

---

# The Outrider

---

MAY 2004

## *The View From Above The Close*

*"walkin' the walk...."*

Tuesday in Easter Week

From the clergy office's window, I have a great view of the labyrinth we built in the Close last fall. It survived the winter and frost heave quite well and after our work day on May 15<sup>th</sup> we'll be "open for business" for labyrinth walking.

The labyrinth is more than simply a walk—it serves to allow the walker to reflect on life's journey. The original use of a labyrinth for Christians was to allow those who couldn't make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to visit the Holy City to symbolically "journey to Jerusalem" by following the twists and turns of the labyrinth to the "center" of the walker's heart. One may and often does encounter God by visiting the Holy Land—but God is also waiting deep within us, in our secret places, patient and expectant. The Kingdom of God is *within us* in a powerful and profound way. What's required is a willingness to "walk the walk" and pursue the journey to our soul's depths.

\*\*\*

During Holy Week we took another symbolic journey to Jerusalem to view again those so familiar images of the last days of Jesus' earthly life. From the schizophrenic combination of exuberance and solemnity of Palm Sunday through the devotion of Maundy Thursday and the deep reflection of Good Friday all the way to the pageantry and wonderment of the Resurrection—it is another way to "walk the walk".

I'm left with powerful memories of this year's Feast of the Resurrection. I had the sense this year in a new way of the importance of Hope in our Easter celebration. It is 'hope' above all things that allow us to "walk the walk" as Christ's Body in this sad, suffering, war-torn world. Emily Dickinson wrote this:

*"Hope is the thing with feathers---  
That perches in the soul---  
And sings the tune without the words---  
And never stops—at all---"*

It is "hope" such as that which Easter mid-wife's into life.

At the Easter Vigil, when we reaffirmed our Baptismal Vows, my heart was full to breaking with the words: "will you seek and serve Christ in all persons...?" and "will you... respect the dignity of every human being?" For the first time in the dozens and dozens of times I've heard and said those words, they suddenly spoke to the secret places of my heart. I'm included in those questions and promises. Am I willing to seek and serve Christ in myself? Am I willing to respect the dignity of myself? Most of us don't need anyone else to oppress us, to dishonor us, to disrespect us—we, most of us, do a good enough job of that ourselves.

A few weeks ago I remembered how Jesse Trotter, a professor of mine in seminary, challenged me to look on the faces of those I encountered in my life's journey and remind myself about each of them: *that is the one, the very one, for whom Christ died...*

On Easter Eve, in a new and unexpected way, I realized I have to say those words when I look in a mirror as well. So here's your Easter discipline: every morning when you look in the mirror, say this out loud: "that is the one, the very one, for whom Christ died..." I'll try it, if you will. That would be "walkin' the walk" in an ultimate and transforming way. That would be making the journey within to discover God has been waiting for us to show up. That would be a way of feeling the warm wings of feathered Hope perched in our souls and singing always....

May this Easter season find Hope being born within you...

Shalom,

Jim

#### CHRISTMAS FAIR LEADER(S) NEEDED



The last two years Virginia Cole (God bless her!) transformed St. John's Christmas Fair into an even more remarkable event. Her schedule is much different now and we need some folks to volunteer to "take on" the oversight of the Fair. Plans must begin in the summer so leaders need to be in place by June.

If you are interested in being part of the team, let the Rector know. And if you have someone in mind to step into the large shoes Virginia filled, suggest them to the Rector and he'll approach them. Many of the 'pieces' of the Fair run themselves—but oversight is necessary and vital.

The Fair is how we raise our contribution to the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministry. It is a vital part of our mission and ministry. Who's ready to lead this important event?

### EXCITING GROWTH...

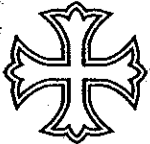


One of the indelible images of Easter morning was the number of children and young people of the Hispanic congregation all dressed in white for baptism and first communion.

Fr. Gonzalez baptized 11 and gave first communion to 7 others. The Spanish Mass was the second largest of our 4 Easter celebrations—over 125 were in attendance! And just a year ago, this ministry was but a dream.

