



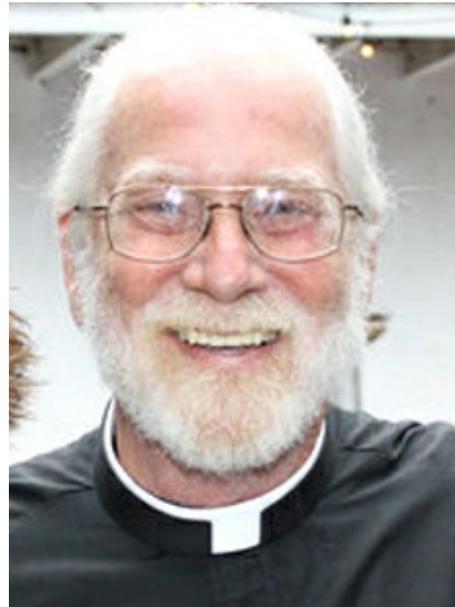
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## **AnnaGram September 2015**

**News from St. Anna's Episcopal Church  
New Orleans, LA**

**'All good things come of thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee.'** by Fr. Bill and Allison Reid

These past several months I have been struggling with the direction of our church, its future, and its present state. No, nothing is particularly wrong but I keep asking myself, "Can we do better?" What does "better" look like? In the broadest of terms "better", for me, recognizes the tremendous potential of all humans. That then shifts to the boundless potential of our fellowship – the people of St. Anna's Church. I cannot help but feel that we are a great force waiting to be tapped – not necessarily as individuals but as a collective (The body of Christ).



St. Anna's in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a "Community within Communities." Within our communal context we are meant to have relationship beyond society and to develop a kind of intimate relationship that goes beyond 'acquaintances.' We are galvanized by a shared love of God and by worship that informs, instructs, and uplifts us not as the quips and sound bites of media would have it but in deeper and more human and therefore godly ways. We need to recognize the profound value of each other and of our Creator by gathering in all who would be loved and valued. It is simply a different standard that is set.

In the days of the early church, followers of Jesus understood quite clearly that the faith would be holistic and that everyone seeking, embracing, and adhering to the faith had talents to give. Paul talks about "gifts", Isaiah talks about gifts, books and literature even denominations talk or emphasize gifts of the Holy Spirit. What we need to understand is that if we all have value in the Kingdom of God, and if that value is initiated by God, then we all have a contribution to be made to acknowledge and express our love of God.

A holistic response to a loving God that loves us and seeks our love in return is to express that love and to do so with gratitude. Gratitude is a value that goes beyond availability. We don't or should not say "I don't have time to say I love you". In the same way how is it that we might say, "If I have enough time I'll pray" or "If I have enough spare change I'll give" or "If I am not too tired doing the other things I do I will do some work for God." Each phrase is conditional and therefore our love or at least affinity for God becomes conditional and yet we expect unconditional love in return – REMARKABLY we receive it.

**Holistic Stewardship** means to care for what we have and to put what we have into action. Being a good steward is to wisely parcel out all that we have and to set priorities on those things including time, disposition, effort,

and real property: The whole enchilada! Tithing, which often takes center stage in a conversation about stewardship, is only one aspect of relationship with our Lord. It is mentioned consistently throughout the scriptures. What seems to distract us is the singular nature and emphasis that we place on tithing. That might be like talking only about using okra in a gumbo and neglecting to talk about spices, herbs, the blending of seafoods that make the whole. Faith is no different. It is a comprehensive response to God. Jesus noted that a Pharisee that he was disputing claimed to be a holy man because he tithed. Jesus chastised him for his singularity: *“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these that you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.”* The Gospel of Luke (11:42) presents Jesus directive to be holistic in our quest for union with God and right relationship with the source of all goodness and hope in our lives. So, work with Justice **[you might read this mission work]** stands equally with giving a tithe. Neither is above the other and both are asked of us by our Savior.

**What are the rewards of holistic stewardship?** Holistic stewardship helps a person to place moral, ethical, spiritual and practical value on virtually all aspects of their lives. Do we spend too much on unnecessary things, do we share our bounty, is this or that vacation needed for recreation not just recreation? Do I use my time wisely? If your perspective follows holistic stewardship you will find that over time you begin to re-value what you do, what and how you spend time and money, what perhaps even you read ... life changing.

Holistic stewardship opens a door to relationships that are centered on doing good, sharing a common denominator, and therefore walking down roads in companionship. This becomes very important when one is stressed; one is overwhelmed, when one is confronting darkness or challenges. You become a “we”; never alone always with companions. So often we work without gratification. Holistic stewardship offers us a chance to do two things: understand that our labor (at work) is exchanged for works of mercy and justice so your work fulfilling or not begins to add a higher purpose to your labor. Next, our time spent in doing Kingdom work may add a sense of being ‘relevant’ and of service to a larger community which in turn dispels isolationism and quite simply allows you a chance to feel good about yourself.

