



June 2012

Dear St. John's fellow parishioners:

I know that many of you have waited eagerly for news regarding the search for a new rector for St. John's, and I know that there is disappointment that we have not yet identified someone. I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to speed on what has been happening and what will be done in the coming weeks as we continue this most important process.

The Transition Committee presented the Vestry with five candidates for consideration, each possessing the basic gifts and skills we felt were requisite for the rector's position. (This included a husband and wife team!) We were individually, and collectively, humbled by what we found. The Vestry then focused on identifying a candidate whose personality and working style would be a good match for us.

Candidates were asked to lead the Vestry through a gifts discernment exercise. This was followed by a lengthy direct interviewing process. We were all reminded at this point that this was a mutual discernment process. Candidates were challenged to question us and to determine if we represented the kind of opportunity that enticed and excited them.

The vestry gathered on May 13th to discuss the candidates who were still in contention. (One candidate had withdrawn for reasons not related to the search.) By consensus, we identified a candidate we wished to Call. Unfortunately, this candidate accepted a Call from another parish. No other candidate from this group is being considered.

Where are we now? We have re-opened the search and will engage each new candidate in an individual discernment process. This means that we will not wait to collect a number of names before we begin the exercise of determining if a candidate will be a good match for us. The search will remain open until a rector is Called. The great work already done to distill a profile of St. Johns from the "Gather Together – Grow Together" exercise and the Crabtree survey will serve us as we go forward, and was time well spent.

We, St. John's Episcopal Church, remain a vibrant and involved community. A quick look at the June calendar and the other articles in this issue of the Eagle reveal the truth of this assertion. We have arranged for visiting priests through the summer months and will welcome Bishop Adams June 24th. I am proud of the work that continues to be done at St. Johns and am confident that we will be able to offer our new rector a group of believers already engaged in the work of the Church, not content with waiting to be led.

We will continue to work hard and to listen for the voice of the Spirit as we work.

In closing I will leave you with a quote from an EFM lesson on discerning a call, provided by Jim Johnson.

Discernment is a process in which we can make room for the Spirit's urging, but we cannot control when and how we hear the still small voice. As painful as it is, sometimes our waiting is the only faithful thing remaining for us to do. At this point, waiting with openness can be more important than anything else we can do.

Lloyd Hall
Sr. Warden

Who We Are and Where We Would Like To Be

From Gather Together/Grow Together and the Church Assessment Tool

This is a statement of where St. John's is and where we would like to go as we continue growing in the Lord. This information is part of the input of what we continue to use in our discernment for a new Rector.

1. The worship life of St. John's is strongly based on Eucharistic-centered services, using Rites from the Book of Common Prayer at both Sunday services. We have a mid-week healing service with a Eucharist. Members of our congregation have expressed wishes for more use of the various liturgies in the Book of Common Prayer, with regularly scheduled instructed liturgies and laity-led Morning and Evening Prayer services during the week.
2. The spiritual life and growth of our congregation is centered around Sunday worship, along with Sunday School classes for children and specially challenged adults. There are additional educational activities, including adult class series and the Education for Ministry series. A desire has been expressed for short-term retreats, quiet days at the church, and more topic driven book studies.
3. St. John's music ministry is strong, alive and well, engaging many participants of all ages. We have an adult choir, children's choir, youth choir, two quartets, bell choir and youth choir camp each summer. We encourage participation by university and college students and conduct periodic musical productions at the church, including recitals and musicals (most recently "Godspell" featuring youth choir members). Our congregation would like to develop additional financial support to further strengthen this ministry.
4. The membership of St. John's is moderately diverse economically and socially, with some ethnic diversity. A high percentage of our members are college graduates. Ithaca itself is a university town, with all the benefits and drawbacks that status brings with it. New opportunities for participation and leadership in parish activities occur regularly. We would like to increase opportunities for newer parishioners to be integrated more quickly into our parish life.
5. Many of our parish youth participate in a group for which there is a lay minister and a lounge. Recently there has been a strong growth in youth involvement in our music ministry. Both adult and youth parishioners have expressed their desire that our youth be encouraged to join parish committees and to provide stronger ministry opportunities, including a Sunday service conducted entirely by youth members.
6. Fellowship at St. John's revolves around several traditional annual events, as well as a monthly parish breakfast. There is an ongoing fellowship group for 20's - 30's-age parishioners. There is a desire that everyone who wishes to do so can be in one or more small fellowship groups. For this to happen, all parishioners need to be aware of the various groups and ministries within our parish, and to understand that they are encouraged to participate in established groups or to form new ones as their ages and interests change.
7. We see ourselves as welcoming to visitors and newcomers. However we cannot underestimate the importance of being a place that is more immediately welcoming and comforting. Some of this can be accomplished by better communication among our membership and the greater community. Our major means of communication presently are the parish newsletter ([The Eagle](#)), announcements at the Sunday services, a bulletin board and our parish web site. We are in the process of developing and utilizing a more active electronic media presence, gearing specific sections of our web site toward college-aged and new people in town, and creating a St. John's Facebook page.
8. St. John's physical plant consists of a beautiful historic building in downtown Ithaca, New York. This brings with it many pluses: being centrally located, highly visible, and with a continuing historic presence. We need to fund the growing costs associated with maintaining this handsome but aging structure.
9. Financially, St. John's current endowment provides about 31% of our annual parish budget, with an annual draw of 6% from the principal. We need to increase the size of our endowment so it will generate an equal percentage of interest for the annual budget but with an annual draw of 4% or less. To accomplish this, we will need to develop a capital campaign in the near future which draws more of our members into the financial life of St. John's.
10. Lastly, and most importantly, we are children of Christ, on varying paths of individual discipleship and discovery. We share a future in which we wish to express our faith by gathering together to worship and by growing together in Christ."

