



Again We Did Not Pay Our Auditors

Everyone had a job. That was the key to completing St. Augustine's 2007 audit quickly and accurately. And well before the September 1st diocesan deadline too.

"Last year," remembered **Mattie Austin**, one of three Audit Committee members, "we just made the deadline, but it was our first time doing the audit ourselves. So we were just pleased to get it done."

This past Tuesday, with that '06 experience behind them, committee chair **Joie Cutliff-Newton**, members **Mattie** and **James Corn** worked through a more streamlined process. "They had to look at all the church's financial records for the year," reported **Greg Duckett**, parish treasurer. Two separate accounts were audited: the general operating account and the building fund.

"We were better organized this year," **Mattie** said. According to the committee, that was because **Greg**, wearing his parish treasurer hat, gathered and organized a year's worth of financial records for them. "He made it so much simpler for us," she added. "Everything we needed was there and sorted."

Our national *cont'd, pg 2*



Anna Walker's Memorial Moved to St. Bart's

Links, Deltas Honored Teacher and Mentor

by Co-editor **Judy Krug**

This is a picture of the Anna Walker I remember.

Yesterday afternoon at her memorial service, many people spoke eloquently about the Anna they loved. But the woman they told stories about, the teacher they praised, was not the Anna I ever knew.

You see, Tom and I first came to St. Augustine's after Anna had been sick, after she suffered problems with her voice. By then, speaking was work for her and understanding her was a challenge for me.

But that all changed the night of the Lincoln Douglas dinner at St. James House of Prayer.

The Clowers, Walkers and Krugs rode together across the Bay to this traditional event. It was the first time for Tom and me; I was excited and a bit anxious too.

We arrived and Lewis took Tom to get drinks and appetizers. **Mordecai** was soon engulfed in conversation and **Mary** was carried off by long time friends.

That left Anna and me. We found chairs off to the side. Nobody bothered us and nobody cared that our conversation lacked repartee. Instead Anna had to frequently repeat what she said until my ears learned to recognize her words. But we had time.

That night with Anna was a gift. I heard about being young and Black, about teaching and segregation. She told stories. We laughed a lot.

Yes, I'm sorry I didn't meet Anna earlier. As mothers of sons, we would have had a lot to share. As former teachers, we might have commiserated. But I wouldn't trade that one night with Anna for anything.

I don't remember much else about that event. Only Anna and me, just the two of us with time to talk. It remains a gift. Thank you, Anna. Thank you, God.



Last Sunday August 3, **Anna Marie Polk Walker** passed following a lengthy illness. Her husband is **Mordecai Walker** of this parish.

We Get Letters

Maybe We Did Okay After All

A Note to Us All from Collegian **Jericka Knox**.

"Unfortunately engagements with school and work tend to prevent me from coming home often. As of right now I am still on the pre-medical track. I did change my major to Family, Youth and Community Sciences; that suits me well. I am more of a people person and enjoy physical, biological and social sciences. Being a doctor grants me all three.

I am planning to get a master's degree in either Public Health, genetics, or biology once I graduate, which will probably be fall '09. I don't feel as though I will be quite ready to step into medical school. With all the factors that play into getting in, I think getting a master's will not only enhance my education but allow me to mature in my field. I don't have a

clear cut path other than I want to be a doctor and heal the world! Corny. Laughing out loud (lol). getting into medical school is not only about grades and standardized test but try to stay well rounded and clear.

The road to school is not only MCAT scores (the med school), so I rounded and

It gives me a real look on how to deal with people – on a touchy subject.

With that said, I have taken up two different volunteer projects: one is with the Department of Health and the other is with the University of Florida Children Protection Team. Pretty much I sit on medical evaluations as a chaperone, and I just started this one during the summer. It's pretty hard because I am dealing with children who have potentially been abused -- whether it be sexually, physically, or neglected somehow.

So I run small errands, and help the nurse practitioners and doctors in between evals. I know I want to go into pediatrics and this is something I could potentially be interested in doing.

As everyone knows, in the African American community a silent killer seems to be the HIV/AIDS epidemic, so at the department of health I work with the Regional Minority AIDS Coordinator to do pre-testing counseling and sex education. We promote healthy sexual lifestyles by encouraging getting tested and using condoms. I really enjoy working with the people and it gives me a real look at how to deal with people on a touchy subject. I recently went to a conference in Orlando in an effort to create a coalition amongst women throughout Florida for HIV/AIDS.

