

The Messenger

A newsletter of

St. John's Episcopal Church

Randolph, Vermont

The Rev. Timothy C. Eberhardt, Rector

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

Vestry of St. John's

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

December 2009

Advent and Christmas 2009

Advent

- Each Sunday our children will help us light the Advent candles at the beginning of worship in the front of the Church.
- December 6, we will feature a special Prayer Book celebration of Morning Prayer at 10:00 AM. (Communion from the reserved sacrament will be available for anyone who would like to receive after the service.)
- The focus of our giving is on the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. (Once “the Presiding Bishop’s Fund for World Relief). Envelopes and coin boxes are in the back of the Church.

Christmas

- This year our Christmas Eve services of the Holy Eucharist will be Thursday evening, December 24, at 5:30 PM and 11:30 PM.
- While the children are rehearsing “The Christmas Story” for the 5:30 service, a special play to go with the crèche, the choir will be singing “The Story”, a new piece by Jane Eubanks.
- Christmas is not just one day but a 12 day season before the Epiphany on January 6th. Thus 2 Sundays fall therein and there will be plenty of Christmas carols sung along the way.
- Some 110 Christmas Food Boxes will be packed as a community wide effort at St. John’s beginning at 10:00 AM on Thursday, December 17th. All are welcome to join in this ministry of caring.

Rector's Message for December

Dear people of St. John's,

Every year at our November Diocesan Convention in Burlington I duck into the Hopkins Book Shop at the Cathedral and buy my little black date book for the coming year. It will spend the rest of the year popping in and out of my back pocket at least twenty times a day with entries for everything from teeth cleaning appointments to home visits with hundreds of notations from phone numbers and mileage to quotations ("Man is born broken; he lives by healing, and the grace of God is the glue". Eugene O'Neill). I've never lost one of these date books. One of my drawers at home has at least twenty of these which chronicle all those years of ministry. Sometimes I'll have to do a title search for a lost phone number or address (was it '99 or '00?) and it always fascinates me to catch glimpses of where I've been, the names, the occasions. So much is the same, yet always changing with memories that surprise or touch forgotten sorrow.

As we get older we cling to certain patterns which anchor us – home for lunch with the noon news, Vestry meetings the second Tuesday of the month, bicycle workout at least twice a week, clergy group in Lebanon the first and third Thursday. While I'm quick to affirm that I never know what's coming on any given day, we need a certain rhythm in our lives to ward off the chaos. "9/11" hits or a death in the family, but life goes on.

In our Vestry meetings we have been reading chapters in "The Vestry Resource Guide" for reflection time together. Last night we came to the observation in chapter 4 that "people don't resist change, they resist transition", because "we can't accept letting go of that piece of ourselves that we have to give up when and because the situation has changed", and that it takes a lot of time and work. I'm still digesting what that means, but we all agreed it will surely apply to us in the transition of the coming year at St. John's. There will be a lot of work and we need to be especially sensitive to how the transition is affecting us.

Meanwhile I have dutifully been formatting my new 2010 date book with all the key addresses and phone numbers which have accumulated and remain active over these twenty-nine years. I note that Easter comes relatively early (April 4), and I have entered the Bishop's visit here on my last Sunday, August 29. After that there will be no further appointments in and around St. John's. That feels rather distantly strange and daunting. Thank God I still have saved and say that prayer one of you gave me nine years back. "Lord, keep us generous and faithful, and teach us to fear nothing but the loss of you".

Rejoicing in Christ
Timothy C. Eberhardt

St. Margaret's Guild

If you are a woman who attends St. John's, you are a member of the Guild!

Our next meeting is Sunday, January 10, 2010, following the 10 am Church service.

An agenda and budget will be put in mailboxes by the end of December. Extra copies will be in Pat Lawrence's box. If you need one mailed to you, please contact Pat Lawrence at 728-4220.

At the meeting we will elect a President and Treasurer. These are not very time consuming positions. The President calls and leads the meetings, setting the agenda. She writes a paragraph summarizing our year for the annual report. She works with the Treasurer on a proposed budget. The Treasurer keeps the checking and savings accounts, pay the bills, and gives an update twice a year to the membership, and once a year to the Church.

Please consider volunteering!!

The carpet will be cleaned in early January. We should have a date to get the kneelers redone soon.

Many thanks to all who make our Bazaar wonderful! Both women and men at St. John's contribute time and energy, and it is a real blessing to work with you all!

Pat Lawrence

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care met on December 1st with the opening prayer read. Various communications were shared regarding parishioners. We will keep close contact with those with medical problems and prayers for their wellness.

We welcomed new parishioners with Friendship bread. Gratitude was expressed for the exciting Sunday School growth and the work by the teachers.

The parish list was reviewed and will be updated.

The Pastoral Care Committee:

Betsy Arnold

Pat Mayer

Mary Ellen Bean

Tim Eberhardt

Ginny Cantlin

Ellie Streeter

Margaret Egerton

Sunday ministries

	Advent 2 Sun – Dec 6 8 and 10 am	Advent 3 Sun – Dec 13 10 am only	Advent 4 Sun – Dec 20 8 and 10 am
Eucharistic Minister	TBA	Linda Runnion	Pat Mayer
Readers	Joe Pelletier Ray Mayer	Christine Gilbert	Pat Lawrence
Ushers	Ellen Baker	Bill and Betsy Arnold	Lee and Anna Sease
Intercessions	TBA	TBA	TBA
Oblations	N/A	Mickie and Neil Richardson	TBA
Coffee Hour	Mickie Richardson	Pat Mayer	Anna Dustin

	Christmas Eve Thu – Dec 24 5:30 and 11:30	Christmas 1 Sun – Dec 27 10 am only	
Eucharistic Minister	Gay Gaston	TBA	
Readers	Children Ray Mayer	Jacqui Wilder	
Ushers	Susan O’Malley Christine Gilbert	Susan O’Malley	
Intercessions	TBA	TBA	
Oblations	TBA	TBA	TBA
Coffee Hour	Not Applicable	Mary Ellen Bean	TBA

Note – Mickie Richardson, who is assisting in scheduling persons doing Oblations, would like to get this function back on a pre-planned and pre-announced schedule. She will be asking many of you for a commitment to be put on the schedule. Please be willing.

Anniversaries

December 2009 and January 2010

Birthday

Dec 4	Tim Eberhardt	Dec 18	Cecile Smith
Dec 13	Betsy Arnold	Dec 26	David Gaston
Dec 15	Judy Gardner	Dec 28	Marcia Stone
Jan 14	Anna Sease	Jan 18	Pat Mayer
Jan 17	Elizabeth Grimaldi		

Wedding

Dec 2	Matthew Hannon and Linda Nagy
Dec 7	Ernie and Nancy Wright

Baptism

Jan 25	Cameron and Maeve Kennedy
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