

The Messenger

A newsletter of

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

March 2010

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

Rector's message

Dear People of St. John's,

Thanks to one of those brief after Church conversations the suggestion was made that we at St. John's should encourage and equip ourselves to help the family out in case of our death with some appropriate suggestions for our burial. Thus, as in too many cases, the family will not be left having to start from scratch at a time when (A) no one's quite prepared for all this sudden and necessary planning, and (B) no one quite wants to be in charge. Since that is an excellent idea I have included a work sheet on a separate page and will open a file here at St. John's. Keep a copy for yourself and discuss it with the rest of the family.

I make just a few observations here first:

- The Prayer Book makes some specific and important requirements (on page 468 or 490), such as that the death be reported immediately and arrangements be made with the full involvement of the "Minister of the Church", and that any baptized person is "properly buried from the Church".

- Above all, please don't tell folks that you don't want a funeral. Remember that it's not you, but it is the Church, the community that wants and needs to grieve and celebrate your life. Unless there are specific conditions which the family understands, such a wish can tie a family in a painful knot indeed.

- By the same token, you are here only making helpful suggestions. The family with the Church will be the ones celebrating your life and they may have some even better more appropriate ideas.

- And, again by the same token, please don't saddle your family with unreasonable demands (so and so must sing or preside, ashes over the Atlantic, the old Prayer Book, etc.) You are only trying to be helpful.

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(Rector's Message from Page 1)

- If you are a communicant say of St. John's urge the family to include the Eucharist. Nothing makes a more appropriate witness of faith and hope at Christian Burials whether those attending will be largely Episcopalians or not.
- My thought for families is always that "we do not eulogize at funerals, but if there's some theme or passion in his or her life that will teach or inspire faithful living in us the survivors, then it can and certainly should be woven in the homily". Thus help them and the priest out with any thoughts about the adventures of your life which give color and shape to the person you have and are trying to be.
- A final thought: While customs are changing around cremation and ashes, I strongly urge folks to have a cemetery or at least a fixed site where the generations may visit and say "this was my great grandparent. Look, he died two years after I was born and the family moved to Vermont, etc."

Yours in the resurrection faith

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 –
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>

Lent 2010

For the 33rd year, Bethany Church is hosting ecumenical breakfasts on Wednesdays during Lent. We gather at 7 am to enjoy wonderful food until 7:30 and then listen to a local clergy person speak until 7:50.

The speakers are:

March 3 - Tim Eberhardt, St. John's Episcopal Church

March 10 – Doug Cameron, East Braintree Church

March 17 – George Sweet, Baptist Fellowship

March 24 – Neil Carr, Pond Village Brookfield Church

March 31 – Ron Rilling, Green Mountain Gospel Church

Altar Guild needs help !!

We need volunteers to tend to the Altar for services in July (normally only two weeks) and for the month of December. If you can do this duty please contact Anna Sease

Report on Visit to the Holy Land with Sabeel Witness Trip

On Tuesday, MARCH 23 at 7 pm, at BETHANY CHURCH, Roger Bourassa will share his experiences of his recent visit to the holy land as part of a group tour sponsored by Sabeel, an organization of Christian Palestinians.

Many of you will no doubt remember Roger as having been a school superintendent here in Randolph a few years ago.

The event is jointly sponsored by St. John's and Bethany Church

Annual Diocesan Lenten Silent Retreat

March 5-7, 2010 at Bishop Booth Conference and Retreat Center –
Rock Point, Burlington, VT

Retreat leader – Phyllis Bristow-Johnson, M.Div

For additional information contact John King 802-862-6834

Pastoral Care committee report – February 2010

Pastoral care met informally by being in contact with one another. A few cards had been sent and phone calls made.

Notepaper with the photo of our Easter altar is being made. These are to be used by our committee for words of concerns and joys.

Our committee members

Betsy Arnold
Margaret Egerton

Tim Eberhardt
Mary Ellen Bean
Pat Mayer

Ginny Cantlin
Ellie Streeter

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

Linda and Marcia provided a lovely coffee, which tasted even better in the lovely tea cups!

Anna Sease, Louise Clark, Linda Runnion and Pat Lawrence agreed to be our executive committee, with Pat keeping the records.

The seasonal BAKE SALE is planned for SATURDAY APRIL 3 (the day before Easter Sunday) from 9 am to noon in the parish hall. Our usual wonderful cakes, candies, breads, Easter treats will be sold.

A SPRINGTIME BASKET full of springtime and Easter goodies will be raffled. Donations of garden and spring related items are needed. Think seeds, gardening gloves, bunnies, Easter treats, etc.! There will be a box in the kitchen for items for the basket.

