

The Congregation of
Saint Saviour at the
Cathedral Church
of Saint John
the Divine

Farewell reception for The Rev. Canon Storm Swain on June 24th

"How we love one another is manifested in how we say "hello" and "goodbye." It is manifested in all the spaces in between. This is as simple as saying 'Hello' to a visitor or pilgrim on Sunday morning, and as difficult as saying 'Goodbye' to people we have grown to love over the years."

Storm Swain
June 2004

Please join your fellow Congregation members for a farewell reception for Storm, Stephen and Theo, following the 11.00AM service on June 24. Light food and refreshments will be provided. This will take place in Cathedral house. Letters from Storm & The Dean on Page 4.

Crossings

The Cathedral Congregation's Newsletter

June 2007

THE CARPENTER'S KIDS PROGRAM

Hamjambo!

It is with such great joy that I report to you the overwhelming success of The Carpenter's Kids Program. We were the first to become a sister parish to another, The Dodoma Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, and the program officially launched on 6 May 2006 with a goal toward twenty-four similarly linked parishes in our diocese. Bishop Roskam recently announced that there are already twenty-five churches signed up for the program and it is growing rapidly. You can read about it in the latest Carpenter's Kids Newsletter (available on the Diocesan website: www.diocesenyn.org). This ministry has affected the lives of 1800 children and we are a part of it - reaching a helping hand across a very small world.

Nevertheless, we still have some catching up to do. Our pledge to the program totals \$7,500 to be paid out over three years. Our second payment is on its way and we are still short of our total goal. We have pledge promises for \$7,007 (and have collected \$3,837 of that), which leaves us still shy of \$443 in pledge money. The money we send goes toward

school supplies and breakfast for fifty children who have been orphaned by AIDS or are otherwise impoverished. If you have considered supporting The Carpenter's Kids, but have not yet done so, I urge you to do so now. If you feel called to help, any amount you can give will be helpful. Checks should be made out to the Congregation of Saint Saviour with Tanganyika Orphans Project in the subject line and can be sent to the congregation at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10025, given to a representative at the congregation table after service, or put into the collection plate.

If you are not able to give at this time, I ask that you include the Carpenter's Kids, and all children in need, in your prayers.

They will know we are Christians by our love.

Diane Reiners
Chair

Mission and Outreach Committee
missionandoutreach@saintsaviour.org



Letter from the Vicar

My Dear Friends,

*“ ‘Here I am’ , says Abraham to God;
Who commands Isaac as sacrifice.*

*‘Here I am’ , says Abraham to Isaac;
Who wonders ‘where is the sacrifice.’*

*‘ Here I am’ , says Abraham to God;
Who provides a ram for sacrifice.*

*‘Here I am’ , says servant to master;
Who demands service as a sacrifice.*

*‘Here I am’ , our response to our God;
Who awaits our lives as sacrifice.”*

Cynthia Davis

The glorious feast of Pentecost reminds us, ever so powerfully, of the presence and availability of the Holy Spirit. However, in order for the power to be bestowed, we have to be present! The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2:1 teaches “when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place . . .” In the Greek, the word “together” denotes a sense of being ‘present’ with one mind.

In truth, Cynthia’s poem, “Here I am” is indeed a Pentecostal message of being ‘present’ even though not necessarily always ‘willing’. The power of the presence of Pen-

tecost, calls us to offer the gift of presence, “Here I am.” It is in this context I believe that Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in his book *An African Prayer Book*, encourages us to be a Pentecostal people as he writes:

“Wonderfully, God created us because God wanted us, not because God needed us. We were loved, that is why we were created. God created you because God loved you. There is nothing you can do that will make God love you less. There is nothing you can do that will make God love you more.”

You see, Pentecost calls us to be present . . . Here I am . . . Pentecost tells us that we should reach out to ALL God’s people in order to bring healing and reconciliation. Pentecost tells us, that, however challenging at times, there is ALWAYS a place and space for ALL at the table.

