
The Outrider

NOVEMBER 2004

The View from the Other Side...

"Wherever you go, there you are...."

--Buckeroo Bonzai Across the 8th Dimension

I've never been critically ill much in my life, so major surgery, a stay in the hospital and a time of recuperation has confronted me with a "new place" to be. I've been blessed because the surgery was so successful and my recovery has been much quicker than even I expected; however, being in a place of dependency and helplessness has touched me deeply.

"I don't mean to whine," I told someone after my surgery, complaining about various discomforts and annoyances. The response was transforming for me: "why not be whiny," my friend asked me, "you're in a *whiny place*." And, as Buckeroo Bonzai knew, *wherever you go, there you are...*

Somehow, along the way, I've internalized the message I got from my parents about not complaining too much. One of my father's favorite sayings was this: *I cried because I had no shoes until I saw a man who had no feet*. I don't know about you, but that kind of "wisdom" filled up my childhood. And what I've gotten from it is that I am seldom fully present to my own feelings of need and fear and suffering. I wear all that like a shell around me, but I am not usually able to "be there" with my helplessness. So much for the "wisdom" passed on to me. I end up absent when things aren't going well.

Over and over again, Jesus shows those around him—and by extension, you and me—that it isn't a person's strength or courage or self-sufficiency or independence that draws God near. The heart of God reaches out to embrace our hearts precisely when we've lost control, need help, have our backs against the wall, are about to give up. It is in our helplessness that God waits for us to be present and to feel the Holy. And, if you're anything like me, everything in your upbringing...and most of the messages of our culture...conspire to make us deny, repress, ignore those moments of dependency and need.

It is in the deserts of our lives that we find transformation and grace. So it is vital to be awake and aware when we end up in those places. God shows up when we can be present to those desert places and embrace the moments of need and suffering. But we insist on being "strong"....Well, *strong* is highly over-rated.

In the whiny places, love will find us. Be present, God is in the moment.

Shalom,

JIM



THANKS AND BLESSINGS

Many and profound thanks to all of you for your prayers and kindness during my surgery and recovery. I've received dozens and dozens of cards and letters and gifts (including a DVD player and Netflix membership from the Vestry) and food from the new meal ministry. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

I am doing extremely well and should be back in your midst to a large degree by the time you read this. Blessings on you and love, JIM

THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS



There will be noon Holy Eucharist on Monday, November 1st, to celebrate the feast of All Saints' and again on Tuesday, November 2nd to celebrate the feast of All Souls'. We will celebrate both All Saints' and All Souls' feasts on Sunday, November 7th. This high and holy day is a way of bringing to mind that both those who have preceded us in death and those yet to be born are a part of the "great cloud of witnesses" which makes up the Communion of Saints.

This year's celebration will include both baptism and interment of the cremains of 46 children in the Memorial Garden. Those cremains were signed over to the city's hospitals, and Alderson's Funeral Home has been holding them for the opportunity for a respectful burial.

You are asked to bring baby clothes or other baby items as part of our offering on November 7th, so that the Outreach Committee can pass them on to Barbara Dublin in the Soup Kitchen, as gifts to the newly born children of our guests.

These holy days are vitally important ways of remembering that we all come from God and belong to God forever. Make every effort to attend this special service.

THE PEACE AT ST. JOHN'S



The part of the liturgy at St. John's that always catches people's attention isn't the sermon (sorry, preachers!) or the music (I apologize Bob & Choir) or the Eucharist itself. What people - long time members and new folks as well - are struck by is the Peace as it is passed...and passed...and passed at St. John's.

Some people find it annoying and interrupting and too "social" - the way we pass the Peace. And, I'm the first to admit it does go on a bit...more than a "bit" actually...And this I know; there are some reasons the Peace goes on and on...

The first and most accurate observation about how the Peace goes is this: "the clergy do nothing to shorten it". Most accurate observation - in fact, the clergy are usually among the most willful offenders at keeping the Peace going! You've got that right...

Secondly, the liturgical moment of the peace - just before the offertory - refers us back to Jesus' advice in Matthew's Gospel: "So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there, before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift." (Matthew 5.23-24)

I observed at Liturgical Council last month (we do discuss these issues - you need to know that) it might not be so much "reconciling" that is necessary during the Peace as "re-connecting". But a married couple was at that meeting and one of them said: "Oh, I don't know about that, sometimes we need reconciliation , we need to make peace before approaching the altar!"

So, whether it be "reconciliation" or "reconnection", the nature of this parish requires a Peace that goes on and on...

If the people in our pews all lived in a neat New England town where they saw each other at the grocery store and the hairdressers and PTA and kids' soccer games...if we saw each other during the week, we wouldn't need the Peace to "reconnect". But we don't. We live in 25 different towns and our "connection" is at church and only there. And before we approach the altar with our gifts and then to receive the "gifts of God for the people of God", we need time to reconnect, to find unity and peace.

So, for my part, that's why the Peace is allowed to go on and on. People may seem to be chatting - and they are. They are "catching up" and connecting again, forming themselves into an unruly, chaotic, much separated Body so we can, as One, approach the altar.

"But it interrupts the flow of the liturgy", some have told me.

"Yes, it does", I reply, "so that the flow might be resumed more powerfully..."

For those who find the Peace distracting, I would urge them to acknowledge that others find it renewing, healing, connecting. Just settle back and center yourself or try plunging into the chaos.

And there is this: No one doesn't notice the way we pass the Peace at St. John's!

