
The Outrider

September 2005

The view from above the Close

"The Magician Merlin had a strange laugh, and it was heard when nobody else was laughing....He laughed because he knew what was coming next."

-Robertson Davies, World of Wonder

This odd week, the first week of August, is surrounded by two remarkable holy days—the Feast of St. Joseph of Arimathea and the Feast of the Transfiguration.

Joseph was the one who gave Jesus his tomb and who, Luke tells us, was "looking for the Kingdom of God". Bless him. Looking, seeking, searching for the Kingdom—that, it seems to me at least is the very nature of the life of faith. Looking, seeking, searching—what we should all be up to and about. Where is the Kingdom? That should be our question—within us, all around us, just out of reach? Something like that. What we should be "up to" is the looking and seeking and searching part. At least, that's what it seems to me.

And the Transfiguration—the incredible and hard to believe story of Jesus on the mountain with Moses and Elijah and him (Jesus) being literally "trans-figured"...made a new "figure", changed, altered, transformed, renewed. Like that...just like that.

There is magic and a search to be undertaken and love, love most of all and most transfiguring of all.

We're beginning again, this family and tribe of St. John's. September is upon us and magic is there and transfiguration and love, most of all, love.

After the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer (as some song from my adolescence put it...) it is time to start the autumn with a renewed sense of "looking for the Kingdom of God". This OUTRIDER provides opportunities for renewal and transfiguration and seeking the Kingdom.

So, join us for the magic and the journey. I'm looking forward to seeing you in September. (Oh, goodness, another old song!)

Shalom, Jim

Annual Retreat to Holy Cross

We need to give the Monastery a hard count for rooms for the September 30—October 2 retreat by the end of August. But you still have an opportunity to sign up and go with us to Holy Cross for that weekend. It is a time for relaxation, re-creation, worship, good food, companionship and (for some) shopping! October is one of the best times to visit the upper Hudson Valley and the time at the monastery is always full and renewing.

The retreat is from dinner on Friday through lunch on Sunday. Time's running out—call the church office to sign up as soon as you read this! Cost for the retreat is \$177.

YOUTH MINISTRY

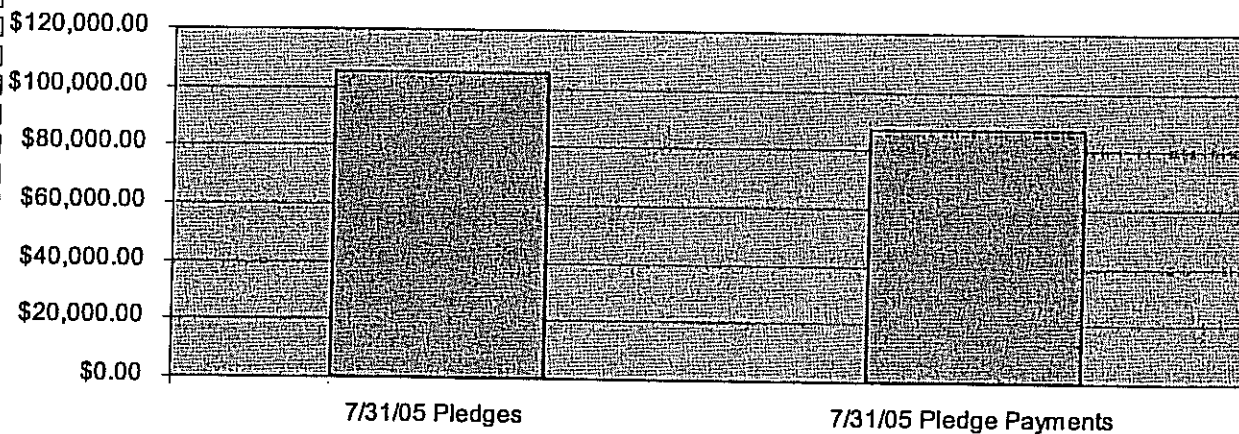
By the time you receive this *OUTRIDER*, our new youth ministry staff folks will be in place. The Five Year Plan emphasizes a greater involvement in ministry to youth and this position was created to help us lean into that commitment.

The Rev. Maner Tyson and his wife Rhonie Black are going to share that ministry. They will be working with all kids 12 and older from the three services. Details of the work will be sent to those children who are eligible. Maner and Rhonie are well known to St. John's as our neighbors across West Main at Waterbury Baptist Ministries. St. John's folks have worked with WBM at the Sharon House farm and with WBM's Jubilee Harvest feeding program. Maner has used St. John's for some of his youth work in past years.

Maner and Rhonie will need the help of parents and other volunteers as they begin their ministry with us.

(St. John's "diversity" is a source of pride and joy. Having Southern Baptist staff members just adds to that!)

Is your pledge up to date?



