

THE GOOD NEWS!



St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church
157 Montague Street, Brooklyn, New York

June 12, 2011
 Feast of Pentecost

Services at St. Ann's

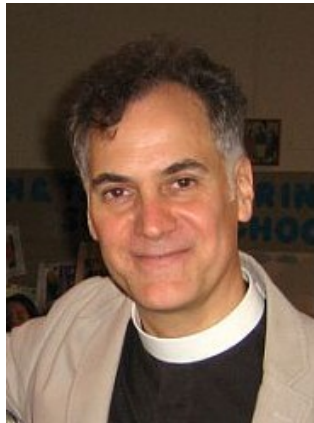
- **Sundays**
 Holy Eucharist,
 11:00AM
 + + + + +
- Midweek Eucharists
 begin June 21
- **Tuesdays**
 1:10PM
- **Thursdays**
 12:10PM & 6:00PM
 Church open 12:00-
 2:00 every weekday
 + + + + +
- **Wednesdays**
 Organ Recital,
 1:10PM in June; on
 hiatus July & August
 + + + + +
- **Sunday School &
 Children's Choir**
 return in the Fall

Words from the Wardens

A New Ministry Covenant

In a special liturgy Sunday, June 5, we officially welcomed our new clergy team of Fr. John Denaro and Mo. Nell Archer as our Priest-in-Charge and Assistant Priest-in-Charge.

The Rev. Canon John Betit, Canon to the Ordinary – that is, chief assistant to Bishop Provenzano – is a good friend of the parish. He met with and



Father Denaro

advised the Vestry during the interview and selection process that brought Father Denaro to us. It was fitting then that he came back on June 5 to officiate at a

"Covenant of Mutual Ministry" ceremony during our liturgy that day. In that cere-

mony, we, the People, Wardens, Vestry and Officers of the parish, pledged to use our varied gifts and resources to move our parish forward and to love and support our new clergy, their families and our parish staff. Mother Archer and Father Denaro, in their turn, promised to love, strengthen and nourish all of us.



Canon Betit

Although Mother Archer has been with us since late last summer – ably stepping into our community after Mother Angela Askew's sudden, health-related departure – we had yet to welcome her officially. Father Denaro has been with us only short time, but he has jumped into the work here

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A Prayer for the Season ~ for the Church's Mission in the City

God of Heaven and Earth, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, this our city. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 825

From the Clergy Team

Looking Up, Pursuing Mission

I've had that "Christmas in July" sort of feeling recently and finally figured out why. The Feast of the Ascension, which the Church observed this year on June 2, asserts the heaven-to-earth connection as powerfully as the Feast of the Nativity. The Word made flesh that comes to dwell among us returns to God, but the Holy Spirit – the gift of Pentecost – confirms God's everlasting covenant with humanity.

Many gifts of the Spirit (if not Christmas!) will be useful throughout the summer at St. Ann and the Holy Trinity as we continue to embrace the challenges of our new ministry. While keeping sacred some time for recreation, we'll persist in discerning our future and developing parish programs to build on the good work, endurance and faith that have brought us this far.

Ideas about outreach have been percolating over the course of the spring, and some are certain to take shape with further planning. Meanwhile, we are aware we can offer immediately several services of Holy Eucharist for our neighbors and any of us seeking spiritual sustenance during the workweek. (See "Services at St. Ann's" on page 1 for a new schedule beginning June 21.) Looking ahead, there are no limits to other ways we can

engage in service to our community and a world in need.

I am encouraged by words in the First Letter of Peter from a lesson we heard at our Sunday service and celebration of new ministry on June 5: "And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace...will restore, support, strengthen and establish you." (I Peter 5:10) Ours has not been all suffering; nor will it be all success. But we can be certain that the God who loved us into existence and draws us into community wants the best for us and, by the Spirit, will preserve and sustain us.

I will leave you with a notion conveyed by the Rev. Canon John Betit, Canon to the Ordinary in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, in the sermon he preached that same day. Reflecting on the story of Christ's Ascension, he insisted that our calling is to keep our heads up with our eyes lifted heavenward, and our feet firmly on the ground in pursuit of our mission.

With this in mind and heart, ours can be a very fruitful (and maybe even merry) summer!

