

---

# *The Outrider*

---

November 2002

## *The View From The Edge Of War*

*“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”*

--Philippians 4.8

Did you know that followers of Islam consider all animals besides humans beings to be “natural” **Muslims**?

“Muslim” comes from the Arabic word that means “surrender”. Followers of Islam seek to surrender their will to the will of God. And God’s will for human beings, Muslims believe, is to live fully into the people God created us to be. And since a fish never desires to be anything other than a fish, and a bird never longs to be something besides a bird and a tiger wouldn’t dream of not being a tiger – animals naturally surrender to God’s will for them. So, according to Islam, all animals are Muslims by their very nature.

I learned this while reading a remarkable book by Karen Armstrong titled The Battle for God: A History of Fundamentalism. Fundamentalism has, throughout history, emerged from all religions and faiths. There are many characteristics that all “fundamentalist movements” share, whether they be Christian, Jewish, or Muslim. Fundamentalism is nurtured and cultivated by fear – fear of “the other”, fear of progress, fear of anyone who disagrees with the doctrine and dogma of the movement. Fundamentalism always sees life as *dualistic*: everything is either “good” or “bad”, right or wrong, holy or profane. All Fundamentalists, no matter what their religion, believe they – and only they – have THE TRUTH and everyone else is wrong. Fundamentalist movements therefore reject (often violently) everything and anyone who doesn’t agree with their narrow, self-centered world view.

All three of the Abrahamic Faiths (those Faiths that trace their origins back to the Patriarch Abraham) agree about the fulfillment of religious faith: to choose to do God’s will rather than our own will. Jesus’ prayer the night before his crucifixion: “*Father...not my will but yours be done*” is an example for Christians of the very kind of “surrender” Islam calls for. Abraham, too, left behind everything he had to go to an unknown place because it was God’s will. Fundamentalists do not seek to discern, discover and follow God’s Will – they follow their own will and proclaim that to be the Will of God.

In the aftermath of September 11, I have been deeply troubled to notice a strain of “fundamentalism” developing out of the fear that day brought to us all. It is a kind of “Nationalistic Fundamentalism” that has brought us to the verge of a war that many people disagree with but few dare

question. This fundamentalism, like all of its kind, embraces a dualism that suggest the U.S. is "right" and anyone or any country that disagrees with us are "wrong". We know *The Truth* about Iraq (even though we are hesitant to share it fully) and to question or disagree is to be unpatriotic and unsupportive of national security.

I pray we, as a nation, can rediscover the blessings of patience and reflection and diplomacy and openness to diverse opinions before we slip over the edge. I pray we find the courage to *wage peace* with the same fervor that we bring to waging war. I pray we find the grace to surrender to our better angels.

Shalom,

**Jim**

*Some December Opportunities for Prayer, Celebration, and Community...*

**ADVENT QUIET DAY**



St. John's Seminiarian Stephen Arbogast will be leading a morning of quiet reflection and prayer on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Start your Advent time of preparing for the coming of the Christ-child with reflection and prayer. The day will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon. A sign up sheet will be in the hallway. Join Stephen as we begin our Advent journey.

**MALINDA'S ORDINATION! – COME CELEBRATE THE DAY!**



Malinda Johnson will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. The service is scheduled for 10 a.m. Bishop Smith offered this early ordination date to any of the transitional deacons who wished to be ordained prior to 2003. Plans are not yet complete and the number of ordinations that day isn't set yet; however, Malinda and I agreed it would be good to have her available as a priest prior to Christmas. In November a sign up sheet will be available for those who would like to attend so we can plan for a bus to make the trip to Hartford. Keep

Malinda in your prayers as she approaches her ordination.

**GREENING OF THE CHURCH – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>**



The Christmas season has a way of eating into our emotional energy. Most of us find ourselves running around madly in the days leading up to the celebration of Christ's birth doing worldly things. St. John's is offering an opportunity to end that "tradition" and begin a new one with others in our parish community. Join us at 2:00 p.m. to help decorate the church for Christmas. Many hands make that work light! At the same time, Diane Platt and the church school children will be creating decorations for St. John's Jesse Tree and practicing it for the Jesse Tree Pageant at the 10:15 Eucharist on December 22 – Advent IV. In addition, children and adults will take the opportunity to go caroling around the Green and to a nearby nursing home. We'll conclude with a chili supper at 5:00 p.m.

