



September 2013

Dear friends,

We are gearing up for the fall! I am getting excited about the opportunities for education, worship, and mission at St. John's. I pray you have found refreshment this summer and are eager to jump back in the life of our vibrant parish.

I hope you will attend Sunday Service in Stewart Park on Sunday, September 8 at 10:30. We will have a picnic following the service. Attire is casual and remember to bring a chair and a dish to pass! The 8 o'clock Mass will be conducted at the church as usual. A warm welcome is extended to our early service attendees to come to the park at 11:45 for lunch.

We have been preparing a new offering of Christian Education for the fall. Sunday School will begin on September 15 at 9:15 am. It is our hope that congregants who attend either service can adjust their morning schedule to also participate in education.

Lastly, you will hear increased communication about our plans for a capital campaign in the coming months. In the meantime, please consider adopting a project from the list of physical plant needs described in Margaret Johnson's report on the following page.

In Christ,
Father Rich

Autumn Adult Education Series...

Living the Questions 2.0

"*LTQ2* is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity."

Sundays 9:15-10:15 in the Chapman Room
Beginning Sunday September 15



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

Interested in Confirmation?

Sunday, September 15-- 9:15-10:10

Father Rich will lead this class for Junior and Senior High School Students
(Attendance is mandatory for all those seeking Confirmation, Sunday, November 3.)

Help Keep St. Johns Sturdy, Welcoming and Warm—Adopt a Project!



Ever wake up and look around your house and suddenly see things that really need fixing? Ugh! Maybe these are things you walked by a hundred times and didn't notice... Earlier this summer, vestry members and Fr. Rich, together with intrepid photographer Libby Hedrick, walked around St. Johns, and made a list of "minor" maintenance projects. Below is a sampling of pressing projects, any one of which you can "adopt", with a targeted donation or with your volunteer effort and time or both.

Main Entrance Doors

Front Steps

- 1) Urgent: The masonry on the church's frontsteps needs repair. If done now, the total cost will be about \$2,000. (If this work is not done very soon, a future repair could cost as much as \$50,000.)
- 2) Urgent: Rear exit door to the parking lot needs to be replaced and given a new metal frame. Cost will be between \$2,000-3,000.
- 3) The Sunday School area needs 3 new windows. The cost will be about \$975.
- 4) The men's restroom adjacent to the Parish Hall needs a replacement window. The cost will be about \$300.
- 5) The sanctuary floor by piano needs to be refinished. The cost of renting a machine and doing the refinishing will be about \$250.
- 6) A new wall in the Sunday School area needs to be painted. A volunteer is needed to paint. The cost of paint will be about \$80.
- 7) The parish hall doors need refinishing. A volunteer is needed to take the hardware off, sand and refinish. The cost of materials will be about \$60.

To "adopt" a project with a donation, please write a check to St. Johns and write in the memo line either "minor repairs" or the name of the specific project you want to "adopt" (e.g. "project 2 parking lot door"). For more information on how to volunteer your time, effort and skill, contact the church office.

THANK YOU for helping keep our shared space sturdy, welcoming and warm this fall.

Submitted by ~Margaret Johnson

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Submitted by Susie Backstrom and Scott Russell

Fourteen years ago, in 1999, the vestry at St. John's planned a capital fund raising campaign to address the continuing capital and maintenance needs of our beautiful church building and to partially endow our youth and music programs. This was called the Heritage Campaign. The goal was to raise \$600,000 to fund the building endowment and \$100,000 to fund a programs endowment. The campaign was carefully planned and executed between January and November of 1999. At Thanksgiving of 1999 we all celebrated the successful completion of the campaign, which exceeded the \$700,000 goal.

Today, the Heritage endowment is in excess of \$840,000 and has provided at least \$30,000 each year for the past 14 years, for building maintenance and as additional funds to support St. John's youth and music program.

Among some of the major planned building projects have been recoating the church roof, painting the exterior and interior of the church, the guild room and the kitchen, rear entrance roof repair, choir room floor replacement, and renovations to the rector's office and the parish office. Many smaller, planned and unplanned, maintenance projects also have been accomplished. Our music and youth ministries have been notable during this period.

Once again, our church sanctuary, which has served St. John's parishioners for over 185 years, is in need of major capital repairs and improvements. In the last Eagle newsletter, Father Rich outlined some of the major maintenance and capital necessities for the continuing healthy and safe use of the church facilities. These included repainting the church roof, powerwashing the church's exterior walls, restoring and repairing our beautiful stained glass windows and overhauling the lack of drainage in our courtyard garden. Additionally, our wonderful church organ also will need to be maintained.

In addition to the significant building maintenance and repairs, we must remember one of our most important purposes as a Christian community: to support and grow our existing ministries and to engage in new ministries that our congregation identified in last year's parish-wide survey. These existing and new ministries also will be candidates for new endowment funding in a capital campaign.