Fr. Armando has provided the space for God to work miracles among the Hispanic population of Waterbury. Consider visiting the noon service some Sunday—you can follow the flow of the service even if your Spanish is little or none! And it is exciting to simply be present in the growth and joy of this mission and ministry of the Deanery, the Diocese and St. John's.

### COMING ATTRACTIONS...



The Hispanic service is St. John's "third service"—the Eucharist is celebrated at 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and noon every Sunday. And the project of Michael Spencer's ministry in our midst as a Deacon is to discern and design a "fourth service" over the next year.

We really don't know yet what that might look like or when it will be—Saturday afternoon, Sunday evening, some other time—but many of the growing edges of the parish point to the possibility as something we need to consider and plan for as we live into the dreams of our Five Year Plan.

If you'd be interested in being a part of the discerning and planning for the 4<sup>th</sup> Service contact Michael by leaving a message at the church (754-3116) or by email [spencerM@taftschool.org](mailto:spencerM@taftschool.org).

### THE WORLD'S FASTEST EASTER EGG HUNT



The clouds were ominous and rain was possible. But the bunny tracks across the hallway from the West Main Street door to the door to the Close were optimistic. One thousand eggs were hidden in the Close (OK, not that well hidden...) and, according to eye witnesses, the 2004 Easter Egg Hunt at St.

John's lasted about as long as it takes to boil a three minute egg!

That means the children found 333 1/3 eggs a minute! Get the Guinness Book of Records on the phone...!

Many thanks to everyone who provided plastic eggs filled with candy and gifts. And special thanks to Dianne Platt, Church School Coordinator, and Malinda Johnson, Curate, for organizing the whole 3 minute wonder!

Next year, 2000 eggs and maybe it will take at least 5 minutes....



### COME TO THE ORDINATION!!!

Michael Spencer will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford.

Michael has been our Intern for a year now and will, after his ordination, join the clergy staff of St. John's part time as he continues his ministry as the chaplain to Taft School in Watertown.

We have a bus with 24 seats heading from St. John's parking lot at 8 a.m. that day. The cost will be ---- per person. Sign up in the hallway and reserve a seat on the *Ordination Express!*

Mark the calendar, save the date, bring your father to

*St. John's Father's Day Picnic*

Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

St. Margaret/McTernan School

We will celebrate the Eucharist at 10:15 at the church—a simple service—and at 11:30 a.m. on the grounds of St. Margaret's. Come to any of the Eucharists and to the Picnic. More information is on its way. Save the date.

### SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS BEGUN



As part of the 5-year plan approved at the Annual Meeting, St. John's has spawned two new "Supporting Organizations"—FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S and CHURCH STREET MINISTRIES.

These Supporting Organizations will focus on the partnerships and initiatives regarding our relationship with the other communities in down-town Waterbury (Friends of St. John's) and our ministry to those in need (Church Street Ministries).

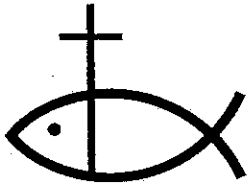
Both groups have had initial meetings. Those folks on the founding boards of the groups are:

**FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S**— Jay Anthony, Lillian Brown, Sandra Jellinghaus, Christine Jewell, Joseph Kinsella, George MacDonald, Charles Monagan, Kim Pernerewski, Richard Rotella, Kirk Rundhaug, and Jill Stevenson.

**CHURCH STREET MINISTRIES**—Diane Caggiano, Marian Carroll, Donna Deitch, Barbara Dublin, Brian Gibbons, Dorothy Raleigh, Roseanne Sabol, Maner Tyson, Michelle Webber, Lorraine Weid, and Loribeth Young.

Pray for these new groups that join ST. JOHN'S CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY as "supporting groups" for the parish.

St. John's Center's Board is made up this way: Pam Behrman, President; Gail Szantyr, Treasurer; Jim Bradley, Secretary; and Jack Parker, David Pritchard, Brian Vaughn and Leigh McCaffrey as Board members.