On Sunday afternoon, 29 April 2012, St. John's Ithaca celebrated twenty-three years of faithful service by its retiring rector Philip W. Snyder. The Rev. A. Richard Strauss was celebrant for the Service for the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship and Leave-taking from a Congregation; the Rev. Robert Rideout, Deacon, a former parishioner of St. John's, assisted him. Philip's son, Andrew, was a lector; his daughter Caitlin and other son Alan offered the elements. After the service, everyone was treated to a splendid reception in the parish house put on by Tina Hallock and her hospitality committee.

At the reception, the parish presented Philip with an illustration of the stained glass window that is being installed in St. John's in his honor.

During his years at St. John's, Father Snyder's sermons have frequently included a description of "the stained glass window that I would design." In his 28 May 2006 sermon, Philip said: "That is why the stained glass window that I've designed depicting Ascension Day and the promise of the Holy Spirit, may indeed show Jesus in glory seated at the right hand of God, but the right hand of God will be handing Jesus a large tuba for him to learn to play and to send the music of the Holy Spirit back to us."

The stained glass window to be installed in St. John's was designed and is being built by Serviente Glass Studios in Ithaca.

The Sunday School children made a model of St. John's Church for Philip's train set at home, and the children presented it to Philip at the 10:30 service on 29 April. This model of St. John's Church served as the centerpiece of the buffet table at his reception, note the replica even has it's own red door!



Submitted by Mary Arlin



On April 29th, the design for the new stained glass window to honor the ministry of Father Snyder was unveiled. A total of \$9387.00 was raised for the window, which will go over the center inner door. The design comes from a sermon, given by Father Snyder in May 2006. The dedication will read: This window honors and celebrates the dedication, humor and ministry of the Reverend Philip W. Snyder, who served St. John's as its Rector from November 29th, 1988 – April 29th, 2012. The window was designed and is being executed by Tony Serviente of Serviente Glass Studio in Ithaca and will be installed sometime over the summer. We deeply thank all who donated to the window and look forward to it becoming part of St. John's.

A note from Fr. Snyder:

Dear People of St. John's:

My family joins me in thanking you for the wonderful retirement send off. The stained glass window was a complete surprise to me, and we were all very moved by the lovely tribute. While it has been less than a month, I keenly miss you all. Please be assured I keep you close in my heart and prayers. I have been truly blessed by your many expressions of kindness and good wishes. Sincerely, Philip Snyder

Transition Update The Vestry is confident in the work that has been done by the Transition Committee and believes that we are in a good position to open the search to new candidates. The process has been enlightening and has helped both the Vestry and the Transition Committee to focus and proceed with this next phase. Please keep the Vestry and Transition Committee in your prayers. Lloyd and Susie Backstrom will co-chair the Transition Committee. If you have any questions please talk to Lloyd Hall, Mary Arlin or Pamela Talbott.

NEWS OF OUR GRADUATES:

Congratulations to our college grads, Dean Hawthorne, Cornell University Ph.D. ; Margaret Johnson, Cornell University, Ph. D. : Amber Massa, SUNY Cortland; Lisa Tatusko, Deacon, Episcopal Divinity School, and Cristina Stiller, college graduate. Also, our High School Graduates: Alexandra Henry and Nicole D'Aprix!

