

THE APOSTLE

May 2024

Entertaining Angels in San Antonio and (maybe) Penn Wynne

The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:34

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Hebrews 13:1-3

During the last week of April, I had the honor of helping Bishop Daniel with a meeting of the Anglican Communion Compass Rose Society board. The Compass Rose Society, with Bishop Daniel as its president, provides vital support to the unity and mission of the Anglican Communion by supporting the work and programs of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion Office. Translation: the Compass Rose Society funds lots of great projects around the world that not only materially helps our Anglican siblings, but also builds Christian unity.

It's a great reminder that as Episcopalians we are members of the Anglican Communion, the third largest Christian denomination in the world, with 85 million members, in 165 countries. The Compass Rose Society does an enormous amount of work to strengthen this global Communion. I was honored to do my part by facilitating a meeting of the board of directors in San Antonio, Texas.

While the focus of the society is on the international work of Anglicans, the board meeting always includes a visitation to a local church or ministry that is doing cool stuff. In San Antonio, we visited Plaza de Paz, a program of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. Plaza de Paz is a respite and relief center for migrants who come across the southern US border seeking asylum because of the horrendous violence in their home countries. After processing, ICE transports these folks to this facility where they are welcomed warmly, and given food, clothes, and a place to rest. They are given resources they need to contact family members and sponsors in this country and to arrange travel and accommodations. Plaza de Paz never knows how many people are coming until the buses are on their way from the border. Sometimes it is a handful, sometimes it is hundreds. I was deeply moved by the way the staff and volunteers of Plaza de Paz extend God's hospitality with dignity and grace. Sometimes their guests have been in an ICE detention facility for days, weeks, or months. And this is after being displaced from their homes and enduring a long, terrifying journey.

(continued on p. 7)

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Inserts:

May Parish Prayer List
May-June-July Outreach Calendar

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HE = Holy Eucharist MP = Morning Prayer	<i>Special Events</i>		1 <i>Feast of St Philip & St James</i> 9:15AM MP Rite 2 7:30PM Compline	2 9:15AM MP Rite 2 11AM Bible Study 7:30PM Compline	3 7:30PM Compline	4 9:30AM Parish Hall Setup 7:30PM Compline
5 <i>6th Sunday of Easter Rogation Sunday</i> 9AM Family Eucharist 10AM HE Rite 2 11:30AM Book Club 7:30PM Compline	6 9:15AM MP Rite 2 7:30PM Compline	7 9:15AM MP Rite 2 7:30PM AA Meeting 7:30PM Compline	8 9:15AM MP Rite 2 7:30PM Compline	9 <i>Ascension Day</i> 9:15AM MP Rite 2 11AM Bible Study 6:30PM HE, Rite 2 7:30PM Compline	10 7:30PM Compline	11 9:30AM Parish Hall Setup 7:30PM Compline
12 <i>7th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day</i> 9AM Family Eucharist 10AM HE Rite 2 7:30PM Compline	13 9:15AM MP Rite 2 7:30PM Compline	14 9:15AM MP Rite 2 11:30AM Project Share Lunch 7:30PM AA Meeting 7:30PM Compline	15 9:15AM MP Rite 2 9:30AM Darby Food Giveaway Delivery 7:30PM Compline	16 9:15AM MP Rite 2 11AM Bible Study 7:30PM Compline	17 7:30PM Compline	18 9:00AM Pockets of Hope 7:30PM Compline
19 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 8AM Parish Hall Setup 9AM Family Eucharist 10AM HE Rite 2 11:30AM Vestry Mtg 7:30PM Compline	20 9:15AM MP Rite 2 7:30PM Compline	21 9:15AM MP Rite 2 7:30PM AA Meeting 7:30PM Compline	22 9:15AM MP Rite 2 7:30PM Compline	23 9:15AM MP Rite 2 11AM Bible Study 5PM June Apostle Submissions Due 7:30PM Compline	24 6PM Summer Happy Hour 7:30PM Compline	25 9:30AM Parish Hall Setup 7:30PM Compline
26 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> 9AM Family Eucharist 10AM HE Rite 2 11:30AM Church Picnic 7:30PM Compline	27 <i>Memorial Day Office Closed</i> 7:30PM Compline	28 9:15AM MP Rite 2 11:30AM Project Share Lunch 7:30PM AA Meeting 7:30PM Compline	29 9:15AM MP Rite 2 7:30PM Compline	30 9:15AM MP Rite 2 11AM Bible Study 7:30PM Compline	31 <i>Visitation of the Blessed Mary</i> 7:30PM Compline	



