



October 2012

Dear St. John's Family:

As announced during Sunday services this past week, the Vestry has issued a Call for the next Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church. With thanks to God for his guidance and for bringing us to this point in our discernment process, it gives me a great deal of joy to share with you that **Reverend Richard A. Towers** has enthusiastically accepted our Call, and that Bishop Adams has given his official approval. Amen indeed! We have so much for which we are thankful, including the hard work of so many to make sure that we approached the task of calling a new Rector with all the prayerful consideration the process deserves. I am particularly pleased that we were willing to wait, listen for the Holy Spirit however She spoke, and to identify someone who will be an active leader and partner in St. John's future.

Rich brings a wealth of experience from postings around the US and the Pacific Rim, where he has just completed a term as Vicar for the English Mission at Seoul Anglican Cathedral. In response to a question about the kind of parish in which he would find a joyful place, he said: "I love it when a congregation is living into their missional identity. There is nothing quite like a place where the gifts and graces of the congregation have been encouraged and utilized. I believe that multi-generational ministry, community engagement, transcendent worship, and social witness are hallmarks of vitality." I believe that we have been warned. He is prepared to do what we have asked him to do. Rich is from Rochester, NY and has good friends here in Ithaca, so he knows the community. He is also active in the Navy Reserve as a chaplain. His wife Patricia teaches in an international school and, along with his step-daughter Annie, will remain in Seoul until the end of the school year.

As we prepare to welcome him, I would like to remind the congregation of a set of pledges we endorsed some months ago. I believe that now is the time to re-visit them and to renew our own commitment to helping Rich experience a powerful ministry among us. I have shared them with the vestry and have included them in this issue of *The Eagle*. Meanwhile, we have much to do. I encourage you to let vestry members know if you are willing to assist in any part of the great welcoming we will plan. If you have questions about any part of the process, let us know. Our new website would be a great way to share those concerns with others.

We currently expect Rich to be with us as of November 1, 2012. Watch for an announcement regarding his arrival, and join us in thanksgiving for his selection.

Peace
Lloyd

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."

Our Pledge To Our New Rector, The Rev. Rich Towers

We pledge the following to you as you begin your ministry to St. John's as its Rector:

***Ministry:** We will continue to support a variety of ministries at St. John's and we will be open to considering new ministries.

***Preaching:** We will listen, consider and respond to your sermons.

***Liturgy:** In addition to continuing our participation in the various forms of the Eucharist in the BCP, we will embrace your use of other liturgical forms of worship, including Morning and Evening Prayer and healing services.

***Youth:** We will continue to value our youth by supporting our Youth Groups.

***Music:** Our music program will continue to be an important ministry at St. John's.

***Education:** We are an educated laity with a desire to learn. We will support expanded educational opportunities across generations and needs.

***Skilled Support:** We will volunteer our expertise in a wide range of skills and professional disciplines.

***Finances:** We have a balanced budget and endowment and our Parish is solvent. We will continue to be prudent and recognize the importance of careful stewardship.

***Technology:** We recognize the importance of keeping St. John's technology current and will assist you in doing so.

***You:** We offer you our personal support, humor, goodwill, prayers and understanding.

Open Invitation to all St. John's Parishioners!

Father Towers' first services as Rector of St. John's will be on November 4, 2012 at 8:00 am and 10:30 a.m. Please come to worship and help welcome him to St. John's.

The November Parish breakfast will be held between services on the 4th (instead of the 18th) as part of our welcome to Father Towers. There will also be an extended coffee hour after the 10:30 service.

Please plan to join us and meet and greet our new Rector!

Please contact the Parish Office, (273-6532) Lloyd Hall, Mary Arlin or any member of the Vestry if you have any questions!



The work crew:
These parishioners all spent a Saturday removing the old wallboard from the nursery school area, so that it could be replaced.

Great Job
Volunteers!



