

# ATONEMENT

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON TOBACCO ROAD

## ATONEMENT NEWS BRIEFS

### EYC Fundraiser Car Wash

The EYC held a fundraising car wash at the Master's Inn on Washington Road last Saturday, April the 26<sup>th</sup>. Tony and Joanne Kennelly led a stalwart group of young people to earn over \$100 washing cars. The youth who attended were Dominique Anderson, Briana Boatwright, Andy and Dihannah Brassell, Chris Harrow, Micah and Rebba James, Anthony and Joseph Kennelly, Trent Mattson, and Joshua Swarmer from Atonement. There were two visiting youth who also participated named Matt and Anita.

### Bishop Confirms Seven

Bishop Henry I. Louttit, Jr. confirmed seven youth of this year's confirmation class at a service of Confirmation, which saw one adult confirmed and two adults received from Church of Our Savior in Martinez, GA. The youth were presented crosses and Books of Common Prayer from the church. It was a glorious celebration of the Sacraments on Wednesday evening, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM. A reception was held in the parish hall following the service. From Church of the Atonement we had the following confirmed:  
Briana Boatwright, Dihannah Brassell, Aubrie Hayes, Rebba James, Anthony Kennelly, Emil Somersall, II, and Joshua Swarmer.

### Celebration of Ministries Coming May 9<sup>th</sup>

There will be a Celebration of Ministries at Atonement on May 9<sup>th</sup> beginning in the Parish

Hall with dinner and a program to follow. This program will highlight the current ministries being conducted at Atonement to inform the church and seek ministers to join in them.

## THE MISSION VESTRY MINUTES- March 2003

Father Miller opened with prayer. Minutes of the February meeting were read. Suzanne made a motion to accept the minutes. Shelley seconded. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

John made a motion to accept report. Jeremy seconded. Motion passed. Pam reported the income is still under, but the loose offering is up. We have some pledges that are behind, and Suzanne will contact them.

### **Old Business:**

Mike will ask the man that made the church sign out front to have a look at it. It needs some repair work. The contract with Terminix Pest control has been cancelled.

### **New Business:**

We need better adult supervision for the kid<sub>3</sub> in the play areas. The playroom will be locked except during Nursery hours unless adults supervise children. Father Miller will talk with the parents. Sara asked about buying a new playpen to replace the one that is broken. No action was taken on this. John asked if more people could be on the

Stewardship Committee. Suzanne volunteered. Suzanne asked about ordering more Lenten booklets. Gloria said she would call Baldwin Organ Co. about moving the organ from

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St. Mary's to Atonement.

John made a motion to purchase a new copy machine from Lanier. The price of the machine is \$2,906. 89. We can get a service Agreement on the machine for \$250.00 per year. The money is to be taken out of the Mission Vestry Fund. Jeremy seconded. Motion passed. Mary & Martha Group will contact the Salazar family to find out if we can help. He is a patient in the Burn Unit at Doctors Hospital.

Gloria asked if we might purchase small stuffed lambs to have on hand for families as a comfort item. John suggested we look into getting writing pens with the church name on them to be given away. Suzanne suggested we post a list of priorities in the Parish House.

**Jr. Warden's Report:**

She is working on getting the ramp repaired. We still need the privacy fence, and doors for the Church and Parish House,

**Sr. Warden's Report:**

John will look into getting the lawn mowers repaired if needed. The pipes on the AC unit are rusting and the sheds need to be painted.

**Vicar's Report:**

Father Miller reported that attendance is down. We will have two workdays in April. On April 5<sup>th</sup> Father Miller will get his group from Fort Gordon to come and repair the ramp. On April 12<sup>th</sup> we will finish up the work on the ramp, and any thing else that is needed.

Suzanne made a motion to adjourn. John second. Motion passed. Father Miller closed with prayer.

**THE VICAR'S COLUMN**

The School year is almost over and summer is fast approaching. We are still doing a lot of repairs around the church and parish hall. Our Junior Warden Shelley Hounsell is moving right along with her project list. This coming workday, Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> we will finish up the sealing of the ramp and do some more painting around the church, besides the usual grounds work and cleaning the church. Come on out and enjoy breakfast before we get started. Just let me know

if you will be there for breakfast so we can have enough food available.

The Bishop met with the Vestry before the service of Confirmation and was impressed with the level of energy he saw. He gave us some encouragement to proceed to build the church, by building the size of our congregation. We have to find a place in the outreach ministry of our church that marks us as unique or discover a new ministry.

The service of confirmation was an outstanding example of liturgy that is a hallmark of our congregation. The Yamaha theater organ in the narthex will help us enhance that liturgy and worship. I have asked Alice to insert more songs from our "Songs of the Lamb" Songbook. Our worship service should be more focused on God and I believe more singing will help us achieve that focus.

The confirmation class started out this past year as a two-year program. The original intent was that they would go through the program and then be confirmed. This view was changed to one of preparation prior to Confirmation and then a follow on session of preparing for Discipleship. For many years youth and adults looked on Confirmation as the final step to church membership. All the while the point should have been one of preparation for ministry. The second session will focus on the role of mature membership for our youth as they take up the mantle of being in communion with the Bishop. The bishop is the focal point in the Diocese, which is the basic building block of Episcopal Church. To be in communion means being "touched by a Bishop" either through the laying on of hands at Confirmation or being Received into the Episcopal Church because a Bishop of another communion laid hands on you. In any case you were "touched by a bishop" and were in communion with that bishop. Confirmation is not the end of a process it is the beginning of one, lifelong communion with a bishop of the church.