Shalom,

Jim



THE WINDSOR REPORT

Under the leadership of The Most Rev. Robin Eames, Archbishop of Armagh, the 2004 Windsor Report was released on October 18. The Commission on Communion was established in 2003 by the Archbishop of Canterbury to address the strains within the Anglican Communion in the wake of the election and consecration of Gene Robinson, a gay man in a committed relationship, as Bishop of New Hampshire and a movement within the Anglican Church of Canada to endorse the blessing of gay unions.

We are including a letter from Bishop Smith regarding the report and the web site where you can find the 100 pages or so of the full report. In response to Bishop Smith's request we will have an opportunity at St. John's for folks to gather and discuss the Windsor Report in the near future. You may find the following links useful: www.anglicancommunion.org and www.episcopalchurch.org.

• **Statement from the Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith**

The "Windsor Report 2004," released today in London by the Lambeth Commission on Communion is a document which explores in great depth the blessing, promise and difficulties inherent in the historic communion which the thirty-eight provinces of the Anglican Communion share.

The report specifically chronicles ways in which our communion has been strained severely by recent decisions and actions concerning ministry by various member provinces, including the decision within the Episcopal Church (USA) for the consecration of the bishop of New Hampshire. The members of the Commission, in their work, have offered ways for the Communion to move forward into future mission and life together.

Archbishop Eames, Chair of the Commission, in his Introduction to the Report, states, "This Report is not a judgment. It is part of a pilgrimage toward healing and reconciliation." It is significant, I believe, that the Report is released on October 18, the day when we celebrate the life of Saint Luke, evangelist, physician and healer.

The Report itself is almost one hundred pages long. The Report does not offer quick fixes and instant remedies for the difficulties in the Anglican Communion. Nor does it attempt to address the theological controversy concerning persons in same-sex relationships. The authors carefully outline our historic relationship as churches in the Anglican Communion, define issues that have brought us into tension, and also suggest clear ways forward. They would move us into a renewed Anglican engagement.

The Report has a word for everybody. Provinces on all sides of these issues, including the Episcopal Church (USA), have been invited or called to express regret for the consequences of actions they have taken. The Report also affirms delegated Episcopal oversight as an appropriate process for providing care for parishes which disagree with their bishops and for moving us toward reconciliation in Christ.

There are many other suggestions, and a proposal for an Anglican Covenant, in the Windsor Report. The Report must be read in its entirety. If it is to be a healing instrument, it must be discussed widely and deeply among our members and in the appropriate councils of the Church. That will take some time. For the edification of the members of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, I will ask that conversations about the Windsor Report be organized and arranged through our fourteen regional deaneries over the coming year.

I commend to our diocese the Windsor Report, and I commend with it the letter released today by our Presiding Bishop, Frank Griswold, for study and prayer and conversation. Our challenge is how we hold and live the truths we know about God and, when they differ significantly, how we maintain the unity of spirit for which Christ prayed and fulfill the mission for which we have been baptized.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith
Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut
October 18, 2004

Celebrations
By Lorene Castle

We come to the table at St John's from many different states, countries, and relationships with God. I love to hear about your journey to the table at St. John's. Some of you have been at St. John's your whole life. Lucky you! Others have discovered St. John's. Lucky us! Jane Woods is one of the people who has discovered St. John's and shared her story. Jane is on the Altar Guild. She provides lovely floral arrangements from her garden in addition to preparing the bread and wine. Jane is also part of the Sisterhood - the women of St. John's. Jane felt at home at St. John's because of Jim's West Virginia stories. It reminds her of her home in the South. She loves the stories about Jim's grandmother.

The following is Jane's story, told in her own words and shared with her permission.



Jane Woods

Howard and I were born in Blount County Alabama. Many years ago, we attended the same schools. Howard and my brother were best friends. I saw a lot of him. He would walk 2 miles to my home for a Saturday night date, which was listening to the Philips Morris Radio and eating popcorn we had raised. We both lived on farms. At sixteen, Howard went into the CCC a conservation program of F.D. Roosevelt. Howard came home from Oregon, enlisted in the Army, the day after Pearl Harbor. The Army stationed Howard in the Aleutian Islands after basic training.

I finished High school in 1946, left the farm for the big city of Birmingham where I worked. Howard and I had lunch together in 1946. Then Howard visited a friend from the Army in Connecticut. He met a pretty girl and married her in May 1949.

I married my first husband in June 1949. We lived in Washington D.C., California, Florida, Alabama and South Carolina following the space program. We divorced in 1989. Howard's wife died in 1988. He was in contact with my brother who told Howard I was divorcing after 40 years. I had not seen Howard for 43 years. Yet I knew his voice when he called me. We dated long distance for a year to get to know each other again. When Howard asked me to marry him, I said I would not marry anyone who would not go to church with me. I also asked him how often he took a bath. After all, these things are important.

Howard took the Inquirers Class from Jim at St. John's. Howard was baptized on Easter Eve. The Bishop confirmed Howard at the Cathedral with 140 other people. What a beautiful service!

I have been a member of the Episcopal Church since I was 34. I knew I had found my church. I was pleased Howard made it his. He does not always get to church with me. He does well for someone not raised to attend church.

We were married November 10, 1990. We have six children. Four boys from Howard and I have two daughters. We have five grandchildren. The boys and grandchildren live near by and the girls live in the South. We attend the 8:00 AM service. St. John's and all the people are so special. I am proud we are members.

A LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

By Steven Minkler

Dear Friends:

I regret to tell you that I will not be standing for re-election as St. John's Treasurer at our Parish Annual Meeting on January 23, 2005. This has been a difficult decision, but one that I feel is in the best interests of my family, myself, and the parish community that I love so dearly.

As of this writing, Jim, Malinda, the Officers, the Vestry, and I are looking for a candidate who can succeed me. If you are interested in becoming the next Treasurer, please speak with me after church, by e-mail (rskminkler@sbcglobal.net), or by phone (756-4795). I'd be happy to discuss the responsibilities and commitments you'll need to know. Ideally, we'd like to have a second candidate - someone to serve in the appointed position of Assistant Treasurer, who can help the elected Treasurer with various tasks. Plus, I'll still be around to provide advice and counsel as necessary.

On a personal note, I am honored that you have put your trust and faith in me to serve the past 13 years as a committee member or chairperson, Vestry member, Senior Warden, Assistant Treasurer, and Treasurer. And I am blessed to have had the time and capacity to do the best job I could in each of these roles. However, I feel that I no longer have the time to perform the duties of Treasurer with my full attention. And this is not fair to St. John's. I'd like to share a little about our family situation because you may be in similar circumstances. We also ask that you keep us in your prayers as we face a stressful and difficult time.

Karen and I are at the point in our lives that we are members of the "sandwich generation" - adults in their 30's and 40's with both young children and aging parents. We are fortunate to have a great marriage, good health, and successful careers. I've even started working toward my doctoral degree, which will keep me busy in college courses and research activities for the next four years.

Rosemary will be nine years old soon, and we try to savor every moment of her growth as a person, in school, and in her various activities. She's a joy to have around, and she makes parenting a snap for us. It's hard to believe that she's closer in age to getting her driver's license than she is to getting her birth certificate!

All four of our parents are still living. Two have serious health issues. Karen's mom and dad are likely to move from Massachusetts, their home of 40 years, to a senior housing development closer to us. Her dad, at 83, has been unable to walk on his own for a few years. He requires frequent medical attention for heart problems, and Karen's mom is his 85-year-old chauffeur! Right now they live 150 miles from us and 110 miles from Karen's sister. This can't continue, and we would like to be present for them, help them, and enjoy "quality time" as Rosemary grows up. But it will be a big transition for us all.

On the other side, my mom continues to battle metastatic cancer in her lungs that was originally diagnosed in September 2003. The doctors don't know where the cancer originated, but they do know that malignant nodules continue to clog up her lungs. Chemotherapy doesn't seem to be working, but prayer is; she has already outlived most people at this stage of the disease. Amazingly, she looks and feels fine, other than the fact she needs to catch her breath a lot more often. Our family is trying to enjoy every small moment, holiday, and milestone with her in what the doctors say could be her last year before God calls her home. My dad, who is successfully fighting prostate cancer himself, has been a blessing to her. But he is worried and anxious about a future without her.

The whole concept of the "sandwich generation" has been written about extensively. There are online forums and faith-based support groups. Many, many people find themselves in a situation similar to ours - not just with children and parents, but with other family members, partners, friends, and others whom we love.

Again, many thanks for your continued prayers and presence in our lives.

CHURCH SCHOOL



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

November 7th: The Church School classes will focus on Luke 20:27-38 and Genesis 37:5-11. In Luke we find people like ourselves asking the big questions: "What happens when we die? How do we fit into God's realm? Is the resurrection for everyone?" Well in our story, Jesus answers those questions with a different kind of answer than they were expecting. Jesus basically said that what matters is what happens before people die. God will be with us after we die and God is with us now. So let's get on with living.

November 14th: The Church School will focus on Luke 21:5-19 and Genesis 37-41. For the Jews who lived in the stories, Luke was telling them that the temple was a reminder. It was a huge building that stood in the middle of the city. It was a symbol of God's faithfulness and promises. Talk about things and places that have special significance for you. What do they help you remember?

November 21st: The Church School will focus on Luke 23:33-43 and Genesis 37-45. We're about to begin Advent. The birth of Jesus can be romanticized beyond its true meaning: it needs to be seen within the whole context of his life and death. This Sunday, many churches will call Jesus "King", but the Bible story today paints a picture of a king that turns upside down our understanding of what is a "King".

November 28th: No Church School.

SECOND COMMUNION BREAKFAST "SISTERHOOD"

1. The empathy and loyalty that women feel for other women who have shared goals, experiences, or viewpoints.
2. A religious community of women.
3. The status of a sister or the relationship of sisters.



