

**THE
BEACON**
September 2007

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

**Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I
have heard you calling in the
night. I will go, Lord, if you
lead me, I will hold your people
in my heart.**

I Am Yours, Lord.

When I first met Jim, he was a Jesuit priest, and Ignatius of Loyola was the founder of the Society of Jesus or the Jesuits. He had been a soldier and wounded, he came home to recoup. While in bed for weeks he sought books to read that would feed his soul in his depression and mental and spiritual search for purpose in his life. He read 'The Lives of the Saints' and the other 'the Life of Christ'. When he dreamed about political ambitions and romance he found his spirit desolation. When he dreamed of following the lives of Saints, he found profound joy and peace, or consolation. He took this as a sign from God of what he was to do and began the long journey toward creating an order to serve as a soldiers of Christ armed with love and sent forth into the world. He established a spirituality of discernment which has helped many people to find their way in the midst of difficult decision, people standing at a cross roads, asking which is the best choice? Or what is the best choice?

It is not only his means of discernment that enabled me to find my vocation, but his prayer became the prayer I believe we are all called to pray in our own way every day.

Surrender

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess You have given me: I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only your love and Your grace; with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.

Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.

As Christians in this world, we are discerning daily what we should do with our time, our energy and our talents. Daily we make decisions in our work places, in our family lives, how to use our resources, our time, our talents. How are we to take care of ourselves and how to take care of our neighbor? Everyday in everyway, we have the opportunity to be witness to and servants of Christ's love in the world, whether we are bankers, brokers, nurses, teachers, mail carriers, secretaries, students, parents.

Our Christian lives are not limited to what we do on Sunday morning, but in recognizing every day that everything we are and everything we have is given to us and what we do with who we are and what we have is our gift back to God.

From our own Book of Common Prayer come similar words:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray you, as you will, and always to your glory and to the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

May we live and breathe our Christian life in everything we think, say and do, and may the world see the love of Christ at work in us and through us.

Pastor Gail KM

July 17, 2007

An update on Trinity Episcopal Church, Bristol

(sent to subscribers of eNews)

On Pentecost Sunday, May 27, some members of Trinity Episcopal Church, Bristol, including its rector the Rev. Donald Helmandollar, voted to align themselves with the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA). CANA is an initiative of the Anglican Church of Nigeria, a foreign province acting outside the bonds, customs and traditions of the Anglican Communion. Bishop Andrew Smith first learned of the vote through an Internet posting. He phoned Helmandollar and later received a letter dated May 27 stating that "he and the parish" had formally aligned with CANA.

Bishop Smith brought the matter to the clergy members of the Standing Committee and, with their advice and consent, released Helmandollar from the responsibilities and privileges of a priest in The Episcopal Church under Title III, Canon 9.8. Formal notice of the action was sent out on June 20.

After confirming that the wardens and vestry of Trinity had all also voted to align with CANA, Bishop Smith removed them from their positions under Title I, Canon 17.8 of the Canons and Constitution of The Episcopal Church.

The Bishop asked the CANA group at Trinity to vacate the buildings and surrender control of the assets by July 8. Through an attorney, the CANA group has stated that there will be no compliance and has further announced an intention to bring trespass charges against any Diocesan personnel who help recover possession of Parish property for the use of loyal Episcopalians. The Diocese has now turned the task of recovering the Parish property over to its attorneys.

On July 12, Bishop Smith wrote and sent a letter to members of Trinity Episcopal Church, inviting all who wish to continue as Episcopalians to meet with him to discuss the situation, meet a priest-in-charge for Trinity, and begin to identify new leadership.

"Trinity Episcopal Church has a long and solid history as a parish of this Diocese," he wrote. "Its founders and members over the generations have built the parish within the family and tradition of The Episcopal Church. I truly regret that some members have seen fit to try to tear the congregation from the fabric of the Church and now lay claim to its property and assets.

"Please know that regardless of what may have been said by others, a parish in The Episcopal Church is a constituent member of the Diocese of which it is part. That is a matter of Canon law, and in Connecticut it also is a matter that has been determined by the civil courts. Trinity Episcopal Church, Bristol, is and remains a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut.

