

St. John's E-Messenger

"Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise."



Rector: The Rev. Timothy C. Eberhardt

Vestry of St. John's

Steve Eubanks, Senior Warden
Ray Mayer, Junior Warden
Susan O'Malley
Jane Eubanks
Charles Scribner
Nancy Wright
Pat Mayer, Clerk
William Arnold, Treasurer
Jane Eubanks, Receipts Treasurer



February

Phil Plumb – 1

Sam Kimball – 4

Jane Eubanks - 5

Ginny Cantlin – 13

Josh Plavin – 16

Nancy Wright – 18

Happy Anniversary
Jim and Judy Gardner
February 17

Baptism
Anna Sease - 11

A Note from Bishop Ely

“January 11, 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Please accept my apologies for this belated thank you for the contribution made by St. John's in Randolph to my discretionary fund after my visitation on October 28, 2007. Your offering only came to my attention this week.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to be with you in worship and fellowship and to share in your hospitality. I look forward to my next visit.

May God continue to bless your good works.

Faithfully,

Thomas C. Ely
Bishop of Vermont”

Episcopal Relief and Development

January 7, 2008

St. John's Episcopal Church
PO Box 278
Randolph, VT 05060-0278

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for St. John's Episcopal Church's generous contribution of \$335 to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Your gift was received on Thursday, December 06, 2007, designated for the General Fund, which helps us respond to the areas in greatest need around the world.

Your contribution to ERD helps to alleviate poverty, fight disease and responds to disasters around the world. Through your gift, the lives of vulnerable individuals, children and families are being transformed in Asia, Latin America and Africa. We partner with the worldwide church and ecumenical agencies to serve people in need.

The compassion and generosity of donors like you make it possible for us to provide communities with critical tools that restore lives today and build hope for tomorrow. This year, we will partner with more than two million people in 40 countries to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals which aim to reduce global poverty in half by 2015. Globally, ERD is committed to working with communities by supplying basic necessities after disasters, providing people with livelihood training that generates income as well as protecting children and families from illnesses such as malaria and HIV/AIDS.

You can learn more about ERD's programs on our website, www.er-d.org. To find out how you can increase your contribution through our Corporate Matching Gifts program, please call us at 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129 or visit the Ways to Give section of our website.

Your partnership with us is transforming the lives of vulnerable people worldwide.

Faithfully,

Robert W. Radtke
President

Episcopal Relief and Development is an independent 501(c)(3) organization, contributions to which are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. No good or services were provided to you by ERD in exchange for your donation.

A Ministry of the Whole Church for the Whole World

February 2008

A Message from the Rector

Dear people of St. John's,

Politics, politics, politics! With all the different candidates getting winnowed out, it's been a fun and energizing diversion for me with all the fuss about religion interjected, especially on the Republican side. Along with our religion of sports, Hollywood and Wall Street, these primary contests offer a new passion play in our American psyche.

Among some excellent commentary about what this really says about us I was pleased to notice that the Lutheran Church (ELCA) has issued an election year guideline for congregations entitled "Called to be a public Church" which reflects that denomination's (like ours) emphasis on social justice. Rather than paint any of seven areas of concern like healthcare and hunger in partisan terms, it holds these up as areas, where we all need to be informed and vocally active as followers of Christ.

It can be a tricky balance indeed when so much emotional disagreement and pious posturing can come into play around political (secular) solutions of legislation and governmental intervention. Churches should no more take or demand a particular "Christian" platform than politicians should have to profess their position because of their denominational or faith background (Catholic, evangelical, Jewish, Muslim, or atheist for that matter). Our platform is advancing the Kingdom of God and any governmental action which promotes that needs our support "to preserve creation and to build a more peaceful and just social order in a sinful world" (The Lutheran guideline).

Such questions and issues which swirl around capital punishment, wealth distribution, human sexuality, ecological stewardship, and most recently the effects of terrorism, assault us from every direction and it can be very easy to lose track of basic values of sacrifice, neighbor love and hope, underneath especially when win-lose shallow posturing can so distract and distort.

Meanwhile underneath it all, and what makes it such a vital concern for me and I hope all of us is the authority of Scripture and how that gets used. For me the rule of thumb is not what Scripture

says about anything, but how, first, it leads me and uncovers the person of Jesus Christ, and then, secondly, how he points us ahead to God and God's dream of the Kingdom. It is also what makes me a better human being and neighbor.

So, we will plug ahead, vote and act with open hearts. So too, I pray, will those who seek and hold office in this democracy. I hereby announce that I am running as a baptized witness for Jesus Christ's sake.

Amen!

Timothy C. Eberhardt

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care met Jan. 8 in the Canterbury Rm. Pat read our opening prayer. Many notes and cards had been sent since our Dec. meeting. Tim reported on several visits.

Margaret has written a note to the Delaney's from Pastoral Care on Val's retirement and vacation to Florida. The Delaney's, now living in Maine, were for many years very active in the life of St. John's.

It was noted our appreciation to Marshall and Barbara Bonney for their labors in getting the Messenger out to the parishioners.

The next meeting will be Feb. 5.

Betsy Arnold
Margaret Egerton

Tim Eberhardt
Pat Mayer

Ellie Streeter
Mary Ellen Bean

Last Epiphany

February 3

~ 8 am & 10 am Service~

Ushers: Linda Runnion

Oblations: Joan Sax

Eucharist Minister: Pay Mayer

Intercessions: Susan O'Malley

Readers: Joan Sax

Coffee Hour: Pat Lawrence

Altar Flowers: Linda Runnion

Ash Wednesday

February 6

~ 5 pm Service~

Lent 1

February 10

~ 10 am Service~

Ushers: Lee & Anna Sease

Oblations: Steve & Jane Eubanks

Eucharist Minister: Gay Gaston

Intercessions: Betsy Arnold

Readers: Lee and Anna Sease

Coffee Hour: Ellen Baker

Altar Flowers:

Lent 2

February 17

~ 8 am & 10 am Service~

Ushers: Ray & Pat Mayer

Oblations: Pat Lawrence

Eucharist Minister: Bob Sparadeo

Intercessions: Steve Eubanks

Readers: Pat Lawrence

Coffee Hour: Susan O'Malley

Altar Flowers:

Lent 3

February 24

~ 10 am Service~

Ushers: David & Gay Gaston

Oblations: Ray & Pat Mayer


Eucharist Minister: Steve Springer

Intercessions: Nancy Dubois

Readers: Ellen Baker

Coffee Hour:

Altar Flowers:



Please submit messenger contributions by Sunday, February 24th. Sunday Ministries are needed through March.

Email submissions are welcome.
rosalinda@hotsheet.com