



ST. ANDREW'S CALL

September, 2011

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Spokane, Washington**

MESSAGE

Chaos and Light

One of the big attractions of the job at St. Andrew's was the chance to do a service especially designed for families with young children. I am interested in how to teach the full liturgy of our church in a way that makes sense of our intention in worship, so that people can have the deepest possible experience and greatest possible participation in the service.

Worship may be an automatic response to our experience of the divine, but a church service is not!

In the case of adults, I usually tell folks, "Come and see, and then come and see again." It takes about six times for most people, especially those unused to church, to "get" what Episcopal liturgy is and how it works in our hearts as well as our heads. I recall my first experience with the prayer book,

when others said, "Just follow along-- it's really easy because it's all written down." Then came the collect of the day, and a prayer for the elements that wasn't in the book, but which everyone knew, and then I had gotten lost looking for the words, "All things come of thee..." and missed the start of the Eucharistic prayer so I didn't see that there was a preface, and—well, you get the picture. It seemed endlessly complicated, but only for a few weeks.

In the case of children, there are the additional factors of distraction, vocabulary, a lack of cultural experience from which to make sense of what is being said, and often a lack of choice about being there at all! So a service that is complete in the components of liturgical worship but abbreviated and simplified and with specific explanations makes good sense. I love small children and their sense of wonder and willingness to enter into worship with imagination. I am not easily distracted by kids running around or making noise. But I still felt the need to have a few weeks of "under construction" for the 4:30 service, to make sure we could have the right amount of music, the right time for the youngest children to be out hearing their story while the adults heard the Gospel and sermon, a bulletin that included lots but wasn't too hard to read. It is fun, exciting, and incredibly chaotic to be putting this together. Today the pieces were uneven as the children behaved differently than last week (surprise!). New ideas were incorporated, changes are being made, we are looking forward to adding in the education time for the little ones. But mostly it was chaotic. By the time we joined hands around a circle to sing, "Bind Us Together," before going downstairs for supper, I was wondering if we could really make a service like this work.

Downstairs, dinner was in full swing, eating, talking, some scrambling around, some real-life practice of the day's lesson to return mean gestures with kind ones. Table fellowship is always a good and restorative thing, but still the question was in my mind, "Can we sustain this? Is it valuable?" Then, as we prepared to leave, I hear Joy living up to her name, lying on the sofa singing, "Bind us together, Lord, bind us together..."

Chaos and light, just like when God created the world.

Margaret+

EVENTS, BITS & PIECES

Thursday, Sept. 1—St. Andrew's Guild meets at 12:30 pm

Saturday, Sept. 3—St. Ann's Altar Guild meets, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 4—One service in the morning at 9 am

→→Family Service at 4:30 pm **will not meet Sept. 4, only.**←←

Sunday, Sept. 11—9:15 am –Sunday School begins

Sunday, Sept. 11—Bring snack items for Cursillo.

A special blessing will be said for our Cursillo candidates.

Sunday, Sept. 11—Remember the World Trade Towers Attack

Special Evensong service 7pm at the Cathedral-see below

Tuesday, Sept. 13—Vestry meets, 7pm

**Thursday, Sept. 15—Cursillo Begins at St. Stevens Church and ends
Sunday, Sept. 18 . Pray for all candidates for Cursillo.**

*****Please note: On Sept 4, being a holiday weekend, service will be at 9am, only. 4:30 service is cancelled for this day, only. The rest of the month will follow our usual schedule of 8am, 10:30am, and 4:30 pm.**

ADVANCE NOTICE: The first Sunday in October (10-2/11) we plan to have the pet blessing in Corbin Park at a service there. Plan to come and bring pets.

A remembrance: 9/11 at the Cathedral:

At 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 11th, the choirs of St. John's Cathedral in Spokane will offer a special Evensong in observance of the events of September 11, 2001.

Representatives of the Police and Fire Departments - the "First Responders" - as well as our military, have been invited to participate. Oboist Gary Plowman will play the opening Voluntary and accompany the choir in John Rutter's "The Lord Is My Shepherd" from the

Requiem. Trumpeter Larry Jess premier a piece written by David Asplin for this service, "Letter to the World." The Very Rev. Bill Ellis will preside, as well as offer the Meditation.

This is a community-wide event. Please come and bring friends. As this is our gift to the community, no offering will be taken. For more, visit <http://www.stjohns-cathedral.org>, or call the church office at 509-747-4403.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Well, it has happened! The Goal Project Clothing Closet has moved from our basement to Salem Lutheran church, Broadway and Walnut Sts. The project has more room there—it was growing too big for St. Andrew's to handle. After a hiatus of 2 weeks for the move, on Aug. 26 the Closet outfitted 29 men and women with a set of clothes and personal hygiene items! This was the biggest day ever. Things should calm down now that the closets are in operation each week. The recipients are so grateful to receive the items; it helps a lot when they may have only one set of prison-furnished clothes and not many toiletry items. (By the way, Closet-issued clothes are returned for someone else if they receive clothes from family or friends) . They have only a limited amount of money issued out of which they must buy bus passes, ID cards and other essential things. They are so glad to get clothes in which they may apply for a much-needed job.

Vestry Notes:

No meeting was held in August.

GUILD NEWS:

St. Andrew's guild will hold the first meeting of the Fall on **Thursday, September 1 at 12:30pm**. Our on-going project is preparing Church by Mail materials to send to the shut-ins in the diocese. Please consider joining us; we welcome new members.

St. Ann's Altar Guild will meet **Saturday, September 10 at 3pm**. (Note change in date and time this month.) All are welcome to join the Altar Guild...come and see what it's all about!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS:

Sunday School is planning to start at 9:15 a.m. on September 11.

Bible study will resume on Tuesday, September 6 at 6:30pm at the church.

The time and day may change, keep tuned!

For information: Call Doris Brown 389 7201.

Hymn Story:

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

John of Damascus had an unusual childhood for someone who would be remembered for writing Christian hymns. John's father was a Christian who served as the chief financial adviser to the Caliph Abd-el-Melik, the man who built the magnificent Jerusalem mosque, the Dome of the Rock. John grew up in a wealthy household and, when his father died, assumed his father's role as advisor to the Caliph.

However, John felt a spiritual call that led him to renounce his wealth and retire to Mar Saba, a Greek Orthodox monastery overlooking the Kidron Valley near Jerusalem. He spent the rest of his life there, and became famous for his writings, preaching, and hymns.

“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain” is one of two hymns written by John of Damascus that are still found in many hymnbooks today (the other is “The Day of Resurrection”). We have both of these hymns available today because of the work of John Mason Neale, who translated them into English in the 19th Century — a thousand years after John wrote them.

This hymn begins with a celebration of the Exodus — the great miracle that freed Israel from slavery in Egypt. It speaks of God bringing “Israel into joy from sadness” and recounts Israel's journey through the Red Sea to freedom. It then moves to a celebration of Christ's resurrection — the freedom that he achieved from his tomb of death. It then calls us to sing “Alleluia” in praise of Christ, “our King immortal,” God the Father, and the Holy Spirit.

Stuff 'n' Nonsense:

Grandkids!

◆She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Gramma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye!

◆*My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"*

◆After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair.. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

◆*A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire, it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"*

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Fourth Important Lesson. - The obstacle in Our Path.

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and

simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many of us never understand: Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: Third Sunday of the month.
Leave items on the desk in the office or submit by phone or e-mail to Doris Brown, 327 2975 or E-Mail: dorisb3@comcast.net OR saechurch1003@qwestoffice.net