-Submitted by Lorraine Barker, Treasurer

Keep Their Spirit Alive

After having read in a recent article in the newspaper that our President, George W. Bush, plans on keeping our soldiers overseas until the war is won, I'm asking you to join with me and help our soldiers talk with their families back home. Keep Their Spirit Alive is a post office initiative where they send telephone cards to soldiers overseas. Each phone card costs \$10.00. This gives the soldier about 40 minutes to speak with their families. Let us not forget the soldiers. Let us support them. Keep Their Spirit Alive. Thank you, God Bless you.

-Sara Haines



With Gratitude

Many Thanks

Thank you to everyone who kept me in their prayers and sent me get well wishes while I recovered from Carpal Tunnel surgery. Your healing wishes speeded the recovery. Thanks to Shirley Chouinard for rides to church. God Bless everyone.

-Sarah Haines

GREATER WATERBURY INTERFAITH MINISTRIES NEWS

- By Sarah Haines

There is a quotation somewhere that says "Good help is hard to find" so I've decided to rejoin with GWIM.

The annual fall Hunger Walk has been rescheduled. It will be held on May 6, 2006.

MEATLOAF MINISTRY

Hello, Welcome to St. John's Parish and the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries. I'm so grateful to the volunteer parishioners that make wonderful, divine meatloaves for Barbara Dublin's dining hall here at St. John's Parish. The soup kitchen is serving 250-275 people a day so these meatloaves are ever so much needed. Any parishioner that would like to join this wonderful ministry is more than welcome. Just let Sarah Haines know that you are taking part.

Every third Sunday, a 2-lb cooked, frozen meatloaf or 2 pounds raw hamburger are needed in the dining hall. Please wrap in aluminum foil and bring to the kitchen. For \$5.00 you can have a meatloaf made in your name. Thank you and God Bless you.

CASSEROLE MINISTRY

The casserole ministry is volunteer parishioners who provide casseroles, or meat dishes of any size, to Barbara Dublin's dining hall. Due to the increase in guests to feed, casseroles are in great need. When the food which has been provided depletes, casseroles are served. Hot or cold dishes and salads are always welcomed. I am hoping that the casserole ministry will be as successful as the meatloaf ministry. You can also have a casserole made in your name with a donation. Please provide your dish in a disposable container, covered, and bring to the kitchen. Let us unite together providing warmth and friendship to those in need. Thank you.

Knitting and Crocheting Hats and Mittens

Each year, members of the parish knit and crochet hats and mittens which are distributed to children and adults who would otherwise go without. The parishioners who do this find it to be a very rewarding ministry and have even seen hats they've knitted on people in the city. Here are three patterns for children's hats to help keep a child warm this winter. Hats and mittens can be left with Pam Toffey, brought to church on Sundays, or left at the church office.

Future Outriders will have patterns for adult hats, mittens, shawls, and infant hats for the hospital. If you have a pattern, either knit or crochet, that you'd like to share, please e-mail it to OUTRIDER@stjohnsonthegreen.org, send it to the office--attention OUTRIDER, or give it to Pam Toffey.

RIB KNITTED CAP

Circular Needles Size #7 or #8

Yarn in your choice of colors (kids love caps with lots of colors!)

Cast on 96 (108) stitches. Join, placing a marker on the needles to mark the beginning of the rnds--and be careful not to twist the work.

Rnd 1: *K2P2* repeat across rnd between * Repeat this rnd for 8 (9) inches.

Decrease rnd 1: *K2, P2tog* repeat across rnd between * 64 (72) sts

For the next 5 rnds work: *K2, P1* repeat across rnd btw *

Decrease Rnd 2: *K2tog, P1* repeat across rnd btw * 48 (54) sts

For the next 5 rnds work: *K1,P1* across rnd btw*

Cut yarn leaving a 12" tail. Thread tail on a large eyed needle and draw through remaining sts and pull tight. Turn up bottom for a 3" cuff and add a pom-pom if you like.

SINGLE CROCHET HAT

Crochet Hook Size H or I

Chain 33 (38,42). Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in next 27 (30,34) sts, sl st in next 4 (6,6) sts for top, ch1 to turn all rows.

Row 2: Working through BACK LOOP ONLY, sl st in 1st 4(6,6) sts, sc in rem 28 (31, 35) sts.

Row 3: Sc in 1st 28 (31, 35) sts, sl st in rem 4 (6,6) sts.

Repeat rows 2 and 3 alternately until piece measures 12 1/2 (15, 17 1/2) inches. Tie-off. Gather sl st edge tog. Sew back seam. Fold bottom edge up for brim.