## YOU ARE INVITED TO THE JOURNEY AND THE JOY

The annual Waterbury Deanery Confirmation service will be held at St. John's on Saturday, May 22 at 4 p.m. Anyone wishing to be either Confirmed or Received or to Reaffirm their baptismal vows with the Bishop needs to complete the Inquiry class.

Inquiry is an opportunity for all folks to ask those questions that have been weighing on their minds and hearts and to participate in a basic course on being an Episcopalian Christian. Let the Rector know if you're interested. All—even those long ago confirmed or received—are welcomed. The schedule of gatherings is given below. Clear your calendars and prepare for a fun ride....Remainder of full schedule: May 2, May 9 and May 16.



## CREATIVE CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

The Creative Church School meets each Sunday on the third floor from 9-10:00 a.m. New students are always welcome.

**May 2** - The focus for this week's lesson will be Psalm 23. David writes about his faith in God, that God is very close to him, even during dark times. Faith isn't based on feeling, but based on the certainty that God could not and would not leave us. God's faithfulness to us is far more dependable than our emotional response.

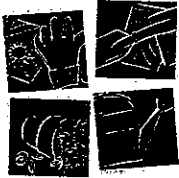
**May 9** - The focus for this week's lesson will be Revelation 21:1-6. Imagine a world where no one cries, feels sad or suffers. This is the kind of world that God wants for us. What do you think would be different about the world? What would be different about your family? Draw a prayer together. On one half of a piece of paper draw the things about the world you think God wants. On the other half, draw things God wants to be different. Include this list in your prayers this week. We will also have Children's Chapel and decorate our Safe Haven box during coffee hour.

**May 16** - Our focus for this week will be Revelation 21:10,22. Has your Easter excitement begun to fade? Sometimes it's hard to keep hope alive. It must have been difficult for the people that John was writing to. How can we add on to the vision of Easter? Light a candle during a meal your family shares. Talk about the ways that you have seen God's new world come. Bring in your Safe Haven donation.

**May 23** - Our focus for this week will be Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21. Just as Jesus' followers were getting pretty tired at this point in their lives and needed to be inspired, we can begin to lose sight of the vision of Easter. But God is with us from the beginning to the end, even in times when we're tired out. It's God who refreshes us. Make some time for fun and recreation this week.

**May 30** - We will focus on Acts 2:1-21. Our stories of Pentecost remind us that sometimes God brings order out of chaos or chaos out of order! This is what the spirit of God does - never letting us rest complacently, but promising to be with us in the uncertainty and mystery of this new world that Easter has given us.

### LABYRINTH WORK DAY



On Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, we will be sprucing up the labyrinth and all the plants and grounds of the church. Please bring your own tools - we have a very limited supply. We will be doing some pruning, dividing, cleaning up winter debris and planting. If you have perennials you would like to donate, please bring them to the church on Saturday or during the week before. Come and enjoy the fun of working outside together - no special skills necessary!

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - WATERBURY ARTS & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FAIR THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2004 12:00 NOON TO 3:00 P.M.**



We've talked about it a couple of times in previous Outrider editions, but friends, this event is going to be **HUGE!!!** Planning is in its final stages and all things are coming together - we have tables for 60 agencies, tents, entertainment, and food vendors all setting up in the Close (entertainment will also take place in the Sanctuary). The fair will present a unique opportunity to highlight the arts and cultural venues available in Waterbury as well as the social service agencies that serve this community in a plethora of ways. Through this whole event, St. John's Parish will be highlighted to the greater community.

We are looking for volunteers to assist us that day: a volunteer coordinator of St. John's folks is desperately needed. Volunteers are needed as "event staff" - people who can answer questions about the Fair, direct people to booths and entertainment venues, and handle some set-up and clean-up operations. We also need people who can provide time at the "St. John's table" at the Fair, answer questions about St. John's and its rich history, and provide overall hospitality for those who wish to "peek" inside our Church and Parish House. If you're interested in helping us, please call the Church Office at (203) 754-3116 or talk to Jim.

