

Vestry Notes

Vestry Meeting August 26, 2008

Search Committee

Our parish profile has been completed, posted on our web site, and submitted to the Church Deployment Office for national distribution. Printed copies will be made available to those in the parish who want them. Applications are already arriving to a post office box allocated for that purpose. The Committee needs a file cabinet, and the Vestry approved funding for one in the absence of a line item for it in the budget.

EACM

The Vestry approved the Endowment Board's recommendation to grant \$1000 from the Education Endowment for a speaker fee for Rev. Sam Portaro, who is coming to speak this fall. Peter Antoci gave some background about Rev. Portaro, who is former chaplain at the University

of Chicago, past president of the Episcopal Society for Ministry in Higher Education, and author of several books.

The Vestry also approved the Endowment Board's recommendation to grant \$500 from the EACM Endowment to the chaplain's discretionary fund.

The Episcopal Student Center is full, with five residents. A warm welcome goes to Nick Forte, starting his second year of studies at Virginia Theological Seminary and originally from the Diocese of Southern Virginia, who will be working with Peter at EACM this year.

On September 27, EACM will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Episcopal chaplaincy at the University of Maryland with a gala at St. Paul's Parish, Rock Creek. The Vestry wants to support the gala, and agreed that a good way to do that is

to underwrite the mailing costs for the invitations, contingent upon approval by the Finance Committee.

Columbarium Committee

The Vestry agreed to support and encourage the Committee's planning activities that are underway for the construction of a columbarium in the courtyard between the sanctuary and the education wing. The columbarium is to be financially self-supporting and will be constructed in three phases, beginning in the southeast corner of the courtyard. The Committee currently has enough funds to match the cost of the first phase of construction. Installation is contingent upon approval according to College Park's Historic District rules and according to Prince George's County regulations regarding cemeteries.

Buildings and Grounds Commission

The Commission has composed a master maintenance list that includes many of the needs of the physical plant, ranging from short-term single-day projects to projects substantial enough to require a capital campaign. The list is soon to be prioritized, choosing jobs for upcoming parish and ESC workdays.

A series of frequent middle-of-the-night building alarms have been localized to the Thrift Corner. The alarm company is investigating; the culprit is likely a bug or rodent.

Treasure, from p. 1

growth.

A place where we spend a lot of time becomes important to us. After we share time, interests and ideas with an acquaintance, we often find that person has become a friend. As Mark Allen Powell says, "Put your treasure where you want your heart to be, and Jesus promises, your heart will go there."

In the coming weeks, you'll hear more about opportunities for growing spiritually by giving. Of course

we'll be talking about the needs of Christ's ministry at St. Andrew's. But we'll also be talking about stewardship as a part of our lives that goes beyond fundraising. Stewardship is a lifelong journey, and the commission's work won't end with this fall's campaign.

Among Us: Kay Gilcher

by Lynne Slater

We each come to St. Andrew's by a different path and make a unique contribution.

Kay Gilcher has given a lot of thought to the value of a faith-based community. As a child and teenager in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Kay attended a Baptist church and a Methodist youth group, but felt God's presence more fully in nature through her summer camp experiences. In the mid 1960's, Kay engaged the fundamental questions of life and meaning through her Wellesley College major: Biblical History, Literature, and Interpretation. However, she was not a churchgoer, nor did she consider herself to be on a faith journey.

Although married in her husband Bill's Episcopal church soon after graduation, Kay did not attend regularly. With her eventual discovery that she loved the ritual, she increased attendance and experienced the truth in the adage that practice creates meaning. In the late 1970's, while living in Ithaca NY, she and her family were drawn into the warm support of the local church community; when she and Bill came to St Andrew's in 1986, they were embraced here as well.



As an active member of the St Andrew's community, Kay contributed in a wide variety of roles. She served as a member of Tom Murphy's Discernment Committee and as co-chair of the Rector Search Committee that presented Karla. She was a member of Vestry for three years – two of which she was the Senior Warden. Along with her husband, Bill, she was a member of the Stewardship Committee. She participates in the adult forum series, the Shrine Mont retreats, the choir, and

has long served as a lay reader and chalice bearer.

On September 11, 2001, Kay was Senior Warden at St Andrew's. Working closely with Karla, she witnessed people's pain and grief but also saw how they were "drawn to and supported by the web of the St Andrew's community" as a source of healing and hope. As a community of practice, St Andrew's creates an environment in which Kay feels people can be open, experience acceptance, and grow spiritually.

Until recently, Kay did not talk openly about her faith outside of the church community. However, by sharing her faith journey with two close friends, she has been able to help each of them reconcile long-standing conflicts and enter into a community of faith.

Kay and Bill Gilcher have been married for 40 years. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. An expert on distance learning and quality assurance, Kay is a policy analyst for the Department of Education.