
The Outrider

November 2001

The View from my Deck of the Buddleia Bush

(All has been full of stress and pain. It is two weeks and two days since the nightmare of September 11, 2001. I am leaving in less than two days for a vacation. Somehow, a vacation doesn't mean what it meant 16 days ago. On September 12, I sat on our deck and watched the late afternoon shadows spread across our back yard. A single Monarch butterfly lighted on a buddleia bush and took nectar from the flower—as if nothing horrible had happened. Out of that came this poem. As humble as it is, I share it with you.

Shalom, JIM)

The Buddleia Bush

(How different in size and weight and mass
Are shrubs from concrete, purple buds from steel.
In that same way, human limbs from girders;
Flesh and blood from wires, aluminum and glass.)

The evening shadows creep across our yard
Carefully from west to east, giving comfort
In their slow, solemn, shade giving foot steps—
Something to rely on, believe in, trust—
Until only one remarkable, unruly branch
Of the butterfly bush is left in sun.

(The tempered steel and concrete endured not.
Consumed in flame and melted into ash.
Twin shadows crept across the very heart
Of Life Itself, and plunged to Darkness deep
And absolute...an unthinkable grave:
A smoldering tribute to Death and Hate.)

Yet, in my calm Connecticut back yard,
A trembling Monarch finds the only bloom
On that one branch that somehow found the sun.
He sups on Sweetness, drinks deep from the Warmth
Clings stubbornly to purple flower and Life.

(Among the burned, twisted, monstrous remains,
Besides the human parts, something else found—
The butterfly soul of Each—All—of us,
Searching the rubble for the Buddleia.)

A moment in the sun, a taste of Sweet—
What else is there, given the ugliness
Of life, of death, of suffering, of pain?

This there is—
Butterflies that dream of blossoms unknown,
And human who will not accept that Death
Is all there is.
They drink of broken-heartedness and turn
To face the Sun, the New Day, and—Yes!—Love!

Shalom,

Jim



FROM THE DESK OF DIANE PLATT, CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Moses writes in the book of Deuteronomy: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates". [Deuteronomy 6:5-9]

The verses from Deuteronomy describe how important it is for parents to teach their children to love the Lord. Thanks to the help and support of the church school staff we are able to share the love of the Lord with your children on Sunday morning. We started off in September with about 30 students enrolled, however, attendance has declined. Being new to St. John's, I am trying to figure out why. "Why has attendance dropped off and why haven't so many other families in the directory not registered?"

I am looking for seven people to join me as part of a Christian Education Committee. People who are interested in **growing** a Children's Ministry. A Christian Education Committee can be the strength behind the Church School.

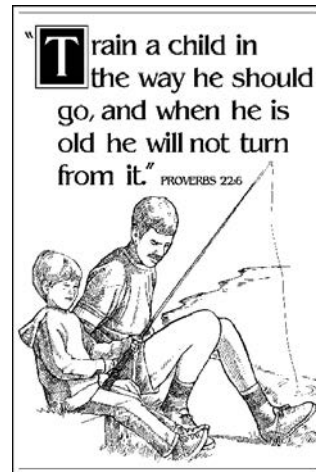
This Committee will require a commitment. We will desire to serve the Lord. We will meet once a month during the church

school year. We will need to commit to supporting children and family ministry with our talents. Please prayerfully consider your participation on this committee.

A Christian Education Committee is best represented by a mix of adults with children (or grown children) and without children. Committee participants should be church school teachers, men and women, young adults through older adults.

Please contact me either at church or at my home (264-2885). I leave you with verses from Acts; Paul writes about some of the problems the twelve Apostles are dealing with when they admit they can't do it all. So they form a group or committee of seven to help them. They know if they are to grow, they need support.

"Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word. That they said pleased the whole community...They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them." [Acts 6:3-6]





The Creative Church School welcomes students at any time during the school year. Church School begins at 9:15 a.m. and we run until 10:00 a.m. For the

month of November we will be working on music with church school children. The children will learn the song, "This Little Light of Mine", which they will perform during the Advent Service on December 2nd.

