

# *The Messenger*

A newsletter of

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

**May 2011**

*Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise*

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## *Sr. Warden's Message*

### **Hope vs Certainty**

I was a very certain youth. I knew what I thought was right and correct. I had every confidence I knew who I was, what I wanted, and what I was to become. My plans had plans, my life was plotted out nearly, as if on graph paper. Probably not that different from many kids of that age—teens either seem to know precisely what they are going to want/believe/do or they don't. There's usually no middle ground. I was firmly and confidently in the former camp. After all, teens know everything, don't they? I'd like to think I've outgrown the worst of that.

Over the years, that stark black and white has become gradually replaced by a palette full of myriad shades of gray. Experience, if we let it, gradually exposes us to a greater number of perspectives, a multitude of variations, a greater empathy for a wider circle of friends and acquaintances. The certainty that had marked my youth has often been replaced, sometimes by doubt, often by a willingness to step outside myself to see life from someone else's particular angle. Certainty was safe, and sharing a world of perspectives is just a little bit scary.

Lacking the safety and comfort of certitude, what is there? Hope. Hope is that upon which we rely when certainty can't be had. It forms a circle around us, protecting us from a very uncertain unknowing. Hope comforts, supports and nurtures us when the illusion of our certainties finally evaporate.

The opposite of hope? Despair. If you want to break a person's spirit, take away their hope. An old stratagem of war and aggression, there are more subtle and common forms of depriving others of hope. Professor Victor Shepherd claims, "that the most dangerous person to have around isn't the murderer or the molester or the lunatic. It's the cynic.

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(Sr. Warden's Message, continued)

The cynic is forever sneering, 'What's the use? Why bother?'. The cynic's noxious breath is breathed out everywhere. Unlike the breath of God that turned dust into life, the cynic's breath turns life into dust. The cynic claims victories here, there and everywhere. The cynic's victories, of course, are actually victims, victims whose new-found 'what's the use?' abandons a world that God never abandons".

The Holy Week scripture is full of powerful images of despair—of Mary Magdalene weeping at the empty tomb of her murdered friend and teacher, or of Jesus' cry from the cross, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" In that single cry of despair, Jesus becomes you and me—He steps aside of his divinity and becomes quintessentially human in His pain and suffering, for our sake.

But Jesus' body has not been stolen, He has risen from the grave. And Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross seals God's love for all of humanity. Shepherd writes, "If we fail to hope the world is abandoned." But God does not abandon the world, but so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

-Steve

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

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

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Our e-mail [info@stjohnsrandolphvt.org](mailto:info@stjohnsrandolphvt.org)

## *Transition Update*

The Vestry continues to work diligently to identify and call “the right” interim for us. There is light at the end of this tunnel. We should be able to announce the name of this person in the near future. As soon as a letter of agreement has been signed, our Senior Warden will make the announcement in church. In the meanwhile, we hope you are seriously considering your possible role as a member of the Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC).

Prayerfully yours,

The Vestry

## *Pastoral Care Committee*

Pastoral Care met on April 5 with all present. Mickie read our opening prayer. Reports were given on cards sent, contacts made.

We expressed gratitude to Steve Eubanks for his caring leadership through the transition time, and to the continued involvement of the parishioners in the life of St. John’s.

Mickie, along with Steve, will celebrate communion at Joselyn House on May 19. This gathering will be ongoing every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 11 am. Any and all are welcome to join the service.

Please contact us with any concerns.

Your Pastoral Care Committee

Betsy Arnold  
Ginny Cantlin

Ellie Streeter  
Mickie Richardson

Pat Mayer  
Beth Pelletier

## *Lenten MDG collection*

Thank you all for your thoughtful attention to our MDG presentations throughout Lent. If you have not voted, please fill out a ballot (available in the table at the back of church) and put it in the basket or the collection plate.

Please bring in your donations by Sunday May 1, the Sunday after Easter. Please use the UTO boxes or an envelope marked “Lenten collection” so we can keep it straight. Put it in the collection basket.

Many thanks!

Outreach Committee – Gay Gaston, Pat Lawrence, Nancy Wright

### ***Community Dinner – May 24***

**On Tuesday May 24, at 5 pm, we are hosting a community dinner. We need potluck for about 75 people. Please sign up in the kitchen and come to help**

**Thanks,  
Ellen Baker**

### ***July Fundraiser***

**In the past, we have done a tag sale, with a hot dog lunch (sometimes also a plant and bake sale) on July 4th weekend. A suggestion has been made that we do a pie sale instead on Friday and/or Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are known for our fabulous pies! 50 pies at \$10 each is \$500. Red (cherry), white (apple), and blue (berry) and all our other crowd pleasers would be popular. What do you think? Please let Ellen Baker or Pat Lawrence know your thoughts.**

**Thanks  
Ellen Baker and Pat Lawrence**

### ***Confirmation Classes***

**We are looking towards Confirmation, hopefully in the fall. Interested parents and students may contact Anna Sease. Classes will start after Easter**