Pentecost epitomizes the HOPE of new life, as we encounter the breath of God filling us with life anew, empowering ALL. Pentecost will always rekindle within each of us the fire of God’s love, in order to renew the face of the earth.

Some years ago Canon Storm Swain became part of our Cathedral community through her, “Here I am.” We have been

blessed by her dedicated ministry in our midst. As she prepares to leave us, and as we prepare to say our goodbyes, we assure Storm, Stephen, and Theo of our prayers and God’s blessing as they journey into their next chapter.

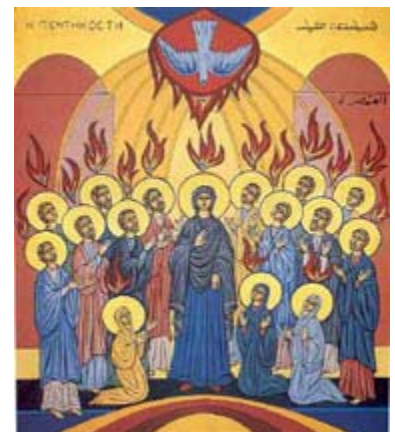
Thank you, Storm, for your care and pastoral ministry in our midst. Thank you for touching so many lives. Thank you for your care and compassion, for all members of the congregation. May God lead you; guide you and your family in all your future endeavors.

So it is, my dear friends, that your “Here I am” to God, will bless the gift of your presence to those whom you meet and greet.

*“Here I am, our response to God;
Who awaits our lives and sacrifice”*

Blessings of Pentecostal showers!

The Rev. Canon. Alan G. Dennis
Sub-Dean & Vicar
adennis@stjohndivine.org





Letter from the Warden

by Chris Johnson.

They say that a puppy's feet will tell you how big the dog is going to be. Nature, it seems, has a way of preparing even the most fragile of creatures for great growth.

So how do we prepare our own Congregation for great growth. We are still young by the standards of our Diocese—only 15 this year. And we have concluded that we are not as large as we could be given the remarkable church we worship in or the city we draw from.

Most of your Clergy and Vestry's efforts each year is to offer events, classes and programs that benefit the spiritual growth and formation of the community at the Cathedral and neighborhood. But what does growth and formation mean?

Much of it has to do with growth in spirituality, not just numbers. Through ministry and mission, we first draw closer to God ourselves, and then aid others to draw closer in their journeys. Our Stephen Ministry and EfM training are both perfect examples of lay ministry and mission serving others.

We offer gateway programs to Christianity, like Via Media and Newcomers Classes, in addition to traditional Baptism and Confirmation Classes. Sadly we live among a generation of unchurched people, and therefore, we must act as an introductory service to the Christian faith. So we are looking at ways to better communicate to those outside our Cathedral to invite them into our space, so they too can be transformed.

Then we celebrate our faith in worship and service. We offer extraordinary opportunities for both (for one such example, see Canon Miller's article on page 5).

As members progress in their understanding, we offer Adult Education classes

which allow deeper faith to form. This type of education has traditionally been our largest single budget item in the Congregation programming, and yet we find the response to such programs changing. Attendance to any event on a day other than a Sunday has been steadily diminishing. So what will this look like in the future? How do we define the kind of programming expected of a large Cathedral Congregation to allow us to grow in faith and numbers?

One of the biggest rationales for a Congregation in any church is to give us a community in which we can act on our faith, by participating in ministry, worship and volunteerism. If receiving the Good News is supposed to be transformational, then the outcome should be some kind of action. We are told in James 2:26. *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.* For more on our social justice/outreach programs, see the article on page 1.

So to grow a stronger Congregation of faith, are we to focus on providing opportunities to do good works? Or to simply focus on bringing more people to the faith itself? Or do we just keep the door open and the lights on, and let the building and God do it for us.

We have noticed that participation in certain activities, especially mid week, are not drawing the numbers they did. And certain volunteer opportunities always remain hard to fill. In truth, we are not some wilderness parish, but in the midst of a great metropolis, and many of our members are active in other organizations and diverse volunteer opportunities around the city.