"... Please do pray for the whole Church of God in these times. I am praying for all the members of Trinity Episcopal Church. My hope is that we may pray, reason and work together to serve Christ in our day, as a blessing to God and a clear witness to Christ's redeeming love in this world."

God's Mission in the World

Please join us for a look at "**God's Mission in the World**". We will use a study resource prepared by the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations to examine the themes of global poverty and the Millennium Development Goals. We will be encouraged through prayer, reading of the scriptures, and examination of the dimensions of poverty, to come to a new and broader understanding about our Christian responsibility in a world of global hunger, unmet basic needs, pandemic disease, widespread conflict and deep seated inequality.

We will meet in the Library for 6 consecutive Sunday evenings at 7pm, for 1 hour, beginning on **Sunday, Sept 9th**. **Pre registration is required** by contacting Kim Polhemus at 354-7403, or kimpol4@lycos.com This study group is limited to 8 people. Register early so you can receive your study guide in enough time to prepare for the first session.

St. John's, New Milford will be hosting the Diocesan Stewardship workshop with Bishop Drew Smith and Jack Spaeth on Saturday, November 10th.

Niches in our garden

St. John's now has a beautiful memorial garden dedicated to the glory of God and our loved ones. We are in the process of building a significant number of niches for cremains to be interred. It is sacred and peaceful space. It is not contrary to our Christian faith to have our remains cremated. Our bodies are but dust. It is our souls that dwell with God. It is also our tradition that the holy things, dedicated to God, when they have served their purpose are burned in a sacred fire and returned to the earth. Our bodies are dedicated to God in Christ from Baptism. So, I invite you to consider reserving a space in the garden for your ashes and for those you love. If you are interested, there is more information posted on the wall in the downstairs hall and you can speak to Linda Kallstrom, Bill Hamilton or the Rector. Forms for reserving and purchasing are available in the office.

Pilgrimage and Mission Opportunities

St. John's is working to join with other Episcopal Churches in our Diocese to grow in our fellowship with one another, our spiritual pilgrimage in Christ and as the Body of Christ in Mission. We are looking at two specific opportunities, which I truly hope you will take advantage of for all the blessing each one has to offer.

OUR CELTIC AND SCOTISH ROOTS – A PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND

A journey of spiritual pilgrimage and Episcopal heritage as well as a time for fellowship and worship with one another and with our Sister church in Scotland. The trip would include:

Oban, Mull, Iona, Inverness, Forres, Balamoral, Cullerlie, Aberdeen and Edinburgh. The pilgrimage includes cathedrals, churches, Hebridean Island, battle fields, gardens, castles and natural habitats of oceans, woods and rocky cliffs as well as cities, villages and shops.

With 14 people registered to go, it will cost us only \$3300/per person including flight, accommodations, breakfast and dinner, all land transportation, ferry transport, worship arrangements and all taxes.

It does not include lunches or beverages with meals, tips and gratuities or travel insurance.

We currently have three members of St. John's Episcopal Church, New Milford who wish to go. What about you?

Mission opportunity – Danbury Deanery

What ONE Deanery Can Do! We can make a difference! Our Danbury Deanery is planning a Mission Trip to Mississippi Where people are still without homes, churches, jobs and basic needs. Camp Coast Care is an Episcopal and Lutheran Project Site, Providing lodging and food for people who come from all over to help rebuild the lives of sisters and brothers devastated by Katrina. Our dates: Saturday February 16 to Friday February 22nd, 2008. Those who have been there tell us we will not only change the lives of others by rebuilding their lives, but we too will be changed for good. We will build stronger ties with one another within our Deanery, we will build our sense of oneness with the greater church and world we will be the Body of Christ we are called to be, seeking and serving Christ in and with one another. Expenses are minimal and what is to be gained is massive. Let your Rector or Deacon know you want to go and get the details! Together let us continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, together let us proclaim the good news of God in Christ together let us be the Body of Christ! Check out the website: www.campcoastcare.com and watch the Utube documentary of their disaster.

Mission Report

There is a word in South African languages known as *ubuntu*. If you have *ubuntu*, it is to say, “My humanity is caught up and inextricably bound up, in yours.” A person with *ubuntu* is open and available to others, affirming of others, shares what he has, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed, or treated as if they were less than who they are. 1

In the spirit of *ubuntu*, I would like to share with you three projects that our Mission Commission is considering, which stem from the recent trip by myself and the Rector, to South Africa.

