

# *The Messenger*

A newsletter of

**St. John's Episcopal Church**      **Randolph, Vermont**

**April 2010**

*Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise*

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## *Rector's message*

Dear people of St. John's

While we had no formal Lenten program this year, several themes bubble up which I celebrate here with you.

First, the music. For a long stretch in the 90's St. John's had no choir and I used to say "we are all the choir". Then, Ruth Godfrey stepped up first, with our children's choir and then some of us adults. Now thanks to Steve Eubanks' rich chant settings for the psalms, that old sense of whole church participation through and beyond the hymns shines anew especially in these holy seasons like Lent and Advent. Thanks to Jane Eubanks' expert and spirited guidance our choir of course continues to flourish. It's nice to notice that along with many great anthems old and new our little band has developed a distinctly "Feast of Singing" repertoire with music arranged by our June workshop teachers, the Amidons, and by Jane herself. Parishioners of St. John's don't ever forget the gusto and spirit of the music you offer to God week after week backed by Shirley Baumann's great organ. Few churches great or small offer up such a hearty feast of praise.

Second, on behalf of us all, I thank Lee Sease and Kate Kennedy who with no hesitation stepped right up to share their work in education and justice, Lee as a School Superintendent and Kate with "Have Justice, will Travel". Their coffee hour sharing proved that true ministry starts when we head out from Church. Whether professionally, or in volunteer service there is such a wealth of caring outreach among us. Sermons may be preached, but more importantly they are lived.

Finally, we continue to celebrate the life of our Sunday School. Jennifer Curtin, with now her band of mothers, Kate, Adele, and two Beths, assisted by Gwendolyn Pelletier have given so much of themselves. For the first time in years we again have some bright young parishioners rising through the ranks who need challenging and more of us need to step up and help with their Christian formation. I have passed this need on to the Vestry as they look ahead. But if any of you adults could spend just one Sunday, for instance, during April and May with these folks around some theme or interest, please speak to me.

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I here remember how in years past when our Sunday School was quite sparse, with Naomi Sease, and Jennifer Sparadeo we literally invested in keeping this program going. Now the seeds have sprung and the fruits are showing. As with our music and our ministries, each of us needs to help with the tilling. To the glory of God!!

Rejoicing in Christ,

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Special note

Dear Father Timothy and the folks of St. John's community.

I am grateful and offer many thanks for visits, calls, flowers, prayers, delectable foods and Timothy's visits with Communion. My cup spills over and I'm truly blessed!

I'm gaining daily, God's blessings

Love, Ellie Streeter

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*The FOOD SHELF needs help badly.*

On each Sunday, if you are able, please bring a food item (non-perishable, canned or boxed goods) and place it in the box marked "FOOD SHELF ITEMS" in the hall entryway near the kitchen

Thanks, Mickie

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St. John's Episcopal Church 15 Summer Street Randolph, Vermont 05060

**The Rev. Timothy C. Eberhardt, Rector**

Vestry of St. John's

Steven Eubanks, Senior Warden  
Ray Mayer, Junior Warden  
Pat Mayer, Clerk  
William Arnold, Treasurer  
Jane Eubanks, Receipts Treasurer

Nancy Wright  
Susan O'Malley  
Linda Nagy  
Ellen Baker

Delegate to 2010 Diocesan Convention –  
Ellen Baker, Pat Mayer, Susan O'Malley

Alternate delegates –  
Steve Eubanks, Nancy Wright, Jackie Wilder

Phone 802-728-9910 mail address: P.O. Box 278 Randolph, VT 05060-0278

Our website <http://stjohnsrandolphvt.org>

## *Transition Process/Progress*

Over the past several months Vestry members have been responding to a variety of questions related to Timothy's retirement and what this means for St. John's parishioners. Many of us have not experienced a transition of this nature before and are feeling anxiety. Hoping to reduce this anxiety, keep everyone apprised of the process and, our own progress, the vestry will provide parishioners with monthly updates in the Messenger beginning with the current issue.

The good news is; we are well ahead of schedule with respect to necessary tasks to be completed in the transition process. In the past two years we did a self study ( you remember that) and developed what we believe to be an accurate parish profile. Because we had the luxury of time we learned and discerned a lot about ourselves in the process. This will serve us well as we proceed. Next, we must assure you that we are not alone in this journey. We have wonderful support. Let me tell you about it.

After church on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Vestry met with Susan Ohlidal and Laura Hunter from the diocese. Susan has been working with us for about two years now providing us with her wisdom and guidance as we entered this transition period. Laura now joins us and will continue to be with us as our companion to help us navigate the transitional waters. Both these wonderful people assured us that this is a time of opportunity and encouraged us to embrace it. They also cautioned us to expect some bumps along the way and that this is normal. However, the emphasis throughout was, "we are here for you" and you will be fine. Focus on the here and now. But now, to clarify the process for you.

For the months immediately following Timothy's retirement we will have supply clergy with us every Sunday. Remember, when Tim was on sabbatical we had supply clergy. Our Sr. Warden has already secured one retired clergyman to act in that capacity and is in the process of securing more. Following that period the diocese will send us an interim priest who will be with us for one or two years as we prepare ourselves and search for our new rector. Interim clergy have special training for this very special position at such a critical time.

During this period of transition and discernment the vestry wants to keep everyone as fully informed as possible. To this end, after the spring financial update meeting as promised at the annual meeting, there will be a Q&A period dealing with transitional concerns.

We hope this has been helpful.

On behalf of the Vestry,

Peace

Susan

## *St. John's Vestry Report*

The February 2010 meeting of St. John's Vestry, on February 9<sup>th</sup>, began at 7 PM with readings from various sources of John 14.

