

St. John's

Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Catherine A. Munz, *Rector*

The Eagle

August/September 2010

A Newsletter

For & About The People of St. John's Episcopal Church

From the Rector:

Dear St. John's Family,

Moving Forward!

For the last couple of years your vestry and I have been looking at, evaluating, tweaking, listening, and noting areas of concern and the dreams of this parish. Some of the things we have been noting: an increase in a variety of worship opportunities – thus, Taizé contemplative services will celebrate its first anniversary in Sept. In June we had 40 people at our service – the majority were from the Northampton community. Yahoo for the outreach. In addition, we held 4 Evensongs with several guest preachers and our own Chris Thornley even chanted the Great Litany! SING, with the loving leadership of Lynne Bertrand made several appearances on the first Sundays of the month. We were blessed several times over the summer with a dedicated group of musicians and singers who offered their prayers with a more modern sound, all led and inspired by the gifts of Paul Benoit. Not least of all, several hymns were sung by request via the hymn request box at the back of church. St. Thomas made an appearance last May at our service held at Florence Civic Center – who knew Alan Wylde knew Thomas so well? And, we found out that when Lee Anderson prays the Lord's Prayer, GOD answers with a voice that sounds amazingly like Olivia Leone. St. John's is rich in talent.

For the year 08-09 we moved into a new schedule with the hope that everyone would be able to get everything they need from our Sunday schedule. What we found was that to make that happen our families would need to arrive by 9:00 a.m. and stay through to about noon. In fact many people were not able to participate in everything for a variety of reasons. But the vestry and I thought that with some tweaking we could try it for a second year. We watched closely over the last year, 09-10. It was still a cumbersome schedule – especially for families with young children. At the vestry retreat in March we spent several hours trying our best to look at the schedule from all angles. April, May, June, and July vestry meetings each spent another hour on the schedule. Ironically, we decided to adopt the more traditional Episcopal Sunday School schedule. We are changing the worship schedule to the one that follows. Is it perfect? No. Our Godly Play teachers, some of the most dedicated ministers in the church will miss the first half of the service. However, the vestry and I believe it will serve the needs of most of our parish family on Sunday mornings.

Sunday Schedule beginning Sept. 19

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 8:45 a.m. Disciple Bible study
- 9:00 a.m. Sing,
Rite 13
J2A
Adult Ed (location TBA)
- 9:15 a.m. Choir rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Godly Play
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Over the summer as the Godly Play steering committee and Godly Play teachers have met, the overriding theme was one of a need for more help. One way to support our teachers is to volunteer in a classroom once a month. There are lots of opportunities to help. During registration on Sept. 12 – Rally Day please offer to help in some way to make the year a Godly experience for everyone.

Moving forward to a Spirit filled year!

In faith,

~ From the Senior Warden ~

DO YOU KNOW . . .

Taizé Services

The Taizé service will be honored on Wednesday, October 6 when we will be joined by Brother John, from the Abbey of Taizé in France to share in our service and speak to us about how we can be part of this growing practice of meditative prayer, chant, and silence. There will be more details as this takes shape but keep the date in mind.

Join us for the service on Wednesday, September 1, at 7 pm as well.

~Penny Johnson



~ Liturgy ~

Come one – Come ALL

The St. John's Parish Choir will return to lead our musical life through worship at the 10:00 am Eucharist in early September.

We invite all those who might be interested in joining this group to come to our first rehearsal of the season on **Thursday, September 9th at 7:30 pm** in the choir room. If you have experience singing in a choir or not – you are welcome to come, sing, listen, and observe what goes on at a rehearsal. If you are new to the St. John's community, or if you are a curious long-time parishioner, see if you could fit that evening into your busy calendars. This need not involve a commitment to join this fun and active group though we would love to welcome you as a member of the choir.

Again, we will gather at 7:30 pm in the choir room downstairs to renew old friendships and, hopefully, to make some new friends.

All Parish Outing

Save the Date! Saturday, August 28, the New Members Committee will host a summer outing at DAR State Forest in Goshen for all members of our parish family! There will be fun activities, swimming, evening prayer, and a cookout - more details to come!

that the procession at the beginning of the service of clergy, choir, and cross into church is a mirror reflection of the Roman emperors' triumphal entries into Rome? A Triumph was staged on returning to Rome from war; the victorious emperor to the sound of trumpets and drums rode first in glory in his polished armor under the great arch of victory followed by his generals and legions, while at the end of the parade came the loot taken from the newly subjugated countries and the many enslaved captives last of all.

The early church adopted the practice we still observe today in which the place of honor at the head of the procession into church goes to Jesus and the cross, followed by the foot soldiers: deacons, choir, acolytes, and in the place of least honor at the tail end comes the celebrant, since the clergy wanted to emphasize that they served their Lord and God, rather than being in charge of God's church. The church, therefore, adopted a pagan tradition and turned it on its head to make the cross, a shameful instrument of death for criminals, become the sign of victory over death. (It is to honor Christ as our savior that some parishioners bow as the cross passes in the procession.)

~ Penny Johnson

Prayers for the beloved of St. John's

Each Sunday we pray for members, family, and friends of St. John's who are in need. The prayer list is also offered in the announcement section of the leaflet for us to pray throughout the week for those in need.

Names are kept on for 3 weeks unless otherwise requested. If you would like to add someone to the list feel free to contact the parish office.

~ Outreach ~

Knitters Needed

Calling all knitters to join in an important ministry at St. John's of making prayer shawls for those in sickness or grief. These lovely warm shawls are created and dedicated by the rector to wrap a suffering person in our love and prayers.

