

The St. John's Journal

June 2010

Dear friends in Christ,

Thursday morning Eucharists usually entail sermon time that is more of a conversation than me preaching to the gathered members...anywhere between 8-14 folks. We dialogue about a theme or issue that gets generated by the lessons. This past week we had a discussion about living out Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John 17...a prayer that expressed Jesus' desire that we might all be one.

I asked the group, "How might we take concrete steps to live out Jesus' desire that his followers be one here at St. John's?" One person responded that it is important for us to listen to each other. To which response another added, "Yes, but it is important how we listen." A conversation then ensued in which we debriefed the past weekend's congregational meetings...how well did we really listen to one another that morning? (If you recall, we had two congregational meetings the weekend of May 16th...one after each liturgy...to discuss the state of our finances.)

Our Thursday Eucharist conversation proceeded to focus on the weekend discussion after the 8:00 a.m. liturgy which included fund-raising and its relationship to regular weekly giving. It was soon discovered that our communication as a community needed to include an essential component so as not to generate misunderstanding. The missing component was that we be intentional about reflecting back to the other person what we heard...whether that person is the priest or another member. This 'reflecting back to the other' is a way to check in about whether the communication conveyed what was intended. 'Reflecting back to the other' also gives each party a chance to repeat what they wanted to say until both parties are satisfied that they were heard and understood.

We practiced this somewhat in our Lenten Bible study on Forgiveness. However, often we do not build into our meeting times the opportunity to practice 'reflecting back to one another' what the other person said. Sometimes we go away hurt, confused and disappointed. As the body of Christ we want to build a community that fosters openness, honesty and speaking the truth to one another in love.

So, I propose that we very intentionally build this component of 'reflecting back to one another' into all of our church meetings and gatherings...that includes sermon time. If there is something that I say on a Sunday morning (or any other context) that leaves you with questions, I invite you to reflect back to me what you think I said and we can go from there. I will be intentional about 'reflecting back to you' what I think that you are saying as well.

This invitation assumes a degree of safety around being able to say to a priest or other member of the parish what we heard. So, along with this commitment to be able to 'reflect back to one another' comes the commitment to listen with respect, love and to put the best construction on what the other person is saying. We want to be attentive to our tone of voice, our body language, speak in 'I' sentences and not speak on behalf of others. This is the loving work of community, the work of living out what it means to be the body of Christ. This work involves seeking ways to eliminate conflict before it escalates while at the same time honoring ourselves, our feelings, our ideas and our perspectives on how God is at work among us. This takes some courage and depending on one's past experience of church meetings, can require a lot of courage!

I invite you into this process with me as we together grow in what it means to live out Jesus' High Priestly Prayer that we might all be one!

Pastor Martha

Lectionary

June 6th

1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24) Psalm 146
or
1 Kings 17:17-24
Psalm 30
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 7:11-17 Luke 7:11-17

June 13th

1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21a
Psalm 5:1-8 or
2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15
Psalm 32
Galatians 2:15-21
Luke 7:36-8:3

June 20th

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a
Psalm 42 and 43
or
Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:18-27
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 27th

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
or
1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

		USHERS	CHALICE BEARER	LECTOR	COUNTER
6/6/2010	8AM	J.KNOWLES/J.REIDY	C.KNOWLES	C.KNOWLES	P.MODERACKI (6/7)
	10AM	A.FLOWER/D.CARD	R.HEDENBERG	M.CORNISH	
6/13/2010	8AM	P.COOMBS/D.OLIVIERO	C.REEVES	C.REEVES	J.VALERI (6/14)
	10AM	G.PARADIS/A.PARADIS	P.LINDVALL	P.LINDVALL	
6/20/2010	8AM	J.MACARTHUR/KRISSEY	C.MACARTHUR	C.MACARTHUR	L.ROZANSKI (6/21)
	10AM	R.HEDENBERG/N.TUTTLE	K.LOMBARDI	R.TUTTLE	
6/27/2010	8AM	F.MARKOWICH/P.MODERACKI	C.KASMER	L.BURDELSKI	P.MODERACKI (6/28)
	10AM	A.FLOWER/D.CARD	D.DESMARIS	G.MASON	

News

RE-COMMITAL OF TRINITY MEMORIAL GARDEN

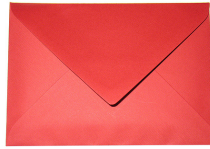
on
JUNE 13TH, 9:30 a.m.

On Sunday, June 13th, between liturgies you are invited to join Pastor Martha at the Old Anglican Cemetery on Stearns Street where she will re-commit the earth from Trinity Memorial Garden. In anticipation of the future sale of Trinity we want to transfer the Garden to the Anglican Cemetery for which St. John's has assumed responsibility. Join me for a brief time of prayer.

LEMMY GURTOWSKY'S LAST SUNDAY JUNE 27

Our musician, Lemmy Gurtowsky, has been graduated from Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford and has decided to move out to San Francisco for the next year before moving on to graduate school. We would like to wish him Godspeed and the Lord's blessings on his last Sunday with us. Watch the bulletin for the shape that that celebration of his ministry will take! In the meantime set aside June 27th to say good-bye to Lemmy.