A Fellowship Note

Wonderful news!! Approximately 20 "new to Ithaca" worshipers have been attending Sunday services at St. John's over the past few months. Pat Clark is our special "greeter" who contacts and welcomes each as they express interest in learning about St. John's as a church, our worship, and our programs. And new-comers get involved! Some by transferring membership, pledging or inquiring about volunteer stints. There is Eric Weinhold, resident for one and a half years, a world traveler for international schools, who recently joined the bell choir and volunteered to be a greeter. Way to go, Eric! And there are other stories. The Fellowship Committee is committed to being helpful! *BettieLee Yerka*

Mark your Calendars!

October 8 Columbus Day Holiday... Parish Office closed

October 14 2-4 p.m. Annual CROP Walk for Hunger, Cass Park Pavilion

October 15 6:30 p.m. Vestry meeting

October 21 9:30 Monthly Parish Breakfast

November 1, 2012 Our new Rector officially joins us!

November 2, Annual L&F Fund raiser... Empty Bowls 5 p.m.

November 4, 9:30 a.m. Monthly Parish breakfast ***

**Special date change to give everyone a chance to fellowship with
The Rev. Rich Towers, our new Rector, on his first Sunday with us!**

November 16-17 Annual Diocesan Convention

November 17 St. John's Annual Harvest Supper

New Email, Web Address for the Diocese

The new domain name is <http://cnyepiscopal.org/>

The web address is <http://www.cnyepiscopal.org/>

The office and staff e-mail addresses have changed in like fashion:

General Email	office@cnyepiscopal.org
Bishop Adams	bishop@cnyepiscopal.org
Kathleen McDaniel, Exec. Assist.	kmcdaniel@cnyepiscopal.org
Kathy Dengler, Diocese Formation	kdengler@cnyepiscopal.org
Judy Fried, Deployment officer	jfried@cnyepiscopal.org
Cathy Hobart, Controller	chobart@cnyepiscopal.org
Debbie Nettle, receptionist	dnettle@cnyepiscopal.org
Renee Tembeckjian, Dir. Formation Program	rtembeckjian@cnyepiscopal.org
E-Messenger (newsletter)	messenger@cnyepiscopal.org

Diocese of Central NY
1020 7th North Street
Suite 200
Liverpool, NY 13088
315-474-6596
Fax: 315-478-1632

Choir Camp 2012

What an amazing time we had at choir camp this year! It's always a lot of fun, and we all always learn a lot from each other, but this year's group – children *and* adults – was just spectacularly congenial. Our older campers were kind and helpful to the younger ones, and the new, young campers were extremely well-behaved and worked very hard. As always, the White Eagle staff complimented our group's behavior. It was different without Father Snyder, but we included enough familiar activities to be comforting – including our favorite ghost stories – and enough new activities to be interesting. Our "road trip" this year was to Thunder Island Water Park and Miniature Golf.



The whole crew at Thunder Island.

Part of the choir camp experience is facing new challenges and being successful. Here you see Connor Fleming-Larratt after his thrilling first solo trip down a scary enclosed slide:



We enjoyed “movie night,” with popcorn, and karaoke. It was amazing to see the breadth of music our children love. The weather was beautiful, and we really enjoyed our time outside. Of course, we worked hard, too, and our production of *Joseph from the Pit to the Palace* was terrific. Here are Rachael Roman, Eleanor Pereboom, Lillian Baptist, and Joellen O’Meehan hard at work:



Due to my August bout of pneumonia, I could speak but not sing, and Andy McCullough graciously came up for 4 days to help out. Gwen Freeman and Brennan Lawson did a great job blocking the show, and Gwen also made amazing props and costumes. Lisa Tatusko came along as our chaplain, organizing and leading evening worship and helping out as needed; she also provided the popcorn for our movie night. My husband Bruce was, as always, great at recreation and photography, and he wrote and sent out the almost-daily 'news reports' from camp. All of these generous people deserve credit for the success of camp.

Finally, thanks to all of you for your support of this program. We appreciate all of your donations, and you, too, deserve credit for this incredible experience. *Nancy Radloff*



More Musical Notes From The Director Of Music:

Autumn is here, and the musicians of St. John's are off to a great start. The bells welcomed 2 new ringers, Eric Weinhold and Lucy Harbert to the loft, and they're doing great. I'm very excited by the musicianship of this ensemble. We still need 2 more ringers to be able to use our full complement of bells. No experience is necessary, and you don't need to read music to play bells. It's a great group, and great fun. Please consider joining us, either on a "full-time" basis, or as a sub when a "full-time" member must be absent.