So how do we prepare for growth. What "big feet" are needed to prepare us for a size worthy of this great Cathedral? This is the ongoing work of your

Congregation's leadership in cooperation with the Cathedral. But it is also the responsibility of all of us.

Currently, at all levels, we are rethinking what we do, revisiting what we have done in the past, and how we can better achieve our goals in the future. We are looking at what works and what doesn't, where we get good attendance figures, and where we don't. We need your prayers, your input and your support as we continue to build a strong spiritual home for ourselves, our community and generations yet to come.

Chris Johnson, Warden
wardens@saintsaviour.org

About Us

The Congregation of Saint Saviour at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine offers events, classes and programs that benefit the spiritual growth and formation of the community at the Cathedral and neighborhood.

We are a family of Christians, drawn together by a common mission: "To build and nurture an active Christian community; to support the mission of the Cathedral; to offer opportunities for exploring and expressing spirituality, affirming the diversities that exist among us; above all, through worship, service, and example, to bear witness to Christ's healing and reconciling love to neighbors, pilgrims, and visitors.

Please visit our website for updated information and schedule of events www.saintsaviour.org or email: information@saintsaviour.org

Letters to the Congregation from Cn. Storm Swain, and Dean Kowalski



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is both with sadness and with immense gratitude that I announce that I will be leaving the Cathedral as Canon Pastor at the end of June.

I had hoped that moving to part-time work here last July would enable me to have the space and time to research and finish writing my doctoral dissertation. However, another call was a welcome delight and we were so touched that so many of you rejoiced with us in the arrival of Theodore, our own gift of God. In addition, your generosity through your gifts and support of Stephen and me throughout my pregnancy and as new parents has been a great gift. Maternity-leave gave me the opportunity of not only spending time with Theo and discovering the vocation of motherhood but time in discernment. It became clear during that time that finishing my doctorate would only be realized by finishing ministry at the Cathedral.

The Cathedral has been both my spiritual and physical home since I arrived here from New Zealand in 2000 and I have loved being Canon Pastor to this great Cathedral and wonderful Congregation over the last five years. I am immensely grateful to the Chapter, Congregation and community at the Cathedral where I have been privileged to walk and worship with so many of you. So many people here have shaped my ministry and touched my soul through their own commitment to living out in this place the love of God for us all. You have challenged me, prayed with me and loved me, and been willing to accept the same from me in return. Thank you for allowing me to be in your pulpit, beside your beds, across the table and in your hearts. As I leave here, my deep gratitude goes especially to Dean Kowalski whose hospitality, invitation to minister here, support and living out his own vocation exemplifies both the heart of the Cathedral and the kind of model that we would wish for across the Anglican Communion.

I ask that you continue to pray for me and my family as we step out of the boat, and walk with faith through the days ahead.

Blessings

Storm+
The Rev. Cn. Storm Swain



Dear Members of the Cathedral Community and Friends:

When I interviewed for the position of Dean in 2001, one of the first people I met was Storm Swain, a priest from New Zealand. She was a graduate student at Union Theological Seminary, working toward her doctorate in Religion and Psychiatry. She also was in training at the prestigious Blanton-Peale Institute and Counseling Center. Storm had been living at the Cathedral in exchange for assisting at services.

From that first encounter on, I found Storm impressive because of her pastoral insights and her commitment to the Cathedral. I soon asked her to become part of our staff, and she has served faithfully as Canon Pastor. I respect her as a trusted colleague and gifted priest.

When we discussed her transition to joining the staff, I said that as much as I wanted to work with her, I also did not want to do anything that would get in the way of her finishing her doctorate. Last year Storm, relatively newly married to the Reverend Stephen Harding, asked to cut back to part-time so as to refocus her time around researching and writing her thesis. Soon after she and Stephen learned the wonderful news that they would have a child!

We have shared in the joy of Storm's life during these momentous changes. Now it has become clear that focusing on family and finishing her thesis must be given top priority.