So get your shopping done early in the month and spend this last Saturday before Christmas with your St. John's family. Many thanks to Lorene Castle, Barbara Curry, and the Outreach Council for coming up with this idea. It's a great chance to invite a friend along to experience St. John's community. We'll need to know how many to cook for, so sign up or call the church office to give us a count. **The only cost is an item of packaged or canned food for the Interfaith Ministry Food Bank.**

## **PASTORAL CARE**

Sue Jefferson, a member of St. John's Pastoral Care Team, gave this homily at the funeral of Bertha Kirschbaum, who Sue visited over the last few years. If you're wondering about doing Pastoral Care, this will give you an idea of the blessings this ministry brings. Jim

### **Bertha Kirschbaum: R.I.P.**

There are some people whose lives are so quiet, so simple, so unremarkable and undemanding that they go unnoticed perhaps by all but God himself. Bertha Kirschbaum was one of these people. She was an only child who went to school and high school, and then worked at Bristol Babcock as a clerk accountant for 37 years. She took care of her parents until they died and went on living in the family home on Tracy Avenue. Bertha kept to herself. She went to the movies by herself. She stopped going to church when the buses no longer ran on Sunday, since she did not drive. I don't believe Bertha was capable of asking any one for anything.

I do not feel hers was a life of quiet desperation, but one of quiet acceptance. It was my privilege to visit her several times at Beacon Brook. She was always gracious but very insistent there was nothing she needed. Bertha enjoyed reading poetry, listening to Mozart, playing Bingo ("but I never win") and sitting outside and looking at the grass and flowers when the weather was warm. She never complained. Mary Gates' visit delighted her. This year on her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, Malinda Johnson, I, and one other person made much of the day by bringing gifts of flowers, food, and poetry books. She was thrilled, smiling widely when she said to me, "Nobody has ever made such a fuss over my birthday before". I thank God we did as it was to be her last birthday.

I'm glad Bertha came into my life for a while. Visiting Bertha was like bathing in a pool of quiet. I hope I will always remember her simplicity and uncomplaining acceptance of her life journey. They certainly stand in sharp contrast to my frantically busy, noisy, over-controlling lifestyle.

Bertha would be very surprised to know of the impression she made on my life, and if on mine, on many others too, I am sure.

May she rest in peace now in God's eternal light.

Sue Jefferson, October 8, 2002

### **PASTORAL CARE – MONTHLY SUPPORT & TRAINING**



Beginning this fall, all those involved in the various ministries of pastoral care to homebound members of St. John's are invited to gather monthly for ongoing training, support, and an opportunity to share. If you are currently involved as a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) or providing any other sort of pastoral care, you are especially encouraged to attend. Newcomers or those who simply want to know more about these important ministries are always welcome. Meeting time/date: Sundays November 10, and December 8, 9:00-9:45 a.m. in the Library. Any questions, please call Marilyn Mitchell (860-868-2368) or Malinda Johnson (203-558-2557).

**MEA CUPA...**

An apology is in order to Barbara Curry, who was inadvertently left out of the list of folks who have participated in the first two Discernment Groups. Barbara not only participated, she is the one who came up with the idea of t-shirts for the participants! Sorry for the omission.

**BUDGET PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**



**BUDGET  
PLANNING**

On Sunday, November 10th, there will be a presentation of the budget issues for 2003. Folks from the 8 a.m. congregation will be invited to listen, learn and discuss immediately following the Eucharist. There will also be a session after the 10:15 Eucharist. All meetings will be held in the Library. Please plan to be present at one of these opportunities. The first step toward finding "possibility" in the midst of this unsettling time is having everyone in the parish fully informed. We need your ideas and commitment.

**THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT FIRST LUTHERAN**



As part of the new relationship between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. John's and First Lutheran began a tradition last year of joining together for a Thanksgiving Eve service at St. John's. This year First Lutheran Church on the corner of Cooke and Grove Streets will host the service. The choirs of the two churches will join together to provide music. Pastor Louis will celebrate communion from the Lutheran Book of Worship and Jim Bradley will preach. Save the date now —**Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**.

**BAPTISMS**



Three dates for Baptisms are set for the rest of 2002: Sunday, November 3 at 8 a.m., and Sundays November 24 and December 29 at 10:15 a.m. If you or your child desires baptism, please contact one of the clergy. There will be a class for parents and godparents and older candidates at 1 p.m. the Saturday before each date.

**SUNDAY ADULT FORUM**



Seminarian Stephen Arbogast will lead two sessions on his summer's journey to visit the Anglican Church in Nigeria. **Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>** – Come and talk with Stephen Arbogast about traditional religion in Africa. Besides living in Benin, West Africa, for more than four years, he recently spent last summer in Nigeria. **Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>** – During this second week of conversation about religion in Africa, Stephen Arbogast will give his perspectives on the Anglican Communion in Nigeria, focusing on issues that may make or break the church's identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**IS ST. JOHN'S REMEMBERED IN YOUR WILL?**



A recent edition of *The Living Church* carried an article about a little Episcopal Church in Vermont which received a surprise bequest of \$7.7 million from a man from whom nobody would have expected such a gift. We hear those kinds of stories all the time and know that the Church is blessed with generous people who have a passion for assuring that the ministry of their beloved Parish will continue in a healthy way beyond their own life.

You may not have \$7 million to leave St. John's, but you can make a huge difference by remembering to mention the Parish in your Will. Speak to your attorney or your financial advisor. Believe it or not, you can actually enhance the bequests you leave to your family by including a charitable contribution.



## TESTIMONY OF A TITHER

### A PERSONAL STORY BY A PERSON WHO BECAME A TITHER

By A.T. Mollegen, Jr.

I had heard tithing talked about for many years before I thought seriously about whether it could have something to do with me. My passing reaction during those years was that the idea was archaic, extremist, legalistic, impractical and just not the sort of thing that an Episcopalian takes seriously.

However, one day, about eight years ago, I found myself in a position such that tithing was something that I needed to make a deliberate decision about. (I was in charge of my congregation's stewardship program, and in preparation for that, I was reading some of the church's literature on stewardship.) When I suddenly met the question head-on, I was quite noticeably disturbed. I was afraid that I would lose ten percent of what I had. I wasn't in a complete panic, but I certainly felt distinctly threatened. There was tightness in the pit of my stomach and I had a sense of an impending very serious loss. In my mind's eye I could almost see a group of black-suited workmen hauling away part of our house!

After a while (thank goodness!) these feelings got under control, and my mind got back on how to deal with the question about tithing. I started to think about some things which I had heard in the past, but which I hadn't before paid much attention to.

First, I remembered someone telling me that we don't really need to give ten percent in these modern times, because nowadays, our taxes pay for the government's doing many of the things that used to be paid for by people's tithing.

"Cut rationalization", I thought to myself, "but what about the fact that my standard of living is incredibly richer than that of anyone – even kings – back in biblical times when the concept of the tithe originated? Wouldn't my relative richness morally require a higher level of giving?"

"Well", I thought, "what about the issue of before or after taxes? (Maybe there's an out here!) But wait a minute..since contributions are tax deductible, maybe I should give more than ten percent of my pre-tax income because if I didn't make the gift, "I wouldn't be able to keep the full amount anyway. Maybe I should give enough so that the amount that I will have left after the gift and the taxes will be 90% of what I would have had before."

"And what about my fringe benefits? ('This is getting to be a drag!' Another part of my brain protested.) The IRS doesn't consider them part of my taxable income, but wouldn't someone from biblical times consider them to be part of my actual income?"

Oh woe! A quick mental approximation to any of the above calculations led me to the conclusion that the resulting amounts were very large, no matter which way I might rationalize myself into calculating them. And it didn't seem really right just to choose the method which led to the smallest amount.

