
The Outrider

APRIL 2002

The New View From Above The Close

"I'm deep in the Old Man's Puzzle..."

-Robertson Davies, Fifth Business

The offices Mary Gates and I had on the third floor of the Parish House are now used for church school, adult education, and other meetings. The Kellogg Room, which used to be a clergy office 20+ years ago is now what Mary and I share as a place to meet with folks. There isn't a desk in that "office" – it's more like a living room than "work space". The little office across the second floor landing will be a "working office" with computers and desks for Mary and me.

The only thing I miss about my old office is the fireplace, but I hadn't had a fire in it for several years! What I truly like about the new arrangement is the "new views" I have from the Kellogg Room's three windows. One window looks out on the Close and the Green – downtown Waterbury – just like the view from the old office, but a little lower down. The second window looks across the flat roof that connects the Parish Hall to the church building. The third window looks down into the auditorium where the Soup Kitchen serves 150 or so meals a day and where blood drives and the Church Bazaar and toy sale are held, where AA groups meet, and a rich assortment of other activities take place.

The "new view" seems terribly appropriate in this year of discernment about the future we want to create for St. John's mission and ministry. From the office I can see the pieces of our shared life as a parish: the sacred worship space, the place of refuge and feeding, and the world beyond our walls.

When I arrived at St. John's as Rector in June 1989 – three months shy of 13 years ago – I found several references to St. John's that referred to our church as: "St. John's Parish (Episcopal) on-the-Green". It was such a cumbersome name that I took to shortening it to "St. John's Parish" or "St. John's-on-the-Green" or "St. John's Episcopal Church". But the truth is, that awkward, overly long name is the right one after all. The three windows of my "new view" confirm it.

St. John's Parish (Episcopal) on-the-Green is how we should see and acknowledge this place of worship, mission and ministry.

"Parish" is a word that refers to a geographical area. In England, the parish boundaries were determined by how far the bells of the church could be heard. And St. John's is a "parish church" in that rather quirky definition – we "serve" the area around us. If you came and spent a day or two hanging around you would be – I think – astonished by how busy St. John's is during the week. A few years ago

I estimated that over 100,000 people came through the buildings every year in addition to the 18,000 or so who attend services of worship! Do the math – there's more than a 5 to 1 ratio of people from "the parish" to those from "the congregation".

"(Episcopal)" – given those numbers, it's appropriate to put our religious heritage in parentheses. The "congregation" uses St. John's space much less than those we serve from the "parish" – the area around us. And what is remarkable is that you – those who worship and are nurtured here by our Episcopal identity – are so hospitable to the strangers in our midst. If all we did in this place was minister to "our own" – the Episcopal congregation – we wouldn't need so much space, so much staff, so many resources. There are 25,000 square feet of space in St. John's buildings. We'd need only a small part of that if all we were was an "Episcopal Church".

The "on-the-green"-ness of St. John's is the most illusive to describe. In the psyche of New England, the churches "on the Green" have a symbolic meaning. They are "the state churches" in a powerful and important way. Real estate agents will tell you, "location is everything!" Where St. John's sits – dominating the western end of the Waterbury Green – is a remarkable presence in the city. People who have never darkened our doors have a sense of St. John's towering, imposing presence. We have little control over what our presence "on-the-Green" means, but we miss an astonishing opportunity to make a difference if we neglect to properly appreciate what our "location" speaks about in the subconscious of the city.

An old, battle-scarred and well-worn Jesuit priest in Roberson Davies' novel, *Fifth Business*, describes his personal spiritual journey as being "deep in the old man's puzzle". That's where I am, looking over my "new view". God has not brought us to this time and put us in this space to leave us alone. God is calling us deeper into the puzzle of the Future we must create for St. John's.

There are only two ways to view the Future. Either we sit and wait for "what the Future brings" or we "create" a Future to live into. The first option is passive, without choice, depending on Fate. The second – the created Future – is active, formed by choices we make, based on Faith.

Fate vs. Faith. What I see from my *New View* tells me depending on Fate is deadly and living out of Faith is life-giving. Not much of a choice, so far as I can see.

Join me in "*the Old Man's Puzzle*". Let's create a Future God will delight in...

Shalom,

Jim

BROADWAY ON THE GREEN 2002

Save These Dates For
The Eighth Annual
Broadway Show

Friday, April 26th – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday – April 27th – 1:00 p.m. matinee and 8:00 p.m.