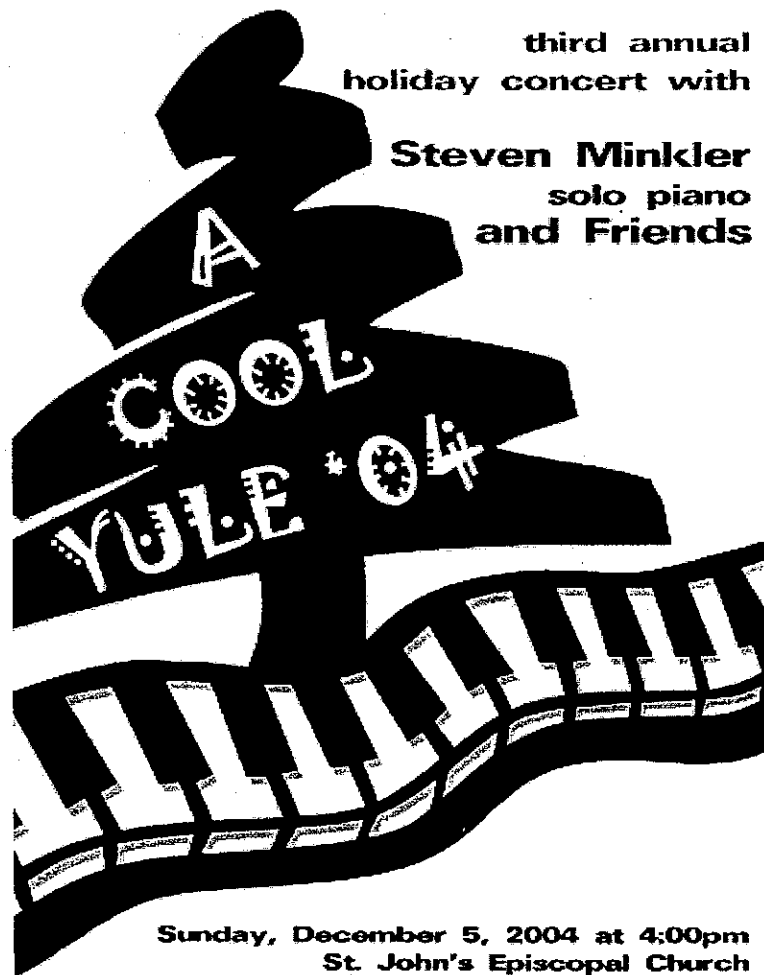
Women's Fellowship

The second Communion Breakfast for the *Sisterhood* was held on September 11, 2004. A delicious breakfast was prepared by Mike Carroll, Don Pomeroy, and Steve Minkler. Communion was celebrated by Malinda Johnson. There was an opportunity to get to know each other and share our "passions". Malinda also shared her passion for poetry by reading some of her favorites. Marian Carroll shared her passion to start a Meal Ministry (look for details in the Outrider and Sunday Bulletin).

All women of St. John's are welcome to be *empowered!* Share your passion with the wonderful community of *Sisters!* Thanks again to Pam Toffey, Donna Gervickas, Elaine Garretson, and Karen Minkler for organizing the event. Sandy Totoritis has agreed to organize the next event on **December 11, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

Please contact Sandy (597-9200) or through the Church Office at 754-3116 if you're interested in helping. Look for the sign up sheet on the hall table.

Karen Minkler



**Sunday, December 5, 2004 at 4:00pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
Downtown Waterbury**

**A COOL YULE
Third Annual Holiday Concert
Featuring Steven Minkler (Solo Pianist) and Friends
Sunday, December 5 at 4:00 p.m. in the Church**

After my first piano recital in 2002, I was deeply touched by how many people told me it was a warm, relaxing moment that captured the holiday spirit for them within such a busy time of year. On December 5 at 4:00 p.m., I'm pleased to present - by popular request - the third annual "Cool Yule" concert featuring a blend of piano solos and duets with our friends from St. John's. You're invited to take a break from the hectic holiday season to enjoy an afternoon of light, contemporary arrangements of popular Christmas songs and hymns. Joining me this year are Pam Toffey, Bob Havery, Mike and Marian Carroll, and Rosemary Minkler. I look forward to seeing you then!

THE WATERBURY CHORALE

Presents

"CHRISTMAS AT THE PALACE"

Featuring John Rutter's "Magnificat" and a Program of Carols

DECEMBER 4, 2004 8:00 PM

THE PALACE THEATER, EAST MAIN ST., WATERBURY

"My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden; for behold all generations shall call me blessed." With these familiar words of the Virgin Mary upon learning that she was to give birth to Christ, John Rutter's "Magnificat" begins. The musical energy and rhythm of this "Magnificat" most elegantly celebrate the Christmas season. John Rutter (1945 -) has given to the modern choir some of the most beautiful liturgical works of the last 40 years. Come to hear our parishioners who sing with the Chorale offer this glorious piece at its annual December concert. A program of familiar carols will complete the evening.

Gold Circle Reserved \$35.00
General Admission \$25.00
Children (12 and under) \$15.00

For Tickets:
Contact any Chorale member or
Call Palace Box Office (203) 755-4700

Concert funded in part by a grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation

"MESSIAH" SING-IN

December 19, 2004 4:00 p.m.

HERE AT ST. JOHN'S



Come and join the Chorale in singing this Handel masterwork. As we raise our voices together in the "Hallelujah" chorus, we will begin the Christmas week. This is the third annual community sing at our Church. Let us sing! Bring your own music or borrow a copy to share at the door.

Tickets available at the door on the afternoon of the sing-in.






