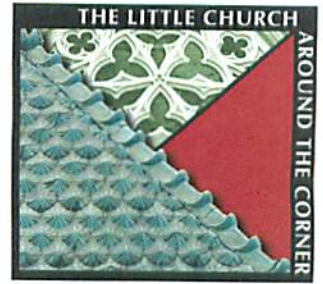


## Rector's Letter June 2010



THE CHURCH OF THE  
TRANSFIGURATION

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Church of the Transfiguration,

Today as I write is the official start of the summer. However in recent weeks with higher temperatures and humidity the summery weather has begun early. To make the church more pleasant for Sunday worship and for weddings we have invested in some more *electric fans* to keep the air moving better.

On recent Sundays we have recognized various groups within the parish including the Boy Choir, the Girl and Cherub Choirs and the Altar Society. It is so important to celebrate those who regularly contribute to our worshipping life. The spring musical season came to a magnificent close with a full production of **Benjamin Britten's church opera, Noye's Fludde**. The production included 60 children drawn from our own choirs and from other children's choirs, 30 instrumentalists, professional soloists and a fine female chorus (the Gossips) and was all under the excellent direction of Claudia Dumschat. Britten also includes three familiar hymns in the work which allows for audience participation. In spite of the early summer heat the church was crowded and all present enjoyed a moving performance of a great work. Congratulations are due to Claudia and all who contributed to this event. Of one thing I am quite certain that this production be repeated within the next two years so more can enjoy it.

Parishioners were saddened to learn of **the death of Angie Ruggieri** at age 80 in late May. Angie had been a much-loved parishioner for many years and was well-known as the doorkeeper at the Seniors' Center in the former Parish House. In recent years she presided on Sundays at the rear of the nave in her electric wheel chair and on good days often sat in the Chapel or in the garden. Here she greeted all who came by young and old. Her Requiem in early June was attended by her family and an impressive number of parishioners and neighbors. She was buried in the parish grave at Kensico Cemetery.

I have spoken about the parish support for the diocesan program, **Carpenter's Kids**, which provides for the education of Aids orphans in Tanzania. So far we have raised \$2000 towards our target of \$2500 (which will allow a year's education for 50 kids). It would be great if we could receive that further \$500 to fulfill our target. How about it?

In recent years as part of our summer program we have produced a summer concert series. This year **our Summer Concerts will be held on Wednesdays 7, 14 and 21 July at 7.30pm**. A card with details on the concerts is included in this mailing.

Over the summer many of our regular parishioners are away weekends or are on vacation so that our Sunday numbers drop off somewhat. However the summer is also a time we get many visitors for Sunday worship including parishioners from other Episcopal parishes who take the opportunity to visit another church. We are fortunate each year to have the services of our **voluntary Summer Choir** to enrich our 11am Solemn Mass. Parishioners or friends who enjoy singing are most welcome to join this occasional choir by turning up at 9.30am on any Sunday for rehearsal. For those of you who go away most weekends do note that we have a Sunday evening Mass at 6pm through the summer months. One of the reasons for commencing that last year was for the convenience of those who cannot make Sunday morning worship for whatever reason.

This year for the first time Transfiguration is participating in the Gay Pride March this coming Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. The vestry decided that this was an important way of honoring and supporting our gay and lesbian parishioners as well as the wider community. We will march with the larger diocesan group. I hope our Founder, Father Houghton, who in his quiet way, was ready to support various minority groups including the local African American population and the acting profession, would approve of this move.

I trust those of you taking vacation time this summer will return refreshed and reinvigorated.

This comes with my prayer-filled and warmest good wishes,



Rector