Through God’s grace, we met Malcom and Ann Davidson. He served as Rector here at Warren Congregational Church for 5 years before retiring to Cape Town. Malcom is now a hospice chaplain and Ann works at a day care center for mentally and physically handicapped children called The Emmanuel Center. Over cups of tea, Ann talked about the needs of this Center and what an important role the Center plays in the families of the children there. The Center allows both parents to work rather than one having to stay home to care for a handicapped child, thus supporting MDG #1. During our conversation Ann talked about wanting to create a project and work to teach the children. She spoke of teaching them to string beads. Gail suggested Anglican prayer beads that we could sell here in the U.S.--and a mission project was born. Ann loved the idea and will send us Anglican Prayer Beads that the children of Emmanuel make. Both our Danbury Deanery and the community of New Milford will be included in this project.

The second project I hope we can become involved in supports MDG #2, primary education. Our Anglican sister and friend, Nomfundo Walaza's family is in planning stages of building a school for boys and girls in the Township she grew up in, outside of Cape Town. Her mother has donated a parcel of land for the school and her brother is working on building of the school itself. Nomfundo is working on the financial end. When the school is complete, or near completion, she will be looking for sponsors for each of the children in the Township in order that they have a uniform and books to enter school. Each child will require \$350 per year and an on going commitment of letter writing to the child. I would like St. John's to sponsor one or two of these children. Our own children will be able to create a relationship with the S. African children and participate fully in this project.

The third project is more long term. I don't have a time frame and at this early stage of the project, and the details are not available yet. While we were in Cape Town, Gail and I had lunch with the Dean of St. George's Cathedral. Part of our conversation centered around what his Church is doing around the MDG's and we told him what our Church is doing. We told him of our hope to connect with an Anglican Church in a rural area of South Africa so that we could engage in an ongoing relationship of mutual education, prayer and support. The key word being '*mutual*'. This would be a spiritual, cultural exchange program with us learning from our Anglican brothers and sisters while they learn from us. Although some financial support might play a role in this relationship, the main focus would be on cultural exchange and relationship building. The Dean said he will work on pairing us with a rural Church.

Submitted by, Kim Polhemus

1. Tutu, Desmond. No Future Without Forgiveness. 1999. New York: Doubleday, 1999.

AN INVITATION to singers of all ages

St. John's Senior Choir has two special musical Sundays planned for the fall and I invite you to sing with us on either or both of them.

On Sunday, October 21, soprano Marthe Ryerson will perform the dramatic Mozart "Alleluia" and the lyric "Come, Ye Blessed" by herself and she will join the choir for Gounod's "Lovely Appear" which has a demanding solo in the middle. If you would like to take part that Sunday, could you please come to rehearsals on Thursday evenings, October 4th and 11th from 7 until 7:45.

November 11 is Veterans' Day and we will sing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Sing to the Lord of Harvest". To learn those songs, rehearsals will be October 25th, November 1st and 8th, also from 7 until 7:45.

On October 21st and November 11th you would need to be in church at 9 A. M. For both services you could sit in the congregation until it is time for the anthems, if you prefer.

Too busy to do both? I recommend the November Sunday because the Battle Hymn would be quite powerful with extra singers.

It would be helpful to hear from you by September 16th.

Jon Lafleur
927-3886

Finding your place, filling a need...

These are the ministries of St. John's and every-one of our members should find his or her place in our mission and ministries. We need you and you need us. Please find your place in the many parts of this Body needed to do the work we have been given to do and contact the Pastor or the name listed below.

Contacts and coordinators of ministries at St.

