
The Outrider

JUNE 2006

THE VIEW FROM ABOVE THE CLOSE *A VIEW FROM WESTPORT*

"To see ourselves as others see us..."

On April 30 I went to Christ and Holy Trinity Church in Westport to preach. It is an affluent parish that is struggling honestly with what "stewardship" means in their Christian life. They long to find ways to use their abundant gifts. The Rector, John Branson, and I are not close friends, but when he called me he told me he had heard such good things about St. John's mission and ministry that he wanted me to come and share some of that with the good folks of Christ and Holy Trinity.

I'm always glad to talk about St. John's and how we are seeking to live out our ministry in this particular place and time. And the response to what I shared is what you need to know. The people of Christ and Holy Trinity were astonished by the work we do... astonished. They were genuine in their admiration of St. John's mission and deeply moved by our ministry.

Most of the time we human beings are very myopic. We don't see much beyond our own noses. What I think you need to hear—as members of St. John's—is how remarkable others think we are, how they find us on the "cutting edge" of what the church should be, how they admire our stretching ourselves to minister and our expending ourselves for our mission. We fret and worry—as well we should—about how to support what we do financially. And that fret and worry, I believe, could be turned into action and stewardship and possibilities if we could only see ourselves as others see us.

I want to share the sermon I preached in Westport with you. I want you to know how I see you...and my perspective is shared by many in the community and the diocese. We are trying to create a future that wouldn't happen anyway. That is risky business. But Christians are risky people....

Shalom, *Jim*

EASTER III, 2006 (X/HT, Westport)

In today's gospel Luke makes it crystal clear that Jesus' resurrection is physical, fleshly—the resurrection of the body.

When Jesus "stood among them", we are told, the disciples were "startled" and "terrified" and thought they were seeing a ghost. Remember, this is after Cleophas and his companion had encountered Jesus on the Emmaus road. Remember, this was after the Resurrected One had appeared to Peter. In spite of those witnesses, the disciples were frightened of him, thinking he was a spirit come to haunt them, a ghost, a shade from the shadow lands.

"Touch me", Jesus says. "Touch me, and feel that I have a body, I am flesh and blood....And by the way, I'm hungry, have you guys got any snacks around?"

I don't know about you, but I'm really delighted that Jesus had a piece of fish—the "life to come" wouldn't be much of a life without food and drink. I take the image of the "heavenly banquet" quite literally....

It is vital, it seems to me, that we celebrate a fleshly faith. All flesh is holy. The greatest threat to Christianity today (besides becoming too enamored with doctrine) is over-spiritualizing the faith. Just as it is all too easy and all too tempting to create "rules" and "dogma" to control and divide people, it is too easy to retreat into the life of the spirit, into contemplation and sentimental "soul" talk. I tell you this as someone who regularly practices and teaches "centering prayer". But I don't see centering prayer as a place to "get to" to escape the physical reality of life. I see all spiritual exercises as a place to "come from" to live fully into the flesh and blood that we are.

There is a remarkable passage from Robertson Davies' novel, Bred in the Bone that deals with this very temptation to "spiritualize" the Christian faith. The main character of the novel is Dunstun, a man always seeking to find purity and spiritual graces. He has just shared a meal with an ancient of Jesuit priest. The priest pushes back from the table and talks.

"Einstein, the great scientist says, 'God is subtle but he is not cruel'. There is some sound Jewish wisdom for your muddled Protestant mind. Try to understand the subtlety and stop whimpering about the cruelty. Maybe God wants you for something special....I hear you thinking that I tell you to think well of yourself instead of despising yourself like a good Protestant because of the roast chicken and full bottle of wine. Nonsense. I am a wise old bird. I AM DEEP IN THE OLD MAN'S PUZZLE, trying to link the wisdom of the Body with the wisdom of the Spirit until the two are one. YOU CANNOT DIVIDE THE BODY AND SPIRIT WITHOUT ANGUISH."

We have all grown up in a culture deeply enmeshed in the thinking of the Greek Philosophers who saw a clear distinction between the heaviness and burden of the Body and the lightness of being of the Soul. This way of thinking has infected Christianity since the Middle Ages. The "soul" is pure and good while the "body" is base and bad. Marcus Aurelius, the greatest of the Stoics, called the body "a bag of bones and foul smell." And the church has taught us, in many ways, that our flesh is an impediment to holiness. Not Jesus. "Touch me," he says, "give me something to eat...."

Just as all flesh is holy, all flesh is connected. All human beings are "one family", one flesh, one body. We are called in baptism to "respect the dignity of every human being" and "to seek and serve Christ in all persons".

