
The Outrider

July/August 2001

The View from the Left Coast

"Vocatus atque non vocatus, Deus aderit."
--quote on the tombstone of Carl Jung

"Why don't you stay for a while?" Bishop William Swing of the Diocese of California asked me on the plaza outside Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, during the reception for the three priests and six deacons he had just ordained.

"I don't know, Bishop," I answered, trying to be truthful, "I think I have to ease my way into being on the West Coast. I've been here less than 24 hours and I already feel a little anxious...."

Bishop Swing and I have a *history*—it's not "shared" *history*, but it is a *history* all the same. We are both West Virginia boys, born and raised and ordained to the priesthood in the Mountain State. When Bishop Swing and his wife were visiting Yale/Berkley Divinity School, Jennifer Hornbeck brought them to Waterbury. We walked around St. John's and had lunch together. The West Virginia *history* connected the Bishop and me. Whenever I meet someone from West Virginia, we tend to know each other in a complicated way. It's not like "*being blood*", as West Virginians refer to relatives—but it's something like that. The shared story of strangers in strange lands.

And San Francisco was a "strange land" for me. I wasn't ready for the brown hills of the Bay Area. I expected greenness and lushness. But it is, in the odd northern California calendar, the *dry season* when everything is brown. Jennifer told me that spring and summer in New England astounded her because it was so green and alive. Such color and vitality comes only in the fall and winter in San Francisco. Two coasts: two different worlds.

Going to Jennifer's ordination to the diaconate was an impulsive decision. Bishop Swing was right—flying to the West Coast on Friday and back on Sunday wasn't a logical thing to do. On Monday morning I woke up on both Pacific Daylight Time and then, three hours later, on Eastern Daylight Time! I'm too old to throw my systems into such shock in so short a time.

But it didn't make much more sense to ride an Amtrak train to Richmond and then back the next day for my cousin Bradley Perkins' memorial service. And when I got back, there was Ed Jefferson's funeral to worry about. Too much dying in too confined a space—eight, or was it nine, funerals in May? Maybe I needed to fly across the country and back for a little new life.

Bradley Perkins was my Aunt Georgia's son. Brad and his younger sister, Mejol, were, along with my four Pugh cousins, what passed for my older brothers and sisters as I grew up. Mejol went on vacations with my parents and me. Gayle Pugh—the only girl of the four Pugh cousins—was a

baby sitter for me. All this was concentrated around my grandmother's house up on the hill in Conclintown, West Virginia. All six cousins lived on that hill as well. At Bradley's "celebration"—which was what his family called his memorial service—they were all there: Mejol, Gayle, Duane, Marlin and Joel. I'm not sure when we were last all in the same room together—perhaps at my father's funeral almost 15 years ago. I was overwhelmed with memory and nostalgia. Someone—Gayle's husband, I think, took a picture of us all together.

Maybe I should do a *View from Mamaw's hill* next month and tell you more about them. But suffice it to say, what I did not, perhaps could not, say to them—*“bidden or unbidden, God is present.”*

Then there was Ed.

I was flying over South Dakota when Ed's death really hit me. I was looking down from 37,000 feet on a landscape that is as barren and empty as anything in this world. Somewhere to the north was Mount Rushmore, but I couldn't see it - we were simply too high and it was simply too small. Perspective is everything. From that height, the world looks different. And it was then I realized how utterly different my life was going to be without Ed Jefferson in it. Ed was Treasurer of St. John's when I arrived a dozen years ago. And, through hook and crook, I had convinced him (never a hard job!) to stay on year after year. I learned to respect his opinions and follow his advice. And he and I never agreed on much of anything politically or theologically. We were *Ying* and *Yang*—the two opposites that completed each other. He filled up a space in my life as large as Mount Rushmore is from the ground. And suddenly, the landscape was bleak and vacant without him.

And, 7 miles above the earth, I grieved for him.

And I knew, in an inexplicable way, that *“bidden or unbidden, God is present.”*

Jen's ordination was glorious. Grace Cathedral's impeccable Gothic architecture echoed the sounds of joy and hope and wonder and new possibility. Along with her parents, three children, her friend from Tennessee and the Rector of her home church, I presented her for ordination. My anxiety at being three time zones away from what I know and understand left me for an hour or so. *Vocatus Deus aderit*—my fellow West Virginian, Bill Swing, called on God to be present and the Spirit swirled around Jen and me and the 1500 people in that glorious cathedral. In my own way, I prayed for my cousin, Brad, and my dear friend, Ed. And, in ways I neither understand nor profess to be able to explain, a good 3000 miles from Richmond and Waterbury, God was present. And the Spirit swirled beyond my knowing to include Brad and Ed and all those “we love but see no more.”

