

THE EVANGELIST

NEWSLETTER FOR SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARCH 2012

VOL. CVIII, No. 4



*Life is
hidden
just
under
the
surface
of death*

~ Parker
Palmer

PALM SUNDAY—April 1, 8AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
10 AM Procession of Palms & Passion Reading

SUNRISE WORSHIP—April 1-6, 7:30 AM
Communion with Sermons preached by members

MAUNDY THURSDAY—April 5, 7PM
Foot-washing service

GOOD FRIDAY—April 6
12-3 pm—A service of the seven last words of Jesus and music by *Artaria*.
7PM—Solemn service with communion from reserve sacrament

EASTER VIGIL—April 7, 7PM
Baptisms & communion

EASTER SUNDAY—April 8, 8AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
10AM Festal Eucharist

Join us for a sacred journey to new life.

COME...
JOIN US IN WORSHIP

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Service:
Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00 a.m. Services:
April 1 - Palm Sunday
Holy Eucharist Rite II

April 8 - Easter Sunday
Holy Eucharist Rite II

April 15 - Holy Eucharist
Rite II

April 22- Morning Prayer
Holy Eucharist Rite I

April 29 - Holy Eucharist
Rite II



**May Issue - April 16th at
3pm**

All groups & individuals are
ENCOURAGED to submit
news and items of interest to
The Evangelist.

E-mail, mail, or bring your
fully written and titled piece
and/or photos to the church
office on or before the dead-
line date shown above.

Thank you!

**St. John the Evangelist
Episcopal Church
60 Kent St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
651-228-1172
651-228-1144 (fax)
www.stjohnsstpaul.org**

Office Hours

Mon - Fri
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FROM THE REVEREND JERED WEBER-JOHNSON

Dear Friends in Christ,

In describing his own wrestling with depression, Parker Palmer says he discovered the truth that “life is hidden just under the surface of death.” Indeed it is the experience of many a person on their spiritual sojourn that deep darkness, suffering, and grief are often the points where, almost miraculously, new life begins, where the clouds break, the air clears, and the heart turns again toward resurrection.



Describing such an occurrence in a sermon preached in Eastertide, the former dean of Duke Chapel, William Willimon, told of a friend he knew struggling with addiction who “hit bottom, spun out of control, crossed the median, headed the wrong way down the interstate at 100 miles an hour ... [and] fell from his prestigious perch as an attorney to the depths of alcoholism.” That “death” was a wake-up call and Willimon says his friend was “on his way back to life” in a process of recovery. That process brought with it a series of revelations about simple Christian truths he had heard his whole life. Words like “you can only find your life by losing it” suddenly made sense as he crawled back out of an abyss that had nearly consumed him.

For most of us, death is a terrifying prospect. Death is acknowledging that we want and need and cannot fully help ourselves. Death is facing the reality that we cannot and will not have the last word. Like the Israelites fleeing through the Red Sea away from their homes and the safety of slavery into the great unknown, death is coming at last, sometimes in desperation and sometimes despite ourselves, to the reality that we are wholly and completely dependent upon God. And herein, too, is new life. If God can help, if God is good, if God will have the last word and we can wholly depend upon God, well, then God can and will raise us shaky and trembling though we be to the new and full and abundant life promised us from the beginning.

For those of us that appear or hope to appear as though we have it all together, for those of us that have not felt a sense of need or want, for those of us who feel as if things are humming along just fine, such a truth might be all that much more terrifying. The truth that we need God – that we must lose our lives in order to find them – shines light on the lie that we “have everything under control.” However, if we rest into this truth, if we are vulnerable enough depend upon God and upon those whom God places in our lives, then we might discover that finding our lives is, far from being awful, a joy filled and revitalizing experience.

One of the ways that the church celebrates this notion that life exists just below the surface of death is in and through the faithful practice of Holy Week. You will notice both in the church bulletin and here in the Evangelist a list of the services and times when you can come participate in this sacred journey to new life. It takes practice, and the patterns of dying and rising built into the worship services of these holiest of days, is a discipline that I hope will usher you into this rich experience of losing and finding life. I hope you will join us.

Faithfully,



Mark McInroy

Young Adult Dinner and Conversation Thursday, April 12th @ 5:30pm

If you consider yourself to be a Young Adult (20s/30s) you won't want to miss this! Come hear our very own Mark McInroy talk about beauty and how this relates to our experience of God. See his description below ...

God and Beauty

Christian theology routinely speaks of God as goodness and truth, but should God also be regarded as beautiful?

Hans Urs von Balthasar (1905-88) claimed that modern Christianity has lost sight of the ancient and medieval idea of God as beautiful, and he wrote a (seven-volume) "theological aesthetics" in an attempt to recover this understanding of the glory of the divine. We will explore three aspects of this idea as prompts for further discussion.

