

The Messenger

A newsletter of

St. John's Episcopal Church

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The Rev Mark Preece, Interim Rector

May 2012

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

Message from our Interim Rector

Dear Friends:

Last week I mentioned one of my favorite psalms, a psalm that we never encounter on Sunday mornings:

Psalm 87 (Page 711 in the Book of Common Prayer)

- 1 On the holy mountain stands the city he has founded;***
the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
- 2 Glorious things are spoken of you,***
O city of our God.
- 3 I count Egypt and Babylon among those who know me;***
behold Philistia, Tyre, and Ethiopia: in Zion were they born.
- 4 Of Zion it shall be said, "Everyone was born in her,***
and the Most High himself shall sustain her."
- 5 The LORD will record as he enrolls the peoples,***
"These also were born there."
- 6 The singers and the dancers will say,***
"All my fresh springs are in you."

(continued on Page 2)

(Interim rectors message, continued)

I love the generosity of spirit implicit in the psalmist's vision of Israel's neighbors – even Israel's great enemies, Egypt to the west and Babylon to the east - one day discovering that they too are heirs to the relationship with God that's summed up in the phrase “born in Zion.” And I love hearing the psalmist embrace God's affirmation of that relationship, as the LORD says “These also were born there.”

Most of all, I love the final lines, where, beyond all that divides them, the singers and dancers discover that their most important identity lies in what they share: that Zion is the source of all their fresh springs. What unites them is not their nation or their language or their culture or their history; on the contrary, all these things work to separate them. What unites them is God's creative Spirit that's been moving in them all along. When all is said and done, it turns out that “all my fresh springs are in you.”

Thinking about the source of our fresh springs is the heart of the process the church calls *discernment*. The idea is that if we can observe God at work in our lives we can orient ourselves in the same direction, becoming partners with God to accomplish whatever it is that God is trying to nudge us toward.

What are St. John's fresh springs? When and how do you experience creativity, renewal, healing, joy, peace, *life* bubbling up here in the life of this community? On Friday, May 11th, at 6pm, the Ministry Discernment Committee (in days of yore, the “Search Committee”) will hold a Community Discernment evening at St. John's, an opportunity to talk about what kind of community this is and is called to be. It's the last public event before the MDC starts wrapping up what they have and ask the diocese for a list of candidates to talk to. An important turning point.

So, when has St. John's helped you experience new life in your life? You are how God is at work here, and without your story we will not have the full story of how God is working through St. John's. Please join us on the 11th.

Peace,

Mark

Outreach Committee

MDG Lenten donations

The Lwala Health Clinic in Kenya and the Brookhaven School were chosen to receive our MDG donations this year. Many thanks to those who donated, and for your attention and thoughtful decision making. We had donations at our Shrove Tuesday supper which went to the Randolph Food Shelf, so we are well on our way to meeting our pledge of .7% for Millenium Development Goal projects this year. Thank you.

Pat Lawrence

Outreach Committee – Gay Gaston, Pat Lawrence, Nancy Wright

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

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

Our e-mail info@stjohnsrandolphvt.org

Ministry Discernment Committee

The Ministry Discernment Committee would like to remind the congregation of the *Congregational Discernment Meeting on Friday, May 11, at 6:00 pm.*

It is important that the committee continues to have the congregation's support and input in searching for clergy leadership for our church. Please mark your calendars and remember that pizza and ice cream will be served.

Babysitting will be provided.

Carol Doss, MDC Committee Chairperson

Pastoral Care Committee

Pastoral Care met on April 18th. Present were Pat Mayer, Lee Sease, Jane Eubanks, Mickie Richardson, Ginny Cantlin and Mark Preece.

We first discussed the need for food for those of our parishioners who have been laid up. A schedule is posted on the bulletin board outside of the sacristy.

A schedule for continuing the practice of doing birthday and special anniversary cards was laid out as follows:

May	Mickie	June	Lee
July	Pat	August	Jane
September	Ginny	October	Mickie
November	Pat	December	Lee

(Continued on Page 4)

(Pastoral Care Committee report continued)

Ginny has announced that her last meeting with us will be in November. She has served many years and wishes that someone would step forward to fill her spot. We are constantly looking for new members on the committee. Please see any one of the current members for more information.

Specific instances were discussed and cards will be sent and phone calls made to those requiring attention. It is the policy of the Pastoral Care Committee to keep confidential the individuals we correspond with. And as a reminder, there are now cards in a holder at the back of the church for anyone to complete and give to a Pastoral Care member if they know of someone in need of our support.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mickie Richardson**

The members of the Pastoral Care Committee are:

Mark Preece

Ginny Cantlin

Beth Pelletier

Lee Sease

Pat Mayer

Jane Eubanks

Mickie Richardson

Community Notes

>Randolph Community Suppers<

The Community Supper for May will be held on Tuesday, May 22nd at St John's Episcopal Church, Summer St., Randolph – Pot Luck by St John's Congregation. Doors open at 5 pm

>Riverbend Singers sponsored workshop<

On Saturday, May 12 Riverbend Singers will sponsor a free workshop featuring Kathy Leo and members of Hallowell. Come learn more about the deep privilege of singing at the bedside of those at the end of life. The workshop will be held from 8:30 – 12:30 at the Bethany UCC Fellowship Hall in Randolph. Snacks and a light lunch will be provided. Please contact Revell Allen at 728-4262 or lallen@comcast.net to register.

Steadfast Hope – The Palestinian Quest for Just Peace

A reminder that the last two sessions of this three part study of the Holy Land conflict will be held on Tuesday, May 8th and Tuesday May 15th in the parish hall at St. John's.

Starting time 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served following discussion session.

Anniversaries – May 2012

Birthdays:

May 2	Carol Merrill	May 12	Gwendolyn Pelletier
May 3	Jacalyn Wilder	May 14	Ray Mayer
May 4	Adele Smith	May 14	Lelend Pelletier
May 6	Rebecca Hauser	May 15	Anna Dustin
May 7	Deanne Myrick	May 17	Benjamin Osha
		May 23	Anna Marie Preece
		May 24	Jonathan Osha

Wedding:

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

Baptisms:

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

Sunday ministries (for 10 am services)

Please note that there are 8 am services each week also

	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
May 6 10 am	Pat Mayer	Linda Runnion	Susan O'Malley
May 13 10 am	Ray Mayer	Pat Mayer	Carol & Ken Merrill
May 20 10 am	>Bishop Visitation<	Christine Gilbert	Mickie & Neil R
May 27 10 am	Gay Gaston	Ray Mayer	Susan O'Malley
	<u>Oblations</u>	<u>Intercessions</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
May 6 10 am	Mickie & Neil R	Ray Mayer	Pat Lawrence
May 13 10 am	Ellen & Phil Plumb	Susan O'Malley	Anna Sease
May 20 10 am	TBA	Mickie Richardson	Bishop here – pot luck
May 27 10 am	TBA	TBA	Pat Mayer