Whether or not you are able to volunteer on this day, please **JOIN US!!!** Bring family and friends to share in the richness of the Greater Waterbury community!

## PISTACHIO FRUIT SALAD

- 1 can (20 ounces) crushed, unsweetened pineapple
- 1 package (1 ounce) sugar free pistachio instant pudding mix
- 1 can (15 ounce) unsweetened fruit cocktail, drained
- 1 can (11 ounces) reduced sugar mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 cup reduced fat whipped topping

Drain pineapple reserving juice in a bowl. Whisk together reserved juice and pudding mix for two minutes - mixture will be thick. Stir in the pineapple, fruit cocktail, and mandarin oranges. Fold in whipped topping. Cover and refrigerate until serving.

### Nutritional analysis:

- One serving,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup equals 122 calories
- 1 g. fat (1 g. saturated fat) 0 cholesterol
- 62 g. sodium, 2> s. carbohydrate
- 2 g. fiber
- 1 g. protein
- diabetic exchange: 2 fruit

*Sarah Haines*

## MEATLOAF MINISTRY



I would like to thank each one of the volunteers for taking the time to make delicious, nutritious varieties of meatloaves for GWIM's dining hall here at St. John's Parish. You put a smile on everyone's face when meatloaves are provided; it feels good to provide food for those in need. Also thank you to those that donate \$5 to have a meatloaf made in their names. You are all Meatloaf Angels. Anyone else that would like to be a part of the meatloaf ministry, we welcome you.

Each third Sunday of the month a 2 lb. cooked frozen meatloaf wrapped in aluminum foil is needed in GWIM's dining hall here at St. John's. Please bring to the kitchen. A \$5 donation to have a meatloaf made in your name is optional. Thank you and God Bless you.

---Sarah Haines, GWIM Delegate



## Celebrations

By Lorene Castle, Senior Warden

Have I told you recently that I love this place? If not, I do! I hope you remember that St. John's proclaimed five big, bold audacious goals at the 2004 Annual Meeting. I would love for everyone in our congregation to commit the goals to memory so we can all tell our story. The goals are an exciting piece of who we are and what we are about.

**Goal Number 1. Growing our Congregation:** Ask someone to come to church. You know how much this place means to you. I didn't realize it but I had been waiting 25 years to find this place. There are others out there that may just need an invitation from you. Another great way to grow our church is to keep the people we have. People leave churches because they think no one cares about them. Call someone you haven't seen in awhile to tell them you're thinking about them. Don't even ask them why they are not at church. Ask about them. It's that simple.

**Goal number 2. Deepening the Spiritual and Social life of our Congregation.** Over 150 persons came to a Mardi Gras Party. Helen Pritchard pointed out that there were many generations of us at that party. Who says that people of all ages can't have fun together? We also thank Dana Osborn for sharing his wonderful photographs of this event.

We journeyed with Christ once more as we participated in our Lenten journey. We went to Centering Prayer, discussions about the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, and growth producing evenings where we learned a new model to deal with conflict. We participated in services during Holy Week that caused us to think and even accept this special gift or salvation we were given so many years ago. Sometimes our friends get mad at us and even withhold their friendship because of something we have done. God's love is constant, forgiveness is always there for us, love is always there for us. I can't begin to tell you how much better my life has been since I have realized this. I still am only in touch with this magnificent gift moments rather than hours a day. My journey will continue. We have hope in spite of all the evidence to the contrary. Jim reminded us of this during his messages to us during this holy season. Hope. Wow!

**Goal Number 3. Serving the needs of our neighbors in downtown Waterbury.** We will have our 6<sup>th</sup> AmeriCares Project on May 1. On May 1 volunteers from our church will have made SIX HOUSES safe, warm, and dry for low-income families in Waterbury. One thousand persons eat in the GWIM Soup Kitchen each week. New to our repertoire is a Children's Dance Group. Also new, Marilyn Mitchell is initiating English as a Second Language Class at the Library as part of her Community Service for her Deaconate program. Another new initiative is a reunion dinner for children and families who have been served by Chapman House that our Outreach Committee is sponsoring. Chapman House is a home where children can go when they need to be removed from their biological family. It is a place where they can be with their brothers and sisters while they await what comes next. You should really volunteer to help with this event if you have never visited this special place. Contact Lorraine Weid.



