

"SINNER OR SAINT?"

A Sermon By

Philip A. C. Clarke

Park Avenue United Methodist Church
106 East 86th Street
New York, New York 10028
November 6, 1994

"SINNER OR SAINT?"

INTRODUCTION

Let me work in to this by asking you a question. This is the question: who are you? On the surface it sounds like a fairly simple question that requires a simple answer....but then again, it may not be all that easy. You might begin by offering your name. "I'm Fred Smith. Or I'm Susie Brown". I might be tempted to answer,

"No...that's your name. I want to know who you are....who you really are". You might reply, "Oh, I'm a teacher, or a lawyer, a bank manager....a singer, an artist." I would say, "No...that's what you do". And pressed a bit more, you might be tempted to say, "Well....I'm an American, or I'm a Texan, or a Hoosier". I might reply, "That's where you grew up...that's where you live". "I'm a Methodist, or a Baptist" you might add. Again, I might respond, "That's your church background...your denominational preference."

You might throw in your height and your weight and say something about what you look like, but your physical dimensions and your appearance aren't you either. Back to the question: who are you?

I wonder if it would make you uncomfortable for me to suggest that you're saint? Some of you may be offended with that because...let's face it...most of us really don't like saints. Perhaps St. Nicholas is OK because he has been known to bring us presents at Christmas and we like that. Or, St. Francis. He liked animals and most of us like animals. But real saints - in the here and now - have a way of turning us off, making us uncomfortable.

DEVELOPMENT

You may have heard about the man sitting in a bar putting down one drink after another. The man sitting next to him said, "Hey, friend....what's wrong? Something's bothering you. What is it?"

The first man said,

"I'm drinking to the memory of my wife. She was a 'saint' on earth. Went to church three times a week, sang hymns around the house, spent her days reading the Bible and quoting scripture...even had a Bible study group in our living room one night of the week."

The stranger next to him said, "Why she sounds perfect! How did such a pious woman die so young?" "I strangled her!" was the first man's reply.

Saints in the here and now are a bit of a turn-off. It's OK to talk about Saint Paul and Saint John, but we're not quite ready to be called Saint Fred or Saint Susie. After all, a saint is somebody special....somebody who has a unique relationship with God, someone who lives "somewhat" in another world.

Given a choice, most of us would prefer to be in the company of a sinner rather than a saint which reminds me of a conversation I had several summers ago in Cooperstown at the Hall of Fame induction. I got into a conversation with

Ernie Banks, the great Cub shortstop, now a Hall of Famer. "What do you do?" he asked me. I told him I was a preacher down in New York City. He felt comfortable with that since he's a church man where he lives in California. But then with a twinkle in his eye, he added...

"To be a preacher in New York City! That must be something. There's just so much sin down there. So much sin" said he.

I'm suggesting that you're a saint, not a sinner...here this morning, and we certainly don't want to be hypocritical at this point. Be careful now. You may have heard about the two brothers who were scoundrels - cheating, stealing, deceiving everyone they could. One brother died and the other brother called on the local pastor and asked him if he would conduct the funeral service for his brother. He said there would be a sizeable honorarium and something for the church, too. The pastor said, "But the entire town knows what a scoundrel your later brother was!"

The surviving brother again reminded the minister that there would be a very, very large gift for the church and a big honorarium if he would only conduct the service and so the pastor agreed. The brother said to the pastor, "I have but one favor to ask. I want you to refer to my brother as a saint".

Well, now the pastor had a problem. So he prayed about it and that afternoon he conducted the funeral service and at the appropriate time the pastor looked over in the direction of the casket and said,

"You know this man was a real scoundrel, but friends, believe me....he was a saint compared to his brother...."

We don't want to be hypocritical. Yet, I have the somewhat painful pleasure on this All Saints Sunday to suggest to you that you are a saint!

SAINTS WHO SIN

In his book, Victory Over the Darkness, Neil Anderson comes up with a thought-provoking paragraph that I want you to listen to carefully...and to grapple with here this morning. He writes,

"Many Christians refer to themselves as sinners saved by grace. But are you really a sinner? Is that your 'scriptural identity'? Not at all. God doesn't call you a sinner. He calls you a saint. A holy one. If you think of yourselves as a sinner, guess what you will do? You'll live like a sinner. Yes, you'll sin. Why not identify yourself for who you really are. A saint who occasionally sins. And remember this: what you do does not determine who you are. Who you are determines what you do!"

