



ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER



St. John's Episcopal Church, 4 Church Street,
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The Rev. Margaret E. Shaw

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APRIL/MAY 2010

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's

As I write this letter I'm in the midst of preparing to be away for two weeks.

I want to thank, ahead of time, all of you who take your commitments to St. John's seriously, allowing me to leave with a light heart and few concerns.

Father Rick Dennis will be celebrating the Eucharist while I am away. The Sunday I return, Katharine Preston will be preaching. I am very grateful that we have such excellent people to share in the worship of St. John's. It is especially nice to be away without having to prepare a sermon for the Sunday after my return.

Upon my return I will celebrate my first anniversary as your rector. The annual meeting in July will be the appropriate time to review our shared ministry as we look to the coming year, but I do want to tell you right now how happy I have been this year and how excited I am about the future. You are a marvelous group of people. Not only are you warm, welcoming and fun, but also, your faith runs deep, which is most gratifying. You are a stimulating group that keeps me on my toes. I am extremely blessed.

My first Sunday back, May 23rd, is the Day of Pentecost. From *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church* (Armentrout and Slocum. New York, Church Publishing. 2000) we learn:

The term means "the fiftieth day." It is used in both

The Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament it refers to a feast of seven weeks known as the Feast of Weeks. It was apparently an agricultural event that focused on the harvesting of first fruits. [The historian] Josephus referred to Pentecost as the fiftieth day after the first day of Passover. The term is used in the New Testament to refer to the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1), shortly after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Christians came to understand the meaning of Pentecost in terms of the gift of the Spirit. The Pentecost event was the fulfillment of a promise which Jesus gave concerning the return of the Holy Spirit. In the Christian tradition, Pentecost is now the seventh Sunday after Easter. It emphasizes that the church is understood as the body of Christ which is drawn together and given life by the Holy Spirit. Some understand Pentecost to be the origin and sending out the church into the world. The Day of Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts of the Episcopal Church (BCP, p.15). It is identified by the BCP as one of the feasts that is "especially appropriate" for baptism (p. 312). the liturgical color for the feast is red. Pentecost has also been known as Whitsun or Whitsunday, a corruption of "White Sunday." This term reflects the custom by which those who were baptized at the Vigil of Pentecost would wear their white baptismal garments to church on the Day of Pentecost (pp. 395-6).

The gift of the Holy Spirit is what has kept the church going and the faith alive all of these hundreds of years. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is what unites us with Christ, empowering, transforming, shaping, informing, encouraging,

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comforting, and bringing about amazing “coincidences”. There is no doubt in my mind that the Holy Spirit brought us together, and that we are a good match. We have reflected on this several times during our first year together with amazement and gratitude. Does this mean that we can sit back and rest on this fact?

Hardly. What it means is that if we stay in alignment with the Spirit and allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, our endeavors will be blessed. Certainly we will continue to be called to step out on faith, but when we follow the lead of the Holy Spirit we know that amazing and fruitful adventures lie ahead. What could be more exciting than this!

In Christ’s love,

Margie +

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Have news? Would you like to see or add something to the newsletter? Comments?

Call Kathy @ the church office

518-963-7775 M-F 2:20PM-5:00PM

FOOD SHELF

You may remember that it was due in part to the generosity of St. John’s that the Elizabethtown Community Food Shelf was able to purchase a share in *Full and By Farm*, a local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm last year.

The E-town Food Shelf will be purchasing a share this season as well. Please consider that when you make your donation on the third Tuesday of the month! A season’s (32 weeks) share will cost \$500.

I am also delighted to report that this model - of connecting Food Shelves with CSAs located nearby to them - has spread to four other places in Essex County, with a couple of others in the works.

There are issues concerning justice, environmental and health all wrapped up in this effort – the Holy Spirit works efficiently! Good fresh food should not be exclusively for the rich. Low-income people need access to food grown sustainably nearby to where they live as well. It goes without saying there are significant health benefits. We see this “seeding” of fresh vegetables into the lives of our food shelf clients as a way of stimulating more interest in Farmer’s Markets (which can now accept Food Stamps) and eventually growing their own.

