

SAINTS ALIVE!

Pentecost 20, 21st September, 2008

Volume 3 Number 11

Dear Parishioner,

Thank you for your welcome back to the parish after our vacation. It was a good vacation which left me tired after the drill by my daughters. It was something of a family holiday at their request. (Good to feel wanted without having to sport a wallet.) We were back together again as it used to be, before they broke off in favour of more youthful company. Dawn and I felt good about this because at the very least we had done some work with the children. I bring greetings from Fr Andy Moore, former curate of our parish, who has just begun a new ministry in the parish of St Elizabeth, New Jersey. Similarly, Canon Leroy Lyons, also a former curate of our parish, has sent his regards. Canon Lyons is also based in New Jersey. Permit me at this point to thank Rev. Shelley –Ann most sincerely for her leadership of the parish during my absence.

Congratulations to our parishioners who have been successful in their exams at the various levels. As is usual some students have gone off to university and we wish God's blessings on them and we encourage them to maintain their worshipping ways and their spiritual growth. The way of the cross does not fail, and though it is not often easy, it is a tried and tested procedure for growth and success. You may ask, what is the way of the cross? It is what Jesus experienced on his way to glory. It is a way with a life giving and fulfilling purpose. It often requires sacrifice, endurance and faith. Often, it is a lonely undertaking and many things suggest that we are wasting time and that the alternatives are far more promising. However, the alternatives usually carry a price of regret, frustration and emptiness. Though the way of the cross may appear to be lonely, Jesus walks with us, through the Holy Spirit and that is quite enough resource to complete the journey. Our prayers are with you all as you journey.

This last portion of our parish calendar is set to be quite active. Plans are in place for our first Alpha

programme in the parish. May I invite you once again to get involved? There are many opportunities for serving through this programme, please discuss this with the leadership team. Remember, 'the Alpha experience is for anyone who wants to explore the Christian faith, has serious questions about the meaning of life, wants to find a warm and loving community, wants to brush up on the basics of Christianity.' Make a positive enquiry now, tomorrow may be too late.

The parish pilgrimage would have passed by the time of publication but there is still time for the family fun day on the 24th. Parishioners are invited to a day of fun and fellowship on the church grounds, beginning at 9.30am. Thanks to the Special Events Committee for the initiative in providing yet another opportunity for fellowship. May I encourage you to come along and meet someone new and learn more about your parish.

Among the major activities to come, are the Harvest thanksgiving, the Patronal festival, and the All Saints' Gala. It is a hectic schedule but we will use every occasion to make a witness to God's love and saving power. In much the same way we continue to raise the fundraising aspect of our stewardship. The electrical upgrade and air conditioning are almost complete, final checks and adjustments are being undertaken. However, there is also the adjustment to be made to the contribution side of the equation and here we seek all those who have not yet contributed as well as those who would like to give some more.



I close this article by extending a call to prayer for the church, the world and the local community. The concerns are great but he who holds all things in his hands is greater. So in the face of devastating hurricanes, a crashing Wall Street, crime and all the perils which beset us, God is in the midst. May God bless you all!

Canon Claude Berkley

TO LOVE GOD AND TO USE HIS GIFTS TO HIS GLORY

Dear Fellow-Parishioners,

Welcome back to all the vacationers, fully refreshed and ready to resume daily routines.

The hurricane season continues and September has brought terrific devastation to some of our fellow Caribbean islands and the USA. Let us show our Christian love in practical ways – perhaps organise a collection of some sort- in addition to remembering them in our prayers. One person **can** make a difference – think Martin Luther whose written protest against the practice of ‘indulgences’ led to the founding of the Protestant church. Do you know that an Anglican church exists in Haiti? Perhaps, there is a brave soul in the congregation willing to start a help drive for them.

We’re delighted to publish a response inspired by Dr. Roache’s article and look forward to hearing from other parishioners who may not have been willing to be the first to be published.

We also feature two of our young athletes, golfer Aleema Jack and Olympian Monique Cabral.

This Wednesday 24th September- Republic Day - is **Family Fun Day**. It is the first of what the Special Events Committee hopes will become an annual parish event. The only things you have to do are bring your picnic basket and your enthusiasm.

Our air-conditioning is now fully functional and we hope that this new level of comfort will inspire us to help offset the costs which remain outstanding.