I like the ring of that. Think about it. What a simple and yet powerful insight. Rather than thinking of ourselves as "sinners saved by grace", maybe we would do well to think of ourselves as saints who occasionally stumble and sin.

Because of the baseball strike, we haven't had many sermon references to baseball. Here's one that caught my attention and it seems to tie in. Dodger fans will appreciate this one. Baseball pitcher, Orel Hershiser, in his book, Out Of the Blue, tells about an encounter he once had with Dodger Manager, Tommy Lasorda. Lasorda called Hershiser into his office one day and shouted at him,

"You don't believe in yourself! You're scared to pitch in the big leagues. Who do you think these hitters are - Babe Ruth? Ruth's dead! Hey, you've got good stuff. If you didn't, I wouldn't have hired you. I've seen guys come and go, son, and you've got it! Be aggressive. Be a 'Bull Dog' out there. That's gonna be your new name. Bulldog. With that name, you'll scare the batters to death!"

"Starting today, son...I want you to believe you are the best pitcher in baseball. Look at that hitter and say, 'There's no way you can ever hit me.'"

A couple of days later Orel Hershiser pitched relief and in three innings, he gave up only one run. Lasorda's pep talk - he calls it his "Sermon On the Mound" - had worked. Not long after that he pitched in the World Series and won. Some may remember how after the final out he knelt on that MOUND and sang the Doxology. That's what he told Johnny Carson on his show a few nights later.

HOW DO WE VIEW OURSELVES

How do we view ourselves? That's such an important question. Can we believe not only in God, but also in ourselves as God's people? Are we lowly sinners or are we saints who sometimes trip and stumble and slip off the track and sin? In another place in his book, Neil Anderson, writes,

"No person can consistently behave in a way that's inconsistent with the way he perceives himself".

There's truth in that. For if we perceive ourselves to be sinners, then that is apt to be how we will act - sinfully. But if on the other hand we view ourselves as saints who occasionally sin, then we have an entirely different frame of reference.

Anderson offers us a story that helps to illustrate this point. He invites us to imagine for a moment a typical, macho young man in college. He gives him the name of Biff. Biff is really in to the whole college scene. He sees himself as a "skin-wrapped" package of salivary glands, taste buds and rather strong sex drives. With this bit of self-perception, how then does Biff occupy his time. Eating and chasing the young ladies on the campus. He chases just about anything in a skirt, but he has a special gleam in his eye for one particular young lady whose name is Susie, a luscious, good-looking cheerleader.

Biff spends a lot of time chasing sweet Susie around the campus. One day the track coach notices him and comments, "Hey, this kid can really run!" He invites Biff to come out for the track team, but Biff, watching Susie out the corner of his eye, answers, "Naw, coach....I'm too busy...studies and all."

But the coach isn't about to take "no" for an answer. He finally convinces Biff to give the track team a try. He does and he starts working out. He watches his diet. He changes his eating habits and his sleeping habits and starts to win some races, posting some good times. Then, one day...

He's invited to the big race at the State Tournament. He gets to the track early...to stretch and to warm up. But then, only a few minutes before the big event - his event - guess who shows up? Yes, there is sweet little Susie, looking more beautiful and desirable than ever. She goes up to Biff in her

scanty cheer leader's outfit. In her hands is a sumptuous slice of Dutch-apple pie with a couple of scoops of vanilla ice cream piled on top of it. She sings sweetly,

"I've really missed you, Biff....if you come with me now, you can have all this and me, too." But Biff responds, "Naw....no way, Susie...no way". "Why not, Biff?" Susie says in a bit of a pout. "Because, I'm....I'm a runner!"

Anderson asks,

"What's different about Biff?" "What happened to his drives, to his glands? He's still the same guy who could pack away three burgers, two bags of fries and a couple of beers without batting an eye. And he's still the same guy who was just itching to get close to beautiful Susie. But his perception of himself has changed. He no longer sees himself primarily as a big bundle of physical urges, but as a disciplined runner. He came to this tournament to run the race and to win. That was his purpose and Susie's perception was at cross-purposes with why he was there and how he perceived himself."