I announce to you that the Reverend Canon Storm Swain will conclude her role as Canon Pastor at the end of June. More details will follow, as we prepare to celebrate her ministry on Sunday, June 24th and we say good-bye as she and Stephen move on to a new chapter.

I will also share with you in the weeks ahead plans we have to provide for the pastoral and congregational needs of the Cathedral. But for now I want simply to thank Storm for her ministry as we prepare for this transition.

Faithfully,

The Very Reverend Dr. James A. Kowalski
Dean

Volunteers are needed

Opportunity to lead in Worship

Currently there are some openings in the schedule.

The public reading of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer has been an important part of the Anglican tradition in both parishes and cathedrals. The weekday services are read by members of the Cathedral community, most of them members of the Congregation of St. Saviour. These dedicated officiants preserve a tradition of lay leadership in worship and keep a discipline of public daily prayer alive in the Cathedral.

Cathedrals have paid special attention to the prayer offices because most cathedrals have their roots in monastic communities. Over the centuries the Anglican choral tradition has produced transcendent musical services in the form of Matins and Evensong, which are the offices with music.

At The Cathedral we carry on the tradition and maintain a schedule of daily prayer. Monday through Saturday, Morning Prayer is at 8 a.m., and Evening Prayer is at 5:30 p.m. On Sunday, Morning Prayer is included in the 8 a.m. Eucharist, and Evensong is sung at 6 p.m.

Currently there are some openings in the schedule. Volunteers are needed. There is also an ongoing need for backup officiants who can fill in when the regularly scheduled volunteers cannot be there. I would be happy to speak to anyone who might feel called to this important cathedral ministry.

Canon Tom Miller
tmiller@stjohndivine.org
Canon for Liturgy and the Arts
212-932-7337

On the Road to Chattanooga and Growth

Creating a good functional infrastructure for a congregation takes a lot of work and some hits and misses. Saint Saviour has some different difficulties unique to being a congregation at the Cathedral. We have been making strides in developing and creating a new look for our website. One of our biggest changes has been acquiring a new software program that would integrate our people and financial databases.

I have had the advantage of using ACS Technologies at work in a downtown church. The software is complex but is able to grow with a congregation. The support staff is excellent at ACS. Each year they host a four day convention where you get the opportunity to take classes, forums and meet one on one with consultants to go over any questions or get ideas on how to better use the program.

This year (May 15 to May 18) the convention was held at Chattanooga, Tennessee. I go every year for work and was joined this time by Adriana Sween from the Cathedral and Congregation office. Since the congregation is just learning to work with the program it is important to have hands on opportunities to see the program in action. Adriana was able to take classes, talk with other people who work with the program and meet with the consultants. We both came away with vital information

and new ideas.

Since I work with the websites here and at work I learned some new ways to use RSS feeds, implemented a better functioning stats counter. I also asked them to work out some spacing issues on our website that made the articles bleed into each other. You will see these changes implemented over the next couple of weeks. Adriana and I enjoyed the experience, learned new things and made invaluable friends at ACS for those future phone calls when we have a question or new idea to bring into fruition.

We continue to firm up our infrastructure, build the foundation and create new and exciting things for the future. If you have any news suggestions for the website please contact the communications chairs at

communication@saintsaviour.org.

Visit ACS Technologies:
<http://www.acstechnologies.com/>

Sandra Lee Schubert
Co Chair
Communications Committee

Laymen's Club Strawberry Festival June 17th



The Layman's Club, in co-sponsorship with the Congregation's Events Committee, is hosting the annual Strawberry Festival after the 11AM service in Cathedral House.

Editor's note; in 2008, The Laymen's Club of St. John the Divine will celebrate 100 years of involvement by the laity of the diocese and the metropolitan region in the vital life of our international Cathedral!

Go Green!