Near the end of Kurt Vonnegut's The Sirens of Titan, a robot named Salo finds himself marooned on one of the moons of Jupiter with an earth woman named Beatrice Rumford. (I don't have time to explain how they got there—you have to read the book!) Salo has been programmed on the planet Trafalgadore to search the universe for the answer to the question "WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?"

So, the robot asks Beatrice: "What is the meaning of life?"

Battered and abused and marooned, Beatrice answers immediately: "the meaning of life is *to love whoever is around to be loved.*"

Love whoever is around to be loved—you can't come up with a better "meaning of life" than that—unless, of course, you come up with "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and soul and love your neighbor as yourself."

We got put here, it seems to me, to love whoever is around to be loved. We got put here, as far as I can see, to be the hands and feet and Body of Christ. That's why we got put here. That's our job.

"Touch me," Jesus said, "give me something to eat...."

We got put here to live out a "fleshly faith".

We got put here to be "deep in the Old Man's puzzle...."

The reason John Branson asked me here today is to tell you a little about St. John's in Waterbury—the parish that serves me more fully than I serve it. I want to do that within the context of living a "fleshly faith", "loving whoever is around to be loved" and being "deep in the Old Man's puzzle." There is a sign that hangs in the front hallway and the narthex of St. John's that says this:

Welcome to St. John's. This is a Free and Open space... a place dedicated to Nurture, to Education, to Worship, to Witness, to Service.... St. John's is a Holy Space—a place to find and be found by God...You are welcome here—may your life be Richer, Deeper, Fuller for entering this Place and this place is made More Holy by your presence.

We mean that invitation and lean into it as a measure of our stewardship of our resources and mission. St. John's was once the church of the "elite"—the mill owners and civic leaders of the city. Now it is perhaps the most diverse parish in the diocese in terms of race, sexual orientation, economics, education and culture as well as the "elite".

St. John's is a "mission driven" church. What that means is that we serve and minister to more people outside the congregation than inside. The definition of "Mission Driven" is that a parish serves 5 people outside the worshipping body for every 1 person who is a member. 170,000 is a reasonable estimate of how many people pass through St. John's buildings each year without attending worship. That means our ratio of non-member to member is 12 to 1! And St. John's IS "made more holy" by those who use our space.

In an earlier draft of this sermon I sought to enumerate the groups serving both the needy and providing music and art to the larger community. But it wore me out and I'm sure would make your eyes glaze over. Just know this: some 40 groups use St. John's sacred spaces like the Interfaith Ministries who serve 300 lunches a day, 125 families a week with emergency groceries and several hundred a month through the Resource Center as well as having office space for 5 people; like "Unique Vibes" an artist in residence dance group made up of 15 public school teens; like NADAR—a support group for disabled folks; like half-a-dozen 12 step groups serving 500 a week; like a Prayer Group of six congregational ministers; like a Buddhist meditation center; like regular meetings of retired employees of the city fighting to keep their health and retirement benefits; like a Madrigal group, The Everyman Guild—another artist in residence; like the AIDS Project for meetings and worship; like Literacy Volunteers; like the Billy Collins poetry readings this month to 400 public high school students and 250 folks who paid to hear him. Stuff like that.

And I haven't touched on our Hispanic mission—a mission that has created a noon mass on Sundays that averages 75, a youth group led by a Southern Baptist minister and his wife, "Saturday School" that attracts over 50 children a week and a Chorister Academy that is 70% Hispanic that has 30 singers and nearly as many on the waiting list.

All these things—and the many I won't tell you about—make lives richer, deeper, fuller and make St. John's more holy by their presence.

So, why do we do "church" this way? Keeping our buildings open some 80 hours a week, using 75% of our building costs and much of our staff expense to welcome those who don't worship with us or pledge to our budget, hiring three sextons and a cleaning service to keep the building open and cared for? Why do we do "church" like this, in spite of the cost?

Because we seek to live out a more fleshly faith...because we seek to love whoever is around to be loved... because we are deep in the Old Man's puzzle...because Jesus said, "touch me...feed me..."

It is not without a cost. The Vestry and Congregation voted 2 ½ years ago to accept a Five Year Plan for ministry that intentionally and drastically spends down our endowment to be the mission driven church that we are.

We're trying to keep up financially. We have a spirit-filled and prayerful Stewardship Committee. We're forming two non-profit groups to seek funding for Outreach and Arts. We're making partnerships with others in the community as fast as we can. But the mission has a life of its own and we've added a youth minister and chorister director to our staff that we can't afford. It's frightening to the rational part of the Vestry's mind—this risky business of being committed to "mission". But when we become frightened in mind and spirit, we remind ourselves of what Jesus said: "touch me...feed me..." and we run a little harder, trying to keep up, shouting to our mission—"we are your leaders, wait for us!"; knowing we are deep in the Old Man's puzzle, knowing all flesh is holy and one family, praying we might be the hands and feet of Christ in that place, in this time.

