

ANNAGRAM

January 2015

St. Anna's Episcopal Church, 1313 Esplanade, New Orleans

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From Fr. Bill: My Dreams for St. Anna's

I have now been Rector of St. Anna's Church for 11 years and about six months. During that time vast changes and undertakings have transpired. The Parish Hall was cleaned up with new wall coverings in 2008. The old Parish House was shored, leveled, and deeply repaired so that the exterior is now suited for another 100 years of service. We have upgraded church lighting in general, painted walls, and added information boards. We have established strong ministries. We acquired a very nice antique altar set of candelabras in 2007 which included a tabernacle. Our kitchen was upgraded in 2012 with the installation of a new stove and vent. Along the way we also installed central HVAC in the Old Parish House. A fire proof "smoke room" was built out. The list and litany goes on with various minor repairs and painting. This old place is in a constant state of renovation. Thus far we have managed to do so without going into much debt. We have one loan for air conditioners installed in 2004, with a balance of about \$20,000.

So, what dreams may come?

I pray that sometime before I retire many things will be accomplished. Viewed all together, it may seem overwhelming, but such is the stuff of dreams!

1. I would hope that the Parish can expand the current Parish Hall by about 18 feet as a single peaked roof addition extending from the back kitchen wall and creating a tie into the Old Parish House. Such space would accommodate two handicapped bathrooms, a modernized kitchen, and additional gathering space and storage space for the worshipping community.
2. I would like to see another electrical source cable run to the church proper. This would give the campus three sources instead of the current two. It would, I hope, eliminate power fluctuations. We should then re-wire the church proper and rewire the "chandeliers" to restore them and accommodate more efficient LED lighting with options for dimming. Most of the interior church lighting should be upgraded and improved.
3. I would like to see the pews restored and the center pieces removed so as to accommodate a better flow during mass.
4. I would like to see the current columbarium relocated to an enhanced and lovely garden space, now our "courtyard" and perhaps even increased in size. Then the narthex should be equally enhanced as a publically accessible chapel area (which is its current use).
5. I would like to see a rustic wooden bell tower built with our great bell and a bell ringing works installed. Would it not be lovely to hear the bells calling us to worship each and every Sunday and indeed to the whole neighborhood?

6. I would like to see new flooring in virtually all of the public spaces outside of the church proper: Parish Hall, Old House Central Hall, hall around the sanctuary and vesting rooms. I would like to see carpeting and good tile floors.
7. I would like to see a safe play area developed for our kids in the side yard where our kids can get "an airing out."

Dodwell House Community Center

I pray that sooner rather than later our Neighborhood Outreach Programs can host children safely at the Dodwell House. This will mean:

1. Finish an historically acceptable exterior restoration and stabilization.
2. Gut and refurbish the interior of the Main House. Lots of sheet rock and paint with some good molding and trim.
3. Fully plumb and wire the facility.

That would be enough for me. Perhaps, if God so wills it, the exterior could be graded and landscaped for a safe, lovely, and useable space thus presenting a complete if modest facility.

I would like to see funding so developed as to employ our community outreach key personnel on a full time basis with fair pay. As it stands today that would be Diana Meyers, Darryl Durham, Lisa Dawson, Adrienne Finucane, and William Parsons. Once that is accomplished and all of the foregoing I would dream of a pre-school up to third grade and an aggressive, solid after school program.

I would dream of the facility being used by neighborhood groups, by LGBT groups, by all manner of people for the betterment of this place we call our spiritual home.

The goals of Dodwell House are not that far distant if we assert ourselves and truly roll up our sleeves and get to work. We are so very close. Can we make the push to reality? I think so.

If all of this were done

We would be like a little cathedral below Canal Street offering beautiful worship, deep social engagement, and living out the Gospels. But then, I suppose that is precisely what we are doing now even if the floors are in a state of disrepair and the lights flicker. God bless us one and all.



Santa Comes to Anna's Arts!

Heartfelt thanks to the 50-plus parishioners, friends and volunteers who provided an outfit and pair of shoes for each of our children and their siblings. Thank you!

