



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

315 Warren Street • Fall River, Massachusetts 02721
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The Rev. Dr. Susan H. Lee, *Rector* • Sheila Singleton-Charron, *Pastoral Associate*
Arthur Benjamin, *Co-Warden* • Janet Buckley-Smith, *Co-Warden*
Martha Fournier, *Choir Director; Organist* • Eli Bigelow, *Organist*
The Rev. James H. Hornsby, *Rector Emeritus*

NEWSLETTER

September, 2006



What's happening at St. Luke's Church

Baptisms: April 30th, Hannah Marie Moniz; May 21st, Jayden James Rego; June 4th, Blake John Beauchamp

Wedding: Chhoeun Ny and Kimleang Heu, June 10th, 2006

In Loving Memory of:

Anna V. Thelen - March 22, 2006; Linda C. Brown - April 12, 2006; Joseph F. Carpenter - May 6, 2006;

Ralph Nelson Friar - July 25, 2006; Mary Foley Pacheco - July 26, 2006

A Message from The Rev. Susan Lee

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"

(Galatians 3:26-29).

This summer I had the great opportunity to travel to South Africa for a sociology conference. While visiting the town of Pietermaritzburg in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, I attended Sunday services at the Cathedral of the Holy Nativity. The congregation there reflects the amazing diversity of South Africa: not only black and white Christians but also parishioners from Indian backgrounds and everyone in-between. The main service is conducted in both English and Zulu! The Anglican Church in South Africa tries to live out the ideal expressed by St. Paul in Galatians, that Christians live together in unity despite their diversity, respecting one another's backgrounds and views. Our common belief in Jesus brings us together to love one another despite our differences.

The Church has grown enormously in Africa over the past



few decades. In 1900, there were about 9 million Christians in Africa. By 2000, there were 335 million! Today, 45% of Africans are Christian. The largest Anglican Province in Africa is the Church of Nigeria, with 17 million members. Contrast this to the Episcopal Church in the United States, with a little over 2 million members!

In South Africa, the Anglican Church is helping to deal with the AIDS crisis which is so significant on the continent. In some areas, the church has organized networks of people to visit those with AIDS for companionship and support. The Church also disseminates information about retroviral treatment and tries to overcome the stigma still associated with the illness. Recently, the South Africa church, led by Archbishop Ndungane, won a \$10,000,000 grant to hire outreach workers for AIDS prevention. The money came from President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

Despite the great distance between the United States and South Africa, there are many things that unite us, such as our faith in Jesus and our concern for the sick and dying. There is neither African nor American, rich nor poor, sick nor healthy, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Quequechan River Festival and Tree Planting update

by Rev. Jim Hornsby



Quequechan River Festival September 24th noon til 5 p.m.

The festival is sponsored by the Quequechan River Urban Action Committee, the City of Fall River, the Chamber of Commerce and Green Futures. Come one, come all. All events are free; including rope climbing, pony rides, games, music, face painting, and kayak rides on the Quequechan River. Bring your own food or buy low cost food there. We had a wonderful time two years ago and we hope to do it again. See Jim Hornsby for more info.

Tree Planting Update

All the trees are growing at Pulaski Park. Yes, all. It is now two growing seasons and they still survive. The 30 trees planted this spring at Durfee High School, at the School Administration Building, at the Library and at Abbot Court Park are doing pretty well; although several were planted too deep and need to be raised. Thanks go to those who helped last year and this year.

Cambodian Youth Perform . . .

“The Coconut Dance”

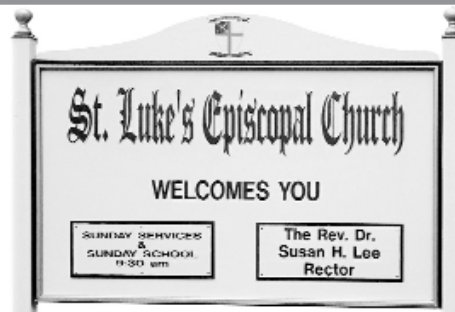
In the early part of June this year, 6 Cambodian youth performed a dance called the “Coconut Dance” after our worship service. This performance was led by Chandavy Heng.



The theme of this dance is basically about the connection between music and young teenage relationships. During the dance, the girls are seen dancing alone with their coconuts when all of a sudden the guys sneak up on them and start to follow their beat. If the guys are

able to connect with the beat of the girls, this is a sure sign that the two will make a nice couple.

This performance was well received and enjoyed by all who attended. St. Luke's supported this group's efforts in raising money for their costumes, so they could present the dance to their school mates and teachers during a week of celebrating Cultural and Ethnic Diversity.



New Church Sign!

On July 17th of this year, our new church sign arrived and was installed!

This sign was designed by a professional artist, Melissa Danforth. Due to time constraints and other professional obligations, Melissa was not able to construct and oversee this project to its completion. With this in mind, we employed students from Diman Regional Technical High School to build and install it for us. Diman, with Melissa's permission, used the plan she had designed.

Our church sign now has total street visibility from all directions. It is beautiful and we are truly grateful to all those who took part in seeing this project to its completion.



