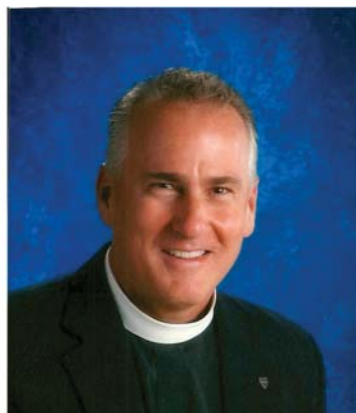


Saint Anne's News

A "new" newsletter for Saint Anne Episcopal Church; Desoto, TX



The Rev. James Harris, Jr., opa+,
D. Min. Rector

Rectors Corner

I am pleased that the Saint Anne Newsletter is back. There is so much activity at Saint Anne, that it is impossible for us to stay up to date simply through our weekly announcement bulletins and parish emails. I hope you find this useful and we welcome your feedback. I want to thank Roger Christiansen for his leadership and willingness to serve as the editor. It is our plan to bring you a newsletter in the midst of each season; summer, fall, winter and spring.

I am writing from within my cabin at Camp All Saints, where I am serving as a Camp Dean (Spiritual Director) for the week; hosting both, elementary and junior high students. The youth and their leaders are wonderful. They are building healthy relationships and learning about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The youth's minds are like sponges, soaking up the witness of others, both their friends and their leaders. I have been asked and have accepted, the responsibility of being the Lead Camp Dean for next year's summer youth camp. It is a joy to serve in this capacity. A number of our own are present with me this week: Cecelia Lau (Art Director), Bilal Evans (Media Director), Danya Evans (camper), Rachel McNully (Counselor) and Bronwyn McNully as a volunteer staff member for a few days now that she is home from Europe.

Today I am teaching the youth about developing a Rule of Life. It is a good lesson for me to revisit personally and perhaps a good lesson for you as well. "Rule" comes from the Latin word *regla* and implies "regularity." The idea of a rule of life is that we each develop a regular (a rule) pattern of living that will assist us as disciples of Christ. This rule can be compared to a trellis that exists to assist a plant to live and grow more fully and healthily into the being that it was created. Our trellis (rule) can serve in the same way. A "Rule" might include a daily reminder: to give thanks to God our Creator-Redeemer-Sustainer, to serve those in need more consistently, to physically live healthy as the temple embodying Christ, etc. Each Christian's rule is unique to their own relationship with Jesus. What is your rule of life? Perhaps now is the appropriate time to develop or refine your own under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

--
Jim Harris opa+

Saint Anne Welcomes our Newest Clergy!

Deacon Adriana Elliott



The Deacon in the Church

A deacon is one of three distinct orders of ordained ministers (bishops, priests, deacons) in the Episcopal Church. Within the Anglican Communion an individual becomes a deacon by being ordained by a bishop after having completed a course of study and formation. If I may add, a rather long course.

At my Ordination I received, and accepted, the following charge from Bishop Sumner, found in our Book of Common Prayer.

God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

So what does that mean for me exactly as I serve here at Saint Anne? First of all I serve at Saint Anne because Bishop Sumner allows me to, his decision influenced by the request made by Fr. Jim Harris and your Vestry. I am under the authority of our Rector. My exact role will develop over the next weeks and months as Fr. Jim serves not only as my "boss" but also as my mentor. Currently I am involved in pastoral care and welcoming newcomers. My most visible role of course will be on Sundays, as I assist in worship. A deacon has specific duties in the service, which are as follows:

The reading of the Gospel (It is the role of a deacon to bring the Good News of Christ Jesus to the people)-- Preaching from time to time (My message should reflect that of the Gospel, and should inspire and direct you to take the Gospel to the people outside the church)--Setting the table for the Eucharist (As a symbol of servanthood)--Presenting the Gifts of God for the People of God (representing all the people that the church has left behind)--Giving the dismissal (A dismissal that sends you and me, out into the world to do the ministry that God calls us to do)

As you can see, these liturgical roles are all symbolic of a deacon's real ministry in the world. My ministry is that of serving the world. My servant leadership includes encouraging and enabling others to serve. "Others" of course means you, the Godly people of Saint Anne. Together we will go forward, to love and serve the Lord.