Your vestry has been contemplating all of these matters over the past few months. As a result, a capital campaign committee has been formed and has begun defining potential funding approaches to address the known needs. Specific information will be shared with you as information is gathered and you will be given the opportunity to respond. Parishioner input will be an important part of funding decisions. Your thoughts and prayers are an integral and necessary part of our collective future at St. John's.

OUTREACH AT ST JOHN'S

Submitted by Scott Russell

St. John's outreach ministry includes several traditional programs mainly focused on the food needs of our community and the world. They are: Loaves & Fishes, the Food Pantry, Crop Walk, and Feed My Starving People. Hunger has been identified through United Way surveys of recent years as one of the critical issues in Tompkins County. Hence, our involvement is and should be an ongoing effort.

Loaves and Fishes has been housed and supported by us for over 30 years. It is a Christian ministry, which provides a place for free meals, hospitality, companionship, and advocacy for those in need, regardless of their faith, beliefs, or circumstances. Luncheon meals are served Monday, Wednesday and Friday and dinner meals on Tuesday and Thursday. One can participate through financial gifts or volunteering for food preparation, serving, set up, clean up or just be a good listener to meal guests.

The Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard distributes free foodstuffs to qualifying local families. We provide volunteers once monthly to interface with these families by distributing the items. There are currently 12 parishioners committed to this effort. They work in teams of two that cycle approximately every six to eight weeks. This program can also be supported with regular gifts. Parishioners can make cash contributions using the "little red can" and non-perishable food items using the basket available each week in the sanctuary.

Feed My Starving People is an international program to raise awareness of the hunger in the world and provide specific food items for distribution as needed. It consists of regional fund raising efforts throughout the year to buy the food items and an annual community pack project. The 2013 effort has been noted in recent Sunday bulletins.

Information will continue to be provided for parishioner consideration. Please prayerfully ask God how you can be of assistance and support. Matthew 25 "The King will say, come and inherit the kingdom.... for I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.... truly I say to you, as you did unto the least of my brethren you did unto me"

Other programs that are or have been supported by parishioners include Family Reading Partnership's "Little Red Book Shelf", the United Thank Offering, Episcopal Relief and Development projects and Catholic Charities Immigration/Refugee needs. These programs, and others, tend to be one-time projects and deserve our attention as well.

The Outreach Committee consists of Marcia Fort, Cora Yao, Gwen Freeman, Floriana Blanton, Margaret Johnson and Scott Russell. We welcome your input and questions. Look for us on Sundays or through email addresses available from the Church Secretary.

CHURCH HISTORY I: 52 CE-1310 CE

The Rev. Dr. Clark R. West, Episcopal chaplain at Cornell, will be offering a ten week course in Church history on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. at his home (214 Wait Ave.) beginning Sept 12. This will be a "seminary" style course, with lots of primary texts covering the apocalyptic origins of Christianity, early martyr stories, the rise of monasticism, and the great theological figures of the 4th and 5th centuries. We'll conclude with the marvelous flowering of mystical thought in the midst of the crusades. For questions, or to sign up to receive readings and details, contact Clark at crw86@cornell.edu

Director of Music, Nancy Radloff is away on location this week at choir camp with ten of our young musicians. So, in lieu of her regular article we will just say that: All reports so far tell us that everyone is having a great time! They are working hard on this year's performance, but they are having fun too!

Mark your calendars. Weekly choir rehearsals will be resuming as follows:

Adult choir 7:15 in the choir room on Thursday, September 12th.

Bell choir 6:45 in the balcony on Wednesday, September 18th.

Children's 4:30 in the choir room on Thursday, September 19th.

Youth at 5:30 in the choir room on Thursday, September 19th.

**These are the dates for the first rehearsals of the fall season. Weekly rehearsals will continue on a weekly basis after these initial dates.

SAVE THE DATE

Come Satisfy Your Body and Soul at "A Taste of Soul with Loaves and Fishes" in September.

Loaves and Fishes of Tompkins County will preview and share "tastes" of new dishes from 2-4pm on Sunday, September 8, at St. John's Episcopal Church. Through the

assistance of local chefs specializing in unique ways to prepare some favorite Soul Food dishes, the kitchen managers of Loaves and Fishes will lead a team of volunteers in serving up samples of these dishes as a way of previewing a new line-up that will begin rotating through Loaves and Fishes daily offerings. Also onhand will be musical entertainment with a Gospel flair.

Loaves and Fishes is a Christian ministry that provides a daily place for free nutritious meals, hospitality, companionship, and advocacy for those in need regardless of their faith, beliefs, or circumstances. Donations are always welcome but never required. Find more information about Loaves and Fishes at 607.272.5457 or online at www.loaves.org.

Loaves and Fishes of Tompkins County: Come join our table. All are welcome.