Who you are determines what you do. What you do doesn't determine who you are. If you see yourself as a loser you'll be a loser. If you see yourself as a winner, you'll be a winner. And yes, if you see yourself as a saint, then that is how you'll live and act.

Donald Trump received two basic messages from his father while he was growing up. One was: "You are a king". The other was "You are a killer". Think for a moment about the implications of those words. "You are a king. You are a killer". After growing up in a home where he often heard those two messages, it's no accident then that Donald Trump became a killer-negotiator and the king of modern American real estate development.

"No person can consistently behave in a way that is inconsistent with the way he (or she) perceives himself (or herself).

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY

Okay then. Let me draw this to a close by reminding you of some of the things that the Bible has to say about us - those whose Baptism has brought us into the family of Christ. Hear some of them:

"In the synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark and Luke - we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. In the Book of Acts, we are the people of the way. In Romans, we are joint heirs with Christ, sharing His inheritance. In Galatians, we are sons and daughters of God - one in Christ. In Ephesians, we are saints, fellow citizens with the rest of God's family. In Corinthians, we are a temple, a dwelling place of God. In Philippians, we are citizens of heaven, seated in Heaven right now. In Thessalonians, we are chosen of God, holy and dearly loved. In Philemon, we are soldiers. In James, we are brothers and sisters. In Peter, we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession."

I don't know about you, but when I hear things like that, I stand a little taller, straighter and feel better about myself and others.

George Gallup, famous for his Gallup Polls, once wrote a book called The Saints Among Us. In it he interviewed people from across the nation who apparently had lifestyles that have their friends calling them "saints". He noted several things about them. One was they are far more giving and also far more forgiving than most Americans. He writes that these "saints" are not racially prejudiced. Hopefully, some of your friends regard you as something of a "saint". I hope so, but what is so important to remember is how God sees us and how we see ourselves.

And here the testimony of Scripture is clear, quite sure. We are saints. Oh, occasionally we may stumble and fall short and sin. But God doesn't see us as sinners. He sees us as saints. And since that is how He sees us, isn't that how we should be living. I believe it is!

PRAYER

We would ask ourselves "Why" were the saints, saints? Because they were cheerful when it was difficult to be cheerful, patient when it was difficult to be patient and because they pushed on when they wanted to stand still and kept silent when they wanted to talk and were agreeable when they wanted to be disagreeable. That was all. It was quite simple and always will be.

Visit our sick with the assurance of Your care: Ruth Frame, Bob McPheters, Coralie Bailey, Eric deFreitas, and Pearl, mother of Dianne. Encircle the bereaved with Your warming, healing Presence. Point out markers along the trail for those who may have lost their way.

The race is so short, O God, even at its longest and we would try to run it well, and always to Your glory. Amen.

"SINNER OR SAINT?"

A Sermon By

Philip A. C. Clarke

Park Avenue United Methodist Church
106 East 86th Street
New York, New York 10028
November 6, 1994

"SINNER OR SAINT?"

INTRODUCTION

Let me work in to this by asking you a question. This is the question: who are you? On the surface it sounds like a fairly simple question that requires a simple answer....but then again, it may not be all that easy. You might begin by offering your name. "I'm Fred Smith. Or I'm Susie Brown". I might be tempted to answer,

"No...that's your name. I want to know who you are....who you really are". You might reply, "Oh, I'm a teacher, or a lawyer, a bank manager....a singer, an artist." I would say, "No...that's what you do". And pressed a bit more, you might be tempted to say, "Well....I'm an American, or I'm a Texan, or a Hoosier". I might reply, "That's where you grew up...that's where you live". "I'm a Methodist, or a Baptist" you might add. Again, I might respond, "That's your church background...your denominational preference."

You might throw in your height and your weight and say something about what you look like, but your physical dimensions and your appearance aren't you either. Back to the question: who are you?

I wonder if it would make you uncomfortable for me to suggest that you're a saint? Some of you may be offended with that because...let's face it...most of us really don't like saints. Perhaps St. Nicholas is OK because he has been known to bring us presents at Christmas and we like that. Or St. Francis. He liked animals and most of us like animals. But real saints - in the here and the now - have a way of turning us off, making us uncomfortable.

DEVELOPMENT

You may have heard about the man sitting in a bar putting down one drink after another. The man sitting next to him said, "Hey, friend....what's wrong? Something's bothering you. What is it?"

