

Wilderness through Lent

By Fr. Donald Owens, Interim Rector

As we enter the season of Lent, we enter the time of being in the Wilderness. We go through the Wilderness experience many times in our life, not just once a year. It happens when we experience the break-down and disturbance of the familiar and comfortable, the everyday, that permits us to move through life without much trouble. Life becomes so familiar and comfortable that our thoughts and expectations go unexamined.

The breaking of that way of life causes us to become aware of other forces and voices in our lives. It is during this time that we hear and experience the presence and Voice of God. The Spirit grabs us, our attention is now focused, and we hear.

This hearing brings knowledge and direction into our lives. It gives deeper meaning to our lives as it fills us with Hope for the present and future. We sometimes find ourselves moving in a different direction or empowered to move forward in a renewed path. As we go through Lent, be aware of the gift of the Wilderness and welcome it into our lives.

Rector Search Committee Update

The Rector Search Committee continues to progress through the interview process. We have completed the first round of interviews with candidates and will be doing a second round over the next few weeks. At that point, we will start to narrow down the candidates and, with the Holy Spirit's help, will be able to identify a final candidate to submit to the Vestry and Bishop for their approval.

We thank you for your continued prayers for this important work as we discern who is called to be our next Rector. As always, please feel free to ask one of the members of the Search Committee if you have any questions: while we are bound by (con't. top of page 2)



Search Committee Update

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confidentiality regarding details of the candidates, we are happy to provide more information about the process. The Episcopal Church's form of governance incorporates both hierarchy and democracy; this is the work of the people and we have worked hard to incorporate your input and priorities at every stage of this process.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Search Committee.

Tim van Alstyne

Search Committee members: Bill Glew, Co-Chair; Karen Judge, Co-Chair; Diana Meyers, Clerk; Lauren Anderson, Cavin Davis, Nicole Gottschalk, Jim McMillan, Randy Lovejoy, Tim van Alstyne

Anna's Place Spring Program Opens at Dodwell House

(photos by Taryn Young, Anna's Place NOLA)



Members of the Rainbow Initiative of St. Anna's (RISA NOLA), St. Anna's newest mission, explain why they're involved in welcoming LGBTQ+ asylum seekers

Max Niedzwiecki of Episcopal Migration ministries: "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? I will, with God's help."

A lot of us "Rainbow people" have left the places where we grew up in search of safety, a welcoming community, and a new start in life. Those of us who have to move to a new country with different customs and languages -- and with lots of immigration complications -- have it even harder. For me it just feels right to do this, and it brings me a sense of fulfillment and joy, although sometimes it's not easy. This is one of the ways that I feel called to live into the Baptismal Covenant that we all share as Episcopalians.

Karel Sloane-Boekbinder: A quote I live by, from Saint Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, "Every time my brothers draw a circle to exclude me I shall draw a larger circle to include them."

Ed Collins: I am involved in our Rainbow Initiative for two basic reasons. One is our basic Christian call to "Free prisoners and welcome strangers." And the other is my desire to stand in opposition to the immigration policies of our country.

Bill Glew: "Welcoming the stranger" is a scriptural command that also is deeply embedded in American culture, however imperfectly. I'm thrilled to be part of RISA NOLA.

Randy Lovejoy: Demonstrating a solidarity with displaced LGBTQ+ folks is a Eucharistic act. God's kingdom knows no borders, and welcoming the stranger is the same as welcoming Christ.

Claire Brooks, Randy Lovejoy, and KB Lovejoy are the co-chairs of RISA NOLA. If you're interested in learning more or in joining RISA NOLA, see one of them or any other member.

