

The Messenger

A newsletter of

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

October 2010

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

A note from our friend Tim Eberhardt

Dear people of St. John's,

As I commented to Bishop Thomas (a Yankee's fan), the lines of Joe DiMaggio keep coming back to me, with a catch in his throat, "I am the luckiest man on earth". In my case it's not luck. It's the blessing of that whole liturgy on the 29th with his words at the heart of it all, then the many graces of the music, the faces, the warmth and astounding generosity of you all at that reception at the Inn which the St. Margaret's Guild put together. Your gift of \$4,700 adds only dreamed about possibilities for our new home on Braintree Hill.

I have been blessed by each of you which I feel every time I explore your faces in that magnificent picture book which Steve put together and which I will pore through for the rest of my life. You are there, and I can literally feel the grace of so much love, so many adventures. What a wonderful congregation! What wonderful you!! Thanks be to God! Thank You!

**Yours in Christ,
Tim**

Sr. Warden's Message

"When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us."

- Alexander Graham Bell

This certainly is a moment of "in-betweeness", of anxiety, of change, of some things not

(Sr. Warden's Message, continued)

being familiar or comfortable and not well defined. It's a moment between remembering and imagining. It's that moment when you pick up your foot to begin the next step of a new journey, but before you've placed it on that new path. A moment between two doors.

Before moving to Vermont and leaving the comfort of a stable government job Jane had given me a paperweight, a rectangular ingot of some metal; substantial, weighty and simple. Its inscription reads, "What would you attempt if you knew you could not fail?" The paperweight was given to me at a time when I was not at all sure of the wisdom of the new journey I felt compelled to take. With the benefit of hindsight eight years later, was my choice wise? I think so, but more assuredly it was definitely inevitable – it needed to be done. The question posed by the inscription is valuable. It demands acknowledgement of the role fear of failure plays in how one pursues one's dreams, goals and aspirations.

What about applying this question to our lives here at St. John's? What latent fears does each of us have here? In our new journey, there certainly are a lot of new opportunities for all of us – new roles, new responsibilities, new callings, new faith. Maybe they're not all new, maybe some are "re-new-als". As we begin to imagine ourselves on this new journey, what holds us back? What prevents us from becoming what we dream to be? What prevents us from becoming what we are called to be? If many of our fears stem from a sense of possible failure – what constitutes a failure in a community of faith, or as a person of faith? Will we fail to meet our own expectations, the expectations of others, of God?

Part of why we gather as a community of faith is because God's expectations are supposed to be more important than our own or those of the person sitting next to us in the pew. After all, if we could meet the fullness of God's expectations for us, how could we or anyone else complain? If we accept that on faith for a moment, what does it mean to fail God?

OK. Fair enough. We all fail Him continuously - that's pretty much a given. But through Grace, we're also forgiven. God allows us to pick ourselves up, brush ourselves off, and vow to do better to follow Christ as our example. So, what's to stop us from becoming what God calls us to be? Ourselves, our pride, our own will? The ultimate failure is that which separates us from the love of God – and even that we have been forgiven, all we have to do is accept. If we can but remember that nothing we can or can't do can separate us from God's love, there's nothing that can stop us from attempting the impossible and becoming all that God calls us to be. And if we all realize that the same is true for each one of us, and in Christ's example help each other in that realization, then the Kingdom of God can't be far on our journey

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>

A Big Huge Thank You!!!

We really know how to throw a party, and I need to thank all who made Father Tim and Mary Ellen's reception the perfect celebration that it was.

From the very first planning meeting we had I could tell everyone would do all the work for me and you did. Each and every aspect was taken care of with much love and perfection. Thank you all and I know Tim and Mary Ellen thank you also.

Ellen Baker

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee met September 14 in the Canterbury Room. We welcomed Beth Pelletier to the group. Our prayer was read followed by a general review since our August meeting.

Several thank you notes were sent. A special thank you to Sandy Malanchuk for the lovely bouquets on the many tables at Tim's farewell gathering. The special music at Tim's celebration for his years as Rector at St. John's was truly magnificent. Our gratitude to Jane and the choir for their tireless effort was noted.