If you've walked by the congregation table in the past month and a half, you might have noticed a stack of bright yellow fliers. On these fliers are three simple steps you can take to be actively involved in the fight against global warming: using compact fluorescent bulbs, switching to Green Power, and reducing "energy vampirism" of appliances. Where did these fliers come from? Announced during the service on Earth Day, the Congregation of Saint Saviour has partnered with the Sierra Club in the Cool Neighborhood Campaign. Our goal is to have every member of the congregation pledge to take one, two, or all three of the suggested actions, and to show support for the campaign by sending in the pledge form attached to the flier. So take an active role as a steward of God's creation. Stop by the congregation table, take a flier, send in the pledge form, and take real measures to curb global warming. You've heard the reasons why. This is how. Let's turn this city into a Cool Neighborhood.

Shawn Dean
education@saintsaviour.org

Episcopal Charities A commitment to caring

Brad, a 56 year old man with a long history of substance abuse has a criminal record for drug related crimes and spent 5 years living on the streets of New York City. Brad's long homeless history and multiple mental health issues posed a great challenge in terms of finding appropriate housing. He also suffered from some memory loss and confusion related to his diagnoses. Brad's problems alienated him from any support from his family, making him feel all alone in the world.

Brad found a home in the Cathedral Community Care's shelter, where he worked in the CCC soup kitchen, helping others in need. During his stay at CCC, he created a good network of supportive friends. Brad said that this space and time to work with the staff have been the first real home he has had since childhood. Today, Brad has moved out of the shelter, on to stable housing and continues to receive after-care support by the CCC social worker.

Brad is one of the many persons whose lives have been transformed by the support of Episcopal Charities. In addition to CCC, Episcopal Charities enables 90 programs throughout the Diocese to reach out more than 1.2 million times to those in need. All of their programs have a relationship with a congregation or the Diocese itself.

Episcopal Charities basic human needs grants focus on a wide variety of activity: addiction recovery, aging/eldercare, English as a second language & adult literacy, feeding, HIV/AIDS, housing, immigration, job training and prison. Their Youth Opportunity Grants serve over 3,000 children in areas of service including after school, arts & entertainment, job readiness, social justice, summer camps and teen parenting programs. Episcopal Charities has supported CCC for 10 years, and holds the annual tribute dinner in the Cathedral. Executive Director, David Shover is a member of the Cathedral's adult choir and Associate Director, Mark Hummell is an Assistant Minister at the Cathedral.

Episcopal Charities can use your support more than ever over the summer, as most donors focus their giving around Thanksgiving and Christmas. The needs for Brad, and others who come to our programs, do not go away over the summer. Please consider a donation to Episcopal Charities, 1047 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10025, or on-line at www.episcopalcharities-newyork.org

The Rev. Mark Hummell
mhummell@dioceseny.org

Workshops and Tours

by the Cathedral's Public Education Department

Highlight Tours

Tues. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 12 noon;

Sun. 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Explore the Cathedral's newly cleaned and magnificently restored East End, Crossing, Great Choir, and seven Chapels of Tongues. Learn about the art, architecture and history of this great sacred space from 1892 to the present. No prior reservation necessary. \$5 per person, \$4 per student/senior.

Vertical Tours

Saturdays, 12 Noon – 1 p.m. & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Climb 124 feet through spiral stone staircases to the top of the Cathedral. Get a look at the huge scale of the nave restoration and study the grand architecture while standing on a buttress. The tour culminates on the roof with a wonderful view of the Morningside Heights area of Manhattan. Space is limited to 10 people, and reservations are recommended—for people 12 years of age and older only. Bring a flashlight. \$15 per person; \$10 per student/senior.

Spotlight Tours

Spotlight Tours focus on particular aspects of the Cathedral. . Spotlight Tours are \$10 per person, \$8 for students and seniors.

Urban Oasis: Spotlight on the Gardens and Grounds

Sunday, June 3, 2:00 pm

Gardens and cloisters offer an enclosed place of protection from the life outside. Explore the beauty and symbolism found in the Cathedral and its gardens while contemplating the unique ecology of urban environments. Learn about the use, history, and architecture of the buildings on the Close. Rain or shine. Led by Cathedral Guide Lee Caron.

