

# *The Messenger*

A newsletter of

## **St. John's Episcopal Church**

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The Rev Mark Preece, Interim Rector

*August 2012*

*“We are committed to building for the future with thanksgiving and praise”*

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### *Message from our Interim Rector*

Dear Friends:

In 2000, the Church of England published a new prayer book called *Common Worship* to supplement its official book, which is still *The Book of Common Prayer* published in 1662. We used some of the Communion services from this new book here at St. John's last month and there's a lot to like in them. But my favorite bit in the book is from the service of Morning Prayer, an opening prayer that says

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

Let us pray with one heart and mind:

*(A period of silence is kept.)*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,

so may the light of your presence, O God,

set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever, Amen.

I think it's a great way to focus prayer first thing in the morning: *the night has passed, and the day lies open before us*. It's an invitation to take stock of where I am right now, at a seam in my life between what has been and what will be. I haven't had chance to make a mess of this day yet, or to let it slip away unnoticed. Right now it's all out there ahead of me, pure potential, and I can choose how to live it. It's an invitation to take my life seriously.

It's easy to be cynical about our ability to begin again. It's even Biblical, in a way. The writer of

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(Interim rectors message, continued)

Ecclesiastes says, “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun?... What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun.”

But Jesus pushes against this way of thinking from the very start of his ministry. His first proclamation in the Gospel of Mark is “The Kingdom of God is close at hand: repent and believe the good news.” Repentance, the possibility of change, is at the heart of his message. Something important and new is beginning and your first job is to notice the choice you’re being offered, to *claim* the good news. Later, when he’s healing people, the people he congratulates are the ones who believe that change is possible, believe it so strongly that they struggle past obstacles to get to him. To them he says, “your faith has healed you.”

Of course, every moment is a seam between what has been and what will be, but I need to be reminded often of this fact or I just won’t notice. And one time it’s relatively easy to remember is in the morning, when an obvious corner is being turned. So, as we leave the Church of England’s new prayer book behind us, I offer you this morning mantra: “the night has passed, and the day lies open before us...”

Peace

*Mark*

### *St. John’s Website*

Our website <http://stjohnsrandolphvt.org> includes much more information about many aspects of our church life, its history, background and where we are now. This includes photos of events and individuals in our church community.

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

### *Receiving “The Messenger”*

Anyone with an e-mail address who might find it preferable to receive “The Messenger” electronically, this may readily be accomplished. If this is your preference please contact Steve Eubanks, Susan O’Malley, or Mark Preece.

We have recently gone through the process of up-dating the mail slots in the entryway of St. John’s hall and have, hopefully, now provided slots for all active members. If you still do not have a mail slot, please let Susan O’Malley know.

*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 2012 Diocesan Convention – Mickie Richardson, Marcia Stone, Neil Richardson  
Alternate Delegates – Gay Gaston, Susan O'Malley, Nancy Wright

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*Pie sale at St. John's booth at New World Festival*

Again this year we will have a pie sale booth at the New World Festival on Sunday September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will need many pies, and will need sellers to staff the booth.

*St. Margaret's Guild*

St Margaret's guild will meet on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am over muffins and coffee. Please come with your Bazaar (bizarre?) ideas!

Thanks, Pat L

*Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC)*

The MDC continues to work on the Portfolio which must be submitted first to the Vestry and then to the Bishop for their approval. The Portfolio is a report that will be examined by prospective candidates for the clergy position in our church.

After reviewing information from the History Meeting, the Congregational Discernment Meeting, and other discussions with parishioners, the MDC recommended to the vestry the following leadership model for St. John's Church: Seminary Trained Clergy Person, Paid for Part-time Ministry. The Vestry accepted our recommendation.

One of the requirements of the Portfolio is that the MDC answer six (6) essay questions. At this time the MDC is working on the six questions, addressing one at each of our bi-weekly meetings. The information the MDC gathered at events, from church documents, and from community information is assisting the MDC in answering the questions. It is the goal of the MDC to complete the essay portion of the portfolio by the beginning of September. We have scheduled our meeting with the Bishop for the beginning of October.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any of the members of the MDC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Doss, MDC Chairperson

## Community Notes

### >RANDOLPH COMMUNITY SUPPERS<

The Community Supper for July will be held on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>  
By Randolph Rotary Club at Grant Camp, Rte 66, Randolph - Outdoor Barbecue  
Doors open at 5 pm

### *Anniversaries – August 2012*

#### Birthdays:

Aug 2	Oliver Plavin	Aug 12	Tom Malanchuk
Aug 4	Lee Sease	Aug 14	Kenniston Merrill
Aug 6	Kate Kennedy	Aug 21	Rico Lioce
Aug 8	Susan O'Malley	Aug 28	Mary Smokoski
Aug 9	Bruce Butler	Aug 30	Rebert 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 Support Ministries*

	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
9:00 am			
Aug 5	Steve Eubanks	Linda Runnion	Lincoln & Louise Clark
Aug 12	Bob Sparadeo	Gay Gaston	Susan O'Malley
Aug 19	Linda Runnion	Ray Mayer	TBA
Aug 26	Christine Gilbert	Nancy Wright	David & Gay Gaston

	<u>Oblations</u>	<u>Intercession</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
9:00 am			
Aug 5	Mickie & Neil R	Nancy DuBois	Linda Runnion
Aug 12	TBA	Jane Eubanks	Anna Sease
Aug 19	TBA	TBA	Pat Mayer
Aug 26	TBA	Gay Gaston	Ellen Baker