\$10.00 per person

\$25.00 per family



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1 Feast of All Saints' 12:00 Noon Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Executive Council/Finance	2 Feast of All Souls' 9:30 am Clericus 10:30 am NA 12:00 Noon Holy Eucharist 4-5:30 pm Chorister Academy	3 12:00 Noon Healing 12:30-2:00 pm B
7 All Saints'/All Souls' Sunday 8:00 am HE Rite I & Homily 9-10:00 am Church School & Adult Forum 9:00 am Centering Prayer 10:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite II & Baptisms 11:15 am Coffee Hour 12:00 noon La Misa Español 3-7:00 pm VNA Bereavement	8 11:00 am HE @ Wtby. Extended Care 12:00 Noonday Prayers 7:30 pm Vestry 7:30 pm Everyman Guild	9 9:30 am Clericus 10:30 am NA 12:00 Noonday Prayers 4-5:30 pm Chorister Academy 7:00 pm Drum Circle	10 12:00 noon Healing 12:30-2:00 pm S 7:30 pm S
14 24 Pentecost 8:00 am HE Rite I & Homily 9-10:00 am Church School 9:00 am Vestry Exploration 9:00 am Centering Prayer 10:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite II & Sermon 11:15 am Coffee Hour 12:00 noon La Misa Español 5:30 pm Integrity	15 12:00 Noonday Prayers 7:30 pm House Committee 7:30 pm Everyman Guild	16 9:30 am Clericus 10:30 am NA 12:00 Noonday Prayers 4-5:30 pm Chorister Academy 7:00 pm Family Advisory Council	17 12:00 noon Healing 12:30-2:00 pm Ir 7:00 pm Northwest 7:30 pm S 7:30 pm S
21 The Last Sunday of Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I & Homily 9-10:00 am Church School & Adult Forum 9:00 am Centering Prayer 10:15 am Holy Eucharist II & Sermon 11:15 am Coffee Hour 12:00 noon La Misa Español 4:00 pm Everyman Guild Concert 	22 12:00 Noonday Prayers 5:30-10:00 pm Waterbury Chorale Rehearsal 7:30 pm Liturgical Council 7:30 pm Everyman Guild	23 9:30 am Clericus 10:30 am NA 12:00 Noonday Prayers 4-5:30 pm Chorister Academy	24 12:00 noon Healing 12:30-2:00 pm T 7:00 pm T with First St. John's 7:30 pm S 7:30 pm S 
28 Advent I 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I & homily 9-10:00 am Church School & Adult Forum 9:00 am Centering Prayer 10:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite II & Sermon 11:15 am Coffee Hour 12:00 noon La Misa Español	29 12:00 Noonday Prayers 5:30-10:00 pm Waterbury Chorale Rehearsal 7:30 pm Everyman Guild	30 9:30 am Clericus 10:30 am NA 12:00 Noonday Prayers 4-5:30 pm Chorister Academy 1-3 pm St. John's Center	

NOVEMBER 2004

DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Eucharist & aff meeting sb	4 10:30 am HE @ Haven Health 12:00 Noonday Prayers 5-7:15 pm Chorister Academy 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 12:00 Noonday Prayers 7:30 pm AA	6 7:00 pm Chorus Angelicus Concert 
Eucharist & aff meeting AA	11 12:00 Noonday Prayers 5-7:15 pm Chorister Academy 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 12:00 Noonday Prayers 7:30 pm AA	13 10 am – 12 noon Hispanic Mission Breakfast with Fr. Armando Gonzalez
Eucharist & aff meeting ence AA	18 12:00 Noonday Prayers 5-7:15 pm Chorister Academy 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 12:00 Noonday Prayers Holiday Fair Setup	20 8:30 am – 4:30 pm MEEP 10 am–3 pm Holiday Fair 
Eucharist & aff Meeting giving Service ran Church @ AA 	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed 7:30 pm AA 	27

HOLIDAY FAIR

St. John's Parish on the Green

16 Church Street

Waterbury, Ct.

Saturday November 20, 2004

10am-3pm



PICTURES WITH SANTA

Gert's Tavern

MAGIC!!
MAGIC!!!

Arts and Crafts

BAKED GOODS

BOOK SALE

Jewelry Sale





LAUDATA (the Praised One) A Brief History

The first project undertaken by LAUDATA - before the idea of the name occurred to me - was a series of banners for St. John's Parish, Waterbury, CT. It was the fall of 1970 and the Rector at that time, Mike Kendall, suggested the banners after a conversation we had had about the power of the visual arts in Liturgy. On October 8, 1970, I attended a workshop lead by then-noted bannerist and fabric artist, Norman Lailaberte and was fascinated both by the process of creating the designs and the 'outside the box' approach.

The series of 10 banners, each about 3' X 6' was created and hung in various places throughout the church - sometimes all together in the nave and sometimes scattered throughout the building. One - depicting the then-popular phrase from *Jesus Christ Superstar*: 'Jesus is Cool!' and done in (what else) pink and orange vinyl - hung on the wall in the nursery for years.

The banners have, since then, disappeared and I don't know what ever happened to them.

The first Liturgical Vestment I made was a Cope - done in about 1974 or 75 - again at the suggestion of Mike Kendall - and is still used at St. John's. The fabric is a special hand-made wax-print of swirling birds (when viewed from the back) and is in shades of blues. A short time later I made a matching stole.

Next came a Chasuble for then-Curate, Norman Mol. The design reflects the wheat/flame theme described by the owner as part of his calling to the priesthood while also relating to his mid-western agricultural nurturing. Completely hand-sewn construction, it used varied fabrics, stitching and quilting techniques and was about 5' x 10' oval. It was presented to him at his ordination, March 12, 1977.

Later in 1977, I made a Stole for Mike Kendall which we referred to as the 'Anastasis Stole' because of its theme. Resurrection symbols abound, from the 'Panto Krator' (inspired by a mosaic from Santa Sophia, Istanbul) at the back of the neck, through the crucified hands casting the stars of the Evangelists over the heavens, to the hills of the Holy Land holding their upper surfaces to the heavens in the ancient 'orans' aspect of prayer. Below, traditional human figures (including children and pets) witness the empty tomb of the risen Christ. Because the subject was often rendered in mosaic, I chose needlepoint to most closely resemble the historic look. It was done in wool yarn on 10/20 penelope canvas; the width varied from 3-1/2" to 7"; it was corded and backed in red velvet.