For November and December we will run class until 10:10 a.m. to allow for time to practice.

Church school will also be working on a Christmas play. The play will be presented at the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

I would like to thank Steve Minkler for organizing the children's music. We hope this could be the first step towards a children's choir.

I would also like to thank the church school teachers who continue to teach every week:

Preschool – Carrie Misurelli, Jordan Webber, and Beatrice Burns.

K-2nd grade – Arlene and Greg Emmens.

3rd – 5th grade – Angela Misurelli and Emily Brown.

6th grade – Roger Wheeler

7th grade – Shirley Chouinard.

Diane Platt



TOP TEN REASONS FOR SINGING IN THE CHOIR

10. You get to use a classy red robe – rent free!
9. Some good laughs – we average 3 3/8 good laughs per Thursday night rehearsal.
8. When you sing in a group, you always sound better.
7. When the choir sings from the balcony, you have the best view in the church (the church looks fantastic from up there!)
6. Singing Introids in the Tower Narthex – it's like singing in the shower out there, but you get to do it with your friends.
5. If you don't like the music, you get to complain right away to the guy who helps choose it. (He actually is open to suggestions, especially from choir members).
4. A guarantee that you won't have to share your hymnal.
3. The joy of singing.
2. The joy of singing to the Lord.
1. The joy of singing for the Lord.

Come and see! We rehearse Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Also - St. John's Choir will sing Evensong at St. George's Church, Middlebury, on Sunday, November 11th at 4:00 p.m. Other choirs singing will include St. George's, Trinity, Seymour, and All Saints, Wolcott.

NEEDING GODDE

“You rain destruction on us without ever having to
see our faces.
Someday you will have to look in our eyes.”
An Iraqi woman
during the Gulf War

Purgation

I study his face. It is everywhere.
On the internet, in the newspaper, in
magazines, on the television. Osama bin
Laden. He is called a bastard from a pulpit
in Seymour. A terrorist. A fearless fanatic.
Diabolical. A coward unafraid of death. A
hero of hell. Perhaps he is all of these
things.

There is an unexpected softness in
his eyes. Somehow this is deeply
disturbing. It is far more frightening than
the hardness of Saddam Hussein or the
distance of Timothy McVeigh. Osama is
one of those most dangerous of men – a true
believer. He does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the
mouth of his God. His God is the God who
is Other. The God who is not human. His
ways are not our ways.

Before hijacking the planes, Osama’s
followers polish their shoes and dress in
clean clothes. They meditate. Then they set
out to create an inferno, all the while
believing in those most vicious of words:
“God wills it.”

* * * *

I study the flag. It is everywhere.
On cars and buildings. On bridges and
baseball uniforms. I place one in the
window of my office so it is visible from the
street. United we stand.

I arrive for the 10:15 service, and
there is a flag on the service leaflet.
Somehow this is deeply disturbing. Why

has the flag taken over our worship? Where
is the cross?

Don’t misunderstand me. I support
the war effort. Osama and his believers
must be fought. I am not a pacifist. I
believe that the passengers on Flight 93
made the best possible choice, and that their
resorting to violence prevented far worse
violence from occurring. I will pay my
taxes and give my vote. But I do not want
God as a co-pilot on an F-16. I do not want
God as a member of our Special Forces.

Do we seek God’s comment on our
situation? The divine Word was spoken on
Calvary, and even after 2000 years the
silence from that place is deafening and
terrifying. Our history did not begin on
September 11. Both you and I have given
our taxes and our votes, our ignorance and
our compliance, to acts of violence great and
small long before this. In any of those
cases, we may believe that we made the best
possible choice. Regardless, we have
chosen, and we still today choose, to live by
the sword. Let us leave it at that. We
choose. Let us at least not pretend that God
wills it.

Illumination

We feel profound grief. We feel
deep anger. And something else – we feel
fear. In a way that we have never known
before, we have experienced vulnerability.