. The Editors

SAINTS’ PASSAGES

Baptisms

17 th August, 2008 – Ella Emamalie

Funerals

Date	Name
9 th August, 2008	Merle Henry
19 th August, 2008	Carlyle Butcher
27 th August, 2008	Margaret Gomez

Weddings

Date	Parties
Saturday 9 th August 2008	Patrice Baptiste and Mark Superville
Sunday 10 th August 2008	Meesy Allen and Michael Peter Goodwin
Saturday 23 rd August 2008	Michelle Anne Ramjohn and Shiraz Mohammed
Sunday 24 th August 2008	Mary Mohammed and Michael Chen

SAINTS ALIVE! comes to you from the Anglican Parish of All Saints’, Port of Spain & Chapel of Ease, Maraval, Trinidad.

2

Reach us at 868-627-7004 and visit our website – www.allsaintschurchtt.org



Something to tickle your funny bone:

Church Restoration Project

There was a tradesman, a painter named Jack, who was very interested in making a dollar where he could. So he often would thin down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time. Eventually the local church decided to do a big restoration project. Jack put in a painting bid and, because his price was so competitive, he got the job. And so he started, erecting the trestles and putting up the planks, and buying the paint and thinning it down with turpentine.

Jack was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly done, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened and the rain poured down, washing the thin paint from all over the church and knocking Jack off the scaffold to land on the lawn.

Jack was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he fell on his knees and cried, "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty Voice spoke, "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

A Faithful Woman

An elderly woman was well-known for her faith and for her confidence in talking about it. She would stand in front of her house and say "The Lord be praised" to all those who passed by. Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations he would shout, "There ain't no Lord!!"

Hard times came upon the elderly lady, and she prayed for God to send her some assistance. She would pray out loud in her night prayer "Oh Allah! I need food!! I am having a hard time, please Lord, PLEASE LORD, SEND ME SOME GROCERIES!!"

One night the atheist happened to hear her as she was praying, and decided to play a prank on her. The next morning the lady went out on her porch and found a large bag of groceries. She raised her hands and shouted, "The Lord be praised!"

The neighbour jumped from behind a bush and said, "Aha! I told you there was no Lord. I bought those groceries, God didn't."

The old lady laughed and clapped her hands and said, "THE LORD BE PRAISED. He not only sent me groceries, but he made the devil pay for them!"

Jonah's Fate

After hearing the story of Jonah at Sunday School, a little girl repeated the story at school on Monday.

Her teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because, even though it is a very large mammal, its throat is very small.

The little girl said, "But how can that be? Jonah was swallowed by a whale." Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human. "It is physically impossible!" she said.

Undaunted, the little girl said, "Well, when I get to heaven I will ask Jonah."

To this, the teacher said, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then YOU ask him!"

TO LOVE GOD AND TO USE HIS GIFTS TO HIS GLORY

Hello this is Monique,

I have been doing track and field for nearly ten years now. And it has taken a lot of dedication and sacrifice. I do not regret any of it because of the satisfaction it has brought to me. Track and field has not only given me a free tertiary education but has also made me into a better person off the track, and has helped me develop a great relationship with my family because of the support they all give me. It has also improved my relationship with God, which is the most important thing.

My dream for as long as I can remember has been to represent Trinidad and Tobago in the Olympics. My first try I missed the team by one spot in 2004. And every decision I have made ever since has been geared towards the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. When I qualified in June for the Olympic team I felt so blessed and grateful for everything in my life because I knew I was about to experience something out of this world.

When I arrived in Beijing it was hard to focus on the preparation for my event because of the many distractions which surrounded me. But I learned that family, friends, and God can bring us through any obstacle we are faced with in life. The games surpassed my expectations. And only when I reached into Beijing could I truly appreciate the Olympic Games and everything it stands for.

Beijing made up for every social event I have missed in the last ten years, and made everyday of hard work on the track and in the gym worth it. My Beijing experience is one that no one can ever take from me because now I will forever belong to an elite group of people who are honoured to be called Olympians.

I encourage everyone to chase your dreams because nothing is impossible for Christ and only if you chase your dreams can they come true.



Monique Cabral

TO LOVE GOD AND TO USE HIS GIFTS TO HIS GLORY

Meet Aleema Jack, a national junior golfer with a handicap of six and one of the top three local female golfers over the past two years.