DOUBLE CROCHET HAT

Crochet Hook Size H or I

Beg at top with main color, ch 7, sl st in first ch to for ring

Rnd 1: Ch3, 16 dc in ring. Join with a sl st in top of ch 3. Turn

Rnd 2: Ch3, 2 dc in each dc around--32 dc. Join, turn each rnd

Rnd 3: Ch 3, (dc in next dc, 2 dc in next dc) 16 times, 48 dc

Rnd 4: Ch3, (dc in next 2 dc, 2 dc in next dc) 16 times, 64 dc

Rnd 5-12: Ch 3, dc in each dc around. Drop main color.
 Rnd 13: With first contrasting color, sc in each st around
 Rnd 14: With second contrasting color, sc in each st around
 Rnd 15: With third contrasting color, sc in each st around
 Rnd 16: With main color, dc in each st around. Join and end off. Fold last 5 rows to right side for cuff.

If you need yarn, please see the office or Pam Toffey. We have yarn available in the church. If you'd like to learn to knit talk to Doris Hollenstein, Marilyn Mitchell, Donna Deitch, Karen Minkler, Harriet Fötter or Pam Toffey. If you'd like to learn to crochet, talk to Pam Toffey or Donna Deitch. If you knit and/or crochet and would be willing to teach another parishioner, let Pam Toffey know and we'll put your name on the list. We'd be happy to teach you!!



KNIT, PURL, CROCHET, PRAY

Come, join us on Saturday, October 8th. We'll join together to knit or crochet our prayer shawls, gloves, mittens, hats and spend some time sharing stories. Malinda Johnson, our curate, received one of our blessed prayer shawls at our June Sunday services for her continuing ministry. Chapman

House, the Waterbury School System and the GWIM Soup kitchen have been recipients of hats, gloves and mittens.

So if you wish to learn to knit or continue or begin a project, join us on Saturday, October 8th from 9:30 to 11:30 (or part of the time) for an interesting experience.

-Doris Hollenstein

BROWN BAG SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Each Thursday in July there was a gathering of folks to listen and participate in the luncheon concerts--

Our thanks to the participants:

Everyman Guild

Unique Vibe--A Step in the Right Direction

Steve Minkler

Accordions--Marilyn O'Neil, Sandy Totoritis, Betty Biolo, Bob Vitale and Art Piel

To St. John's staff

To Donna Deitch

and to those attending.

-Doris Hollenstein

Special thanks to Doris Hollenstein for organizing the summer brown bag concert series!!

UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION AND CONVERSATION

Please join us on Sunday mornings from 9 - 10 am in the library for adult education and conversation. Beginning September 11th, we'll continue our summer Bible Study focusing on the weekly lessons, though we'll use a combination of approaches (not just African Bible Study). We'll also provide a variety of resources for further (personal) study and reflection for anyone who's interested. Babysitting provided.



" Ce n'est pas amusant " 23 July 2005

" Ce n'est pas amusant " were the words of my zemidjan driver. He had just finished asking me about the length of my stay in Benin and what I do. I replied saying I am here for two years as an environment volunteer. He was taking me to the grand marché Danktopa, one of the largest markets in West Africa, here in the economic coastal capital of Cotonou. (Porto Novo is the political capital, a mere hour away on the coast, but New York is to Cotonou as D.C. is to Porto Novo.) Then he proceeded to ask me if I liked living here and I said, yes, I do. It was at that time when he said "it's not fun."

Zemidjan means "get me there fast" in Fon, one of Benin's major local languages. In the bigger cities, these motorcycle taxis are the only form of public transport. Benin is one of less than a handful of Peace Corps countries in the world that grants volunteers permission to use these, with our officially licensed helmets, but only out of necessity. Going long distances in the city there really is no other way to get around.

So in Cotonou, population around 800,000, there are thousands of these "official" moto taxis wearing bright yellow shirts with a green identification number stenciled on the back. The rate can be 100 CFA, 200 CFA, 300 CFA (20 cents, 40 cents, 60 cents) or anything in-between, based on the distance you are traveling, how much he tries to overcharge you if you are a foreigner and therefore must have money, and how well you can impress him by speaking one of the local languages in bargaining for the price.

How much does he make in a day? I really have no idea. Part of me says that they must do alright if there are so many of them then they must stay in the business because they are making something. Part of me says-but there are so many of them, they must not make much profit. Part of me realizes that either way, they may not have a choice if jobs are scarce and unlike chez nous, in the U.S., a good education does not guarantee you a job.

So on our way to the market, at a stoplight, we pass a horribly deformed infant laying in a stroller by the side of the road and two young people pushing the carriage saying "this baby has not eaten, won't you give some money?" to all who pass. By the looks of this poor child's head tumor and the quality of medical care available to the average person, I unfortunately do not think that this child will live very long. What I do think is that the family is using the child's disability to earn money for themselves. That is only my assumption, but when you think about it, it makes sense. If the child's condition is untreatable, at least it can help feed the other members of the family and if there are other people who are hungry, I feel terribly sorry for the baby but at least the others will eat. Do I give money? Rarely. I don't like perpetuating the stereotype of the rich foreigner and I don't always know where the money will go. I usually only give to the elderly Hausa speaking Muslim population on Fridays, the important prayer day at the mosque, in accordance with the tradition of Friday alms giving.