This coming Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> we will have the Celebration of Ministry that was postponed from January 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of St. Vincent of Saragossa. He is the patron saint of Acolytes and

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other ministers in the church. This Friday we will have a dinner and look at ministry. The topics will be Moving; Individual; Necessary; Inspiring; Service; Thanksgiving; Renewal and Yahweh. These spell MINISTRY, the topic of the celebration. The youth will talk about Honey Creek; EYC; New Beginnings; Music; Acolytes; Thurifer; Stewardship and Greeters.

I wish to thank you all for the ministries you all have contributed in this church. I believe we can accomplish great things for God in South Augusta if we will only open our hearts and minds to him.

Please remember in your prayers the following: Nadine Grayson, Lee Patton and her sisters Lillian and Geraldine; Melba Jones; Melinda Etterlee; Farris Etterlee; Bong Hai Kim [Man Sun's niece], Henry Nieves, Rick McKinstry, the Edens family, Leslie Joseph, our military deployed to the Middle East [Santha Cortes, Renita Sharpe, Viola Serrant, and Ray Swarmer] and in Korea [Tony Somersall]. Pray for our fellow Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith.

We have a Prayer Team here at Atonement. If you have someone you want the team to pray for please contact either Nadine Grayson or Suzanne Harrow who will notify the Prayer Team. Become a Lighthouse in your neighborhood and keep any others you may know in your prayers. --KDM+

## **EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWS**

### **Church leaders express disappointment with papal encyclical on Eucharist**

by James Solheim

(ENS) Church leaders and ecumenists around the world are expressing various degrees of dismay and disappointment over an April 17 papal encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (The Church of the Eucharist) that offers no hope of sharing the sacrament with other Christians in the near future.

Saying that he hoped to rekindle the "amazement" of Roman Catholics with the "real

presence" of Christ in the consecrated bread and wine, Pope John Paul II made it clear that members of other churches were not welcome to communion in the Roman Catholic Church, nor were Roman Catholics free to take communion outside their own church, except in highly unusual situations.

The encyclical, an authoritative explanation or teaching on important church doctrine, also reminded church members that divorced Roman Catholics who remarry may not receive communion. In the encyclical the pope did, however, restate a "burning desire" to join other Christians in celebrating the Eucharist, and paid tribute to "significant progress and convergence" in ecumenism.

#### **More theological work**

In London, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said, "I welcome the affirmation of the Eucharist as a place of God's presence and action and also welcome the Pope's reaffirmation of his 'burning desire' for common Eucharistic celebration. This is an area of work which continues to be important for relations between Anglicans and Roman Catholics and we continue to work theologically on this together."

#### **Tangible evidence needed**

Prof. J. Robert Wright of the General Theological Seminary in New York, a veteran participant in the official dialogues with Roman Catholics for many years, said in an interview that he was "delighted to notice that the pope still has a burning desire for communion with the separated Christians in separated churches but I look forward to seeing tangible evidence of the additional leadership that he will give in seeking that goal."

Wright said that it was "significant that the pope has issued this particular encyclical at this point in the ecumenical movement when, in so many ways, the Roman Catholic ecumenical dialogue with other churches is not proceeding with much speed." He said that the encyclical might even "accelerate that dialogue among leaders of his church who are obliged to follow his lead, no matter what their personal feelings may be." He hopes that the pope's commitment would

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"translate into a fire among those who are leaders in Roman Catholic ecumenism in his name."

--James Solheim is director of Episcopal News Service.

## Preparing for General Convention



The 74th General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota will call the Church to "Engage God's Mission". The Convention gathers to seek the ways and means to

implement the Mission of our Church and to consider the policies that will guide our actions in the future.

The resolutions that will be considered cover a range of concerns and issues. You will find these listed on this site for your information and study. In addition this site will be a portal for you to an array of information about events during the 74th General Convention.

Worship is central to our life as a Church and to the experience of General Convention. The worship information will help you to share in our experience.

An Evening of Conversation is planned. This evening gives the participants in the Convention as well as visitors an opportunity to engage with topics of concern to the Church with persons who have done particular work or have extensive experience. A brief description of these conversations is on this site.

The Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies have provided information, papers and reflections that inform our work.

## Engaging God's Mission

*The General Convention* is the triennial gathering of deputies, bishops, visitors and friends from around the world to consider the state of the church and its work in the world, to be held in Minneapolis from July 30th - August 8th. A significant amount of legislative activity takes place during the convention, but it is the

Church gathered for conversation, prayer, worship, thoughtful deliberation and the sharing of views and concerns that makes this extraordinary gathering so powerful and important. In recent years, the General Convention has come together around a theme that to some extent expresses the energies of the church during this period of history. In a church that celebrates so many diverse ideals, cultures, languages and theological perspectives, finding a theme that captures the prevailing mood is difficult. Nevertheless, the call to Engage God's Mission seems to embody so much of what the Episcopal Church is striving for these days.

To further explain what the theme *Engage God's Mission* is about, the organizers have put forth four additional words that suggest aspects of this Engaging work: Receive, Repent, Reconcile and Restore.

### [To be Continued Next Month]

## On the Horizon

May 3rd: E.C.W. Spring BBQ Sale 10 AM-3PM

May 4th: E.C.W. Meeting – After church.

May 7th: Service and Bible Study- 7 PM

May 9th Celebration of Ministries – 6 PM

May 10th Workday- 8:00 AM

May 11th: Service of Baptism – 10 AM

May

11<sup>th</sup>: Vestry Meeting-After Church

May

11th: Healing Service – 5 PM

May

11<sup>th</sup>: EYC Meeting – 6 PM

May

16-18<sup>th</sup>: New Beginning at Honey Creek.

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