Saint Anne Welcomes our New Sexton Dennis Seals



Married: Teresa Seals

Children: Dennis Jr., Terrence Anthony, and Jennifer

Grandchildren: 8

I was born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma and retired from Southwestern Bell in 2002 with 30 years of dedicated service. Moved to De Soto, TX in 2003 and decided to work for another retirement income. I enjoyed working seven years for the City of Arlington, TX. I'm a member of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship and serve with my wife as a Marriage Mentor for the Couples Ministry Leadership team. We mentor couples because that is one of our passions and a great pleasure in ministry that we enjoy. I love playing golf and I try to play at least once a week. Finance is also another one of my gifts that God has blessed me with for my family, friends and associates. I enjoy finding good stocks to buy and sale. I truly enjoy beautifying our lawn and it is also a great therapy for me. My wife and I just celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary on June 11th. (Praise the Lord) I would like to thank the St. Ann Church family for the opportunity to serve you and the Kingdom as your new Sexton.

God Bless,
Dennis Seals

Hospitality at Saint Anne

New Member Dinner

A new member dinner was held on May 15. There were 10 new, and somewhat new guests in attendance, along with several vestry members and staff.

Everyone enjoyed Italian food from Sam's Pizza and Pasta, along with great conversation. Father Jim talked to our guests briefly about the Saint Anne family and opened the conversation for questions and comments.

Several guests had great questions/comments for us. It was a very fruitful evening enjoyed by all.

Melanie Killian
Hospitality

Wellness Ministry

Relay for Life

For the fourth year in a row, the Saint Anne Gargoyles participated in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event to Remember (loved ones lost to cancer), Celebrate (cancer survivors), and Fight Back (by supporting research and patient services). On Friday, June 10th, a group of 13 enthusiastic team members converged on the Midlothian Civic Center for six hours of ceremonies and activities. Four Saint Anne cancer survivors and two caregivers walked the opening lap, and all team members participated in the very moving luminaria ceremony after dark. But there was lots of fun as well... great fellowship, great music, and great food from nearby restaurants. There was also great laughter as we prepared our entry for the People Mache contest. Team member Patricia Daley volunteered once again to be covered in newspaper and duct tape for transformation into Super Survivor Faith Overall. She had a difficult time walking up the ramp to the stage, she was so thoroughly wrapped, but she made it and represented us well. Although we didn't win any of the contests, one Gargoyle did win the Grand Prize raffle drawing at the end of the evening - two round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines. The 2016 Relay for Life has come and gone, but don't worry if you missed it. There is always next year!!



Pastoral Care Ministries

Saint Anne is blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers helping to care for our parish family. Through the Pastoral Care Ministries of Saint Anne, the sick and the lonely are visited, meals are cooked and delivered to those in need, neighbors reach out to neighbors, cards are sent to let someone know they are thought of, telephone calls are made to keep in touch, prayer shawls, quilts, and blankets are knitted/quilted, blessed and delivered, people are prayed for, those who are experiencing grief are cared for, communion is delivered to those who are home or in the hospital, and support groups meet to reach out to those in need. These are just some of the ways we serve in the name of Christ.

Daughters of the King The DOK is known for its Prayer, Study & Service. A recent project was Deacon Adriana's reception, which was a total success! They also, maintain a prayer list and prays daily for those in need of prayer. Their current project is sssssssshhhhh, it's a secret... they will have to tell you next month. There are about 23 DOK members and are always welcoming more women to join in the fun.