Aidan Tatusko and Devin Richardson are new to the children's choir, and it's great to have them. This is a very good group of young singers and, if your child loves music or enjoys singing, please encourage them to join this elementary-school-aged group. If transportation is a problem, let me know and I'll see if we can arrange pickup or a carpool. This group is having a lot of fun singing together, and we'd love to have even more young singers.

Ezra Baptist has "graduated" from the children's choir to the middle-and-high-school youth choir. It's an adjustment, but Ezra is doing a great job of singing in four-part harmony instead of two or three. This group, too, has plenty of room for new members. They are extremely good, particularly for their age, and this is a great opportunity for your child to improve his or her musical and singing skills.

Brennan Lawson continues to sing with the youth choir but, as a senior in high school, is also singing with the adult choir. Like all of the other musical groups in your program, this choir is full of excellent musicians and off to a great start. But this group, too, needs new singers. If you like to sing, please join us. We'll begin work on our Advent and Christmas music soon, which makes this a great time to come.

Another good reason to become part of our music program is the imminent arrival of our new rector, Father Richard Towers. I'm sure you remember the wonderful musical farewell we gave Father Snyder last spring, and now it's time to prepare an equally wonderful musical welcome for Father Towers. Please contact me if you're interested in participating, or just show up for rehearsal.

Thanks.
Nancy Radloff

Outreach Updates:

Our closing prayer each Sunday invites us "to do the work God has given us to do; to love and serve God as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord." This call for outreach can be manifested in many ways. There are many needs at all levels; local, regional, national and the world. One tenet is to give locally of your time and talent and give worldly of your treasure. Local options are Loaves & Fishes, Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard, Family Reading Partnership, and any of the many not-for-profit agencies operating in Tompkins County. Regional and national options include Love Knows No Bounds, American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and other similar organizations. World-wide options are Feed My Starving Children, United Thank Offering, Episcopal Relief & Development, and other similarly focused organizations. Direct your prayers, time and money to reach out and support the needs that resonate with your personal faith always giving with joy and thanksgiving. *Scott Russell*

Liturgical Thoughts for Consideration

While reaffirming our faith in the baptismal covenant or praying our way through the Apostles Creed on our way to the end we say ***the Communion of Saints***. If you are like me most of the time this is just another phrase of our affirmation said just before the end and hurried through to get there, but, occasionally I hear it and it strikes me, momentarily lit up as a sign of the mutual aid society of those in heaven and those on earth. But mostly it flows past as part of the list we as Christians proclaim.

But what if the Communion of Saints is not just the sum of the church's members? What if the Communion of Saints is actually more like a verb, a dynamic unification that happens to us when we are swept up by the love of God? In her Revelations of Divine Love Julian of Norwich implies this very thing. She says that God became one of us in Jesus in order to reach us, so that once again we could be his joy, honor and crown. This is a different emphasis than the traditional one of God becoming man in Jesus in order to save us. The thirst that people have for God is a response to God's thirst for us. Yet as desirous as God is for us, God will not force, demand or control us, instead God encourages us to become an active part of the Communion of Saints. Next time I pray the Apostle Creed I need to remember that the Communion of Saints is active and participatory. How about you? *Jim Johnson*

New Window Update:

If you walk down the center aisle of the Sanctuary, towards the front entrance of the church and look over the center window, you will see gleaming blues, greens and gold. The window described by Father Snyder and created by Tony Serviente is in! Tony and Steve Peck (Jane's son) put the window in on the 7th of September. Below the window, inside the Sanctuary is the dedication to Father Snyder. At this time we are not sure when we will be doing a formal dedication and blessing of the window, but as soon as we do know, it will be in The Eagle, the bulletin and on the website.