Stewardship, to my mind, is simply the answer to this question: "how do we use the gifts God has given us—to what purpose, in what way?"

I need not tell you that Westport is not Waterbury. Our mission comes to us—it's there on the front steps, waiting to be fed and nurtured and transformed by love every morning. But the question of stewardship is no different for Christ and Holy Trinity than for St. John's—"how do you use the gifts God has given you—to what purpose, in what way?"

Anyone seeking to be a faithful caretaker of God's gifts should delve deeply into The Old Man's Puzzle. Lean into the subtlety of God and don't whine about the cruelty. Open yourself to be used for something special. Try to link the wisdom of the Body with the Wisdom of the Spirit. Live a "fleshly faith". Anyone longing to make a difference in this world, longing to give themselves away, could do worse than loving whoever is around to be loved, listening for Jesus to speak..."touch me...feed me..." and leaping into the abyss of love, knowing you will be caught and held, safe and sound, in the webbing of God's heart....

-Jim Bradley, Rector, St. John's, Waterbury (4/30/06)

THE GENERAL CONVENTION

Every three years the Episcopal General Convention gathers. The General Convention is the "authority" of the church. From June 11-22 this year the General Convention will meet in Columbus, Ohio. St. John's Rector, Jim Bradley, is one of the 4 clergy deputies to Convention from Connecticut. He will be sending back email reports on what is going on. If you'd like to receive them please call the church office 203-754-3116 to get on the list. Hard copies will be available as well.

Deanery Confirmation



The annual Deanery wide confirmation service will be held at St. John's on Saturday, June 10 at 4 p.m. Bishop Smith will be with us to confirm and receive folks from deanery churches. Our Chorister Academy will sing for the service. It is always a remarkable celebration. Join us to support folks from St. John's who are being confirmed and received and to experience worship in the "larger church", beyond our parish gatherings.

THE BUDGET "CRISIS"

I'm sure many of you know that the two Chinese characters that mean "Crisis" are the characters for "danger" and "opportunity". The Vestry wants everyone in the parish to understand the budget "crisis"—to know that the "danger" is real, but also to understand that the "opportunity" is wondrous.

Two and a half years ago, St. John's adopted a Five Year Plan for ministry and mission. It was an ambitious undertaking and we all understood it would be costly financially. Yet it was what we discerned God was calling us to do as we moved into the future—to expand our ministry and mission for the years to come. And, for the most part, the Plan is working and working with abundance. Our involvement in Hispanic Ministry is exploding! The congregation is growing, the children are involved in the Chorister Academy and the Youth Group and the "Saturday School" run by volunteers to provide Christian education. The Chorister Academy itself is a miracle—the Vestry is considering adding a "feeder choir" for newcomers. Our involvement as a parish in outreach through use of our buildings and providing opportunities for service has increased remarkably. Spiritual groups like the Prayer Shawl Ministry and Centering Prayer are beginning to flourish in small but significant ways. We are forming two non-profit groups to seek funding for our mission. We are calling together those who use our buildings to share with them our need to cover building use costs in creative ways. We are forming partnerships with others in the community and embracing our calling in a remarkable way.

Income is not keeping up with all the wondrous ministry and mission. We have a deficit of \$40,000 for this year—which is sizable but only 6% of our total budget. The danger is real if we have to use the endowment to makeup that shortfall. But the opportunity is great.

I want to ask each of you who are reading this to consider how you might find "opportunity" for stewardship in this time of crisis. Are each of us really contributing financially to the parish to our limits? Are there ideas you have for finding income sources that you need to share? Who in your life do you need to invite to join us in worship and in the mission of St. John's? What gifts and skills do you have that you are not yet sharing with the congregation?

I can assure you that what St. John's is doing in our mission and ministry is what God is calling us to do. We are admired throughout the community and the diocese for the work we do. Our mission and ministry is what most churches "wish" they could be about!

Half-way through the Five Year Plan, we are in a place of fear and hope. Fear will make us turn back. Hope leads us on to the call we are given.

Please prayerfully reflect on what your role can be in the amazing "opportunity" we are presented in this financial crisis.

