

ATONEMENT

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON TOBACCO ROAD

THE MISSION VESTRY MINUTES-

May 2005

The meeting was opened with a prayer. The minutes of the April meeting were read. Kathy made a motion to accept the minutes. Jeremy seconded. Motion approved

TREASURER'S REPORT:

There was a discussion on the way the 2004 pledges for the mortgage payment was listed on the financial report. Pam reported there was \$4,649.29 in the mortgage pledge fund from 2004. Cassandra made a motion to pay all money in \$1000.00 increments per month. Frank seconded. Motion passed. Cassandra made a motion to accept the corrected March Financial report. Frank seconded. Motion approved.

Kathy made a motion to accept the April Financial report. Jeremy seconded. Motion approved. Pam reported we collected \$30.00 and change from the UTO Offering. There may be more coming in. Kathy made the motion to send the money we have collected. Jeremy seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jeremy is working on the T-shirt project. Soozie is working on a pamphlet to be included in the Angel Food Ministries boxes. We still have not had a respond for the Youth Choir Director.

Cassandra is still working on the list for jobs that need to be done around the Parish House and Church. VBS will be held the week of July 25th.

Kathy is getting the material together. She needs workers. Kathy said after our VBS, the material will be sent to Kenya so the children over there can use them for their VBS.

The Children's Festival will be held on the 29th of October. Our 25th anniversary celebration will be November 6th. We will have a covered dish dinner after church and we are planning for the Bishop to be here.

NEW BUSINESS:

The playground needs to be repaired.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT;

Tony will call the company to come back and look at the AC. It is not putting out cold air. Church doors will be repaired on workday.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:

Church supplies will be picked-up next week.

VICARS REPORT:

Father Miller reported that Robert Cortes will be leaving in August. He is being transferred. His term on Mission/Vestry runs until the end of 2005. There was some discussion on whether to replace him then, or wait for the Annual Meeting and Elections in December. No decision was reached.

Pam has submitted her resignation as Treasurer effective the end of the year.

Father Miller wants the groups that were formed when Father Lou Scales, and Deacon Linda Scales came for the workshop, to meet and make plans to get their groups going.

"WE ARE **ONE** IN THE SPIRIT, WE ARE **ONE** IN THE LORD."

Jeremy made a motion to adjourn. Cassandra seconded. Motion passed.
Father Miller dismissed with a prayer.

THE VICAR'S COLUMN

Last week we had a great Celebration of Ministry that had a theme of Healing. We looked at some scripture, talked about various ministries here at Atonement and began to use a new book by John Westerhoff titled, "Living Faithfully as a Prayer Book People."

We will be going through this book at the remaining Celebration of Ministries, this year and also into the Lenten Study for next year. See Suzanne Harrow about signing up for a copy of the book.

The next big event will be Vacation Bible School from July 25th to July 29th here at Atonement. Kathy Mullins is still looking for a few more volunteers. During the summer at 9 AM on Sunday, I am conducting a Survey of the Old Testament. It's not Sunday School or Bible Study, but a Survey of the O.T. Take the time to stop in before church and find out about the Old Testament. We had a bible quiz as part of the Celebration of Ministry and Debbie Brassell won the grand prize of a book on customs and manners during Bible Times.

We are in need of a Capital Repairs Fund and I have asked our Treasurer Pam Brinson to take donations for the major repairs we need and put those in a special fund. If you can contribute some resources toward this, please pray about it and ask God how much he wants you to give.

The Bishop will visit us on Sunday March 26th in 2006. That means Inquirer's and Confirmation classes will start in September, this year. We will also be planning for our Community Festival to coincide with our 25th anniversary and All Saint's celebration, on November 5th and 6th.

Please remember in your prayers the following: Man Sun Miller, Mary Fields, Lee Patton and her sister Geraldine; Melba Jones; Melinda Etterlee; Farris Etterlee; and Pam Brinson. 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 NEWS SERVICE

**Church takes prison ministry to dioceses
Prison Ministry Network News**

By: Val Hymes

Posted: Wednesday, May 25, 2005

An Episcopal Church emissary for prison ministry traveled the State of Maryland May 5-12, visiting two state prisons and meeting with the bishops and prison ministers of four dioceses -- Maryland, Washington, Easton and Delaware.

It was part of a series of regional prison ministry conferences by the Rev. Jacqueline A. Means, criminal justice officer in the Episcopal Church's Office of Peace and Justice Ministries.