First, although some today may tend to view beauty as simply ornamental (and, by implication, inconsequential), Balthasar and others insist that "the beautiful" in fact does not pertain to mere surface appearance; instead it permeates reality at its very roots.

Second, although the beauty of God ultimately transcends the beauty of the world, we nevertheless find a hint of the divine splendor in the beauty of creation (as found in such things as the natural world, works of art, and other human beings).

Third, and perhaps most intriguingly, if God is beautiful, then the experience of faith can rightly be said to have an *aesthetic* dimension. In other words, the idea that God is beautiful suggests that our encounter with the divine should bear some similarities to our experiences of beauty in the world. And, as may be the case for our most memorable encounters with worldly beauty, so too in our relationship with God, we are transported beyond ourselves in the face of mystery.

Mark McInroy is Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of St. Thomas. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on the theological aesthetics of Hans Urs von Balthasar. He and his wife Suzanne are new members at St. John's.

Sung Compline

Returns to once a month – Second Thursdays!

Compline is the last of the daily offices. In keeping with the earliest practices of the monastic communities, Compline is offered by candlelight at a time when the work of the day is finished and the quietness of evening begins to settle over the hearts and minds of those gathered in prayer. This is a short service of prayers, psalms, chanting, and short passages from scripture.

Join us Thursday, April 12th @ 7pm.

Incense will be present at this service as well as the Holy Spirit. Beware!

For more information contact the Rev. Keely Franke – keely.franke@stjohnsstpaul.org or 651-228-1172, ex. 18.



Keely is planning on using a lot of candles at future Compline services!

NEW MEMBERS : Brad and Joan McCanna



Joan and Brad McCanna

Brad and Joan McCanna, both originally from Illinois (Brad - Chicago, Joan - Carlinville) have lived in Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Shoreview. Brad retired in 1998 from Deluxe Inc. They met in college and have been married for 51 years on April 8th. They now reside in Roseville at Applewood Pointe where Brad is president of their co-op.

Brad and Joan have two children (Erin and Sean) and three granddaughters: Taylor is a senior at Breck and on the verge of announcing her choice for college. Ryan and Kathleen are sophomores at St. Louis Park H.S. and Edina H.S. respectively. According to their grandparents, they are “the most beautiful, intelligent, and talented young ladies ever!” Over the years the McCanna’s have traveled extensively, including a special trip with each granddaughter.

The McCanna’s search for a new church led them to St. John’s and they immediately knew that they had found a “home.”

Always active in church, Brad has been on the vestry (junior and senior warden), an usher, and a LEM (Lay Eucharistic Minister). Since retiring, he has been a member of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives), and both are volunteers working with the SBA to mentor individuals interested in starting a small business.

Joan has been a vestry member, ECW president and guild president, and a LEM. She has volunteered at the Humane Society and is currently volunteering weekly at Keystone Food Shelf.

The McCanna’s say, “We are impressed with the clergy and congregation at St. John’s and are anxious to serve and become part of this wonderful family. Of course, it goes without saying that we find this to be the most beautiful church in the Twin Cities area.”

Glad you’re with us, Brad and Joan!

NEW MEMBERS : Anna Clearman and Ramiro Alvarez

The *Evangelist* asked Ramiro and Anna how they came to St. John’s:

“Being musicians allows us to perform in a number of venues; some of them stun us above the rest because of their beauty, welcoming atmosphere, and warmth. This was the case with St. John’s church after a few times when we performed as invited musicians in wedding ceremonies.

The church embraced us and gave us the sense of being the right place to share spirituality and service to the community. We chose St. John’s as the place to get married and the right church to nourish our faith.”

Ramiro explains: “I’m passionate about music and its power to bring people together. I play cello and I graduated from the University of Minnesota in music. I’m originally from Argentina, and I have lived in Minnesota ever since I came here to pursue a Master’s Degree in Cello. Here I met my fiancée Anna. We share our passion for music, even though she has decided to explore the legal field at this period of time.”

Anna tells us “I was born and raised in Anoka, MN, and majored in Violin Performance at the University of Minnesota. That’s where Ramiro and I got to share a few classes, and also where we started dating. I enjoy outdoor life, cooking, and playing the violin from time to time. Although school takes most of my time now, we both know that music is something that will always connect us.”

A warm welcome, Ramiro and Anna!

Anna Clearman and Ramiro Alvarez



Godly Play

Ellen Harrington

We are in the season of Lent, which will soon include the season of spring. In Godly Play we talk about Lent as the time we need to get ready to approach the church's biggest mystery ... Easter, a celebration of resurrection and new growth in ourselves and the world around us.

Godly Play is growing, too. The parents of children who will be in 6th and 7th grade (our current 5th and 6th graders) have been meeting to learn about the Journey To Adulthood (J2A) Program.

