

The Messenger

A newsletter of

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Mark Preece, Interim Rector

November 2011

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

Message from our Interim Rector

Dear Friends—

Like many people in the Diocese of Vermont, I knew your buildings long before I ever met any of you. Here at the geographic heart of Vermont, your parish hall, kitchen, and offices are a sort of home away from home for many. So I was surprised a couple of days ago when someone pointed out some pictures of the dedication of the parish hall. I tried to imagine this place before it was built, but it's hard for me not to think of it as simply part of what St. John's is and has always been.

I'm sure there's quite a story behind the fund raising, designing and building of this space, a story of challenges met and overcome. A few of you have been around here long enough to have been a part of that story as it happened; the rest of you, like me, are able to just enjoy the gift of that community's generosity. This is the way with everything in the church: countless people have labored to pass on their best to us, and that's where we begin.

And it's not just the buildings. All along the way, people have made and given all manner of things that we use here every day: books and linens and chalices and musical instruments and all the rest. And then there are all the things that never even get written down anywhere: the countless gifts of painting and fixing and buying something the church needs without even mentioning it to anyone.

Reminding ourselves of all that we owe to the people who have gone before us is not simply a matter of politeness; it is a way of remembering how God works through us as well.

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(Interim rectors message, continued)

We are part of something much larger than what we can see. God has “surrounded us with great clouds of witnesses,” as the Prayer Book says on All Saint’s Day, “so that we might rejoice in their fellowship and run with endurance the race that is set before us...” And I see you, the early 21st century people of St. John’s, doing things now that will turn out to be gifts to members of St. John’s yet unborn.

The story of this church is not primarily about the buildings, of course – it’s about lives touched and transformed, including the lives of people who will never enter our front door. But, speaking as a newcomer who is still looking at this community with fresh eyes, I think it is important from time to time to look around at all the things we have been given to work with, and to remember the people who have given them to us. With our membership in the church, we claim our part in a long, long story.

Peace,

Fr. Mark.

Visitors and newcomers are always welcome here!!

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

Our e-mail info@stjohnsrandolphvt.org

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

>>Honors to one of our own!<<

Randolph Union High School Principal David Barnett has announced that senior Gwendolyn Pelletier has been named a commended student in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. Gwendolyn is the daughter of our own Joe and Beth Pelletier. We congratulate Gwendolyn and wish her great success!!

Commended students placed in the top 5% of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2012 competition.

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee met on Tuesday, October 11th at 10 am in the Canterbury Room. Present were Ginny Cantlin, Pat Mayer, Lee Sease and Mickie Richardson. Beth Pelletier was unable to attend because of her work schedule. Father Preece is here on Wednesdays so was unable to attend.

The majority of the meeting was to instruct Lee in how we conduct our meetings and how we handle the necessary business of making sure our parishioners are cared for when needed. He was given a copy of our opening prayer and a list of parishioners. Lee has already taken on an assignment to do two separate home visits or calls. He was also instructed in the confidentiality of our mission.

At this time there does not appear to be anyone in particular need of further assistance other than cards or calls.

We urge parishioners to keep members of the Pastoral Care Committee abreast of anyone they know who is sick or in need of a visit or communion. We are also still looking for more committee members. If you have an interest in knowing what we do, please call one of the above mentioned members for information.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickie Richardson

St. Margaret's Guild

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 3rd, 9am to 2 pm. Mark your calendars!

We will begin decorating wreaths on Monday, November 28th at 9-ish in the kitchen. Coffee served! No experience necessary!

We need items for the local products basket. You can put them in the basket in the kitchen.

We will need craft items, trinkets and treasures, baked goodies, penny social items also.

We would like to invite all women to come and help, even if only for a little while. It's nice to be able to take a break and have lunch (or scope out our competition!), and if we have enough people we can do that. It's really a fun day, the time flies by!

Thanks,

Pat Lawrence

Request from Ginny Cantlin regarding the Christmas Bazaar

Ladies of St. John's: The Attic Treasures table for the bazaar is looking for your old jewelry. Anything goes! Jewelry has always been a great seller but the last few years, we have had very little to sell.

Please check your stash and see what you can part with. It will be much appreciated. Leave it in Ginny Cantlin's cubby so it can be marked before the sale, or mark it yourself if you feel it commands a certain price.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Ginny

Food Shelf Sundays

Please bring food donations the 3rd Sunday every month. The food shelf greatly appreciates our help! And our dollars buy even more food than what our donations cover because of the food shelf's buying power.

PLEASE NOTE – OUR HELP IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER DUE TO THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY HURRICANE IRENE !!

3rd Sundays – Nov 20, Dec 18

**Thanks
Pat Lawrence**

Community Notes

>Randolph Community Suppers<

The Community Supper for November will be potluck and held on Tuesday, November 29th at White River Craft Center, Randolph Avenue. Doors open at 5 pm

>Events at Bethany UCC Church<

Wednesday, November 16th, 5:30 pm

A presentation will be made about prison justice; failings of the present system and comments and suggestions regarding constructive changes, featuring Amy Perez and Kelly Green. The evening will begin with a soup and bread meal, followed by the program.

Saturday, November 19th, 4:00 pm

The movie, *The Peace Tree*, will be shown, followed by a shared potluck dinner and discussion. The movie depicts a true-to-life story of two little girls, one Christian and one Muslim who are best friends, and the problems and tensions that arise in the community and respective families regarding the friendships.

>Event at Chandler Music Hall<

Thursday, December 1st, 7:00 pm

World AIDS Day Benefit – A staged reading of Larry Kramer’s Tony-award-winning play *THE NORMAL HEART*. Mature content. Admission by donation, all proceeds to Vermont CARES and the HIV/HCV Resource Center. Reservations recommended at 728-6464

Anniversaries - November 2011

Birthdays:

Emiline Pelletier	Nov 1	Gay Gaston	Nov 11
Maeve Kennedy	Nov 1	Myrt Seymour	Nov 15
Barbara Bonney	Nov 6	Beth Osha	Nov 29
Linda Runnion	Nov 8		

Baptisms:

Harrison Plavin	Nov 2	Lee Sease	Nov 14
Oliver Plavin	Nov 2		

Sunday ministries

	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Nov 6 10 am	Pat Mayer	Nancy Wright	Mickie & Neil R
Nov 13 10 am	Steve Eubanks	Ellen Baker	Louise & Lincoln Clark
Nov 20 10 am	Bob Sparadeo	Linda Runnion	Anna & Lee Sease
Nov 27 10 am	Linda Runnion	Pat & Ray Mayer	Susan O’Malley

	<u>Oblations</u>	<u>Intercessions</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
Nov 6 10 am	Susan O’Malley	Jane Eubanks	Mickie Richardson
Nov 13 10 am	Carol & Ken Merrill	Carol Doss	Ellen Baker
Nov 20 10 am	Beth & Joe Pelletier	Linda Nagy	Jackie Wilder
Nov 27 10 am	Mickie & Neil Richardson	Joyce Burrell	Pat Mayer