****If we have missed anyone, please contact the parish office so that we can recognize all of our graduates!**

And a note from Nick Heavens

As some of you know, I've been a post doctorate in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Cornell University for the last two years. My current appointment ends at the end of July, so I've spent the last several months looking for a new position, preferably something less temporary. By the end of April, I had a few informal offers of temporary work from which to choose. After much prayerful consideration, I accepted one of them. The details are still being worked out, but I should be appointed Research Assistant Professor of Planetary Science at Hampton University in Hampton, VA in September. I'll initially be studying the atmospheres of Jupiter and Saturn, but my new position will give me the ability to seek funding to pursue research of my own design as well as expanded opportunities for more permanent employment. I will be leaving Ithaca at the end of July. I have been most blessed to sojourn for two years at St. John's. I will miss you all dearly. Nick

In the past couple of months, three of our long time parishioners have passed away. Anna Bench passed away in April, her family held a private ceremony at Kendal. Dorothy O'Dell passed away in May and Fr. Tom Margrave was the celebrant at her memorial service. Anna Moravec's memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 16th at 11 a.m. at St. John's with Fr. Strauss officiating. Family & friends will meet in the parish hall after the service for a reception.

Musical Notes from the Director of Music **Submitted by Nancy Radloff**

Summer is upon us, so it must be time to gather things together for choir camp. It will be different without Father Snyder, but I have some surprises that will make this a memorable experience for all of us. Camp will be Sunday to Friday, August 26th-31st. Here's a list of some required supplies:

- 1 shower curtain – not clear, please
- a CLEAN metal trash can and lid
- old pots and pans, with or without lids
- empty 2-liter plastic soda bottles
- old-time washboard
- ¼" foam boards, poster-sized
- 1 case of water
- spatulas
- wooden spoons
- metal pie or cake pans

Anything that you can offer will be gratefully accepted. Please put your name on the item if you want it back. Donations can be given to me on Sunday mornings or left in the church office or choir room. As always, we also accept donations.

Speaking of donations, the vocal choirs and I *really* appreciate the congregation's generosity for the restoration of the choir room piano. As I said at the talent show, the piano no longer holds a tune and is virtually unplayable. While we have fallen a bit short of the funds necessary to refinish the case, Ithaca Piano Rebuilders will take the piano to their shop in early July to rebuild the insides. It is disappointing that we didn't raise enough to refinish the case, but I am so grateful that we have the money that we need to rebuild the insides *now*, when it's needed. I think that it's remarkable that we raised over \$13,000 in less than 18 months.

The talent show was a huge success. We had about 50 people in attendance on that hot, sunny Sunday afternoon, and they donated over \$1100 for the piano fund. Thanks so much to those who shared their talent, and to those who generously supported our cause with their presence and their checkbooks. Thanks!

The concert with Andy McCullough went well and was great fun. It was nice to have so many of you show up, and we appreciated your positive comments and financial contributions to Andy's travel fund.

The children's choir's last Sunday in the choir stalls will be June 17th, Father's Day. The adults will finish their program year on June 24th. Beginning on July 1st, you are all invited to become part of our summer 'Come and Sing' choir. Meet in the choir stalls at 9:30 on Sunday mornings – or as soon as you can, if 9:30 is too early – and I will have whatever you need to present the anthem for the day. The choir members work really hard all year, and I encourage them to take the summer to rest. Thus, we really need 'guest' singers to help us through the summer. If you enjoy singing, please join us. Remember – summer is hot, and there are more fans per capita in the choir stalls than you have in the congregational pews!

As always, thank you for your continued support of the music program.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2012	Parish Events Calendar				1 Noon L&F meal	2
3 8 am. HE 9:15 a.m. Spec. Adults 9:30 a.m. Nursery 10:30 HE Fr. Margrave	4 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 AA parish hall	5 11 a.m. . Bible study 5:30 L&F Meal	6 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 AA parish hall	7 4:30 Children's choir 7:15 - 8:45 Adult choir 5:30 p.m. L&F meal	8 Noon L&F meal	9 Sacred Harp singers P.Hall 9-5
10 8 am. HE 9:30 a.m. Nursery 10: Sunday School 10:30 HE Fr. Tim Hall	11 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 AA parish hall	12 11:00 a.m. Bible study 5:30 L&F Meal	13 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 p.m. AA in parish hall	14 10 a.m. Finance committee/Chapman room 4:30 Children's choir (last rehearsal till fall) 7:15 - 8:45 Adult choir 5:30 p.m. L&F meal	15 Noon L&F meal	16 11 a.m. Anna Moravec Memorial with reception Fr. Strauss, celebrant; George Damp organist
17 8 am. HE 9:30 a.m. Nursery Parish breakfast (Last till fall) 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 HE Fr. Tom Margrave <i>Fathers day</i>	18 Noon L&F Meal 6:30 p.m. Vestry/Chapman Room 7:30 AA parish hall	19 11:00 a.m. Bible study 5:30 L&F Meal	20 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 AA parish hall	21 7:15 - 8:45 Adult choir (Last rehearsal till fall) 5:30 p.m. L&F meal	22 Noon L&F meal	23
24 PENTECOST 8 a.m.. HE 9:15 a.m. Spec. Adults 9:30 a.m. Nursery 10:30 Sun. School 10:30 a.m. HE Bishop Adams	25 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 AA parish hall	26 11:00 a.m. Bible study 5:30 L&F Meal	27 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 AA parish hall	28 5:30 p.m. L&F meal	29 Noon L&F meal	30