One of my current projects is a tree planting contest amongst 23 primary (elementary) schools in my region. So lately I have been hopping on my bike and going about 15km (8 miles) into the bush to some of the schools. At one of the farthest schools, I met a group of shoeless smiling children that, until the road opened up last year had never seen what a car is or a white person.

In the highest level class, CM 2, our equivalent of 6th grade, the 4 enrolled girls have since aban-

done, being married off by their parents. Traditions are hard to break, especially in this village 30km (15 miles) away from electricity.

There are sometimes when I miss people or things from home but then I look at the friends that I have here and the relatively pampered life that I am living and I realize that for a person who has the means to get by here, yes, life is "amusant." For my zemidjan driver, the injured baby and the girls in the village, life is not.

I don't want this to sound dismal because there are many powerful young professionals here as well, both men and women, that are working to make life better. Just as in many other countries, there is a small rich class that is incredibly rich. In some ways, even the poverty that I see here does not seem as bad as some of the poverty that I have seen in the states, in West Virginia and rural Mississippi, because these are places where their poverty is a shadow of the prosperity that once existed, whereas here there is a whole new potential that has not yet been realized.

So as I step off my moto taxi and into the market, my heart is tightened by the conflict between the pleasures that I can afford to enjoy here while others cannot. Dealing with that guilt on an everyday basis, I am simply grateful for what I have. On a long-term basis, I feel that what would make the most difference is for more U.S.-African exchange programs-not just for Americans to come to Africa and take the good ideas back but for Africans to work in America and bring back these insights to their own countries. Although I will make some sort of impact during my time here, I feel like it is nothing compared to how I can affect the people of my own culture with the knowledge that I have gained here. To empower the Beninois to do the same for their own country would really be something.

I know that we live in a world with security concerns and visa red tape, but if these obstacles could be overcome I think that this is one of the best ways to help people here. Even if it isn't U.S.-Africa maybe Canada-Africa exchanges. Until then, as my zemidjan driver dutifully pointed out, and I agree, "ce n'est pas amusant."

Katherine Haines
Benin, West Africa

Lay Assistants Meeting September 18th after the 10:15 Service

If you are a lay reader, intercessor, or chalice bearer (or would like to become one) please make every effort to attend this meeting. It's time for us to re-group and set up some loose guidelines and expectations. Any questions or concerns, please contact Jim or Malinda at 203-754-3116.

Acolytes Meeting September 18th after the 10:15 service

If you would like to serve as an acolyte in the year ahead, please MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW and join us for this brief informational meeting. This is for anyone who is interested in this ministry, whether you have experience or not. Training will take place at a separate place and time to be announced very soon. Any questions, please contact Michael Spencer at 203-754-3116 or Bob Baranoski at 203-758-6838.

Celebrations

Lorene Castle, Senior Warden

You may know that my day job for 28 years has been helping persons with disabilities find employment. Overall, I have loved working myself and have felt blessed to have a job that can help others work when that is their goal.

Over the years, I have learned a lot from people with disabilities. I have been inspired by people who live their life fully and with joy in spite of many challenges. Many even feel their disability has resulted in growth in their life they might otherwise have missed. Jim recently referenced a comment that Jo Plunске made about how her disability had been a blessing. I emailed Jo to see if she would be willing to share her story. This is what I received the next morning. The following is from Jo. I am sharing this with her permission.

Sure, here goes.



In 1995, I was sent home from work, in braces on my wrists and knees. It got so bad that I couldn't cut my own meat, among other things. Shortly after that, my son, Mike, became more and more ill. Eventually, he lost his 2nd leg in 1997. God had shown my doctor a medicine, gold shots, that made it possible for me to answer when Mike needed care. He refused to go to another nursing home and came home to mom's one bedroom condo. During his rehabilitation, we acquired a service dog that you now know as Luke. After Mike's passing, I was blessed by Luke becoming certified to me for my own helper. I continue to be disabled now but to a much lesser degree, at least that's my opinion. Because of that, I am free during the day to offer comfort where I can through Luke. We visit the hospital floor where Mike was cared for and others, Behavioral Health, the Sara Pierce Foundation and Kensington Green. If only for a few minutes, we can break the fear, the pain and the boredom of recovery.

All the work I did for Pitney Bowes never made an impact on the corporate world despite working 60-70 hours a week, I'm sure the Federal Government and P-B didn't get the fruit that comes from the Tree of Giving Love that I reap from working with Luke. And that, dear lady, is why I think my disability was a blessing in disguise. God bless, Jo

St. John's has five "Faith Goals" for our church. The five goals are part of a five-year plan for St. John's. The five goals reflect our values and the commitment we have for growing St. John's, deepening our spirituality, serving our neighbors, building partnerships with the Community of the Green and preserving our historic Sacred Spaces. Jo models more than one of these goals. Today I celebrate how Jo and Luke live goal number three, which is serving our neighbors in downtown Waterbury and elsewhere. Thank you both.