May Birthdays

01 Eric Haas
01 Jennifer Lees
02 Nathanael Russell
04 Gregory Smith

10 Peter Forker
12 Dan Dugan
14 Toni Meiers

18 John Klumpp
19 Thayer Avis
24 Joann Borie
26 Joe Zorc

"JESUS AND DONUTS" - SUNDAYS @ 9AM IN THE PARISH HALL

Our **FAMILY EUCHARIST** service is designed for families with young children, but everyone is welcome. Each week's thoughtful message encourages participation from all who are present. Donuts and coffee are available before, during and after the service.

DAILY OFFICE

MORNING PRAYER is held in the church **at 9:15AM Monday through Thursday**. This 15-20 minute service is an excellent way to start your day. Please make plans to join us as you are able! If you cannot join us in person, you can always hold Morning Prayer on your own beginning on p. 75 in the BCP.

COMPLINE is held via Zoom **every night beginning at 7:30PM**. The link can be found in the weekly Acts of the Apostles email and on the back page of this newsletter. Or contact the church office for assistance: office@holypostlespa.org

DATES OF NOTE

THE SUNDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB - SUNDAY, MAY 5TH @ 11:30AM

Join us in the Memorial Room following the 10AM service for a discussion of **"The Corner That Held Them"** by **Sylvia Townsend Warner**. All are welcome, no matter how far you've gotten in your reading.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION - THURSDAY, MAY 9TH @ 6:30PM

Join us for a celebration of Holy Eucharist - in person or via livestream - on this special day commemorating the occasion on which the risen Christ is taken into heaven after appearing to his followers for forty days (*Acts 1:1-11, Mk 16:19*). The Ascension marks the conclusion of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances. It is the final elevation of his human nature to divine glory and the near presence of God. The Ascension is affirmed by the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds.

DARBY FOOD GIVEAWAY - WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH @ 9:30AM

On Wednesday, May 15th, we will be transporting our collection of **canned fruits and vegetables** to the Darby Rec Center for distribution. We could use assistance moving the items from the Outreach closet in the narthex to the delivery vehicles. With your assistance, this task takes about a half hour.

POCKETS OF HOPE - SATURDAY, MAY 18TH @ 9:00AM

The Pockets of Hope group will be using the Parish Hall on Saturday, May 18th between 9AM and Noon. All are welcome to join them for their sewing project! (On "Pockets of Hope" weekends we do the "Jesus and Donuts" setup at 8AM on Sunday morning).

JUNE NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE - THURSDAY, MAY 23RD BY 5PM

All submissions gratefully accepted!

SUMMER HAPPY HOUR - FRIDAY, MAY 24TH, 6:00PM-8:00PM

Don't miss out on the return of our Summer TGIF Happy Hours. For more information, **see page 9**.

CHURCH PICNIC - SUNDAY, MAY 26TH @ 11:30AM

The annual church picnic is an event not to be missed. Join us for food, fun and fellowship. For more information, **see page 9**.