In 1979, when Peter Holroyd was interim Rector at St. John's, I created the large parochial banner that now hangs in the church. Traditional symbolism of the eagle representing St. John is rendered in over-large format with the image extending beyond the edges of the picture plane. The entire banner was hand-sewn using varied fabrics; size is 5' x 10'. The smaller version, used as a processional banner, was finished for the Celebration of a New Ministry of James Wilson.

The next project was some years later, in 1988, during the time of the search-process which resulted in the calling of Jim Bradley as St. John's Rector. During that very hot summer, I cleaned out and re-cataloged the entire music library. In addition, I made 12 banners for the Choir Room, 6 including quotations relating to music and the other 6 representing seasons of the church year. I used bright shades of chintz fabric and developed an elaborate machine-sewing technique for them that I still use to this day.

When Jim Bradley asked me to make a Chasuble for the occasion of his Celebration of a New Ministry, we had no idea that it would be amid the 'ruins' of the tornado damage of 1989. He had some wonderful ideas and lots of even more wonderful encouragement about its construction. It is made entirely of hand-sewn techniques and is the first use of cotton moiré, a fabric I have come to use frequently because of its texture and ease of care. It was presented to him at the Celebration service in September of 1989.

Spring of 1993 brought the idea of folding doves for Pentecost. Charles and I folded 136 of them, in three sizes and three colors and strung them together in bunches of four or five. The day before Pentecost we strung the black 'clothesline' from one corner of the balcony to the other, diagonally, and began to attach the strands of birds. Half way through, the design is interrupted with seven strands of seven flames - hanging over the center aisle where worshipers would have to pass under them. The doves then resumed 'flying' in the other half of the diagonal installation.

That same day, a group from St. John's had gone to Hartford for a Diocesan ceremony of Confirmation. When they got back to Waterbury, things needed to be put into the Sacristy but the Sexton had just washed the Library floor and no one could pass through. They had to go into the church - and be the first ones to see the Doves-and-Flames installation. I understand it was a pretty special experience.

People seemed to really love the origami birds and they stayed up for the entire summer and early fall. We decided to take them down for All Saints and encourage people to take them away - in honor of someone who was parted from them, whether by death, or distance or circumstance. They went all over the world and turned out to be really powerful messengers, both for the sender and the receiver. The 'parting' of the Doves-and-Flames turned out to be at least as important as their installation - an aspect I hadn't anticipated.

In late 1995 or early 96 - whenever it was that Andrew Smith was called to be Suffragan Bishop, I approached him with an offer to 'do something' in the way of a vestment or banner for his Consecration. Since other liturgical artists had also made such an offer, he asked us to work together to come up with a banner. We used the theme of the wide variety of ways in which Christ is encountered in the world and throughout history. At the left side and extending slightly along the bottom are favorite places for Drew - his beloved hiking places and the Holy City - Jerusalem. The techniques used in this banner are widely varied and included fused fabric and acrylic painting but *no* sewing (except for the hems). The banner turned out to be 5' x 9', horizontal and now hangs in his office in Hartford. He seemed very pleased with it.

Having gotten all turned-on about fusing fabrics for banners, I immediately began a design for the Pentecost Dossal and altar Frontal for St. John's. It ended up being about 8' x 21'; I had significant help from Myra Hope Bobbitt and Paula Alekson. The dossal and frontal were finished just hours before Pentecost Sunday of 1996. Putting it in place, the three of us were nearly in tears, we were so pleased.

In 1977, another large dossal was in the works - and in the basement of St. John's. The All-Saints dossal, made using fused fabrics and squeeze-tube painting techniques, was the largest creation yet - 10' x 21' and was originally made in two halves which were joined permanently after it was learned how hard it was to get them to hang perfectly straight. The subject: we are part of huge continuum - the Great Cloud of Witnesses - the Saints of God. This work names more than 1000 of them and places those names in great swirling strands, stretching through the cosmos. It is intended that the viewer, approaching the altar, will feel embraced by the work and included in the Great Multitude. Many people have told me how special this piece of Liturgical art is to them. I am humbled by their love of my work.

What would be my first design in stained glass came about because I was on a committee dealing with the design for a gift from Dick and Sally Harris of windows for the tower. The glass fabricator had made a sketch, trying to relate what had been told to him about the nature of St. John's. I asked Dick if I could make a sketch as well and his reply was wonderful. "I was hoping you would," he said. The rest is history. I love making big designs and this area certainly qualified there - 12' high and 18" wide each, with 36" in between.

The quote from Isaiah "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles." was the impetus for the design. St. John's, Waterbury, has long 'waited upon the Lord,' helping those in need through its outreach programs and dedicated community involvement. The design of the tower lancets, the first new glass to be dedicated in almost 100 years, reflects the enormous role St. John's plays at the core of one of New England's oldest cities. The eagle (symbol of St. John) soars over the city, its glowing golden wings in a protective, hovering embrace.

Historically, stained glass was used to create a 'magic, holy space' by shutting out the secular world. The images in the glass were layered with traditional Christian symbols and stories. These windows have all that but here one can see through them to the greater community St. John's has served for so many years - a reminder of the ministry to important to the Parish. These windows were dedicated on September 9, 2001.