The first man said,

"I'm drinking to the memory of my wife. She was a 'saint' on earth. Went to church three times a week, sang hymns around the house, spent her days reading the Bible and quoting scripture...even had a Bible study group in our living room one night of the week."

The stranger next to him said, "Why she sounds perfect! How did such a pious woman die so young?" "I strangled her!" was the first man's reply.

Saints in the here and now are a bit of a turn-off. It's OK to talk about Saint Paul and Saint John, but we're not quite ready to be called Saint Fred or Saint Susie. After all, a saint is somebody special....somebody who has a unique relationship with God, someone who lives "somewhat" in another world.

Given a choice, most of us would prefer to be in the company of a sinner rather than a saint which reminds me of a conversation I had several summers ago in Cooperstown at the Hall of Fame induction. I got into a conversation with

Ernie Banks, the great Cub shortstop, now a Hall of Famer. "What do you do?" he asked me. I told him I was a preacher down in New York City. He felt comfortable with that since he's a church man where he lives in California. But then with a twinkle in his eye, he added...

"To be a preacher in New York City! That must be something. There's just so much sin down there. So much sin" said he.

I'm suggesting that you're a saint, not a sinner...here this morning, and we certainly don't want to be hypocritical at this point. Be careful now. You may have heard about the two brothers who were scoundrels - cheating, stealing, deceiving everyone they could. One brother died and the other brother called on the local pastor and asked him if he would conduct the funeral service for his brother. He said there would be a sizeable honorarium and something for the church, too. The pastor said, "But the entire town knows what a scoundrel your late brother was!"

The surviving brother again reminded the minister that there would be a very, very large gift for the church and a big honorarium if he would only conduct the service and so the pastor agreed. The brother said to the pastor, "I have but one favor to ask. I want you to refer to my brother as a saint".

Well, now the pastor had a problem. So he prayed about it and that afternoon he conducted the funeral service and at the appropriate time the pastor looked over in the direction of the casket and said,

"You know this man was a real scoundrel, but friends, believe me....he was a saint compared to his brother...."

We don't want to be hypocritical. Yet, I have the somewhat painful pleasure on this All Saints Sunday to suggest to you that you are a saint!

SAINTS WHO SIN

In his book, Victory Over the Darkness, Neil Anderson comes up with a thought-provoking paragraph that I want you to listen to carefully...and to grapple with here this morning. He writes,

"Many Christians refer to themselves as sinners saved by grace. But are you really a sinner? Is that your 'scriptural identity'? Not at all. God doesn't call you a sinner. He calls you a saint. A holy one. If you think of yourselves as a sinner, guess what you will do? You'll live like a sinner. Yes, you'll sin. Why not identify yourself for who you really are. A saint who occasionally sins. And remember this: what you do does determine who you are. Who you are determines what you do!"

I like the ring of that. Think about it. What a simple and yet powerful insight. Rather than thinking of ourselves as "sinners saved by grace", maybe we would do well to think of ourselves as saints who occasionally stumble and sin.

Because of the baseball strike, we haven't had many sermon references to baseball. Here's one that caught my attention and it seems to tie in. Dodger fans will appreciate this one. Baseball pitcher, Orel Hershiser, in his book, Out Of the Blue, tells about an encounter he once had with Dodger Manager, Tommy Lasorda. Lasorda called Hershiser into his office one day and shouted at him,

"You don't believe in yourself! You're scared to pitch in the big leagues. Who do you think these hitters are - Babe Ruth? Ruth's dead! Hey, you've got good stuff. If you didn't, I wouldn't have hired you. I've seen guys come and go, son, and you've got it! Be aggressive. Be a 'Bull Dog' out there. That's gonna be your new name. Bulldog. With that name, you'll scare the batters to death!"

"Starting today, son....I want you to believe you are the best pitcher in baseball. Look at that hitter and say, 'There's no way you can ever hit me.'"

A couple of days later Orel Hershiser pitched relief and in three innings, he gave up only one run. Lasorda's pep talk - he calls it his "Sermon On the Mound" had worked. Not long after that he pitched in the World Series and won. Some may remember how after the final out he knelt on that MOUND and sang the Doxology. That's what he told Johnny Carson on his show a few nights later.