Capital Campaign Update

It is my pleasure to offer you the following update on the status of the Capital Campaign. First a refresher from Fr. James' note last year:

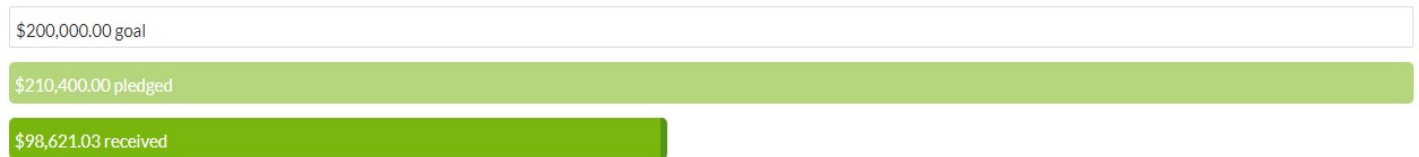
*Our purpose as a Church is not to maintain a building,
it is to worship God and show God's love to our neighbors.
Our building is a valuable tool for that work. As such, it is worth investing in for that purpose.
Therefore, the Vestry has decided to launch a capital campaign this Fall (2023).
It will be a joyful opportunity for us all to invest in this place
as a place for everyone to belong.*

HERE IS THE CURRENT FINANCIAL PICTURE:

With a goal of **\$200,000 in pledges**, to be fulfilled by December 31, 2027, a total of **\$210,400 was pledged**. As of April 24, 2024, **\$97,596 of those pledges has already been fulfilled** with over **\$1,000 of additional (un-pledged) donations**.

We were also awarded a **\$30,000 grant from the Diocesan Growth and Development Fund** to be used towards our 3 capital campaign goals.

Campaign Progress for Capital Campaign (Sep 24, 2023 - Dec 31, 2027)



WHAT WERE OUR GOALS AND HOW ARE WE DOING?

GOAL 1: COMPLETED (BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER)

The window installation project began on April 4TH and is scheduled to be completed on April 30TH.

GOAL 2: COMPLETED

The Parish Hall and Memorial Room air conditioning were replaced in Fall 2023, the old systems having failed even earlier than we originally expected and slightly ahead of the request for pledges to the capital campaign. Nevertheless, the funds from the campaign for this goal were still required to cover the expense.

GOAL 3: STARTING SOON

Why do we choose to focus on a welcoming area out front? The central theme of the capital campaign is **investing in a place to belong**. Last year, with the placement of the Little Free Library *(continued on next page)*

CAMPAIGN GOALS \$200,000

- 1** Replace broken windows throughout building.
- 2** Replace air conditioners in the parish hall and memorial room.
- 3** Create a welcoming front lawn area for the whole neighborhood to use.

Window Replacement Project



It's been a very long time coming, but at last we have new windows throughout the building. The difference in the brightness in the Parish Hall, Godly playroom, Memorial Room, hallways and offices is astounding! There is much to be thankful for:

- the generous donations from all of you that made this project possible
- the hard work of Frank and his team of installers to get the work done quickly and efficiently with a minimum of disruption to the daily activities in the building, especially to Little Friends Daycare
- the flexibility of those affected by this work in progress, especially Little Friends and our tenants Gwynne and Carter, with limited access to certain areas of the building and parking lot

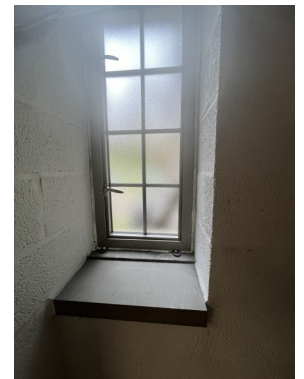


A window you can actually see out of!

But above all, we all need to thank the **CHA Property Team** for pulling this project together, from the initial plan, to fielding bids and finalizing contracts.

And extra special thanks to **Annette Smith** for heading up the management of the project and to **JT Wertz** who was hands on and present on site every step of the way to see that the work was done efficiently and effectively.

We are truly blessed to have such dedicated folks volunteering their time and talent in support of the mission of Holy Apostles.



A frosted window in the office bathroom

Capital Campaign Update (continued from previous page)

at the curb near our front steps, including the even more-popular "Good Dog Biscuit Box" at the base of the library, that area has developed into a favorable spot for the community to meet. During the formation of the goals for the campaign, we identified this as an area of opportunity and included it as a primary goal so that we could further explore opportunities to build on this.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Please make plans to attend either of our services on **Sunday, May 5** as we will conclude the service with singing and praying outside, ending the procession at the library post in the front. Please join us in dreaming of ways in which we can use this space in a way to engage with our community. Feedback cards will be made available on this date.