The Rev. John E. Denaro
Priest-in-Charge

Good Judgment: Ours and God's

Judgment is a powerful tool. We rely on our judgment all the time to help us evaluate our options before we make decisions. As our children mature, taking on more freedom and responsibility, we know that their ability to exercise good judgment becomes increasingly important. Good judgment requires the ability to think critically and critical thinking is a skill that students are expected to develop over the course of their academic studies. But a recent study by two sociologists suggests that, despite the skyrocketing costs of higher education, graduates of colleges and

universities in the United States often fail to meet this goal. According to Richard Arum and Josipa Roksa, the authors of *Academically Adrift*, almost half of students attending institutions of higher learning do so without acquiring the critical thinking skills they need to thrive in a democratic society. If this is true, it is alarming indeed. The tsunami of information and choices that the average person contends with on a daily basis requires us to render judgments about complex issues with increasing speed.

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A New Ministry Covenant

with both feet. A few Sundays ago, we were able to say a proper farewell to Mother Askew and thank her for what she has done for and meant to our parish. (See the article about this event on page 5.) The subsequent celebration was a formal way to mark the start of our new clergy team's work with us.

We look forward to building our parish life together with Father Denaro and Mother Archer. At a day-long workshop May 14, the Vestry and some other parish leaders conceived some goals for improving the community's awareness of the parish, increasing our membership, developing our young

people's talents and participation in the parish, along with other goals we will set together in the coming years.

The May 14 planning session was just the first step in setting new goals and plans to develop both our parish and also our parish hall building. Our two priests have already put into place a plan to provide new weekday Eucharists and a book study. So, "Hello and Welcome!" to Father Denaro and Mother Archer! May we all prosper in ministry together!

Syd Farley & Frank Kain
Wardens

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Mother Archer on "Judgment"

But judgment can also be destructive, particularly in churches where it has been used as a weapon to beat up, exclude and disenfranchise others. We don't always live up to the claim, but as Christians we assert that ultimate judgment belongs to God, not people. This does not mean that we should check our critical thinking skills at the door when we come to church. Far from it. As a community of faith charged to be a witness to God's love and grace here at the corner of Clinton and Montague Streets, we will need to draw on all our resources — mental and physical as well as spiritual — to live into that calling. But as Canon Betit reminded us last Sunday when we committed ourselves to a Covenant of Mutual Ministry, we are

empowered to exercise our ministry "with mutual affection and respect." Although we rely on our human judgment all the time, it is important that we not confuse human judgment with God's judgment.

So then, each of us will be accountable to God. Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. (Romans 14:12-13)

The Rev. Nell B. Archer
Assistant Priest-in-Charge

Summer Planning

Ah, summer! It's a time when many of us will go off to the beach or the mountains or any of a number of faraway places. While we will hopefully all have great times, let us remember one small back-home detail. Please remember that church expenses do not go on vacation. Even if you aren't here every Sunday, please make an effort to keep your pledge up to date. It will be ever so helpful to those who are holding down the fort and paying the bills.

Thanks — and enjoy your summer!

Notes from the Console

We have reached the point in the year when it is time to say "Farewell!" to the Choir for the summer. By the time you receive this newsletter, they will have sung their last service of the season on Pentecost, June 12. I hope that you will join me in sincerely thanking those who have lent their talents to the beautification and enlargement of our worship through music. During the year, we said goodbye to Leighanne Saltsman after several years of singing with us. In addition to thanking Leighanne, we owe our gratitude to the current members of the Choir: Rachel Bazaz, Robert Boldin, Cheryl Branche, Lou Calvano, Carol Francescani, Faith George, Sandra Gilmour, Frank Kain, Marjorie Naughton and Jonathan Scott.

As usual, the congregation now joins its praises to those of heaven with the assistance of those parishioner-Choir members who will now be seated in your midst. Do not feel pressure over this; sing to the best of your ability. The psalmist said, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands," and not, "make a perfectly tuned chord". Enjoy the music, even if it is unfamiliar. And if you find it too difficult to sing right off the bat, read the words while others sing. It is the words that are the reason we are singing and not simply "time-

out" from the liturgy for music. If you can join in later in the hymn, that is fine, no matter how well you do. Remember that, whether seen or heard, you have all the hosts of heaven supporting your praise of the God who loves us and redeems us.

Finally, I have some information that will affect the summer music at St. Ann's. The organ, at a venerable 86 years of age, needs some major work on its wind-system. This will put the instrument out of commission for most of July, and piano will be used for church services. This, of course, means that the Wednesday Concerts will be going on hiatus for July, and I am extending this through August for several reasons. One of these reasons is that I am desirous of the time necessary to learn a major work for our next fund-raising concert, which will be on September 25 at 7:00PM. And so, do not think of the silence of the organ as a detriment. Rather, know that it means that the instrument will be breathing more securely, and also that I am working behind the scenes toward what I hope will be another successful fund-raiser in the fall.

Happy Summer!