In April, 2004, I met with Michael Spencer about creating a Chasuble, Orpherys, stoles, etc. for St. John's. What was needed was a set of vestments and hangings for 'the green season' - Pentecost. Even before the meeting I had the idea of creating something involving the Seasons and their ever-changing colors. I brought fabrics and a drawing and, from the outset the idea seemed right. One of the stoles was finished for Michael's ordination in June and the other items (including a second Chasuble - extra long) were dedicated on September 12, 2004.

The design is probably most easily seen in the Orpherys - those long 'stripes' of color hanging behind the altar. At the top is the lightest of the greens representing spring and including three bare trees - on a hillside. Just below them is a tumble of white blossoms representing later spring and followed by a swath of green foliage. Then come the apples - the fruits of summer, followed by more foliage and another tumble of colorful fall leaves, ending with the deep green velvet of shorter days. The Chasubles have the whole design coming around and repeating itself - as the seasons do - from front to back and around to the front again. The stoles are miniatures of the orpherys.

With God's help, this will not be the end of the work of LAUDATA but certainly represents a strong 'root-structure' for branching out into the greater world. None of it would be possible without the support and love and encouragement of the people and clergy of St. John's. For all of this I am truly and humbly thankful.

Judith McManis
Dba LAUDATA Liturgical Art and Calligraphy



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

It is once again time to order Christmas Poinsettias in memory of/in thanksgiving for a loved one. Please fill out the form below and mail it (with \$35 per poinsettia) back to the church office or drop in the collection plate on Sunday. We must receive your order by Sunday, December 12, 2004 in order to guarantee placement in the Christmas bulletin.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN THANKSGIVING FOR: _____

Please acknowledge my donation to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

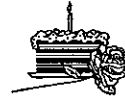




NOVEMBER

- 11/1 Lisa Aubrie
- 11/1 Gil Kirby
- 11/2 Tom Butcher
- 11/2 William Carrillo
- 11/2 Beverly Guerin
- 11/3 Allene Daniels
- 11/4 Carol Parker
- 11/7 Patricia Klein
- 11/7 Melvin Bullock
- 11/8 John Torrance
- 11/9 Krystal Dover
- 11/10 Sue Parker
- 11/11 Martha Coulson
- 11/11 Jennifer Spinella
- 11/12 Karyn DiTomaso
- 11/12 Maria Forrester
- 11/13 Jan Figlia
- 11/14 Sophie Rundhaug
- 11/15 Virginia Cole
- 11/15 Thomas Flanagan
- 11/15 Andrew Skipp
- 11/15 Justin Banisaied
- 11/18 Donna Sevas
- 11/19 Andrew Beaudoin
- 11/19 Malakai Pinto
- 11/20 Florence Normand
- 11/20 David Smith, Jr.
- 11/20 James Smith
- 11/20 Teresa Groshans
- 11/21 Winifred Isherwood
- 11/22 Megan Foell
- 11/23 Charles Kellogg
- 11/23 Kaitlyn Scott
- 11/23 Christopher Grandpre
- 11/23 Ariana Lance
- 11/24 Katherine Haines
- 11/24 Lillian Brown
- 11/24 David Smith, Sr.
- 11/26 Mildred Morrone
- 11/26 Charlene Knighton
- 11/27 Alexander Loomis

- 11/28 Steven Minkler
- 11/28 John Mantzaris
- 11/28 Charlotte Vanasse
- 11/28 Kimberly Greenier
- 11/29 Kay Bergin
- 11/30 Nina Hallock
- 11/30 Alexandra Markowich
- 11/30 Mabel Schuster
- 11/30 Mark Szantyr



NOVEMBER

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

NOVEMBER PARISH PRAYER CYCLE

November 7: Patrece Webber, Renetta Webber, Marsha Webber & Doug Livingston, The Weiler Family, Shirley Weiss, Roger Wheeler, The Whidbee Family, Ryan & Angela White, Kimberly Williams, and Dorothy & Desrine Wineglass.

November 14: Howard & Jane Woods, Robert & Margaret Worden, Janelle Kindle, Mary Ellen Yashenko & Family, Flora Young, Loribeth & Edgar Young, The Yuhas Family, Bruce & Denise Zastuary, Anthony Zasun & Lisandra Rodriguez.

November 21: Rae Abell & Lucille Ryczer, The Adomavicia Family, Syreeta Aidoo, Sandy Allard, The Alonzo Family, Jay Anthony, The Asenao Family, Phyllis Atwood, Kenneth & Lisa Aubrie, Michael & Jennifer Aubrie, and Jennifer Aufiero.

November 28: Luiz & Maria Baez and Family, Anna Bakun, Barbara & Bob Balch, George & Lillian Baldwin, Robert & Bonnie Baranoski, Renee Baril, Lorraine & Ray Barker, Anthony & Sheila Basile, Charles & Dawn Beaudoin, Pam Behrman, and Shawn Bellavance & Meghan Dwyer and Family.



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

November 7: Elsie Flink.

November 14: Verne & Dorothy Parker.

November 21: Fred & Ruth Harrison.

November 24: Oscar & Augusta Espelin, Sr., Oscar Espelin, Jr., Jane Espelin Norton, Connie L. Sagnaio, Ernest H. & Myrtle Tchakirides, and Irving & Effie Tchakirides



VESTRY NOMINEES SOUGHT

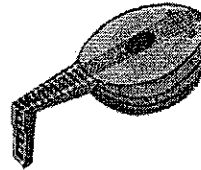
Nominations are open for vestry for the January 23, 2005 Annual Meeting. To be eligible, the nominee must be at least 18 years old, baptized, and an active member of the parish. If you wish to nominate some else, ask their permission and submit their name to Brian Ladden or Karen Minkler. You may also nominate yourself.