Present were: Tim Eberhardt, Ellen Baker, Steve Eubanks, Ray Mayer, Linda Nagy, Susan O'Malley, Nancy Wright and Pat Mayer.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and accepted as written with one minor change.

**ANNUAL MEETING CHECK-IN:** Thirty eight (38) were in attendance. The pictures taken that day by Matt Hannon with his camera as well as Steve's were wonderful. The gathering was very positive, largely due in part to the Narrative Budget formulated and presented by Steve and professionally printed. Lincoln Clark has volunteered to help capture the number of volunteer hours given with the Parish along with the hours given by parishioners in the community.

**TRANSITION CHAPTER 6 VESTRY HANDBOOK:** None of the information in this chapter applies to retiring clergy. Lynn Bates will be in charge of deployment. We hope to map out steps with Susan Ohlidal and Laura Hunter at the appropriate time before Tim's departure. (For readers who are not familiar with these names, Lynn Bates is Canon to the Ordinary for the Vermont Diocese, Susan Ohlidal is a Ministry Developer and Laura Hunter is a Companion Minister, for the Diocese.) There was discussion around obtaining a supply clergy list, which is needed for coverage beginning the first Sunday in September (Sept 5) until the time an Interim Priest is assigned. There will be many questions for Susan at the Vestry meeting on Sunday, March 7. An exit or pre assessment checklist will need to be completed over the next few months as well.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ray will talk to the "pros" about a new toilet and options for one bathroom. Our sexton has asked not to be responsible for purchasing cleaning and paper supplies. Pat offered to contact White River Paper supply to explore purchasing from them, as was done in the past. The copy machine is on a limited life. Magee is sending a salesman to assist with information regarding our needs and whether to purchase or lease. UTO (United Thank Offering) for Lent, both coin boxes and envelopes are available – these funds are for the use on Episcopal Domestic projects such as orphanages, soup kitchens, etc. This has been known as the Church Women United.

Much appreciation was noted for the Treasurer's report, which now includes page numbers. The report was accepted with a few minor questions.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 7, 2010 after coffee hour.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Mayer, Clerk of the Vestry

*Pastoral Care committee*

**Our committee members**

**Betsy Arnold  
Margaret Egerton**

**Tim Eberhardt  
Mary Ellen Bean  
Pat Mayer**

**Ginny Cantlin  
Ellie Streeter**

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**St Margaret's Guild (all the women who attend St. John's)**

**The St. Margaret's Guild will be having a BAKE SALE on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 am to NOON.**

**Please bake and/or come and buy!**

**A raffle of a really nice picnic basket, filled with Easter and Springtime items will be held that day. The basket is in the kitchen, please contribute if you can. Linda Runnion will have raffle tickets.**

**POTLUCK DINNER – meet Friday, April 16 at 6 pm in the parish hall, bring a dish to share.**

**AGENDA – fun and fellowship!**

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*Correspondence from Heifer International*

**To our Sunday School**

**I want to thank you for giving so generously through the Heifer International with your gift of \$200. Your gift to Heifer is another opportunity to help a family lift themselves out of poverty and begin a journey toward a brighter future.**

**When you support a family in need, you are actually helping an entire community. With Heifer's unique cornerstone of Passing on the Gift, each recipient family becomes a donor just like you, by passing on the gift of their animal's first offspring and training to another family in their community.**

**Your gift keeps on giving – providing a sustainable source of food, income and opportunity to more and more families. It's no exaggeration to say that we couldn't do our work without you! Thank you very much for your support.**

**Sincerely,**

**Jo Luck,  
President**

## Anniversaries April 2010

### Birthday

Apr 4                      Jim Gilbert

### >>>>>REQUEST FOR HELP<<<<<<<<<

**The yard needs to be raked on Saturday, April 24. Please arrive between 9 and 10 am. We chose this date so as not to conflict with “Green Up Vt”.**

### *Sunday ministries*

|                             | Sun – Apr 4<br>Easter Day<br>8 and 10 am | Sun – Apr 11<br>Easter 2<br>10 am only | Sun – Apr 18<br>Easter 3<br>8 and 10 am | Sun – Apr 25<br>Easter 4<br>10 am only | Sun – May 2<br>Easter 5<br>8 and 10 am |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Eucharistic Minister</b> | Pat Mayer                                | Ray Mayer                              | Gay Gaston                              | Steve Eubanks                          | Bob Sparadeo                           |
| <b>Readers</b>              | Jane and Steve Eubanks                   | Gay Gaston                             | Neil Richardson                         | Linda Runnion                          |  |
| <b>Ushers</b>               | Susan O’Malley                           | Ellen Baker                            | Nancy Wright                            | Betsy and Bill Arnold                  |  |
| <b>Intercessions</b>        | Ray Mayer                                | Pat Mayer                              | Mickie Richardson                       | Louise Clark                           |  |
| <b>Oblations</b>            | Betsy and Bill Arnold                    | Mickie + Neil Richardson               | Nancy Dubois<br>Mickie Richardson       | Linda Nagy<br>Pat Lawrence             |  |
| <b>Coffee Hour</b>          | Ellen Baker<br>Linda Runnion             | Carol Merrill                          | Pat Lawrence                            | Ellen Baker                            |  |

### *Our Muslim Brethen*

**We will have an opportunity to have a meeting with a spokesman of the Islamic Society of Vermont and hear him explain Islam, The Qur’an, the H’adeeth of the prophet Muhammad, and more. He is long time resident of Vermont, but originally from Nazareth.**

**There will be more details about this opportunity in the coming weeks.**

Neil