
the
Messenger

June, 2009

A newsletter of the Parish of St. John's in the Village

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www.stjvny.org

Sunday Eucharist at 8:00 & 11:00 am; M-F: Morning Prayer at 8:00 am; M, W, F: Eucharist at 6:15 pm

Coming Up In June

June 1	The Feast of the Visitation - 6:15 pm Eucharist
June 6	Vestry Planning Conference - Church of the Ascension 10:00 am - Please arrive by 9:45 am.
June 7	Trinity Sunday - 8:00 & 11:00 am Eucharist
June 7	The Amish Project - 3:00 pm Rattlestick Playwright's Theater
June 11	The Feast of Corpus Christi - 6:30 pm Eucharist Followed by Parish Picnic at 7:30 pm Eucharist
June 12	St. Barnabas' Day - 6:15 pm Eucharist
June 17	An Evening of Poetry - 7:00 pm
June 20	Finding God in AIDS, <i>Spirituality and Acceptance</i> 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
June 24	St. John's the Baptist's Day - 6:15 pm Eucharist
June 29	St. Peter and St. Paul's Day - 6:15 pm Eucharist

From the Rector's Desk

Dear friends,

On 26 May, we celebrated at the parish the conclusion of this year's Education for Ministry program, E/M, which under the direction of Andrew Jones, has guided the education of a number of people from our parish and from others in the city. It is a fine program and I thank Andrew for it. At the graduation, we kept the feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury, the first Archbishop of Canterbury. The preacher at that liturgy was the Rev'd Deacon Paul Kahn and he had some interesting things to point out about Augustine.

Some of you may know some of the history of the English Church. Christianity had existed in Britain long before Augustine arrived. There is a church, St. Martin's Church in the south of England, which exists from those early days, still in use in the 21st century. Augustine was ordained a bishop somewhere in France and set to be the missionary to the English. Odd, since Christianity was already established in England. It would have been better, I suppose, to think of him as the coordinator or of the missionary work and perhaps the revivalist of the faith, but the church called him a Bishop and so he was.

You might wonder how this situation would have looked to the various remnants of Christianity still around the English countryside. Here comes a new archbishop.

What will he want? What will he (oh, my God!) want to *change*?

The pope wrote some letters to Augustine, and one of them has to do with the diversity which was certainly a characteristic of the English church. In an era long before easy communication—if any at all—it was easy for churches and dioceses to go their own way. Especially easy if you were on an island far away from the Roman see. Pope Gregory, who was a very wise man, appreciated the limits to which he could enforce uniformity in the far-flung church. And perhaps even wiser if he recognized that uniformity is not always a necessity.

So, Gregory wrote that if Augustine found customs, whether in the Roman, Gallican (French) or any other church which looked good, he should make a careful selection from among them and teach them to the English, along with affirming their own local traditions. Things, he said, should not be loved for the sake of places, but places for the sake of good things. Interesting thought.

Gregory's counsel is interesting for our time in church history. The worldwide Anglican Communion, of which we are part, is currently engaging in the study of a possible covenant that would bring uniformity to Anglican practice, and perhaps to our faith, as well, depending on how you read it. This covenant is, frankly, among other things, an attempt to bring America and Canada into line on issues about homosexuality in the Church. It is, in a sense, an attempt to

enforce uniformity on a subject about which there is no uniformity of opinion in the Church. Most folks thought that the covenant, with some fairly strict requirements, was on a fast track to adoption. And then, last week, it was put on hold. Particularly over the issue of uniformity and discipline.

I think that Gregory's instructions to Augustine may be of some use in our thinking about the current situation in the church. You know my position on the hot button issues which brought about the call for a covenant. You may not know that, on the whole, I oppose the whole idea of a covenant. We have one covenant already, our baptismal covenant (Prayer book, page 303 ff.) and I think that sufficient.

We are in an ambiguous situation in this communion now. We are deeply divided, and deeply troubled over these issues and many others. The best course of action is for us to accept that there are good points on both sides of the argument, that our position can be informed by that of our opponents, and vice versa, and that it would be a terrible loss to irrevocably sever the bonds of communion over the issues which led to the consideration of life under a new covenant for Anglicans.