HOW DO WE VIEW OURSELVES

How do we view ourselves? That's such an important question. Can we believe not only in God, but also in ourselves as God's people? Are we lowly sinners or are we saints who sometimes trip and stumble and slip off the track and sin? In another place in his book, Neil Anderson, writes,

"No person can consistently behave in a way that's inconsistent with the way he perceives himself".

There's truth in that. For if we perceive ourselves to be sinners, then that is apt to be how we will act - sinfully. But if on the other hand we view ourselves as saints who occasionally sin, then we have an entirely different frame of reference.

Anderson offers us a story that helps to illustrate this point. He invites us to imagine for a moment a typical, macho young man in college. He gives him the name of Biff. Biff is really in to the whole college scene. He sees himself as a "skin-wrapped" package of salivary glands, taste buds and rather strong sex drives. With this bit of self-perception, how then does Biff occupy his time. Eating and chasing the young ladies on the campus. He chases just about anything in a skirt, but he has a special gleam in his eye for one particular young lady whose name is Susie, a luscious, good-looking cheerleader.

Biff spends a lot of time chasing sweet Susie around the campus. One day the track coach notices him and comments, "Hey, this kid can really run!" He invites Biff to come out for the track team, but Biff, watching Susie out the corner of his eye, answers, "Naw, coach....I'm too busy...studies and all."

But the coach isn't about to take "no" for an answer. He finally convinces Biff to give the track team a try. He does and he starts working out. He watches his diet. He changes his eating habits and his sleeping habits and starts to win some races, posting some good times.

He's invited to the big race at the State Tournament. He gets to the track early...to stretch and to warm up. But then, only a few minutes before the big event - his event - guess who shows up? Yes, there is sweet little Susie, looking more beautiful and desirable than ever. She goes up to Biff in her

scanty cheer leader's outfit. In her hands is a sumptuous slice of Dutch-apple pie with a couple of scoops of vanilla ice cream piled on top of it. She sings sweetly,

"I've really missed you, Biff....if you come with me now, you can have all this and me, too." But Biff responds, "Naw....no way, Susie...no way". "Why not, Biff?" Susie says in a bit of a pout. "Because, I'm....I'm a runner!"

Anderson asks,

"What's different about Biff?" "What happened to his drives, to his glands? He's still the same guy who could pack away three burgers, two bags of fries and a couple of beers without batting an eye. And he's still the same guy who was just itching to get close to beautiful Susie. But his perception of himself has changed. He no longer sees himself primarily as a big bundle of physical urges, but as a disciplined runner. He came to this tournament to run the race and to win. That was his purpose and Susie's perception was at cross-purposes with why he was there and how he perceived himself."

Who you are determines what you do. What you do doesn't determine who you are. If you see yourself as a loser, you'll be a loser. If you see yourself as a winner, you'll be a winner. And yes, if you see yourself as a saint, then that is how you'll live and act.

Donald Trump received two basic messages from his father while he was growing up. One was: "You are a king". The other was "You are a killer". Think for a moment about the implications of those words. "You are a king. You are a killer". After growing up in a home where he often heard those two messages, it's no accident then that Donald Trump became a killer-negotiator and the king of modern American real estate development.

"No person can consistently behave in a way that is inconsistent with the way he (or she) perceives himself (or herself).

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY

Okay then. Let me draw this to a close by reminding you of some of the things that the Bible has to say about us - those whose Baptism has brought us into the family of Christ. Hear some of them:

"In the synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark and Luke - we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. In the Book of Acts, we are the people of the way. In Roman's, we are joint heirs with Christ, sharing His inheritance. In Galatians, we are sons and daughters of God - one in Christ. In Ephesians, we are saints, fellow citizens with the rest of God's family. In Corinthians, we are a temple, a dwelling place of God. In Philippians, we are citizens of heaven, seated in Heaven right now. In Thessalonians, we are chosen of God, holy and dearly loved. In Philemon, we are soldiers. In James, we are brothers and sisters. In Peter, we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession."

I don't know about you, but when I hear things like that, I stand a little taller, straighter and feel better about myself and others.

