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OA/ID Number: 13829
Folder ID Number: 13829-002

Folder Title:
St. Ann's--Kennebunkport, [ME] 8/30/92 [OA 7579]

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Staffed for 2:00 Fri.

(Askew/Bunton)
August 27, 1992
2:55 A.M.
CHURCH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ST. ANN'S CHURCH CENTENNIAL
KENNEBUNKPORT, ME
AUGUST 30, 1992
10:00 A.M.

Thank you, and good morning, everyone.

As a member of the vestry council... as one of five generations of Bushes who've worshipped here... and as a grateful son of this congregation... I'm delighted to be part of St. Ann's Centennial celebration. This congregation means a lot to me.

To an unfamiliar eye, St. Ann's might look like just an old rock church. Beautiful, of course. A graceful blend of sea-washed walls and stained glass... worn oak pews, smooth slate floors... and those wonderful needlepoint kneelers.

But that sells it short. St. Ann's is much more than that.

To me, these walls sing. They transmit echoes of good people, over the years... with strong hearts and faith... and an abiding sense of family.

And they flood me with memories... boyhood memories of summers in Maine, with treasure hunts, bonfires and picnics on the grounds. And memories of this church and its people: taking up the offering with the other kids. Singing hymns and praying.

As long as I can remember, by the 10 a.m. family service, these first three rows on the right were filled with Bushes and Walkers. And by 10:40... we were all free to play. I grew up half-believing St. Ann was the patron saint of fun.

Turns out she means a lot more than that. Today... to me... she might as well be the patron saint of family.

I remember my uncle Ray Walker saying that here in Kennebunkport, family was church... and church was family.

That's the tie that binds me to this place.

The Bush-Walker clan helped build St. Ann's, 100 years ago.

My own parents were married by a bishop, here at this marble altar, on Aug 6, 1921. I was baptized right here, too... exactly 68 years ago next week... by that same bishop.

And I've been coming back to Kennebunkport and St. Ann's for as long as I can remember. I've never missed a summer except one, when I was in the Navy and couldn't get home.

So I measured my journey from boyhood to manhood, summer by summer, right here in this holy place.

And I'm lucky. I know I'm lucky.

Lately there's been a lot of talk in this country about traditional values. Well... mine started right here. I thank God I grew up in a family that loved and honored not only its Creator... but its children as well.

And so this morning, I ask you to join me in praying for this great country... that those of us who've been so blessed... see fit to extend the traditional gifts of care and hope and love... to those who never had them.

That's what St. Ann's gave me, and I want to pass it on.

Thank you... God bless you... and God bless America.

Facts about St. Ann's and the Bushes' association with it:

- * Construction began in 1887. Finished in 1892.
- * Walkers/Bushes helped build the Church and have worshipped there for five generations.
- * Built for use by the weary (vacationing) traveller.
- * Rocks composing Church are from the coast of Maine.
- * Dorothy Walker and Prescott Bush were married at St. Ann's on August 6, 1921. The Right Rev. John Poyntz Tyler, D.D., Bishop of North Dakota, performed the ceremony.
- * President Bush was baptized, in the still-existing marble font in the Church, on Sunday, September 7, 1924, at St. Ann's. Bishop Tyler performed this ceremony as well.
- * No record of family burials at the Church.
- * Needlepoint kneelers were made, over the years, by various women of the Church. No record if any were made by Bushes or Walkers.
- * Young G.H.W. Bush took up offerings there.
- * Possibly apocryphal story about him dropping the offering plate and sending coins and bills everywhere.
- * Bell in tower is Belgian and was purchased from Yale.
- * Chapel is unheated and used on a seasonal basis.

8/25/92

Peggy,

Per our conversation this morning, the President has committed to make brief remarks at the "Centennial Celebration Service." That is the only commitment he has made to Bishop Allin. The service begins at 10 a.m. Sunday.

There is a vestry meeting Saturday morning. The President (at this time) does NOT plan to attend that meeting.

Patty
Patty Presock

SAINT ANN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

18 August 1992

Ms Patty Presock
Office of the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Patty,

Allow me to join with you in attempting to be of service to President Bush. Thanks to an earlier assist on your part, he has informed me on both occasions this summer when he has attended St. Ann's that he was working on plans to be here in Kennebunkport and St. Ann's on Sunday, August 30th, for the Centennial Celebration of St. Ann's consecration. Two days ago, Ed Flynn and a Secret Service colleague came to discuss plans for his visit, God willing, if nothing interferes meanwhile.