After a long time, I finally decided that using 10% of my gross tangible income would be approach. (I would tithe from my pension when I got the payments.) I wasn't sure that this way was any more right than the others, but tithing on the basis of gross tangible income was simple, and it may even have been the way they did it in biblical times.

I then turned to the issue of how to give such a scary amount.

First, I started trying to think of things that the family was spending money on, that could so easily be done without, that we would never miss.

At first there did not seem to be some such things, but I soon realized that they were mostly things my wife and/or kids were interested in, but that I myself had little or no interest in. Both my sense of fairness and my sense that my wife and kids would notice the same thing about my list that I had, led me to keep on thinking.

Finally I concluded that this avenue led nowhere: there just wasn't that much that we would never miss if suddenly it were no longer there. Drat!

For a while I began to be afraid that I would never find a painless way to get to ten percent.

But surprise! I did find a way, and it works.

Like many people, I had a reasonable expectation of getting a raise and sometimes a bonus each year. "Well", I thought, "if for instance I get a raise, I can use 25% to 50% of the raise to increase my giving, and keep the rest for our regular use. Thus each year, I will get closer to the standard of 10%. We probably won't even notice any loss if our standard of living goes up less than it otherwise would have."

By and large, this has worked out to be true. In addition, once we put the plan into practice, two very interesting unexpected things happened.

First, we found that it was really exciting to have a tangible, feasible amount of money to use to do some good with. It was now possible in some cases to give enough so that we could cause some visible, tangible result. For instance, we financed the purchase of a (very) used car for a refugee family that a local church was sponsoring. Wow! We suddenly felt a sense of commonality with history's great philanthropists. (A punitively oriented accountant might have noticed this commonality quite as quickly as we did).

Second, we found that once we had started down the path of significant giving, we really didn't want to stop at ten percent. At the time that I had first started thinking about the tithe, I would never have believed that a modern, logical, enlightened, scientifically-oriented twentieth-century person such as myself could ever be happily giving away over ten percent of my income, much less continuing to increase the percentage each year, even after passing the ten percent benchmark. Maybe this is what is meant when they say that the tithe is the minimum standard.

There is one little problem though. It has all been so easy that the nagging voice of conscience suggests that I have not been giving sacrificially. I guess that I'll have to start thinking seriously about that....

## November Parish Prayer Cycle

**November 3:** The Minkler Family, The Mirando Family, The Misurelli Family, Leroy Mitchell, Marilyn Mitchell, Richard & Nancy Modeen, Marcia Monagan, and Emily Moran.

**November 10:** Paulette Morris, Mildred Morrone, Lois Mraz, William & Alice Mullahy, N. Terry Munger, Jennifer Maniello & Betty Trzcinski, The Munson Family, and Roseanne Myers.

**November 17:** The Nelson Family, Bruce Neville, Sarah Newland, Gus & Joyce Noonan, Florence Normand, Tom O'Brien, and Michael & Antonia O'Connell.

**November 24:** Chard & Margaret Oliver, Sonja Osborn, Mae Osborne, Vivian Ospalek, The Padilla Family, Jeffrey Palmer, Carol Parker and Jack & Marjorie Parker.



### NOVEMBER

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  
 11/8 John Torrance  
 11/9 Susan Aubrie  
 11/9 Krystal Dover  
 11/10 Martha Coulson  
 11/11 Jennifer Spinella  
 11/11 Karyn DiTomaso  
 11/12 Maria Forrester  
 11/12 Jan Figlia  
 11/14 Sophie Rundhaug  
 11/15 Thomas Flanagan  
 11/15 Andrew Skipp  
 11/15 Justin Banisaied  
 11/18 Donna Sevas  
 11/19 Andrew Beaudoin  
 11/20 Florence Normand  
 11/20 David Smith, Jr.  
 11/20 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  
 11/24 David Smith, Sr.  
 11/25 Kayla Morandi  
 11/25 Sarah Morandi  
 11/26 Mildred Morrone  
 11/26 Charlene Knighton  
 11/28 Steven Minkler  
 11/28 John Mantzaris  
 11/28 Charlotte Vanasse  
 11/29 Kay Bergin  
 11/30 Nina Hallock  
 11/30 Alexandria Markowich  
 11/30 Mabel Schuster  
 11/30 Mark Szantyr