Fellowship Committee Greeters Ministry

Greeters are an integral part of our welcoming community. We greet parishioners with a smile, answer questions, participate in the service and ensure that church is prepared for service. Oh yes, we ring the bells.

Unfortunately, our ranks of greeters have dwindled. I have accepted the responsibility of growing the number of greeters and organizing the greeter process.

I am looking for suggestions as to how I can accomplish this task. My thoughts include:

- Having a quarterly breakfast for greeters to encourage participation and discuss procedures.
- Having a link to our website for sign-ups and substitution requests.
- Create a substitute list to aid in finding replacements.

Lastly, I am encouraging parishioners to become greeters. It is a way of sharing with our community and assisting our new pastor.

Please contact me if you wish to greet, have suggestions for increasing the number of greeters, or would like to comment about responsibilities of greeters.

Howard McCullough
Fellowship Committee
hmccullo@twcny.rr.com
607-256-5305

10:30 Coffee hour hosts & transportation volunteers needed!

We need families, individuals, pairs to sign up for the 10:30 Coffee Hour for June. It is a great way to get to know people, do something different and it will be fun. Either sign up on the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall or contact Sarah at the Parish Office.

The fellowship committee is also trying to add to its list of volunteers to transport parishioners to church and church activities. If you are willing to help, please contact Bettie Lee Yerka at 257-0002 or bly3@cornell.edu.

Our ACT Liaison wins award! Congratulations to Cora Yao, who has received the Betty T. Morrow Founder's Volunteer of the Year Award from Area Congregations Together. Her 24-inch tall trophy can be seen in the parish office window. Cora was the ACT Chairperson for the 2011 CROP Hunger Walk that raised \$12,595 to fight local and worldwide hunger. Cora, who is St John's representative to ACT, will serve on the ACT Board through 2014. St. John's is proud of the work Cora has done on our behalf and extends its congratulations to Cora for this well-deserved honor!



Fr. Snyder proudly demonstrating that he definitely knows how to use the beautiful hand-crafted canoe paddle made for him by Jim Johnson as a retirement gift.



Caitilin O'Meehan presenting Fr. Snyder with a hand-painted retirement gift.



Fr. Richard Strauss with Fr. Philip Snyder at the Celebration of 23 years of ministry for Fr. Snyder!



The Snyder family at the celebration of Fr. Snyder's ministry with St. John's

A Short History of Morning Prayer

Submitted by Jim Johnson

The use of the Psalms and reading of scripture in the church as a form of worship dates back to at least the fourth century. Writing around 300, the historian Eusebius talks of the use of scripture and Psalms sung before the Lord in all the churches. This was present in early monasticism; a predominately lay movement, in the form of the hours. These were eight times a day set aside for communal prayer. There were seven daytime and one night office. This was formalized by Benedict (480-546) within the monastic orders. During the middle ages the hours became the prayer of the whole western church.

The first English prayer book of 1549 combined these hours into two services, Matins or Morning Prayer and Evensong. The second prayer book of 1552 emphasized the centrality of scripture to the worship of the church. These two offices were set up to secure the orderly reading of scripture in a prayerful manner in public worship.

The first American prayer book of 1786 had Morning Prayer as the principal worship service of the Episcopal Church. The 1928 prayer book used the office of Morning Prayer as the ante-communion prayers and the service of the current prayer book, while not calling it Morning Prayer, follows much the same format in the Eucharistic Service.

In speaking of the service of Morning Prayer the documents of Vatican II state that the purpose of the office is "to sanctify the day."

There may be some Sundays when we do not have a priest to celebrate the Eucharist with us this summer, but we can still celebrate the Lord's Day with scripture, Psalms, Prayer and Song.



St. John's Parish family, sharing fellowship together at coffee hour.