

The St. John's Journal

February 2010

CHILDREN AND THE WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

St. John's is gifted with a delightful group of children and teenagers! We also have a great group of adults who are involved with ministry to these generations. While our teens have the opportunity to meet twice a month on Sunday evening, our children primarily meet together in the context of Sunday School on Sunday mornings. Since coming to St. John's I have been in conversation with leaders and parents about how to include the children in worship on a more regular, intentional basis. Up until now this has primarily happened through their beautiful voices and singing the praises of our Lord for the whole community in Sunday worship. The children have sung at two baptisms, Christmas Eve, for the Bishop's Visitation and now for the upcoming Sunday of the Annual Meeting.

The leaders of the Sunday School have recently spoken to me about including some of the children's art work and incorporating it into the liturgy. Plans are underway at the writing of this article for the children to share their 'epiphanies' during the sermon time on January 31st when they will be with us for the whole liturgy. It will be a time when the children will be invited to tell us about pictures they have drawn, pictures that illustrate the clues to Jesus' identity that the children have gleaned through the season of Epiphany...mainly through their reading of the gospel lessons. Plans are also underway for the children to make Alleluia banners which we will 'bury' on the last Sunday of Epiphany (February 14th) in preparation for Lent. (As you may remember, for the season of Lent the word 'Alleluia' is 'put away or buried' until the Easter Vigil.) Then for the season of Lent the children will make and week by week add to a large Lenten banner that will be displayed in the front of the sanctuary.

At the beginning of February on Thursday, February 4th, anyone interested in talking about the possibility of setting up a section at the back of the church sanctuary for parents, toddlers and nursing infants is invited to come to the rectory at 6:30 p.m. Rebecca Tuttle who is the Director for the Parent/Child Program at Bristol Hospital and who is a grant writer has already begun looking into how we might fund this project should we and the Vestry decide to go forward with it. Jeff MacArthur has done some research on the internet and provided information on innovative furniture designed to accommodate young ones and yet still enable them and their parents to be part of the worshipping community without having to physically leave when the children need to move around and be who God made them to be at this age...active, curious children who want to know, to be included, welcomed, celebrated and who like to be embodied and playful!

Jesus held up the example of children for us and so we want to be intentional with regard to including them in our intergenerational context...particularly in worship as this is the central act for us Christians as we gather around Word and Sacraments. ***"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me..." Matthew 18:3-5 RSV.*** So, let's keep thinking and praying about how we might include, welcome and celebrate our young ones as they help us to 'enter the kingdom of heaven'!

Pastor Martha

Lectionary

February 7th

Isaiah 6:1-8, [9-13]
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 14th

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]

February 21th

First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

February 28th

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

BIBLE STUDY HAS BEGUN!

On Wednesday, January 27th, and Thursday, January 28th, Bible study at St. John's began. You are invited to join others for 'An Introduction to the Bible' on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. or on Thursday mornings at 11:15 a.m. for about an hour-long study. This weekly study will continue until Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Then we will resume our study in the month of March (same time...Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and then repeated on Thursdays at 11:15 a.m.) when the topic for the Bible study will be forgiveness. We have borrowed the title of Archbishop Desmond Tutu's book, "Without Forgiveness, No Future" for the theme of our study.

As we approach the season of Lent beginning February 17th, we have the opportunity to engage in the spiritual practices associated with the Christian life: prayer, meditation and study. The word 'Lent' is from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning 'springtime'. And so we understand Lent as 'springtime' of the soul...a time for preparation, planting and growth. You are invited to pray about making the spiritual practice of bible study an intentional part of your Lenten springtime of the soul!

St. John's, Bristol, January - March, 2010

Introduction to Bible Study

(Three Sessions)

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

1. January 27th
2. February 3
3. February 10th

Wed. classes repeated
at Thurs. classes

Thursdays, 11:15 a.m.

1. January 28th
2. February 4th
3. February 11th

Ash Wednesday Liturgy, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. (No Thursday Session)

March Lenten Study on Forgiveness, "No Future Without Forgiveness"

(Four Sessions)

(Pastor Martha on vacation February 20 - March 2)

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

1. March 3rd
2. March 10th
3. March 17th
4. March 24th

Wed. classes repeated
at Thurs. classes

Thursdays, 11:15 a.m.

1. March 4th
2. March 11th
3. March 17th
4. March 25th



from JOY Fellowship and Youth Group

Hello Everyone,

I am very happy to report that JOY Fellowship will be donating \$880.00 to the relief efforts in Haiti (via Old. St. Andrews Church). Fourteen ladies ventured out on this cold, rainy Sunday afternoon to help support this very worthy cause. The total gold purchased by Party of Gold was \$2,851.00. The company donated 15% to St. Johns ~ as well as others donating from their proceeds.

Thank you all for your generosity. Please continue to keep the people of Haiti & the rescue workers in your prayers.

God Bless,
Chris

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU
\$1000.00 was collected by the Youth Group to send to Haiti!!!
THANK YOU ST JOHNS!