Introduction to Poetry

I ask them to take a poem
and hold it up to the light
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.

I say drop a mouse into a poem
and watch him probe his way out,

or walk inside the poem's room
and feel the walls for a light switch.

I want them to waterski
across the surface of a poem
waving at the author's name on the shore.

But all they want to do
is tie the poem to a chair with rope
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose
to find out what it really means.

from *The Apple That Astonished Paris* by Billy Collins, copyright ©1988 by Billy Collins

If you grew up thinking, as I did, that poems must be picked apart and mutilated under the supervision of the better educated, this poem is a breath of fresh air. And so are two books of poetry, Poetry 180 and 180 More, compiled by Billy Collins. (We have copies in the chapel). These books are for high school students, to be read over the loud speaker, one each day of the school year, with no homework, tests or analysis required. Just listening.

-Harriet Fotter

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



This year's Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2005. There will be a meeting at church on Tuesday, September 13, at 6:30 pm. Please try to attend. I need ideas and lot of help. If you cannot attend, call me at 203-574-2238 to help, as I understand some people just cannot make the meeting. Anyone interested in renting a table, please contact me as soon as possible. Let's try to make this year's bazaar a huge success. I kept track of names and last year there were over 60 people that helped to create and work the Bazaar. Thank you.

-Donna Gervickas



**SEPTEMBER 11TH FALL KICK-OFF
PARTY !**
3 O'CLOCK IN THE CLOSE

Please join us Sunday afternoon, September 11th, for lawn games and live music (featuring the Carnegie Clapp Trio, an R & B/Jazz group that often plays at Diorio's). This is simply a chance to reconnect with one another, and maybe meet some new folks, too, as we start down the road of a new program year. We will provide the basics -- bottled water and sandwiches -- so please bring your own drinks (if water doesn't suit you) and something delicious to share as well (e.g. salad, side dish, or dessert).

We're looking for a volleyball net and/or maybe a badminton set? Let Malinda or Jim know if you have one we can borrow for the afternoon.



HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE !
HELP NEEDED (BOO!)

Sandra Cinquegrana and Rich Knapp, the masterminds behind our haunted house in the undercroft the past two years, are moving. They're also about to have their second child so they have their hands full at the moment. Nevertheless, they've kindly agreed to be a part of the haunted house again this year, but they're going to need a lot more help. Mostly, we need people to help set up/clean up (set up will be on Saturday afternoon, October 29th, and clean up will take place Sunday afternoon -- details to be announced). **Please, please** consider volunteering even an hour of your time to help. The kids from all three congregations (and elsewhere it seems!!) clearly love this event and it's a fun way to come together in (spooky) fellowship. Please let Malinda know if you can help in any way -- 203-754-3116.

Choir News

St. John's Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 8th. If you like to sing, the beginning of the season is a great time to start singing with the choir. You can expect a warm welcome from our returning singers and director Bob Havery.

**FIRST CHOIR REHEARSAL OF THE NEW SEASON
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH
7:30 PM**

St. John's Ministry to Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury

Safe Haven depends on donations and support from the community as well as federal funds and grants. There are numerous groups, churches, and individuals that support the shelter. It works like a puzzle. Each group, church, or individual does one small piece of the puzzle and it all comes together to complete the picture. It is amazing to see how this all works! If we can do our small part and do it well, it is enough. Over the last six years St. John's has played an intricate part in the shelter's ministry. These are some of the things we have done:

Donations from the Outreach Committee for school uniforms, and for the purchase of sweat suits for sexual assault crisis intervention.

Team 2000 has collected personal products for the women and children that are housed at the shelter, on the second Sunday of each month since December of 1999. Information on Team 2000 and the shelter wish list can be found on the bulletin board in the church hallway (be an angel, join the team)

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A candlelight vigil is held here at St. John's on the fourth Thursday of October (October 27). Wearing a purple ribbon during the month of October is to raise awareness of domestic violence issues.



DeaconFest 2005

Two of St. John's wondrous members are being ordained as Deacons in the church at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford on Saturday, September 17 at 10:30 am. Both Diane Caggiano and Marilyn Mitchell will be a part of that class of Deacons.

St. John's is having a bus to the Cathedral for the ordination. Call the church office (203-754-3116) or sign up in the hallway to reserve a seat on the "Deacon Bus".

Diane has been assigned to St. Andrew's Church, Meriden and Marilyn to St. John's Church, New Milford. However, on Sunday, September 18 they will both be here at St. John's to function liturgically as deacons for the first time.

Plan to be there to congratulate Diane and Marilyn on their ordinations and to wish them God's Speed as they begin their ministries in another place.

Bring finger food to share for the special coffee hours after each service (8:00 and 10:15) and bring cards, letters and special wishes.

Give thanks to God for Marilyn and Diane—their lives and ministries (old and new) — and join us to celebrate them on September 18.