The visible results of the previous seven shows sits in the library – a beautiful piano.

We will be dedicating the piano at the coffee hour on Sunday, April 21st. We're hoping this year's cast will favor us with a preview of the 2002 show at the dedication.

Also, many thanks to this year's cast – that includes both St. John's folks and other Broadway veterans for the two work days at the church. Jeanne Luedke, director of the show, wanted a way for cast members to "give back" something to St. John's for the parish's support of Broadway over the years.

EMMAUS WEEKEND RESCHEDULED



The next Emmaus weekend will be Friday, June 7th from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

During that time participants will examine their own faith journey and the Future we are creating for St. John's through conversation, faith exercises, writing, prayer and worship. The paradigm of the Emmaus Journey comes from Luke's Gospel, Chapter 24.

The cost is \$10 (\$15 for a couple) and enrollment is limited to 12. Sign up right away or call the church office to save a space.

APRIL COMPANION EVENING -- TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND AT 6:30 P.M.

It has been six months since September 11th. It is time for another opportunity for folks to share their feelings and thoughts about the aftermath of 9/11. So, bring something for the Pot Luck Supper on April 2nd and be part of a community gathering to "check in" on how we're doing emotionally half-a-year after the terrorist attacks and the military response and the changes in our way of life.

I've asked some folks from outside the parish to join us and start our conversation and sharing.

(I truly believe 9/11 and "the war" continues to impact our lives in both conscious and unconscious ways. Our sessions with Ron Cebik and Dan Gates after 9/11 were helpful to many. Sharing our feelings and thoughts in a non-judgmental, safe environment is one way of finding healing and forgiveness for our souls.) I hope you'll join us on April 2nd. Take the time to take care of yourself in this way.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS UNITE!

St. John's Office staff – Harriet and Sue – do a remarkable volume of work.

Harriet, as Parish Administrator, has remarkably broad responsibilities for managing and scheduling the buildings, being staff liaison to all vendors and workers and outside groups using the building, scheduling and supervising the sextons and cleaning crew, keeping supplies up to date for all parish needs. She is liaison to the House Committee, keeps the overly busy calendar under control, does all our personnel and financial record keeping, writes the checks, and oversees keeping all our computer information and data current. She works closely with the Treasurer and parish committees along with her general care and nurture of the clergy and seminarians.

Sue, as Parish Secretary, is responsible for much of the communications of the parish from weekly and special bulletins, the Outrider, correspondence, mailings of all kinds and handling the amazing Always Ringing Phone. She is also the person who directs drop-ins and other folks visiting the church to the proper place or person. In addition, she keeps the parish records for baptisms, marriages, deaths, and confirmations along with organizing correspondence files and keeping track of numerous daily details and schedules. I sometimes wonder how many times a day she says, "Thank you for calling St. John's, this is Susan, how can I help you?" In addition, Sue's years of work for the City of Waterbury also makes her a valuable source of information and referrals.

Harriet and Sue are both part-social worker, part-pastoral counselor, and part-traffic cop/den mother! And they always do it with pleasantness and hospitality. We could not function without them and all they do.

Sandy Allard has accepted my invitation to be "office volunteer co-ordinator" and recruit and schedule volunteers to help out in the office so we can (What we ask of them is more than they can possibly do, yet every day they put on their capes and become Wonder Women again...)

If you'd like to be an office volunteer, contact Sandy. She'll find you a ministry of great value to the whole parish.

(And, next time you get a chance, thank Harriet and Sue for all they do...and thank God for them..)

PENTECOST VOLUNTEERS

Can you read in a language other than English? If you can and you'd be willing to be part of the Pentecost reading of Acts on May 19, please let the Rector know.

We have, in the past, used many tongues to read the Pentecost lesson. It is always powerful and moving. Please consider being a part of that.

PENTECOST BAPTISMS

The Feast of Pentecost on May 19th marks the anniversary of the birth of the church as told in the Book of Acts. It is one of the most appropriate days to welcome new members into the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism. If you or your child desires baptism, please contact Jim Bradley, St. John's Rector, to set up a conversation.

DIOCESAN EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

The Evangelism Committee of the Diocese of Connecticut is sponsoring a conference in Waterbury on April 19-20. Friday night is a dinner and keynote address by the Rev. Carol Anderson. Saturday, workshops will be held at St. John's in a variety of subjects. Check the bulletin board in the hallway to the right of the parking lot door for a complete listing of workshops.

