

The Messenger

A newsletter of

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

November 2010

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

Sr. Warden's Message

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" 2 Corinthians 9:11

Grace, Gratitude, Generosity

One day a young man went to visit his old grandfather. He was surprised to find his grandfather in the backyard planting a small peach tree. The boy knew it would take many, many years for the peach tree to grow up big enough that it would give peaches. If his grandfather wanted peaches, the young man wondered, why didn't he just go to the store and buy some. That would be so much faster. Finally, after watching his grandfather work for a long time at planting the peach tree, the young man asked, "Grandfather, why are you planting a peach tree?" His grandfather answered, "Son, all of my life I have eaten the peaches off of trees that other people have planted. Now it is my turn to plant a tree that someone else can enjoy."

It has been two months since we have begun this next part of our Parish journey --and we have indeed been blessed during that time. The Reverends Pete Kelsey and Stewart Pierson have graced our church services for the past eight weeks, and a devoted group of stalwarts have helped continue the transition dialog in five post-Coffee Hour sessions, sharing those pieces of our parish life and ministries most important to them, along with some new ideas and suggestions to consider. Our Sunday school program is off to a roaring start. A faithful and committed crew continues to attend to the daily functions of the Parish. The Vestry has risen to the occasion and has put in yeoman's service leading St. John's through this time of transition and identifying those priorities most needing attention by our future Interim Rector. Though understandably a bit subdued and sometimes a bit overwhelmed, the family that is St. John's continues to be a vital and nurturing community of faith for each other and the community beyond.

And now, as we prepare for All Saints, remember that St. John's has been blessed by the saints present among us and those who have gone on to new callings both in this realm and the next. And if applying the term saints so close to home sometimes fits uncomfortably,

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(Sr. Warden's Message, continued)

then let's call each one of their acts of generosity, small gems of grace--of favors unasked and often undeserved, but gifts nonetheless. St. John's is indeed grace-filled, and well.

This year's fall pledge commitment drive centers around the theme of "Grace, Gratitude and Generosity"; the notion that our profound sense of thankfulness stems from the abundance of grace reflected by those gems--throughout our church community and in our lives. And hearts full of grace and gratitude cannot but help but to respond in the thankfulness of kindness and generosity. As the parish of St. John's prepares to meet all the challenges of a transition-filled 2011 through the ministries God calls us to perform, it is time we, as stewards of this Grace, plant that tree anew.

Peace,

Steve.

St Margaret's Guild

Our big event coming up is the **BAZAAR** on *Saturday December 4*. at St. John's hall. The following report is getting "top billing" in this month's Messenger.

The countdown to our BAZAAR has begun! We are hoping each parish family will contribute something to as many tables as you can.

TRINKETS and TREASURES needs your *gently* used items. Please price them if you can (nothing below 25 cents. If you have something that small, put it with something else at 2 or 3 for 25 cents).

PENNY SOCIAL would like new items for all ages for the table. Remember, adults *and* kids like to play!

FOOD: all your lovely baked goodies are needed! Please price your food if you can.

CRAFTS: craft items from small to large are wanted. Please price them. Jane has a pattern for pillowcases and fabric for aprons. Check out the boxes on the table for supplies you might need.

WREATHS: we will begin decorating on Monday Nov 29 at 9 am. All welcome! We will be wiring pine cones in the weeks before. Decorations always welcome!

GIFT BASKETS: items needed by **NOVEMBER 6**. We do theme baskets: bath, kitchen, kid's cooking, tea party (adult or kids), etc. Needed: individual packages of teas, coffees, hot cocoa, muffin mix, pretty mugs, wine glasses, candles, bath items, etc!!!

VERMONT PRODUCTS BASKET: we need syrup, honey, mixes, chips, anything made in Vermont!

NEW THIS YEAR: Jane Eubanks has purchased some nice packaging for our baked goodies. She has a variety of sizes. Also, she has some nice tags for our crafts and baked goods. Please ask her about them!

Do you have craft supplies languishing at home? We started a table for items to be used for the bazaar. Give and take as needed!

We will have raffle tickets for the Vermont basket in November to sell.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13, at 9 am

WE WILL MEET TO MAKE MILKWEED POD STARS AND ORNAMENTS AND BEGIN RIBBONS FOR THE WREATHS. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! If you have dried flowers, small trim, a glue gun, or other items that we could use, please let Pat Lawrence know and bring them. Muffins and coffee will be served.

FOOD SHELF ITEMS – OCTOBER 31 (Sunday)

To mark All Saint’s Day (November 1) please bring in items for the food shelf on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31. Let’s see if we can fill many boxes to help our neighbors!

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.

“Flocking birds remind us of the need for shared comforts on the journey”

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>**

Transition Update

On September 26th, an All-Parish meeting was held after worship services with Lynn Bates, Cannon for the Ordinary and Minister for Transition, companion Laura Hundter, and St. John's parishioners.

