

# The St. John's Journal

January 2010



Dear friends in Christ,

Wow! We have been together for four months and so many wonderful things have happened! It has truly been a blessing to get to know you and to see how God is using the chemistry between us to grow St. John's and to continue moving among us on behalf of the world. For this month's article I would like to report on some of the fall activities and then move to letting you know about some upcoming events.

We had an absolutely fabulous Stewardship Emphasis!!! God was at work in our hearts enabling us to trust his provision for our future, empowering us to give a portion of our wealth so that St. John's might be reborn. As a result of the Spirit's work among us pledged income rose 34%!! Yes, the people of God at St. John's increased their giving by \$27,000 for the upcoming year! The Stewardship and Finance Committees will be meeting in the near future to talk about how we can celebrate this wonderful news. I have discovered that 2010 is St. John's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. What a great way to begin the next 125 years!

I feel like we are living out the message of the angel on the night of Jesus' birth, "Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will be to all the people..." Here is some more great news: One of our members made a significant contribution so that I will be able to go up to 80% time, or 40 hours a week...up from 50% time and 25 hours a week. (This gift is in addition to the 34% increase in pledged income!) What a fabulous Christmas present to all of us!! For me this means that I will not have to pursue additional income in the form of other employment. I will be able to focus on St. John's and growing our ministry together. Yeah!!

As a result I will be discussing with the Vestry what my additional 15 hours will be spent on. For certain a portion of these hours will be to start a Bible Study. I will offer a study in the morning for members who prefer not to go out at night and one in the evening (a repeat of the morning) for members who work during the day. I am thinking of Thursday evening right now in terms of my schedule and am open to when to schedule the morning study. I need to hear from you about what time is good for you. I am so excited to begin this important aspect of the Christian life with you...getting into God's word together and learning about the treasures that it provides us!!

All in all 2010 is beginning with an abundance of good news...God is at work taking what has been struggling to grow and is watering it with his grace and causing new, fabulous life to happen. Praise God from whom all blessing flow! Below are some additional events happening in the life of St. John's...more opportunities to be God's people together and to learn how to serve the world around us.

Pastor Martha

## Thanksgivings at Christmastime

St. Paul is a wonderful example of exhorting and teaching us to give thanks at all times. In our second lessons these past few weeks we have the same theme, "...I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers." (Second Lesson for January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Christmas II, from Ephesians 1)

As I reflect on the past Christmas holiday many, many reasons to give thanks come to mind. Here are a few of them:

- ♪ The extra hours of rehearsal engaged in by our choir members, organist, and the children of our Sunday School. They sang the good news to us!
- ☼ The members of our Youth Group (and the adults who assisted them) who gave of themselves to form a Living Nativity for us and for the community at large. What a great gift to see in their sacrifice the sacrifice that Christ, the Sun and Light of the world, made on our behalf.
- ♥ The extra effort required by our staff, Kristen (administrative assistant) and Roger (sexton), during the season in preparation for the Feast...extra bulletins, end of year concerns/reports around finances, Christmas lights, sanctuary banners and decorations, and attending to a myriad of details of which we are all mostly unaware.
- ⚭ The Altar Guild's attention to our lovely sanctuary as they arrange flowers, set up for additional liturgies, humor my strange requests...all to the glory of God!
- ☉ Kelsey Wiegert and Laura Hedenberg as they assisted and directed the munchkins of the Sunday School to don Christmas costumes and become a part of the gospel lesson for Christmas Eve. We saw in the children's faces the joy that those present on the first Christmas must have known when Jesus was born!
- ♦ Joe Reidy and his Outreach Committee for organizing what it means for us as a community in Christ to live out the Christmas message...feeding and clothing those in need right here in Bristol. Thanks for his efforts through email, collecting financial gifts at coffee hour, assembling food, clothes and gifts, and delivering them with your help. The Christ Child lies hidden in the lives of those among us who are in need. Thanks to all who responded to the Christ Child through gifts to the community!

Last but not least all those members who keep the church running smoothly in the midst of a very busy time: our Wardens, Jeanne and Jeff, our Treasurer, Tim, women who fold the bulletins each week, acolytes, crucifers, lectors, chalice bearers, ushers, money counters, coffee makers, newsletter editing and the list can go on and on.