The entire conference is \$50 or \$25 for Saturday only. There is financial aid available from the Rector's Fund. If 3 or more folks from St. John's register, the cost goes down to \$40/\$20.

If you're interested call Jim Bradley or Bill Garretson.

ORDER YOUR BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

We are in need of more books of **Common Prayer**. If you would like to donate a book in memory of a loved one, please mail a check in the amount of \$17.00 for each prayer book to the Church Office or place it on the collection plate. Thank you!

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.

OUTREACH – TEAM 2000 SAFE HAVEN NEWS

I would like to extend congratulations to Alyssa Byram who has just completed a mini-practicum for Safe Haven. Alyssa is 14 years old and a freshman in high school. She was looking for a community service project to do in preparation for making her confirmation next year. We worked together over this past month, setting up a project. She then, on her own, collected 1090 diapers for the shelter. Congratulations Alyssa, on a job well done. (Alyssa is one of my former day-care kids, so I am extra proud of her).

Diane Caggiano

Budget Report: January 1 – February 28, 2002

To accurately compare the approved budget with activity so far this year, please follow the three columns below. The first column is the approved budget for calendar year 2002. Since this report reflects only two months of activity, the second column equals two-twelfths of the annual budgeted amount. The third column is what we have actually received and spent so far this year.

-- Steven Minkler, Treasurer

	2002 Budget	2/12 of 2002 Budget	thru Feb. 28 2002 Actual
Pledges & Offerings	\$ 157,500	\$ 25,459	\$ 27,017
Parking Lot/Room Fees	\$ 17,750	\$ 2,869	\$ 2,358
Investments	\$ 291,650	\$ 47,143	\$ 59,238
Miscellaneous	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 1,223
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 466,900	\$ 75,471	\$ 89,836
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 280,119	\$ 45,279	\$ 48,737
Utilities & Maintenance	\$ 97,400	\$ 15,744	\$ 21,104
Office Administration	\$ 21,950	\$ 3,548	\$ 2,328
Parish Programs	\$ 22,200	\$ 3,588	\$ 3,776
Diocesan Pledge	\$ 36,000	\$ 5,819	\$ 5,400
GWIM	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,212	\$ 1,875
Audits & Legal	\$ 1,350	\$ 218	\$ 1,100
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 466,519	\$ 39,621	\$ 84,370
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ 381	\$ 62	\$ 5,465

Griffiths Outreach Endowment Grants: January 1 – February 28, 2002

The Vestry approved a \$5,000 budget for Griffiths Outreach Endowment Grants for the year 2002. This amount represents approximately 6 percent of the assets in the Endowment Fund.

Budgeted Amount for 2002	\$ 5,000
Approved 1/02: AmeriCares Project	(\$ 1,500)
Balance	\$ 3,500

April Parish Prayer Cycle

April 7: Rae Abell & Lucille Ryczer, the Adomavicia Family, Sandy Allard, Anne Allen, The Andriulaitis Family, Jay Anthony, Kenneth and Lisa Aubrie & family, and Michael and Jennifer Aubrie.

April 14: Michael and Susan Aubrie, Anna Bakun, Barbara and Bob Balch, George and Lillian Baldwin, The Banisaied/Chernesky Family, Margaret Baranoski, Robert and Bonnie Baranoski, and Edward Barber.

April 21: Renee Baril, Lisa Bartush and Richard Collins, Anthony and Sheila Basile, The Beaudoin Family, David Beecher, Pam Behrman, Genevieve Belury, and Lance and Pamela Belury.

April 28: The Belury-Matos Family, The Benjamin Family, Shirley Benoit, James Benson, George and Carol Bequary, The Bergin Family, Clara Bigelow, and Rick and Linda Blais.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1	Bern Bradley
4/1	Christian Santa Maria
4/1	James Russo
4/3	Josephine Bozzuto
4/4	St. Claire Benjamin
4/5	Emily Skipp
4/6	Dorothy Leavenworth
4/7	Helen Sinnott
4/7	Melissa Clark
4/7	Benjamin Tapley
4/9	Emma Sherman
4/9	Michael Aubrie
4/10	Stanley Chesnas
4/10	Olivia McDonald
4/11	Anne Shove
4/12	Alison Mirando
4/16	Carrina Echeandia
4/17	Jim Bradley
4/19	Josh Feliciano
4/22	Keisha Punter
4/22	Lisa Blaszczyk
4/27	Bob Havery
4/27	Paul Foti
4/29	Bertha Kirschbaum
4/30	Makayla Beaudoin

