

The Messenger

A newsletter of

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Mark Preece, Interim Rector

August 2011

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

Message from our Interim Rector

Dear Friends—

It's a beautiful part of the country we live in, and, now that the heat wave has ended for the moment, it's a beautiful time of year. I'm feeling even better about summer than usual this year, after our very Vermonty winter. I'm grateful that I got to start at St. John's in the summer months, when the pace of a church's life slows down a bit; it's given me a chance to explore Randolph and environs, and to meet some people in town.

But I'm aware that the next time I sit down to write a note for the newsletter it will be for the *September* newsletter, and we'll be busy putting together the new program year. Then everything will start up again. And that has me thinking about the work ahead of us.

Here are the goals the diocese of Vermont sets out for the "Interim period":

1. To explore the history of this parish and its relationship with previous clergy;
2. To explore the parish's special identity, what it dreams of being and doing and how the ministry of all the people can find expression in its mission;
3. To work with parish leaders and to invite new people to join in leadership;

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(Interim rectors message, continued)

4. To renew and rework the parish's relationship with the diocese;
5. To help prepare the parish to move into the future with openness to new possibilities.

This covers a lot of ground, of course, but it seems to me the heart of it all is in #2; discovering and celebrating St. John's unique identity.

Many of you have probably spent time in countries English isn't spoken. I once went to Guatemala for a while, and traveled on my own in little towns where there were few tourists. I got used to hearing people speaking a language I hardly knew; it became a sort of wall paper of unusual sounds around me. I was trying to learn Spanish at the time, and so sometimes I'd hear words I recognized and would painstakingly translate them into English.

Every once in a while, though, I would overhear people speaking English, and it was like a little miracle. I can't really convey the experience. When we hear our own language – the one we think in, the one we dream in – we don't really hear words, we hear meaning. It was like opening a window in a stuffy room and feeling a fresh breeze.

I often ask people why they attend a particular church, and they say things like "this church just feels right" or "it just feels like home to me." But one day someone answered "they speak my language here," and I remembered my experience in Guatemala. I like to think of different parishes having different God dialects, different languages to open people's eyes to God at work in their lives. The task before us is to recognize the language which is uniquely St. John's so that we can speak it more clearly.

So, here's a question to ponder as you enjoy August in Vermont (or wherever life takes you): what is St. John's "special identity" for you? What is it about the way this parish goes about its life that touches you, that make you feel it's speaking to you in your native tongue? We'll have a number of opportunities to explore this as a community in the months to come, but I'd be grateful for any early thoughts you can share with me. I'm in the office most weeks on Tuesday plus at least one other weekday, of you can reach me by telephone (in the church office or my cell phone, which is 215-370-0479) or e-mail (rector@stjohnsrandolphvt.org). Let's talk.

Peace,

Mark

Visitors and newcomers are always welcome here!!

Please visit our website <http://stjohnsrandolphvt.org>

Our e-mail info@stjohnsrandolphvt.org

Vestry of St. John's

Steven Eubanks, Senior Warden
Ray Mayer, Junior Warden
Linda Nagy

Nancy Wright
Susan O'Malley
Ellen Baker

Treasurer, William Arnold

Receipts Treasurer, Jane Eubanks

Clerk, Pat Mayer

Delegates to 2011 Diocesan Convention – Gay Gaston, Ellen Baker, Mickie Richardson
Alternate Delegates – Susan O'Malley, Neil Richardson, Marcia Stone

Summer schedule for church services

Please note: Summer hours are currently in effect with Sunday Worship at 9:00 am.

Food Shelf Sundays

Please bring food donations the 3rd Sunday every month. The food shelf greatly appreciates our help! And our dollars buy even more food than what our donations cover because of the food shelf's buying power.

3rd Sundays – Aug 21, Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18

Red, White and Blue (berry) Pie Sale

Our pie sale was a success! We had 43 pies and 6 individual tarts at 9 am. We were sold out by 10:20. A few minutes later, Gay Gaston came with 4 more pies. We put our signs back up, and sold out again in about 15 minutes! 47 pies in 1 ½ hours!!! We made \$476 for the church. Reserve Saturday before July 4 (July 1 next year) for our next Pie Sale!

Many thanks to all who made pies, set up, sold pies, and helped take down!

NEXT UP: New World Festival, Sunday, September 4. Look for sign up sheets soon. If you have never worked at this one, consider it – it is a lot of fun! Linda Runnion, Pat Mayer, and Ellen Baker are in charge. And yes, they need PIES!!!

Thanks
Pat Lawrence

Community Notes

We are adding a section for notice of events going on in the community that St. John's parishioners might be interested in. We will need you all to let us know of appropriate events to include in this section. Remember that we publish monthly so items must be for the month of publication. We want, among other things, to post names of area students who make honor rolls, receive scholarships, etc. Please let us know of any such information.

Randolph Community Suppers

The Community Supper for August will be held on Tuesday, August 23rd, at Grant Camp, Heberd Hill Road. (next to Green Mountain Gospel Church) This month's supper is sponsored by the Rotary. Doors open at 5 pm

Anniversaries August 2011

Birthdays:

Aug 2	Oliver Plavin	Aug 12	Tom Malanchuk
Aug 4	Lee Sease	Aug 14	Kenniston Merrill
Aug 6	Kate Kennedy	Aug 21	Rico Lioci
Aug 8	Susan O'Malley	Aug 28	Mary Smokoski
		Aug 30	Robert Kershaw

Wedding:

Aug 19	Lee and Anna Sease	Aug 22	John and Mary Smokoski
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Baptism:

Aug 24	Nancy Wright
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Sunday ministries

	Eucharistic Minister	Readers	Ushers
Aug 7 9 am	Bob Sparadeo	Gay Gaston	Susan O'Malley
Aug 14 9 am	TBA	Nancy Wright	Ellen & Phil Plumb
Aug 21 9 am	Linda Runnion	Jane Eubanks	Susan O'Malley
Aug 28 9 am	Christine Gilbert	Mickie & Neil R	Mickie & Neil R

	Oblations	Intercessions	Coffee Hour
Aug 7 9 am	Ellen & Phil Plumb	Gay Gaston	Ellen Baker
Aug 14 9 am	Louise & Lincoln Clark	Susan O'Malley	TBA
Aug 21 9 am	Anna & Lee Sease	Lee Sease	Pat Mayer
Aug 28 9 am	Betsy & Bill Arnold	Nancy Wright	Carol Merrill