Looking Upwards: An Architectural Tour of St. John the Divine

Sunday, June 24, 2:00 pm

Gaze upwards at ribs and vaults, columns

and cornices, buttresses and beasts, prophets and pinnacles in this survey showing how successive styles of architectural history are reflected in the stages of Cathedral construction. This walk travels through portals, sanctuary, choir, ambulatory, chapels and Biblical garden and grounds. Led by Cathedral Guide Susan Chute. Rain or shine. Bring binoculars.

Adult Workshops

Stone Carving Workshop

Saturday, June 2, 12:30 – 5:00 pm

Stone carver Chris Pellettieri, trained in the Cathedral Stoneworks Program, leads a one-day intensive introduction to stone carving. Participants will employ traditional carving methods and tools on a block of limestone. Space is limited to six participants. Reservations and advance payment required. \$100, materials included.

Progressive Stone Carving Workshop:

Thursdays, June 21, 28 & July 5, 12, 19, 26, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

The time-honored craft of stone carving is at a low point in its 10,000-year history, partly due to a breakdown in the traditional system whereby experts taught their skills to novices. Help reverse this alarming trend and join former stone yard apprentice and Cathedral Artist-in-Residence Chris Pellettieri in a progressive, six-week stone carving course. The program puts the emphasis on practicing ancient skills while doing level-appropriate projects rather than attempting to create masterpieces before the technical skills have been acquired. Beginners and experienced students are welcome. Space is limited to eight participants. Reservation and advance payment required. \$250 for six-week course, materials included.

Mosaic Workshop

Saturday, June 9, 12:30 - 4:30 pm

Join artist and educator Danielle Oteri for this special workshop to learn about

the craft of mosaic. Begin with a history and overview of mosaics and then learn how to work in this ancient medium. Using vitreous colored glass tile, participants will design, cut, place and grout a decorative mosaic. Space is limited to 10 people, and reservations are required. \$45 per person, includes all necessary materials.

Family Programs

Medieval Birthday Parties

Saturdays & Sundays, by availability

Celebrate your child's birthday with a two-hour party in the Medieval Arts Workshop, where children sculpt gargoyles, weave, make brass rubbings, carve a block of limestone and much more! For children ages 5 & up. Call the Public Education & Visitor Services Department at (212) 932-7347 for more information and reservations.

Medieval Arts Family Workshop

Saturday, June 9, 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon

In this signature workshop, children carve a block of limestone; create medieval illuminated letters, design gargoyles, weave, and more! Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$5 per child, with accompanying adult.

Wonders of the Sun: Celebrating the Solstice

Saturday, June 23, 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

Welcome summer in by celebrating the wonders of the sun! In this workshop, families learn about Midsummer's eve traditions, then create sundials, sun prints and more. Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$5 per child, with accompanying adult.

PLEASE NOTE: The Medieval Arts Workshop will close for the summer on June 24 and will reopen on Sept. 22 for a FREE Open House.

Barbara Anderson
Education Specialist
Public Education &
Visitor Services Department
banderson@stjohndivine.org

Crossings

A newsletter published monthly by the Congregation of St. Saviour at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
1047 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10025

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The Rev. Canon Alan G. Dennis, Sub-Dean  
and Vicar of the Congregation of St. Saviour  
212-316-7456

[adennis@stjohndivine.org](mailto:adennis@stjohndivine.org)

The Rev. Canon Storm Swain, Cathedral Pastor  
212-316-7456

[pastor@stjohndivine.org](mailto:pastor@stjohndivine.org)

Adriana Sween  
Pastoral Events Coordinator  
Congregation Office  
212-316-7483  
212-932-7348 (Fax)  
[office@saintsaviour.org](mailto:office@saintsaviour.org)

The Rev. Mark Hummell, Assistant Minister  
[mhummell@diocesenyc.org](mailto:mhummell@diocesenyc.org)