Shglom, JIM

JOINT CONCERT HELD AT ST. JOHN'S

These are photos of the joint concert given by the Westover School Glee Club, directed by Robert Havery and The Chorister Academy, directed by Maria Coffin. The concert was presented on Sunday, April 23rd as a benefit for the Chorister Academy trip to Grace Church in New York City. The choirs opened and closed the concert performing together. In addition, each group performed its own set of pieces.

The St. John's Choristers were thrilled to sing with such an accomplished choir, and the Westover Glee Club was delighted to support such a hard-working and dedicated group. The concert was followed by a delightful reception in the library.

-Maria Coffin



PAY IT FORWARD

I had always thought I was paying God back with each gift I gave, be it time, talent, or treasure. But, what can I give him that he has not given to me? I have come to realize I need to "pay it forward". Now I try to accept the abundant gifts I receive from God each day with gratitude and share them with all of his creation knowing with each gift I give it keeps the abundant flow from the Lord able to reach me. If I stop giving and sharing I am not making room to receive the new gifts the Lord has in store for me.

I believe we must practice stewardship because of the great fact that we have received. There is no sacrifice or pay back to satisfy what we have received. How could we pay back the love, peace, joy, and sense of belonging? How can we pay back the sense of security that comes from knowing we are safe in God's hands? How can we pay back to God for the trees, the flowers, the sky, the air? The joy of family and friends; this priceless gift can not be paid back.

God has given us the ultimate gift of his son Jesus. How will we pay him back?

In our joy and gratitude let us pay it forward without reserve. When we give ask only that the receiver pay it forward in any way possible as God asks of us. And in the end we will discover our gifts will circle back to the one who loved us first, our Lord.

As most parents I have shared with my children whatever I had. Whether they went by the rules or not I have loved them unconditionally. From the time that they were little tots they have bestowed me with many gifts, from the picked flowers and lucky rocks to more elaborate gifts as they have grown into adults. I have a deep appreciation for all I have received from them. But the most joy I have received is from seeing them grow into young adults who give and share with others with no expectation of anything in return. I see the love going forward, and I am so pleased. I think God is also pleased when he sees his children growing into loving, giving, caring, and sharing souls, just like I am pleased with my children.

The film, "Pay it Forward," celebrates the joy and happiness of this concept. I found it to be an inspiring movie that changed the way I give. Watch it sometime. There is a joy in giving!

I thank God for this new joy in my life. God's miracles never cease, he turned a sacrifice into a joy!

-Donna Ploski

RETREAT BEING LED BY THE RECTOR

ADELYNROOD IS a Retreat and Conference Center situated in Bayfield, MA (near Newburyport). Women and men are offered an opportunity to retreat and to discover new resources for living through conferences, workshops and silent retreats. This year our Rector will offer a weekend conference on A NEW LOOK AT MARY MAGDALENE August 11-13. For other opportunities, contact KateNoury@Adelynrood.org, www.Adelynrood.org, telephone 978-462-6721 X19 or speak to Marcia Holroyd or Doris Hollenstein who are members of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross. Adelynrood is owned and operated by the Companionship.

ATTENTION LAY READERS, INTERCESSORS, VERGERS AND MINISTERS OF THE CHALICE

NEW ON THE ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE

On the St. John's website (www.stjohnsonthegreen.org) you can now find the current lay assistants schedule. There is also a link to the lectionary which will allow you to check your lesson before you are scheduled to read, and a list of all lay assistants so that you can contact someone to replace you if you cannot be there for a week you are scheduled. So, if you don't remember when you are due to serve, or just want to look over your lessons beforehand, check out this new part of St. John's website. If you have any questions about what lessons to read (some weeks there are more than one option) you can call the office for confirmation.

-Pam Toffey

THREE USES OF THE WORD CANON

Canon can be used in the Episcopal church in three ways, referring to the Bible, to laws or to people.

The Canon of Scripture are those books of the Bible that are considered to be genuinely inspired by God and are accepted by the church. There are many written scriptures that were not put into the Bible we have today, including the Gnostic Gospels, like the Gospel of Thomas and the Gospel of Mary. Many people believe that these books were not included in the Bible because they spoke against the doctrines of the church at the time. Copies of these books are readily available both at book stores and on the internet.

The canon laws are those rules used to govern the Episcopal Church. They can be added to or modified at General Convention which is held every three years. Jim Bradley is one of the delegates from Connecticut to General Convention this year. Each Diocese can have its own canon laws also, but these rules cannot conflict with the rules established by General Convention. Connecticut has one Diocese for the entire state, which is divided into deaneries. Deaneries are a collection of towns geographically close to one another. Our Deanery includes Middlebury, Oakville, Watertown, Waterbury, Wolcott, Cheshire and other towns. There are 177 parishes in the Diocese of Connecticut, 500 clergy and over 80,000 baptized members of parishes (statistics from the website of the Diocese of Connecticut).

