

The Messenger

A newsletter of
St. John's Episcopal Church

October 2012

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The Rev Mark Preece, Interim Rector

"We are committed to building for the future with thanksgiving and praise"

Message from our Interim Rector

Dear Friends:

First of all, thank you for your support for the "all ages" service we had last Sunday. It was a good beginning—great turnout, energy, and spirit. We'll have one on the third Sunday of every month between now and the end of the year, and I hope it will continue to evolve into something special.

The diversity of ages at St. John's is one of this community's greatest blessings, as anyone who's been to a Christmas Eve service here can attest. As I said last Sunday, creating a regular worship service that celebrates that broad range of ages will be a great gift to your new clergy person, and will make it easier for him or her to become really part of the life of St. John's. In the meantime, it'll be fun to worship together, and will give all of us a deeper experience of the remarkable community God has brought us to. Please remember, it's all ages – wherever you find yourself on your life's journey, please come be a part of this (October 21st, November 18th, and December 16th) if you possibly can. And please let me know what you think.

Along similar lines, the Pastoral Care committee has proposed that we choose a Sunday each month to provide transportation for people who would otherwise be "shut ins". It's a great idea. People from St. John's take Communion to those who can't make it to church, we visit with them and keep them in our prayers. But there's no substitute—for them or for us—for actually being here together on Sunday morning. We'll need drivers to pick people up before church and to take them home after Coffee Hour. If you'd be interested in getting his ministry going, please let one of us know.

And we're not just celebrating diversity of ages this month, but diversity of species as well. On Sunday, October 7th, we'll celebrate the feast of St. Francis with a *Blessing of the Animals* service. Our Sunday morning schedule will be as usual, and then we'll reconvene at noon for a brief service of prayer and blessing. All animals are welcome, and if you know of some non-St. John's folk whose animals could use a blessing please invite them along too!

Peace, *FR MARK*

Sr. Warden's Message

As we enter the fall and we renew our attention to stewardship, we're hoping to get some folks to spend a brief moment sharing what it is that brings them to St. John's, and what it is they find special here.

For me coming each Sunday meets a deep need to express my gratitude for life, for love; for the wonder of God's creation and the mystery of it all. Sunday mornings are a time set apart from daily life and hallowed: for re-rememberance, re-new-al, and re-union in community—in communion with all of you. A time to witness each person as a facet of God's kingdom in their own special way...and this parish as part of Christ's body. In this place I witness a people that care deeply for one another, the community and world around them. I see a commitment to the Love of God and that which is holy in our lives. I see friends struggling, just like myself, with what it means and requires to be more Christ-like. You are my family on my faith journey, as we together continue on this parish's path toward our next chapter together. I am ever grateful to be on that journey with all of you and to experience that love in my life.

This year's stewardship theme is "Blessed to be a Blessing". It is my hope for all of us, that something happens in the following weeks that triggers a memory of just what makes St. John's so very special..a blessing in our lives that compels us not only to a heightened sense of gratitude, but to be a blessing to all we meet.

Peace

Steve

Blessing God

By Susan Palo Cherwien

Gratitude is at the Heart of worship. Thankfulness is at the Heart of praise.

Christian mystic Meister Eckhardt wrote that the one most needful prayer is "Thank you".

The Babylonian Talmud instructs the pious Jew to pronounce at least 100 benedictions each day—100 times each day to bless God.

Words have power. Power to shape.

What if 100 times each day we were to say "Blessed are you, O God.."

Blessed are you for the rising sun
for legs that carry us
Blessed are you for the miracle of hands
for the dying season
for baking bread

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(Blessing God – from Page 2)

**Blessed are you for the scuffle of fallen leaves
for the shape of this branch
for the snap of wind
for shelter for rain.
Blessed are you, God, for laughter
for apples
for flannel
for the light in the window
Blessed are you...**

Sunday School

St. John's Sunday School: This year the St. John's Sunday School will be using a new interactive curriculum called SPARK. Sunday school will meet at 10:00 am in the parish hall except for the third Sunday of each month when the Sunday School will help lead a children's focused worship service in the Sanctuary.

SPARK is an interactive curriculum focused on the SPARK youth Bible created for youth that includes maps, questions and stickers. Each student works with their Bible and weekly leaflets that will provide them with a foundational understanding of the Bible, its historical context and its practical application in today's world. SPARK is a product of the Augsburg Press.

**Please contact Rebecca Thomforde Hauser if you have any questions:
rebthomforde@hotmail.com or 802-728-5776**

Rebecca

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee met on Wednesday, September 19th. Present were Pat Mayer, Jane Eubanks, Father Mark Preece and Mickie Richardson.

Information about individual cases were shared with one another and a recap of who sent cards or made phone calls to those people. We refreshed the order of sending cards for birthdays. Pat Mayer will take care of October, Jane will do November and Mickie will take care of December.

A discussion was held regarding the elderly parishioners who have dropped out of regular attendance. Please see more in this newsletter from Father Mark to help us regain connection with those who find it difficult to attend services. Please note that this is a parish-wide effort, not just the members of the Pastoral Care Committee.

