

The Messenger

A newsletter of

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

January 2010

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

The Sower

“And he told them many things in parables, saying:..... A sower went out to sowsome seeds fell on the path other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundred fold, some sixty, some thirty ...”. (Matthew 13:3-9) Like the sower, the people of St. John's go out into our community of Randolph and sow seeds on a daily basis; seeds of warmth, hope, support, strength, good will, and faith. We don't actively think of ourselves in this light. I certainly didn't until after a Vestry discussion of this parable. However, consider the number of volunteers from St. John's who serve this community of Randolph each day. For example, one of our members organizes wait staff for luncheons at the Sr. Center and writes up all the minutes for that organizations's Board meetings, another sits on the Randolph Ecumenical Emergency Committee on Housing (REECH) Board, while still another is president of the hospital Auxiliary, while many other St. John's parishioners are members of the Auxiliary and lend their service and skills in other ways. At least two are members of the committee that allocates scholarships from Auxiliary funds to aspiring nursing students. And, also part of the Auxiliary, let's not forget the all important hospital thrift shop where at least three volunteers from St' John's serve in various capacities. And, oh yes, the hospital Chaplains must be remembered. Five of the Gifford volunteer chaplains are St. John's people and three of these were among the original volunteers and go back to when Father Tim helped to initiate this program to support and promote physical and spiritual healing ten years ago. These chaplains are regular visitors in Menig and on Med/surg trying to bring promise with each visit. There are others to be sure who help out throughout the community and you each know who you are and we all recognize and thank you.

Each day we all go about our individual tasks and may never know if the seeds we sow have fallen on fertile soil and taken root and had some impact on a life. But, as members of this Church family taking our gifts into the community we are casting seeds of love far and wide and this can only be a good thing.

By a member of St. John's vestry

St. John's Episcopal Church 15 Summer Street Randolph, Vermont 05060

The Rev. Timothy C. Eberhardt, Rector

Vestry of St. John's

**Steven Eubanks, Senior Warden
Ray Mayer, Junior Warden
Pat Mayer, Clerk
William Arnold, Treasurer
Jane Eubanks, Receipts Treasurer**

**Nancy Wright
Susan O'Malley
Linda Nagy
Charles Scribner**

**Phone 802-728-9910 mail address: P.O. Box 278 Randolph, VT 05060-0278
Our website <http://stjohnsrandolphvt.org>**

!! Remember the Annual Meeting

Sunday January 31, 2010

Following the service!!

Advent and Christmas 2009

Every year some new form of gift and giving shows up here at St. John's. This year among many surprises three check donations have shown up in the mail from relatives of Anna and Lee Sease in their honor. It seems that every year family members let others know to what charity or outreach they would like Christmas gifts to be given "in lieu", a living memorial indeed. Thank you Anna and Lee for your thoughtfulness, and your family too.

Submitted by the Rector.

Rector's Message for January 2010

Dear people of St. John's:

Every year one of the major feasts of the Christian Year (for us at least here) slips by like a neglected pair of new socks lost in all the Christmas wrapping. Only Ellen Baker and I have managed to mark this special day over the years with our traditional exchange of message machines, since we're usually off with our families wrapping Christmas up on "Boxing Day" or St. Stephen's Day which is December 26, the day before. The Day is the Feast of our St. John the Evangelist which is usually celebrated on December 27 (although this year it gets bumped to Monday since Sunday takes precedence.) Rather than rewrite the script I offer here this concise but excellent summary from my annotated Bible below. Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest. You'll be tested on Sunday, January 10 when I'll ask Shirley to let us sing his commemorative hymn in church (#245).

And next year at least, on Monday, December 27, don't forget to wish each other "Happy St. John's Day"!!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

JOHN

The Fourth Gospel explains the mystery of the person of Jesus. Like other men, he is yet unlike them, standing above them in unique, solitary grandeur. Whence this uniqueness? John takes us behind the scenes of Jesus' earthly ministry, giving us a glimpse into the eternal origin and divine nature of this Man who was more than man. Jesus was unique because "he was in the beginning with God," active in creation, the source of life and light (1.2-4). Hence, when he became Man, he made known the eternal God, whom "no one has ever seen" (1.14,18).

As do the other Evangelists, the author records real events, but he goes beyond them in interpreting these events. He uses symbolically many terms drawn from common experience – such as bread, water, light, life, word, shepherd, door, way – to make the significance of Christ both clear and gripping. After a magnificent prologue (1.1-18) he sets forth Jesus Christ as the object of faith (1.19-4.54), Christ's conflict with unbelievers (chs. 5-12), Christ's fellowship with believers (chs. 13-17), Christ's death and resurrection (chs. 18-20), and concludes with an epilogue (ch. 21).

Who wrote this Gospel? Tradition says it was the apostle John. Many scholars, however, think that it was composed by a disciple of John who recorded his preaching as Mark did that of Peter. In any case, when the Gospel was published toward the close of the first century, the church accepted it as authentic and apostolic testimony to Jesus (21.24), written that men might "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God", and thus "have life in his name" (20.31).