John's:

Children and Youth

High School youth group: George Barnett, Rick Cassar and Pastor Gail

Junior High youth group: Leigh Alhage, Anne Kannan and Pastor Gail

4th and 5th grade Sunday School: Katie Maxwell and Nick Payne

Godly Play - pre K through 3rd grade:

Cindy Dubret

Nursery - Amanda Stachlewitz

Adult Education/ Spiritual Formation/Healing

Ministries: Donna Sullivan and Karen Wharton

Pastoral Care and Outreach Pastoral Care

and Stephen Ministries: Lisa Smith and

Deacon Marilyn

Lay Eucharistic Ministers to hospitals and

homebound: Deacon Marilyn

Homeless Shelter -Nancy Brown and Ron Engle

Global Mission - Millennial Development

Goals, Episcopal Relief and Development and

Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation:

Kim Polhemus

Loaves and Fishes meal program: John and

Biddy Roger

Latino/Hispanic Ministries: Pat Greenspan,

Kris Cassar and Norma Solis

Community Outreach in Literacy and Employment through Literacy on the Green and the NM Culinary School.

Worship/Liturgy (the work of the people)

Lectors, Ministers of Communion, Prayers of the People -

Flora Quammie and Pastor Gail

Choir, musicians - Jon Lafleur

Ushers - Kathy Olsen

Acolytes - ??????????ADULT NEEDED FOR SCHEDULING AND ASSISTING ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Altar Guild - Mary Lou Johnston

Flower Guild - ?????????????? ONE CONTACT/COORDINATOR NEEDED.

Property, Finances and Stewardship

Property: Eric Sawyer (Warden), Bill Hamilton and John Roger

Finances: Sharlene Zagozewski (Warden) and Rich Davis

Stewardship: Tom Duffy, Pastor Gail and vestry

Community Life

Coffee Hour - Missy Sawyer

Harvest Dinner and Monthly

Potlucks - ????????????

Victorian Tea - Bonnie Lawrence and Lei Lemos

New Member/Hospitality

New member job descriptions and key names:

Greeter scheduling- Linda Kallstrom

Greeter/new member committee

liaison- Nancy Brown

Finding your place, filling a need... con't.

Pew card coordinator- Laura Carlton
Welcome packets- Leigh Alhage
Name tag conversion- Nancy Brown, Kim P
Guest table coordinator- Lei Lemos
Bread delivery coordinator- Donna Stone
Bread bakers- Kathy Leier, Joni Jaeger, Donna Stone
Note card coordinator- Nancy Clifford
Publicity- Kim P
New member dinner chairperson- Nancy Clifford, Kris Cassar
New member tracking- Jim Clifford
Sponsor program coordinator- Kris Cassar
Follow up calls- Lei Lemos

Hall Rentals and use

Kim Polhemus for the time being. Looking for some to take on this ministry to help St. John's pay bills & to make our facility a resource for the good of the greater community.

Healing

We would like to encourage more participation in the Wednesday morning healing prayer services at St. John's by including in our prayers all of those in our church family and our greater community who are in need of spiritual encouragement or physical healing.

For our members who are unable to join us at the service, there are yellow prayer request slips available at the back of the church. Please write in the name of the person you would like your church family to pray for and place them into the white wire mesh box. During the next healing service, prayers will be offered for each request.

Flyers and cards with information about the healing prayer service will be sent to local churches and community groups. Please feel free to pick up a few and distribute them to your family and friends.

Let's join our voices together and ask God to look favorably upon those who we know are struggling with ill health or depleted spirit. When we pray together towards a common goal, our collective voice is strong and powerful. It will be heard by Him.

News from Your Vestry

The Vestry voted to support the African Mission Project which consists of three parts: 1. Help establish a school for severely handicapped children; 2. Support 1 student at an Anglican school for \$350 per year; and 3. Enter into relationship with St. George's Cathedral for prayer and mutual support.

The Rector's sabbatical for 2008 was approved. Pastor Gail's goals are to improve her Spanish, to seek ways to heal the wounds of the past in the life of a parish through work in South Africa and at Cambridge, to refresh her spiritual life, and have some family time.

Additions to the Policy and Procedure Manual were approved. They include the use of offices, staff assignments, work contracts and hall rentals. This 2 year project is near completion and soon will be available in the church office.

The Rector needs a new computer and any donations to such would be greatly appreciated.

Parking behind the church...

Please leave the Handicapped, Clergy, Visitor and the Staff (Jon Lafleur, Elaine Swanson and Karen Ackerman) parking spaces behind the hall to those for whom they are designated. There is still space behind the library and across the street in the old CVS and Post Office lots.

