

Grace Notes

Summer 2008

Rector's Ruminations

*In the previous edition of this newsletter, I attempted to explain the approach taken by the leadership of this parish to the proposed "realignment" of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh with another province of the Anglican Communion. In this more restricted space (you'll notice that the content of **Grace Notes** has expanded to include birthdays and anniversaries as well as the Sunday serving schedule!), I want to bring you up to date on several new developments as we head into the fall.*

The Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON)

The major new development of the summer is the release of a "Statement on the Global Anglican Future" by over 1,000 Anglican leaders (both clergy and lay) who gathered in Jerusalem last month. This document addresses what it calls "a crisis within the Anglican Communion" by setting forth "three undeniable facts": (1) "the acceptance and promotion within the provinces of the Anglican Communion of a different 'gospel' (Galatians 1:6-8) which is contrary to the apostolic gospel"; (2) "the declaration by provincial bodies in the Global South that they are out of communion with bishops and churches that promote this false gospel"; and (3) "the manifest failure of the Communion Instruments [i.e., the leadership] to exercise discipline in the face of overt heterodoxy."

In light of these facts, GAFCON has done three things. First, it has launched, within the Communion as a whole, a movement of "confessing Anglicans," that is, those who identify themselves with the Anglican tradition and hold in common certain "tenets of orthodoxy which underpin our Anglican identity." Second, it has issued a manifesto entitled "The Jerusalem Declaration," which sets forth those tenets in the form of fourteen points (well worth reading at www.gafcon.org). Third, GAFCON has asked the primates (archbishops of provincial churches) to form a council which would

function in a leadership role to “recognize confessing Anglican jurisdictions... and encourage all Anglicans to promote the gospel and defend the faith.”

In direct response to the situation in North America, GAFCON has gone so far as to urge the primates’ council, once formed, to recognize the Common Cause Partnership, which includes orthodox Anglican bodies from the US and Canada, as a separate Anglican province. If and when that step is taken, dioceses such as our own that temporarily realign with other provinces, together with so-called “continuing Anglican” churches, will presumably be able to join in a single, unified jurisdiction.

Annual Diocesan Convention

As we move through the summer and into the fall, things will begin happening pretty quickly nearer to home. Here in the parish, we will hold open forums on Sunday, September 21, at both sites (noon in Mt. Washington and 7:00 PM in Edgeworth) to explain the meaning and consequences of realignment and to allow you to ask any questions that you may have. Please put one of those dates on your calendar now!

It seems likely that an attempt will be made to “depose” (that is, remove from office) Bishop Duncan at the September meeting of the American House of Bishops. A decision has therefore been made to hold the annual diocesan convention in early October rather than in November, as is usual. At that convention, a second vote will be taken on a resolution amending the constitution of the diocese to allow us to move our affiliation from The Episcopal Church (TEC) to the Province of the Southern Cone (south equatorial Latin America). If that vote is successful, as I pray it will be, we will no longer be part of TEC, and, if Bishop Duncan has been deposed by TEC, he will be invited to continue to serve as our bishop under the umbrella of the Southern Cone.

Throughout all this, you shouldn’t notice any change in our life together. If the diocese realigns, we will vote at our annual parish meeting on Sunday, November 9, on the amendment of our parish bylaws and articles of incorporation to bring them into conformity with the diocesan constitution.

Please keep all these matters in your prayers, and be assured that I pray for all of you regularly.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Fr. John

Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

Names in italics are from our Edgeworth congregation. If your birthday or anniversary has been omitted, we do not have those dates on our records. In that event, request an information form from the office (412 381-6020 or 412 741-1676).

July

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|-----------------------|
| 20 | <i>Benjamin Patterson</i> | 23 | Paul & Mary Ann Walsh |
| 21 | Gwen Bechtol | 29 | Mark & Newlin Hudson |
| 22 | <i>Sarah Lawrence, Sydney Lawrence</i> | | |

August

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| 1 | <i>Kirk Botula</i> | 19 | <i>Shirley Fulton</i> |
| 7 | Justin Houck | 23 | Shirley Griffin, Karen Vevers, Kennedy Houck, Devin MacLaren |
| 10 | <i>Fran & Doris Esteban</i> | 24 | <i>John Kriever, Dwight & Ann Castro</i> |
| 11 | <i>Lucy Holley</i> | 27 | Dwight Castro |
| 12 | Bobbi Brittain, Keith Thomas | 28 | Bob Hahner. Mel & Barb Crigler |
| 13 | James Vevers | 30 | <i>Claudia Botula</i> |
| 14 | <i>Gabriel Mackey</i> | 31 | <i>Jack Marcrum</i> |
| 16 | <i>Virginia Tuttle, Laura Pangburn</i> | | |
| 17 | <i>John & Pat Kriever</i> | | |
| 18 | Susan Park | | |

September

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| 3 | Stephen Porter | 19 | Liz Crigler |
| 6 | <i>Larissa Holley, Craig Stephans</i> | 20 | Michael Meyer |
| 11 | Lydia Vevers | 22 | Keith & Cindy Thomas |
| 13 | <i>James Hudson, Palmer Hudson, Shelley McQuone</i> | 23 | Pat Currin |
| 14 | Kathy & Ed McNeilis, Jim & Carole Harland | 25 | James Park |
| 15 | <i>Madelaine Stephans, Christian Brown, Juliette Barrett</i> | 26 | <i>Missy Stephans</i> |
| 16 | <i>Jim MacLaren, Gussie Dunstan</i> | 27 | <i>Lydia Holley</i> |
| | | 29 | <i>Mark Hudson, Reed & Ann Schroeder</i> |

Sunday serving schedule – August 10 thru October 26

Those assigned are responsible for finding substitutes. Please report any changes to the office (412 741-1676)

Date	Ushers	Greeters / Oblationers	Crucifer	Sub-deacon	Reader	Intercessor
8/10	Craig M. / Phyllis	Dunstans	Pat	Chad L.	Geoff	Roberta
8/17	Lee / Bonnie	Marcums	Jim	Pat	Laura	Woody
8/24	Woody / Craig H.	Porters	Chad L.	Chad W.	Carol	Mark
8/31	Mark / Brendan	Whitacres	Chad W.	Geoff	Barb	Newlin
9/7	Craig M. / Phyllis	Pattersons	Geoff	Chad L.	Roberta	Sherry
9/14	Lee / Kirk B.	MacLarens	Jim	Pat	Woody	Laura
9/21	Woody / Craig H.	Hudsons	Pat	Chad W.	Mark	Craig M.
9/28	Mark / Brendan	Pangburns	Chad L.	Geoff	Craig M.	Newlin
10/5	Craig M. / Phyllis	Lawrences	Chad W.	Chad L.	Newlin	Sherry
10/12	Lee / Bonnie	Hendrixes	Geoff	Pat	Sherry	Laura
10/19	Woody / Craig H.	Botulas	Pat	Chad W.	Geoff	Carol
10/26	Mark / Brendan	Barretts	Jim	Geoff	Laura	Barb

**Grace Episcopal Church
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“Come and see, follow and grow, go and tell!”