**LEMMIE
GURTOWSKY'S
SENIOR RECITAL**

The community at St. John's is invited to attend our organist/choir director's senior recital on Tuesday, February 23rd, at the University of Hartford, Hartt School of Music. Check the bulletin for the exact time for this evening recital which will be held in Berkman Auditorium. This recital represents the culmination of Lemmie's studies as a piano performance major at Hartt and we wish him God's richest blessings as he completes his college degree!

**PASTOR MARTHA ON
VACATION**

Pastor Martha will be on vacation from February 20th -March 2nd and will return to the office on Wednesday, March 3rd. In case of pastoral emergencies please contact the Wardens, Jeff Mac Arthur or Jeanne Ambrosio.

BOOK LOVERS

St John's Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 PM at Panera Bread. We will be discussing Mitch Albom's "Have a Little Faith". Any questions contact Jeanne Ambrosio at 860-674-0334 or jca323@aol.com

**WELCOME
COMMITTEE
STARTING**

On Thursday, March 4th, anyone interested in helping Pastor Martha plan a Welcome Sunday for folks new to the St. John's community, please meet at the rectory for a chili supper at 6:30 p.m. Tentative plans to welcome these individuals to our community on Sunday, April 11th, will be discussed. Let the church office know by Tuesday, March 2nd, if you plan to attend. The incorporation and hospitality of new members is an essential component of church growth and vitality. You are invited to pray about whether the Lord is calling you to this important area of ministry!





Saturday, May 15, 2010
West Hartford, CT
Check-in starts at 8 a.m.
Starting gun at 9:30 a.m.

Register for the Bishop's 5K for Kids
You can register by mail or online...

Pre-registration: \$20 for adults (15 and up) and \$10 for children.
On race day: \$25 adults and \$15 for children.

To register, download the Registration Form [here](#), print it out, and mail your completed Registration Form with your check before May 11, 2010 to Bishop's 5K for Kids, 1335 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT 06107. Or, you can register online at <http://www.firstgiving.com/BFC5K>.

Coffee Hour hosts needed



One of the best things about being a part of St John's is fellowship. After each service on Sundays is the perfect opportunity for us to come together in a relaxed and open environment; to sit and talk and get to know each other better at coffee hour. We are in need of hosts for coffee hour. Hosts provide light snacks and either start the coffee (8am) or clean-up (10am). It really does not take a lot of time or effort but provides a great service to all parishioners. If you are interested in hosting (or co-hosting) a coffee hour, please sign up on the calendar hanging in the kitchen.

February Birthdays



2/1	Eric Petosa	2/7	Gary Mason	2/24	Charlotte Chapman
2/3	Leslie Whitham	2/10	Justin Paradis	2/25	Jason Bush
	Laura France	2/11	Eugene Torvinen	2/26	John Moderacki
2/4	Matthew Paulette	2/12	Molly Greaves	2/27	Cameron Flower
	Amanda Lacko	2/13	Nancy Dickens		Ben Smith
2/5	Colette Markowich	2/22	Don Getler		
2/6	Sarah Wiegert	2/23	Christopher Butler		

February WORSHIP ASSISTANTS					
		CHALICE	USHERS	LECTORS	COUNTER
2/7/10	8:00 AM	CHRIS KNOWLES	Joe Reidy/John Knowles	Chris Knowles	JOYCE VALERI
	10:00 AM	JAKE BUTLER	GIL PARADIS/ ALYSSA PARADIS	DEB BUTLER	
2/14/10	8:00 AM	CHRIS MACARTHUR	Jeff MacArthur/Paul Coombs	CHRIS MACARTHUR	PEG MODERACKI
	10:00 AM	JEANNE AMBROSIO/ KAREN LOMBARDI	Ann Flower/Donna Card	Tim Flower	
2/21/10	8:00 AM	CHRIS KNOWLES	Fred Markowich/John Knowles	LIZ BURDELESKI	LUCILLE ROZANSKI
	10:00 AM	BETTY PLISKO/ JANICE LEE	John Moderacki/Nathan Tuttle	Rebecca Tuttle	
2/28/10	8:00 AM	JEANNE AMBROSIO/ KAREN LOMBARDI	Paul Moderacki/ ROGER BARRETT	Fred Markowich	JOYCE VALERI
	10:00 AM	DAVE DESMARAIS	Ralph Hedenberg/Michael Ambrosio	Diane Desmarais	

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Groundhog Day	3 Bible Study 7pm	4 Holy Eucharist 10:00am Bible Study 11:15am	5	6
7 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist 9:45 Church School	8	9 JOY Fellowship 7:00pm	10 Pine's service 10:30 Bible Study 7pm	11 Holy Eucharist 10:00am Bible Study 11:15am Book Club 6:30 at Panera Bread	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist 9:45 Church School Valentine's Day	15 President's Day	16	17 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm	18 Holy Eucharist 10:00am Vestry 7pm	19	20
21 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist 9:45 Church School 1 st Sunday in Lent	22 Washington's Birthday	23 Lemmie's Recital at Hartt School	24	25 Morning Prayer 10:00am	26	27
28 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist 9:45 Church School						

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
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