Pastoral Care Ministries

Continued

Prayers and Squares The Prayers & Squares group convenes monthly throughout the year & has lifted the spirits of many church members and friends in our community by their prayerful intention of creating gifts of comfort. Quilts and blankets are made for all ages. The gifts are blessed and given in loving kindness. There are about 40 quilts and blankets per year distributed in our community.

Meals Ministry Volunteers of our parish prepares meals throughout the year for parishioners recovering from surgery, or are homebound, ill or in need of a meal for various reasons. What a blessing it is to be able to take a meal to a brother or sister in Christ.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors They go from our Sunday Eucharist to share the sacraments with members of our congregation who are unable to be present at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist because of illness or infirmity. This ministry is understood to be an extraordinary ministry, and helps keep our parishioners connected in Christ.

Flower Delivery Ministry You should see the eyes light up when flowers are received by someone in our church community. Altar flowers are delivered almost every week of the year to those who have had some special event occur; an illness the birth of a child, death of a loved one or someone homebound. There are even special deliveries of lilies and poinsettias at Easter and Christmas.

Transportation Ministry Have you needed a ride to church... how about a ride to a Dr. appointment, or to the store. In the first 6 months of 2016, church volunteers have taken parishioners to 5 doctor appointments, over 11 shopping outings, 9 pharmacy visits, and provided transportation to and from church each Sunday. Beep Beep!

Card Ministry The card ministry sends personalized cards to parishioners who are ill, to caretakers of those who are ill, to those who have experienced a death of a loved one, and to those who are experiencing a special or tragic event in their lives... to let each one of them know they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Walking the Mourner's Path This is a new ministry that will help you explore the many emotions that arise after the death of a loved one, and transform grief into joyful living. Christ-centered and Episcopal-specific, our eight-week program will start in the fall. Visit www.mournerspath.com for more information.

Pastoral Care Committee This confidential-care-giving ministry is made up of a group of about ten parish members who meets once a month to pray and discuss the healing needs of our parish family. Volunteers make phone calls to parishioners, and visit parishioners at home & hospitals throughout each month.

The Ministries above are just a few ways Saint Anne's Pastoral Care Group serves in the name of Christ. We encourage all members of Saint Anne Episcopal Church to be a part of the Pastoral Care Ministries. We have about 60 parishioners involved in the ministries mentioned above. If you are interested in being a part of Pastoral Care please email or call Shirley in the office, office@stannedesoto.org or call 972-709-0691.

Pastoral Care Ministries

Continued



Daughters of the King



Walking the Mourners Path



Prayers & Squares



Lay Eucharistic Visitors



Flower Delivery Ministry



Card Ministry



Featured Ministry: The Chalice Bearer



The chalice bearer plays a vital role in helping to cultivate an environment in which worship may be celebrated with reverence and awe, allowing for full participation by the gathered assembly. A Chalice Bearer must be confirmed, regular in participating in the worship of the church, and in receiving Communion. He/she must be active in the support of the parish and shall have received training for the position. Chalice bearers shall be licensed upon completion of training. The Chalice Bearer license gives the lay person permission to "... Administer the Chalice at celebrations of the Holy Eucharist..." The Bishop, upon written request by the Rector of the parish, issues these licenses.

Candidates must be willing, sincere, prompt, dressed appropriately for altar service, regular in attendance, alert to instruction, and cooperative. Chalice bearers are expected to regard their office and assignments seriously, as a commitment of talent and time in the Lord's service; it is a holy responsibility. It is very important for chalice bearers to know the order of service and liturgical terminology as well as their particular assignments. More than a dozen members serve in the capacity of Chalice Bearer at St. Anne. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Father Jim or Dianne Hawkins.

Outreach

For the sixth consecutive year, Saint Anne participated in DeSoto Great Days of Service (GDS). In its 12th year, GDS brings together local churches, civic organizations, and community volunteers to complete a week of service projects for residents of the City of DeSoto. This year's week of service ran from June 13 through June 18. Saint Anne hosted a fellowship dinner to kick-off the week on June 13.