VESTRY EXPLORATION DAY - NOVEMBER 14TH AT 9:00 A.M.

Come find out what the Vestry is and how it works and who's on it.

This is a good way to explore the possibility of whether or not you would like to serve on the Vestry yourself.



EVERYMAN GUILD CONCERT

Please plan to join us on Sunday, November 21, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. The

Everyman Guild will present a concert to benefit the Sharon House Garden Project. Tickets will be available Sunday mornings during November and also at the Holiday Fair. The suggested donation is \$10.00 for adults. Children are welcome to attend the concert at no charge. Refreshments will be available during intermission. Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Lorraine Barker or Jim Morgan if you can help out.



AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES

Jewelry and crafts will be available for sale on Sunday, December 12th and Sunday, December 19th. The items are crafted by women in Africa and all proceeds are returned to the women and children of Africa. The items are truly unique and make wonderful Christmas gifts. Please contact Lorraine Barker or Jim Morgan if you would be interested in taking a turn at selling the items on either date.



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Annual reports from the Rector, Curate, Treasurer, Senior & Junior Wardens, Liturgical Council, Integrity, Seminarian, House Committee, Stewardship Committee, Hispanic Ministry, St. John's Center for Spirituality, Delegate to Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries, Card Ministry, Meatloaf Ministry, Casserole Ministry, Outreach Council, AmeriCares, Team 2000, Earth Ministry, Librarian, Vergers, Altar Guild, Close Committee, Ushers, Christian Education, Minister of Music, ECW White Envelope, Broadway on the Green, Holiday Fair, Centering Prayer, Pastoral Care, Chorister Academy, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers are now due. The annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23, 2005.



MANY THANKS

During the past six months of my parents' illness, our moving to a new home and my father's death in September, I have been reminded what it is to be "in community." It is not just the cards, the telephone calls, the hugs on Sunday mornings, the meals, the offers of help, the shoulders to cry on - although there were more of all those things than I had ever imagined I would receive in my lifetime. I knew with a real certainty that I was in the thoughts and prayers of people I loved and knew but also of many people I had never met or talked to. The community of concern was real to me, sustained me and has left me with a profound gratitude to all of you. God bless you, every one.

Harriet Fottet



ANNUAL COMBINED CONGREGATION THANKSGIVING SERVICE

St. John's will be host to this year's annual Thanksgiving Service, which will be held in combination with the congregation of First Lutheran Church of Waterbury.

The service will be held on **Wednesday, November 24, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.** in our Sanctuary. Please make an effort to join us for this special service.



The next *Outrider* will be a combined December/January edition. If you have articles to submit, please send them into the Church Office by Wednesday, November 10th.



CENTERING PRAYER

"Seeking God In Silence" - Join us for Centering Prayer Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Kellogg Room on the second floor.



CHORISTER ACADEMY NEWS

Now that the Chorister Academy has been in operation since September 7th and has sung for the 10:15 Eucharist twice, members of St. John's have had a chance to see and hear how far they've come - and how far they have to go!

Most of the children in the Academy have had very little musical training and even less training in Liturgical procedure, so our mandate is clear: music basics, vocal production, Liturgical awareness. The Choristers - all 27 of them - are eager to learn, eager to sing well, and eager to be well received by all of you. They notice when they are praised. To wit, after their first appearance on October 3rd, I heard, "We're famous" and "We're popular". So, you can see that they enjoy being admired. Your support and encouragement are crucial and must appreciated.

As I said above, we have far to go, but I am confident that with the continued enthusiasm and participation of the children and their parents, and with the wonderful support of the community of St. John's, that we will reach our goal of being a wonderful church choir for the children of Waterbury.

Maria Coffin

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 11/6 Chorus Angelicus Concert at 7:00 pm
- 11/20 Holiday Fair 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- 11/21 Everyman Guild Concert 4:00 pm
- 11/24 Combined Thanksgiving Service with First Lutheran Church, Waterbury, at 7:00 pm

DECEMBER

- 12/5 Steve Minkler's "Cool Yule" at 4:00 pm
- 12/11 Women's Communion Breakfast from 9:00-11:00 am
- 12/11 Carolyn Cavanaugh Concert
- 12/18 Chorus Angelicus Concert at 7:00 pm
- 12/19 Christmas Pageant at 10:15 Eucharist
- 12/19 Greening of the Church
- 12/19 Waterbury Chorale's Messiah Sing at 4:00 pm
- 12/24 Family Service of Holy Eucharist and Carols at 4:00 pm
- 12/24 The Christ-Mass with Choir, Instruments and Eucharist at 10:00 pm
- 12/25 Holy Eucharist Rite I and Carols at 10:00 am
- 12/26 Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8:00 am
- 12/26 Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10:15 am
- 12/26 12 del día Misa en Español
- 12/28 Feast of St. John's - Noon Holy Eucharist

JANUARY

- 1/23 Parish Breakfast, Holy Eucharist and Annual Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 2/5 Mardi Gras Celebration
- 2/8 Shrove Tuesday
- 2/9 Ash Wednesday

MARCH

- 3/11-3/12 Broadway on the Green
- 3/27 Easter Sunday