



July/August 2012

Dear St. John's Parishioners:

I trust that you are enjoying this beautiful summer weather.

The St. John's staff and Vestry have been quite busy over the past couple of months. Running a church the size and complexity of St. John's is no mean task and has required a great deal of attention and involvement from many of us. Sue has been keeping a close eye on the upkeep of the building, focusing on areas needing repair. Nancy has been putting the finishing touches on the Music Camp program. And finally, Sarah has handled an ever-increasing load of inquiries, notices, special arrangements, and requests for parochial visits.

They have all been keeping Mary and me fully informed of events, and have made sure that we have the data we need to make necessary decisions. Mary has also increased her physical presence at St. John's, and will be in the office during Sarah's upcoming vacation.

I mention all of this because we need your support if we are to continue doing the business of the church. Over the next few weeks we will be planning for the fall. Mary and I will be asking the vestry committees to share their ideas with the rest of the parish. When you receive a call asking for your involvement on a special committee or activity, please give it prayerful consideration. If you have concerns about anything, let us know (nicely).

We will soon be launching a new web site for St. John's, thanks to the coordination work of Scott LaGreca and his web communications committee. It is our hope that you will be able to more easily request information; search for activities and to express your desire to be engaged in various ministries of the parish via the site. You will also be able to ask questions of the Wardens! Please watch for an announcement in the weekly bulletin and on our present site.

Finally, the Transition Committee will be fully engaged in the search for our new rector. We have begun receiving names from the Diocese and are quite pleased that Bishop Adams has expressed his continued support of our process. I am particularly pleased that Judy Lutes and Dean Hawthorne have agreed to join the committee.

The next edition of the Eagle will be September, and we fully expect that edition to be full of information and announcements. Please let us know if you have something special you would like to see covered.

It is my sincere hope that we will continue to grow in Christ and enjoy each other as we travel on this most interesting journey!

Lloyd
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."

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Submitted by Gary Anderson

The Christian Education Committee met and discussed options for the next year. We have several concerns.

One is the general state of our Sunday School program and youth ministry. We have been blessed to have Virginia Mansfield-Richardson and Cora Yao who have volunteered to teach Sunday School for our younger church members in the earlier grades. For some time though we have not had Sunday School instruction for middle school age children. At present, we do not have a full-time Youth Group leader and our youth ministry has been flagging.

These things come in cycles with ups and downs, but there was a time when our youth ministry was ongoing and active. I remember a few years ago seeing a number of families on most Sundays sitting with their older children in the pews ahead of mine. Within the last few years this seems to have changed.

It is also almost trite anymore to say that young people lead lives that are overbooked. They have large amounts of homework and are encouraged to do numerous activities to distinguish themselves and stand out for college acceptance. If they are in any athletic programs they have numerous practices. Then, they do have social lives. Church, at a time when young people are seeking answers or attempting to deal with some really big issues, seems to fade farther and farther away in their concerns. My observation is that we are dropping the ball here.

We do have acolyte and music programs that engage some children of this age. In the next year, we will attempt to have a middle school age Sunday School program. Since Sunday is the time when families and their children are most likely to be able to come to St. John's. The Educational Committee has discussed whether we should have Sunday School (or Youth Group) meetings during the coffee hour period after the 10:30 service.

Karen Comisi has volunteered to do some Youth Group activities until we have a new rector. Several weeks ago, the Youth Group went miniature golfing in Cortland. Karen is putting together a go-cart outing for the near future.

Russell Bourne and I are working on a lecture program to continue the Wednesday series that we had last year about The American Church in Times of Crisis. That series covered the period up to the Civil War. Russell and I are looking for people who would be willing to make presentations on topics. We are also considering selecting a book that we could read and discuss as a parish.

All of this requires people: People willing to step up to conduct activities: People willing to give of their time and talents. People willing to teach Sunday School and work with our young people. If we want to grow this church and do our duty of spreading the Gospel, we are going to have to do work in these areas. In order to attract and keep the support of young families, we are going to have to have a more active Christian education and youth ministry program. Similarly, we need to have activities to enrich the knowledge and engage our adult congregants. Nothing is set in stone at this time. If anyone has any ideas about this or wants to help, please contact me.