For years we have lived in a global
economy. We use Saudi oil, drink
Colombian and Sumatran coffee, wear
Honduran clothing, eat Chilean bananas, and
log on to PC’s made in Taiwan with tech
support from Ireland or India. Our material
life became interdependent long ago.

We in America, however, have had
the unfortunate luxury of being able to stand
apart from the world while drawing

sustenance from it. We have been both powerful and distant enough to engage with others when we want or need to, but then withdraw on whim. We have been tall and strong enough to touch the world while at the same time fending it off. The world does not primarily resent our wealth or our power. What is resented is our invulnerability. And when September 11 exposed us as vulnerable, the global outpouring of heartfelt sympathy from many was matched by an equally heartfelt jubilation by others. It is sobering to contemplate the abyss that separates us from the hearts and minds of so much of the world's population.

And yet our Scripture tells us that in the beginning the Spirit hovered over the abyss. I once thought that it was just a theological curiosity, maybe a bit of political correctness, that the Spirit was understood to be feminine. I rolled my eyes when I read articles that used the spelling "Godde" to indicate the feminine divine. I was wrong.

It has been said that God created us in His image and likeness – and then we returned the compliment. There is a lot of truth to that comment. We can only know God through our human faculties. But our Gods are created far too much in just a fraction of our own image. We desperately need the feminine face of both ourselves and of Godde. The Godde of relationship and connection. The Godde Between. We need the Godde who is discovered not just in action but also in interaction. We need the Godde who waits for us not just in meditation but also in mediation. We need the Godde who can expand our compassion for the thousands who are grieving in New York and across America to the millions who are refugees in Afghanistan and across the globe and the hundreds whose hunger is currently being forgotten here in Waterbury. We need the Godde who can blow open our denominations and our nations. We need

the Godde who can breathe life into our souls and softness into our hearts.

Oftentimes I gaze at the face of my beloved. There is something about a sleeping person that is evocative of extraordinary tenderness. I think it is her vulnerability. The events of September 11 made us all painfully aware of our vulnerability. It is understandable that we have been angry and sad and fearful. But this fellowship of vulnerability is also an opportunity for extraordinary tenderness towards the entire human family. Perhaps if we each look gently enough at the face of our beloved, we shall at last be able to look in the eyes of the Iraqi woman. I pray that Godde wills it.

Union

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Mother and Giver of Life. She is Breath for the Father and the Son. Without Her neither the Father nor the Son is worshipped or glorified. She continues to speak through Her prophets.

I believe in one, holy Unity; the Communion of all that is, that has been, and that shall be. I believe in the healing of all disconnection; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting.

So may it be.

With gratitude to A.S.

John M. Sabol

NOVEMBER PARISH PRAYER CYCLE

November 4: Wayne and Catherine Lewis & family, Donna Longo, Rocco & Vicki Longo & family, Frederick and Gina Loomis & family, Glenn and Donna Lowndes & family, Melita and Michael Lucas, Jeanne Luedke, and Donald Luth.

November 11: George MacDonald, Michael and Debra MacDonald, Elaine Maier, Ruth Maier, Thomas and Josephine Maloney & family, Alan and Justin Mancinone, Alice Mancinone, Lisa Mancinone & family, Jeffrey and Marjorie Mann & family.

November 18: John and Ann Mantzaris & family, Russell and Shirley Marcy, Alexandria Markowich, Mary Marlak, Tony and Jennifer Marques, Galo Marriott, Katie Martin, Nicholas and Katherine Masi, John and Michelle Mastropietro & family, Jill and Vincent Matteis, Susan V. Matthew, Kevin and Carrie Ann Matthews & family, Gregory and Laurie Mattson & family, Geoff and Bonnie May & family.

November 25: James and Eunice McCorrison, Michael and Sharon McDonald & family, Gerard McDonald and Janet Mitchell, Elaine McDonnell, Robert McDonnell, Robert McHugh, Robert and Diana McIntosh, Thomas and Ann McMackin, Charles and Judith McManis.