### NOVEMBER

11/3 St. Claire and Gertrude Benjamin  
 11/6 Willie Scott Daniels and Patty Daniels  
 11/8 Bryan and Stacy Petrosky  
 11/10 Howard and Jane Woods  
 11/10 Mike and Toni O'Connell  
 11/23 Kenneth and Lisa Aubrie  
 11/24 Peter and Bertha Anne Lenart  
 11/24 Mark and Ann Tabaka  
 11/26 John and Jane Yuhas, Jr.  
 11/28 Joseph and Nancy Kinsella  
 11/28 John and Roseanne Sabol, Jr.  
 11/30 Antonio and Jennifer Marques

### Kindness

**I shall not pass through this world  
 But once.**

**If, therefore, there be any  
 Kindness I can show,  
 Or any good thing I can do,  
 Let me do it now,  
 Let me not defer or neglect it,  
 For I shall not pass  
 This way again.**



**ORGAN RECITAL BY BOB HAVERY**

**All Saints Sunday  
November 3, 2002 at 3:00 p.m.**

Bob Havery will play a varied program of organ music that will include: a vivacious Prelude and Fugue by Bach, a spirited concerto written by Vivaldi for string orchestra and transcribed for organ by Bach, the complete *Livre d'Orgue* by DuMage, arguably the greatest collection of organ music written in 18<sup>th</sup> century France, and two landmarks of 20<sup>th</sup> century French music – excerpts from the Ascension Suite by Messiaen, a work filled with the spirit of French mysticism, and a Prelude and Fugue by Durufle that begins in a whisper and ends in a glorious blaze of sound. All this on the magnificent McManus pipe organ of St. John's Church.

Prelude & Fugue in G Major	J.S. Bach
Concerto in A Minor	Vivaldi/Bach
Livre d'Orgue	Pierre DuMage
Ascension Suite:	
Serene Alleluias	
Prayer from Christ Ascending	
Prelude and Fugue on the name ALAIN	
	Maurice Durufle

*Bob Havery thanks Mike & Marian Carroll for their beautiful communion music last month, and looks forward to more. Thanks also to Barbara Curry for the sound equipment that enhanced the Carrolls' music that morning!.*



**A COOL YULE  
Holiday Solo Piano Recital  
By Steve Minkler  
Saturday, December 14 @ 4:00pm  
In the Church**

When I took piano lessons as a kid, my teachers didn't stage recitals for their students. So even though I performed with several bands and have played for Church services, this is my first "official recital" in nearly 30 years of making music. What better season than Christmas to give thanks to God for this gift!

Please join me for a program of jazz-influenced holiday standards and Christmas carols, and music from the Academy Award winning animated short film, "The Snowman". I've had a lot of fun practicing these tunes and I hope you'll enjoy hearing them.



*Altar Flowers*

**In Memory Of...**

**November 3:** Elsie Flink.  
**November 10:** Verne & Dorothy Parker.  
**November 17:** Fred and Ruth Harrison.  
**November 24:** Oscar and August Esplin, Sr., Oscar Esplin, Jr., Connie L. Sagnaio, Ernest H. and Myrtle Tchakirides, and Irving and Effie Tchakirides.





### Creative Church School Calendar

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Church School 9-10:00 a.m. Classes will celebrate All Saints Day. The children will join the processional into worship at 10:15 am.

**November 10<sup>th</sup>** – Church School 9-10:00 a.m. Sign up for Advent Wreath Event to be held on December 1<sup>st</sup>. A \$5.00 donation to cover the cost of supplies would be appreciated.

**November 17<sup>th</sup>** – Church School 9-10:00 a.m. Sign up for Advent wreathes. We will also need volunteers for December 1<sup>st</sup> to help with refreshments. If you have access to evergreens for the wreathes, please let Diane Platt know if you can bring some.