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/7	Nelson and Barbara Tchakirides
4/14	Pat and Ted Bojarski
4/14	David and Tina Tellerday
4/15	Kenneth and Gloria Kerns
4/15	Robert and Margaret Worden
4/15	Brian and Lucylle Ladden
4/18	Michael and Elizabeth Misurelli
4/19	William and Tracey Andriulaitis, Jr.
4/20	Rick and Linda Blais
4/29	William Knapp and Christine Jewell

ALTAR FLOWERS In Memory Of...

April 7: Charles and Helen Monzani.

April 21: Klein Family.

April 28: Richard M. Lewis

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:

At Diocesan Convention this year, the Diocese was presented with the plight of AIDS orphans in the diocese of South Rwenzori in Uganda. Hundreds of orphans in Uganda are not able to attend school due to the lack of funds. It costs just \$200 per year to send a student through school in Uganda.

For those of you with school age children, think how much you spent on clothing your children for school this year. \$100? \$200? More? To an AIDS orphan, it is literally the difference between a chance for a future, or a future of illiteracy and poverty.

The Diocese has committed to funding up to 600 orphans through an appeal to parishes and individuals. Bishop Curry has sent a letter to all parishes urging us to join him in "this ministry of love and hope".

Please consider contributing to the "Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation Ministry" to support these young people in a chance for an education. If you wish to donate to this fund, please send your check to:

Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation Ministry
c/o the Diocese of Connecticut
1335 Asylum Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105

or put your check, made out to the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation Ministry in the offering plate on Sunday, and we will forward any checks we receive. You may also mail checks to the church office.

If you have any questions, please see Pam Toffey or e-mail me at PamTof@aol.com.
Thank you. Pam Toffey

The Great Organ, Great Choir & Nave All Survived....

It's smoky, sooty & soggy, but still here. The Organ is dry, but water damage is in the Baptistry & crossing (the pulpit was sitting in one foot of water and the Subway Authority brought over their pumps used to empty subway tunnels because the gift shop basement was flooded to the ceiling!!) but thank God we only lost the gift shop.

I will never, ever forget it. Absolutely eerie and devastating. The TV images captured it perfectly. My clothes still smell of smoke! We're hoping to be in by Christmas Eve, hoping that improving the air quality and securing the North wall from the elements can be done in six days' time. The Fire & Rescue men (200 of them!) were incredible professionals in their tender care of artifacts, especially the furniture, tapestries & organs.

All I can say is that our staff, clergy and the firemen made the day an amazing reminder to me that people make our church and our lives. And New Yorkers are extraordinary in a crisis. We really kept our heads and hearts. The new Dean, Jim Kowalski, proved himself perfect for his new post. I loved Dan Rather's story about it on the national news.

So many of you have asked how you can help. Donations are VERY much needed as the Gift Shop was a prime revenue source sustaining the Cathedral's daily operations. Gifts can be made this way: Make checks out to: The Cathedral of St. John the Divine Fire Appeal, The Development Office, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10025 --Dorothy Papadoskos, Organist at St. John the Devin, submitted by MaryMarklak

Farewell

Off we go to Florida
in two weeks or so
with kitty cats and bundles,
and a lack of fear of snow;

We go to find our sisters,
who will each be quite close by;
we've missed them, too, for sometime now,
so now we'll see them often as we try
to settle in, and find a life to share with them
in God's warm land of beauty so sublime;

And so we journey onward, with our lives
in God's good Hands, and pray that He
holds fast and tight, for surely we will
not let go;

We'll welcome Him to our new home
and pray each night for Him
to bless our loved ones, near and far
and keep us all within His grasp;

We'll miss our church's presence,
sitting finely by the Green;
we'll miss the church's members and
it's leaders o supreme;

We'll miss our family members
each to us so very dear
and as we walk along the beach and
see the sun to rise and fall – the stars
and moon to shine, we'll know that God's
great beauty's there for all as well to see,
and ask the stars to send our love and shout
a big HELLO!

And so we wish you all a fond farewell.