For all these gifts (and the ones I have forgotten to add), we "do not cease to give thanks"!

Pastor Martha

## Lectionary

### January 10<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### January 17<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

### January 24<sup>th</sup>

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6,  
8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

### January 31<sup>th</sup>

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

## THE JACK AND DREW SHOW JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> 6:30 P.M. SOUP SUPPER

As a continuation of our stewardship discussion and the role of money in our lives, Bishop Smith and Canon Spaeth will be coming to St. John's for their infamous, 'Jack and Drew Show'. They have been at St. John's before and we welcome them back for this fun way of thinking about what God is calling us to with regard to our financial resources. We will begin with a Soup Supper at 6:30 p.m. and you are asked to bring either some bread or a salad to share. There is a sign-up sheet on the Stewardship bulletin board outside the rest rooms in the narthex. This is also our opportunity to wish our Bishop well as he retires at the end of the month. We praise God for his generosity to this community over the past years and his faithful love and support to the people of God in this place!

## ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> ONE LITURGY AT 9:00 A.M.

As is the custom at St. John's we will have **one liturgy on the morning of our Annual Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** This will be followed by a brunch and the Annual Meeting at which we will celebrate, report on and give thanks for all the ministry that has gone on in 2009. Join other members of the community as we review the past year and commend the next exciting year to the God who desires abundant life for us...all to serve the world in his name.

Betty Plisko and Joyce Valeri will be coordinating the brunch and you are asked to sign the poster if you are able to bring something to share. See you there!!

**PLEASE GET REPORTS IN TO THE  
CHURCH OFFICE BY JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>!**



## PIGS AND PESOS: A Stewardship Event for Kids, Youth and Families Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor Martha and Carol Reeves will be hosting a pizza party in the Parish Hall focusing on money, piggy banks and how to manage money as good stewards of God's gifts. Each child and teen will receive their own 'Money Savvy Pig', a large clear plastic piggy bank (you have your choice of colors) that is divided into four sections; Save, Spend, Donate and Invest. We will be talking with kids and families about how to manage money well using these four concepts and tying this in with Jesus' words about money. (One third of what Jesus spoke about had to do with money!) This will be a fun way to give our kids a hand with money management in a culture that encourages only spending. Did you know that kids spend 40 billion dollars a year in this country?

***Please call the church office with your reservation by Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. We need to order the pizza and make sure that we have enough 'pigs' for all the kids present. Kids 5-12 will be sent home with an Activity/coloring book which can reinforce the concepts talked about that evening. Parents can get some ideas about how to encourage living out these ideas throughout the year.***

## **KATERI MEDICAL CLINIC, KATERI, NIGERIA: A Chance to Make a Difference**

Three of our members from St. John's have been involved with Trinity, Tariffville's ministry to support a medical clinic in Kateri, Nigeria: Mary Beth Wade, Dave Desmarais, and Dr. Janice Lee. This ministry works on expanding simple, decent, affordable medical care for rural people of all faiths, who now have no access to basic medical care. This is an incredible ministry and changes the lives of those who have benefited from its services. This ministry is coordinated by the Anglican Diocese of Kaduna and their vision is to expand the outreach of the clinic to include on-going preventative care, AIDS education and to expand the beds of the clinic itself. We have an opportunity to support and work together as the people of God from different parts of the globe to accomplish this ministry. Please speak with the above-mentioned members about their mission trips to Nigeria.

**If you would like to support this ministry, please send your contribution to:  
Trinity Church, P.O. Box 127, Tariffville, CT 06081 and make your check out to Trinity Episcopal Church.**  
One hundred percent of your contribution goes toward this ministry...there are no administrative costs.

### **YOUTH GROUP**



The Youth Group will be selling Little Caesar's pizza kits as a fundraiser. Monies raised will go toward their expenses for this summer's mission trips. Please see any Youth Group member if you are interested in participating. Kits will be delivered on January 28, 2010 – just in time for your Super Bowl party!!!

### **JOY Fellowship**

Please join us on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm for our monthly meeting. We will be discussing outreach plans for the upcoming months as well as hearing from Joe Reidy about outreach at St John's.