Starting with September, the children will be very involved with the service on the third Sunday of each month. Please be supportive of them as they learn their way around our liturgy.

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Marcia Stone and her husband have moved to the Kendall House in Hanover, NH and have contributed carpeting and furniture to the rectory. We will send our thanks for their generosity.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mickie Richardson for the Pastoral Care Committee**

**The members of the Pastoral Care Committee are:
Mark Preece, Jane Eubanks, Pat Mayer, Mickie Richardson**

St. Margaret's Guild

Baskets! Baskets! Baskets!

St. Margaret's Guild will again make gift baskets to sell at the Bazaar. Themes will be posted in the kitchen. Items need to be left by November 1st. It's always fun to see how these "collections of stuff" turn into beautiful gifts!

Thanks, Pat and Anna

Community Notes

>RANDOLPH COMMUNITY SUPPERS<

The Community Supper for October will be held on Tuesday, October 23rd, at Green Mountain Gospel Chapel, Rte 66 Randolph - Spaghetti Supper by Magee Office Products - Doors open at 5 pm

>The Food Shelf>

The Food Shelf needs gleaners to collect apples at VTC orchard and Liberty Orchard. Once the apples are collected, the Joslyn House crew will make these into apple sauce for the Food Shelf. Pick-ups at VTC are made on Monday mornings. For additional information please contact Sharon Needham at 802-234-5009 or e-mail sneedham@wildblue.net

Also, please bring any surplus produce you may have during this harvest season to the Food Shelf. The hours are: 3-5 pm Mon, Wed, and Fri, 1-5 pm Tuesday and 5-7 pm Thursday.

>Building Peace-One Person at a Time<

There will be four workshops at the White River Craft Center on becoming a peace builder. The workshops include interactive activities, information and discussion. They offer us an opportunity to look at ourselves and how we interact with others, and present practical ways of becoming builders of a more peaceful and just culture. There is no charge.

The four sessions will be held on October 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm Contact Betty Edson at 728-4057 or e-mail - bedson30@gmail.com

FOSNA Encourages Peace, Cooperation Between Faiths

**By the Rev. Donald Wagner
National Program Director, Friends of Sabeel-North America**

Albuquerque (NM) Journal, Friday, September 21, 2012

The violent responses to the film “Innocence of Muslims” remind us that religious passions can be triggered by hate speech and provoke violent reactions. We have also seen offensive cartoons, inflammatory rhetoric and provocative actions cause similar reactions. The threat to burn the Quran in Florida and the late Rev. Jerry Falwell’s claim that “Muhammad was a terrorist” are among the parallel incidents. It seems that hate speech and attacks on religions will continue, but how can we limit or stop their occurrence?

In recent weeks, Albuquerque has been a focus of interfaith bullying, a matter that has flown under the radar for too long. It’s time to bring these issues into the light in order to stop them and limit their potential damage to the community. The problems started in the spring of 2012 when Friends of Sabeel-North America announced it would hold a conference in Albuquerque on Sept. 28-29. FOSNA is the US and Canadian support organization for Sabeel Jerusalem, the voice of Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land. FOSNA has conducted conferences in major cities across the United States during the past 10 years.

Sadly, the proposed Albuquerque conference was denounced by the Jewish Federation of Albuquerque and one local rabbi in particular who spread false rumors that Sabeel was an anti-Semitic movement that advocated the destruction of Israel. Church officials were asked not to endorse the conference, lest they offend Jewish sensibilities. Curiously, several on the Albuquerque FOSNA committee are Jewish.

When the New Mexico Conference of Churches got a request to be a co-sponsor of the conference, the federation stepped up its pressure and the conference board voted to reject the request. A local rabbi contacted the Episcopal cathedral that had agreed to host the conference. The same bullying tactics were applied and the offer to host was rescinded.

Some clergy have come under similar pressure, including Monsignor Richard Olona, a respected Roman catholic priest with a long history of interfaith relations in Albuquerque. In Olona’s case, he was familiar with Sabeel’s theological and moral positions, including its commitment to nonviolence, justice and peace for Jews, Muslims and Christians in the Holy Land, and an end to Israel’s occupation.

Olona understood the importance of an open discussion of the issues in the Holy Land and was also concerned that with Palestinian Christians suffering extensively in Jerusalem and the Israeli-occupied territories, the churches should be more aware of these issues. He was not bullied by the federation’s rhetoric and upheld the need for free speech and the conference going forward. He described for me the multiple phone calls he received.

FOSNA calls for a cessation of the bullying that only brings division and denigration of persons.

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We offer an open debate on these emotionally charged but vitally important issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We invite the people of Albuquerque to come and hear speakers that include Jewish Israelis, Palestinian Christians and Muslims. We are grateful for the support of a growing list of Jews and rabbis who embrace such a learning environment. The Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinic Council issued a letter of support for the Albuquerque conference, stating: “As rabbis and people of faith, we stand in solidarity with the work of Sabeel. Canon Naim Ateek sees us as equal theological partners in the land we both love. We encourage the Jewish community to engage the Palestinian Christian faith community with an open heart and mind in order to encounter another version of faithfulness.”