Canon also refers to people. Canons are priests who serve on the staff of the Cathedral, or who have shown exceptional service to the Diocese. The exception to this is the priest who is in charge of the Cathedral, she or he is called the Dean of the Cathedral. The Cathedral for the Diocese of Connecticut is Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. The Very Rev. Mark Pendleton is the Dean of the Cathedral.

-Pam Toffey

CHORISTER ACADEMY
AT
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
Bottle (Plastic) & Can Drive



Saturday, June 3, 2006

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

&

Sunday, June 4, 2006

Between the 8:00 am, 10:15 am and the 12:00
services

Save your plastic bottles and cans!

PLEASE - NO GLASS OR BEER CONTAINERS

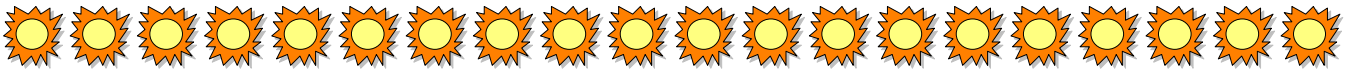
(The Church is unable to accept donations of bottles and cans at any other time)



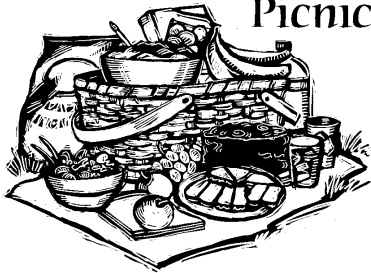
Liturgical Dance on Pentecost Sunday

We will have two experienced liturgical dancers in our festive service on Pentecost Sunday, June 4th. Patti Buchanan, who is Director of Dance at Westover School and a modern dance instructor for Brass City Ballet, will dance with her daughter Mackenzie to the music sung by the choir at the Offertory, "Celtic Praise." Patti and Mackenzie are members of First Lutheran Church and have

frequently danced during the liturgy at their home church. Their dancing at St. John's should be an extra treat for us on this festive day, the birthday of the church.



Annual Picnic



ANNUAL PICNIC—JUNE 11TH

Believe it or not, it's here!! The suspense, the rivalry, the "good" sportsmanship, and oh yeah-the food. What else could it be but our annual softball game...errr...I mean picnic. One can only imagine the level of intensity that might occur this year when our Rector's team goes up against our new Senior Warden's team. If you've never come to our annual softball game, umm- picnic, or if its been a long time since you've come to one, I'm thinking this year would be the year

NOT to miss. Will Senior Warden Anthony make his first year a benchmark for years to follow? Will Rector Bradley be able to defend last year's title as champ? The only way to find out is to be there! Save June 11th and be sure to be there.

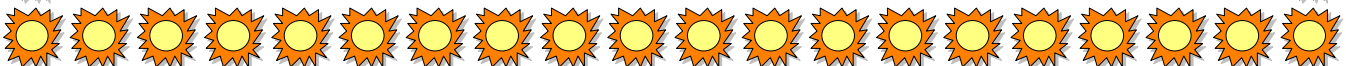
Ribs and chicken as well as hot dogs and hamburgers with the fixin's will be served with chips and soda, juice and water. We'll ask you to bring your favorite side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

I'm looking for volunteers to help with set-up and breakdown of the site, as well as some master chefs to keep us well fed! Would anyone like to be in charge of games for the kids? If you are interested, please contact me by email at hollish@hotmail.com. Please use "Church Picnic" in the subject line so I don't delete the email. I can also be reached at home at 203-596-7937.

I don't know about you, but I can't wait...

-Holly Hart

Services will be held at the church at 8:00, 10:15 and 12:00 noon. At 12:30 there will be a simple Eucharist at Chase Collegiate School for those doing set-up and cooking for the picnic. The picnic will begin at 1:00 and the annual genteel game of softball will begin at 2:30.





St. John's Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery
West Park, NY
October 6-8, 2006

People from all over the world come to this beautiful monastery on the Hudson River. We are blessed with an opportunity to go there during a New England Fall. We don't have to get on a plane or even drive that far. What could be better? Join us at Holy Cross on October 6-8, 2006.

Many of us go to the multiple Benedictine services from morning to evening. My favorite after the Eucharist is Compline. Truthfully, some of us sleep or read a book or have a massage and skip some of the services. This retreat is yours. You get to decide what you need from the weekend. In addition to the classes we will gather for a St. John's food event at some time during the weekend to chat and enjoy each other's company.