**In Memory of:**

Patrick & Phoebe Osborne  
Harold & Ruth Peterson  
Ralph Petrocione  
Richard O. Clark, Jr.  
Jan Dwyer  
John Mancinone  
Howard Hughes  
Maria Daddona  
Albert Lange  
Earl Thomas  
Andrew McNair Cox  
Eunice A. Munger  
The Klein Family  
Virgil & Cleo Bradley  
Mary Marlak

**In Memory Of:**

Thomas & Alice Behan  
Jessie Coyle  
Dr. John Kennedy Shearer  
Stephen J. Obar  
Michael Plunske  
William & Margaret Briggs  
Richard Bush  
Hestella Scott  
Mary Rotella  
Twila Seeley  
Emma Bishop  
Penelope M. Harris  
Frederic & Lucy Kellogg  
Emma & Dan Pisano

**For the Glory of God and for the blessings of life, family and friends:**

Harriet Fotter  
Bob Cook  
Tom & Delmar Nelson  
Malinda Johnson  
Pam & Bill Hinman

Phyllis & Patrick Catuccio  
Jay Anthony  
Robert & Diane Caggiano  
Michael & Amy Spencer  
Lillian Brown



**MAY**

- 5/2 Bill Payne
- 5/3 Jim Manners
- 5/4 Priscilla Munson
- 5/5 Sarah Haines
- 5/6 Mae Osborne
- 5/7 Thomas Santopietro
- 5/7 Andrew Gates
- 5/8 MacKenzie Bodor
- 5/8 Glenn Decarolis
- 5/8 Dakota Whidbee
- 5/8 Cheyenne Whidbee
- 5/10 Emily Brown
- 5/10 Genevieve Scott
- 5/10 Jeffrey Scott
- 5/10 Jill Stevenson
- 5/11 Olivia Quirici
- 5/11 Courtney Tani
- 5/12 Ted Bojarski
- 5/13 Marian Carroll
- 5/14 Kayleigh Blaszczyk
- 5/14 Melissa Perreault
- 5/14 Robert Worden
- 5/16 James Chilcoat
- 5/17 Monica Daniel
- 5/17 Dominic DiZinno
- 5/17 John Mastropietro
- 5/18 Casey Spinella
- 5/20 Tiffany Tellerday
- 5/21 Ethan Ward
- 5/27 Robert Cook
- 5/27 Heidi Payne
- 5/29 Tiffany Sevas
- 5/29 Jeffrey Brown
- 5/29 Janet Gurniak
- 5/29 Maude Stevenson
- 5/29 Jennifer Asklar
- 5/30 Jason Lanoie
- 5/31 Gabrielle Benjamin



**MAY**

- 5/1 Ernest & Linnea Savoy
- 5/4 Joseph & Karyn DiTomaso
- 5/15 Charles & Dawn Beaudoin
- 5/17 Eric & Franca Hahn
- 5/20 Rocco & Vicki Longo
- 5/24 Hector & Lisa Echeandia
- 5/25 Daniel & Elizabeth Lafferty
- 5/30 Bill & Elaine Garretson
- 5/31 Vincent & Elena Viega
- 5/31 David Miller & Aida DaSilva

**MAY PARISH PRAYER CYCLE**

**May 2:** Vincent Clement, Virginia Cole, Lisa & Richard Collins, William Conda, Mary Conklin, Jamie Conway & Michael Mrazik, Janet Conway & Earl Riley, Cristin Cook, and Robert Cook.

**May 9:** Tom Cook & Family, Joseph & Barbara Corbin, Jim Costello, George & Martha Coulson, Cathy Coviello & Frank McCusker, Philip Coyle, Eleanor Crean, and Rebecca Crispi & Stanley Mickett.