Gregory Eaton
Director of Music

ST. ANN & THE HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

presents

A Summer Book Study:

When Bad Things Happen to Good People

by Harold S. Kushner

When his three-year old son was diagnosed with a degenerative disease, Kushner, a rabbi, was faced with one of life's most difficult questions: "Why, God?"

Several years after his son's death, Kushner wrote this contemplation on the doubts and fears that arise when tragedy strikes. The book has become a classic and a perennial best-seller, offering solace in the face of suffering.

Our study will take place on four Wednesday evenings
July 20, July 27, August 3 and August 10
at 7:00PM

St. Ann's Church, 157 Montague Street.

The book will be distributed *gratis* at the first session.

Call (718) 596-0251 for more information.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Celebration of the Ministry of the Rev. Angela V. Askew

After the service on Sunday, May 22, 2011, we gathered to celebrate and give thanks for the ministry of Mother Angela Askew, Priest-in-Charge at St. Ann & the Holy Trinity from 2003 to 2010. Father Denaro welcomed everyone and Mother Archer offered a beautiful invocation of thanksgiving and appreciation for the many gifts and blessings Mother Askew's ministry brought to a parish in need of pastoral care and renewal.

This was truly a party, a joyful gathering of most all of the parishioners who experienced Mother Askew's ministry. We delighted in conversation with her and with each other, and we enjoyed good food and drink. Warden Frank Kain presented "MoPIC" (Mother Priest-in-Charge) with various gifts from us, including a large framed image of the church building signed by virtually all the current parishioners.

Mother Askew made her own gift to Father



Denaro: sage advice and counsel delivered with wit and humor and a personal journal with a cover that reads "Keep Calm and Carry On," a slogan adopted by the British during World War II. We wondered how many of these journals our own MoPIC may have filled during her service at St. Ann's!

We are most grateful to Linda Kaufman, Assistant Head of Saint Ann's School, for the use of the reading room off the library, even as the school was teeming with special events of its own that weekend. It was a charming space and represented our close relationship with the school. In fact, the school held a concert in the church that very afternoon.

Everyone had a very fine time. The cake's decoration said it all: "To Angela with love and thanks."

Claudia Barber, Carol Francescani
and Nancy Nicolette

News from the Pews

Hello, All!

In early April, many of us went to Jacqueline deWeever's book party in Concord Village, celebrating the publication of her latest opus *Aesop and the Imprint of Medieval Thought*. I was able to purchase a copy there; it is also available at Amazon.com, published by McFarland. Jacqueline is professor emerita at Brooklyn College, CUNY, where she taught English medieval literature. I was also happy to see alums Sarah and Tom Ferrell there!

On April 30, Nancy Nicolette led a team of walkers in the 3.1 mile Revlon Walk/Run through midtown and Central Park. The proceeds benefit research for cancers affecting women. Nancy had many friends on her team ("Team Nancy"), including Claudia Barber, Joyce Pickering, Wini Murdaugh and me. We all received a stylish New York Yankee bead necklace from Nancy in thanks for our efforts!

In early May, an estimated twenty ladies of St. Ann's gathered at Nancy Nicolette and Debbie Mumm's now annual pizza-potluck party. A good time was had by all, and we also greeted alum Alison Kruse!

Carol Stone and Chris Giangreco went on separate "international" vacations also in early May. Chris attended her graduate school reunion in Bologna, Italy, and then she and her roommate from those years escaped for a week's cruise to Spain and Portugal. Chris is now a great fan of Spain and cruises! On the very same weekend, Carol was in Manitou Springs, Colorado, at the wedding of the daughter of her best friend from childhood. That too was an international occasion; the Groom is German, and relatives and friends of both Bride and Groom traveled to Colorado from Germany, the Netherlands, France, Japan and China, as well as at least seven other States.

Denise Keppel-Buck received an "Outstanding Preceptor" award at the annual American College

of Nurse-Midwives held in San Antonio, Texas, over Memorial Day weekend. The award honors these mentors of student midwives who have shown outstanding qualities of leadership and teaching, guided several students and repeatedly promoted high standards of midwifery education. Congratulations, Denise! Bob Buck reports daughter-in-law Danielle Buck leads a group at St. Edmund's Prep School, where she teaches, which is called "Project Hush Little Baby", focusing on premature births. The group works with social workers at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital at New York-Presbyterian to support the preemies and parents of preemies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; the high-schoolers make crafts and donate supplies. Bob also reports that granddaughter Aleigha Buck is doing well, and he can show you a cute photo if you just ask!

