



THE GOOD NEWS
OF
ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL

301 South Main Street
Minot, North Dakota
Phone: (701)839-1037
Email: Church—allsaint@minot.com
Rector:—jbernacc@minot.com
Online at: www.minot.com/~allsaint

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Rector's Thoughts

Mike Smith

I first want to congratulate all of us on the upcoming May 8th ordination of Bishop Mike Smith. And, Bishop, congratulations to you and your wife, also.

I had the privilege of interviewing Mike Smith with Search Committee member, Deloris Walters. Mike and his wife, Lisa, were warm, direct, open and friendly from the first. I remember Father Mike calling out to us, as Deloris and I pulled up to the rectory, " Hello, folks! Welcome! Now, be sure to meet our grand-puppy before you come in." Looking around, I spotted a lively little pup, happily waddling up to us for a greeting.

The next 24 hours were full of serious interviews with folks who knew him best and, of course, with both Mike and Lisa (Lisa is an ordained priest serving at Naytahwaush MN.) I found them to be consistently open and honest and genuinely friendly. In interview, I discerned that Mike gave thoughtful, honest, compassionate answers to some very tough questions. He was clear and organized in his thinking, and I perceived no attempt to give us "answers that we wanted to hear." And then, then ... the icing on the cake, there was this warm wit and humor that punctuated his personality.

I know I probably sound as if I like Mike and Lisa very much and, well, I do. But, it is much more than that. I think he is the choice of God's wisdom for us. So, I am very, very happy for the whole Episcopal North Dakota lot of us. Many blessings to us all. ja+

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

At its' April 19th meeting, the All Saints' Vestry:

1. Bruce reported a note from the cleaning service that the bottom of the water heater appeared to be rusting out. The estimate for replacement is \$550.
2. Bruce reported the rose window would cost approximately \$1200 to repair. Other looming repairs include the leaking wall over the kitchen sink. It was suggested that for a low fee the windows of the church could be cleaned. Bruce was going to look into all of these things.
3. Jackie reported that a chef had asked about using the kitchen for food preparation. Concern was expressed that the kitchen might not be up to code for commercial food preparation, and Jackie was going to investigate this further.
4. The vestry continued the discussion of attracting new families to the church. Some additional suggestions included a movie discussion night and a gourmet club.
5. A September 11 memorial service and a race to benefit the Humane Society are being planned in conjunction with the Downtown Association.
6. Margi showed the vestry a new torch with a glass cover for safety.

Kathy Hintz, Senior Warden

LIST OF CHURCH NEEDS

Once again, we are including a brief list of items that our church is in need of:

- ◆ Donations for new torches with glass protectors.
- ◆ Donations for rose window maintenance.

Wanted: Director of Sainly Fun

We are looking for someone who is enthusiastic about having a great time.

This person will coordinate with Clergy and Vestry on the promotion of recreational events for All Saints'. If this sounds like a job for you, please contact Rev. Jackie or Rev. George at 839-1037.

Easter Vigil**Where do we go from here?**

This year, for the third time, George and I, Joanne, the choir, the acolytes, Altar Guild, 2 LEMs, and several Lectors, carefully put together and celebrated one of the most moving services in our Liturgical Year. They all put out their very best efforts and I am very grateful to all of them.

The Easter Vigil can only be celebrated once-- on Holy Saturday night. Only once in a year will new fire be struck and the "Light of Christ" call ring out in a dark church. It is stunning to watch firelight spread throughout the Church, as the congregation receives candle glow from the Paschal Candle. Only on this night do we start the service still in Lent, and make the joyous transition to the Resurrection during the service. No wonder noisemakers were handed out for the moment of the first "Alleluia Christ is risen!"

We do try to add some of the drama back into the Easter Sunday Eucharist but, frankly, it's just not the same. The Paschal candle is carried and seated again, but the liturgy can't be used because it is designed for one service only ... the night vigil of Easter.