Anne Allen and Barbara Miller

"Recycle, It's The Right Thing To Do!" Creative Ideas And Tips

Most every box that comes into the home
from the store can be recycled into useful
household storage containers. Empty cereal
boxes can be used as instant files to store
anything from mail to magazines! And kids can
sort out all important photos and special letters.

Boxes are often sturdy enough to be used to
hold all sorts of important treasures from
jewelry to other collectables. Decorate for a
great rainy day art project.

Larger boxes that bigger items come in can
be put upside down and store anything from
seasonal clothes to Christmas treasures...Put a
wooden lid on top with a decorative table cover.
Instant storage solutions to fit into every décor.

Every tea box has a piece of sturdy cardboard
that separates the tea bags. These can be
decorated, painted, add a little taste and now
have a great and useful book mark! Laminate
adding years to its life.

Every new piece of clothing comes with tags
that can be used as gift cards - another rainy
day project.

Michele Carrano

Nature vs. Man

All God's magnificent trees
soaring in height.
Woodlands may no longer exist.
Future lies in their midst.
How can man, ruin the land
God's beautiful plan.
Nature fights for its home
lost, confused, alone.
Is it truly need
or
too much greed
Where does wildlife go
Does man not care
Such beauty does exist
Not far from our midst.
Soon earth will no longer
be.
Future holds its key.

Sarah Haines

PARISH STATISTICS

Funeral Services were held at St. John's Church for:

Mary Lopez on February 20, 2002

**EARTH SUNDAY
APRIL 21, 2002**

“...God made wild animals...cattle, and all reptiles, each according to its kind: and God saw that it was good.” Genesis I:25

On April 21st, St. John's will celebrate Earth Sunday. A time to reflect on our connection to all of God's creatures. Our call, as people of faith, is to care for God's creatures. Our call, as people of faith, is to care for God's creation. This year the focus will be on the species of life which are extinct, endangered or threatened. Those creatures lost forever and those who may disappear within our life time.

Earth is home to millions of living species, the exact number is unknown, and millions are yet to be discovered. Humans are only one in a legacy of 3.5 billion years of evolution. Species disappear through natural causes, but due to us humans, the rate of extinction has climbed so fast as to be alarming. 50 to 150 species a day far exceed the natural rate of extinction. "If the current rate of habitat destruction were to continue in forests, coral reefs alone, _ species of plants and animals would be gone by the end of the 21st century (*Time April 2000*).“ By the year 2100, perhaps 2/3rds of the Earth's current species will have disappeared or be on the way to extinction.” (*Peter Raven*).

We know that because of human action, over exploitation of natural resources and habitats, pollution, over population, invasion of non-native species, land used for housing sprawl, contamination of environment, etc., we are altering the basic chemistry, physics and physiology of the earth. Biodiversity is the key to the preservation of all life. We have become estranged from the natural world and have lost sight of how dependent human life is on the biodiversity of life.

Scientists say we are in the middle of a sixth (some say seventh) major mass extinction (the last great extinction was 65 million years ago). The loss of biodiversity affects food production, prevents new medicines, fiber, and building material, bio-mass for solar energy and many new products yet to be discovered for the benefit of human kind.

Fortunately humans, rising to the challenge have been called to action; a race against time. Wildlife refuges, The Endangered Species Act of 1973, protective laws and conservation efforts are slowing the pace for some species. We must stop and reverse this trend of destruction by accepting our responsibility as Christians to live out God's mandate to live in harmony with nature. We are all connected. Each species including us, are linked by the molecule of heredity (RNA), most species also have DNA.

In church on Earth Sunday, during the prelude and postlude time, led by church school children, will be a procession to the reading of the RED LIST. This is a partial list of those animals, birds and fish which are endangered or threatened, (some gone forever). This is what we are going to lose now and for future generations. We need to balance our human needs with those of all God's creatures. There are many things we can do; in the service bulletin there will be a leaflet calling us to act to protect the habitats of birds and animals in our own back yards by nourishing their ecosystems. Act in a responsible way. Acknowledge it is our responsibility to stop the crisis scientists call genocide.

Some books for further reading:

Life in the Balance: Humanity and the Biodiversity Crisis by Niles Eldredge.