Just as Gregory urged sacrificing uniformity for the sake of diversity, I suggest that we allow the current time in this church to be a time of tolerance of several points of view, and an openness to appreciate the value of the ideas embraced even by those who

oppose us. The current situation in the church is in many ways roughly similar to that of the sixth century in England. Two cultures, two ways of thinking, two systems of authority are clashing. To allow the clash to destroy the church would be to sacrifice the unity of that body for which Christ died, and which too many divisions already fragment.

Here is the prayer for St. Augustine's day, which you might find useful in these complicated times:

Lord our God, who by your son Jesus Christ called your apostles and sent them forth to preach the Gospel to the nations: We bless your holy Name for your servant Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, whose labors in propagating your Church among the English people we commemorate today; and we pray that all whom you call and send may do your will, and bide your time, and see your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please consider the ideas in this prayer: especially the part about doing God's will, biding God's time and seeing the divine glory.

Faithfully,



Vestry Report

On June 6, the Vestry will meet at Ascension Church for a special Planning Conference. Please remember us in your prayers as we look for ways for St. John's to meet the challenges and opportunities of the next few years.

Annual Animal Blessing/Bake Sale

Despite the cloudy weather we had more animals and visitors than ever. Special thanks to Father Sam for all those blessings and to Margot for filling out the certificates (artfully done by Pat Thompson).

Thanks to Fernella Lewis for making sure we sold everything. Sam Chin designed the wonderful flyers and handsome donation box. Gerry Dilley donated a wonderful 9/11 memorial photo for raffle — Scott Carlton was the lucky winner! Fred Harrity pulled it all together and provided plenty of opportunities for Evangelism.

Thank you all for baking and for bringing your animal. Check out all the photos by Richard Lipscomb.

Introducing a New Postcommunion Prayer

In 1997, the General Convention of the Church authorized a book called *Enriching our Worship 1*, a supplement to the Book of Common Prayer designed for trial use to add insights about God, the Church, the Sacraments and the Christian faith to those in the prayer book. At that time, we began using two new Eucharistic Prayers, which

have been relatively well received here at St..John's. We also began using a postcommunion prayer (the prayer before the blessing and dismissal), which begins "God of abundance."

There is another prayer, which goes like this:

*Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your
image
and nourishing us with
spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's
Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people forgiven, healed
and renewed;
that we may proclaim your
love to the world
and continue in the risen
life of Christ our Savior.
Amen*

We have begun to use this prayer from time to time, along with the other three (*Eternal God, heavenly Father, Almighty and everliving God, and God of abundance*) on the thinking that it adds some other ideas to our concept of thanksgiving after communion. Specifically, it emphasizes the restorative dimension of life in Christ, and the sense that we are nourished or fed by the Sacrament and thereby strengthened in witness to Christ. Like the other prayers, it concludes with a strong emphasis upon

mission and proclamation, ideas which we would do well to consider.

If you have any questions about these new prayers, please speak to one of the clergy.

ABOUT THE DAILY OFFICE

I would like to put in a good word for Morning Prayer. I wonder how many of our parishioners know that we say the office in the church every weekday morning, Monday through Friday, at 8:00 a.m.

It's a simple said service that is led by a lay person. Pam Brown leads the Monday service, I do Tuesday, Carol Quatrone, Wednesday, Andrew Jones, Thursday and Jeanne Sutton leads Friday.

As the courtyard bell rings the three chimes that call for the Angelus the service starts with that prayer (or the Regina Coeli during Easter season). It continues with the Venite or Jubilate, a psalm, two readings from scripture and two canticles, the creed and the Lord's Prayer, three collects followed by appropriate intercessions and a final prayer. In the course of the intercessions we pray for each member of the parish once in each week.

This daily office is a short service – fifteen or twenty minutes, but it is a good way to establish a regular prayer life. It will probably never draw a huge crowd and sometimes each of the leaders may find themselves the only person present. Then again, I have had perfect strangers walk in and join me in prayer.