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

Summer has arrived and many of our musicians are taking a well-deserved break, resting in preparation for another busy year next year. Some of us will remain, however, and we invite you to join us in the "Come and Sing" choir. If you like to sing, or you've always wondered what it's like to experience worship from the choir stalls in the front, join us in those stalls at 9:30 on any Sunday morning, July 1 – September 2.

I'll have music for you, and everyone will welcome you warmly. Regular rehearsals will resume in September. Please watch the bulletin for dates and times.

Choir camp is now less than 2 months away, and I'm hard at work planning and preparing our time away. We still need the following items:

- 1 shower curtain – not clear, please
- a CLEAN metal trash can and lid
- empty 2-liter plastic soda bottles
- old-time washboard
- ¼" foam boards, poster-sized
- 1 case of water

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 accept monetary donations, too.

Thank you for your continued support of the music program. Have a wonderful summer.

Nancy

NEWS OF OUR GRADUATES:

Congratulations to our High School Graduates:
Emily Hallock, Nora Clark, Alexandra Henry, and Nicole D'Aprix!

AND Congratulations to Parishioner Aaron Wagner for achieving Tenure at Cornell University!

Nancy Radloff has been accepted into the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM), which was founded by Gerre Hancock, Raymond Glover, and James Litton in 1968 as the American Cathedral Organists and Choirmasters Association. In 1973, as the liturgy of The Episcopal Church underwent significant changes, membership was expanded to include parish musicians and clergy, and the name was changed from the American Cathedral Organists and Choirmasters Association to the Association of Anglican Musicians. The AAM seeks to keep the church's strong tradition of music healthy and vibrant, and to maintain direct lines of communication with diocesan commissions on liturgy and music.

Fellowship and Pastoral Care Committee

ST JOHN'S NEEDS YOU!!

The list of volunteers for fellowship, outreach and pastoral care needs of our parishioners is [slim](#).

More volunteers are needed to:

- * call and visit shut-ins;
- * become Eucharistic Ministers and deliver communion to shut-ins and hospital patients;
- * bring parishioners to church services and/or activities.

Contact Bettie Lee Yerka, 257-0002 or bly3@cornell.edu if you will help with these concerns; also for more information.

* serve as Greeters at morning services... The 8 a.m. greeters are scheduled to serve for a month at a time. The 10:30 greeters serve weekly, and if we had enough

volunteers no one would need to serve more than once every 4-8 weeks. Please contact Howard McCullough who is coordinating this effort. hmccullo@twcny.rr.com

* sign up for the July/August 10:30 coffee hours (on bulletin board outside Parish Hall/call Sarah in Parish Office). You get to share with and enjoy each other!

Families, singles, pairs...please pray about these needs of St. John's family for caring support and friendship, and volunteer to help. To those of you who already do so, Many Thanks!!

Jesus in You

Submitted by Jim Johnson

In perusing prayer books from the greater Anglican Communion I have been paying attention to the post communion prayers and dismissals. The dismissal that speaks to me most is from the Prayer Book of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, it appears in this form "**REMEMBER ALL DAY LONG THAT JESUS IS IN YOU.**"

My curiosity led me to check if there were any other such statements in other parts of the Anglican tradition. The only thing similar I found was in a 1969 Great Thanksgiving from the Anglican Church of Canada. "*Who in the same night that he was betrayed, Took bread; And when he had given thanks, He broke it. And gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take eat, this is my body given for you, Do this and know that I am with you'*"

So I went searching into some pre reformation Eucharistic services and found many interesting things, but no other references to Christ being in you. I did find many additions and different practices but not what I was looking for. Still, I think that this statement of Christ being in us is a powerful way of remembrance. It makes the remembrance into an active participation, not just an intellectual remembering.

Perhaps it would be good for us to remember Christ's gift to us in this active way.

Weekly prayer: "Almighty God, giver of every good gift; look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

OUTREACH

Submitted by Scott Russell

As our faith teachings from many sources continuously remind us, actions speak volumes over words. Christian outreach offers us all many opportunities to take active steps to do unto others. Here are some ongoing programs that offer opportunities for either contributing money or excess possessions or volunteering time.

Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard: The basket at the entrance to the Sanctuary is for contributed foodstuffs and the little red can just above the basket is for money. One can also volunteer to assist with the distribution of the food at the Salvation Army location one Friday per month.