Donna Devlin

Director of Christian Education  
[childrensabbey@saintsaviour.org](mailto:childrensabbey@saintsaviour.org)

~~~~~  
Robert Carey, Warden
Christopher L. Johnson, Warden
wardens@saintsaviour.org
Cecilia Andrini-Nwufoh, Treasurer
treasurer@saintsaviour.org

Lisa Chin, Clerk
clerk@saintsaviour.org

Vestry Members:

Cecilia Andrini-Nwufoh, Lisa Chin, Vaughn Folkert,
Charles Jamison, Jr., Harry Johnson, Brian Nelson,
Matthew Pritchard, Nathaniel Queen, Marsha Ra,
Elizabeth Salzer, Carole Wilkins and Wayne Yankus

Committee Chairs:

Stewardship: Co-Chairs;

Marsha Ra, Marsha.Ra@rcn.com

Phyllis Murray, pjmrm@aol.com

Pastoral Care: Rev. Cn Storm Swain

swain@stjohndivine.org

Education: Shawn Dean, education@saintsaviour.org

Mission & Outreach: Diane Reiners,

missionandoutreach@saintsaviour.org

Crafts Fair: Brian Nelson brian@banelson.net

Events: Bill McCadden and Lisa Chin,
events@saintsaviour.org

Welcoming: Co-Chairs;

Joan Ogden and Peter Christensen
welcoming@saintsaviour.org

Prayer Tree: Elizabeth Salzer, PrayerTreeSJD@aol.com

20-30s Connection: Matthew Pritchard

20s30s@saintsaviour.org

Election Committee: The Rev. Mark Hummell,

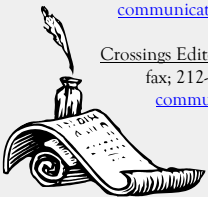
mhummell@diocesenyc.org

Communications: Chris Johnson and Sandra Schubert

communication@saintsaviour.org

Crossings Editor: Chris Johnson,
fax: 212-580-6271

communication@saintsaviour.org



Fire and understanding.

It must have been a frightening time that first Pentecost after Jesus had died. The city of Jerusalem was full of Jews celebrating the Feast of Weeks. The disciples, who were just beginning



Thoughts on Pentecost by Donna Devlin the new Director of Christian Education.

to understand that they could go about the streets without everyone looking and pointing at them and accusing them of being followers of that dead prophet were suddenly surrounded by a mass of strangers speaking in a huge number of understandable languages. Strangers and strange languages – nothing was as it had been, even two months ago.

Makes me think of how it might have been for my very first Irish immigrant ancestor – Thomas. He came to New Jersey sometime in the late 1700s/early 1800s. He was illiterate. He might have been a young man, a teenager, cabin boy, a stowaway, a horse thief – there are no records. We don't even know from where in Ireland he came. Thomas came for a better life. My admiration for the determination of Thomas runs very deep.

At a conference called Wrestling With The Big Questions, I was part of a group of 11 people. I speak only English. I was in the minority. That was an intimidating experience. It brought home the courage Thomas must have had. I attended a conference in the Dominican Republic. Outside my little group of Americans I was in the minority. By the time I left I could

manage to get out a "See", and believe me it really was "see" when I said it. I trembled every time I had to say anything because I knew I would sound "funny" and stupid.

I see the men standing outside my church in New Jersey waiting for day jobs. They are there because they have the courage to seek a better life and opportunities than that available in their home country.

Sounds like my Thomas. Sounds like that first Pentecost after Jesus died. That Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came in tongues of fire and the disciples heard and understood and were understood. I pray for that fire and that understanding. And I pray for the courage of those who need to be understood.

Donna Devlin

Director of Christian Education

childrensabbey@saintsaviour.org

Toward A Better Understanding of the Eucharist

June 3, 1-2:30 pm, in Cathedral House Conference Room

A family oriented program to help children better understand the symbols and parts of the Eucharist. Lunch and fellowship are part of each session. Pre-registration required for lunch.

For additional information, please contact Donna Devlin, 212-316-7593.