As the donations for the window were very generous, we will be using some of the remainder to have all the windows examined and a list generated of what needs to be fixed and how fast. Congregants may have noticed that there is a crack in St. Peter's left foot, over the altar and that is something that we want to have looked at immediately. Tony Serviente will be looking at all the windows in October. *Pam Talbott*



ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2012 Please use this form if you wish to have someone memorialized by name or to be remembered with flowers on All Saint's Sunday, November 6th. **Checks should be made out to St. John's Church, MEMO: altar flowers. Please give the first and last names of those to be remembered.** Drop this slip in the offering plate or mail to the parish office at 210 N. Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. **ALL NAMES FOR THE MEMORIAL LIST MUST BE IN TO THE OFFICE BY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN ON ALL SAINTS SUNDAY.**

IN MEMORY OF _____

GIVEN BY: _____

OCTOBER 2012 PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1 Noon L&F Meal</p> <p>7:30 AA parish hall</p>	<p>2 11:00 a.m. Bible study</p> <p>5:30 L&F Meal</p>	<p>3 Noon L&F Meal</p> <p>6:45 P.M. Bells Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 AA parish hall</p>	<p>4</p> <p>NO REHEARSALS</p>	<p>5 Noon L&F meal</p> <p>5-7 Baptist wedding rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>4 p.m. Baptist's wedding</p>
<p>7</p> <p>8 a.m.. HE</p> <p>9:15 A.m. Special Adults class</p> <p>10:25 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. HE</p> <p>Rev. Tim Hall</p>	<p>8 Noon L&F Meal</p> <p>Sarah on vacation</p> <p>COLUMBUS day</p> <p>Office closed</p> <p>7:30 AA parish hall</p>	<p>9 11:00 a.m. Bible study</p> <p>Sarah on vacation</p> <p>Mary Arlin covering office this week!</p> <p>5:30 L&F Meal</p>	<p>10 Noon L&F Meal</p> <p>Sarah on vacation</p> <p>7:30 AA parish hall</p>	<p>11 Sarah on vacation</p> <p>4:30-5:30 Children's</p> <p>5:30-6:30 Youth choir</p> <p>7:15-8:45 adult choir</p> <p>5:30 p.m. L&F meal</p>	<p>12 Noon L&F meal</p> <p>Sarah on vacation</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 8 a.m.. HE</p> <p>9:15 A.m. Special Adults class</p> <p>10:25 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. HE</p> <p>Rev. Clark West</p> <p>2-4 p.m. CROP Walk</p> <p>Cass Park Pavillion</p>	<p>15 Noon L&F Meal</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Vestry/Chapman room</p> <p>7:30 AA parish hall</p>	<p>16 11:00 a.m. Bible study</p> <p>5:30 L&F Meal</p>	<p>17 Noon L&F Meal</p> <p>6:45 Bells rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 p.m. AA in parish hall</p>	<p>18 4:30-5:30 Children's</p> <p>5:30-6:30 Youth choir</p> <p>7:15-8:45 adult choir</p> <p>5:30 p.m. L&F meal</p>	<p>19 Noon L&F meal</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 8 a.m.. HE</p> <p>9:30 A.M. Parish Breakfast</p> <p>10:25 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. HE</p> <p>Rev. Laura Daily</p>	<p>22 Noon L&F Meal</p> <p>7:30 AA parish hall</p>	<p>23 11:00 a.m. Bible study</p> <p>6:30 p.m. L&F Board/Chapman room</p> <p>5:30 L&F Meal</p>	<p>24 Noon L&F Meal</p> <p>6:45 Bells rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 AA parish hall</p>	<p>25 4:30-5:30 Children's</p> <p>5:30-6:30 Youth choir</p> <p>7:15-8:45 adult choir</p> <p>5:30 p.m. L&F meal</p>	<p>26 Noon L&F meal</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8 a.m.. HE</p> <p>9:15 A.m. Special Adults class</p> <p>10:25 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. HE</p> <p>Rev. Tom Margrave</p>	<p>29 Noon L&F Meal</p> <p>7:30 AA parish hall</p>	<p>30 11:00 a.m. Bible study</p> <p>5:30 L&F Meal</p>	<p>31 Noon L&F Meal</p> <p>6:45 Bells rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 AA parish hall</p>			