**November 24<sup>th</sup>** – Church School 9-10:00 a.m. Last day to sign up for Advent wreathes. The children will bring home a roll and Thanksgiving prayer to share with their family for Thanksgiving Dinner. Please break off a piece of the roll, share something you are thankful for, and pass the roll around the table. When everyone has shared – end with a prayer.

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** – 9-10:00 a.m. Advent Wreath Event. No Church School classes. We will meet in the Auditorium; refreshments will be provided. If you have access to fresh evergreens, please bring them to share. If you have hand clippers, please bring them for this event. A form, candles, wire, and pine cones will be provided. If you need more information, contact Diane Platt.

**WANTED FOR THE BAZAAR** – Children’s Boutique – gently used toys, books, video tapes, DVD’s. Anyone who can face paint, please contact the Church Office.

### OUTREACH – TEAM 2000 SAFE HAVEN NEWS

#### Serving



Halloween has “happened”, Thanksgiving is soon to be celebrated, and Christmas marketing has been in stores since September.

#### OTHERS

For the residents of Safe Haven Shelter, these holidays can be very difficult. This is especially true if the women have had to bring their children with them when they entered the shelter to be protected. All the cute, appealing decorations and toys any family might like to buy to celebrate a holiday, are “out-of-reach” for purchasing when BASICS are in short supply.

The Team 2000 list for suggested donations for the November 10<sup>th</sup> Safe haven Ingathering includes:

- 1 new package twin sheets **or**
- 1 woman’s/child’s winter hat **or**
- 1 bar of soap

As always, the collection basket is placed at the altar for your contributions. What a privilege we have to offer our gift in celebration for the safety provided by Safe haven for their clients. We, too, can be thankful that we each have the “means” to help provide for others.

Diane and I once again thank each of you for your support in this ongoing, most helpful ministry. St. John’s is truly a generous, giving parish. Thanks be to God!

Diane Caggiano & Jan Gurniak



#### MEATLOAF MINISTRY

A 2 lb. cooked, frozen meatloaf or 2 lb. raw hamburger or \$5 to have a meatloaf made in your name is needed the third Sunday of the month – November 17<sup>th</sup>. Sarah Haines



### **GWIM TOY SALE**

This year's holiday toy sale is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2002 at St. John's. If you would like to volunteer for the toy sale, please see Ted Bojarski or Sarah Haines to sign up for your position. We need your name and choice before November 15<sup>th</sup>. We are available after the 10:15 service.



### **FIRST FALL WORK DAY IN CLOSE AND PARKING LOT**

This fall we planned two workdays: September 21 and October 19, to weed, prune and plant the Close and parking lot gardens. We ordered 400 daffodil bulbs to add to what was an outstanding display of blooms this past spring. A hardy crew showed up September 21 and prepared the soil for the bulbs, planted donated plants, moved some plants to more suitable spots, and generally had a great time. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, we will meet again to finish planting the bulbs and any other donated plants, and weed and prepare the garden for winter.

Many thanks to all the people who donated plants and/or money or labored: David & Helen Pritchard, Richard Harris, Brian & Lucylle Ladden, Lois Mraz, Bob Toffey, Henry & Mary Friez, Marie DeRiso, and Phyllis Catuccio.

If you remember how beautiful the Close looked in the spring and what an oasis it is in the heat of the summer and wish to help us keep the gardens healthy and thriving, please consider helping out by donating plants or money to buy plants or coming out to help us maintain the garden that belongs to all of us.

Harriet Fotter



### **ST. JOHN'S PARISH HOLIDAY FAIR**

Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> is the day and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. is the time. You are all invited to attend a fair with a difference! Expect

to see live magical entertainment, with a sonnet or two from Shakespeare! Merlin will be in the Square at 11 a.m. to perform his creative mystical magic. Malak Greenwolf will tell myths and legends with magical adjectives at 12:30 p.m. Shakespeare recites his sonnets at 2:00 p.m. Gert's Tavern serves soups and great tavern beverages. All reasonably priced and served by Tavern Maids and Men. This historic Tag Sale goes on all day. A Sweet Shoppe with home made specialties can be purchased at St. John's Square. You can shop at Sparkling Emerald Sarah's Jewelry Boutique, The Square Craft Shop, Henry Appleseed's Cheese Emporium, The RE-USE-IT Earth Store, the Children's Bazaar and "silently" buy at the Great Auction Block. Festivities are planned all day for the young at heart and adventurous at this year's Fair!