I would like to recommend that anyone who can be present at 8:00 in the morning try this form of spiritual exercise. I have found it to be like a visit to the gym for the soul. And if you do join us and find the workout rewarding, perhaps you would to join the roster of leaders. Summer travel time is here, and, while the five of us do cover for each other when there are schedule conflicts, it would be nice to have others who could fill in on occasion.

One last thought on morning prayer for those who need to be at work at 8:00: You can actually “do” the daily office ON LINE! Check out: www.missionstclare.com/english/index.html I have visited this site many times. It includes elements that we do not use here at St. John's and I'm not sure about the karaoke versions of the canticles, but it can be easily adapted to our form of the office, with the advantage of putting together all of the readings for this particular day on your one computer screen.

- Jay Campbell

SPRING RAFFLE

Jeanne Morrow, a well-known village artist with the Abingdon Square Painters, has generously donated one of her beautiful framed watercolors. Tickets will go on sale for \$5 each beginning May 17. They will be available with the Vestry person on call at succeeding Sunday coffee hours. The raffle will be held at the Corpus Christi picnic on June 11.

The Feast of Corpus Christi Thursday, June 11th - 6:30 pm

Solemn Mass with special music at 6:30 pm to be concluded with a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Picnic to follow at 7:30 pm in St. Benedict's Courtyard. The menu will feature BBQ “Sliders” and Buffalo Wings from our neighbors at Bone Lick Park, and fresh Strawberry Shortcake!

And as an added surprise: Back by Popular Demand - The Ebony Hillbillies will provide live string band music for our entertainment. This group was a big hit at Father Prator's 30th anniversary and as a result of some savvy negotiating by Douglas Smith, they will be back with us for Corpus Christi!

More about Corups Christi

The feast of Corpus Christi commemorates the institutions and gift of the Eucharist and is observed in the Western Church on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. While Maundy Thursday is the primary celebration of the institution of the Holy Eucharist, that day occurs in the midst of Holy Week, the most solemn time of the Church year, and there has been a long-felt conviction that a more joyful, festal celebration is needed. The feast was instituted largely at the instigation of a saint named Juliana, who died in the 13th century. She was a devout nun of the convent at Liege who had a vision which prompted her conviction that the church needed such a festival. The liturgy was added to the calendar of the Roman Church by Urban IV and it became universal during the 14th century. Thomas

Aquinas compiled the liturgy for the day, and Anglicans still use many of the hymns he composed for that day.

The Liturgy on this day will consist of a Solemn Eucharist followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is a brief rite in which the faithful are given a blessing by the celebrant holding the sacrament aloft in a device called a monstrance. In this way, the faithful who have just received Christ in Holy Communion can again meditate upon his presence in the sacrament and go forth from that liturgy blessed by the presence of the risen Christ.

An Evening of Poetry

Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00 pm

Come and share your favorite poem(s) — either your own or a poem by a favorite poet — at a Poetry Reading on Wednesday, June 17 at 7 pm.

Please put a copy of the poem(s) you would like to read in the manilla folder marked “Poems” in Father Corney's mailbox in the office by June 13, so that we may arrange the order of presentation. On the poem indicate whether your wish to read it yourself or have it read by one of the readers. Please limit the total reading time of your submissions to approximately five minutes.

FREE CELL PHONES

If you know someone who is living with a very low income and would like to have a cell phone for emergency use, there is an agency which may provide one. You can get more information at www.safelink.com. It is a government supported program which provides the cell phone with an established allotment of minutes which are replenished each month. The purpose of this program is to provide help in emergencies or other important functions.

AIDS WALK NEW YORK CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ST. JOHN'S 10 : WE DID IT!

Robert Arlequin
Tim Boos
Stuart Brier
Sammy Chin
Suzanne Culhane
Kyle DeBlasio
Gerry Dilley
Winston George
Fred Harrity
Dina Mann

The group braved cold, wind, and rain on May 17 to join ERA's team of 200 walkers representing 28 local parishes. St. John's walkers have already raised nearly \$13,000 in support of parish-based AIDS ministries. Hearty thanks to all who have generously given of their time, talent, and treasure for this vital event. Pictures will be available shortly. There is still time to sponsor a walker or make a general team donation at www.aidswalk.net. Contributions must be

received by June 12. For more information please contact Suzanne Culhane at suzculhane@yahoo.com. **Thank you!**

A Message from our Director of Music - Gordon King

The Corpus Christi service will be the last time for the choirs to sing until September. I want to thank all the singers in both groups for their faithful attendance and hard work during the year. I feel privileged to work with such dedicated choristers.

