

The Messenger

A newsletter of

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

December 2010

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

Sr. Warden's Message

“Drop down, ye heavens, from above and let the skies pour forth righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.” Advent versicle – Rorate coeli, Isaiah 45:8

We live in the age of instantaneity; of the immediate, the now. Life happens in nanoseconds and clicks. We are all connected—constantly and continuously. The distances across the globe which generations ago required days, weeks and months to cross is now circumnavigated in the blink of an eye.

Now, don't misunderstand me—there's a lot that's good about this, but there's a lot that requires thought, deliberation and evolution. Has the rate of our technological growth exceeded our capacity to fully understand it? Has our ability to speedily acquire and our fascination for what's novel outpaced our ability to register the implication of our actions? We want (it)now, and we'll consider what that means later...when we have the time.

Last Sunday we began the season of Advent. The word Advent comes from the Latin for “arrival”, or “to come”. It's also associated with the Greek word, parousia, typically referring to the Second Coming of Christ. It is a season of expectation and anticipation, of watching and waiting. For the birth of a lowly infant as answer to a demand for a armed Messiah to lead the Jewish people out of bondage—certainly a response unexpected. For the return of a judging Saviour to a people who celebrate an empty abundance without realization or acknowledgement of those true gifts so readily overlooked. Will we be similarly surprised?

Perhaps there's both blessing and gift in the time spent watching and waiting. An opportunity to listen, not to Christmas carols played at the end of October, or the advertising blitz of the merchants the day after Thanks...giving. But to the silence of the continual grace that pours down from heaven each and every day. To the love and kindness offered by the person you didn't even know, and the ability to share that love and kindness with each other. To the common humanity of all of Christ's children throughout that increasingly smaller sphere we call Earth. To the realization that everything we do, each moment of our lives has myriad implications throughout God's creation.

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(Sr. Warden's Message, continued)

To live **THIS** moment, not the next. To watch and wait in grateful anticipation of a miracle which only God, in God's own time, can provide.

Advent blessings,

+Steve

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

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 –
Steve Eubanks, Nancy Wright, Jackie Wilder**

**Alternate delegates –
Ellen Baker, Pat Mayer, Susan O'Malley**

**Phone 802-728-9910 mail address: P.O. Box 278 Randolph, VT 05060-0278
Our website <http://stjohnsrandolphvt.org>**

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee met on November 9th in the Canterbury Room with Mickie reading our prayer. Mickie then read a poem "The Summons".

Reports were shared of contacts made, the hope that the Prayer Chain would be re-established. Note was made of Mickie's monthly visit to the Joslyn House and notes to those parishioners who have been absent and missed. Several were remembered with birthday cards. It was a busy, lively meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 4, 2011.

**Betsy Arnold
Ginny Cantlin**

**Ellie Streeter
Mickie Richardson**

**Pat Mayer
Beth Pelletier**

Transition Update

Submitted on November 20, 2010

Since the last update, the Vestry has met four times, twice with our Transition Companion, Laura Hunter. In that time we put together a possible compensation package for an Interim Rector, identified and prioritized tasks expected of the Interim Rector and identified the amount of time required to perform these tasks. All of this was done using the 2009 narrative budget as a guideline. The Diocese will use this information to match our needs with the skills of Interim candidates. We are currently in the process of completing the information package needed by the Diocese to locate compatible Interim candidates. Laura tells us that our next step will be to form a Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC).

Wishing you all a safe and blessed Holiday season in Christ's name,

Your Vestry

A reminder from your Vestry !!

Help your Vestry plan for next year—It's not too late to send in your pledge commitment for 2011! Please feel free to return your completed form to Receipts Treasurer, Jan Eubanks at church or at 2299 Stony Brook Rd, Stockbridge, VT 05772. If you did not receive a form or need a new one, please contact any Vestry member.

“Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting. Amen.”

St Margaret's Guild

We will meet in January to approve a budget and elect officers. A treasurer is needed. Anyone with requests/suggestions for our budget should tell Pat Lawrence, Anna Sease or Linda Runion.

Marry and Blessed Christmas

Sunday Bulletin Announcements

For the foreseeable future, if you have announcements, meeting times or any other items you would like to appear in the Sunday Bulletin, please leave them in the appropriate shelf above the desk, in the work room office by each Thursday afternoon. If you are not able to get to the office please call me or e-mail me with anything you'd like to share. Our home phone is 802-276-3372 and my e-mail is pat@hearthlink.com.

Thank you all for helping to make this flow well.

On behalf of the Worship committee
Pat Mayer

Intercessions Prayers and Thanksgivings

When you have concerns or prayers for the Intercessions shared in Sunday Service please let me know so they may be added to the list. As always, last minute items may be written in for the Intercessor on Sunday mornings. These may also be left in the office or you may call me at 276-3372.

Thank you so much,

Pat Mayer

Event at St. John's Hall

Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 7 pm at St. John's Hall there will be a showing of the film

Sacred Space Denied: Bethlehem and the Wall

The film is approximately 30 minutes in length and will be followed by a discussion.

Refreshments will be served.

Please note – the Outreach Committee, Nancy Wright and Pat Lawrence, is looking for more members.

PRAYER CHAIN

Are you interested in being a part of this valuable Ministry? Call Mary Smokoski at 728-5660 with ANY questions and/or if you are interested in being a part of this group.

Anniversaries November 2010

Birthdays:

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| Dec 13 | Betsy Arnold | Dec 18 | Cecile Smith |
| Dec 15 | Judy Gardner | Dec 26 | David Gaston |
| | | Dec 28 | Marcia Stone |

Wedding:

Dec 2 **Matthew Hannon & Linda Nagy**

Sunday ministries

| | Eucharistic Minister | Reader | Ushers |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Dec 5 10 am | Ray Mayer | Mickie and Neil R | Christine Gilbert |
| Dec 12 10 am | Gay Gaston | Jane Eubanks | Pat and Ray Mayer |
| Dec 19 10 am | Steve Eubanks | Linda Runnion | Nancy Wright, Mickie R |
| Dec 24 5 pm | Mickie Richardson | Children Pageant | Susan O'Malley |
| Dec 26 10 am | ----- | Pat and Ray Mayer | Susan O'Malley |
| Jan 2 10 am | Linda Runnion | | |
| | Oblations | Intercessions | Coffee Hour |
| Dec 5 10 am | Ellen Baker, Phil Plumb | Pat Mayer | Susan O'Malley |
| Dec 12 10 am | Carol and Ken Merrill | Louise Clark | Louise Clark |
| Dec 19 10 am | Pat and Ray Mayer | Neil Richardson | Mickie Richardson |
| Dec 24 5 pm | Bill Arnold, Neil R | ----- | >>None<< |
| Dec 26 10 am | ----- | ----- | >>None<< |

>>FOOD SHELF ITEMS<<

Please remember non-perishable food items for the Food Shelf as often as you can. The need is exceptionally high at this time.

Thanks, Mickie