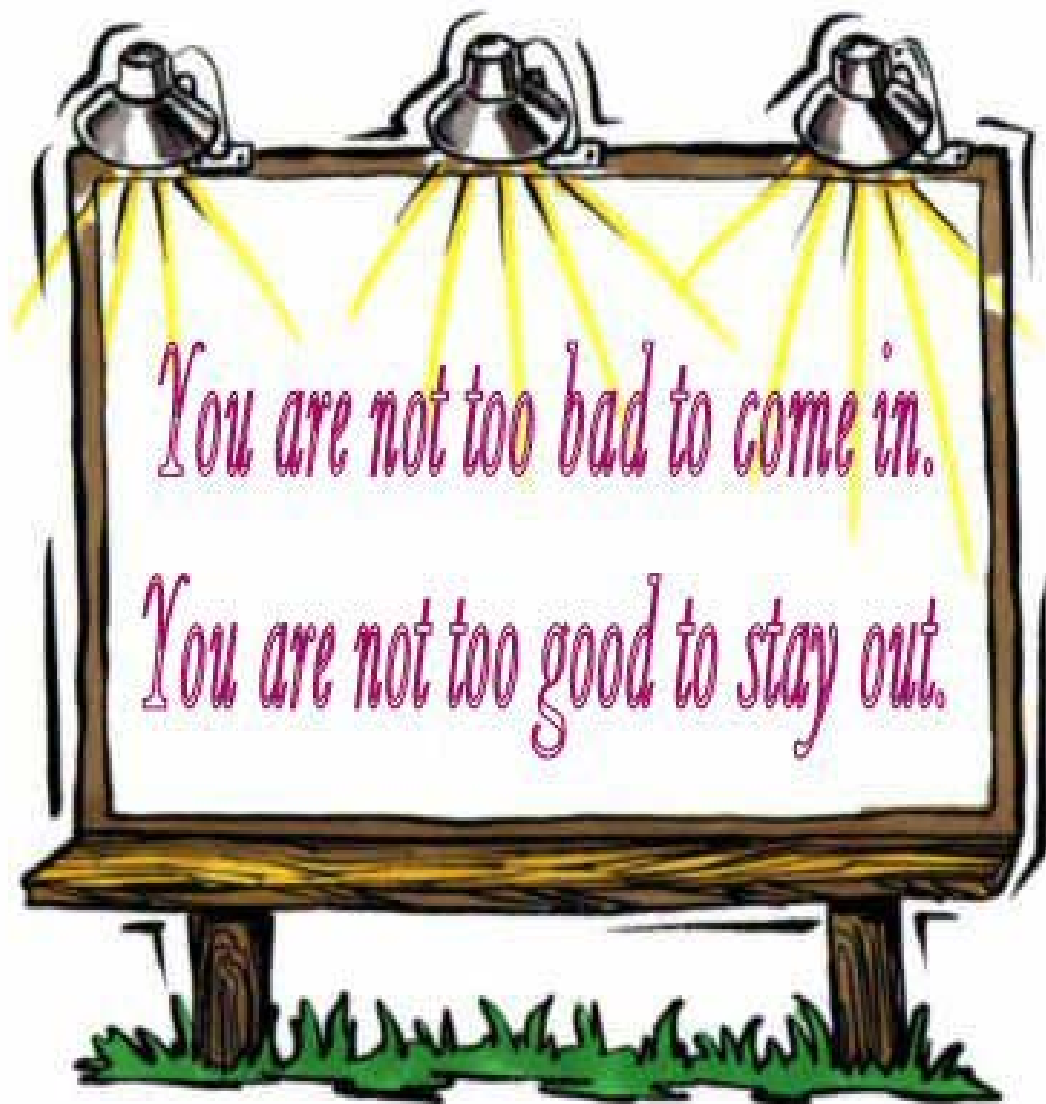


**THE
BEACON**

February 2007

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT**



A Holy Lent

Can we really bring ourselves to acknowledge the brokenness within us, the need we each have for healing? Every Sunday we pray the confession acknowledging that we have done those things which we ought not to have done and left undone those things which we ought to have done. We say that we have not loved God with our whole heart and have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We say these words, but do they come from our hearts and our souls or are they just words that roll off our tongues. Lent is a time of self reflection. It is a time of self examination. Am I the person God wants me to be? Am I walking with my Lord or away from Him? Where is my treasure? Where is my heart? In what I possess or in God's possession of me? Scriptures tell us, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:8-9). Lent is also a time of acknowledging our need, our hunger, our dependence on God. Everything we need comes from our Lord. God births us, breathes the Spirit of life into us, nurses us, guides us and loves us unconditionally. There is nothing that can or will separate us from the Love of God as we have received it in Christ Jesus. And so, I implore you my sisters and brothers to begin this season of Lent on Ash Wednesday by the observance of a Holy Lent, a time of self examination and repentance; a time of fasting, praying and self denial, a time of meditation on God's Word alive in us. Let us renew our lives in Christ. Let us renew this parish of St. John's in the way of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the way of the Cross, and the way that leads to life eternal. We are not worthy of the things God has given us. Still, God is with us and in us until the end of time. God is so good... all the time.

Dear Friends in Christ:

As we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18 - 25, 2007, please use the following prayer, provided by the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute, in your worship services this coming Sunday, January 21.

Please lift up Christian Unity, including the ministries of the Christian Conference of Connecticut, in your prayers this week and always. And thank you for the ecumenical ministries you support, encourage and do in local associations and fellowships throughout the year.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith

Blessed be the Lord our God for the love that you have shown us through Jesus Christ our Lord. In him who loved us we are conquerors over hardship, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril and the sword.

