

The Messenger

A newsletter of

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Mark Preece, Interim Rector

September 2011

Building for the future with thanksgiving and praise

Message from our Interim Rector

Dear Friends—

When I first wrote my column for this month's newsletter, it was about the joy of preparing to begin a new church year on September 18th. But then, of course, along came Irene, and now we have other things on our minds. Here in St. John's, many of you lost power and water and phone service, some lost property, a few are still stranded as I write, unable to leave the towns they live in. Most of us know people who have lost their homes and livelihoods; all of us have seen just about all the pictures and videos of devastation and destruction we can stomach.

Offers of help are coming in from all over – the diocese, the national Episcopal Church, Episcopal Relief and Development, which is the Episcopal Church's international aid organization. And we will all have opportunities to pitch in and help others as things begin to settle down. Here are some first steps the diocese has suggested to begin the long-term way forward:

1. Pray for all who have been affected by the floods and for all those who are providing aid, assistance, and relief.

(continued on Page 2)

(Interim rectors message, continued)

2. **Appoint/find a point person from your church community who can be liaison to the diocese as response moves forward over the next few weeks and as more information comes in.**
3. **Actual people-power may not be needed for a couple of weeks; communities need time first for the FEMA and Nat'l Guard heavy equipment to do the preliminary work and then withdraw leaving LOTS of work for many hands. Ask for people who are able and willing to help with hands-on work to identify themselves and create a list to pass along to the diocese.**
4. **The diocese is working with many experienced people on response, including from ER-D and the Diocese of Massachusetts (both of which were very involved in Katrina response) to put together a more coordinated response. More information will be coming over the next couple of weeks.**
5. **In the meantime, it would be helpful for us to start collecting money that can be converted to gift cards for places like Home Depot, Aubuchons, Wal-Mart, Shaw's, Staples, Walgreens, etc. Once we have collected money over a two or three Sunday period, we can purchase these cards and connect with Lynn for distribution or send contributions that can be distributed through local congregations as vouchers for local, independently-owned businesses.**

The most significant damage to church buildings in our diocese was sustained by Gethsemane Church in Proctorsville, where the parish hall lies in unsalvageable ruins and the church itself slipped off its foundation. The congregation will meet to outline their plan for responding to the needs of their community and will be calling upon other Episcopal congregations to support them in their efforts.

Representatives from Episcopal Relief and Development will meet with the clergy of the diocese at a meeting here at St. John's later this month. So if you or someone you know needs help, please be sure to let us know.

And, as I was saying before the hurricane so rudely interrupted me, we will be celebrating the start of a new program year together on September 18th with, among other things, a potluck meal after church, which will move back to its regular 10 o'clock timeslot. More on the new year in October newsletter; meanwhile, please join us.

Peace,

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

Schedule for our church worship services

Summer hours are in effect with Sunday Worship at 9:00 am for the next two weeks, Sept 4 and 11. On Sunday, September 18, we go back to our normal schedule with services at 10:00 am. That day will be celebrated with a Pot Luck Luncheon at Coffee Hour.

8:00 am services – Beginning on the first Sunday in October (Oct 2nd) we will have an 8:00 am service EVERY Sunday at least until Advent.

Pastoral Care Committee

Pastoral Care met on August 2nd, with minimum attendance. Our prayer was read. Contacts with past and present parishioners were discussed. Further follow-ups are to be made.

Betsy announced that after about 18 years in Pastoral Care it was time for new people and ideas to come on board. We currently meet the first Tuesday of each month from 10 to 11am. This schedule may change to meet new leadership. Our next meeting will be Tuesday September 6th

Please consider this important role at St. John's. Contact any one of us and join us in September.

Pastoral Care Committee:

Betsy Arnold
Beth Pelletier

Ginny Cantlin
Mickie Richardson

Pat Mayer
Ellie Streeter

Sunday School

Our Sunday School begins its new season on September 18th.

St. Margaret's Guild

St. Margaret's Guild will be meeting on Saturday, September 24th, at 9:00 am, for breakfast and Bazaar planning (yes, it's that time already!)

Please bring an idea or two for the Bazaar. We will finalize our plans and set some crafting and bow making dates.

Young, old, new, old-faithful – all women are welcome!

Thanks, Pat Lawrence

First Fall Finishing Friday – September 9th

Will be held on Friday, Sept 9th in the afternoon. Bring a lunch and stay a while, or come after lunch. Bring a project you need to finish, and enjoy the company!

Pat Lawrence and Louise Clark

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 – Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18

Thanks
Pat Lawrence

Community Notes

Randolph Community Suppers

The Community Supper for September will be potluck and held on Tuesday, September 27th, at White River Craft Center on Randolph Avenue. Doors open at 5 pm

Anniversaries - September 2011

Birthdays:

Sept 2	Linda Nagy	Sept 22	Carol Doss
Sept 13	Steve Eubanks	Sept 24	Burt Ulrich
		Sept 29	Shirley Baumann

Wedding:

Sept 7	Maury and Adele Smith	Sept 12	Adam and Beth Osha
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Sunday ministries

	Eucharistic Minister	Readers	Ushers
Sept 4 9 am	Pat Mayer	Linda Runnion	Susan O'Malley
Sept 11 9 am	Ray Mayer	Gay Gaston	David & Gay Gaston
Sept 18 10 am	Gay Gaston	Pat & Ray Mayer	Anna & Lee Sease
Sept 25 10 am	Steve Eubanks	Ellen Baker	Ellen & Phil Plumb

	Oblations	Intercessions	Coffee Hour
Sept 4 9 am	David & Gay Gaston	Carol Doss	Mickie Richardson
Sept 11 9 am	Betsy & Bill Arnold	Mickie Richardson	Ellen Baker
Sept 18 10 am	Mickie & Neil R	Neil Richardson	Pat Lawrence *
Sept 25 10 am	Carol & Ken Merrill	Ellen Baker	Mickie Richardson

* Pot Luck Brunch on September 18th – first Sunday returning to 10 am