

The Messenger

A newsletter of

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

April 2011

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

Sr. Warden's Message

"It Takes a Community"

On a tree-lined street in a quiet neighborhood, well-mannered but enthusiastic packs of young children spent their summers together within the approximate range of one block. Our neighborhood was close-knit and over the years as the children roamed from house to house the disputes and arguments that would occasionally occur were refereed by one of the neighborhood parents in closest proximity. The parents all got along, frequently socializing together and nobody seemed to think twice over this collective parenting arrangement—In fact, we all often remarked at just how well it worked. The kids were generally well behaved, and parents would get a brief reprieve while their children were spending time at their neighbors'. We're probably all familiar with aphorism, "It takes a village to raise a child", and here in that little neighborhood was an opportunity to witness community in action.

Community takes all sorts of forms, but central to the concept is the interconnectedness of its constituent parts. That sense of *communis* – of that shared, in common, or universal. This is also the root of the word communion, an interconnectedness through sharing. As Christians, we share in that most vital of communions as we prepare to re-enact The Last Supper during our upcoming Maundy Thursday observance; Jesus' final shared meal with his community of disciples.

Interconnection and sharing don't need to imply uniformity of homogenization. Quite on the contrary. Community typically benefits from diversity—each of the constituent parts benefiting from those unique skills, traits and perspectives possessed by others within the group. In this way, the value of the whole community is synergistically larger than the sum of its parts. Science increasingly shows that sustainability is directly linked to diversity. Life needs contrast. Paul's letter to the Corinthians points out that each of us is given our

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(Sr. Warden's Message, continued)

own spiritual gifts that we can help each other and serve the common good. Much like the spectrum of colors and wavelengths that comprise daylight, the light of God's grace is made of the multitudes of a diverse community.

But accepting differences isn't always easy. Sometimes we forget the value of diversity in stumbling over our own perspectives. We need to remember that at that last shared meal we received a new commandment, to love one another as Christ has loved us. Not just those of similar interests or of like perspectives, but in those distant and strange to us. In his book, The Dignity of Difference, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks warns us, "Don't think that God is as simple as [we] are... He's in places [we'd] never expect him to be". He continues, reminding us that we are also called to love those different from ourselves. Are we not as equally different to him/her? Can we see the presence of God in the face of a stranger? Of someone different from ourselves? When we can do that, we can face life full of blessing rather than of fear. When we can value the authentic, the unique and the different, we become enriched in the process.

Valuing the diversity within our own community will be critically important as we begin yet another aspect of our transition journey. Within the next month, the Vestry plans to commission a Ministry Discernment Committee, or MDC, to begin the process of finding our next Rector. The MDC will comprise five to seven parishioners of diverse perspective invited by the Vestry to examine the ministries of the parish and potential clergy leadership models to see which would work best for St. John's, and to identify to the Vestry potential clergy with the proper gifts and skills to join us in our ministries. The MDC will include at least one member from the Vestry who will act as a liaison between the two groups. The MDC will draw from and continue the process we began three and a half years ago in preparation for Tim's retirement in honoring the history of this parish, celebrating our varied ministries, skills and talents, examining our spiritual growth and evolution over the past half-year and charting our future direction. As such, the MDC will be performing a vital ministry over the course of a year, reflecting on God's call to our community, and setting the state for our phase of our journey.

I strongly urge each of you to offer prayerful consideration in participating on the MDC. Each of you offers to St. John's a unique perspective and a remarkable gift; your individuality. It is that commitment and that diversity which is needed to help St. John's grow and thrive in the years to come. Come, be stewards of our community.

With gladness and singleness of heart,

Steve

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

Transition Update

As the Sr. Warden has already told us, the Diocese has sent the Vestry the names of three candidates interested in the interim position here at St. John's. These candidates have been sent two questions to which they have been asked to respond by April 1st. Laura Hunter will be meeting with the Vestry on April 6th at which time these responses will all be reviewed. After this, phone interviews will be conducted. In the meanwhile, the Vestry is still trying to put together the Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC). We hope to identify a diverse group reflecting the diversity of our congregation. Please step up and help us fill this critical need.

Yours in Christ, your Vestry

Pastoral Care Committee

Pastoral Care met March 2 (Wed) with just half of the members in attendance. This was due in part to change of day for Town Meeting. Our pastoral prayer was read.

We shared our conversations and cards/notes sent. We acknowledged gratitude by us all for Charlie's diligent care of our sidewalks with so many snowy and icy days.

Mickie has been visiting Joslyn House doing Morning Prayer. After completing her study she is now able to be a visiting Eucharistic minister and will offer the residents Communion every 3rd Tuesday.

Your Pastoral Care Committee

**Betsy Arnold
Ginny Cantlin**

**Ellie Streeter
Mickie Richardson**

**Pat Mayer
Beth Pelletier**

St Margaret's Guild

SPRING CLEANING!

We will meet on Saturday, April 9th at 9:30 am to clean the inside of the church (vacuum cushions, clean pews and floor, dust) All hands welcome!

BAKE SALE!

Saturday, April 23rd we will have our Bake Sale from 9 – 12. Baked goodies, items for our Easter raffle basket, and workers are needed!

MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND LENTEN OFFERING!