—Respectfully submitted by Jean Gentile,
Capital Campaign Committee Chair

DARBY MISSION

The Darby Mission Food Giveaway continues to serve an average of over 200 people each month with vital food supplies. Your donations to this effort are greatly appreciated.

Donations can be placed on the Outreach shelves in the narthex closet, in the CAN-estoga wagon in the office hallway; or shipped directly to the church care of “Darby Food” or “Outreach.”



We will next be hosting a Darby Dinner on **July 2nd and it will be a BBQ event**. Remember, you are always welcome at the Rec Center on any dinner evening (1st Tuesday of each month) to help with serving or just sit and share a meal with those who show up for a community dinner.

PROJECT SHARE LUNCH PROGRAM

We continue to provide 50 lunches on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month to our friends at Project Share in Upper Darby. Lunches consist of a sandwich, fruit, dessert, and beverages. We are always in need of volunteers to prepare/purchase food items; coordinators the gathering of donated items; and drivers to make the deliveries to 72nd & Court Streets in Upper Darby.

- If you have questions, contact Cassie (grammysqrd@gmail.com) or Katie (katie@thegentiles.com)
- To volunteer use our Signup Genius page at [Tinyurl.com/PSLunches](https://www.tinyurl.com/PSLunches) or speak to Cassie or Katie

UPCOMING LUNCH DATES:

May 14 & 28 ~ June 11 & 25 ~ July 9 & 23

ADVENT BAG COLLECTIONS

We are making great strides in our Advent Bag collections for 2024.
Thank you to all who have been contributing.

For the month of May we are looking for:
HAND SANITIZER, BAR SOAP, SOAP TRAVEL CASES

If shipping items to the church, please mark the package **Attention: Advent Bags**.
It is also helpful to include a gift receipt if you'd like confirmation that your package has been received.

Entertaining Angels in San Antonio and (maybe) Penn Wynne (continued)

(continued from p. 1)

The staff of Plaza de Paz frequently hear that they are the first Americans who have said or done anything kind to them since entering this country. One child from Central America asked a volunteer if all Americans hated people like her.

Plaza de Paz does not publicly reveal its location and we were asked to keep it entirely secret. That is because shelters of this type are routinely victims of violent protests and bomb threats. The state government is extremely hostile, even though it if weren't for shelters like Plaza de Paz, people fleeing violence in their home countries would have no place to go, and would simply be dumped on the streets, whether of San Antonio or other cities across the country, including Philadelphia.



For Christians, welcoming strangers, migrants, and refugees is not a partisan political issue. It is a matter of biblical obedience. Numerous passages of the Old and New Testaments command us to care for "aliens and foreigners" in our land as if they were our own family. Hebrews tells us to welcome strangers because we never know when we might be entertaining angels.

Flor Saldivar, the director of Plaza de Paz, asked if any of us would be willing to be placed on a contact list for the shelter. I volunteered personally and I signed up Holy Apostles. When Plaza de Paz has a guest in San Antonio whose ultimate destination is Philadelphia, we might be called up to offer them hospitality and help them to get on their feet in our city. I hope you're ready to entertain some angels.

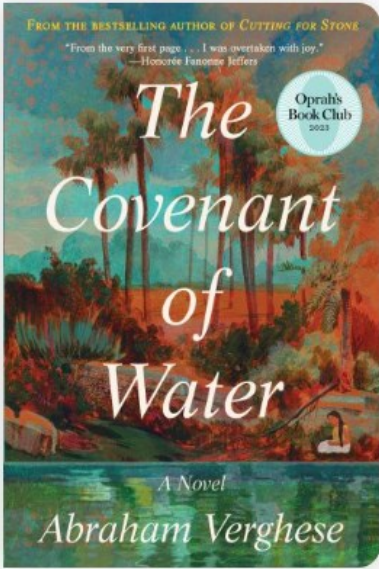
James⁺

Church Office Hours

Mondays: 9:30 AM - 12 :30 PM
Wednesdays: 9:30 AM - 12 :30 PM
Fridays: 9:30 AM - 12 :30 PM

Weekly hours are posted in the Acts of the Apostles email and will reflect any adjustments to the hours noted above.