Currently I am living on my own with my dog **Enrique**. He's mixed-breed (I am not sure with what) and he is definitely my partner in crime.

I invite all to come visit.

You can come say hello or catch lunch sometimes.

During my free time, I like to go out with my friends, watch TV and play on the internet. Most of my time is spent talking to my sister or mom and grandparents.

Due to my busy schedule my traveling is unfortunately limited to visiting family in New Jersey. *continued, page 2*

As I bloom and branch out into the world, just know that you guys have planted Christian roots within my soul...

Dinner Reservations Needed Now!

Delay Further and We'll Have to Cancel It!

"At this point, it's all about numbers." That's from Hazel Allen who is responsible for tabulating reservations for St. Augustine's 81st Anniversary Dinner and Dance slated for Friday, August 22nd.

"Our numbers are pretty meager at this point," Hazel continued. Her inflection said, "I can't quite believe this."

Why the dismay? As of last Tuesday, only \$1080 had been received for reservations. That's only 24 reservations.

This year's committee had fresh approaches for promotion and program that had them foreseeing an expansion to over 125 attendees. But the responses to big mailings have been slow in coming.

At Tuesday's committee meeting chairperson Cheryl Johnson-Tindall fretted that "We're just not getting the responses I expected." Later, after further review, she added, "I'm beginning to get very worried."

She has good reason to worry. The contract St. A's signed with the St. Petersburg Country Club stipulates that cancellation has severe consequences. And without significantly more reservations, cancellation is a real possibility.

The contract Cheryl read to committee members Judy Krug and Hazel spells out the agreement in very clear language. If St. Augustine's cancels fewer than ten days before the event -- that would be anytime after this Tuesday, August 12th -- the \$500 down payment will be lost. Plus additional "administrative fees, to be established by the General Manager," will be added.

"You know," Hazel reasoned, "everybody waits till the last minute." But by the look on Cheryl's face, it was apparent she found little consolation in acknowledging such wide-spread procrastination.

With this urgency, Virginia Abrams and Mattie Austin were asked to call parishioners and friends to urge them to act today, this Sunday.

Adult tickets are \$45 for the dinner + program + dance. For children over 12, tickets are \$28. For those under 12, it's just \$9.50.

Virginia, Mattie and Hazel will be at the Parish Hall conference table today welcoming reservations and payments.

As Judy calculated, only 3600 minutes remain after church today till the very "last minute."

Auditing for Free continued

church office provides instructions and forms to enable a parish like ours to do its own internal audit. "They understand," Greg said, this time wearing his senior warden hat, "that spending \$600 for a professional audit every year is a burden for a small parish like St. Augustine's."

But allowing a church to do its own audit might be fraught with potential problems. So the audit instructions provided are specific and clear. Are there always two signatures on every check? Are there always definite correlations between bills, checks and receipts?

Greg cannot participate in the audit itself. As treasurer, his participation in the audit of what is essentially his work as treasurer would constitute a conflict of interest. But he's close enough to the process that he can say, "Joie really knows what she's doing. We're lucky to have her."

Along with instructions, the national church also provides official forms. "Joie is familiar with those forms," assured Mattie. "So James and I read off the numbers and Joie put them in their proper place. It was all very smooth." And efficient too; it took them less than 2 hours to complete the task.

Fr. Whitlock, back to work after his family's summer vacation, will read the audit report this week. Then it's off to diocesan headquarters -- on time, on target, in house and at no cost.

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A Note to Us All from Jericka

traveling is unfortunately limited to visiting family in New Jersey, especially on my dad's side, because holidays tend to be the little time that I get to hang out with them. I do apologize for so rarely making it to St. Augustine's. I do want everyone to know that you guys are a part of my roots and as I bloom and branch out into the world, just know that you guys have planted Christian roots within my soul that I hope to share with many.

You guys have helped to shape who I am today. After all, the saying goes: "It takes a village to raise a child" and I must say many of the people I work with would congratulate you on such a great job you guys have done! Please know that you are not forgotten and I love you guys!

PS I'm sure you guys are already doing this, but I would like for you to pray for my Uncle Nat as I still mourn him from time to time.

PPS In the event that there are any youth thinking about going to college, or who'd like to know about UF, I invite them to email me. Actually please do not hesitate to email or call me. I would love to hear from you guys! Email is jknox05@yahoo.com. My phone is 727-642-6206.