Worries and Wisdom: A visit from the Fire Marshall by Fr. Bill+

On the odd occasion I have wondered what would happen if St. Anna's had a fire when it was open for business. Such is not beyond the realm of possibility. Once in the 1970's St. Anna's had a terrible fire that substantially damaged the church itself. With time and age our old "Fire Exit" signs have fallen into disrepair. With theft and vandalism we have installed great locks, latches, and bars. None of these "safety" measures is conducive to a mass panicked exodus from a burning building. These thoughts should have been enough; but they weren't. Our children's outreach program, saving lives for sure, should also ensure safe lives. In addition we have had a standing offer from *Second Harvesters Food Bank* to provide good solid meals for our kids during the weekdays and Saturdays. All that we needed was for the Fire Marshall to license us for this activity. Thus the call to the Fire Marshall was made.

The Fire Marshall visited us about two weeks ago. Some of his recommendations and some of his mandates ran from the sublime to the burdensome. But within all of it is wisdom. So here is the challenge that faces us within the next month or so:

- No children on the second floor of the Parish House.

What a challenge this will be! The fear is that in a fire the children cannot exit safely from the 2nd floor due to the vertical drop of both the interior and exterior stairs. At first it seems a blow yet it makes sense.

RESPONSE: While marginally inconvenient the administrative offices including the Rector's Office will relocate to the second floor. The Rector will keep a small seating area on the first floor to meet with Parishioners who can't make the trek to the second floor. But really, this makes abundant sense in many ways. It will make available the potential for a clinic as well as consolidate the movement of our children. It will offer potential for a choral room as this aspect of our missions grows in importance. So, it makes sense.

NEEDS: We will have to do some re-wiring on the second floor rooms. We need a crew who is ready and willing to clean and paint the rooms upstairs, and a second crew who is ready and willing to clean and paint the first floor rooms. We will hire some moving types to move the heavy lift items to the second floor but it would help if we had a few of you younger parishioners to help move books and other boxed items to the second floor. **THIS IS CRITICAL AND NEEDS TO BE DONE SOON. ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP GET THIS DONE?** Or, are you willing to underwrite paying for someone to do this work. It's important.

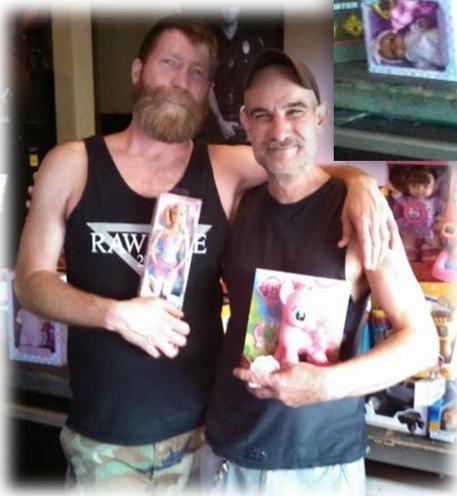
- **The Garden Gate MUST remain open** during any active use of the church **NO EXCEPTIONS!** We must install a chain to be placed around the gate in an open position. A simple fix but please everyone be aware of this.
- **A panic bar** must be installed and all locks removed from the Garden Door entrance to the Parish Hall.

- **Lit Exit Signs** will be installed in the church at the two main entrances. This will require professional wiring. Donors anyone? Capital contributions? Can you give us a hand?
- **An EMERGENCY LIGHT** while not required was suggested and will be “re-activated”; once again, expense of a Capital Nature with professional electricians.
- **A Simplified Lock** will be installed on the Parish House front door for easy escape and all other locks removed from that same door. Because the Administrative offices will be located on the second floor a “remote” buzz-in type lock will be installed with quick exit feature. Once again, expenses and sponsors are solicited.
- **Fire Alarm System** is not mandated or required by the Fire Marshall. We are soliciting bids for the installation of a system that trips based on heat rather than smoke.

In general we will continue to clean and reorganize the central hall in the Parish House for better and more effective use. Such may at some time become a room unto itself. In order to make that happen we need to pull down the old paneling, rewire, install insulation, and rework the ceiling, then install new sheet rock and rework the floors in that room. But that is down the road.

All in all while the change in configuration of the Parish House and how we use it puts some stress on us all and while we now must invest in several safety features we will keep our promise of St. Anna’s being a safe place. Not just for the marginalized or rejected but in our very being and persons for our whole worshipping community.