In the silence of abandonment and solitude, of sickness and death, pour out the riches of your blessing, that we may be ever more faithful to serve you in our sisters and brothers, and that our joy do your will be ever greater.

We bless you and glorify you, for you listen to the silence of our hearts. You act within us with power, healing us and leading us to speak in the name of Jesus, your Son.

Send us into the world to carry out your will and to break down the walls of silence that separate us.

May we witness to you, our only Savior, being ever more united by "one faith and one baptism." And may we grow in grace and in the peace of God that passes all understanding, that your name may be glorified.

Amen.

Budget cuts...

As we try to cut costs in our budget, some of these things will include:

No special cover bulletins

No more birthday and anniversary cards sent to our members

No more scripture bulletin inserts when we run out of those purchased

Beacons will end in June and start again at the end of August

Thermostat in Hall and church will be set at 65 degrees.

Flowers will be artificial unless memorial donations are made

How to help increase your giving...

Make a pledge if you have not yet done so, to our worship, life and mission

Pay off your Capital Campaign pledge

If you have paid your Capital Campaign pledge consider increasing your annual pledge to equal what you were giving when you pledged to both the annual budget and the capital campaign.

Designate a gift to a specific need...

Flowers on Sundays (\$25/wk)

Prayer books in the pews (\$20/each),

Birthday cards and postage for one year to members - \$650,

Make a donation to the coffee hour costs each Sunday.

Give time to some of the paid tasks at the church...

proof reading and editing the Beacon and Bulletin,

clean up inside and out.

Shovel walks on snow days.

Hall Rental -

Tell friends, family and co-workers about the rental use of our hall for dances, parties, receptions, meetings, movies, etc. Tell them about the culinary kitchen and ask them to spread the word.

What ideas do you have. Your family has need of your ideas, your giving and your prayers.

Gail K-M +

Results of Annual Meeting

Our new Wardens are:

Eric Sawyer

And

Sharlene Zagozewski

Our Clerk remains:

Katie Maxwell

Our new Treasurer is:

Rich Davis

Our new Vestry members are:

Nancy Brown

Bill Huntington

Richard Keizer

Lise Smith

Donna Sullivan

Our new Delegate to Deanery and Convention is:

Donna Sullivan

Our new Alternate to Deanery and Convention is:

Kim Polhemus

Happenings at St. John's

Bible Study on Second and Fourth Wednesdays after the Healing Service. Our tradition tells us that Holy Scripture holds all things necessary for salvation. What does that mean?