Godly Play will adapt the two-year J2A cycle by re-organizing our story groups. It is likely that we will have three groups with a name, perhaps suggested by kids, rather than our current grade-based groups. Godly Play will continue to ensure that our children are grounded in the stories of our tradition and have a lively connection to the Mystery as they enter their J2A phase.



SPRING STORY SCHEDULE – 2012

Apr 01	PALM SUNDAY-No Godly Play
Apr 08	EASTER – No Godly Play
Apr 15	PreK-K & 1-2 – Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene Gr 3-4 – Paul's Discovery
Apr 22	PreK-K & 1-2 – Road to Emmaus Feast Gr 3-4 – A New Teaching
Apr 29	PreK-K – Gift of Poor Widow Gr 1-2 – Dorcas Gr 3-4 – Peter Heals a Lame Man
May 06	1 st Sunday – No Godly Play
May 13	PreK-K – Dorcas Gr 1-2 Peter Heals a Lame Man Gr 3-4 – Synagogue & Upper Rm
May 20	PreK-K & 1-2 – The Gift of the Holy Spirit Gr 3-4 – Pentecost

Adult Education

April - May 2012

March 25 How We Help Those We Love

Panel and group discussion led by
The Rev. Keely Franke

April 1 Palm Sunday

"Two processions entered Jerusalem on a spring day in the year 30...One was a peasant procession. The other an imperial procession..."

Expand your understanding of Palm Sunday. The Rev Barbara Mraz facilitates.

April 8 Easter

No adult ed meeting today.

April 15: Fireside Chat with the Rector

April 22: How We Keep Our Children Safe Part 1

April 29: An update on the clinic in Kayoro from *Give Us Wings*

May 6: How We Keep Our Children Safe Part 2

May 13 *"The Threat of Resurrection"*

A video by Parker Palmer with a discussion on the challenges of new beginnings
The Rev. Barbara Mraz facilitates.

May 20: Wrap up: Fireside Chat with the Rector.



A New Program for Young People at St. John's *Jean Hansen*

1. My kids are grown. Why should I be interested in this?

Nurturing our children in faith is the work of all of us in this community. As a group we promise to “uphold” each person baptized here in their journey to know God. We do this by supporting our kids individually and collectively, and one way we do this is by being familiar with the programs that nurture them. It *does* “take a village.”

2. What is the main idea that informs this program?

“Spiritual Formation” means learning by engaging in Christian practices and then reflecting on them afterwards. This “doing” and “reflecting” helps us to “form” young people in the faith. Instead of just talking about Christian service, we SERVE. Instead of teaching about prayer, we PRAY. Instead of sharing about Christian Community we actively and intentionally work to BUILD community. Instead of telling our young people how special they are we SHOW them thru special liturgical celebrations like **Rite-13 Liturgy** or the **Litany of Dedication**. Instead of merely talking about Christian journey we actually TRAVEL on Pilgrimage together.

3. What is this new program and how will it work?

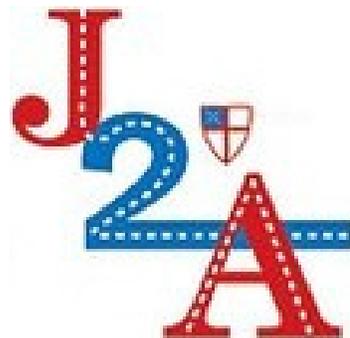
Journey to Adulthood is a six-year program. We will officially begin this program in the fall with the 6th and 7th graders participating in **Rite 13**, where they will spend two years.

After those two years they will move from **Rite 13** into **J2A** for two more years.

After two years of **J2A** they will go on a pilgrimage together.

After their pilgrimage they will move into **YAC (Young Adults in Community)**.

Parents are invited to be actively involved in **Journey to Adulthood**. Moms & Dads play roles in liturgical celebrations and are invited to occasional parent meetings. Parents are also asked to take a turn or two in chaperoning special events and assisting in organizing fundraisers. It is our sincerest hope that parents of our youth experience **Journey to Adulthood** as life giving, too, as they guide and nurture their children thru adolescence.



SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 12 SPRING DINNER SOCIALS



Groups of 6-8 will meet in homes , providing an opportunity to share a table with new and old friends. Please contact the church office if you are willing to host one of these dinners. More information to come out right after Easter.