We are continuing to have reports of local and global needs during announcement time. We will vote on Palm Sunday for 2 groups to receive our Lenten offering

Guild Treasurer –

Carol Doss has graciously accepted the duties of St. Margaret's Guild treasurer. Please put bills for the Guild in her mail box. Welcome and thank you, Carol!

Respectfully submitted

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

Lenten Breakfasts at Bethany Church

Again this year Bethany Church will host the Lenten Ecumenical Breakfasts on Wednesdays beginning on March 16 through April 20. The breakfast begins at 7 am, each week will include a talk by a local area clergy.

Food Shelf Donations

Please don't forget that we continue to collect food and non-perishable items for the Randolph Food Shelf on the third Sunday of each month. So far we've done a wonderful job and we've received repeated thanks from the Food Shelf volunteers. In addition to Mac-n-Cheese, Spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, the Food Shelf could use individually wrapped toothbrushes and toilet paper. For more information, see www.randolphareafoodshelf.org

Good Friday Offering

Excerpt from a Message from the Presiding Bishop

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

For almost a century, the Good Friday Offering has been a source of support, love, and hope for our brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This offering expresses our own commitment to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to walk with the church of the Middle East as they continue to work toward justice, reconciliation, and peace. Through our prayers for and support of these churches we are helping to realize God's vision of shalom. Please join with me in giving thanks for the work of the Good Friday Offering by generously sharing the gifts we have been given with our sisters and brothers throughout the Middle East.

I remain, Your servant in Christ,
Katharine Jefferts Schori

Some of the projects funded by the 2010 Good Friday Offering include:

- St. Peter's Elderly Home in BirZeit, which offers housing for elderly Christians
- St. Andrew's Day Care Center in Ramallah, a new clinic for diabetic cardio treatment
- St. Andrew's Housing Project for Young Christian Couples
- Needy families on the West Bank
- Ras Morbat Clinic in Aden, Yemen, which provides unlimited access to basic health services in a low-income area
- Scholarships for religious education for Christian children

Episcopal news from around the world

Japan

In the aftermath of Japan's worst earthquake on record and the deepening threat of radiation leaking from the Fukushima nuclear power plants in the north, faith groups and relief agencies around the world are exploring ways to assist through donations, emergency supplies and prayer.

Episcopal Relief and Development said on March 15 that it is sending financial support to the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (NSKK - The Anglican Communion in Japan) to help with its initial emergency relief efforts as the Anglican Communion province continues to gather vital information about its impacted dioceses in the north and begins to assess the immediate needs of the church and the wider Japanese community

On March 22 Archbishop Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, primate of NSKK, said that while there are no Anglican churches in most of the areas affected by the March 11 magnitude-9 earthquake, "it is the NSKK's desire to stand with all people there and to do whatever we can to support them".

Haiti

Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis, Indiana and Trinity Wall Street in New York have announced a \$500,000 joint matching gift to the Episcopal Church's Rebuild Our Church in Haiti appeal. The grant, meant as a challenge to other congregations involved in the campaign to fund reconstruction of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, was announced Feb 25 during a meeting of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes. Fifty-four of the church's 110 dioceses have already committed to participating.

Diplomacy urged for Israeli-Palestinian peace

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori is one of 20 ecumenical leaders who wrote to President Barack Obama on March 7 urging him to "open up broad new channels of diplomatic effort" to encourage successful peace talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

The church leaders have expressed regret that the United States vetoed a resolution in the United Nations Security Council on Feb. 18 that would have reaffirmed the illegality of Israeli settlement building in the Palestinian territories.

"While we appreciate statements affirming continuing U. S. strong opposition to the expansion of Israeli settlements, these must be followed by concrete measures to halt this activity," the letter said. "We believe bold and immediate new steps are needed now to prevent this veto from further damaging America's credibility as a broker to help resolve this conflict that threatens the security of both peoples and denies self-determination to Palestinians."

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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.

Thank you all for helping to make this flow well.

On behalf of the Worship committee
Pat Mayer

Anniversaries April 2011

Birthdays:

Apr 2 Joe Pelletier

Apr 11 Jim Gilbert

Apr 30 Aubrey Pelletier

Baptism:

Apr 1 Sandy Malanchuk

Apr 2 Benjamin Osha

Apr 2 Jonathan Osha

Sunday ministries

	Eucharistic Minister	Readers	Ushers
Apr 3 10 am	Gay Gaston	Linda Runnion	
Apr 10 10 am	Mickie Richardson	Gay Gaston	
Apr 17 10 am	Bob Sparadeo	Linda Runnion	
Apr 24 10 am	Linda Runnion	Pat & Ray Mayer	
May 1 10 am	Christine Gilbert	Jane Eubanks	

	Oblations	Intercessions
Apr 3 10 am	Nancy Wright-Sue O'Malley	Neil Richardson
Apr 10 10 am	Pat & Ray Mayer	Linda Nagy
Apr 17 10 am	Betsy & Bill Arnold	Louise Clark
Apr 24 10 am	Mickie & Neil Richardson	
May 1 10 am		Mickie Richardson

	Coffee Hour
Apr 3 10 am	Adele Smith
Apr 10 10 am	Bishop visit – we all do it!
Apr 17 10 am	Palm Sunday – Adele Smith and the Sunday School
Apr 24 10 am	Easter - Ellen Baker – Hot Cross buns from 3 bean and leftovers from bake sale
May 1 10 am	