A NEW POSSIBILITY: It has been suggested that we might also produce baby blankets for the new-born arrivals to the congregation; are you interested in participating in this caring and sharing? Please contact Rosanna Seamans at 584-4464.

Rays of Hope Team

Who is willing to show the world that St John's is a physical presence in the community?

Please join the St. John's Episcopal Church team in the Rays of Hope walk Sunday, October 24th at noon. We will show the community that St. John's is a real presence for all who seek His comfort, especially those battling breast cancer. Rays of Hope has raised over 8 million dollars for the cancer care of those in the Pioneer Valley, and not one penny leaves this area. For more information contact Olivia Leone at oliviamckee@yahoo.com or 413-397-3308 or check out www.baystatehealth.com/raysofhope, team name is St. John's Episcopal Church.

~ Christian Education ~

"H-E-R-O God is my Hero!"

Hero Headquarters was amazing...fantastic volunteers, great activities and truly heroic campers made us wish the week would never end. Many thanks to GOD, all the families who participated and the donations from River Valley Market, Louisa Bushey, Delia Shelkey, Jim Godfrey and Nancy Harvin... just to name a few. I am truly blessed to have so many dedicated teachers and enthusiastic campers. Hope you all return next summer, and many times before!

New from the Youth Groups

St. John's J2A Steering Committee has been hard at work this spring and summer finding leaders for the next round of youth groups, which will be gearing up in September. We are truly thrilled at the list of adults who are signing on to coordinate the program and to work directly with teens and pre-teens. We're also thrilled to announce we're in the home stretch of this process. Parents, teens, and pre-teens: Please watch for news very soon of leaders, and of your first meeting dates and times.

By way of explanation, "J2A" is shorthand for Journey to Adulthood, the name of the curriculum we use in our youth groups. There will be four youth groups this fall: Rite13 for 6th and 7th graders, J2A (that's confusing -- both the program and the mid-high school group go by this name) for 8th and 9th graders, YAC1 (Young Adults in Church) for high school sophomores and juniors, and YAC2 for high school seniors and college freshmen.

Lynne Bertrand, Chair, J2A Steering Committee

Church School Rally Day

From the French: "Re" (again) "alier" (to join) Rally: to join again!!

Our Rally Day is September 12! Please attend the 9 am service with your children and after the service come up to the classrooms to register for church school. You will be able to view the classrooms and meet the teachers and complete registration forms. We look forward to seeing you all on September 12!

~ Community Outreach ~

Shelter Sunday - October 3, 2010

On Shelter Sunday volunteers throughout greater Northampton and Leeds go door to door collecting donations to support local homeless shelters, emergency housing, and other survival services through the long winter. Last year, people generously opened their doors and together gave \$50,000 to the campaign.

Volunteers are the heart of this effort. It requires a large number to reach every home with a direct personal appeal. Please consider taking a neighborhood walk with your family or friends on October 3 and in the process help sustain those in need.

To volunteer or for more information, please call Wendy at 582-9508 or email **volunteer@northamptonsheltersunday.org**. Most importantly, you can help by mailing in your donation or by responding generously when a Shelter Sunday volunteer comes to you.



Eagle Online

In the interest of saving trees, paper, money, and time, we ask all who are able to receive the newsletter online.

Please contact the parish office to be added to the online list.

Standard Weekly Calendar

Sunday:	see separate chart		
Monday:	9:00 am	Flower Children	Parlors
	Noon	MANNA	Undercroft
	4:30 pm	"Connecting"	Cochran Parlor
	5:15 pm	O.A.	Downstairs lounge
	7:00 pm	Girl Scouts	Undercroft
<i>3rd Monday</i>	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting	Parlors
Tuesday:	Noon	Al-Anon	Cochran Parlor
	1:00 pm	HandCrafters Guild	Parishioners homes
	6:15 pm	Found Sounds Drummers	Church
<i>2nd Tuesday</i>	7:00 pm	New Members Committee Meeting	Bayne Parlor
Wednesday:	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study	Bayne Parlor
	11:00 am	Mid Week Forum	Bayne Parlor
	12:15 pm	Holy Eucharist and Healing	Parlors & Church
	<i>1st Wed.</i>	7:00 pm	Taizé Service
Thursday	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts	Undercroft
	7:00 pm	Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus	Church
	5:15 pm	O.A.	Downstairs lounge
	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Friday:	8:30 pm	A.A.	Undercroft
	Noon	Al-Anon	Downstairs lounge
	10:00 am	Bible Study (Call office for location)	
	7:00 pm	A.A.	Undercroft

PLEASE SCHEDULE ALL MEETINGS/EVENTS THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE!

September Events

1 st	7 pm	- Taizé service, church
12 th	9 am	- Rally Day!, Church School & J2A registration, Ministries Fair
14 th	7 pm	- New Members Committee Meeting, parlor
15 th	7 pm	- Finance Committee, parlor
18 th	9 am	- Altar Guild Annual Meeting/Brunch, parlors
	9 am	- Food Preservation Workshop, undercroft
20 th	7 pm	- Vestry Meeting, parlor

Sunday Schedule Beginning September 19

8:00 am	-	Holy Eucharist
8:45 am		Discipleship Bible Study
9:00 am	-	SING!, Rite 13, J2A, Adult Education
9:15 am	-	Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am	-	Godly Play
10:00 am	-	Holy Eucharist

Mail Call ...please check your mailbox ... And **if you don't have a mailbox**, please contact the parish office at 584-1757 or stjohnsnorthampton@verizon.net

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
48 ELM ST
NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

Return service requested

Ministerial Staff:

The Rev. Catherine A. Munz, Rector	munzstjohns@verizon.net
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St. John's Vestry:

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