We still need support from our parish in the following areas: Gert Payne is collecting donations for "Tavern Turkeys" and she needs home made apple and pumpkin pies. Glen and Anna DeCarolis need help in collecting items for the "Silent Auction". A gift certificate from your favorite store or restaurant, to horseback riding instruction will do. Sparkling Emerald Sarah's Jewelry Boutique is still on the look out for that 10 karat diamond! The Sweet Shop needs home made sweets...brownies, fudge, peanut brittle, tarts, cupcakes, gingerbread, rum cakes, angel cakes, devil cakes, drop cookies, nut balls, macaroons, gingerbread people, nougats, caramels, toffee, pralines, truffles, candied apples, or specialty cakes. Or any other sweet to delight the palate! See you on November 23<sup>rd</sup>!

Virginia Cole

## SHAWL KNITTING MINISTRY

That which is made by hand is a form of self expression. Susan Gordon Lydon, author of THE KNITTING SUTRA, says that "throughout history, handcrafts have often been fashioned with the aide of prayer, one prayer for each bead or each stitch, while keeping good thoughts to enhance the spiritual purpose for the object." She also states that the "motions of needlework are singularly well suited to the practice of contemplation." We agree with her that "knitting is prayer and craft is spiritual practice."

This womanly ministry has quietly come about from two graduates of the first Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut. For one of the women, it all started with a handmade gift, and inspiration from Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network. She, in turn, inspired her friend. For both, it was the desire to reach out to women in times of need as well as celebration.

Shawls..made for centuries, universal and embracing, worn by all women everywhere. They enfold, comfort, cover, wrap, give solace, warm, mother, hug, shelter, and beautify – symbolic of Mother God – inclusive and unconditionally loving. All of the women and some men who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if being given wings to fly above their troubles. All those who have heard of them have been enthused and inspired by their purpose. Some of the recipients have, in turn, knitted a shawl for someone they know in need. The ripple effect has spread to the Midwest and beyond!

The spiritual practice begins with selecting the color of the yarn, continues with the knitting and is carried right through to blessing the finished product. Sometimes this process is soft and meditative, punctuated by the click of the knitting needles; at other times, it incorporates the sound of women's voices sitting in circles talking, laughing, crying. The giver also receives. Some of the rewards of creating these gifts of love are reduced stress, tranquility, creative inspiration and an overall sense of well-being.

If you are interested in directions or a packet including prayers, contact the Parish Office. If you have any questions, contact Doris Hollenstein at (203) 753-6206.



## RECYCLE – IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

*Bounty, the "quicker picker upper",* can be put to rest! Those dryer sheets, handiwipes, and baby wipes will go a long way to satisfying all sorts of small cleaning jobs.

Depending on the brand and strength of materials uses, these wipes can be tossed in your washer, air dried, and used over and over again!

All those plastic boxes they conveniently come in, when empty, can be used to store everything from cosmetics to crayons and they're stackable!

## MINDFULNESS MATTERS

The average person who leaves the water running while brushing their teeth three times a day wastes nine quarts of water down the drain. That amounts to 9 quarts a day, 63 quarts a week, 252 quarts a month, 3024 quarts a year.

Michele Carrano

## I AM MY CHURCH

My church is composed of people like me  
We make it what it is.

It will be friendly  
If I am.

Its pews will be filled,  
If I help fill them.

It will do great work,  
If I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes,  
If I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people  
Into its worship and fellowship,  
If I bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love,  
Of fearlessness and faith,  
And a church with a noble spirit,  
If I, who makes it what it is,  
Am filled with these traits.

Therefore with the help of God,  
I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be.