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/2 Charles and Judith McManis
11/3 St. Clair and Gertrude Benjamin
11/6 Willie Scott and Patricia Daniels
11/8 Bryan and Stacy Petrosky
11/10 Howard and Jane Woods
11/16 Glenn and Donna Lowndes
11/23 Kenneth and Lisa Aubrie
11/24 Peter and Bertha Lenart
11/26 Jane and John Yuhas
11/28 John and Roseanne Sabol, Jr.
11/28 Joseph and Nancy Kinsella
11/30 Antonio and Jennifer Marques, Jr.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Lisa Aubrie
11/1 Gil Kirby
11/2 Tom Butcher
11/2 Robert McIntosh, Jr.
11/3 Burton Lavey
11/4 Constance Lavey
11/4 Carol Parker
11/7 Patricia Klein
11/9 Krystal Dover
11/9 Susan Aubrie
11/10 Sue Parker
11/11 Martha Coulson
11/11 Jennifer Spinella
11/12 Karyn DiTomaso
11/12 Maria Forrester
11/13 Jan Figlia
11/15 Thomas Flanagan
11/15 Andrew Skipp
11/18 Donna Kelly
11/19 Andrew Beaudoin
11/20 Florence Normand
11/20 David Smith, Jr.
11/21 James Smith
11/21 Winifred Isherwood
11/22 Megan Foell
11/23 Charles Kellogg
11/23 Kaitlyn Scott
11/24 Katherine Haines
11/24 Lillian Brown
11/26 Mildred Morrone
11/28 Steve Minkler
11/28 Charlotte Vanasse
11/28 John Mantzaris
11/29 Kay Bergin
11/30 Nina Hallock
11/30 Alexandria Markowich
11/30 Mabel Schuster



Wedding this Month

11/10 Toni DeLeone and Michael O'Connell



In Memory Of...

November 4: Catherine Reed Steck, John Francis Steck, and Mildred Steck.

November 11: Elsie Flink, Verne and Dorothy Parker.

November 18: Fred and Ruth Harrison, and Richard Bush.

November 25: Oscar and Augusta Esplin, Sr., Oscar Esplin, Jr., Jane Esplin Norton, Connie L. Sagnaio, Ernest H. & Myrtle Tchakirides, Irving and Effie Tchakirides.

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.



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.



**ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

**CRAFTS
BAKED GOODS
BOOK TABLE
TAG SALE
SOUP/SANDWICH LUNCHEON**

**APPLES/CHEESE
FACEPAINTING
SILENT AUCTION
AND MORE!**



****Please continue to bring your Bazaar donations – music, CD's, books, jewelry, men's and ladies' accessories, etc. to St. John's. Your cooperation and donations are appreciated!!**





ECOLOG

“Thinking Like A Mountain”

Our first response is, “Mountains don’t think”. For many, perhaps most, people they are inanimate, immovable, lifeless, uncaring piles of rock. They stand there season after season for unimaginable eons, draped in humidity in warm weather, wind in temperate times, snow and ice in winter. In our experience mountains do not think.

There is, in southern New Hampshire, a mountain whose summit stands some 2,00 feet above the surrounding countryside. This summit is smooth and rounded, formed in its present shape by the last ice sheet that covered it 10,000 years ago. The rocks of this peak represent what was once the bottom of a valley. Standing there today, nearly half a mile above the plain, you realize you are in an ancient geologic depression, and the geologists tell us that peaks once rose thousands of feet above what is today the summit.

Given enough time all rock above sea level is worn down to the level of the sea. “Erosion” is the name for that wearing down and its clock is marked in millions of years, a concept barely open to human imagination, and beyond all human experience. We who are concerned about the life of our planet must learn to “think like a mountain”.