**Altar Flowers Given to the Glory of God in
Memory of:**



April 1 – Palm Sunday

Main Altar

No Flowers

Little Sanctuary Altar

No Flowers

April 8 – Easter Sunday

Main Altar Pulpit Cross

John H. Myers

Paul N. and Reine Myers

Main Altar and Little Sanctuary Altar

Lilies *In Memory* of loved ones

April 15 – The Second Sunday of Easter

Main Altar

Melissa Mosvick

Little Sanctuary Altar

Open

April 22 – The Third Sunday of Easter

Main Altar Pulpit Cross

Robert C. Merrill

Little Sanctuary Altar

Gordon Kallstrom and Daniel Kallstrom

April 29 – The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Main Altar

Betty Wann Binger and Theodore Wann Binger

Little Sanctuary Altar

Betty Wann Binger and Theodore Wann Binger

ALTAR FLOWERS 2012:

The memorial flowers on the Main and Little Sanctuary altars are given by parishioners on a perpetual calendar basis. There are a few Sundays available for donors to sign up to give the flowers for either of our altars. The cost is \$35 for the Main Altar and \$15 for the Little Sanctuary altar. If you are interested please contact **Dusty Mairs** or **the Church Office** to find out the available dates for each altar.

Happy Birthday to...

APRIL

- 1 Emma Brown
- 2 Ethelyn Rupp
- 3 Coltrane Page
- 4 Johannah Frisby
- 6 Ford Nicholson
- 8 Milo Brown
- 10 Sylvia Thompson
- Halle O'Falvey
- 11 Mason Kinkead
- 12 Gail Lorenz
- 13 Ginger Beattie
- 16 Charles Orput
- 17 Nate Lee
- 18 Finlay Mason
- 19 Sabine Krall
- 20 Adrian Cook
- Mary-Louise Clary
- Allyson Cgyan
- 22 Christopher Meyer
- 23 Evan Myllenbeck
- 25 Charles Halvorson
- Alexandra O. Bjorklund
- 26 Christina Ball
- 27 Ethan Furois
- Margaret Spainhower
- 28 Matthew Brooks
- 30 Anne Thompson

*If your birthday was missed, please call or email the church office so our records can be updated.



Greg Larsen, Rest in Peace

Gregory S. Larsen, organist and choir master at St. John's from 1983-1988, died peacefully on March 10th in Denver, Colorado. Greg was surrounded by his family when he passed away from brain cancer, diagnosed in 2011. He was 64.

Greg's career spanned over forty years. Along the way, his dedication to excellence influenced several generations of students, organists, choirs, parishioners, teachers, and artists

Greg also served as choir director and organist for a number of other churches in the Minneapolis area: St. James on-the-Parkway, St. James Lutheran, St. Stephen the Martyr, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, as well as serving in interim positions at a number of other parishes. Greg met his future wife, Laurie, through the choir at St. James on-the-Parkway.

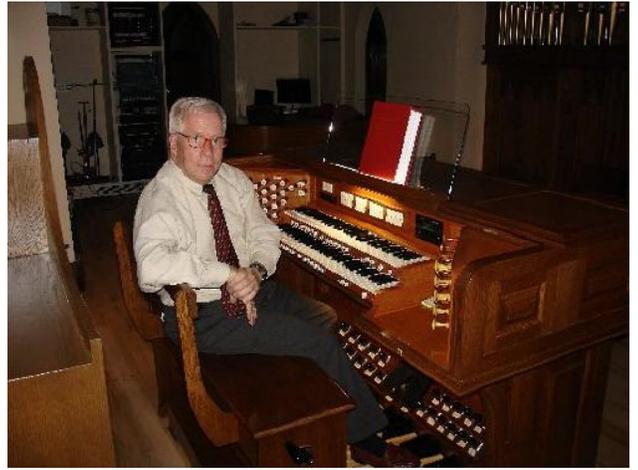
Later in his career, Greg took an interest in facilitating the renovation and installation of pipe organs. One of the organ builders he worked closely with, Patrick Murphy, wrote the following: "I have always been inspired by people who are passionate about things. Greg's nurturing spirit and passion propelled me to grow and mature into becoming a better creator of musical instruments." At least two pipe organ projects Greg worked on have been featured in *The American Organist* magazine.

Those who knew Greg well recalled that he was most happy teaching young people about the beauty of music and the arts. Greg taught general and choral music at a number of schools including The Blake School (Hopkins MN, 1975-1999), and Graland Country Day School (Denver CO, 2002-2008). Choirs conducted by Greg won a number of awards at competitions. He was an instructor, lecturer, and advisor to the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Institute of the Arts, Hamline University, and Canton (Ohio) Museum of Art. Several years ago, Greg was recognized as a "transformative teacher" by the President of Wellesley College.

Greg was also an expert crossword puzzle solver and authority on Frank Lloyd Wright. No one could beat him at Jeopardy. Greg will be remembered as a very hard worker, creative, witty, pensive, gentlemanly, and most importantly, a lifelong teacher.

Greg is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Laurie; son and daughter-in-law, Peter and Meghan (Berkeley CA); son, Joseph (Minneapolis MN).

Memorial services were held in Denver and will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis at 10:30 on April 28. The Rev. Barbara Mraz, long-time friend of Greg from the Episcopal Church and a colleague of 25 years at The Blake School, will be the preacher.