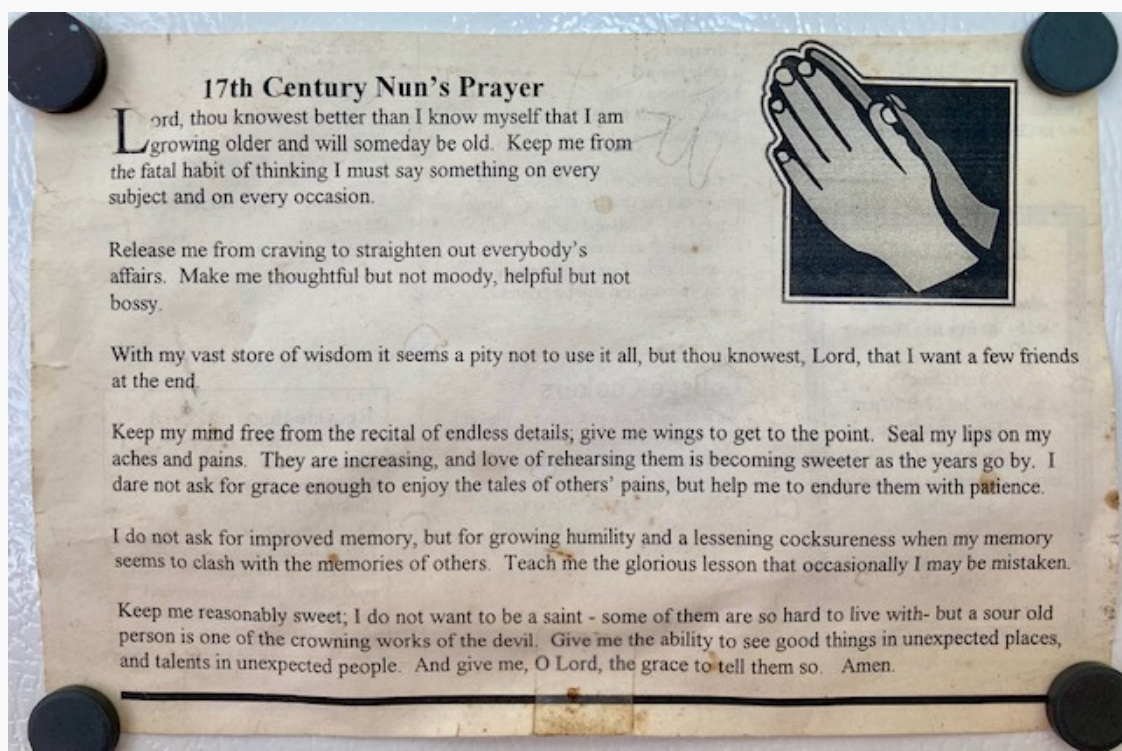
Another new ministry: weaving plastic bags to make mats for the homeless

The first Mat Making Prep Workshop was held Saturday, February 17 in the Parish Hall from 10am - 12pm. Volunteers came to help flatten, fold, cut and string together the cut bags to make PLARN (plastic yarn). The PLARN will be taken to St. Paul's church to be crocheted into plastic mats for the homeless to lay on. **PLEASE BRING YOUR DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAGS TO CHURCH!**



The volunteers who showed up to help on February 17 were Barbara Owens, Lola Maloof, Don Dubay, Stewart Chaplin, and Rusty Downing. Future weaving sessions will meet the 3rd Saturday of each month in the Parish Hall from 10am-noon. The next date will be Saturday, March 16, 2024.

From Susan Redick: "I cut this from our Bowling Green, Kentucky church bulletin a couple of decades ago. It's been on my refrigerator ever since, and I still reread it regularly."



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday (March 24).

9:45 -- Blessing of the Palms, line up for procession

10:00 -- Procession through the neighborhood

10:30 -- Eucharist, followed by crawfish boil

Maundy Thursday (March 28).

6 pm -- Solemn High Mass; foot-washing, stripping of the altar, followed by Chapel of Repose until dawn

Good Friday (March 29)

Noon -- virtual Stations of the Cross (Facebook)

6 pm -- Passion of Our Lord; distribution of Reserved Sacrament; Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday (March 31)

10:30 Festival High Mass (recommend arriving early!)

St. Anna's Parish Calendar
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25 -- SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024

Virtual Morning Prayer and Compline offered M-F at 8am and 9pm on Facebook Live

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb. 25 - 2 Lent Sunday School - 9am Adult Christian Ed - 9am Rosary - 10am Choir - 10am Mass - 10:30am RISA NOLA 12-1 pm	Feb. 26	Feb. 27	Feb. 28 Choir - 6pm	Feb. 29	March 1	March 2
March 3 - 3 Lent Sunday School 9 am Rosary - 10am Choir - 10am Mass - 10:30am No RISA NOLA mtg.	March 4	March 5	March 6 Choir - 6pm	March 7	March 8	March 9
March 10 - 4 Lent No Sunday School Rosary - 10am Choir - 10am Mass - 10:30am RISA NOLA - 12-1pm	March 11	March 12	March 13 Choir - 6pm	March 14	March 15 Packing -- Food Bank 4:30 pm	March 16 Delivery - Food Bank 930 am Plastic weaving for Mats 10-12
March 17 - 5 Lent Sunday School - 9am Rosary - 10am Choir - 10am Mass - 10:30am RISA NOLA - 12-1pm						