George Gallup, famous for his Gallup Polls, once wrote a book called The Saints Among Us. In it he interviewed people from across the nation who apparently had lifestyles that have their friends calling them "saints". He noted several things about them. One was they are far more giving and also far more forgiving than most Americans. He writes that these "saints" are not racially prejudiced. Hopefully, some of your friends regard you as something of a "saint". I hope so, but what is so important to remember is how God sees us and how we see ourselves.

And here the testimony of Scripture is clear, quite sure. We are saints. Oh, occasionally we may stumble and fall short and sin. But God doesn't see us as sinners. He sees us as saints. And since that is how He sees us, isn't that how we should be living. I believe it is!

PRAYER

We would ask ourselves "Why" were the saints, saints? Because they were cheerful when it was difficult to be cheerful, patient when it was difficult to be patient and because they pushed on when they wanted to stand still and kept silent when they wanted to talk and were agreeable when they wanted to be disagreeable. That was all. It was quite simple and always will be.

Visit our sick with the assurance of Your care: Ruth Frame, Bob McPheters, Coralie Bailey, Eric deFreitas, and Pearl, mother of Dianne. Encircle the bereaved with Your warming, healing Presence. Point out markers along the trail for those who may have lost their way.

The race is so short, O God, even at its longest and we would try to run it well, and always to Your glory. Amen.

October 31, 1994

MEMO TO: Members of the Membership Committee
Park Avenue United Methodist Church
New York, New York

FROM: Doug McPheters, Chairperson
Phil Clarke, Minister

RE: This Sunday's Coffee Hour

You'll recall that this coming Sunday's coffee hour will be "in honor" of recent new friends of our church. We've sent out quite a few invitations and we're hopeful for a good response. We will be counting on each committee member to be here...to move around the coffee hour and share the love and warmth...

Invitations have been sent to the following people. Some you already know and others you'll want to get to know. So here they are...addresses and telephone numbers, too.

1. Ms. Joan Baisley: 530 E. 89th St., NYC 10128 472 -1306
2. Mr. and Mrs. Dan (Valerie) Ballenger: 201 W. 72nd
Street, NYC 10023 (10A) 721 -2155
3. Mr. and Mrs. Neil (Andrea) Bardach: 120 East 79th
(daughter, Ashley) Street, NYC 10021 (6C) 535 -7925
4. Ms. Joan Bender: 150 W. 87th St., NYC, NY 10024 721 -5423
Apt. 4 D
5. Ms. Amy Bowman: 1483 First Ave., NYC 10021 (1A) 512 -2064
6. Mr. Larry Chadwick: 345 E. 84th St., NYC 10028 734 -9278
7. Ms. Perri Colley: 240 W. 98th St., 5E, NYC 10025 865 -7541
8. Mr. Alexander Dondiz: 164 E. 100th St., NYC 10029 860 -8113
Apt. 4
9. Mr. Edward Furlong: 85 East End Ave., 7A, NYC 10028 249 -8891
10. Ms. Donna Furnish: 200 E. 94th Street, #220,
NYC, NY 10128 small child, Emily

(over)

11. Ms. Sarah Gill: 330 E. 39th St., 14 P, NYC, NY 10016 818 -9522
12. Mr. and Mrs. James (Joy) Gordon: 1755 York Ave., 16 B
NYC, NY 10128
13. Ms. Gayle Hazzard: 157 East 85th St., (6D), NYC 10028 860 -3293
14. Ms. Jessica Hodge: 235 E. 95th St., (28C), NYC, NY 10128 735 -7628
15. Mr. and Mrs. Jim (Diane) Hofmocker: 1755 York Ave., (2R)
NYC, NY 10128 427 -7608
16. Mr. Robert Ingram: 201 E. 86th St., NYC, NY 10028 (28D) 987 -6908
17. Mr. Louis Lake: 3333 Broadway, E-20J, NYC, NY 10031 862 -0039
18. Ms. Barbara Lipke: 150 W. 84th St., 5B, NYC, NY 10024 875 -9443
19. Ms. Nicole Miller: 353 E. 85th St., (2B), NYC, NY 10028 744 -5580
20. Mr. Greg Osgood: 100 Haven Ave., 28F, NYC, NY 10032 927 -3017
21. Mr. Chris Pinelo: 452 E. 78th Street, 1D, NYC, NY 10021 737 -8211
22. Mr. Richard D. Simonds, Jr.: 225 E. 89th St., D4, NYC 10128 876 -3301
23. Mr. and Mrs. John (Melinda) Stevenson: 43 W. 61st Street,
Apt. 16 J, NYC, NY 10023 245 -3620
24. Mr. and Mrs. William (Sandra) Suk: 245 E. 84th St. (4E)
NYC, NY 10028 535 -5814
25. Ms. Dana Swimmer: 300 E. 93rd Street, 8B, NYC, NY 10128 427 -8229
26. Mr. Troy C. White: 215 East 95th St., NYC, NY 10128 (24E) 735 -6102
27. Mrs. Dorothy B. Wolfgang: 40 River Road, Roosevelt Island,
New York, NY 10044 718 688 -8090
28. Ms. Rebecca Wright: 548 E. 82nd St., 4D, NYC, NY 10028 734 -5660
29. Ms. Judy Von Hausen: (choir member. No address yet)
30. Ms. Betty Dillon / Mr. Rich Russell: 516 E. 83rd Street,
1 FW, NYC 10028 879 -8508
31. Mr. and Mrs. Eric (Sawaka) Van Slander: 501 E. 85th St., 3B
NYC, NY 10028 NL