Safe and Healthy Church Practices workshop – Diocese of CT at St. John's on Saturday, February 10th from 9 to 4. This workshop is for vestry, Sunday School teachers, church staff, nursery care workers, youth leaders and all other interested parish members, teaching us practices that protect our children, youth and elderly from harm. Some are required to attend. All are welcomed. Please contact the office if you wish to attend.

Adult forums on first and third Sundays at 11:30 am. First Sundays explore the issues facing the Episcopal Church regarding sexuality in light of the authority of Scripture, Tradition and Reason. Third Sundays, we will explore the various parts of our life as the body of Christ: What does good pastoral care look like? What is good worship and liturgy? What is our mission as the Body of Christ? Each third Sunday will focus on a different theme in the life of our church.

Rite 13 and J2A Classes will meet on first and third Sundays from 11:30 to 12:30 during adult forums and on Second Sundays at 5:30 pm. Pastor Gail teaches the Sunday evening classes. Adult lay leaders teach the Sunday morning classes.

Vestry is on Retreat with Bishop Andrew Smith in Hartford on Friday, February 2nd and Saturday January 3rd. Pray for us that we may be effective leaders in this parish.

February 2nd, St. John's Episcopal Church will again host the **Latino community** of New Milford in our hall with the pastors of St. Francis Xavier and Northville Baptist Church, for a time of food, fellowship and conversation from 5 to 10:00 pm.

New Milford Shelter moves from a month at St. John's to the First Congregational Church next door for the month of February. Thank you to every member of St. John's who so faithfully welcomes and serves these our sisters and brothers and in doing so welcomes our Lord. We are blessed with resources to share, that others may sleep warm and safe in the bitter cold winter nights.

The Rector's Summer sabbatical – Our Rector has postponed her sabbatical until 2008 because of the transitional time in leadership at St. John's this year. In addition to the family vacation in Maine in early July, she will also be making a mission trip to South Africa to meet the Anglican Women in mission there and to explore a way that St. John's could help address very specific needs in an Anglican clinic, school or parish.

Sunday morning breakfasts will now be **ONCE** a month! Beginning in Feb., the Youth Group will be holding their Breakfast Buffet on the 2nd Sunday of the month! This will be a bigger breakfast than before with the breakfast taking place after **BOTH** services! Rich Davis and Missy Sawyer are planning a wonderful buffet with a lot of help from our youth!

Feb. 11th



March 11th

April 15th (third Sunday due to Easter)

May 13th (MOTHER'S DAY-SAVE THE DATE!!)

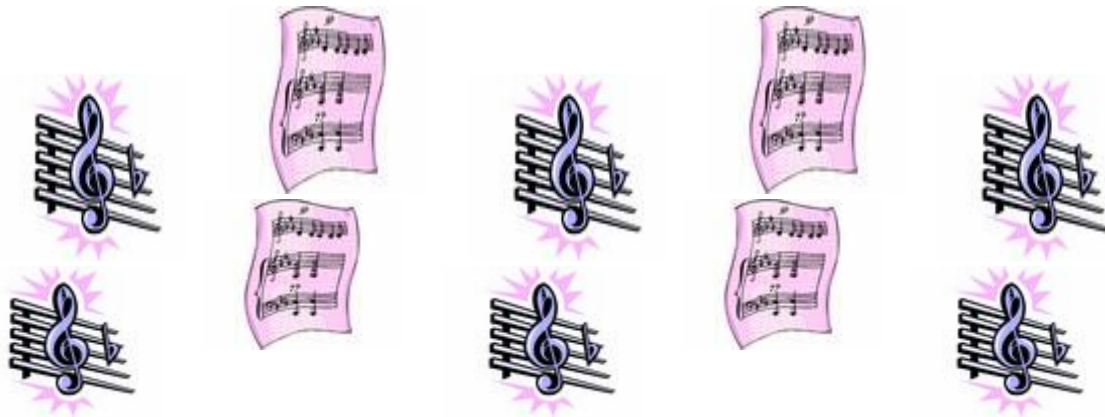
Watch the Sunday Bulletin for more details! Come Hungry!!!