**Faith before works or works before faith – either way it will work.** If our spirituality follows our actions and our deeds, if our spirituality is something that can change, then holistic stewardship can surely bring us to that place of humility, adoration, and thanksgiving for the sacrifice of Jesus and the joy of Resurrection. We will understand such more fully when we act upon principals suggested – by our actions we will get out of our “heads” and into our “hearts” and become the blessed people of God and then truly say:

**“All good things come of thee O Lord,  
and of thine own have we given thee.”**

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***Tales of Life as a Parish Administrator will return in October***

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***Food Safety--yes, you need to read this!***

Raw meat, poultry and seafood and their juices can contain harmful bacteria that can cause illness and should be kept away from cooked or ready-to-eat foods and fresh produce. Some hints to keep safe:

Place raw meat, poultry, and seafood in a plastic bag to prevent their juices from dripping

onto other foods and separate from other foods in your shopping cart and bags.

- Place raw meat, poultry, and seafood in containers or sealed plastic bags to prevent their juices from dripping onto other foods and store on a bottom shelf.
- Wash hands often.
- Use hot, soapy water and paper towels or clean cloths to wipe up kitchen surfaces or spills. Wash these cloths often in the hot cycle of your washing machine.
- Wash cutting boards, dishes, and counter tops with hot, soapy water after preparing each food item and before you go on to the next item.
- A solution of 1 tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water may be used to sanitize surfaces and utensils.
- Never place cooked food back on the same plate or cutting board that previously held raw food.
- Sauce that is used to marinate raw meat, poultry, or seafood should not be used on cooked foods, unless it is boiled just before using. (Always marinate food in the refrigerator, not on the counter.)
- Refrigerate or freeze leftovers within 2 hours or sooner in clean, shallow, covered containers to prevent harmful bacteria from multiplying.



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### ***Champagne and Chocolate--new date!***

On Thursday, October 29, we will eat chocolate desserts, enjoy champagne and dance to the music of Swingaroux.

The event will begin at 6:30 at Christ Church Cathedral, 2929 St. Charles Avenue. The theme is **1920's speakeasy days**--come in costume and you may win a prize. Tickets: \$25 each or 2 for \$40.



<https://stannanola.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/Champagne2015>

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### ***Thank you to Princesse Stepheney!***

Thanks to Princesse Stepheney for organizing the Magnolia Trail (Bar) Stroll and Hoop Skirt Contest on September 5.

The proceeds from this fabulous event were donated to *Anna's Place NOLA* for their wellness program.

We are grateful for many friends in the New Orleans Community--St. Anna's missions benefit from countless gifts and talents!



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### ***Vestry Members***

Karen Judge, Sr. Warden  
Shannon Bergeron, Junior Warden  
Danette Brown  
Brandon Cline, Clerk of Vestry

Nigel

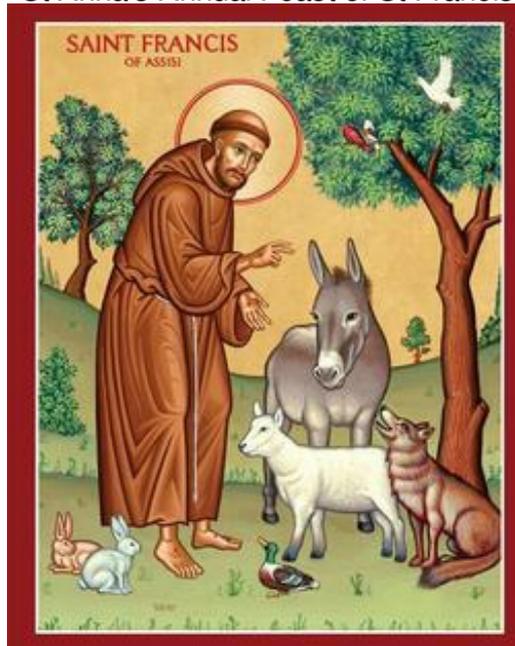
Fields

Randy Hutchison  
James Jennings  
Sheila Julien  
Max Niedzwiecki



## **St. Anna's Annual Feast of St. Francis**

St Anna's Annual Feast of St Francis



Pet Blessing and SPCA Adoption Day  
Saturday October 3, 2015  
10:30 AM Located in the church

Followed by **Ice Cream Sundae Social and treats for pets**

We are in need of the following

Ice Cream (3-4 Gal, vanilla, chocolate, strawberry), waffle bowls, toppings (fudge, caramel, marshmallow, nuts, sprinkles, etc.), lemonade, dog treats and kitty treats

If you can assist please contact Rebecca Henley at

[henleyrebecca@aol.com](mailto:henleyrebecca@aol.com)

Thank you

## **September Birthdays**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Margaret Dawson  | 9 Margaret Young                                     |
| 2 Charles Dawson   | 10 Ann Costilow                                      |
| 3 Jana Hambly  | 19 Janelle Eastwood                                  |
| 6 Deacon Ormonde Platter<br>Tracy Tingstrom                | 24 Sarah Cherney<br>Amie Davis                       |
| 8 Pamela Merideth<br>Edward McDonald<br>Edward Collins III | 29 Celeste Gilbert<br>David Trapani<br>James Trapani |

***Happy September Birthdays!***



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