September Prayer Lists at St. John's Parish Prayer Cycle

September 4: Laura & Mario Varrone & Family, Elizabeth & Jeremy Vermette, Vincent & Elena Viega, Liana Walker, Arlene Wallace and Family, Louis Warren, David Watson, The Webber Family, Leo & Brenda Webber

September 11: Renetta Webber, Patrece Webber, Marsha Webber & Doug Livingston, The Weiler Family, Steven & Judith Weis and Family, Alan & Helen Weis and Family, Shirley Weiss, Roger Wheeler, The Whidbee Family, Ryan & Angela White

September 18: Janice Wieduwilt, Kimberly Williams, Dorothy & Desrine Wineglass, Howard & Jane Woods, Lee Worden, Janelle Kindle, Mary Ellen Yashenko & Family, Flora Young, Loribeth & Edgar Young, The Yuhas Family, Bruce & Denise Zastaury, A. Zasun & L. Rodriguez

September 25: The Zilvitis/Gurtowski Family, George Zucca, The Adamavicia Family, Syreeta Aidoo, Sandy Allard, Janice Alonzo and Family, Jay Anthony, Jennifer Asklar, Phyllis Atwood, Kenneth & Lisa Aubrie, Michael & Jennifer Aubrie, Jennifer Aufiero, Luis & Maria Baez and Family, Anna Bakun, Barbara Balch,



Happy Anniversary!

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

In September we have been asked to pray for the following:

Bread and Wine have been given in thanksgiving for:

9/18 The Ordinations of Diane Caggiano and Marilyn Mitchell
The Life of Anne Gervickas

A Donation has been made to the Flower Fund:

9/18 In Memory of Fred and Ruth Harrison

09/02	Christopher & Karen Donohue
09/05	Bill & Gert Payne
09/05	Jim & Bern Bradley
09/05	Elizabeth & Paul Santoro
09/08	Steven & Karen Minkler
09/09	Anthony & Anne Vaccarelli
09/10	Nick Pelosi & Lori Accuosti
09/11	Doriel & Courtney Layne
09/12	Joseph & Kristan Lanoie
09/14	Nicole & Ray Rosa
09/15	Jason & Cathy Lanoie
09/19	Michael & Maria Forrester
09/23	Craig & Amy DesRoberts
09/27	G. McDonald & J. Mitchell
09/28	Scott & Ana Moore
09/29	Larry & Kathleen Tapley
09/29	Jeffrey & Marjorie Mann
09/29	Jason & Donna Sevas
09/30	George & Barbara Hankey



**Birthdays
& ANNIVERSARIES**



Look who's having a
Birthday!

**SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

09/01 Lila Lange
 09/01 Shirley Chouinard
 09/01 Devin Punter
 09/01 Destiny Feola
 09/01 Juliana Livingston
 09/02 Peter Lenart
 09/02 Linda Pomeroy
 09/02 Marjorie Mann
 09/03 Michael Misurelli
 09/04 Virginia Sheehan
 09/04 Tiffany Dwyer
 09/04 Wyatt Tittle
 09/05 Michael Carroll
 09/05 Zenith Punter
 09/06 John Yuhas
 09/06 Donna Gervickas
 09/08 Emily Weis
 09/09 Shirley Weiss
 09/09 Kim Pernerewski
 09/09 Hunter Aubrie
 09/10 William Penny
 09/10 Joan Huggins
 09/10 Harriet Fotter
 09/10 Brandon Perreault
 09/10 Moriah Vermette
 09/10 Devin Mantzaris
 09/10 Nevaeh Caraballo
 09/11 Mary Friez
 09/11 Michael O'Connell
 09/11 Leigh Inkster
 09/11 Amanda Lowndes
 09/11 Briana Smith
 09/12 Peter Tchakirides
 09/12 Gregory Emmens
 09/12 Katherine Frazine
 09/12 Sean Cook
 09/14 Richard Harris
 09/14 Madison Knapp
 09/15 Bob Willis
 09/16 Michael Quirici

09/17 Sabrina Clarkson
 09/17 Sage Foti
 09/17 Isabella Lyman
 09/18 Victor Larson
 09/18 Aaron Capobianco
 09/19 Natalie Kirby
 09/20 Linda Snyder
 09/20 John Lindholm
 09/20 Bailey Schuster
 09/21 Keith Sullivan
 09/21 Pearl Young
 09/21 Erika Mattson
 09/22 N. Terry Munger
 09/22 Jeffrey Palmer
 09/22 Christopher Bowman
 09/22 Daniel Yuhas
 09/23 Gemma Sanchez
 09/24 Patricia Daniels
 09/25 Susan Morandi
 09/25 Tayler Umbro
 09/26 Lorene Castle
 09/26 Peter Taylor
 09/27 Jane Woods
 09/27 Galo Marriott
 09/27 Elena Viega
 09/27 Robert Mantzaris
 09/27 Paige Mantzaris
 09/28 John Svehlak
 09/28 Jon-Cameron Gurtowski
 09/29 Cynthia Skipp
 09/29 Mary Ellen Yashenko
 09/29 Theresa Gambino
 09/29 Brian Dehoyos
 09/29 Christian Flores
 09/30 Carrie Zimyeski

NEW STAFF MEMBER!!