Please share any joys, concerns, etc. with us.

Thank you

Betsy Arnold
Ginny Cantlin

Ellie Streeter
Mickie Richardson

Pat Mayer
Beth Pelletier

NEW WORLD FESTIVAL

Thank you Thank you Thank you

Once again the New World Festival was a wonderful event for Randolph, with memories to last another year. The great success of the sale of grilled cheese sandwiches along with close to 100 fabulous pies is due to the generosity of all of St. John's family, with our final tally this year coming in at \$1,428.60. None of this would have been possible without the generous donations of pies, sandwiches and hours of time from all of you! This was St. John's most successful year to date and we are so grateful!!

The St. John's Heavenly Pie Committee - Ellen, Linda, Pat and Pat

St Margaret's Guild and Altar Guild

The St Margaret's Guild meeting will be Saturday morning, October 9 at 9 am. The meeting will finalize our December 4 Bazaar plans. If you cannot attend please talk to Anna, Linda or Pat Lawrence.

The Altar Guild will also be meeting jointly with the St. Margaret's Guild. Anyone who is currently "tending to the altar" and anyone (men included) interested in this quiet service please plan to attend as well. It is time to set up the calendar for next year and to answer any questions we may have.

Coffee and homemade muffins will be served.

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. Some have already expressed interest, we are providing this opportunity for others to sign up. We plan to schedule the sessions during the day, probably on a Wednesday or a Friday. If interested please call Neil at 728-3474. This study is reportedly an excellent one. Please strongly consider this great Christian study opportunity.

Anniversaries October 2010

Birthdays:

Oct 12	Joyce Burrell	Oct 17	Jim Gardner
Oct 14	Norman Runnion	Oct 18	Pat Lawrence
Oct 14	Brian Kennedy	Oct 24	Jennifer Curtin

Weddings:

Oct 16	Ray and Pat Mayer
Oct 17	Bill and Betsy Arnold

Baptisms:

Oct 12	Rico Lioce
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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

We would still like a representative from St. John’s to serve on the Board of Directors of the Food Shelf. Have you got the time? Please see one of the Wardens, if you are able to assist in this way.

Transition Focus Sessions

These last two weeks after Coffee Hour, we've begun a dialog on those six different ministry areas defined in last January's Narrative Budget. The purpose of these meetings is to celebrate the highlights and accomplishments in these areas over the past year as well as to envision how we are to continue our journey forward.

The discussions surrounding Worship and Christian Education have been great! We have indeed celebrated the highlights, reviewed what is important and has fed our souls, and generated a variety of exciting ideas for us to explore in the coming year.

Be sure to join us for the remaining three sessions listed below:

October 3 rd	Parish Life/Pastoral Care
October 10 th	Service/Mission/Outreach
October 17 th	Stewardship/Evangelism

On behalf of the Vestry and the various Ministry Committee chairs, Thanks!

Steve

Sunday ministries

All services in October at 10 am

	Eucharistic Minister	Reader	Ushers
Oct 3	Pat Mayer	Gay Gaston	Betsy and Bill Arnold
Oct 10	Ray Mayer	Pat Lawrence	Susan O'Malley
Oct 17	Gay Gaston	Ellen Baker	Ellen Baker and Phil Plumb
Oct 24	Steve Eubanks	Linda Runnion	Susan O'Malley
Oct 31	Bob Sparadeo	Christine Gilbert	Mickie and Neil Richardson

	Oblations	Intercessions	Coffee Hour
Oct 3	Anna and Lee Sease	Mickie Richardson	Betsy Arnold
Oct 10	Betsy and Bill Arnold	Nancy Wright	Pat Lawrence
Oct 17	Beth and Joe Pelletier	Susan O'Malley	Ellen Baker
Oct 24	Mickie and Neil Richardson	Neil Richardson	Linda Runnion
Oct 31	Carol and Ken Merrill	Pat Lawrence	Ellen Baker

Flowers

Oct 3	Phil Plumb
Oct 10	Pat and Ray Mayer
Oct 17	Pat Lawrence
Oct 24	Mickie and Neil Richardson
Oct 31	Maeve Kennedy