In honor and memory of Ernie Wright we will be putting money into energy efficiency items for the Church. We are also planning on buying a bookcase for the rest of *Burt Ulrich's* books. We will have the kneelers recovered with the carpet leftover from the runner, and pay for the Easter lilies and poinsettias (being reimbursed from parishioners). We are going to investigate replacing the leading and perhaps putting an inside window to prevent heat loss in the window above the Church entry. We will continue to buy candles, sanctuary lights and linens for the Church.

We planned a POTLUCK DINNER for the Guild, on Friday, April 16 at 6 pm. There is NO meeting agenda, other than fun, food, and fellowship for that evening!

Gay Gaston will be working on replacing our yard sale with a flea market this summer.

We will meet in September to plan our December 4 Bazaar.

Pat Lawrence

We received the following letter from the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

February 1, 2010

The Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, Treasurer and Congregation of St. John's Episcopal Church

Dear people of St. John's Episcopal Church

On behalf of the Diocesan Council and those of us charged with the responsibility for oversight of the Diocesan Budget, we want to thank you for contributing your full financial share (assessment) to the common ministry of our Diocesan Budget. In this time of significant economic stress, this commitment is even more evidence of our mutual commitment to one another in the Diocese of Vermont. We can report that due to the strong parish support of our Diocesan Budget, we were able to finish 2009 with a slight surplus.

As you know, we have made significant reductions in the salary and benefit lines for 2010, as well as other expense reductions in order to maintain a balanced budget. Your continued strong and full support of the budget will help us maintain that fiscal commitment to a balanced budget. We know that the financial challenges you face at the congregational level are as significant as those we face at the diocesan level, which is one more reason to applaud your good effort to carry your fair share of our Diocesan Budget.

May your life and ministry as a faith community continue strong in this coming year.

Faithfully,

(signed)

**Thomas C. Ely
Bishop of Vermont**

**Wallace H. Goode, Jr.
Diocesan Treasurer**

**Julie Giguere
Financial Administrator**

Report of our donations for Haiti

**Our drive for donations for Haiti through the Diocese began Sunday January 17, 2010.
Total amount raised was \$1,070.36.**

Our Sunday School fundraising for the Heifer Project

The Sunday School raised \$196.83 for the Heifer Project.

Anniversaries March 2010

Birthday

Mar 9	Neil Richardson	Mar 25	Harry Plavin
Mar 14	Louise Clark	Mar 25	Kate Mayer
Mar 21	Alex Gilbert	Mar 27	Joan Sax
Mar 22	Bill Arnold		

Baptism

Mar 29 **Betsy Arnold**

Sunday ministries

	Sun – Mar 7 Lent 3 8 and 10 am	Sun – Mar 14 Lent 4 10 am only	Sun – Mar 21 Lent 5 8 and 10 am	Sun – Mar 28 Palm Sunday 10 am only	Sun – Apr 4 Easter Day 8 and 10 am
Eucharistic Minister	Bob Sparadeo	Mickie Richardson	Linda Runnion	Christine Gilbert	Pat Mayer
Readers	Gay Gaston	Christine Gilbert	Christine Gilbert	Anna and Lee Sease	Jane and Steve Eubanks
Ushers	Pat and Ray Mayer	Dave and Gay Gaston	Anna and Lee Sease	Susan O'Malley	Susan O'Malley
Intercessions	Lee Sease	Neil Richardson	TBA	Mickie Richardson	Ray Mayer
Oblations	Betsy and Bill Arnold	Mickie and Neil Richardson	Nancy Dubois Nancy Wright	Mickie and Neil Richardson	Betsy and Bill Arnold
Coffee Hour	Louise Clark	Mary Ellen Bean	Judy Gardner	Anna Sease	Ellen Baker Linda Runnion

Some thoughts about my funeral

Name _____ Date _____

Overall

If I die this is the Church I want you to contact: _____
(They have this form on file : yes _____ no _____)

I have made arrangements with (funeral home) _____

My burial plot is (or I would like to be buried in) _____
(These arrangements have been made _____)

My arrangements/preference is: for coffin _____ for cremation _____

As for Christian Burial

The following might make good pallbearers: _____

Fitting prelude music might be: _____

Fitting postlude music might be: _____

My preference would be for a "Rite 1" service _____ or a "Rite II" service _____

Communion would be fitting: yes _____ no _____

Some hymns I think would be good: _____

Some Scripture (Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament with Gospel) I would choose
might be: _____

Some things about my life that, if shared, might teach or inspire others:

