

**A RITE OF PASSAGE:
THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF
MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD**

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Following the renewal of baptismal vows, the congregation is seated and the Celebrant says:

Dear People of God: Today we celebrate one of God's great gifts - the gift of manhood and womanhood. The candidates will now be presented.

Each candidate is presented by name and comes forward to the chancel steps, facing the congregation.

We present to you N., son/daughter of N. and N.

When all have been presented, and are on the steps facing the congregation, the presenters say:

Bill, we are honored to serve as leaders of the Rite 13 Class. These that stand before you have grown beyond childhood and are now ready to be recognized as women and men. They are prepared and ready to begin the journey to adulthood.

Celebrities turn around to face the Celebrant, who says:

By the grace of God, you have lived through the pains and joys of childhood and have grown strong. Now, as women and men, it is given to you to share in God's power of creation. You are blessed with the ability to create new ideas, new thoughts, new hopes for the world, and indeed, even to create new life. Because we are made in God's image, we are the only creatures on earth who can choose how to use our creative power – to shape the world according to God's purpose. God calls us to use this gift to build and not to destroy. Are you aware of God's gift to you and the responsibility to use it wisely?

Celebrities: I am.

Celebrities turn around to face the congregation

Celebrant: Let us join these young people in reading Psalm 139. The congregation is asked to repeat the Antiphon.

PSALM 139

Celebrities:

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.

Antiphon: **Your works are wonderful, and I know it well**

Mary McKenzie Thompson

Mary Thompson turned 13 in March of this year. She is in the 7th grade at The Barrett School, where she plays violin in the school orchestra and is a member of the gymnastic team. She also plays tennis and enjoys riding horses. Her best subject in school is Math.

Mary lives in North Hills with her parents, Janie and Mark, and two younger brothers: David (age 11) and Matt (age 6), not to mention a Jack Russell terrier named Peanut.

Mary has been at St. Anne's her entire life and has LOTS of family here! Her two aunts, Linda Smith and Diane Wikowski are both involved in education at St. Anne's and her grandparents, Bob & Beverly Conner are long-time parishioners. Mary says her favorite thing about St. Anne's is the youth group activities and "having so many kids here my age". Her favorite service at St. Anne's is the early Christmas Eve service with the children's pageant.

She thinks the best thing about becoming an adult will be being able to drive and the most important preparation she thinks will need for adulthood is her education. She thinks she may want to someday be a veterinarian, but she is wisely keeping her options open!

Mary describes herself as a serious chocolate lover but she uses Colgate toothpaste to fight any impending cavities!! 😊

Allison Michelle Long

Allison Long was born on February 12, 1993 and is a 7th Grader at North Hills Academy. She plays soccer and is a member of the Swim Team. She loves intramural sports and helping with the Builder's Club, a service organization that raises money for needy children. She has been a Girl Scout since the 1st Grade and is an avid skier.

Allison lives with her parents, Karen and Richard Long, and her brother, Stephen, who is 9 years old. Allison is quite the animal lover and besides the family dog, Rocky, she shares her room with a hamster named Toffee and an aquarium full of fish and frogs.

Allison has always lived in this area and her family has been a part of St. Anne's since her mother was a child. Allison's grandmother, Lorraine Middleton, is a weekly volunteer in our church library.

Allison looks forward to increased freedom of becoming an adult, but also recognizes it will mean additional responsibilities. Her favorite thing about being 13 is her friends and her new teenager privileges.

She sees the most important things in her life as being her family and friends and her relationship with God. She believes these things are the most important things to take with her into adulthood.

THE RITE 13 LITURGY
ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MAY 14, 2006



Christopher Baron
Mary Thompson
Allison Long

These teenagers are in their second year of the Rite 13 class - a name that has its origin in the liturgy we celebrate today. The word "liturgy" means "the work of the people" and it expresses who we believe we are in the presence of God. Liturgy reflects our mission. Today's liturgy is a rite of passage where we recognize God's blessed gift of manhood and womanhood. These teenagers are no longer children - they are young men and women, but they are not yet adults. We work together to support them on their journey to adulthood.

We hope you will enjoy being a part of this important day. The teenagers themselves have helped to write parts of the service - in particular the portion of the service where they address their parents.

The teenagers begin the service sitting with their parents on the right side of the church. They will be called to the chancel steps to receive their blessing but when they are finished, they will move to sit on the left side of the church with the rest of the teens in the Youth Group. This is a symbol of the widening world of the teenager - expanding from family influence to also include peer influence.

You, the congregation, are witnesses of this very important rite of passage. You are here today to actively help in this process by your presence, your prayers and your love. Remember that when the congregation is called on to reply "Amen" you are literally saying, "Yes, Lord - let it be so."

The Celebrant asks the congregation to be seated, but the parents remain standing. The Celebrant says:
Parents, you may now address your sons and daughters.

Parents address their sons and daughters

We now recognize your passage into manhood and womanhood. We thank God for the gift of your lives. As you begin to carve out the life that will be your own, we stand behind you and support you. May we be patient and understanding, ready to guide and forgive, that in our love for you, you may know the love of God. You are holy and wonderful and blessed and we won't look away from you. We are your parents and we support you on this journey.

The teenagers respond to their parents:

Thank you for being there when we needed you the most. Now as we approach adulthood, we realize that God will help show us the way. Remember that we always love you, even when we don't act like it.

THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

The Celebrant asks the congregation to stand and addresses the congregation with these words:

As the living body of Christ, we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work in the world. Will you, as a community of faith, which spans the generations, share your knowledge, experience and love with these young people as they begin their journey to adulthood?

Congregation responds with strong heart and spirit:

We will, with God's help. We recognize you as young men and women of St. Anne's Church. We stand behind you on your journey. You are formed by a loving hand and are unique expressions of the creative power of God. God is with you. God is calling you. Explore, ask, claim and embrace. You are holy and wonderful and blessed and we won't look away from you. We are your community of faith and we support you on this journey.

THE BLESSING

The celebrities kneel together on the steps facing the altar. The parents move to stand behind their teen, placing their hand on the teen's shoulder. The Celebrant addresses the celebrities, saying:

Christopher, Mary and Allison: you have been armed by Almighty God with both the imagination of childhood and the strength and creative power of manhood and womanhood. Now you must journey forth to gain the skills you will need to assume full responsibility as an adult.

For each blessing, the Celebrant marks the sign of the cross on the candidate's forehead, saying:

N., may Almighty God fill you with courage, wisdom and joy. May Jesus Christ your strong and never-failing friend, make you strong in faith and defend you on every side. May the Holy Spirit guide you in truth and peace. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, rest upon you this day and forevermore.

The People respond: AMEN!

THE CHARGE TO THE YOUTH GROUP

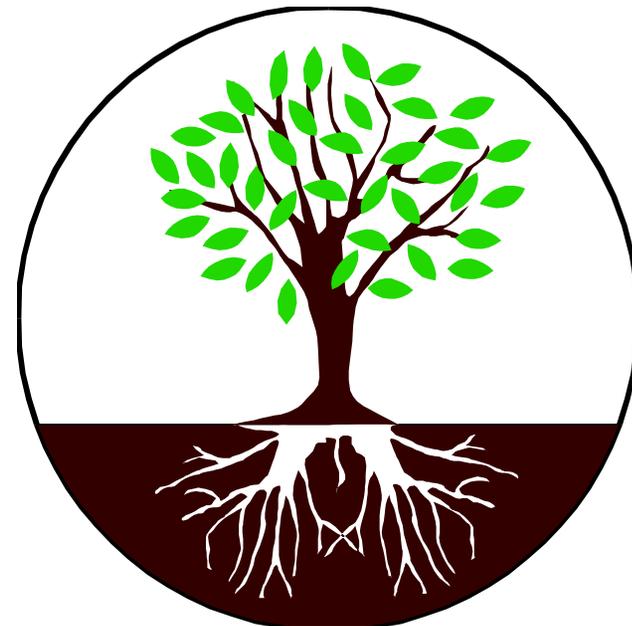
When all have been blessed, the Celebrant says to the rest of the Youth Group:

Dear friends of Christopher, Mary and Allison: As they move beyond the circle of their families, they will need loyal friends. They will need your advice, your encouragement and your acceptance. Will you be there for them and be their friends, knowing there will be times when your support means more to them than any other?

Youth Group responds with strong heart and spirit:

We will, with God's help. We will support you in the ways that we are able and we offer you our friendship. You are holy and wonderful and blessed and we won't look away from you. We are your peers and we support you on this journey. We welcome you. Come join us.

The peace is now exchanged.



William Christopher Baron

Christopher just celebrated his 14th birthday last week and he is in the 8th Grade at Midland Middle School. His favorite subject is Science and he enjoys playing basketball and tennis. Christopher has a wonderful imagination, he likes to draw and he plays the clarinet.

Christopher was born at North Hills Hospital and lives with his parents, Kristina and Phillip Satterfield. He also has a black lab named Cody and 5 talking parrots that keep life interesting at his house. His dad lives on the island of St. Martin and Christopher spends every summer there. Christopher is fluent in Dutch and will be one of our readers next week for Pentecost Sunday.

Christopher's mom, Kristina, sings in the choir and Christopher has been an acolyte for many years. In fact, he was one of the acolytes during the bishop's visit and got to help the bishop with his mitre (hat). He says being an acolyte is his favorite thing about St. Anne's.

He is very excited about getting his learner's permit to drive next year and he says the thing he would most like to change about the world is reducing the pollution so the world is safer for people and animals.

Celebrities:

For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb
I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful and I know it well.

***Antiphon:* Your works are wonderful, and I know it well**

Celebrities:

My body was not hidden from you while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned
day by day, when as yet there were none of them.

***Antiphon:* Your works are wonderful, and I know it well**

Celebrities:

Search me out, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my restless thoughts.
Look well whether there be any wickedness in me and
lead me in the way that is everlasting.

***Antiphon:* Your works are wonderful, and I know it well**

THE PRAYER FOR THE PARENTS

The Celebrant addresses the parents:

When Mary and Joseph searched for Jesus and found him in the temple talking with the elders, they realized that Jesus was no longer a child. This is such a moment. We rejoice with you as we recognize your sons and daughters as young men and young women. We stand with you to support you as they begin their journey to adulthood.

The Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying:

People of God, together let us pray for these parents:

Celebrant and congregation together:

God of mercy and love, enfold these parents with your grace. Increase in them the spirit of wisdom and understanding. Teach them how to truly listen with a spirit of love, patience and gentleness. Bless these parents as they watch their sons and daughters enter into manhood and womanhood. Strengthen and uphold them as they comfort their sons and daughters, remembering that they can neither walk the journey for them, nor shield them from pain. Carry them safely through this journey so that one day they may stand together as adults and friends. Amen.