We have a special treat this year. Our former Senior Warden, Judy McMannis, will be leading our classes on Liturgical Art. We have Judy's masterpieces in our midst each Sunday. Judy will share the Biblical origins of her work. Judy designed a stain glass window for stair to the balcony - north side. You've seen her magnificent Alleluia dossal behind the altar during the Sundays of Easter.

The total cost of \$177.00 is due by August 18, 2006. A down payment of \$50.00 is required at sign up to reserve your spot. There is a sign up sheet in the hall or you may call the church office - 203-754-3116.

Call me if you have any questions. 203 756-1733.

-Lorene Castle



Happy Birthday!

6/1	Brooke Aubrie	6/13	Roberta Santa Maria	6/26	Bill Garretson
6/2	Christine Stolfi	6/13	Thecla Kirby	6/26	Raymond Adomavicia
6/2	Sarah Martello	6/13	Leslie Guevin	6/26	Shawn Steisel
6/2	Alexandra-Marie Rodriguez	6/13	Jacilyn Stanchfield	6/27	Curtiss Hunt
6/2	David Halligan	6/14	Vivian Ospalek	6/27	Sarah Shatney
6/3	Edith Klein	6/14	Jacob Weiler	6/27	Elena Sabol
6/3	John Parker	6/16	Boris Castro	6/28	Anna Decarolis
6/3	Howard Woods	6/16	Lesia Castillo	6/28	Shelby Webber
6/3	Roseanne Sabol	6/17	Michael McDonald	6/30	Elaine McDonnell
6/3	Julian White	6/18	William Burr	6/30	Stephanie MacDonald
6/4	Raymond Rosa	6/18	Ian Yuhas	6/30	Samantha Curry
6/4	Christy Labbe	6/19	Maria Bossio		
6/4	Arianna Rosado	6/19	Alexander Tapley		
6/5	Aaron Pernerewski	6/20	Wilbert Hager		
6/6	Anthony Vaccarelli	6/20	Robert Cappotelli		
6/6	Justine Budhram	6/21	Amanda Decarolis		
6/7	Jay Anthony	6/21	Anatoliy Marques		
6/7	Hannah Bellows	6/22	Arlene Emmens		
6/8	Sandra Allard	6/23	Jannice Johnston		
6/9	Gertrude Benjamin	6/23	Betsy Brown		
6/9	Victor Saverino	6/23	Olivia Sevas		
6/10	Lidia Dominguez	6/23	Amanda Chilcoat		
6/10	Erin Macdonald	6/24	Thomas O'Brien		
6/12	Luis Hernandez	6/24	Jimmy Encarnacion		
6/12	Alyssa Jamieson	6/24	Raquel Rosa		
6/12	Courtland Young	6/25	Aimee Curry		
6/13	Vincent Viega	6/25	Emily Sanchez		
6/13	Theresa Foti-Angurio	6/26	Anne Vaccarelli		



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JULY/AUGUST OUTFRIDER

The deadline for submitting articles for the July/August 2006 Outrider is June 9, 2006. 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.

I'd like to continue the "Recipes from the Parish" column, so if you have a recipe you'd like to share, please submit it. I'd like to put in one recipe every month. I'm also looking for pattern submissions for knitting and crocheting hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, ponchos and shawls.

PRAYER LISTS AT ST. JOHN'S

6/4/06

Anthony & Anne Vaccarelli, Claudine Vaccarelli, Laura & Mario Varrone & Family, Elizabeth & Jeremy Vermette & Family, Vincent & Elena Viega, Lane Walker, Arlene Wallace & Family, Louis Warren, David Watson, Christopher & Michelle Webber & Family, Leo & Brenda Webber, Patrece Webber.

6/11/06

Renetta Webber & Family, Marsha Webber & Doug Livingston & Family, William & Bonnie Weiler & Family, Alan & Helen Weis & Family, Steven & Judy Weis & Family, Shirley Weiss, Roger Wheeler, Aaron & Tisha Whidbee & Family, Ryan & Angela White & Family, Kimberly Williams

6/18/06

Dorothy & Desrine Wineglass & Family, Howard & Jane Woods, Janelle Kindle, Mary Ellen Yashenko & Family, Courtland Young, Flora Young, Loribeth & Edgar Young & Family, Jane & John Yuhás & Family, Bruce & Denise Zastaury, A. Zason & L. Rodriguez & Family, Jill Zilvitis & Ashlee Gurtowski & Family

6/25/06

William & Melonie Adomavicia & Family, Syreeta Aidoo, Sandy Allard, Paquita & Mark Aloia & Family, Janice Alonzo & Family, Anthony & Theresa Foti-Angurio, Jay Anthony, Jorge Astacio, Phyllis Atwood, Kenneth & Lisa Aubrie & Family, Michael & Jennifer Aubrie & Family

BREAD AND WINE

June 18 by Bob and Pam Toffey in thanksgiving for 25 years of marriage.