Anna’s Christmas EIVES!



Heartfelt Thanks to the Phoenix and the Bourbon Pub-Parade for the gracious gift of MANY, MANY toys for our kids—so much generosity, in fact, that Deacon Joyce played Santa for some of the children in the neighborhood. **Thank you!!!**

GET YOUR FLU SHOT and WASH YOUR HANDS!

The flu is hitting Louisiana hard already. The “type” of flu that’s being seen is similar but slightly different than what the vaccinations provide protection against and can cause severe complications, hospitalization and even death in people at high risk (older adults, very young children and persons with certain medical conditions - for a list go to

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/high_risk.htm).

We are encouraging everyone who can to get the flu shot. If you get the flu shot it will protect you against 2-3 types of flu and may help decrease the severity of this other type of flu that is being seen. Protect yourself from getting the flu by washing your hands often, coughing and sneezing into your sleeve instead of your hand, and avoid touching your face, mouth or nose.

*If you should get a flu-like illness do yourself and your coworkers a huge favor
and STAY HOME!*

If you are at high risk for complications you should seek medical care promptly to determine if treatment with influenza antiviral medications would help.

Anna’s Arts for Kids

Upcoming events:

- Saturday, January 17, 11:00am at Christ Church Cathedral, the children will sing as part of a racial reconciliation event
- Saturday, January 24, at the New Orleans Museum of Art’s annual Family Day, our children will form a flash mob on the double staircase to lead other visitors to the next event!
- Save the Date---Darryl Durham will be playing at a fundraiser for St. Anna’s ministries on February 26

Sponsor a Child:

People come to St. Anna’s because we are a church that tries very hard to put our money—and our talents, and our time—where our mouth is. **We try to walk our talk**, and that is why we have the ministries in which we take pride.

Anna’s Arts for Kids is in the middle of its annual Sponsor-a-Child effort. More information is available at church, but the message is very simple: it costs money to provide the tutoring, music education, safe haven, nutrition and healthy life education field trips, computer training, and everything else.

This would be a great time to consider making a commitment (independent of your pledge for church operations, of course) to help fund a child this year. For more information call Darryl Durham, 504.249.1901—easier yet, write out a check to St. Anna’s marked “Sponsor-a-Child.”

Volunteer Opportunities: Anna’s Arts is moving into a new semester (with a new Director of Education, Lisa Dawson), and there are many opportunities to volunteer. If you would like to work with the children in any capacity, please speak with Lisa Dawson, Darryl Durham, or Adrienne Finucane for more information.

Pancake Brunch January 18th! This is a chance to eat a great meal in the company of fascinating people right after mass (and a fundraiser for our missions, as well). Rebecca Henley, Organizer and guiding spirit, is looking for cooks and donations of food items.

Good-bye and Best Wishes to Jackie Yang!



Jackie Yang, former Operations Director for Anna's Arts for Kids, has moved on to work with her own non-profit in Hong Kong and Myanmar. We said good-bye with a lovely event at Vicki and Richard Moreland's house (thank you!) Attending were members of the Advisory Council and staff.

This next picture does not show much of Jackie, but it does give a great view of the

many hugs from the children she has so enjoyed working with and whose programs she greatly enhanced! Jackie would like to stay in touch: Jacqueline.yang23@gmail.com.



Adrienne Finucane, the new Director of Operations, brings a strong background in community organizing and administration. Adrienne worked in the fall in an intern role with all of the church ministries. She is a wonderful addition to our full-time staff.

January Birthdays!

1	Sheldon Stockstill	17	Pamela Fried	23	Lisa Dawson
2	Diana Meyers		Jill Murray	25	Lauren Brettner
	Brandon Kline		Charlotte Judge-LaBiche	28	Domnica Fotino
6	Stanley Sholtz	18	Earnestine Rayford	29	Van Temple
8	Christopher Stokes	19	Mario Aranda		Jeffery Sigler
14	Stephanie Chaney	20	Michele Campisi	30	Troy Gros
15	Cheryl Mercadel	21	Ralph Jackson Sr,	31	Patrick Pitchford

