

The Glebe Gazette

*Monthly newsletter of the Glebe Episcopal Church
Bennett's Creek Parish, Suffolk, Virginia
July 2010*

FROM THE RECTOR

Beloved in Christ:

This year the first Sunday in July is July 4th, our national holiday celebrating our independence. It was on July 4th, 1776 that the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed to a waiting public. Since there was no 24/7 news cycle, or electronic media, this declaration did not receive widespread immediate dissemination. But, it was the beginning of a free nation, ruled by representative government. It was several years before our founders developed and ratified a Constitution and proclaimed us as the United States of America. We have come a long way from that first July 4th, but we are still far from perfect. In our democracy we have much give and take, checks and balances, pressure and compromise, but we somehow always manage to muddle through and carry on. Perhaps we should recall a comment attributed to Winston Churchill about our form of government, "Democracy is the worse form of government, but far superior to anything else that has ever been tried." (That may not be an exact quote.) This year when we look up and see our flag flying at the top of our flag pole, let us remember those famous men who, in signing the Declaration of Independence, pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor for all future generations and gave us the blessings of liberty we now enjoy.

The other thing about July is that it is vacation time for many people, even me. I was encouraged when I returned from a long weekend over Father's Day to see that attendance did not significantly fall off because I was not there. It has been reported to me that when I am off on vacation, some folks will arrive and leave because they do not see my car. Now, I am egotistically enough to believe that my "pearls of wisdom" are loved by all. And, we all know that Preachers are enamored by the melodious sound of their own voice – and

convinced that so is everyone else. However, we all know the real reason you come to Glebe on Sunday, and that is to be with your faith community and to worship. Our tradition – that is the Episcopal Church – practices and teaches the doctrine of corporate communion and corporate worship. That means that we all worship together and we all participate in that worship together. If any one of us is absent that absence is felt by all. To steal from and paraphrase John Donne, no one is Church by themselves, and all of us are diminished by anyone's absence. I know that many of you will be on vacation in July and August (Janet and I are planning on being away in late August.) but, if you are here, remember your faith community loves you and needs you.

Peace,
Ross+

MUSIC NOTES

I was encouraged a few days ago when I heard from a fellow organist that there were fourteen organ students in the college where she taught. I sometimes wonder if playing the organ (without a computer inside and little cards one can put in to play different harmonies) is a lost art. I'm talking about church organ playing/sacred music versus the theatre organ with a much different sound. I have often called myself a "purist" when it comes to good organ music in the classic style. My favorites come from the Baroque period - Bach, Handel, Beethoven, etc. You will note that a number of my selections are by these composers.

Here I am at my computer writing this newsletter article when a call (solicitation) is coming in from the Performing Arts!

I like the clear sound of our organ. It is different from a pipe organ, but it is everything we need. It is similar to my home practice organ. Every time I need some part, Johannus Orgelbow sends it to me free - from Germany. I have a "Rondo" organ, which is made by Rogers, one of the best electronic organ builders. My organ was built

around 1975. It uses tubes instead of transistors. Rogers Organ Company has every part they have ever made, and it can be ordered from the company. So I am happy with that availability.

One of my current concerns is whether my daughter, Portia, will have her baby on a Sunday this month. (Her due date is July 24, and she was two weeks early with Grae.) I am looking for an organist who could fill in on short notice if necessary. Steve can't; he is back to being the interim at Beech Grove. I have to arrange Sundays I am away months ahead in order for him to get a substitute. I used to have a list of possible organists in the area, but I can't find my list?? Can you help me?

Another concern for me at present is transportation. If I can ever get a driving test scheduled at the DMV, I will first have a 30 day license with restrictions - including driving no more than 25 miles away from my home. I wonder if anyone could meet me at the Counseling Center in Newport News, take me to church in the morning, and return me to the Center after church?? Please let me know if you could do this. I will probably need at least three people. After that, I should get my license back, if I behave myself. Consequences...

In the meantime, I am getting rides the best I can, and I continue to practice every day. I have a ride this Sunday and maybe the next. So far so good. Talk to me if you can give me help with a substitute (although the baby COULD come during the week!) or help with transportation. Meanwhile, I am keeping on singing - and making it positive!!! (This too shall pass!) You keep singing as well!

Jo Anna

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Please submit all articles by Friday July 23, 2010 to newslettereditor@glebechurch.org. Visit the Glebe website at: www.glebechurch.org. You can download Adobe for free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

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