"The bishops, the clergy and lay ministers were open to dialogue and are working on the issues of reentry, inmates' children, gangs, faith-based programs, help for families traveling long distances to visit prisoners, and the private prison industry," she said.

Means, a former prison chaplain, addressed the 221st convention of the Diocese of Maryland, urging the delegates to start a camp program for inmates' children. She also urged a partnership with Big Brothers and Sisters to mentor the children, met with area prison ministers and the Prison Ministry Task Force, and visited the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown.

The convention adopted a resolution calling for prison ministry Sundays during Epiphany -- modeled after that of the Diocese of New York -- to focus on ways to support inmates, their families, prison ministers and staff members.

After preaching at Epiphany Church in Odenton, Maryland, May 8, where the congregation does preventive prison ministry, Means met with Annapolis area prison ministers, including leaders of Kairos, Touchstones Discussion Groups and the Maryland Justice Coalition.

In the nation's capital May 9, she met with Bishop John Bryson Chane of Washington and a member of the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons, Maj. Gen. (ret.) Stephen T. Rippe. She also worked with the Prison Ministry Committee and met with two White House Faith-based Initiative officials about funds for reentry and youth programs.

The next day, she met with Bishops James. J. Shand of Easton and Wayne Parker Wright of Delaware, and spoke to their Clericus members in Easton. On May 11, she addressed an ecumenical prison ministry group and urged those attending to minister to families traveling to the nearby state prison.

There, she addressed more than 200 inmates at the Eastern Correctional Institution in Princess Anne, Maryland.

"You have a purpose in life," she told the inmates. "Most of you are probably on a faith journey. Consider this a resting place. Show society you do have value and worth, and want to do the right thing. Give people a chance.

"Many of us are fighting on your behalf. There are people out there who care for you. Let the light shine through one another, and don't give up," she added, to a standing ovation.

Means recently spearheaded and attended regional multidiocesan prison ministry conferences in North Carolina, Florida and the dioceses of the Four Corners in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

She said she has found in her travels around the country a new awareness about the immensity of the "industrialized prison complex, the fastest-growing industry in the nation."

She said she saw "more attention being paid to the problems this industry creates. There is a greed for more prisons and longer sentences to

pay for them." She pointed to plans in Memphis for the largest for-profit prison in the country and efforts by the faith community to stop it.

"The shipping of fathers and mothers to private prisons in far-flung states is guaranteeing a new generation of frightened, angry, disenfranchised children, who are future inmates," she said, adding that "families who try to visit loved ones are treated as suspects in many prisons. The children cannot understand the lack of warmth and hospitality in the visiting rooms."

The Episcopal Church's General Convention is on record in opposition to private prisons.

For Peace and Justice Ministries:

www.episcopalchurch.org/peace-justice

For information about the Tennessee private prison issue, author Si Kahn,

www.grassrootsleadership.org

For Prison Ministry Network News.

www.prisonministry.ang-md.org

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

BUTTERFLY KISSES"

We often learn the most from our children. Some time ago, a friend of mine punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight, and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the tree. Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy." He was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found that the box was empty. He yelled at her, "Don't you know that when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside of it?" The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, " Oh, Daddy it's not empty. I blew kisses into the box. All for you, Daddy." The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged her forgiveness. My friend told me that he kept that gold box by his bed for years. Whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there. In a very real sense, each of us as parents has been given a gold container filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

"WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT, WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD."

"THE MOST CARING CHILD"

The Most Caring Child Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four-year-old child, whose next-door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap and just sat there.

When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry." (Author Ellen Kreidman)

"SHOES"

It's a cold day in December . . . New York City. A little boy about 10 years old was standing before a shoe store on Broadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the boy and said, "My little fellow, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?"

"I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand and went into the store, and asked the clerk to get a half dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with a towel.

By this time the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she then purchased him a pair of shoes, and tying up the remaining pairs of socks, gave them to him.

She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, my little fellow, you feel more comfortable now?"

As she turned to go, the astonished lad caught her by the hand, and looking up in her face, with tears in his eyes, answered the question with these words:

"Are you God's wife?" (Author unknown)

 "If you care for someone always give them a safe place to cry and never a *reason to need it.*"

On the Horizon

Jul 2nd: ECW Meeting – After Church

Jul 9th: Workday-9:00 AM

Jul 10th: Angel Food Ministries Order Day

Jul 10th Mission Vestry Meeting – After Church

Jul 10th: Healing Service – 5 PM

Jul 10th E.Y.C. Meeting – 6 PM

Jul 23rd: Angel Food Ministries Pick up Day

Jul 25th –29th VBS

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