- 6/3 George & Carol Bequary
- 6/3 Melanie & Scott Ginn
- 6/4 Robert & Diane Caggiano
- 6/6 Laura & Mario Varrone
- 6/7 Matthew & Holly Kosky
- 6/8 Alan & Christine Greggis
- 6/9 Elizabeth & Jeremy Vermette
- 6/14 Richard & Sally Harris
- 6/14 Jim & Beth Manners
- 6/16 Anthony & Tracy Longo
- 6/20 Warren & Cynthia Skipp
- 6/20 Bob & Pam Toffey
- 6/20 Victor & Paula Saverino
- 6/22 Gary & Traci Hill
- 6/24 Juan & Anna Torres
- 6/26 David & Helen Pritchard
- 6/29 David & Elizabeth Santa Maria
- 6/30 Lillian H. and Louis Brown

The Importance of Being Barbra

Tom Santopietro

\$ 22.95/ 29.95 CAN

ISBN 0-312-34879-7

Here at last is a book that treats Streisand like the remarkable artist she is. Not just for fans. --Jeanine Basinger, *Author of American Cinema, One Hundred Years of Filmmaking*

Controversial, a global icon, a diva amongst divas- Barbra Streisand, the last genuinely unique show business personality of the twentieth century is the most honored entertainer in the world today. But along with the Tony, two Oscars, six Emmys, eight Grammys, ten Golden Globes, fifty gold albums and wild acclaim have come wildly diverse reactions to a personality as outsized as the talent. In the words of Streisand herself, "I'm a liberal, opinionated, Jewish feminist- I push a lot of buttons."

In Tom Santopietro's witty yet analytical look at this one-of-a-kind career, the myths and personal foibles are stripped away, and the focus lands squarely on the work. From the early recordings to the groundbreaking television specials, from the Hollywood blockbusters to the history-making comeback concerts, Streisand's career is placed within an oftentimes uniquely American social context, but always allowed to speak for itself. In a brisk, funny, and always compelling style, *The Importance of Being Barbra* reveals all of the milestones in a new and oftentimes startling light, ranging from the brilliance of *Funny Girl* and *The Broadway Album* to the misbegotten yet curiously popular *A Star Is Born*.

Treating Barbra Streisand like the serious artist she is - and has always claimed to be - *The Importance of Being Barbra* delves into the key reasons for her all-encompassing success: the overwhelming ambition, the notorious perfectionism, the fervent gay following, the dramatic pull of a voice and style that mysteriously connect with the lovelorn all around the world. A full scale examination of the acting, singing and directing which have ranged from the oftentimes dazzling to the occasionally inexplicable- it's all here for anyone who has ever wondered at the phenomenon that is Barbra Streisand.

TOM SANTOPIETRO has worked for the past twenty years in New York theatre as a manager of more than two dozen Broadway shows including *A Few Good Men*, *Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, *A Doll's House*, *Master Class*, *Tru*, *The Iceman Cometh* and *Noises Off*. A graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Law, Tom and the American Bar Association are equally happy that he is not practicing law.

Praise for *The Importance of Being Barbra*

"Not at all the average fan tribute, *The Importance of Being Barbra* mixes milk and honey admiration with bracing shots of vinegar. Tom Santopietro 'gets' his idol--loves her for what she is; understands what she is not. (But still could be!) His book is smart, funny, right-on. An encyclopedic must-read for anybody who has pondered the greatness, perfection and oddities of Miss Streisand." -Liz Smith

"An astute and thorough analysis of Streisand's career told in a brisk and engaging style while carefully establishing Streisand as a major cultural icon."

--A.R. Gurney Jr., playwright- *Love Letters*, *Scenes from American Life*

"For both fan and non-fan this is a fast-paced examination of a superstar's career. A great read."

--Bob Avian, Tony award-winning choreographer of *A Chorus Line* and *Ballroom*

"Tom Santopietro's encyclopedic but wonderfully entertaining account of Barbra Streisand's career, one 'unparalleled in the history of show business.' Who could argue? Who could resist?" --Jay Presson Allen, screenwriter- Cabaret, Funny Lady

Note: Tom Santopietro is a former member of St. John's and is the son of Nancy Santopietro, a longtime member of St. John's and a former warden of our Parish.