Reason enough for two long rides on airplanes. Reason enough and more....

Shalom,

Jim



Easter Season 2001

To: All Parishioners

From: James Bradley, Rector

Re: Columbarium at St. John's Church

The Vestry of St. John's is currently considering the possibility of installing a columbarium inside the church. I am writing to get your opinion on this project.

A columbarium is a cabinet in which cremated remains may be placed for interment. In the simplest terms, a columbarium would be the permanent resting place for ashes after cremation.

For several years now, St. John's has provided burial for ashes in the Close. A dozen or so remains are buried there. Installing a columbarium would provide an option to burial in the Close for those who choose it.

This holy season of Resurrection is an appropriate time to discuss plans for burial. No one likes to think of such matters, but it is an important decision and one each of us should make for ourselves so our family will be sure our wishes are carried out. To plan for your death is a gift you can give to those you love, freeing them from wondering if they are making decisions you would approve.

And, since we are the People of Resurrection, making decisions about these details should not be thought of as morbid or depressing. The Burial Office of The Book of Common Prayer is full of Easter imagery and includes the wondrous and hopeful phrase: "***Even at the grave, our song is Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***" For people of faith, death is not an ending but a change. One of the most responsible and Christian things you can do is give prayerful thought to your wishes regarding your death.

So, I am writing to both remind you that St. John's already provides you with an option regarding burial and to ask your opinion on whether the parish should provide people with a second option by installing a columbarium.

It is already possible for ashes to be interred in the Close. Since there is no fee involved for interment in the Close, this is a choice that can free your family of a financial burden when you die. There would be a charge for interring ashes in a columbarium. However, the Vestry is committed to having the fee reflect the real cost to St. John's. Should we install a columbarium, we will seek donations for its construction in order to keep the cost at a realistic minimum to families.

So, we need your help and your response. Please complete the form at the end of this letter and return it to the office. Your opinion is valued and will be considered as we make decisions about the columbarium project, so **please** prayerfully consider this possibility, mark the form appropriately and return it to us.

Even if you have already made plans for your burial and own a burial plot, we still want your opinion and value it highly.

The Burial Office ends with a beautiful and moving anthem: ***Into paradise may the angels lead you. At your coming may the martyrs receive you, and bring you into the holy city Jerusalem.*** St. John's clergy are always available to you to discuss the difficult issues surrounding death and to help you make plans for that certain event. Call upon us when you want counsel and guidance about those matters. And please return the so we may determine whether or not to continue on our plan to add a columbarium to the options we may offer members of the parish.

Thank you for your time and consideration. And may this season of new Life bring you joy and hope.

Shalom,

Jim, Pam and Linda

Please answer each question, tear off, and mail to St. John's or place it on the collection plate.

1. My/our burial plans are complete. Yes _____ No _____
2. Regarding a "St. John's Columbarium" (mark one):
_____ I/we would consider interment in the columbarium.
_____ I/we may be interested and would like to know more details.
_____ I/we have other plans but think St. John's should have a columbarium.
_____ I/we don't think a columbarium is a good idea at St. John's.
_____ None of the above express my opinion.
3. I/we would be interested in a series on the issues of death planning. _____ Yes _____ No.
4. I/we would like to discuss death planning with a priest. _____ Yes _____ No.

Name(s): *(please print)* _____

BE PREPARED

The Early Bird Catches the Worm

This is a reminder that the **Christmas Bazaar** is just around the corner! We need to be one step ahead of ourselves. Bring your items to church in September for the best bazaar!

Jewelry All kinds are in desperate need.

Necklaces; earrings; bracelets; pins and more.

Crafts Don't wait for the last minute; have a summer project to work on.

Books Look in every cranny and nook; gather them together.

Tag Sale Look in your garage, attic, cellar and house. "Be an eye detective mouse".

Sarah Haines



Special thanks to everyone who helped make Sunday morning coffee hours a time of sharing and hospitality. Thank

you to the "bakers" and especially to Arlene Emmens, Karen Minkler, Molly Sherman, Anne Vaccarelli, Edwin Lago, and Sharon Taylor.

We will be in need of helpers come September. If you can help one Sunday a month or even occasionally, please see Arlene Emmens (8 am service) or Eleanor Crean (10:15 service) or leave your name and number with the church office. Thank you again. **It would not have happened without your help.**

Eleanor Crean & Diane Caggiano

Dear Friends: I want to thank you for another wonderful collection of baby items and toiletries that you donated to Safe Haven. You are very kind to continue to remember our families so often with these incredible donations. I hope you know how much we appreciate all you do. What else can I say? Your kindness and generosity are overwhelming. Thank you.

