze is a half-circle above the door. It shows soldiers pushing forward, except for one who has fallen. An angel with an enormous wing supports the one who has fallen.

As I wrote the sermon for Pentecost Sunday on Memorial Day weekend, my mind's eye kept recalling that simple, evocative scene. In a church known for its magnificent and creative decorative features, including stone carvings, woodcarvings, and stained glass, this simple dimly lit doorway stood out for me because of its theology. What does God's presence look like on the battlefield? It does not look like "triumph." It looks like "love."

We, as a nation, are buffeted by the opinions of experts (and Congress members) about what we should do about this or that crisis, particularly in the Middle East. Whatever path we choose, whether or not we achieve our aims, there will always be suffering—some of which we may well cause.

This brings to mind a quote I have heard attributed to Abraham Lincoln: "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."

I am also reminded of this quote from the prophet Micah: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

In the world of the frieze above that doorway at St. Thomas, "God's side" was to care for and show merciful love to the one who was suffering. I believe that is true in our world as well.

Peace in Christ, Elizabeth+

Journey to Follow God's Gifts and Callings

I had some church background growing up and knew about the Lord, but I came to know Christ as my personal Lord and Savior as an engineering student at Columbia Univ. in NY. It was in my first year as a new Spirit-born Christian that I had a very strong desire to go into ministry and sensed a calling. I remember some of my early spiritual mentors encouraging me at that time to go to seminary and into ministry. I delayed the calling and went into teaching secondary science and math while coaching wrestling and track for many years. I completed a M.Ed. for science and math certification in PA at Arcadia University and taught in both Christian and public schools and a little college adjunct work. My ministry interests continued to develop through extensive church involvements in Sunday school, youth outreach, Christian camp work, short-term mission work, church boards, drama ministry, choir and praise team, and Christian literary efforts.



© Can Stock Photo - csp5299063

However, the Lord revisited the calling to be a preacher and Bible teacher so strongly that it moved me to pursue missionary work overseas and go to seminary for preparation and training. I did some youth ministry and teaching while completing my seminary training in biblical studies, missions, and Christian Ed. After seminary I did some cross-cultural and inner city mission work by serving as an assistant church planter with an Arabic pastor in Allentown and then a revitalization effort at a church in NE Philadelphia. I also taught at a Christian Academy in inner city West Philadelphia. I tried to make it to the mission field as a church planter or missionary kids schoolteacher.

Eventually, the Lord redirected me to pursuing pastoral work and more teaching on the home front. I became a licensed minister with the Brethren Church in 2009 and the Lord blessed me with a great partner for ministry in Kathy Hankins whom I met that summer. I continued teaching in public and private Christian schools in Delaware and supply pastoring. Eventually I started teaching at Delaware Bible College and became a board member and speaker for the Delaware Scientific and Biblical Creationist Fellowship and joined the Evangelical Ministers Fellowship of Delaware. This year the Lord has me serving as a youth director, chaplain, and Bible teacher at Sunday Breakfast Mission. St. Nicholas has a special place in our hearts as the church Kathy grew up in and we were married in and we are always glad to see Steve and Liz Hankins there.

Thanks for having us at St. Nicholas,
Rev. Craig and Kathy Bracy

Announcements

Joe Redden is having a book signing party for his latest mystery, on Sat. June 6th from 1 - 5 p.m. at 17 Fremont Road, Newark, DE 19711. For directions call (302) 731-4339.

Ice Cream Social in July - Watch for more details in the Weekly Notes!

Bishop Chilton Knudsen Highlights the Need for Awareness regarding Alcoholism

"If you are a member of the Episcopal Church, you are co-dependent. The Episcopal Church is co-dependent and we have to get better," the Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, former bishop of Maine, told a gathering of more than 120 clergy from the dioceses of Central Pennsylvania, Bethlehem and Northwestern Pennsylvania attending a Wellness Day May 21 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in State College.

"If there is one above all interventions to move a system toward joy, creativity and health, it is learning how to respond to each other. We shape one another's reality by the way we respond to each other," said Knudsen, a counselor in the field of addiction recovery who was recently appointed as assistant bishop in the Diocese of Maryland."

At St. Nicholas' we host 6 AA meetings each week. Members of these groups have spoken to me how important meetings are for maintaining their sobriety.

Blessings on your . . .

JUNE

Birthdays

3 John Hankins
5 Bonnie Jean Marshall
6 Rain Dehel
17 Chloe Fontello
18 Kathy Hankins Bracy
18 Chimene Grieten
18 Lillian Seward
21 Mark Scira
25 Jean Meredith

Baptisms

5 Susan Colvin
5 Kelsey Malafronti
7 Rachel Bowman Davis
18 Margaret Bowman Prothero
21 Shelby Grier
28 Sara Hughes
30 Danica Meredith

Marriages

4 Sue & Charles Greenplate
10 Amy & Jeremy Danko
23 Elizabeth & Fred Masterson
24 Alice & Scott Edgell



JULY

Birthdays

- 2 Grace Dehel
- 3 John Grieten
- 6 LuAnn Smith
- 9 Denisha Fanning
- 11 Cleretta Hewling
- 17 Katie Hughes
- 21 Jeffrey DeGraff
- 22 Patrick DeGraff
- 27 Rick Wallace
- 28 Almerle Davis

Baptisms

- 9 Wesley Meredith
- 20 Amy Bowman Danko
- 26 Grace Dehel
- 29 Laura Hughes

Marriages

- 27 Kelsey & B.J. Malafronti



A striking seven foot wide Homeless Jesus sculpture outside Dublin's Christ Church Cathedral has been dedicated and blessed by the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Archbishops of Dublin, the Most Rev. Michael Jackson and the Most Rev. Diarmuid Martin. The sculpture has been presented to the people of Dublin by an anonymous North American benefactor and the sculptor, Timothy Schmalz, flew in from Canada to unveil it.

The bronze sculpture depicts a park bench with a faceless cloaked figure lying on it. Passers by realize that the sculpture depicts Jesus only when they notice the holes in the feet. The sculpture is located in front of the cathedral in full view of the public.

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