We encourage the Albuquerque community to come and hear the speakers address these important issues and we encourage the faith communities of Albuquerque to work toward transcending bullying tactics which should not be allowed. Instead, let us work to transform difficult conversations and potentially divisive issues into vehicles that honor free speech.

Let’s stop the bullying now – everywhere.

Note – I felt it appropriate to include this article in this month’s Messenger because it involves the Episcopal Church. Naim Ateek, the founder of Sabeel, is an Anglican Priest in the Diocese of Jerusalem, and the Episcopal church in Albuquerque came under attack because of the FOSNA conference. Neil

Do you hear what I hear?

The Hymnal

Today’s ramble is about the 1982 Episcopal hymnal. Initially, when you start looking, the hymns pretty much all look alike. With some exceptions, the hymns are four part harmony with many or all of the verses crammed in between the top two lines of music and the bottom two lines. However, if you really start looking you will discover at the end of each hymn two short but important bits of information which can lead to an entirely new perspective. One line informs us about the words, the other about the music. There is a huge diversity in the origins of the hymns, and knowing something of the various traditions helps us turn each one into a living, breathing piece of music. The hymnal contains music from the 14th through the 20th centuries. There is Plainsong chant, German Chorales, English Cathedral music, dance music, Gospel music, African American Spirituals, Nineteenth Century Hymn Revival music, Appalachian Mountain Music, and so much much more. #56, “O Come O Come Emmanuel”, is a well known example of medieval chant tradition. Imagine an ancient chapel, a single line of music sung by a choir of men in solemn prayer to God. #301, 302, and 413 all use the same dance tune by the sixteenth century composer Louis Bourgeois. The different words and harmonies really change the feel of the music. #413 is the most dance like, whereas #302 is very rich in sound and turns the tune into a thoughtful prayer. Imagine the bouncier dance tunes of the hymnal accompanied by percussion, recorders and other instruments of the time period. Wouldn’t that be fun! Sometimes the same person has written both the tune and the words: #635, “If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee” written by Georg Neumark (1621-1681) is a good example. Here is a German Chorale with a stirring tune, rich harmonies, and serious words. Imagine a large

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congregation singing full voice in a stone church with a big pipe organ playing full blast. There is plenty of time for reverb written into the phrases. In other examples, the words and the tune form such a perfect marriage that you would think the poet was also the composer. #671, “Amazing Grace” comes to mind. And yet the words, written by John Newton (1725-1807), are joined with the tune New Britain from the book Virginia Harmony published in 1831. It is thought that originally the words were spoken by Newton’s congregation, and not set to music until some time later. The words were set to a least twenty different tunes until they were finally joined with New Britain in 1835. Today we can’t imagine these words ever being sung to any other tune. Writing sacred poems and setting them to music spans the entire Christian experience. From era to era the music sounds differently, but the prayers and praises remain the same. Each one a little homily on how to pray and how to live. Even if you don’t know the tune, you can follow the words and be uplifted on this huge cloud of witnesses

Jane

Anniversaries –October 2012

Birthdays:

- Oct 12 - Joyce Burrell
- Oct 14 – Norman Runnion
- Oct 14 – Brian Kennedy
- Oct 18 - Rex Hauser
- Oct 18 – Pat Lawrence
- Oct 24 – Jennifer Curtin

Baptisms:

- Oct 12 – Rico Lioce

Wedding:

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

Vestry of St. John’s

Steven Eubanks, Senior Warden	Nancy Wright
Ray Mayer, Junior Warden	Susan O’Malley
Linda Nagy	Ellen Baker
Treasurer, William Arnold	Receipts Treasurer, Jane Eubanks
Clerk, Pat Mayer	

Delegates to 2012 Diocesan Convention – Mickie Richardson, Neil Richardson
Alternate Delegates – Gay Gaston, Susan O’Malley, Nancy Wright

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

Sunday Support Ministries

	Oct 7 10:00am	Oct 14 10:00am
Eucharistic Minister	Linda Runnion	Christine Gilbert
Readers	Gay Gaston	Anna & Lee Sease
Ushers	Lincoln & Louise Clark	Carol & Ken Merrill
Oblations	Pat & Ray Mayer	Betsy & Bill Arnold
Intercessions	Nancy Wright	Lee Sease
Coffee Hour	Gay Gaston	Jennifer Curtin
	Oct 21 10:00am	Oct 28 10:00am
Eucharistic Minister	Bob Sparadeo	Ray Mayer
Readers	Nancy Wright	Pat Lawrence
Ushers	Susan O'Malley	Ellen & Phil Plumb
Oblations	Anna & Lee Sease	Mickie & Neil R
Intercessions	Mickie Richardson	Pat Mayer
Coffee Hour	Mickie Richardson	Linda Runnion