From Project Kathleen...

Mary Frances Palmer

Positive things happen to families on their way to financial independence. Half-time jobs become full-time jobs as work changes reflect economic upturns. Transportation changes make commuting more convenient, so a new or used car sometimes becomes part of the picture. The presence of our ECS social worker and our mentor assist in financial planning involved in these life or work changes. Project Kathleen committee members observe with satisfaction these positive outcomes of our St. John's efforts. Thank you for your financial participation in making family independence a reality.

The Communications Commission

By Terri Fishel

The first in a series about the various commissions and committees at St. John's

Communication is derived from the Latin word, “communis” which means, “to share.” Sharing is an essential component in the work required to manage the various news outlets in electronic and print form that are published to keep members of St. John's informed and up-to-date on church events and activities. It is a team effort and there are several critical components that are essential in order to keep communication flowing in a timely manner. In today's world of instant access and immediate notification, it is no small challenge to find effective ways to both share what we know, as well as receive messages from you our members and then broadcast information to be shared with a wider audience in an efficient and effective manner.

Sharing the work of church communication, in addition to Jered, is a key player, Sherry, the Office Manager. Sherry receives the bulk of the emails, phone calls, and other announcements of activities and events, and shares that information with the appropriate person who then broadcasts the information in a particular format, depending on the announcement and event. Sherry also handles the most important task of managing the church calendar that is basically the one place where all events related to St. John's will be found. The Reverend Barbara Mraz is the staff member in charge of communications and works with the staff and the Communication Commission to address how best to communicate with the entire congregation. The 2012 Communication Commission members include Terri Fishel (Vestry), Barbara Mraz (staff), Paige Hagstrom, Laura Kochevar, and Jeff Olsen. The Communication Commission works on facilitating communication through three of our news outlets—the website, the monthly *Evangelist*, and our most recent addition, Facebook.

There are many events that take place in the church throughout the week and there is no single *best* place to find out what's happening, but an attempt is made to keep all members informed through a variety of channels in a manner that works best for their personal preferences. In addition to the electronic channels, attempts are made to keep our members who prefer their news on paper informed as well, but sometimes information may be shared only in an electronic version due to the issue of timeliness.

So, where to start when looking for information? Here are some options. On the church website, <http://stjohnsstpaul.org> “*What's Happening*” on the main page is updated weekly, and sometimes daily, but that is just one place to find some of the current events. An attempt is made to keep up with events that change during the week, but for the best list, you can review the ***entire church calendar***. For a complete schedule, the church's calendar is freely available at <http://stjohnsstpaul.org/news-events/calendar/>. If you use Google calendar, you can add events from the St. John's calendar directly to your own.

The *Evangelist* comes out once a month and generally we try to publish the PDF version on the website within the same week that the *Evangelist* is mailed. The current issue will always be linked from the main page on the website, and older issues will be found in the newsletter archives, <http://stjohnsstpaul.org/news-events/evangelist/>

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VESTRY MEMBERS

Libby Snelson, *Senior Warden*
Don Postema, *Junior Warden*
Kathy Brown, *Membership*
Marilyn Conklin, *Music*
Terri Fishel, *Communication*
Phyllis Goff, *At Large*
Tony Grundhauser, *Finance*
Rex Haberman, *Stewardship*
Jennifer Kinkead, *Faith in Action*
Anneke Krall, *Youth*
Patrick Schmidt, *At Large*
Don Weinkauf, *Property*
Jerry Woelfel, *At Large*
Bob Baumann, *Clerk of Vestry*
Rick Rinkoff, *Treasurer*

ADDITIONAL POSITIONS

Kent Furois, *Head Usher*
Jill Thompson, *Lay Reader Coordinator*
Paige Hagstrom, *Coffee Hour Coordinator*
Dusty Mairs, *Parish Coordinator*
Fred Myers, *Historian*
Diane Power, *Altar Guild*
George Power, *Columbarium*
Artaria String Quartet, *Artists in Residence*

CLERGY

The Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson, *Rector*
The Rev. S. Grayson Clary, *Rector Emeritus*
The Rev. Keely Franke, *Assistant Rector*
The Rev. Barbara Mraz, *Deacon*

STAFF

James Frazier, *Director of Music & Organist*
Kate Graber, *Handbell Choir Director*
Lizza Berry, *Youth & Children Choirs Director*
Jean Hansen, *Youth and Family Minister*
Ellen Harrington, *Children's Minister*
Longkee Vang, *Youth Ministry Assistant*
Chelsea Olson, *Nursery Supervisor*
John Oldfield, *Office of the Treasurer*
Sherry Christiansen, *Office Administrator*
Chris Tegler, *Building Manager*
Chris Henry, *Building Assistant*

Communications *continued from page 9*

Facebook is updated on an almost daily basis, and featured events as well as notices about uploaded sermons or new *Epistles and Epiphanies* are noted here. Photos can be shared here as well.