Consider the space occupied by this small New Hampshire mountain, consider that for 10,000 years it has looked pretty much as it does today. Try to imagine the heights that once towered above it and the immense passage of time that has reduce it a mere 3,100 feet above sea level. (Mountains of

the American west are six times as high.) “Thinking like a mountain” is to think on time and space scales that find no place in our daily lives. We, whose lives are numbered by days and months and years, will need to reckon by centuries and millennia.

It is to begin to realize that the earth’s life goes by nature’s time frame, not by ours. This is a humbling experience, an antidote to our human arrogance. And it may be that people who come to have a truly deep respect for nature will be less likely to do violence against her.

Try to think “like a mountain”.

Jack Parker

EARTH MINISTRY



Let us save the earth! The next junk mail collection is November 7th. Please place junk mail in brown bags and place in recycle bins at curbside.



PLEASE NOTE: If you have changed your mailing address, please let the Church Office know! We’re getting far too many returned Outriders that cost the Church substantial money in postage fees. Your attention to this matter will be appreciated.

GENTLE REMINDER

It won’t be long before the GWIM December toy sale is upon us. When purchasing toys, please leave price tag on the toys. Thank you.

Thought for the Day

The Gift of Love

Children are a wonderful
gift of the Lord,
Their smiles and love
are a beacon of light,
Curiosity filled with wonder,
expands with knowledge,
joy and happiness,
Squeezes us all,
Little tickles of laughter
squeals in the air,
Bring delight everywhere.
Children are a Treasure to
Hold,
Around us all
Their love
enfolds.

- Sarah B. Haines

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands – one Nation, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

Sarah Haines



Participate in one of America's most celebrated freedoms. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th.

OUTREACH – TEAM 2000 SAFE HAVEN NEWS

Serving



OTHERS

It is hard to believe that Team 2000 is only two months away from its 2nd birthday! With this November's contributions for the children and women who live at the Safe Haven Shelter, many of you will have generously and faithfully supported these residents monthly with your donations of supplies and personal items. What a commitment you each have made...

This month's suggested donations are:

1 package of twin sheets

OR

1 woman's or child's winter hat

OR

1 bar of soap

You may remember pillows and pillowcases are also on the general shelter "wish list" as are laundry items, baby supplies, toiletries, games, etc.

With the upcoming celebration of Thanksgiving, may each of us who participate in this ministry include with prayers for our country, for peace, additional prayers for those who are sheltered at Safe Haven and for many years of happiness ahead for them.

In our Thanksgiving petitions we continue to give thanks for each of you who continue to support this vital ministry and for your commitment "to remember the needs of others".

Diane C. and Jan G.

COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE

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

FOOD BANK NEEDS

[] In Memory of: _____ 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.
Please acknowledge my donation to: _____



MEATLOAF MINISTRY

My name, address, and phone number are: _____
Sunday, November 18th is meatloaf and casserole Sunday for GWIM dining hall. A 2-lb. cooked, frozen meatloaf or 2-lb. cooked casseroles of your choice can be brought to St. John's. A \$5 donation to have a meatloaf made in your name is optional. See Sarah Haines at the 10:15 service or at coffee hour in the Library.



COAT COLLECTION
GWIM is collecting coats in good condition to help keep those in need warm this winter. Men, women and children's coats are needed. Bring coats to church on Sunday (both services) or you may leave them at GWIM, 84 Crown Street, Waterbury. Thank you.



The Rev. Bill Penny needs volunteers to drive him home from his ministry here on Thursdays, between 1:30 and 2:00 p.m. Rev. Penny resides near Litchfield Town Center; please call the church office at 754-3116 if

you would be willing to give him a ride home.

Have you noticed that many of our prayer books have broken bindings, loose or missing pages? If you would like to purchase a prayer book in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday or other special occasion (inscribed with name and date) please call the office. The cost is \$17.00 per book.



The GWIM Soup Kitchen at St. John's will be accepting pies and desserts for the dining hall to be used on Thanksgiving Day up until Monday, November 19th. Monetary donations are always appreciated, especially during the holiday season.