February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Choir 7-9	2 Latino Potluck 5-10 PM Vestry Retreat in Hartford	3 Centering Prayer 10:00 AM Vestry Retreat in Hartford
4 HE 8 & 10 Youth and adult ed 11:30	5	6 NA 7:30-8:30 PM	7 Healing Service 10 AM HENMRC 11:00 <i>EPISCOPAL Raleigh</i>	8 Choir 7-9 <i>URBAN North</i>	9 Ballroom Dancing 6-10 <i>CAUCUS Carolina</i>	10 Centering Prayer 10:00 AM Diocesan Safe Church Training 9-4
11 Brunch 11:30-12:00 HE 8 & 10 Youth 5:30 Lectors meeting 9 AM	12 Finance meeting 7:00 PM	13 Pancake supper 6-8 PM NA 7:30-8:30 PM	14 Healing Service 10 AM Bible Study 11:00 Happy St. Valentines Day!	15 Choir 7-9	16	17 Centering Prayer 10:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive 8-3 PM
18 HE 8 & 10 Youth and adult ed 11:30 Red Cross Blood Drive 8-3 PM	19 Vestry Meeting 7:00 PM Office Closed Presidents Day	20 NA 7:30-8:30 PM	21 Ash Wednesday Healing Service 10 AM HENMRC 11:00	22 Choir 7-9	23	24 Centering Prayer 10:00 AM
25 HE 8 & 10 First Sunday in Lent	26	27 NA 7:30-8:30 PM	28 Healing Service 10 AM Bible Study 11:00			

March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Choir 7-9	2	3 Centering Prayer 10:00 AM
4 HE 8 & 10 Youth and adult ed 11:30 Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser	5	6 NA 7:30- 8:30 PM	7 Healing Service 10 AM HENMRC	8 Choir 7-9	9 Ballroom Dancing	10 Centering Prayer 10:00 AM
11 Brunch 11:30 – 12:00 Daylight Savings Time Youth 5:30 HE 8 & 10	12 Finance Meeting 7:00 PM	13 NA 7:30- 8:30 PM	14 Healing Service 10 AM Bible Study 11:00	15 Choir 7-9	16	17 Centering Prayer 10:00 AM
18 HE 8 & 10 Youth and adult ed 11:30	19 Vestry Meeting 7:00 PM	20 NA 7:30- 8:30 PM	21 Healing Service 10 AM HENMRC	22 Choir 7-9	23	24 Centering Prayer 10:00 AM
25 HE 8 & 10	26	27 NA 7:30- 8:30 PM	28 Healing Service 10 AM Bible Study 11:00	29 Choir 7-9	30	31 Centering Prayer 10:00 AM



MUSIC IN FEBRUARY

February sees the transition from the celebratory music of Epiphany to the quieter music of Lent.

On February 4 the senior choir will offer the exuberant "Praise the Lord from Heaven" by Steven Beck.

On the 11th children will be featured. Evelyn Duffy will play a violin prelude with her mother, Meg, and the children's choir, assisted by Meg Duffy, will sing three songs: "He Set me Free", "God of Great and God of Small" and "Amani Utupe" a Kenyan text meaning "Grant us peace" The youngsters should be in church at 9:15 that morning. They do not meet again until the Sunday after Easter.

A Bach anthem is scheduled for February 18 and for the first Sunday in Lent the adults will sing "Cradle me, Lord" which intertwines three melodies: Amazing Grace, an English folk song and an original tune by the Poorman sisters.

As soon as the choir returned from a Christmas break they started singing anthems for January, February, March and half of April. Rehearsing ahead is fun; we trust the listening is, too.

Please pick up your copy of the “Forward Day by Day” in the front or the back of the church. For those of you who are not sure of what they are for, here is an explanation from the inside of the book itself.