(And there may be more! Be sure to
do your "homework"....and try to
have some of these names in mind.
Bring the list with you on Sunday)

Thanks so much,

DM / PC

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, November 6, 1994

A ROSE ON THE ALTAR

- A. If you look carefully, you'll see a rose on the altar. It's there to celebrate the birth of KENNETH KOFI ANKOMA-SEY, infant son of Dr. and Mrs. Victor Ankoma-Sey of San Francisco. Kenneth was born on September 9th, 1994. His mother is Efua Simpson of our fellowship and Kenneth's grandmother is Dorcas Simpson of our parish.... who, I believe, is present here this morning. Congratulations!

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- A. It is the custom...to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on... and I like to announce for the benefit of visiting friends that the Table of our Lord in this church is OPEN....one does not have to be a member of this parish.....His Table is open to all and we invite you to receive the Sacrament...trusting that this time may be an occasion...
- B. Regarding procedure. Elements will be served to you in the pews. Upon receiving them, please hold them until all have been served..

VISITORS / GREETING

- A. A word of greeting to the visitors. Delighted to have you with us. Hope that we shall have opportunity to greet you in a more personal way....be free in the sharing of your name with us. Fill out. Or sign one of the Guest Books....come, worship. Come, work with us...
- B. Today's coffee hour is "in honor" of new friends of recent months. Coffee hour is a good place to "get started" in this church...warm, easy, relaxed. Time permits, join us downstairs.
- C. Members, wear your name tags. Promise not to do any business.... focus on greeting new friends. The only thing you're permitted to do is to talk to Suzanne Rose about placing a Christmas card order.

PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Be sure to pick up the November issue of our church news-sheet. On the table. And review the Sunday bulletin. Trustees have a meeting on Monday evening. "Hounds" on Tuesday. Opportunity for a bit of mid-week worship....prayer and singing under Bill Bonwitt's guidance. That's at 6:30...
- B. "Conversations in Membership" scheduled for next Sunday evening...for those new friends who would like to learn more about the church here... and who may be tempted to consider strengthening a tie with us...next Sunday evening at 6:30 pm. Membership Committee is sponsoring it.

(over)

C. Two of our church programs are "peaking" this month.

The Church Fair.
The Church Canvass.

The Church Fair is less than two weeks away. If your schedule permits a donation of time...to some areas of the Fair...share word with Jane Chaney, Fair Chair. We like to encourage members and friends to have a "Fair Share"....it is one of our major church programs of the year and proceeds go out to the community. Very little comes back in here.

The Church Financial Canvass is also peaking. Next Sunday is DEDICATION SUNDAY. Pledge cards are available...copies of the budget....narthex. We'll be glad to put one into your hands. But present today to highlight the importance of the church canvass is this year's CO-CHAIR....one who works in fund raising for the UNITED WAY....church member and a friend. MAVIS VANN.

OFFERING

A. Are there any other concerns to "lift up"...and to share...have we covered all the bases? If so, we shall then move to the morning offering. Along with the offerings of our money - our gifts and tithes - let us also offer our hearts to God and to one another in peace and in love.

Jesus once said: "It is more blessed to give than it is to receive."