During the week, 192 volunteers from eight participating organizations:

- > Distributed 429 sewn items to hospitals, nursing homes, chemo centers, and police department
- > Visited over 400 nursing home residents
- > Built a wheelchair ramp for a disabled veteran living in DeSoto
- > Prepared 10 pallets containing 7,500 pounds of food at North Texas Food Bank that will result in 6,250 meals
- > Collected over 1,000 pounds of food for DeSoto Food Pantry
- > Served lunch to an estimated 350 public service employees including those who work for the city, post office, fire department, police department, and school district
- > Read to children during 12 story times held at local day care centers
- > Mowed, edged, and cleaned up 2 yards for elderly residents
- > Picked up litter along a portion of the Roy Orr Trail

In total, 21 parishioners from Saint Anne along with 6 community volunteers took part in one or more service projects during the week.





Summer is upon us as the St. Anne junior and senior high EYC progressed through the first six months of 2016! Fr. Jim recruited Martha and Jose Villa, and Kathryn Mendenhall to help lead these bright young adults early in the year. Since then, the EYC has transitioned into what we hope will be a fresh and proactive team of young faith. The crew has participated in several lock-ins complete with everything from baking to midnight ice cream sundaes! EYC has told us they very much enjoy these events and we will continue to have them semiannually. Martha and Kathryn have also started to host Wednesday game nights biweekly, switching back and forth between their homes. We hope that these will give the young adults a “break” from home/school life and have more opportunities to see each other outside of Sunday services.

EYC has been working very hard to raise funds for their mission trip to Albuquerque at the end of July. Their hard work at fundraisers like Sunday car washes, bake sales and others have raised almost all of the funds necessary for the trip. They are still hard at work and looking forward to a wonderful mission trip to carry out the works of God.

In other news, EYC members have been very busy finishing out the ‘15-’16 school year. Our very own Rachel McNully and Alfonso Scott have graduated high school! Rachel graduated high school from the Dasche Homeschool Association and plans to attend Stephen F Austin State University with a major in business management and minor in public administration. Her hard work paid off as she will leave for college in August having been accepted into the SFA School of Honors.

Our other youth members are spending their summer attending Camp All Saints, biking through Italy, participating in extracurricular sports, and working part-time jobs!



Stewardship

On Pentecost Sunday, a brief questionnaire was passed out asking parishioners to rate possible topics for future stewardship programs and actions. Eighty-eight questionnaires were returned. Based on these responses, the five most helpful areas are:

- Exploring my God-given talents and ways to share them doing God's work
- Knowing where the dollars in our offering plate go and the status of the parish finances
- Discovering Christ-centered, Bible-based giving that can change my life
- Learning about God's way of managing money
- Finding how to appreciate and share my faith story, particularly about the joy of giving

Opportunities to delve into some of these topics will begin this summer with some of the topics discussed during Breakfast with the Rector.

People were also asked what words besides time, talent, and treasure they associated with stewardship. As you can see from the word cloud below, the top five words were Love, Giving, Share, Care, and Generosity.

Thank you to all who completed the questionnaire. Your answers will help our spiritual development both as individuals and as a congregation.



Editors' Corner: Thank You for all that submitted articles and/or pictures for this edition, I couldn't have done it without you!!

In this first issue of the "new" newsletter, your humble editor needs some help from all of you. First of all, being fairly new to the parish I don't have much (if any) real historical background of the "old" newsletter. This being said, I could really use all of your help for articles of interest, pictures and most of all; a new "Name" for this newsletter. Critique, opinions and suggestions will always be welcome and I will do my best to implement any suggestions into the next newsletter. Please send any critique, opinion, suggestions, articles, pictures etc to me at rsc01.1@gmail.com and to really help me out, please put "Newsletter" in the subject line.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Roger