To reach Katie Gentile, Parish Admin - office@HolyApostlesPA.org - 610-642-6617



The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

Thanks to the Jesuits at St. Joe’s and the general inattention to other cultures typical of 20th century American education, I’ve always believed that St. Francis Xavier brought Christianity to the Indian subcontinent in the 16th century. This epic intergenerational novel, covering 80 years in the lives of a family from South India’s Malabar Coast, taught me otherwise.

The Saint Thomas Christians are a community of Indian Christians in the state of Kerala who trace their origins to the evangelistic activity of Thomas the Apostle in the 1st century. Today, one of the Saint Thomas congregations is affiliated with the self-governing South Indian province of the Anglican Communion.

The main character in The Covenant of Water is the family’s matriarch, Mariamma, a Job-like figure who suffers terrible losses and grief without ever losing her faith. She frequently takes her anger and hurt to God in prayer, scolding the Creator for earthly suffering and injustice.

Lacking in formal education, forced into an arranged marriage to a much-older man at age 12, and spending all her life in a remote area with no church, Mariamma struggles to find consolation and hope in her faith. "How can you forgive a God who takes a mother from her child?" she rages. And on the other hand, "There are certain things that God does not need to be told."

The vast scope and intricate plot of this book kept me engaged from page one through page (gulp!) 775. Verghese is a medical doctor by profession, and I admit I skimmed through some of the more gruesome descriptions of surgeries and tropical diseases. But the book also left me wanting to learn more about Indian culture and history, especially the late Colonial period and post-independence politics.

—Review by Rosemary Hughes



Incarnation Holy Sacrament Church is holding their 2024 SummerFEST on Saturday, June 1st.

This is a family-friendly fundraiser for the church and its ministries.

Enjoy homemade barbecue, bounce house, crafts and fun for all ages.

They are located at 3000 Garrett Rd in Drexel Hill. Plan to join the fun!

“Beginning of Summer” Picnic

Please join us on **Sunday, May 26**, for our Beginning of Summer Picnic following the 10:00AM service. It's always fun to get together, and this cookout is definitely one of the highlights of our Fellowship year.

The Fellowship Mission will provide burgers (beef, some turkey and some veggie burgers), hotdogs, rolls, cheese, and condiments. We will also provide beverages: water, iced tea and sodas. Our Grill Master says, “Everyone should come hungry as the burgers will be hot and ready to eat when they step out of church.”

We'll be sending out an email invite asking you to sign up and tell us how many are attending. We will also have signups for volunteers to help with setup, bring side dishes or desserts, and help with cleanup.

Invite a friend!

Fellowship events are a great opportunity to invite someone to see what CHA is all about! Friends, neighbors and extended family are always welcome at any of our events.

Summer Happy Hours on the Lawn

Mark your calendars for the return of our very popular **Summer TGIF Happy Hours**. We will be meeting on the lawn (or in the Memorial Room if the weather is unpleasant) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the 4th Friday of the next four months:

- May 24
- June 28
- July 26
- August 23

Come as you are for a relaxing start to the weekend. Bring a snack to share and your own (adult) beverage.

NEW THIS YEAR: Fellowship will provide a signature mocktail/mixer each month. **For May:** Rhubarb Shrub with Lime & Basil. Add sparkling water for non-alcoholic or gin for fun.

Kids are welcome, and we'll have some low-key activities to keep them entertained.



Day Retreat - Mighty Mary

In our weekly Bible Study we have been studying women of the Old Testament and are now beginning our study of women in the New Testament.