Please let me know if you think of any children I might contact to inform them of the Opportunities in the Choristers program. We will be losing at least one chorister next year – Eva Araya — who will be going off to boarding school.

Once gain we will seek your input for favorite hymns to use during the summer months. A sheet to list your hymns will appear on he bulletin board shortly.

Please remember the music fund as we can always use help with funding for instruments and singers.

**Congratulations to
The Rev'd Dr. Gary Hellman !!!**
The Rev'd Gary Hellman was awarded the Psy.D degree from the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Indiana this past April, 2009. This achievement represents the culmination of work in his professional life as a pastoral psychotherapist integrating theology and psychology.

Going to Princeton, Rider, Rutgers, Rowan, Westminster, or TCNJ?

Are you a college or university student in New Jersey? Are young people in your parish, or a member of your family, heading off to college in New Jersey? The Diocese of New Jersey would like to help students to connect with the Episcopal campus ministry at their school, so that they can be welcomed and supported during this next stage of their lives.

To connect with a campus ministry in New Jersey visit:

<http://newjersey.anglican.org/Resources/YoungAdult/campusministry.html#>

You'll find an on-line referral form for connecting students to campus ministries in NJ, a link to a list of campus ministries around the country, and a directory of campus ministries in the Diocese of New Jersey (currently Rutgers, TCNJ, Princeton, Westminster, and Rowan). For each contact submitted using the on-line form, a member of the campus ministry team will alert the appropriate campus minister or closest local parish church in NJ.

October 3, 2006 - "HORROR IN SCHOOLHOUSE 5 Amish girls killed, 5 critically wounded in shocking massacre"
- Lancaster New Era

October 13, 2006 - "Gunman's family thanks Amish for 'forgiveness, grace, mercy.'"
- Lancaster New Era

Sunday, June 7, 2009 - *The Amish Project* Rattlestick Playwright's Theater

It was a crime that shook the nation but more surprising was the path of forgiveness and compassion forged in its wake. *The Amish Project* is a fictional exploration of the Nickel Mine shootings. Seven characters including the gunman's widow, the gunman, and two Amish schoolgirls unravel an extraordinary chain of events. Imbued with poetry and humor, *The Amish Project* investigates a community grappling with loss and faith.

The afternoon's performance will be followed by a Talkback Session monitored by the playwright, Jessica Dickey, and St. John's **The Rev'd Dr. Richard Corney!**

Tickets are available at the door for \$20 when you mention you are from St. John's.

Grace Institute

Since opening its doors in 1897, Grace Institute has been providing tuition free, practical job training in a supportive learning community for underserved New York area women of all ages and from many different backgrounds. In the tradition of its founders, William Russell Grace and Michael P. Grace, Grace Institute is dedicated to the development of the personal and business skills necessary for self-sufficiency, employability, and an improved quality of life. The curriculum has evolved through the years from domestic arts and secretarial skills to its current emphasis on technological business skills and career development.

Grace Institute Provides both day and evening Programs. Courses vary from day to evening but may include:


- Computer Training
- Keyboarding
- Business Writing and Communications
- Office Procedures
- Business Math

If you or someone you know could benefit from these programs, additional information is available:

Grace Institute
1233 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10065
212/832-7605
www.graceinstitute.org

Finding God in AIDS

Spirituality and Acceptance: Saturday, June 20, 2009, 10 AM - 3 PM



If you're living with HIV or love someone who is HIV+, you're invited to a one-day workshop on AIDS and Christian Spirituality.

Admission is FREE but limited to ONLY people living with AIDS or family members, lovers, care-partners of HIV+ persons.

Lunch provided. All denominations welcome.

Call 212-243-6192 or go to www.stjvny.org for more information. Reservations appreciated but not required.

The Open Door

St. John's in the Village Parish Hall, 224 Waverly Place (West 11th St. & Perry St.), Manhattan

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