Loaves & Fishes: Volunteer to assist in the food preparation, service, clean up or hospitality for the clients of the program. Meals are served to all who come to the parish hall Monday through Friday, either for lunch or dinner. Monetary donations may also be directed to the L & F staff. Watch for other programs, usually published in the Ithaca Journal and other local news vehicles.

The United Thank Offering: The little blue boxes are intended for your periodic deposit of coins and bills that are then collected by the parish twice per year. The funds go to programs administered through the Episcopal Diocese and Church.

Family Reading Partnership: This local charitable organization promotes family reading throughout the Tompkins County area directed at preschool and early school age children's families. Periodically there is a collection box for "gently" used children's books in the parish hall.

Crop Walk: A broad program supported locally for relieving world hunger. Usually conducted in the fall, this program is supported by funds given through those

who volunteer to walk on the specific day. A percentage of the funds collected go to local hunger needs.

Other programs that have been supported by St. John's on an event based schedule are: Feed My Hungry Children (funds for food relief in underserved areas of the world), Love Knows No Bounds (funds and work group volunteers for disaster relief in New Orleans and Owego), Episcopal Relief and Development organization (funds for world-wide distribution for needs in developing countries). Questions may be directed to Scott Russell through the Parish Office.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study @ St. John's, Submitted by Susie Backstrom

Nearly every Tuesday morning, an informal group meets in the 2nd floor Youth Group Room to read and discuss the Gospel and/or Epistle readings for the coming Sunday. The group begins at 11 a.m. and finishes up about 45-60 minutes later. Everyone is welcome to attend as often or as little as one wishes, and there is no requirement to have read the week's passages before arriving. Our parish administrator, Sarah Richtmyer, thoughtfully prints out and leaves for the group several copies of the Gospel and Epistle readings each week.

Although the initial discussion begins with the Gospel or Epistle readings, the group dynamics are casual enough to welcome digressions into other aspects of biblical or religious subjects that the group may want to explore that week. Our own Father Coffin serves as the group moderator when he is available...other times the group is "self-ministering"!

Join us! The back door leading from the church parking lot to the Parish Hall is unlocked each Tuesday morning at about 10:45. Enter through that door, turn left at the corridor leading to the sanctuary, then make another left at the stairs and climb the stairs. Everyone is welcome!

July Parish Calendar and events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 am. HE 10:30 HE Pentecost 5 Fr. Philip Kasey	2	3	4 Independence Day office closed	5 Sue vacation 5:30 p.m. L&F meal	6 Sue Vacation Noon L&F meal	7
8 8 am. Morning prayer Pentecost 6 10:30 morning prayer Jim Johnson	9 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 AA parish hall	10 11 a.m. . Bible study 5:30 L&F Meal	11 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 AA parish hall	12 Sue vacation 5:30 p.m. L&F meal	13 Sue vacation Noon L&F meal	14 Kate Ciccione /Trevor McKee Wedding 3:30 p.m.

15 8 am. HE 9:30 a.m. Nursery Pentecost 7 10:30 HE Rev. Clark West	16 Noon L&F Meal Sarah vacation Mary Arlin covering 6:30 p.m. Vestry/ Chapman Room 7:30 AA parish hall	17 Sarah vacation Mary Arlin Covering 11:00 a.m. Bible study 5:30 L&F Meal 6:30 L&F Board/ Chapman Room	18 Noon L&F Meal Sarah vacation Mary Arlin covering 7:30 p.m. AA in parish hall	19 Sue vacation / Sarah vacation Mary Arlin covering 5:30 p.m. L&F meal	20 Sue vacatio n Noon L&F meal	21
22 8 am. HE 9:30 a.m. Nursery Pent.8 10:30 HE Rev. Clark West	23 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 AA parish hall	24 11:00 a.m. Bible study 5:30 L&F Meal	25 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 AA parish hall	26 Sue vacation 5:30 p.m. L&F meal	27 Sue vacatio n Noon L&F meal	28 Alan Lamb/ Erin Stranford wedding
29 8 a.m.. HE 9:30 a.m. Nursery Pent.9 10:30 a.m. HE Rev. Tim Hall	30 Noon L&F Meal 7:30 AA parish hall	31 11:00 a.m. Bible study 5:30 L&F Meal				