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE SUMMER BROWN BAG CONCERTS

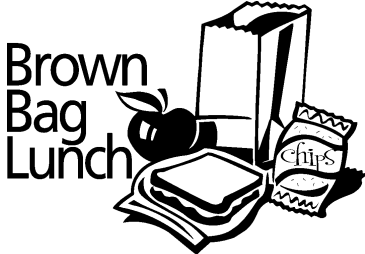
Thursdays in July, 12:30 TO 1:30 p.m. at St. John's

July 6--Fireworks! American Organ Music for the 4th of July
Maria Coffin, Organist

July 13-- Mario Pavone Ensemble

July 20--Members of the CT Accordion Association

July 27--Steve Minkler on the piano



Brown Bag Lunch

The illustration shows a brown paper lunch bag, a sandwich, a bag of chips, and a small bowl of fruit.



JUNE COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

- | | |
|---------|--------------------|
| June 4 | Staff |
| June 11 | Picnic |
| June 18 | Liturgical Council |
| June 25 | Liturgical Council |

K1, P2 MEETING



K1, P2 will meet at the church on Saturday, June 10th for sharing, meditation and working on our hats, mittens, prayer shawls, etc. Two prayer shawls were blessed at the 8 am service on April 30th for Malinda to distribute. Hats and mittens, etc. have been given to the Soup Kitchen Ministry. A prayer shawl was blessed and given to a member of the 12:30 Sunday service recently. So join us.

NOTE THE NAME CHANGE, K1, P1 HAS DECIDED TO CHANGE ITS NAME TO K1, P2!

OUR SACRED SPACE

After I innocently mentioned how I'd like to record an architectural tour of St. John's for the church web site Jim Bradley allowed as how that would be wonderful then seized on this simple interest and quickly morphed it into a request to attend a "New Dollars/New Partners for Sacred Spaces" So, of course, I sweetly agreed. I don't know if Sandy Porteus volunteered under similar circumstances. But on Friday March 17 we both were at Diocesan House in Hartford joining a crowd of Episcopalians waiting to learn about this new partner thing.

Sandy and I soon discovered that "New Partners" had a lot of information to offer. We spent that day and the next listening to speakers with a genuine depth of experience in raising interest, involvement, and money for sacred spaces like ours.

Sandy has already reported the overall information and themes to the vestry and I have volunteered to write from my perspective for The Outrider. Although "New Dollars" leads in the title I feel "New Partners" are the words on which to focus. Our "new partners" are three groups. We are the first group.

The new to us is that we need to know what Saint John's does when it is not Sunday.

Once we know it we need to then talk it up. We should exchange information with each other so each can learn from one another. We also need to let the larger world know about what is happening here. So much happens here that it is hard to keep track of it all. Letting the world know is part of our good news. Talk it up.

The next new partners are the people who would want to get involved with Saint John's if they only knew. I'm not talking about a kind of secular evangelism here. Not every wants to be an Episcopalian. (Why I'll never know.) But many want the spiritual renewal that comes with just plain doing good. Every one of these people is a potential new partner in our community.

The circle then expands to the people who, though they are not directly involved in our daily life, recognize and want to support our community. These new partners may find joy in supporting our work with contributions of goods, services, or (how nice!) money.

We know we provide for our community in unique ways. We can draw in new folks to help us by letting them know what we do and the value our efforts bring. But before we can do that we need to know the value of our own contribution. To help solve that puzzle the Sacred Spaces people have developed a computer program called "The Public Value Tool Kit" that helps us identify, categorize, and quantify all the resources we have and use. This survey then becomes a tool that will enable us to provide a detailed description of every service we perform, the numbers of people served, the dollar value of the service if it were provided by industry or the government.

The next step is to implement the survey. You may be asked to let us know what you know, what you do, how you work your personal magic. When all that is collected the computer should be able to give back a concise overall picture of our service to the community. With that we hoped to make a clear and dramatic case to the new partners who are seeking ways to use their money to make this world a better place.

-Stephen Moody

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.

On this page are three forms to fill out: one form if you just want to make a general donation to the altar flower fund, a second form for those who wish their loved one(s) to be remembered in the Prayers of the People, and a form for Communion Bread and Wine offerings.



I wish to make a donation to the flower fund:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount Donated: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Thanksgiving For: _____

Requested Sunday: _____

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: _____

Prayer List Requests

All names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks. If you need to have that time extended, please contact the church office at 203-754-3116. Names can be added to the prayer list by phone or you can fill out this form and return it to the office.

Please add the following name(s) to the prayer list: _____

Submitted by: _____