Lastly, we are trying to keep up again with the weekly notices that appear in the church Bulletin. The Weekly Events page, <http://stjohnsstpaul.org/news-events/weekly-events/> will feature the notices as they appear in the Sunday Bulletin.

As one additional option for keeping up with St. John's, on the website main home page on the lowest right side, there is a subscription option. If you enter your email address to subscribe to receive notifications, you'll receive updates as they are posted on the website.

We are fortunate to have a thriving church with lots of activities. It is our hope that we keep you informed in the best possible manner, but please keep in mind that keeping up-to-date is not an easy task for both those with a message to share as well as for those who need to receive the message. We're always looking for volunteers to help out, so if you are interested in sharing your time to help us communicate better, please let Terri or Barbara know. We're also hoping to make it easier to communicate with other Vestry members. We hope to add this feature to the website during the summer. In the meantime, if you have news to share, please share with us!

*Terri Fishel, Communications
Commissioner
fishel@macalester.edu*



Vestry Musings

Don Postema, Junior Warden

Your Vestry met on Monday evening, February 27, and then retreated on Friday evening and Saturday morning, March 2 and 3. No – they didn't encounter obstacles that led to their Retreat. They spent the extended time together acclimating the new Vestry members, Marilyn Conklin, Phyllis Goff, Rex Haberman, Don Postema, Patrick Schmidt, and Jerry Woelfel, to the business of the Vestry as well as to the organizational structure and procedures of St. John's. Most important, the Vestry began a process of envisioning the future of St. John's in light of the process and documents that led to the calling of our new Rector, the Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson.

At their scheduled February meeting, the Vestry elected Bob Baumann to be the Clerk of the Vestry. They also accepted Jim Johnson's formal resignation as Treasurer, thanking him for his many years of faithful service in this capacity to St. John's and anticipating a new role for him related to the parish's financial future. The Vestry then elected Rick Rinkoff to be the new Treasurer, extending his already valuable work in other financial roles at St. John's to this position. The Vestry accepted, with regrets, the resignation of Gary Gleason who has found that retirement is actually busier than regular work. Revisions of the policies related to the Building Maintenance and Repair Procedure, and the Policy on Professional Services Provided by Church Members, were accepted by the Vestry, beginning a scheduled review of all church policies slated for this year. After updates from the Rector and Wardens, as well as review of the monthly financial report, the meeting closed with prayer and thanksgiving.

The Friday evening of Vestry Retreat featured a common meal and generous amounts of conversation on non-business matters. Perhaps in order to atone for their seeming wantonness, they then reviewed the organizational structure of the parish, learning both how things are supposed to be done and how they actually get done at St. John's. Saturday morning was dedicated to reflection on our role and ministry to our community. Teams of 3-4 vestry members fanned out on walking tours of the neighborhoods around St. John's armed with digital cameras to document what they saw. Upon return, these were all displayed for the assembled Vestry (thanks to our technologically savvy Rector) so they could better grasp the nature and variety of our neighborhood. Group and general discussion then focused on the goals identified in our Discovery document (part of the Rector Search process):

Sustain our traditional forms of worship while creating new opportunities for individual and community spiritual development.

Provide opportunities to connect with a living, evolving church.

Build and strengthen our welcoming community.

Broaden our spiritual response to God's call to mission through philanthropic and stewardship opportunities.

The ideas and suggestions generated by this interaction were many and varied, covering everything from how entering the church from the Holly side is a very different doorway to the church, to alternate worship times and forms, to creating a unified appearance for all our publications, to enriched visions of the forms stewardship plan take, to name just a few. The synergy and creativity of the Vestry were evident by the time they finished at midday. There are plans to "check in" at future Vestry meetings to hear how each member is pursuing an idea that arose from this process.

The next Vestry meeting will be April 16. Contact the Wardens (Libby Snelson or Don Postema) or any Vestry member if you have ideas or suggestions you'd like your Vestry to consider.

PROJECT HOME FEBRUARY 2012

By John Edgerton

The Episcopal Church of St John the Evangelist and Project Home provided space and beds for **361 people during the month of February**. Some stayed with us for the evening and there were those who were with us the entire month. **Sadly, there are approximately two homeless children for every adult that stays with us and they have no control over their situation.** The need continues to grow and our ability to continue these services depends on the willingness of volunteers to step up and spend their time helping those in need.

While the church has been part of Project Home for a long time, our need for volunteers is growing. With two children for every adult, it would be helpful to have more than the two adult volunteers we ask for in the evenings. During Project Home 2012 we had:

116 Volunteer opportunities

70 volunteer sign ups (22 signed up for 2 or more volunteer shifts - some as many as six)

37 individuals and/or families from St John's participating in Project Home 2012.