### ***Food Shelf Sundays***

**Please bring food donations the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month. The food shelf greatly appreciates our help!**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug 21, Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18**

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### ***Celebration of 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary***

**On Sunday May, 22, the First Congregational Church of Randolph, Randolph Center, will celebrate 225 years of continuous service to the community. The 10:30 am service, with Pastor Jim Thomas, will hear a message from Rev. Dr Lynn Bujnak, Minister for the Vermont Conference of UCC, Other events will be a Pot Luck Luncheon at noon, followed by a music and history reading event at 1 pm. Other local congregations are invited to join.**



SAFELINE, INC.  
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April 14, 2011

St. John's Church  
P.O. Box 278  
Randolph, Vermont 05060

Dear Members of St. John's Church,

It was an absolute pleasure to join you for the service and following coffee hour on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both Carmen and I greatly enjoyed meeting and speaking with such a sensitive, kind and thoughtful congregation. Especially given the challenging nature of the subject matter, we appreciated the outpouring of support for both Safeline and those we serve. Your consideration reminded me of the Coretta Scott King quote, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members, a heart of grace and a soul generated by love."

It is both a pleasure and an honor to partner with St. John's Church in our joint effort to promote the vitality of our rural community, effect beneficial change in the lives of our neighbors and make it a safer place for everyone to enjoy!

As always, know that Safeline is here as a resource. If you have any suggestions, ideas for collaboration, or resources you would like to share please feel free to contact me via email ([nika@safelinevt.org](mailto:nika@safelinevt.org)) or phone (802-685-7900-ext. 305).

Thank you again!

With warm regards,

Nika Graci  
Executive Director

*Episcopal news from around the world*

**Episcopal Church property disputes**

**An Ohio judge has ruled that five congregations in which the majority of members and clergy left the Episcopal Church and then sought to retain church property are not entitled to keep that property.**

**The case began in March 2008 when the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Ohio filed suit seeking a ruling on the efforts to transfer property to other Anglican Communion dioceses in South America and Africa.**

**Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Judge Deena Calabrese said in the ruling April 15 that the “Dennis Canon” (Canon 1.7.4) (passed by the General Convention in 1979 to state that a parish holds its property in trust for the diocese and the Episcopal Church) applied in this case.**

**The five congregations are in Cleveland, Bay Village, Akron (2 parishes) and Madison.**

**“In litigation of this sort nobody wins,” Ohio Bishop Mark Hollingsworth said in a statement after the ruling. “Of the many costs, the distractions from daily attention to the ministry of Christ may be the greatest,” he said. “I am very grateful that the people of the diocese have resisted that distraction and kept focused on the worthy work that God gives us to do.”**

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***Sunday Bulletin Announcements, including Intercession Prayers***

**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. Additionally, if you have concerns or prayers for the Intercessions for Sunday Service please let me know. Last minute items of this nature may be written in for the Intercessor on Sunday AM before the service begins. Our home phone is 802-276-3372 and my e-mail is [pat@hearthlink.com](mailto:pat@hearthlink.com).**

**Thank you all for helping to make this flow well.**

**On behalf of the Worship committee  
Pat Mayer**

## *Anniversaries May 2011*

### **Birthdays:**

May 2	Carol Merrill	May 14	Leland Pelletier
May 3	Jacalyn Wilder	May 15	Anna Dustin
May 4	Adele Smith	May 17	Benjamin Osha
May 12	Gwendolyn Pelletier	May 24	Jonathan Osha
May 14	Ray Mayer		

### **Wedding:**

May 13	Pat and Doug Lawrence	May 13	Mickie and Neil Richardson
May 21	Tom and Sandy Malanchuk	May 26	Jane and Steve Eubanks

### **Baptism:**

May 1	Phil Plumb	May 14	Kate Mayer
May 7	Bill Arnold	May 21	Tom Malanchuk

## *Sunday ministries*

	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
May 1 10 am	Christine Gilbert	Jane Eubanks	Linda Nagy
May 8 10 am	Pat Mayer	The Richardsons	Susan O'Malley
May 15 10 am	Ray Mayer	Ellen Baker	Pat & Ray Mayer
May 22 10 am	Gay Gaston	Nancy Wright	Louise & Lincoln Clark
May 29 10 am	Steve Eubanks	Linda Runnion	Christine Gilbert
	<b>Oblations</b>	<b>Intercessions</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
May 1 10 am	Ellen and Phil	Mickie Richardson	Mickie Richardson
May 8 10 am	Lee and Anna Sease	Linda Runnion	Gay Gaston
May 15 10 am	Carol & Ken Merrill	Pat Lawrence	Carol Merrill
May 22 10 am	TBA	TBA	Louise Clark
May 29 10 am	Carol Doss – Neil R	Anna Sease	Carol Doss