Peggy Panagrossi, Exec. Dir.



SAINT JOHN'S CENTER

for

SPIRITUALITY & MINISTRY

in cooperation with

SAINT JOHN'S PARISH

Presents

THREE RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, September 22

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Led by

Brother Robert Hugh King Smith, S.S.F.

Saturday & Sunday, October 5 & 6

PARISH RETREAT at HOLY CROSS
MONASTERY

and for those who cannot get away
A CONCURRENT RETREAT IN THE PARISH
HOUSE

Led by

Dr. Ron Cebik & SJC Staff

Saturday, November 17

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Led by

Dr. Minka Sprague
Prof., New York Theological Seminary

Cost: \$25.* (Includes lunch)

*The Holy Cross Retreat has a separate set of charges

St. John's Third AmeriCares Project

This is the third year that St. John's has participated in an AmeriCares Project. AmeriCares is an organization that helps low income families keep their homes safe, warm and dry. St. John's AmeriCares is one of the projects sponsored by the Outreach Committee of St. John's. St. John's contributes \$1500 and many volunteers for this project. Each year home owners apply to AmeriCares to help with their homes. The home owners who will receive help are selected by AmeriCares. St. John's members can apply to AmeriCares if they would like their house to be a recipient of this project. The families who are selected have low incomes and expect to stay in the house at least five years. The volunteers do as much work as possible for the home owner on the first Saturday in May.

The home we worked on this year is owned by Mary Monteiro. She lives at 322 Bishop Street in Waterbury. Mary has sent a note thanking the volunteers for all their hard work and food for the volunteers. This year the St. John's volunteers filled up a dumpster with things that needed to be thrown away, crated several perennial flower beds, installed a new railing on the front porch, added motion lights to the sides of the house, installed a new faucet, replaced some gutters, repaired flooring under a sink, replaced windows, painted the trim on the house, and rescued two kittens. It would have taken one person over two months working 40 hours weekly to accomplish what 45 volunteers did in one day.

An additional thank you to Bob Toffey, Howard Cook, Ted Bojarski, Bill Garretson, Greg Emmens, Dick Harris, Paul Figlia, Peter Taylor, and Monte Taylor for looking over the project in advance. They helped the House Captain decide what supplies he needed to order. Pat Boraski and Cathy Gannon organized enough food to feed most of Waterbury. Sue Audietis worked all day on

windows and got a power washer donated. Al Dwyer volunteered to come back and install the two windows that we couldn't install on May 5 and George Zucca brought elephant manure to make the flowers grow. Paula Hardy and her children lived in the first AmeriCares house on which St. John's members worked. She and her children came back for the third year to help with this year's project. Howard Cook checked for poisonous weeds to avoid the poison ivy several volunteers got last year. Howard also donated mulch and wood chips. Bill Garretson donated paint which lightened up the front hallway. Another St. John's member donated \$100 for supplies for the project. There are always reasons to go to Home Depot during the day for things we couldn't anticipate needing. Volunteers also donated perennials and food. Theresa Moriarty has donated food and worked on all three AmeriCares projects. Members of the church who do everything worked on this project too.

Volunteers: Sue Audietis, Jeff Brown, Lorene Castle, Dick Harris, Peter Taylor, Marie DeRiso, Glenn DeCarolis, Bob Toffey, Paul Figlia, Monte and Renee Taylor, Bill Garretson, Geoff May, Anne May, Chris Antoci, Justin May, Ian Taff, Jason Elmore, Brian Cannery, Headley Thomas, Paula Hardy, Dejon Nowell, Sarah Haines, Albert Dwyer, Howard Cook, Mary Monteiro, Cathy Gannon, Faye Thomas, Evanson Dover, George Zucca, Pat Bojarski, Greg Emmens, Holis Hart, Dot Raleigh, Jan Gurniak, Cheryl Moody, Thad Ribner, Justin Quan, Frankll Diggy, John Russell, Ena Dover, Emily Gates, Melissa Clark, Tom Cook, Pinki Chillemi, Theresa Moriarty, Ted Bojarski, Phyllis Catuccio, Shoprite of Waterbury, Super Stop & Shop, Barbara Corbin, Helen Pritchard, Faye Thomas, Mary Marlak, Donna Deitch, Elizabeth Rao, Jeremy Vermette, Diane Caggiano. We appreciate all of the volunteers who made this project successful.