St. Luke's Sunday School donates to the Relay for Life

During the year we had the Sunday School use donation envelopes. We used the money they donated for the relay for Life in Wareham. We had \$40.00 in donations from the Sunday School children. The children decorated 20 candles for the illumination walk. Beth Soares was on Team Inspiration and walked with her team mates for a total of 17 straight hours. I have to say seeing the candles made me want to keep going. As a Cancer survivor and having lost so many loved ones to cancer, this was an honor to do and I was so proud of our Sunday School kids for their part in it . . . *Beth Soares*



. . . Sunday School News . . .

The end of the Sunday School year 2005-2006 went really well. The children did their part and recited the prayers they learned. Then the children were awarded a medal for attending Sunday School. We had a good year and hope that next year will be just as good. The children learned many things. Along with their normal classwork, they all learned some new prayers, how to read a Bible and about stewardship by donating each week. We also had 2 students who met the challenge we gave them at the beginning of the Sunday School year, to show up to Sunday School almost every weekend. We had a chart and they received a sticker for every Sunday they attended. If that child filled that chart up they got a gift certificate to buy what they wanted at Walmart. Jordan and Skylar both showed up for almost every class. I am very proud of them both.

The new year of Sunday School 2006-2007 is about to begin and we

are very excited! The teachers all decided to change what age group they were teaching. We also have 2 new teachers. Sam Holt will be teaching the young teens' group. His group will focus on learning about the Bible and the Church. Matt Rable will teach the nursery group. They will be doing fun crafts, learning songs and learning the Lord's Prayer. We wish both of them luck and know that they will do a wonderful job. Beth Soares will be taking over the intermediate group. They will continue to learn about the Bible and the Church. She is looking forward to teaching this age group, as this is our largest group and they are all so eager to learn. I will be teaching the pre-schoolers, I am very excited about this. I feel it will be a challenge to teach that age group and to find ways to keep them interested in learning about God.

Jen Mathias

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If you have a story for the newsletter contact either Ernie or Muriel Baptista at 508-678-4091 or e-mail us at www.mbetceb2@wmconnect.com

or you can also contact either Sheila Charron or The Rev. Susan Lee

Join us for coffee hour following Sunday Service!



YLA on a mission trip to El Salvadore

This summer from August 19th to August 27th I was away with the YLA on a mission trip to El Salvador. El Salvador has suffered a great loss of housing due to earthquakes in recent years. This trip is something we as a group have been planning and preparing for over a year. We met really early (4:30 am) Saturday morning and flew from Boston to Atlanta and then onto San Salvador the capital of El Salvador. We traveled from the airport to a hotel near the village we would be working in. We stayed at Hotel Agape, which was a nice little hotel near our work site. Agape translates to mean "God's Love". The accommodations were much like hotels here in the States and to my surprise, the room even had a television.

Each day we would leave the hotel around 7:30 and travel to the worksite. The site we worked at was called El Maizal, which was a small area that is to become village. When completed it will have 30 homes, a church, a school, a community building, a soccer field, a basketball court, a pool, and lots of cleared land designated for agriculture. We picked and shoveled the ground on the side of the road to clear the way for sidewalks, and also used wheelbarrows to bring that dirt to fill the areas around the houses. It was hard work and it was very hot, but with lots of water and determination we finished our task and finished off the yards for many houses. On our first day, we went to the beach and had some fun. But after that it was work all day. On Tuesday, I got some bad stomach cramps and had to sit out the day, along with another boy. On Wednesday, we had the opportunity to climb a volcano. It was a steep climb, but it was a very good team building experience. On

Thursday, after our workday, we had a soccer game against a youth group there. They were very good, and even with our adult leaders kicking in we were still defeated 2-1. On Friday, I worked in the morning for a few hours. Each of us had the opportunity to spend some time and talk with Bishop Shaw. My turn was on Friday. We talked about what I'd like to do with my life. I found him to be a great listener and easy to talk with. I told him about some of the career choices I've been considering and some of the uncertainty I've felt. To my great surprise he asked me if I had ever considered being a pastor. I said I hadn't really thought about it and that I didn't think I would be a great candidate for divinity school. He kind of laughed and said he wasn't exactly the best student when he was younger himself. All in all we had a great talk.

Unfortunately that afternoon, I developed more stomach cramps and couldn't work any longer. Then, during a fiesta with the youth group, I started getting very sick and had trouble breathing, I was brought to a local clinic, where they discovered I was dehydrated and needed to be hooked up to intravenous overnight. The team doctor stayed with me through the night to make sure everything would be okay. After the night they moved me to a larger hospital where they ran some tests to be sure I would be well enough to travel. I was released from the hospital and went back to stay at our new 5 star hotel where the kids had just gotten back from a trip to the local artisans market and were receiving spa treatments at the hotel's salon. While I missed these fun activities, I was feeling much better and able to join my friends for a swim in the pool. Later that night

we all went out to eat for one last celebratory dinner with some of our new Salvadoran friends.

One aspect about El Salvador I must point out is the poverty. This country has many homeless, and when they do have homes, most can't even afford the \$90 for electricity installation or \$300 for water installation into their homes. Most have torn clothes and many don't have the opportunity to graduate high school. There are many horrible conditions there. Many of the basic necessities of life we take for granted, these people often struggle to obtain. We can be proud that The Episcopal Relief and Development has taken the initiative to make a difference and I would recommend it as a great cause to support.

I will always be extremely grateful for this opportunity. This trip has changed my view on the world and has been a great life experience for me. There is a lot that I will not longer take for granted. I'm sure the memories I have of this trip will stay with me my entire life.

Sam Holt



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