Please welcome Sue Cromwell, our new Parish Secretary. Sue started with us on August 19 and will be working in the office Monday-Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Her e-mail is:

scromwell@stjohnsonthegreen.org

Please stop by the office and introduce yourself!!

The e-mail set up for the secretary over the summer, secretary@stjohnsonthegreen.org will be eliminated now that Sue is with us, so please send e-mail for the secretary to her attention at the above address.

BOOK SUGGESTIONS AND OTHER ODDS AND ENDS FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND REFLECTION

We thought it might be helpful to share with one another each month books or other resources we've enjoyed, or found particularly helpful. So I'll go first?

One resource I can't recommend highly enough is the radio program called Speaking of Faith, which is on 90.5 FM between 7-8 am on Sunday morning. Most of the time I can't listen to the entire program, but it's always worth catching what I can, plus I've also really enjoyed the show's weekly newsletter with reflections by the host, Krista Tippett. The newsletter can be accessed at newsletter@speakingoffaith.org (You may need to pay a nominal fee in order to register to receive this newsletter by email each week. I signed up a while ago and can't remember the exact process.)

As for books, Forgiven and Forgiving and Good News of Jesus, Reintroducing the Gospel are two rather short and very readable books by L. William Countryman, an Episcopal priest and professor of New Testament at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California. Countryman's writing is lively, compelling and full of the kind of insights and wisdom you kind of wish you were clever enough to figure out on your own. These books are related (and helpful to read at the same time) in that, for Countryman, the Gospel is all about God telling us in and through Jesus, *you are forgiven*, not simply *you are loved*. In Good News of Jesus he writes, "God might have said it more simply: 'You are loved. I love you.' This message is true, but it would have been ambiguous. It might have meant, 'I love you because you're good.' It might have meant, 'I love the nice bits of you, but I really wish you'd clean up your act.' It might have meant, 'I still love you and would like to go on loving you, but I won't tolerate your behavior much longer.' Instead, God says something quite unambiguous: 'You are forgiven.' What this means is, 'I love you anyway, no matter what. I love you not because you are particularly good nor because you are particularly repentant nor because I'm trying to bribe you or threaten you into changing. I love you because I love you.'" (P.5)

The Good News explores this message rather conversationally through the parables recorded in the Gospels (reading the book feels sort of like wandering into one of his classes); while Forgiven and Forgiving is a bit more dense, exploring what forgiveness is and isn't, as well the many practical problems and obstacles that make it hard for us to both accept forgiveness for ourselves and be forgiving to others in turn.

-Malinda Johnson

Good News of Jesus, Cowley Publications
Forgiven and Forgiving, Morehouse Publishing

ESSEX TRAIN AND STEAMBOAT

We are planning a train & boat ride on the Essex Train and Steamboat on Saturday, October 15th. There will be a cost for the ride and for the bus. For the Train/Boat ride the cost is: adults, \$24; children 3-11, \$12. The cost for the bus depends on the number of people who sign up. We need to know by Tuesday, September 12. Please contact Donna Gervickas at 203-574-2238.

-Donna Gervickas



OCTOBER OUTFRIDER

The deadline for submitting articles for the October Outrider is September 14, 2005. Please submit all announcements and articles via e-mail to OUTRIDER@stjohnsonthegreen.org or mail them or deliver them to the church office, attention OUTFRIDER. You can also give them to Pam Toffey.

COULD YOU PLEASE GET ME MY CHASUBLE, I THINK I LEFT IT IN THE NARTHEX.

Huh??? Chasuble, Narthex, sure, I'll get it for you. As soon as I figure out what you're talking about, that is.

As a life-long Episcopalian (well, OK, I did take a little 3 year foray into the Baptist Church in High School), I know what some of these terms mean, but I also know that there are many terms I don't know the meaning of, so I'm assuming that there are other people in the same position. Each month, I'm going to try to find the definitions of some of the terms that we use (and the names of things used in the church) and present them here. So here goes:

Chasuble: This is the oval shaped garment that the celebrant (the person consecrating the bread and wine during communion) wears. Chasuble comes from the latin term *CASULA* which means little house. Originally these garments were more tent shaped and worn when outside. There are some priests that believe that the garment is a throwback to the ancient services when a similar, but square, garment was worn as protection during animal sacrifice. It can also be referred to as the *planetta*.

The Narthex (in Greek it means "large fennel" - an herb) is the enclosed space at the entry to the nave (which is the main area of the church, more about that next month). It is traditionally covered as a buffer between the outside air and the inside of the church and is traditionally where the procession forms before the service. This is the area at the back of the church.