I would like to thank each person who took time from their schedules to help host the homeless at St John's during the month of February. Without your voluntary support we could not open our doors for those who are in need.

I asked this year's volunteers to share their experience by answering questions concerning Project Home. While I can't share everyone's responses, here are a few:

Why do you choose to participate in Project Home?

"I work with families, some of whom have been or are homeless and I understand what a disruption it is in their lives. Spending three hours of my time trying to be kind and supportive to them during this life crisis seems important."

"I choose to participate in Project Home because we at St. John's are blessed to have something that someone else needs; that is a warm safe place to be at night and the ability to welcome and treat with dignity, people who are in a hard time in their lives. "

Why is Project Home a good program to participate in?

"It is an outreach to some of those in greatest need in our community. It can also have a big impact on participants and their families."

"The work isn't hard--it's about being a good neighbor. And this year we brought our kids, and it is important for them to confront or see what privileges and inequalities are found in the world."

What do you get out of your volunteer experience with Project Home?

"It helps me appreciate what I have. It makes me feel more connected to our community and some of the challenges others are facing."

"I got the pleasure of feeling that I was helping people in my community, and in sharing some of the church's burden for this particular outreach program. I also got to meet some of the church community outside of Sunday morning (we just started coming in September)."

How would you convince others to participate in Project Home?

"I would stress the urgent need to people who haven't yet volunteered, perhaps describe the groups that have already been sheltered at Project Home without mentioning names. This last February, a high percentage in the group I supervised, were children -- one could hardly imagine a less threatening, less intimidating group."

I would tell them how short a time commitment it is (3 waking hours in the evening or 2 waking hours for the overnight) and how little is really expected of the volunteers. We have none of the burden of telling the families what they ought to do, we only host them and try to make them as comfortable as possible.

. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Matthew 25:35.

If you didn't get a chance to volunteer this year, make a special point of putting aside time in February 2013 and help host the homeless.

John Edgerton, along with Gary Hagstrom, is the coordinator for St. John's Project Home.

Three Women, Unnamed

By Diane Elliott

Lois Donahue, author and regular contributor to the website KITCHEN CATECHISM, states that there are 250 individual women mentioned in the King James Bible. Of those 250 individual women, 118 go unnamed. As this Lenten Season draws to a close, we remember three of these nameless women and the parts they played during Holy Week.

Mark 14 takes place two days before Passover, with the leading priests and religious teachers hoping to capture and secretly kill Jesus. He was in Bethany, having dinner at the home of Simon, a man who had had leprosy. While Jesus was eating, a woman broke open a jar of perfume, worth a year's wages, and poured it over his head. The people at the table were indignant! But Jesus replied, *"She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time. I tell you in truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this deed will be remembered and discussed."*



We still remember this nameless woman's actions because our remembering them fulfills Jesus' own prophecy. What she did far outweighed who she was. Through her selfless act, she provides insight for us into who the nature of Jesus.

Two days later, after Jesus had shared the Passover meal with his disciples and Judas had gone his own way, Jesus and those who remained made their way to the Mount of Olives. Luke 22 recounts that during this journey, Jesus told Peter that *"before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me."*

After his betrayal by Judas at the Mount and his arrest by the Temple Guard, Jesus was taken to the home of the High Priest, where a servant girl provided the opportunity for Peter, and for each of us to realize yet again just who Jesus is. Luke reports that she *"noticed him in the fire light and began staring at him. Finally she said, 'This man was one of Jesus' followers.' But Peter denied it. 'Woman,' he said, 'I don't even know him.'"*

We will never know her name, yet we remember her accusation. We incorporate her words into our Palm Sunday Passion plays, and we ask ourselves time and time again, if she accused us, would we have denied him?

Matthew 27 finds Jesus standing before Pilate, the Roman governor, who asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "You have said it," and then remained silent until his crucifixion. Pilate, as was the governor's custom during the Passover celebration, would release one prisoner to the crowd – anyone they chose. Their choices: Jesus or Barabbas. As Pilate, sitting in the judgment hall, made this offer to the crowd gathered before his house, his wife sent him this message:

"Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night."

There was no reaction by Pilate to his nameless wife's request. But there was a crucial "meanwhile." While Pilate read this message from his wife --

"Meanwhile, the leading priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and Jesus to be put to death."

The stories of these three women come to us through the millennia. We don't know their names, but we do know them. They are wives, sisters, daughters, and mothers. They are instruments of God's will. Their actions lend insight. They prepare the way.

Diane Elliott, husband Steve and daughter Lizzie moved to St. Paul from the East Coast and are new members of St John's, Steve is the new director of the Minnesota History Center.

SAVE THE DATE!