Lynn opened the meeting with praise for work already completed in our transition process. She assured us that emotions are "OK", that we are in power and must listen to "what God is calling St. John's to be about". Continuing, she outlined the process as follows:

- **The Vestry is in charge and will determine what we are looking for in an interim matching gifts and skills and makes a final decision. (Lynn already has 4-5 names of possible interims who have shown interest in St. John's). The Interim has special training for this position and no matter how much we like him/her or vice versa that individual cannot continue on as a permanent rector. While the Interim is with us the Vestry will continue to conduct the business of the Church while the Interim ministers to the spiritual needs of congregants.**
- **Next, A Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC), representing the diversity of the congregation will be formed with representatives from the congregation and no more than two Vestry members. This committee is the equivalent of a search committee. The MDC identifies what God is calling us to become. Once a profile is drafted, Lynn meets with the Bishop and the MDC to determine if it (the Parish Profile) is complete. The profile must clearly show our relationship with the diocese.**
- **The completed profile is posted on our website; and a date is set for receiving names of interested candidates.**
- **All names are collected and screened by Lynn's office. The MDC listens to the Holy Spirit and makes a recommendation for the final Candidates. This then goes to the Vestry for a decision and, lastly, approval by the Bishop.**

In closing Lynn shared with us the outline of a new pilot program known as "New Dreams, New Visions". This program essentially calls for a two year trial period which could lead to a permanent rector. According to the guidelines, the participating priest must be retired and either 55 or older or have 30 years experience and is matched with a vital congregation. St. John's meets this criteria as a vital congregation. The Vestry is currently exploring such a relationship.

On Tuesday, October 19th, the Vestry meets with Companion Laura Hunter, to discuss our next step. Stay tuned for the results of this meeting.

Your Vestry

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee met on October 5 in the Canterbury Room. Opening prayer was read by Ellie. There was a brief summary of cards, calls and well wishes. Friendship bread was given to newcomers, Eric and Melissa Sturm.

Plans were made to reinstate our parish prayer chain. It was felt that the lack of a prayer chain left a void in Parish life. Mary Smokoski will head this important function.

Beth suggested handmade birthday cards and will explore this project.

Thank you

Betsy Arnold
Ginny Cantlin

Ellie Streeter
Mickie Richardson

Pat Mayer
Beth Pelletier

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

“Embracing an Adult Faith” – A Study Program by Marcus Borg

We now have received the DVD and booklets for a five session study on “What it means to be Christian” – a study program developed by Marcus Borg.

The five sessions are scheduled to be held in the Canterbury Room at 10:00 am on the following Fridays:

Nov 5, Nov 12, Nov 19 (not Thanksgiving week) Dec 3, Dec 10

Please note – we are considering rescheduling the series again for evening study some time after the Christmas-New Year holidays.

At St. John’s hall, Wednesday, November 10th at 7 pm

“Non-Violence in Islam and Christianity – A Dialogue”

Featuring Imam Raishaid Omar, research scholar of Islamic studies and peace building at Notre Dame University, who received his Doctorate in religious studies at Capetown University and Father Drew Christianson, Society of Jesus, a consultant with the American Catholic Bishops and the Holy See in matters of Peace and the Middle East.

We will view this program that was presented at St. Michael’s College, Burlington VT in March 2010

Refreshments will be served

Anniversaries November 2010

Birthdays:

Nov 1	Emiline Pelletier	Nov 11	Gay Gaston
Nov 1	Maeve Kennedy	Nov 15	Myrt Seymour
Nov 6	Barbara Bonney	Nov 29	Beth Osha
Nov 8	Linda Runnion		

Baptisms:

Nov 2	Harrison Plavin	Nov 14	Lee Sease
Nov 2	Oliver Plavin		

Sunday ministries

All services in November are at 10 am

	Eucharistic Minister	Reader	Ushers
Nov 7	Mickie Richardson	Linda Runnion	Betsy and Bill Arnold
Nov 14	Linda Runnion	Jane Eubanks	Anna and Lee Sease
Nov 21	Christine Gilbert	Anna and Lee Sease	Ellen Baker
Nov 28	Pat Mayer	Ellen Baker	Susan O'Malley
	Oblations	Intercessions	Coffee Hour
Nov 7	Lincoln and Louise Clark	Linda Nagy	Carol Merrill
Nov 14	Pat Lawrence-Nancy Wright	Mickie Richardson	Anna Sease
Nov 21	Mickie and Neil Richardson	Gay Gaston	Pelletier Family
Nov 28	>>OPEN<<	Joe Pelletier	Ellen Baker
	Flowers		
Nov 7	Beth Osha		
Nov 14	Jim Gardner		
Nov 21	Anna and Lee Sease		
Nov 28	---None--		