### **BOOK LOVERS**

Do you love to read? Do you like to discuss the books you have read with others? We would like to start a book group here at St John's. The group will decide on the type of books, time we meet, when we meet and how often. We will have an organizational meeting on Sunday, January 17, 2010 at 9:15 in the library. Come with book suggestions and your calendar so we can set the date of the first meeting. If you have any questions contact Jeanne Ambrosio at 860-674-0334 or [jca323@aol.com](mailto:jca323@aol.com)

### **January Birthdays**

1-5 Josiah Butler  
1-6 Marion Crumb  
1-7 Marjorie Harrison  
1-8 Paul Marcy  
1-9 Paul Moderacki  
1-11 Janice Lee



1-17 Bruce Bush  
1-19 David Desmarais  
1-23 Melissa Haas  
1-25 Joey Lombardi  
1-25 Lilian Alvarez  
1-30 Samantha Rowe

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS					
		CHALICE	USHERS	LECTORS	COUNTER
1/10/2010	8:00 AM	CHRIS MACARTHUR	JEFF MACARTHUR/ PAUL COOMBS	LIZ BURDELSKI	LUCILLE ROZANSKI
	10:00 AM	DAVE DESMARAIS/ JAKE BUTLER	GIL PARADIS/ ALYSSA PARADIS	DEB BUTLER	
1/17/2010	8:00 AM	CHRIS KNOWLES	ROGER BARRETT/ PAUL MODERACKI	FRED MARKOWICH	JOYCE VALERI
	10:00 AM	JEANNE AMBROSIO/ KAREN LOMBARDI	NATHAN TUTTLE/ DONNA CARD	REBECCA TUTTLE	
1/24/2010	8:00 AM	CHRIS MACARTHUR	JOE REIDY/ JEFF MACARTHUR	CHRIS MACARTHUR	PEG MODERACKI
	10:00 AM	BETTY PLISKO/ JANICE LEE	RALPH HEDENBERG/ MICHAEL AMBROSIO	GARY MASON	
1/31/2010	9:00 AM	JEANNE AMBROSIO/ KAREN LOMBARDI	FRED MARKOWICH/ ROGER BARRETT	PAM LINDVALL	LUCILLE ROZANSKI

**ACOLYTE SCHEDULE**

Sunday, January 10

Crucifer: Jonathan Butler  
Light 1: Abby Paradis  
Light 2: Justin Paradis

Sunday, January 17

Crucifer: Patrick Getler  
Light 1: Maggie Getler  
Light 2: Savannah Pare'

Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

Crucifer: Cameron  
Flower  
Light 1: Andrew Green  
Light 2: Amanda  
Ambrosio

Sunday, January 31

Crucifer: Julia Flower  
Light 1: Cameron  
Flower  
Light 2: Josiah Butler



***St. John's JOY Fellowship is hosting a fundraiser....for YOU!  
January 24, 2010 at St John's, 2:00pm-4:00pm***

**How many single earrings, broken chains, bracelets and rings  
do you have that you'll never wear?**

**Come join us for a great cause. You'll get top dollar for recycling your old gold and the best part is...Party of Gold will donate an amount equal to 15% of the total gold purchased to St. John's Episcopal Church!**

**You can donate some, all or none of your profits.**

**Feel free to bring your friends & family – or just their gold**

**\*\*Please bring a photo ID to sell your gold\*\***

# January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist 9:45 Church School	4	5	6 Stewardship and Finance Committee meeting, 7pm at the Rectory	7	8	9
10 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist 9:45 Church School	11	12 Jack and Drew Show 6:30 pm	13	14	15 Annual Reports due	16
17 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist 9:45 Church School <b>Book Club Meeting 9:15 am</b>	18 Martin Luther King Day	19 Pigs and Pesos 5:30pm  JOY Fellowship 7:00pm	20	21 Vestry 7pm	22	23
24 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist 9:45 Church School  <b>Gold Party 2-4 (Parish Hall)</b>	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 Church School <b>Annual Meeting</b>						

The St. John's Journal is the monthly newsletter of  
Saint John's Episcopal Church  
The Diocese of Connecticut  
Bishop, The Right Rev. Andrew D. Smith  
Bishop Suffragan, The Right Rev. James E. Curry  
Bishop Suffragan, The Right Rev. Dr. Laura Ahrens  
Rev. Dr. Martha Klein-Larsen  
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