April 30th to May 4th—Set up for the sale.

* Mornings 9:30 am to 12:30 pm * Evenings 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Your assistance is appreciated!



THE HUGE SALE

SATURDAY, May 5, 2012**

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Monday, May 7th**

*The Huge Sale – **Bag Sale** 9:00 am to 11:00 am

* **Lunch** with the Workers! 11:15 am

* **Clean** up the Gym! 12:30 pm

*DONATE *VOLUNTEER *BAKE

HUGE SALE benefits Outreach at St. John's.

Donations can be left at the basement stairway of the Parish Hall.



The Huge Sale is unable to accept:

items needing cleaning or repair; hazardous waste items, appliances containing hazardous waste parts: TVs, VCR's, Computers, Stereos, turntables, speakers, phones, answering machines; Children's equipment: car seats, cribs, etc; Furniture with cloth and stuffing; large appliances, mattresses or box springs; microwave ovens, carpeting, curtain rods

****Workers arrive at 8:30 am on 5th & 7th**



Rebuilding Villages and Restoring Hope in Kenya and Uganda

13th Annual Celebration and Silent Auction

“We Are One”

Building Businesses for Family Sustainability: Micro-Finance Initiative

Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 5:30 pm

International Market Square 275 Market Street Minneapolis, MN 55405

Tickets: \$60/individual, \$390/Patron Table of 6, \$650/Patron Table of 10 (Patron tables include wine with dinner)

On April 14th, 500 guests will gather at International Market Square in Minneapolis to support **“Building Businesses for Family Sustainability”** in Kenya and Uganda through St. Paul-based nonprofit, *Give Us Wings*.

Local celebrity, **Alix Kendall** of FOX 9 will emcee. A D'Amico 3-course African-themed dinner will be served, great silent and live auction items, including African and local art, a week's stay in an **Italian villa**, tickets to the Madonna and Coldplay concerts and much more!

Give Us Wings (www.giveuswings.org) works together with adults and children in Kenya and Uganda to eradicate poverty. Through person-to-person support, both financial and educational, people overcome poverty and become self-sufficient. Give Us Wings has helped thousands of people gain access to **clean water**, assisted hundreds of people with an **education**, secured access to **health clinics**, and built **clean, safe housing** for people in need.

Note: the opening of the St. John's Clinic in Kayoro will be celebrated at this event.

Several from St. John's are planning to attend.

Contact Jennifer Kinkaid for more information.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST APRIL SERVICE SCHEDULE 2012

TIME	READERS*	ALTAR GUILD TEAMS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR
April 1 2012—Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite II						
8:00 am	Alden Drew	Dusty Mairs Team	Cooper Olson Madeline Weinkauff Rachel Clark Wyatt Furois	Don, Holly and Eli Weinkauff Diane Power	Cammie Beattie Phyllis Frisby	<u>Godly Play Families</u> Docherty Family Schmidt Family Debertin Family
10:00 am	Reader A Gary Gleason Reader B Jill Thompson					
April 8, 2012—Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite II						
8:00 am	David Aylesworth	Diane Power Team	Charlie Olson Eli Weinkauff Ashlyn Andrews Samantha Rosendale	Kent, Karen, Ethan and Wyatt Furois	Jeff and Peggy Olsen	Becky Garthofner Jerry Woelfel
10:00 am	Reader A Don Postema Reader B Cammie Beattie					
April 15, 2012—The Second Sunday of Easter Holy Eucharist Rite II						
8:00 am	Brad McCanna	Pam Strom Team	Cameron Gemlo Matt Richards Ethan Furois Lucy Grundhauser	Roger Bowman Mary Ann Mason Julia Ferguson Rick Rinkoff	Diane Norman Erin Weber-Johnson	TEC
10:00 am	Reader A Greg Schaffner Reader B Joan Potter					
April 22, 2012—The Third Sunday of Easter Morning Prayer—Holy Eucharist Rite I						
8:00 am	Joyce McCanna	Pat Brynteson Team	Emma Grundhauser Johannah Frisby Tim Krall Alex Joyce	Lynn Hertz Bob Horn Gary and Paige Hagstrom	Gabrielle Lawrence Don Postema	Bob Baumann
10:00 am	Reader A John Docherty Reader B Keith Davis					
April 29, 2012—The Fourth Sunday of Easter First Sunday—Holy Eucharist Rite II						
8:00 am	Alden Drew	Diane Power Team	Charlie Olson Madeline Weinkauff Rachel Clark Samantha Rosendale	Gary and Paige Hagstrom Jay Debertin Ian Ball	Patricia Durst Kathleen Hanson	Phyllis Merrill
10:00 am	Reader A Paige Hagstrom Reader B Rick Rinkoff					

**Saint John the Evangelist
Episcopal Church
60 Kent Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102**

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