When I last spoke with the President about his being here for the celebration, I told him I would send a report of plans for the occasion. Said plans include our desire to have him speak - which he replied he would.

This is addressed to you rather than to the President, because you can both brief him and those concerned with his campaign plans and appearances. His being present for this occasion on this weekend can well serve multiple good purposes.

1. As stated in the earlier letter on this subject, it will of course be a fulfilling of one of his duties, namely being a member of the vestry council of St. Ann's, to be present for the Church's Centennial. That will be pleasing to this congregation.

2. It can be an easily managed, happily staged "press and picture" occasion for him, a campaign plus: being seen with his mother and members of his family at his family church, among long time friends, where he serves as a member of the vestry. He will be introduced as the speaker at St. Ann's annual "Lobster Boil", speaking to a tent full of folk in front of our well protected rectory. "Family values" can be the topic or implied as he talks about his "memories of life in St. Ann's, Kennebunkport".

page 2. Presock 8/17/92

3. And, we pray that Saturday and Sunday will provide a relaxing and refreshing variation in his "campaign" routine. The Annual Meeting of the Members of St. Ann's does convene at 8:00 am., that Saturday morning, with a meeting of the vestry immediately following. The President should be readily excused and need not be at those two meetings, unless he should just desire to be present. My pastoral concern for him would rather urge him to take time out. Indeed, I urge him to schedule a golf game at his convenience on both Saturday and Sunday (after church).

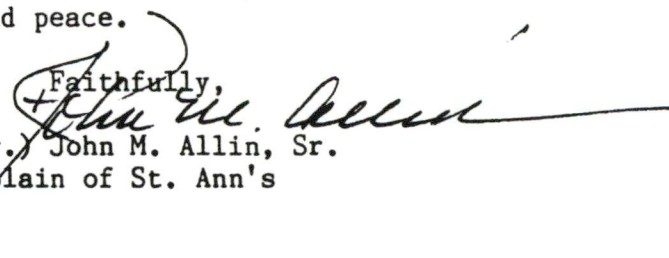
If I were free of duties on those two days, I would endeavor to make him a "Godfather offer", one he couldn't afford to turn down - to make a "pastoral call" with me on some local church members needing pastoral attention at our local golf course. Surely the President can't be criticized if he were accompanying "the parson on a mission of mercy".

The 10 o'clock service he normally attends here in St. Ann's will be the "Centennial Celebration Service". It will be a special order of service to renew the "church's consecration"; perhaps a little longer. Following the service, he and the First Lady and family can come next door to the rectory for the 15 or 20 minutes (and refreshment as needed) while the some 130 members of the congregation assemble for the "Lobster Boil". He should be back at Walker's Point by 1:00 pm., and a free afternoon.

Our plans here are flexible and do not depend on his presence. If he is prevented from attending, we'll proceed with "Plan B" without interruption. It will help to know, however, when his schedule for August 29-30 is set. If he's coming, we want to set up a convenient speaking stand.

Thank you for your good assistance, Patty. We hope the President can be here, and will do all we can to make it a pleasant and rewarding visit for him.

Best to you. Grace and peace.

Faithfully,

(Rt. Rev.) John M. Allin, Sr.
Chaplain of St. Ann's

26 AUGUST 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR KEN ASKEW

FROM: JEANNIE BUNTON

SUBJECT: POTUS/ FIRST FAMILY / ST. ANN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 30

POTUS' PARENTS [DOROTHY WALKER AND PRESCOTT BUSH] WERE MARRIED AT ST. ANN'S ON AUG. 6, 1921. THE RIGHT REV. JOHN POYNTZ TYLER, D.D., BISHOP OF NORTH DAKOTA PERFORMED THE CEREMONY.

POTUS WAS BAPTIZED ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1924 AT ST. ANN'S CHURCH IN KENNEBUNKPORT. OFFICIATING WAS THE BISHOP OF NORTH DAKOTA, J. P. TYLER. TYLEY WAS VISITING KPORT THAT SUMMER. ELIZABETH STANLEY TROTTER SERVED AS GODPARENT.

[NOTE: BISHOP TYLER MARRIED POTUS PARENTS THEN THREE YEARS LATER BAPTIZED POTUS.] "THE BISHOP WHO MARRIED MY PARENTS -- BAPTIZED ME..."