**May 16:** Bambi Cronin, Andrew Cunningham, Barbara Curry, Freda Czako, Scott & Patti Daniels, Glenn & Anna Decarolis, and Donna Deitch.

**May 23:** Adolfo Del Villar, Geraldine DelBuono, Pat & Vincent Desouza, Eugene DiCorpo, Ana Dimate, Joseph & Karyn DiTomasso, Florence Docchio, Maria & Aramis Dominguez.

**May 30:** Evanson & Ena Dover, Roger Fournier, Lowell & Al Dwyer, The Echeandia Family, Greg & Arlene Emmens, Milagros Escobar, Lisa Farina & Family, and John & Dorothy Ferguson.



FOR THE MONTH OF MAY,  
WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO GIVE  
THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIVES  
OF THE FOLLOWING:

May 2: Raymond & Eugene Parker, and  
May Morin.

May 9: Doris Brown, Lillian Andrus, Wanda  
Audietis, Patrick & Phoebe Osborne,  
Thomas & Alan Behan, and Harold & Ruth  
Peterson.

May 16: William John Briggs, Sr., William  
John Briggs, Jr., Margaret Briggs, Howard  
Hughes, and Charles Cole.

May 25: Warren & Virginia Wheeler.

May 30: William Dorrice Andrew.

WOMEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST  
SATURDAY, MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FROM  
9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.



Women's Fellowship

Come join us for a  
delicious breakfast  
that will be prepared  
by a few culinary  
talented men from  
our parish! We will share friendship and  
conversation and Communion led by  
Rev. Malinda Johnson. Please sign up in the  
lobby if you plan to attend. For further  
information contact either Pam Toffey  
(860-274-6022) or Karen Minkler  
(203-756-4795).

#### 2004 AMERICARES PROJECT



May 1<sup>st</sup> is the day  
scheduled this year  
for our annual  
Americares Project.  
We have not yet been  
assigned our project,  
but team captains

John and Melissa Torrance should know the  
details very soon. So, please mark your  
calendars. We will be looking for  
approximately 30 volunteers. No  
experience necessary. This will be an  
opportunity for those who have been  
wanting to get involved somehow to help  
out in a worthwhile cause and get to know  
people. Anyone not familiar with this  
project may see John or Melissa Torrance  
or Elaine Garretson. Stay turned for more  
details.

*Flaine Garretson,*  
2004 Volunteer Coordinator



#### CHURCH LIBRARY DONATION

Never Change by Elizabeth Berg is  
a new book recently given to the  
library by Jane W. Woods. The  
author is well known for her  
numerous books and was a winner  
of the 1997 New England Booksellers  
award. Never Change is a poignant story  
of life and death. A lonely middle age  
single woman finds fulfillment as a visiting  
nurse. The description of her patients and  
her relationship with them, especially her  
childhood male friend who is dying, is  
touching, and "has an effortless warmth  
that defies easy sentiment." (book jacket)  
This novel is shelved in the Fiction section.  
If you wish to borrow it, please sign the  
log book kept on the library cart near the  
piano.

*Marcia Holroyd, Librarian*



**OPEN BOOK CLUB**

The next meeting of the Open Book Club will be held on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Library. We'll be discussing *My Antonia*, by Willa Cather. Bring a bag lunch and join us in this wonderful fellowship.



**BAZAAR JEWELRY**

Jewelry for the Bazaar can be brought to the Church on Sundays, 10:15 service. Note: absolutely no cheap costume jewelry will be accepted. Give all that jewelry to the Salvation Army and Goodwill. Thank you.  
*Sarah Haines*



Thank you Sandy Allard, Pat & Ted Bojarski, Eleanor Crean, Willis & Gert Payne, for your assistance in delivering Easter lily plants to St. John's parishioners who are shut in.

*Henry Fries*



Congratulations to Jasmine Bush who received 100 on her pre-confirmation test. She will be entering St. John's Inquiry Class for 2004 and will be confirmed at the Deanery Confirmation Service at St. John's on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Shirley Chouinard*  
*Pre-Confirmation Class Teacher*