- Pam Toffey

TAG SALE

The Tag Sale on June 19, 2005 was a big success. The net profit was \$1,359.88. Many thanks to the hardworking volunteers and St. John's staff for their endless help: Harriet Fotter, John Svehlak, Bill Drew, Pat DiMasi and Pete Gervickas, Mary Cinquegrana, Hamsa Jayaraj, Gert & Bill Payne, Pam & Bob Toffey, Karen Minkler, Verdell Bush, Frank Dadonna, Lorraine Emmanuel, Joan Mancinone, Dave Watson, Jane Woods, Donna Deitch, John Mancinone, Lorraine Barker, Eleanor Crean, Lorene Castle, Linda Snyder, Lisa Mancinone and Barbara Dublin, Director, GWIM Soup Kitchen, for her always wonderful help in providing helpers whenever we ask for some. Please forgive me if I forgot anyone as I tried to write all the names down, but I thank you all for your endless help in making this sale a success.

Respectfully,

- Donna Gervickas

HOLY CROSS RETREAT

It is not too late to sign up for the Holy Cross Retreat the first weekend in October. September 30 to October 2. The retreat starts Friday evening. Some of us go in the afternoon. Please call the church office this week to sign up. This is an amazing experience where we visit an Episcopal Benedictine Monastery on the Hudson River in early fall. Don't worry about going if you don't know anyone. We'll make sure you're included in the St. John's group.

Now a little warning about the St. John's group. We get together for a little cocktail hour before dinner. We take snacks in addition to our PJ's. Sometimes we go to every service. Sometimes we don't. Either is OK. We'll have classes that we can attend as a group. The services begin at 6:00 AM. They end with my personal favorite Compline around 7:30. Trust me when I tell you that not everyone goes to the 6:00 AM service. We have been known to get in trouble for talking during quiet time. There is quiet time from 9:00 PM to after breakfast in the morning. Have any of you longed for quiet time. We usually follow the rules one night and get together for conversations the second night. One year we joined a church from NYC and sang hymns together for an hour during that time.

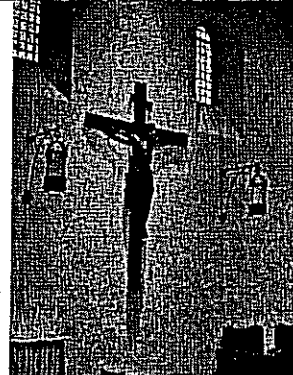
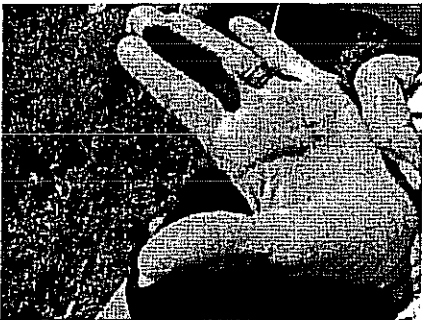
There are walking trails, wineries and craft fairs in the area. There are also many historical mansions if you want to make a side trip.

I went to every service the first year that I attended. I wanted to have that experience. Now, I decide whether or not I want to go to all the services or just sit outside, read a book and look at the Hudson River. We have such hectic lives. Give this as a gift to yourself and join us. There is a \$177 fee for this weekend. All meals, a private room, classes, and an "event" in early fall are included. People come from all over the country to go to this holy and special place. Don't be one of those folks who live one and a half hours away and never go there. Call the church office tomorrow. 203 754-3116

When's the last time you've sat in the sun and helped a caterpillar?

Check out the photos that are attached if you are still having doubts. Most of the photos were taken by Don Pomeroy.

-Lorene Castle, Senior Warden



Altar Flowers

St. John's Flower Ministry has modified the way altar flowers are dedicated on each Sunday. Altar flower offerings of nature's beauty are acts of worship that enhance the liturgical seasons, provide beauty to God's altar, and express our love of God's creation in all seasons.

The Flower Ministry has issued an "open call", if you will, for anyone to have altar flowers donated in memory of a loved one, regardless of the amount donated.

Attached to this Outsider are two forms to fill out: one form if you just want to make a general donation to the altar flower fund and a second form for those who wish their loved one(s) to be remembered in the Prayers of the People.



I wish to make a donation to the flower fund:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Amount Donated: _____

Please Note: Names submitted for the Prayers of the People will remain on the prayer list for 4 Sundays. If you wish for a name to remain on the list for longer, please call the church office to let us know.

Communion Bread and Wine Offering

If you would like to have Communion Bread and Wine offered in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for someone or something, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection plate or mail into the Church Office (Donation is \$10):

Name: _____

Address: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Thanksgiving For: _____

Sunday you wish Bread & Wine celebrated for: _____

I/We wish to have:

Name(s): _____

Remembered in the Prayers of the People

on Sunday, _____

Name _____

Address _____