TO THE READER

Forward Day by Day readers often do not have a copy of the scriptures at hand. It's not that they don't value the Bible, but that they carry *Day by Day* with them wherever they go, to subway cars, hotel laundry rooms, shrimp trawlers, and the Australian outback (we have received mail from persons who read their *Day by Day* in all those places). For that reason, we ask our authors to choose a few words from the day's readings and to craft a meditation on them that can stand alone, without the biblical text at hand. Authors often tell us they find this discipline helpful, reading the day's scriptures expectantly, looking for that one thought that will trigger their imaginations and memories and lead to a written reflection. I, too, have found this way of reading the Bible invigorating. I commend it to you as well. It often leads to new and unexpected conversations with God in the prayers that follow my daily Bible reading. Perhaps it will do the same for you. Forward Movement depends on the generosity of our readers. Gifts to the Forward Fund enable us to send copies of *Forward Day by Day* and other materials at no charge to hospitals, prisons, and nursing homes. For information, please write to us or call us at 800-543-1813.

You are responsible for getting your own substitute if you are unable to serve on your assigned day for Coffee hour, Nursery, Acolyte, Lector, Intercessor etc. If you are unsure of how to go about this, contact the person in charge of that group.

Karate Classes on Sundays at 1:00 PM in the Parish Hall with Sensei Tom Haywood. Parish members \$5:00 per class and non parish members \$10.00 per class. For questions call Tom Haywood at 860-210-8072.

Please consider giving altar flowers! It is a wonderful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or simply to thank God for his many blessings. The suggested donation is \$25. Signup sheet is available in the church by the Whittlesey Ave. door. Your gift of flowers will keep the altar looking beautiful throughout the year.

Blood supplies are critically low. Won't you please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or visit bloodct.org, and make your appointment today? Remember: a single blood donation costs you nothing, and can save up to three lives!! The American Red Cross thanks you on behalf of patients throughout the state! On February 17 and 18th a blood drive will be held here at St. John's 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Are you interested in stopping smoking? "Nicotine Anonymous" meetings are being started by a Parishioner here in New Milford. Please call Marie A. Petrowski's at 860-210-1138

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl, Shelby. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Shelby and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today." After a few minutes, Shelby returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. "Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where he belonged, then our country just came together."

Please note the new fax number and the email address. Fax # is 860-355-9895.
 Office email address is: stjohns.episcopal@charterinternet.com
 Pastor Gail's email is pastorgailkm@charterinternet.com



Birthdays

Ron Warner	2/01	Richard Johnston	2/13
Eric Sawyer	2/01	Sydney Page	2/13
Richard Stebbins	2/02	Kate Larson	2/15
Patricia Greenspan	2/02	Bernice Dodd	2/18
Marcie Santorelli	2/02	Michael Giannetto Sr.	2/19
Donnie Maxwell	2/03	Francisco Davis	2/19
J.P. Mulligan	2/03	Joan Mills	2/21
Christina Delafield	2/04	John Lemos	2/22
Bonnie Lawrence	2/04	Joy Burns	2/22
Bud Kohrs	2/04	Alice Beauton	2/23
Biddy Roger	2/10	Russell Watts	2/25
Meg Duffy	2/10	Linda Kallstrom	2/26
Chris Leier	2/12	Matthew Mills	2/26

Anniversaries



Rob and Amanda Stachlewitz	2/09
Al and Millie Murphy	2/10
James and Sue Denino	2/14
Richard and Marylou Johnston	2/14
Michael and Tammi Mills	2/20
Jim and Karen Bain	2/25



Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith, Bishop Suffragan
The Rt. Rev. James E. Curry
Rector The Rev. Dr. Gail Keeney-Mulligan
The Rev. Marilyn Mitchell—Deacon
The Rev. Marilyn Mitchell—Deacon

Staff

Administrative Assistant Elaine Swanson
Music Director Jon Lafleur
Bookkeeper Bob Wells
Sexton Hugo Gordon

The Ministers of St. John's
All The Baptized

Stewardship—Tom Duffy
Christian Education—Leigh Alhage
Adult Education—Pastor Gail
Property—John Roger
Mission contact—Kendra Bell/Kim Polhemus
Youth Director—Pastor Gail
Altar Guild—Marylou Johnston

Wardens— Eric Sawyer and Sharlene Zagozewski
Evangelism Contact—Linda Kallstrom
Pastoral Care—Lise Smith
Verger—Flora Quammie
Community Life—Eileen Herron
Stephen Ministry—Deacon Marilyn Mitchell

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