*Jeff Brown, House Captain
Glenn DeCarolis, Assistant House Captain
Lorene Castle, Volunteer Coordinator*

September Parish Prayer Cycle

September 2, 2001: Lillian Gonzalez, Ann Goodson, Steven and Lorrie Gordon & family, Evelyn Graham, Richard Grandpre & family, Beth Grant, Sharon Gray & family, Unita and Vibert Gray, Helen Green, Stephen and Lisa Greider & family, David and Janet Gurniak.

September 9, 2001: Frank and Debra Hadder & family, Eric and Franca Hahn, Sarah Haines & family, Howard and Nna Hallock, Eileen Hamilton, Thomas and Gale Hamilton.

September 16, 2001: George and Barbara Hankey & family, Richard and Sally Harris, Hollis Hart, Peter and Bonni Hartley & family, Gerda Hartung, Robert and Bonnie Sue Havery, Jim Hearn, Gary and Traci Hill, Doris Hollenstein, Marcia Holroyd, Hanne Howard, Barbara Howe.

September 23, 2001: Paul and Joan Huggins, Curtiss and Donna Hunt & family, Amelia Iorio, Winifred Isherwood, Hamsa Jayarai, Marcel and Alison Jeannin, Susan Jefferson, Norman and Sandra Jellinghaus, Kevin and Sandra Jobbagy.

September 30, 2001: Richard Johnson, Jannice Johnston, Jennifer Joseph, Patricia Jurievich, Joan Kachergis, Charles T. and Martha Kellogg, Bruce and Lori Kennedy & family.

September Anniversaries

9/2 William and Priscilla Munson
9/2 Christopher and Ann Donohue
9/5 Willis and Gert Payne
9/5 Jim and Bern Bradley
9/5 Elizabeth and Paul Santoro
9/8 Steven and Karen Minkler
9/11 Courtney and Doriel Layne
9/12 Joseph and Kristan Lanoie

9/19 Michael and Maria Forester
9/23 Craig and Amy DesRoberts
9/25 Peter and Bonni Hartley
9/27 Gerard McDonald and Janet Mitchell
9/28 Jeffrey and Marjorie Mann
9/29 Lary and Kathleen Tapley
9/30 George and Barbara Hankey, III



September Birthdays

9/1 Destiny Santa Maria
9/1 Shirley Chouinard
9/1 Lila Lange
9/2 Peter Lenart
9/2 Marjorie Mann
9/2 Linda Pomeroy
9/3 Michael Misurelli
9/4 Tiffany Mahon
9/4 Virginia Sheehan
9/5 Zenith Punter
9/6 Donna Gervickas
9/6 John Yhas, Jr.
9/9 Shirley Weiss
9/10 Devin Mantzaris
9/10 Joan Huggins
9/10 Harriet Fotter
9/10 Brandon Perrault
9/10 Bill Penny
9/10 Moriah Vermette
9/11 Leigh Inkster
9/11 Amanda Lowndes
9/11 Mary Friez
9/12 Greg Emmens
9/12 Eunice McCorison
9/12 John Tchakirides
9/13 Margaret Baranoski
9/14 Dick Harris
9/15 Bob Willis
9/16 Thomas DeMarest, Jr.
9/16 Lois Mraz
9/16 Michael Quirici

9/17 Dorothy Westerlund
 9/18 Aaron Capobianco
 9/20 Linda Snyder
 9/22 Daniel Yuhas
 9/22 Terry Munger
 9/24 Patty Daniels
 9/25 Tayler Umbro
 9/25 Brittany Kennedy
 9/26 Lorene Castle
 9/26 Peter Taylor
 9/26 Diane Candee
 9/27 Galo Marriott
 9/27 Jane Woods
 9/27 Elena Viega
 9/29 Mary Ellen Yashenko



Another way to mark important dates (such as birthdays, anniversaries or just thanksgivings) is to donate \$10.00 toward the Bread and Wine for a given Sunday. We include a form for that purpose on the last page of this Outrider and list the donation in the appropriate Sunday bulletin.

Altar Flowers In Memory Of

July 1 Mary Wheaton and Ed Jefferson.

July 8 Mary Matthew Quigley and Evelyn Stoner.

July 15 John T. Monzani, Sr.

July 22 Olivine Sullivan Brown.

July 29 Frederick Elliott Harrison.

August 5 Deceased Altar Guild members.

August 12 Alma Bailey Higginbotham, Hazel Pekrul, and Harold Kenneth Higginbotham.

August 19 Mary Wheaton.