I will need help during the coming season to deliver the food from the farm to the food shelf. If you would be willing to make an occasional weekly run during the season, please catch me at coffee hour, drop me an e-mail (katharine.preston@gmail.com) or call (963-8966)

Katharine M. Preston

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

By Warden Lynne Goepper
March and April 2010

1. **Administration:** Kathy Henderson is getting data together so she might have a new church directory by summer and send newsletters to parishioners and friends. PLEASE be sure you have submitted your correct address (es) and e-mail.
2. **House and Grounds:** Thanks to Paul Gray our walks were shoveled the few times we received snow! Now he will continue his attention on mowing, etc. There will be a spring clean-up on Sunday the 9th of May...come to church prepared to wash windows and clean-up the grounds around the church. Coffee hour will follow. The vestry will soon tour both our buildings (exterior) to help determine work/repairs. We hope to set up a long term maintenance program for upkeep and repairs.

Another concern is exploring the expansion of the columbarium, maintain the memorial gardens and upkeep of the memorial area.

Repairs have been completed at the rectory by Brian

Crowningshield, a very fine craftsman! He has dealt with the mold problem within the walls of the w/c's on both floors. And some new fixtures have been added. The next issue is the sump pump and drainage.

3. **Missions:** While Antonia is away, the committee has not had an official "chair". Fortunately over the last two years, Patty Paine has overseen the summer fund raising. Now Lynne Goepper has volunteered to "chair". There was \$500 in the fund from plate donations and gifts. \$361 was given for Haitian relief. The vestry will consider where the remaining funds should go...Mary Sherwood's mission, the water pump program for the Dominican Republic and/or supporting the educational materials and scholarships for ghetto schools in the D.R. (St. Paul ladies. They will soon be making a presentation to us).
4. **Finance:** The 2010 proposed budget has been once again (April) been reviewed, discussed and accepted. However, there is a \$6,000 gap between expenses and income. (A few pledges are yet to be received. Additionally all who care for maintaining St. John's are invited to pledge and/or make a financial offering to help with our expenses). We are trying to avoid the bad habit of "touching" our cash reserves to "make ends meet".
There will be further discussions at our annual meeting July 25th.
5. **Other Matters:** Our annual party at the Normandy Beach Club in Westport is being planned for the middle of June. Firm date will be announced as soon as the summer staff arrives for the season. Clean-up led by Peter Schultz is set for May 9th after service. (Although this is "work", it is a time for us to make a difference as well as allowing us to share informal time with one another!
The highway department beat us to the task of trash pick-up on Rt 22, so we did not participate in this responsibility.....and it also rained the appointed day.
Over the winter the Shaw's discovered that the sump pump was being overworked. The drainage pipe held the water which in turn froze.....Peter will oversee the solution to this problem. (Welcome home, Peter!)
Scoop: Last summer St. John's was asked to finish the season for ice cream sales. Around \$3,000 was earned for the church via "muscle work". This year Peter was told that the Morgans plan to run the shop all season. Many thanks to all who answered the call to help.
Our priest, Margie Shaw will be away in Indiana for the Sundays of May 9 and 16. The Rev. Rick Dennis has graciously accepted our request for him to fill-in those dates.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PO BOX 262
4 CHURCH STREET
ESSEX, NY 12936

**BULK RATE
PERMIT NO. 11
ESSEX, NY 12936**



**ST. John's Episcopal Church
Service Schedule:**

Sunday morning

Holy Eucharist, Rite II 9:15 AM

Wednesdays

Morning Prayer, Rite II 9:00 AM
Bible Study 10:00 AM



Our Mission at St. John's Church

*We share in God's work of calling,
forming, sending, and supporting
Christians as agents of love, justice, and
peace as shown through the life of Jesus
Christ.*