So, I am wondering what I can do to help better promote this liturgy? This year there was, again, only a few folks at the service, and it leaves me scratching my head. I ask, was the time of the Vigil too late or too early? Are there other ways I can promote it and make it more accessible or fun to attend. I am open to any ideas about this and would really like to here from the congregation. I need your advice. It would be helpful if you put your ideas or comments in written form and addressed them to me. Thanks for listening.
ja+

Summary of Vestry Papers for April, 2004—

The publication "Vestry Papers" (to which we subscribe electronically) devoted its most recent issue to Wills and Planned Giving. The publication points out churches are often reluctant to raise of the issue of Planned Giving or to encourage members to include their church in their wills. Other charitable organizations are not so shy and benefit from their forthrightness.

One article points out that 39 percent of people's regular giving goes to churches, but only 11 percent of bequest giving does. In the near future, trillions of dollars will pass from one generation to another and "it would be a shame to neglect those charities and churches that have done so much to shape our society, promote its well-being, and love its people."

One article, "Ready to Receive," describes how some parishioners decline to leave money to their church because they are "not confident the church leaders will manage such a gift in a careful prudent way." Churches need to assure their members that they have a structure that is "permanent, competent, reliable, accountable and responsive" to insure gifts will be well managed and used constructively.

Another article, called "Only if we Ask," describes a situation in which a devout parishioner had talked informally about leaving a gift to the church but had taken no concrete steps. When the parishioner became seriously ill, the church leadership decided against bringing it up. The parishioner then died, leaving a significant estate to her college that she had not visited since she graduated.

The Book of Common Prayer even has a rubric (on page 445) urging the minister to "instruct the people . . . to make wills . . . not neglecting, if they are able, to lave bequests for religious and charitable uses."

All Saints is currently able to operate as a full-service church with (essentially) a full-time rector only because of a significant bequest given in the mid-80s. We are taking every step possible to grow the church to a self-sustaining size (generally in the range of 150 families). But there are no "sure-fire" methods of doing that, and even at best, they take time. Meanwhile our short-term hopes must necessarily include bequest giving. The future is very much in our hands. gs+

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <h1>May 2004</h1> | | | | | | 1 4:30 p.m. Eucharist Phillip |
| 2 9:00 a.m. Christian Education 10:00 a.m. Eucharist | 3 Rector's Day Off | 4 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer | 5 5:15 p.m. Eucharist, Soup Supper & Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice | 6 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen Rector in Devils Lake in Afternoon | 7 Rev. Jackie & Rev. George Gone -----> | 8 10:00 a.m. Bishop-elect's Consecration in Bismarck No Eucharist -----] |
| 9 9:00 a.m. Christian Education 10:00 a.m. Eucharist Acolyte Meeting Following Service Mother's Day | 10 Rector's Day Off | 11 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer | 12 5:15 p.m. Eucharist, Soup Supper & Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice | 13 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen 6:00 p.m. Native American Talking Circle | 14 | 15 4:30 p.m. Eucharist |
| 16 9:00 a.m. Christian Education 10:00 a.m. Eucharist/ Potluck Church School Recognition | 17 6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting Rector's Day Off | 18 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer | 19 5:15 p.m. Eucharist, Soup Supper & Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Evening Guild | 20 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen Rector in Devils Lake in Afternoon | 21 6:00 p.m. Chowder & Marching Society | 22 4:30 p.m. Eucharist |
| 23 9:00 a.m. Last Day of Christian Education 10:00 a.m. Eucharist | 24 Rector's Day Off | 25 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer | 26 5:15 p.m. Eucharist, Soup Supper & Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice | 27 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen 6:00 p.m. Native American Talking Circle | 28 | 29 4:30 p.m. Eucharist with Native American Expressions |
| 30 9:00 a.m. Christian Education 10:00 a.m. Eucharist Pentecost | 31 Memorial Day Church Closed Rector's Day Off | June 1, 2004 Rector's Day Off | Coming In June Tuesdays: 5:15 p.m. Eucharist, Soup Supper & Bible Study Wednesday, June 16th: 6:00 p.m. Under God's Canopy at VFW Park Christian Education will resume in the fall Tuesday's Evening Prayer will resume in the fall | | | |