How fortuitous it was for three members of our Bible Study of our Bible Study - Katie Gentile, Margaret Paschal and myself - along with Jean Gentile, to attend a retreat on "Mighty Mary" hosted by Christ Church and St Michael's in Philadelphia on April 13th. The Reverend Pat Cashman facilitated our study of Mary using lecture, discussion, art, biblical references and music.

Along with participants from other churches we each shared how we became connected with Mary beyond the Nativity. Hearing these stories from a variety of backgrounds led to a rich discussion.

Pat then led us to examine and discuss the many roles of Mary through different lenses. We saw her through the eyes of artist Henry Ossawa Tanner in his painting "The Annunciation," which is on permanent display at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. There were a number of stained-glass windows in Christ Church and St. Michael's that pertained to our retreat topic, including one depicting Mary's role as a mother using a scroll to teach her son to read.

Rev. Cashman shared various Bible verses relating to Mary. One that stood out to me is Acts 1:14 which says, "Mary prayed with the apostles and other women." I can imagine Mary in her grief joining together with the women and the brothers of Jesus in prayer.

In our biblical reference discussions we commented on the many women named Mary. The name Mary is a form of the name Miriam, which comes from a word meaning *rebellious*. Pat surmised that girls may have been named Mary as a form of resistance to Roman rule.

Our program closed with a beautiful recording of Mary's song, *The Magnificat*, which shows how Mary magnifies the Lord by proclaiming his love, faithfulness and mercy.

— Respectfully submitted by Nancy Haas,
Spiritual Practices Ministry Chair



Stained-glass window showing Joseph watching while Mary instructs Jesus

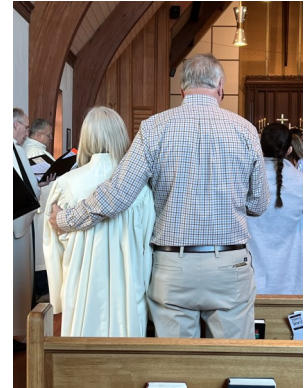


Retreat group during a moment of reflection



Altarpiece at Christ Church and St Michael's showing an interpretation of *The Annunciation*.

~The baptism of Bryson Lane McWilliams ~
Surrounded by love.



~Quiet moments around
the sanctuary ~



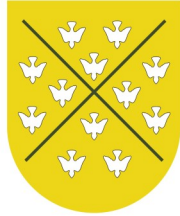
~Jason McGhee,
multi-tasking:
simultaneous
worshipper and
zookeeper!~



~Linda Day making sure everyone feels
at home at CHA ~



~Keeping on top of repairs around the building ~



CHURCH *of the*
HOLY APOSTLES
PENN WYNNE
a place to belong

1020 Remington Road at Dover Road, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania 19096

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Rector's Cell: (505) 410-0672

2024 Vestry

Lyn DeSilets - *Clerk of the Vestry*, Nancy Haas, Rosemary Hughes, Judy Jervis, David Lees - *Accounting Warden*,
Drew Meiers - *Senior Warden*, Hu Peck, Annette Smith, Patty Wertz, Joe Zorc

Worship with Us

Sunday:

Family-focused Service @ 9:00 a.m.

Join us in person in the Parish Hall - Coffee and Donuts included!

Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 10:00 a.m.

Join us in person or via Livestream on our YouTube Channel

<https://holyapostlespa.org/watch/>

Mondays thru Thursdays:

Morning Prayer Rite II @ 9:15 a.m.

Join us in person

Daily:

Compline @ 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Use this link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/233415613?> Passcode = love

or call into the meeting toll-free 1-888-475-4499

Callers will be prompted to enter this meeting ID: 233 415 613

Christian Education

Children:

Join us at our 9am Family-focused Eucharist as Father James brings the weekly scripture to life and relates it to our lives with his Object Lessons.

Adults:

Bible Study - Thursdays @ 11:00 a.m. via Zoom

Use this link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/788355291?> Passcode = love

or call into the meeting toll-free 1-888-475-4499

Callers will be prompted to enter this meeting ID: 788 355 291