Aleema represented Trinidad & Tobago in the Stephen Ames Cup in 2007 and 2008 and also qualified to compete in the Optimist International Tournament, Palm Beach, Florida, USA. In 2007, her debut year in the Caribbean Junior Championships, she placed second among the women and her team went on to win the Junior Championship. Aleema also has participated in the Junior Teen World Championships in 2007 and 2008, held at Pinhurst, North Carolina, placing a credible 5th overall in 2008.

In all these endeavours, Aleema is ably supported by her family – father, Ruthven, mother, Beverley-Ann, brother, Nathan –himself a member of the national junior team, and all the grandparents - Molly/Leslie & Roy/Jackie-and the rest of the extended family. She is a student at the Bishop Anstey High School where she manages to combine these competitions with her preparation for CXC. Her combination of subjects –art and business- reflects her dream careers; law like her maternal grandfather – Roy, designing/managing golf courses or marketing and public relations.



Aleema, selected for the 2008 Steven Ames Cup, with Steven Ames

We wish her all success in her future endeavours.

TO LOVE GOD AND TO USE HIS GIFTS TO HIS GLORY

The following is one of the items making the round on the internet and is worth sharing:

Psalm 23 (For the Work Place)

The Lord is my real boss, and I shall not want.
He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.
He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without
murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that he is my source and not my job.
He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions
that I might honour him in all that I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of e-mails, system
crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping
co-workers, discriminating supervisors and an ageing body
that doesn't co-operate every morning, I still will not stop---
for He is with me! His presence, His peace, and His power
will see me through.

He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.
He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens
to let me go. His Faithfulness and love is better than any bonus
check.

His retirement plan beats every Annuity there is!
When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a whole lot
longer and for that, I BLESS HIS NAME!!!!!!

If Jesus had been born in the 21st rather than the 1st century, would he have taught

by text? Would he have got on his mobile  **and texted his followers to say:**

“dad@hvn, ur spshl.
we want wot u want & urth 2b like hvn. giv us food & 4giv r sins lyk we 4giv uvaz.
don't test us! Save us! bcos we kno ur boss, ur tuf&ur cool 4 eva! Ok?”

Matthew Campbell, York, England.

This modern version of the Lord's Prayer is taken from the Contemporary English Version...

Our Father in heaven,
help us to honour your name.
Come and set up your kingdom,
so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven.
Give us our food for today.
Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.
Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil.

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6

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The Children's Page

A Word Search



Find these words:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| HOLY | JOHN |
| SON | GOSPELS |
| LUKE | FATHER |
| MATTHEW | MARK |
| JAMES | TRINITY |
| GOD | JESUS |



Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Letters to the Editors

The following was received in response to Dr. Roache's article.

'If we search the Bible to find an answer to our preconceptions, we will almost certainly be able to quote chapter and verse to support a traditional argument. However, the truth is not always apparent from the literal word, but rather from the spirit of the word, as Christ frequently enjoins us to consider.

One of the most startling and profound expressions of Christ's word to us is found in the Beatitudes. These leave us in no doubt that our limited, human perception of the extent of God's love trails far behind the scope of His love and power to forgive and accept differences of all kinds. No-one in His creation is excluded from His love, nor from His forgiveness.

In human relationships, whether heterosexual or homosexual or somewhere between, there is a difference between depravity or licentiousness, and honest, loving commitment to a life-long partner. Sexual abuse, child molestation, rape, and other perversions exist in a heterosexual environment. Heterosexual interactions do not have a very good reputation, in this regard. Similarly, homosexuals who indulge in sexual practices which are abusive invite our proper indignation.

However, since God created us all, whatever our sexual orientation, it is pertinent to consider whether we have the right to judge those who are different from ourselves, or their ability to play an effective role in ministry. Certainly, research shows that homosexuality is not a choice in most circumstances, but a fact of life. Therefore, difficult though it may be for some to accept the differences, we cannot or should not exclude homosexuals from our communion, and logically it follows that we should not be prejudiced against the role they can effectively play in Christian ministry.

The unequivocal message of Christ is to love one another. Love is the foundation of our faith, and it excludes no-one. Sin is alienation from God. If we obey God, in whatever way He created us, we have a place in His heart."

Love
Kate

We invite you to respond, if you are so moved.