Many parishioners (or families and friends of parishioners) choose to mark the



anniversary of a loved one's death by donating \$25.00 toward the purchase of flowers for the altar. We list the names in the bulletin for the appropriate Sunday and, for those who are unable to attend church that day, we also list the names in the Outrider. We have a form in the Outrider that you can complete and send to the church office along with your check. Gert Payne also maintains a list of those who wish to purchase flowers every year. Gert can be contacted at 203-757-8481.

Thoughts for the day

Poems by Sarah Haines

Love of St. John

Through the beauty
 of St. John,
 Our loved ones are
 never gone.
 In spirit they remain
 with us,
 We are united together,
 As we embrace each other,
 Lean on me
 God will carry thee.

Remembrance

Precious memories linger
 in our hearts,
 Our loved one is not
 far apart,
 They sit amongst us everywhere,
 quiet moments of prayer.
 Friendship we have formed.
 In Christ we are joined.
 Our sadness is clouded
 by rain
 In our hearts leaves pain.
 In time the rainbow
 will shine.

OUTREACH TEAM 2000 - SAFE HAVEN NEWS



Even in the summer when we all feel like "takin'-it-easy" the women and children of Safe Haven Shelter continue to need the practical basics of supplies. All of us find with the heat we need, sometimes more than in other seasons, to "wash up". Our babies and toddlers certainly continue to need diapers, too, and these are true necessities. With these thoughts in mind the Team 2000 requests are as follows:

July 8th: 1 roll of paper towel **or** one laundry soap **or** 1 pkg of disposable diapers.

August 12th: 1 bottle of shampoo **or** 1 bar of soap **or** 1 new bath towel.

If you visit a day care facility and observe some of the activities, you will likely hear a teacher sing a "clean-up" song ending an activity period when the children are moving on to a different activity. Thank you all, in advance, for joining-in the "clean-up" collection for this summer outreach ministry.

You can rest assured that if you are unable to leave your donations on a designated 2nd Sunday, you can make your contribution at any time and it will be added to the current collection. Here's to wishing you each a restful, enjoyable summer!

Diane C. and Jan G.



Dear Friends of Safe Haven,

On **Sunday morning, September 30th**, Melitza Velez, the community education co-ordinator for Safe Haven, will be at St. John's between 9 am and 10 am to speak to us about the shelter and the vital work they do. She will also give us information about the vigil that will be held here at St. John's on Thursday evening, **October 18th**. Both of these programs are open to everyone. We hope to have as many people present as possible to show our support. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. By wearing a purple ribbon and by being present at these programs, you can show your support to families in crisis. Thank you.

Jan Gurniak & Diane Caggiano

St. John's Cares



Tom Cook was house captain of last year's AmeriCares Project. Tom wanted St. John's to have a project similar to AmeriCares that would help members of our church. The Outreach Committee is sponsoring this new project. They have named the project, "St. John's Cares". The first "St. John's Cares" project is going to happen soon. Tom Cook will help another member of the church move a washing machine so she can do her laundry. Church members may contact Jim Bradley, Mary Gates, or chairs of the Outreach Committee - Christine Stolfi or Sandy Allard - to see if St. John's Cares can assist you with something for which you need a helping hand.

Lorene Castle



Food Bank Needs



The Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries (GWIM) needs the following items: canned fruit, canned juices, cereal; baby food (all stages); pasta; hash, chili, canned vegetables, beans - whatever you can provide to the Food Pantry, we are grateful.



Meatloaf Ministry

Hello and Welcome New Parishioners

The **Meatloaf Ministry** is always looking for new members to join our wonderful group of volunteers who make 2-lb. cooked, frozen meatloafs or 2-lb. cooked casseroles of your choice (tuna or chicken salad, tuna & macaroni, macaroni & cheese), or fruit salads, fresh fruit or watermelons for the GWIM dining hall here, at St. John's Parish. If you would rather not make a meatloaf, a \$5 donation will be accepted and a meatloaf will be made in your name. Please see Sarah Haines at the 10:15 service.

Meatloaf Sundays - July 15th and August 19th.

Church Office Summer Hours
Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Jan Figlia Resigns As Church School Co-Ordinator

Jan Figlia has resigned from the position of Church School Co-Ordinator after 14 years of service. Jan's commitment to St. John's children and her engagement in their Christian nurture and formation has been an inspiration to me over the years. We will miss her ministry of education greatly.

Jan will continue working with the Crafters who meet weekly to work on crafts for the St. John's Bazaar.

Remember to thank Jan for her years of service and to thank God for her.

Shalom,

Jim

COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE

I would like to donate (\$10) the bread and wine for the weekly Eucharist at St. John's on Sunday:

[] In Memory of: _____

[] In thanksgiving for: _____

Please acknowledge my donation to:

My name, address, and phone number are:
