

The Messenger

A newsletter of

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

September 2010

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

Sr. Warden's Message

"Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace." John 16:32-33

It's very surreal writing this opening message to September's Messenger. I know that by the time this arrives to each of you, the amazing event of Tim's final Sunday with us will already have taken place – the pageantry/the moments of reflection, the laughter/the tears, that miraculous heartfelt gift each and everyone of us experienced that day and the days, weeks, and months leading up to it. While writing this, I find myself girding my loins for the "Exit Interview" Tim, Ray and I will share with our Diocesan guides tomorrow (Tuesday) night – an event I'm anticipating with no small amount of dread. Do we need to do this? Can't it wait until sometime.....later.....?

The answer obviously is "no". There's no avoiding the inevitable...and Tim did gift us with three years of advance notice. And it pays to remember that without endings there can be no beginnings; without grain from the harvest there would be nothing to sow in the spring....and without death, no resurrection. But through all of life's transitions, whether they be personal or corporate – we are indeed not alone. But we must listen, and listen intently for God's will. We must open ourselves at this most vulnerable of moments, to hear what God's plan is for our faith-filled community.

It is also well to remember that as momentous as August 29th was, it was yet one more point on a journey that began three years ago as we ambled along a path which has taken us this far and will take us yet further....a time of preparation and discernment. And though we still have far to go, it's good to reflect that God has already worked through Tim, Beth Ann, Susan Olidahl, Laura Hunter and each of us, to deliver us here, now. And God will continue to work through us in the myriad ministries each of us performs; whether that be with paintbrushes and lawn mowers, funds and figures, lesson plans and music, church keys and altar linens, search committees, notecards, potlucks, newsletters, visitations or simply a kind word of thanks.

(Sr. Warden's Message, continued)

Do remember dear friends to tend and care for one another. We're collectively "going through a lot" right now....grief, frustration, sorrow, and anger as we begin to find our way through this interim. It's OK. It's normal. Greet each other and each new challenge with compassion and understanding. Pray for forgiveness. It will be all right.

As we turn the page to the next chapter in St. John's 143 year history, I'd like us to focus on what you think worked well this past year (and years previous) to help the Vestry in planning 2011 – what events were especially memorable for you, what would you miss if not done? I'd like to suggest having some brief discussions immediately following Coffee Hour during September and early October so that we can capture these ideas and incorporate them into our planning. More information will be coming soon.

Meanwhile, by the grace of God, your Vestry stands ready to help guide St. John's through the coming months. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any Vestry member at any time with any questions or concerns you might have. Supply clergy have been scheduled for the next three months, services will continue much as before, and the Vestry will shortly complete the process of identifying critical tasks and ministry areas for the attention of our Interim Rector, once chosen.

Also, please mark your calendars for the all-parish potluck lunch planned following the service on September 26th. At that time, Lynn Bates from the Diocese will be with us to help demystify the Interim period we're beginning. And as promised, the Vestry will provide our second financial update.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Your servant in Christ,

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
Pat Mayer, Clerk
William Arnold, Treasurer
Jane Eubanks, Receipts Treasurer

Nancy Wright
Susan O'Malley
Linda Nagy
Ellen Baker

Delegate to 2010 Diocesan Convention –
Steve Eubanks, Nancy Wright, Jackie Wilder

Alternate delegates –
Ellen Baker, Pat Mayer, Susan O'Malley

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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**

INTERCESSIONS PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS

When you have concerns or prayers for the Intercessions shared in Sunday Service please let me know so they may be added to the list. As always, last minute items may be written in for the Intercessor on Sunday mornings. These may also be left in the office or you may call me at 276-3372.

Thank you so much,

Pat Mayer

Search for Gifford Volunteer Chaplains

At a recent meeting of clergy with Kathy Eddy, the group was privileged to listen to the wisdom of Tim Eberhardt and Susan Thomas got so caught up in listening that she forgot to bring up the issue of Volunteer Chaplains. Susan Thomas is the Chaplain at Gifford Medical Center in Randolph and is getting ready to run another training session for those who have an interest in being a Volunteer Chaplain. The training this fall, will be from 10:30-noon on Oct. 5, 7, 12, & 14 (then a break from class while participants "shadow" other chaplains on their rounds), then resuming classes on Oct, 26, 28 and Nov. 2. If you are interested please call Susan at 802-728-2107

Transition Update
Report of July 26 vestry meeting

On Monday, July 26th, your Vestry met with transition companion, Laura Hunter, to explore in greater depth the serious work of transition. Laura gave us an overview of the tasks of Interim ministry and clarified definitions, terms and process applicable to St. John's. She emphasized that the interim period is one of "goals and process" and that we must focus on "discernment" to best match our parish with interim clergy that will work with Laura and the Diocese on guiding us through the transition. Interim clergy are specially trained for this work. Through this interim period, the Vestry will continue to manage the daily affairs of the Parish while the Interim Rector assists with issues of change and transition and works with the various Parish committees for worship, pastoral care and education. The relationship is designed to preclude any conflict of interest among all parties involved. This all seems highly complicated now but is geared to ensure a good match between St. John's and a new rector in the future.

Also introduced at this meeting was the work of prioritizing the tasks of the interim ministry. The first of these is to discern our mission/calling in the community and to adjust to change and new leadership. The survey already circulated asking you to identify your volunteer hours is an early step in satisfying this task. Please complete this survey as soon as possible and put it in the basket at the back of the Church.

We understand that as time moves on, more questions emerge. To help with the answers, on September 26th Lynn Bates, Canon for Transition, will be with us at our all-parish pot luck meeting after church. Please mark your calendar for this important meeting.

1. But now, this is what the LORD says-

He who creates you, O Jacob,

He who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

2. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. (Isaiah 43 New International Version)

Your Vestry

Below you will find a list of dates to remember and supply clergy who will be with us immediately following Timothy's retirement.

Sunday, September 5 – 9 AM Supply – Pete Kelsey

Sunday, September 12 – 10 AM Supply – Stewart Pierson

Sunday, September 19 – 10 AM Supply – Pete Kelsey

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****Sunday, September 26 – 10 AM Supply – Burt Ulrich, parish meeting
Status of Transition/Finance, Cannon for Transition,
Lynn Bates, will be with us. (Pot Luck brunch)**

Sunday, October 3 – 10 AM Supply – Pete Kelsey

Sunday, October 10 – 10 AM Supply – Stewart Pierson

Sunday, October 17 – 10 AM Supply – Pete Kelsey

Sunday, October 24 – 10 AM Supply – TBD

Sunday, October 31 – 10 AM Supply – Burt Ulrich

Still to be arranged: Supply for November & Emergency priests (2) during Supply

Faithfully,

Your Vestry

Pastoral Care Committee

Pastoral Care met August 3 at the home of Ginny Cantlin. We enjoyed a beautiful pot luck breakfast. The special occasion was our way to say thank you to Tim and Mary Ellen for their leadership and guidance. They will both be very much missed.

Mickie read our prayer. Visits, phone calls and notes were discussed. We learned that our friend, Nathan Taplin, had been hospitalized and urge all to send him good wishes. His address is 15 Goodhue Lane, Barre, VT. 05641

Again we invite you to keep us informed of any event within our parish family.

Betsy Arnold

Ellie Streeter

Mary Ellen Bean

Mickie Richardson

Beth Pelletier

Tim Eberhardt

Ginny Cantlin

Pat Mayer

Anniversaries September 2010

Birthdays:

Sept 2 Linda Nagy

Sept 13 Steve Eubanks

Sept 29 Shirley Baumann

Weddings:

Sept 7 Maury and Adele Smith

Sept 12 Adam and Beth Osha

The FOOD SHELF needs help badly.

On each Sunday, if you are able, please bring a food item (non-perishable, canned or boxed goods) and place it in the box marked "FOOD SHELF ITEMS" in the hall entryway near the kitchen

As a reminder, Tim has been on the Food Shelf's board and will be going off once he retires. We still need a representative from St. John's to take his place. Have you got the time? Please see the me, or one of the Wardens, if you are able to assist in this way.

Thanks, Mickie

Some notes of thanks to St. John's

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for helping to pay for me to go to Rock Point. I loved Rock Point like I always love it. I love all of the counselors a lot.

**Thank you so much, love
Alicia Wilder**

Dear people of St. John's Church,

Thank you for helping me to go to Rock Point! It was really fun there. I made lots of new friends and went swimming a lot! Everybody was nice and was so kind. No one was mean or unhappy, which was great. Thank you a lot!! My whole cabin was girls! No boys and on Thursday we had a dance and one boy only danced with me. On Friday I didn't want to leave. I wanted to stay for another week.

**Love,
Kyra Wilder**

Sunday ministries

	Sun – Sep 5 9 am	Sun – Sep 12 10 am	Sun – Sep 19	Sun – Sep 26
Eucharistic Minister	Bob Sparadeo	Mickie Richardson	Linda Runnion	Christine Gilbert
Readers	Ray Mayer	Nancy Wright	Christine Gilbert	Linda Runnion
Ushers	Susan O’Malley	Carol and Ken Merrill	Ray and Pat Mayer	Mickie and Neil Richardson
Intercessions	Neil Richardson	Nancy DuBois	Mickie Richardson	Nancy Wright
Oblations	Mickie and Neil Richardson	Beth and Joe Pelletier	Jane and Steve Eubanks	Mickie and Neil Richardson
Coffee Hour	New World Festival	Susan O’Malley	Mickie Richardson	Jane Eubanks (Church transition meeting – pot luck)
Flowers	Ellen Baker	Mickie and Neil Richardson		Phil Plumb

Please see the attached “St. John’s Heavenly Pie Committee” poster for the New World Festival pie program

NEW WORLD FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2010



HEAVENLY PIES, PIES, PIES, PIES, PIES, AND... MORE PIES!!

AND

GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICHES TO PLEASE THE HUNGRY



If you have not signed up to bake pies and/or to join the fun serving at the tables, PLEASE do so! This is a wonderful community-sponsored event that supports the children's programs at Chandler. In addition, it is our largest fundraising event for the year. If you have never been part of this event, please consider it -- the fellowship and camaraderie are so worth the few hours you share with us!

Sign up sheets are on the table in the kitchen!!

The "St John's Heavenly Pie Committee" thanks you all for your support.

Ellen Baker
Linda Runnion
Pat Lawrence
Pat Mayer