Cynthia's **CORNER**



Cynthia Allen is 10.

As I was flipping through the channels yesterday, I found that the Olympics in Beijing was the main topic of the day. It got me to thinking about competition. It seems to be everywhere.

Just think of all the competitions you've been in. Whether it's a regional sports competition or "I'll race you to my house," comparisons are all around us. Everything and almost everybody gets evaluated, rated and scored. Even schools and teachers!

Now I've been in many competitions, but the one I loved the most was last year's Battle of the Books. We had to read 15 books within a series of months, then take the test in March. Your test results show whether you become a Team Leader, a Team Member, or an Alternate.

When the final teams are picked, your team goes up against other teams at your school. The winner then gets to compete against teams from other schools. In that competition, a Team Leader is the only one allowed to speak. A Team Member helps the Team Leader with the questions asked. The Alternate fills in for somebody who is sick.

I bet right now those competitors in Beijing are thinking: I'm ready! This is my chance!



words Sparks! to remember

"I LOVE TO THINK OF NATURE AS AN UNLIMITED BROADCASTING STATION THROUGH WHICH GOD SPEAKS TO US EVERY HOUR -- IF WE WILL ONLY TUNE IN." GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Life: Meeting It Head-on

"The secret of my vigor and activity," Lowell Thomas confessed, "is that I have managed to have a lot of fun."

If life is really for the living, then the trick to living well is to learn to live it fully, to soak it up, to revel in it.

What we too often fail to realize is that living fully depends a great deal more on our frame of mind, on our fundamental spirituality, than it does on our physical condition.

If we see God as good, we see life as good. If we see God as a kind of sly and insidious Judge, tempting us with good things in order to see if we can be seduced into some sort of moral depravity by them, then life is a trap to be feared.

Living well has something to do with the spirituality of wholeheartedness, of seeing life more as a grace than as a penance, as time to be lived with eager expectation of its goodness, not in dread of its challenges.

We are not given life in order to suffer. We are given life in order to learn to love the Creator through the joys and beauty of creation.

We are given life in order to deal gracefully with the natural suffering of being mortal creatures.

When we fail to meet life head on, we fail to live it fully.

Life is not simply what happens to us—though in moments of surprise life waits, too—but life is also what we ourselves make happen.

We become what we do. We become new inside when we urge ourselves to do new things. We become awake when we do not allow ourselves to simply sleep through life. We



Today is Fr. Lee Jaster's last Sunday with us for this summer. He returns now to his ministry as Pastoral Associate at Clearwater's Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

As our teachers go back to school this week: O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges and universities that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. BCP, pg 824.

Scripture for Next Sunday, August 17
Genesis 45:1-15 Pat Stewart
Psalm 133 Mordecai Walker
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Louise Stroude
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28 Deacon Bauknight
Prayers of the People Hazel Allen

Yes, She's 101 Next Sunday

In exactly one week Lewis Clowers' mom turns 101. That's right, one hundred and one years young next Sunday.

Born in Jones County, GA in "aught seven" to a family that eventually had seven children, Laura Leila Clowers has outlived them all. Hers was an active life, caring for her own property in Macon, GA well into her 90s.

For the past three years she has been living in St. Petersburg with her only son Lewis and his wife Mary. "I think maybe it's her independence and stubbornness that's kept her alive all these years," Mary says.

become more sure of ourselves when we forget our age and trust ourselves enough to refuse to fear everything in life from a pair of stairs to a mountain incline.

We aren't "past" life unless we allow life to pass us by.

It is time now to begin again, to become new, to find ways to enjoy life, to seize every opportunity to be an exciting, interesting, significant person. We owe the world the best of ourselves because all the rest of the world is struggling with something, too.

-from The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully by Joan Chittister (BlueBridge)

Partying for this birthday will be quieter than last year. But you may send your greetings to: Mrs. Laura Clowers, 2690 Mikol Terrace South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

On August 25th, 1968, 40 years ago, this congregation held its first worship service in our present building.



* This newsletter can be seen as the first draft of our church's recent history. It is about recognition and spiritual attitude, candor, mixing hearsay, and cheer leading unashamed. Members Judy and Tom Krug are its co-editors and some 65 parishioners are essential to the effort. Issues are available each Sunday after our 9:00 service. We also e-mail it to several dozen churches and supporters. It is archived at www.staugstpete.org, our parish web site for church shoppers.