Student news:

We hear from Suzan Frazier that Margaret Kwateng has successfully finished her freshman year at Vassar and has been selected for the Northeast Rugby Union, on a track toward a national rugby team. Caroline Kwateng is also home, from Miami University of Ohio for the summer, preparing for her senior year.

Andy Mumm has completed his second year at Mt. Sinai Medical School and is currently studying for the medical school board exams. On July 1, he will start rotations at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens and Mt. Sinai Hospital. Laura Mumm will be winding up her job at Children's Rights this summer, and she will enroll at Harvard Law School in the fall.

A few new faces have appeared among us this spring. We welcome all and anticipate with joy the August 20 wedding of newcomers Kristen Keneipp and Vincent Ricciardi at St. Ann's!

And that's all for now – have a safe summer and be sure to send me you news at DebMumm@aol.com.

Debbie Mumm

Border Pilgrimage Puts Immigration Questions in Focus

For the past six years, the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona has organized a pilgrimage to the U.S.-Mexico border. The intention of this trip is to give faith groups an opportunity to witness firsthand the local impact of illegal migration into our country and consider the consequences of our government's response for the undocumented and the nation. Members of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, including Fr. John Denaro and Colleen and Sven Heemeyer, participated in the border pilgrimage that took place May 6-8. Colleen Heemeyer offers these reflections of her experience on this journey. ~Fr. Denaro

In early May Sven and I had the opportunity to accompany Fr. Denaro on a three-day visit to the Arizona-Mexico border on a "Witness Trip". Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, the trip was designed to show participants what is taking place on both sides of the border. Regardless of anyone's particular feelings on the issue of immigration, it's a big one, and as we become an increasingly mobile and aware world, it will become more and more difficult to pretend that our current system works well.

In our two-and-a-half days we met people who were working to assist those recently released from immigration detention centers (including over 1,000 children). We visited a coffee-roasting facility in Agua Prieta, in the Mexican state of Sonora, an example of grassroots economic development. We saw a health center for residents of Naco, also in Sonora, that was built through the efforts of Americans passionate about helping their neighbors. We met an American man who worked to keep a series of water tanks filled, on the Mexican side of the border, in order to limit some of the danger faced by those who make the desert crossing.

It was interesting to contrast these small, but effective, efforts with that of our federal

government. The presence of Homeland Security in Southern Arizona looms large: the enormous security buildup along the border, border patrol members quartered at our hotel, the miles of steel pillars intended to keep people out, and the checkpoint about 50 miles north of the border. It is impossible to ignore how much money we as a nation are spending on this enforcement.

Is the enforcement really working? As the saying goes, if you have to ask, then you aren't paying attention. Our group visited briefly with a group of four men at a shelter in Naco. Each had been recently deported from the United States, each left families and jobs behind, and each was contemplating reentering the United States illegally. Higher fences just mean higher ladders. To what extent is this enforcement encouraging the very underground economy and exploitation it purports to deter? And, to what extent do we, as citizens and legal residents of the United States, benefit from this situation? Statistics about how much undocumented immigrants contribute to our economy (in contrast to the amount they consume in public services) are readily available, so I will not repeat them here. Suffice it to say, we Americans come out ahead.

Sven and I had to leave early on Sunday to catch a flight back to New York. We missed the discussion with community members in Douglas who live daily with the effects of illegal immigration and undocumented migrants. To an extent, we do the same in Brooklyn, and I would have found the exchange of the experiences and opinions informative (and probably also infuriating!). Ultimately, I witnessed quite a lot, but I left Arizona with more questions than answers.

Colleen Heemeyer

The Rev. John E. Denaro
Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Nell B. Archer
Assistant Priest-in-Charge

Syd Farley
& Frank Kain
Wardens

Peter Farley, III
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Suzan Frazier Kwateng
Barbara Gonzo, *Clerk*
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Upcoming Events!

Tuesday, June 14

Vestry Meeting, 7:00PM

Tuesday, June 21 and following Tuesdays

Holy Eucharist, 1:10PM

Thursday, June 23 and following Thursdays

Holy Eucharist, 12:10PM and 6:00PM

Tuesday, June 28

Executive and Finance Committee, 7:00PM

Tuesday, July 12

Vestry Meeting, 7:00PM

Wednesday, July 20 and following 3 Wednesdays

Book Group: *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, 7:00PM
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Mission Statement: Church of St. Ann & the Holy Trinity

The people of St. Ann & the Holy Trinity express gratitude for God's love by seeking to live as Jesus Christ teaches us: caring for our neighbors and ourselves, worshiping God with thanksgiving, and being good stewards of what is given to us. We welcome all who wish to join us on our spiritual journey.