The Future of Life by Edward O. Wilson

The Biodiversity Crisis, Losing What Counts:
American Museum of Natural History Book

Marcia Holroyd

God's Creation

Standing under God's trees.
How still nature be
Trees bent with age
Ripples upon the pond
Ducks swimming near, beyond
Bullfrog croaking in distance
How clear the water be
Reflections clearly see
In the quiet of the day, God leads the way.
Under the trees, in the shade
Thank you God
For what you made.
Wildflowers carpet the ground
God's blessings are found
Little chipmunk beneath my feet
Speaks with a squeak.
Water dances upon the pond.
Nature and God have a bond.

-- **Sarah Haines**

St. John's AmeriCares Project Saturday, May 4, 2002

This is the fourth year that we will help make a home of a family in our area safe, warm, and dry. On the first three projects, the volunteers have repaired roofs, added gutters, upgraded electrical service, installed toilets, painted, filled up three huge dumpsters with trash and made the yards beautiful.

The families selected to receive help have family incomes of less than \$35,000 yearly, own their own home, and plan to stay in their home at least 5 years. The family we helped the first year has volunteered to help on the last two projects. The family we have helped two years ago plans to provide food for the volunteers this year.

We need volunteers for this year's project. We also need volunteers to prepare food for the people who will work on the house on May 4.

Jeff Brown is the House Captain this year. Greg Emmens will be Assistant House Captain. Glenn DeCarolis will assist with mailing and Lorene Castle will be volunteer coordinator.

Please sign up on the table outside the church office if you would like to help. You may also call Lorene Castle at (203) 756-733 to ask questions or to volunteer.

We Will Always Remember An offering of hope...A look back....

I would like to share this letter in the hope that we each can find the blessings amidst the ash.

To our brave and courageous fire fighters,

Nothing could ever have prepared us for the events of September 11, 2001. This is a day that will burn in our hearts forever. It will also mark a time in history when love cried out and American listened! There are many who are weeping and grieving such tragic loss that the mind can barely comprehend, nor make any sense of it.

I, too, have lost a loved one, not by the events in New York, but on July 14 my beloved one was talking to me in his sleepy voice while we snuggled in the warmth of our own bed. He had made a hardy snore as if he were falling back to sleep, then never took another breath. I tried desperately to administer CPR, but was unable to breathe the breath of life back into help him. My companion of 20 wonderful years was speaking lovingly to me one minute, and in the next moment he was gone...His name was Bill.

These are the most difficult times in life and we often question these times and ponder life's meaning...

Why is this stranger, whom we don't even know, writing to us? Well, America as well as many countries around the world are listening and hearing your sorrowful cry!

I understand and know what each and every card and kindness extended from others means during these difficult times and days ahead...I also am praying that our Heavenly Father touches each and every one of you in "his Mighty Way" from the tip of your hearts to the tips of your toes. Bless these brave men and women as they continue their work...I ask that their broken hearts feel the love extended to them across the miles from a woman in the small town of Naugatuck, Connecticut!

Wishing you well and extending love, care, and concern from the scenic Valley.

Light, Love & Peace

Michele Carrano

This past February, our president, George W. Bush, visited South Korea. As he looked across the de-militarized zone, he announced to the world that, "the evil ones" have a museum over there that has on display the ax handles that were used to beat two American servicemen to death.

By sheer coincidence (or maybe not) on that same February day I happened to be reading a book called "Soul Survivor" by Philip Yancey. In it I came across a passage that told this story: In Georgia, during the height of the civil rights struggle, Lester Maddox opened a museum that sold souvenir pickax handles resembling those used by policemen to beat civil rights demonstrators. It seems that evil doesn't just reside in North Korea.

On a cold October day in 1998, in Laramie, Wyoming, a 21 year old college student was strung on a fence, crucifixion style, and beaten to death. His name was Matthew Shepard, His crime, punishable by death, was being who God made him to be. It seems that evil doesn't just reside in North Korea.

Diane Caggiano

Sunday's Embrace

By Sarah Haines

I feel God open thy doors
Greet rich, old, young, poor,
A sense of one's belonging
In our hearts
love we bring
Glorious hymns we sing,
Quietly we bow our heads
in prayer
Our Father listens
to our needs and cares
He embraces us all
We heed to his call
A peace within
Light shines bright
Where shadows have been.

THANK YOU

St. John's has received 165 pledges for \$155,300 - - an increase of 34 pledging units and \$37,779 over 2001. We are deeply thankful to those who have pledged and have sent letters of thanks to them.

Thanks so much and God bless you for your support,

Jim Bradley and Bob Toffey