St Margaret's Guild (all the women who attend St. John's)

Our Bazaar was a joyful event, enlivened by the Sunday School table! Thanks to: Ellen Baker and her crew for the wreaths, including Ray and Phil for pick up, Jane Eubanks and her elves for the crafts. Thanks also to Ellie Streeter, Betsy Arnold, Mary Smokoski for the food table, Susan O'Malley for the basket raffle table, Nancy DuBois, Ginny Cantlin and Linda Runnion for the Trinkets and Treasures, Mickie Richardson and Pat Mayer for cashiering, Anna Sease and Pat Lawrence for the gift baskets and Penny Social Table, Mary Ellen Bean, Jennifer Curtin and Beth Osha with the Sunday School students for their table, and the Clarks, Runnions and Baumanns for the gourmet luncheon!

THE GUILD WILL MEET SUNDAY *FEBRUARY 14* AFTER CHURCH IN THE CANTERBURY ROOM. PLEASE GET YOUR COFFEE AND TREAT "TO GO" AND COME RIGHT BACK, SO WE CAN START RIGHT AWAY.

An agenda/budget will be in your mailbox soon. If you don't get one, speak to Pat Lawrence.

ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND TREASURER WILL BE HELD. The President sets the agendas, calls the meetings, works with the Treasurer on the budget and runs the meetings. The Treasurer keeps the books, pays the bills, and consults with the President on the budget.

We only meet 2 or 3 times a year, so they are not time consuming jobs, but they are important if we are to continue!

Pat Lawrence

Anniversaries January 2010

Birthday

Jan 14	Anna Sease	Jan 18	Pat Mayer
Jan 17	Elizabeth Grimaldi		

Baptism

Jan 25	Cameron and Maeve Kennedy
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2009 Diocesan Convention

If convention is a reflection of the diocese, then our diocese is lively, healthy, and well balanced. The 177th kept us engaged, receptive and glad to be a part of it all.

On Friday afternoon, we saw a very moving as well as disturbing film. It is about the journey of several members of the Bristol, Rhode Island DeWolf family, a clan with long ties to the Episcopal Church, to understand and come to terms with their ancestors' deep involvement in the slave trade. The film is available from the diocesan office, in case the parish wishes to show it; and there is also a good synopsis of it on line.

Evensong followed the film with wonderfully spirited music sung by the choir and congregation. The annual dinner was at the Hilton with Bishop R. Stewart Wood of Quechee, known for his activism in the civil rights movement, as the last-minute keynote speaker. The Saturday morning Eucharist was a moving beginning to the day and reminded us that liturgy is central to the fabric that binds us together in the Episcopal Church – both familiar and comforting, and new and stirring.

Following are some highlights of the work done at the convention:

Bishop Ely had asked those preparing the 2010 diocesan budget to focus on its mission and purpose, the values they wanted it to express, and priorities for funding. Quoting from the Bishop's budget letter: The "budget continues support for local and global outreach , financial and environmental stewardship development, formation, communications, ecumenism, dismantling racism, Rock Point, the Cathedral Chapter, and the various committees and commissions that are part of our diocesan life." However, rising costs and reduced income in our difficult economy have resulted in the need to reduce funding for salaries and benefits and as well as all other diocesan expenses.

Six resolutions were passed that 1) endorsed the Earth Chapter, 2) celebrated the 2005-2010 Diocesan Strategic Plan, 3) established minimum clergy compensation, 4) referred Title IV to the Canons Committee, 5) urged adoption of universal health care and insurance for every U.S. citizen and 6) commended the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation.

More information about the convention's work, its resolutions and the budget, as well as links to the Earth Charter and the Charter for Lifelong Formation, can be found on the web site <http://www.dioceseofvermont.org>.

Finally, some of this was cleverly presented using skits. The strategic plan was visited upon us through the Ghosts of the Strategic Plan Past, Present, and Future-all dreamt by a nightcap-wearing, toy moose-holding Bishop of Vermont. And did you know Bishop Ely apprenticed with Bob Newhart? Well, actually not, but he and we had great fun as he presented his convention address through a phone conversation with Barry, someone interested in buying the bishop's "business". You can read it on the web site.

Sunday ministries

	Christmas 2	Epiphany 1 <i>The Baptism Of our Lord</i>	Epiphany 2
	Sun – Jan 3 8 and 10 am	Sun – Jan 10 10 am only	Sun – Jan 17 8 and 10 am
Eucharistic Minister	Steve Eubanks	Bob Sparadeo	Mickie Richardson
Readers	Gay Gaston	Anna & Lee Sease	Linda Runnion
Ushers	Mickie & Neil Richardson	Pat Lawrence	Betsy & Bill Arnold
Intercessions	TBA	Louise Clark	Neil Richardson
Oblations	Brian & Kate Kennedy	Mickie & Neil Richardson	Christine & Jim Gilbert
Coffee Hour	Susan O'Malley Ginny Cantlin	Louise Clark	Gay Gaston

	Epiphany 3 Sun – Jan 24 10 am only	Epiphany 5 Sun – Jan 31 10 am only
Eucharistic Minister	Linda Runnion	Christine Gilbert
Readers	Pat & Ray Mayer	Neil Richardson
Ushers	Susan O'Malley	Pat & Ray Mayer
Intercessions	TBA	Mickie Richardson
Oblations	Pat & Ray Mayer	Anna & Lee Sease
Coffee Hour	Ellen Baker	ANNUAL MEETING POT LUCK – ALL!!