'PENECOST RED' THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES



On Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, Dave Desmarais, our Treasurer, reported on a Finance Committee idea which was endorsed by our Vestry. As we heard at the May 16th congregational meetings, we are going to borrow a sum of money from our endowment to catch up on a couple of bills and pay the endowment back at the end of the year. If our income comes in as expected and budgeted, this will be no problem.

It is important to note that one of the budgeted income line items is "Non-pledge Giving". This is an income line item of \$12,000. Historically, this income has been generated in a way that we cannot predict, nor can we predict the time of year when the income will be contributed. It is a line item that generates income because of thanksgiving...giving above and beyond one's pledge because of an extra bonus at work, an income tax refund, a special need around St. John's such as the oil bill...all out of members' understanding and from their thankful hearts that God graciously provides for all our needs.

You are invited into "Non-pledge" Giving through the use of our Pentecost Red Thanksgiving envelopes. One is included in this newsletter and extras will be available at the back of the church. As a community we can think through the year about all the ways that God richly takes care of and sustains our material needs. If you would like to make a 'thank offering' to God for these blessings, pray about using the red envelopes as an opportunity to do this. Thanksgiving envelopes will be recorded in the 'Non-pledge Giving' income line item in the operation budget of St. John's. Again, this line item will enable us to pay back our endowment at the end of the year.

There will be four different colored envelopes distributed throughout the year to help us keep in mind the joy of thank offerings. Each time an envelope is received, we will remember these thanksgivings in the Prayers of the People...giving the whole community an opportunity to rejoice and give thanks in the many gifts that our Lord bestows.

**The JOY Fellowship invites you
to
Be our guest
for an enjoyable evening with
Luann Dunnuck!**

Come to St. John's on Tuesday, June 8th at 7:00 p.m. to hear Luann Dunnuck, local author and speaker. Luann's topic is *Understanding Your Personality Type*. All are welcome: men and women, parishioners, friends, and family!

We hope to see you there!

Newsletter

I am looking to turn the editing of the *St John's Journal* over to someone in the next couple of months. Although I have enjoyed working on the Journal and bringing it to you each month for the past 2 years, I need to step back in order to focus on other obligations that I have right now. If you are interested in editing the Journal, or just have questions, please email me at Hedenberg@sbcglobal.net or see me after church!!

Thanks,
Laura

PASTOR MARTHA'S WEDDING



You are invited to go to Kim and Martha's webpage to RSVP to her July 31st wedding. The website is www.kimandmarthaswedding.com (Thanks to Chris and Jeff MacArthur for setting this up and for maintaining it for me.) The wedding will take place here at St. John's at 4:30 p.m. If you are interested in being part of a planning committee, please speak with me. I need suggestions about how to arrange tables and chairs (which will be rented along with a tent), how to recruit some folks who might help my caterer in the kitchen with food donations (my friend, Peter Spungin, from Seasoned Caterer is on board to provide what else we need), ushers/greeters, and some help with clean-up. Most of all, "Did I forget anything?" My friend, Martha Sterrett (from Gloria Dei), will be helping me remember and plan for all the details but I would love if some of you would be interested in helping as well.

My son will be bringing jazz musicians for the liturgy and the reception. My good friend, the Minister of Music from St. John's Lutheran in Stamford, Stephen Rapp, will be playing organ. (He is actually an Episcopalian.) My dearest friend, the Rev. Julie Reuning-Scherer, will be marrying us and her husband, Jonathan (besides my Tom and my beloved, Kim, Jonathan is the other sweet, faithful man in my life) will be conducting the pick-up choir. Jonathan is Director of Music at Emanuel Lutheran in Hartford and Julie is in the process of seeking a call to a parish in the area. Jonathan and Julie's children will also be a part of the wedding besides my Tom and Susan. We are hoping to have Kim's family as well.

I covet your prayers as we prepare to begin our new life together.
Pastor Martha and Kim (Joachim Pengel)



June Birthdays

6/6	Katharine Desmarais, Ethan Ryan	6/19	Karen Lombardi
6/8	Stacy Pare	6/20	Jeffrey Burdelski, Gina Desmarais
6/9	Eric Needham	6/21	Noah Albert
6/10	Carol Brusseau, Brian Scholm	6/23	Alice Abbott
6/11	Jenn Olander	6/25	Patrick Getler, Ryan Sample
6/12	Robert Wade	6/27	Sarah Mazzei
6/14	Lucille Rozanski	6/28	Gilbert Paradis
6/16	Caitlin O'Meara	6/29	Bertell Rowe
6/18	Mimi Bouyea		

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Pines Service 10:30am	3 Morning Prayer 10:00am	4	5
6 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist	7	8 JOY Fellowship "A Night With Luann Dunnuck" 7pm All Welcome	9	10 Morning Prayer 10:00am	11	12
13 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist	14 Flag Day	15	16	17 Morning Prayer 10:00am	18	19
20 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist Father's Day	21	22	23	24 Morning Prayer 10:00am Vestry 7:00pm	25	26
27 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist	28	29	30			

The St John's Journal is a monthly newsletter of
Saint John's Episcopal Church

The Diocese of Connecticut
Bishop, The Right Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Ph.D.
Bishop Suffragan, The Right Rev. James E. Curry
Bishop Suffragan, The Right Rev. Dr. Laura Aherns

Rev. Dr. Martha Klein-Larsen

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