Our Parish Hall is rented on a daily basis by the Culinary school, many different groups and individuals. Please respect the privacy of these groups and do not enter the building through the Parish Hall. Elaine unlocks the red Whittlesey door every morning when she comes in for your convenience. If it is after church office hours and you see that people are in the parish Hall, please use the red Whittlesey door. The renters have a right to their privacy and their anonymity!

September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Centering Prayer 10 AM AA 6:30-7:30 PM
2 Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM	3 Labor day OFFICE CLOSED	4 NA 7:30-8:30 PM	5 Healing Service 10 AM HE NMRC 11 AM	6 Choir 7-9 PM	7	8 Centering Prayer 10 AM AA 6:30-7:30 PM
9 Start up Sunday Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM	10	11 NA 7:30-8:30 PM	12 Healing Service 10 AM	13 Choir 7-9 PM	14	15 Centering Prayer 10 AM AA 6:30-7:30 PM
16 Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM	17	18 Vestry 7:00 PM NA 7:30-8:30 PM	19 Healing Service 10 AM HE Candlewood Valley 11 AM	20 Choir 7-9 PM Pie baking for fundraiser 4-7 PM	21 Wine tasting 7- 11 PM	22 Centering Prayer 10 AM Pie baking for fundraiser 8-3 AA 6:30-7:30
23 Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM	24	25 NA 7:30-8:30 PM	26 Healing Service 10 AM	27 NO Choir	28	29 Centering Prayer 10 AM AA 6:30-7:30 PM
30 Holy Eucharist 8 AM & 10 AM Africa Presenta- tion 11:30						

October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 NA 7:30-8:30 PM	3 Healing Service 10 AM HE NMRC 11 AM	4 Choir 7-9 PM	5	6 Centering Prayer 10 AM AA 6:30-7:30 PM
7 Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM	8 Columbus day OFFICE CLOSED	9 NA 7:30-8:30 PM	10 Healing Service 10 AM	11 Choir 7-9 PM	12	13 Centering Prayer 10 AM AA 6:30-7:30 PM
14 Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM	15	16 Vestry 7:00 PM NA 7:30-8:30 PM	17 Healing Service 10 AM HE Candlewood Valley 11 AM	18 Choir 7-9 PM	19	20 Centering Prayer 10 AM AA 6:30-7:30 PM
21 Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM	22	23 NA 7:30-8:30 PM	24 Healing Service 10 AM	25 Choir 7-9 PM	26	27 Centering Prayer 10 AM AA 6:30-7:30 PM
28 Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Harvest Dinner	29	30 NA 7:30-8:30 PM	31 Healing Service 10 AM			

HOMEMADE APPLE PIE FUNDRAISER

Order homemade pies for your family and help our friend Jorge with his medical expenses.

Apple pies made from scratch in St. John's kitchen, using the finest ingredients, are available for you to order. If you choose, we will make your pie in your own pie plate. Pies will come un-baked, but well wrapped, with your choice of either frozen (**to save for Thanksgiving**) or refrigerated, for you to bake at your convenience.

All order forms due by Sept 17th. Please return order form to Elaine in the church office or Kim Polhemus.

We would love your help! If you would like to join us for a "pie-baking bee" or if you are able to donate ingredients, please call Kim Polhemus 354-7403.

Please return bottom portion

ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

Quantity of Traditional Apple Pies-- _____ @ \$10.00 ea

I would like to receive my pies-- (check one)

_____ frozen-- for me to bake within the next 3 months.
_____ refrigerated-- for me to bake within the next 3 days

I would like to have my pies made in my own pie plates.

_____ I will provide pie plates for my pies

I will pick up my pies (check one)

_____ Sun morning Sept 23rd after the 8am service
_____ Sun morning Sept 23rd after the 10am service
_____ Mon morning Sept 24th between 9-10am

I would like to help –

_____ bake pies Thurs Sept 20 4pm-7pm
_____ bake pies Sat Sept 22 (choose your time between 8-5)
_____ I would like to make a monetary donation toward supplies

United Action of Connecticut presents “Inter-Faith Workshop” on the process of Congregation Based Community Organization Saturday:09/29/07 9:00 am till 4:00 pm at Mattatuck Unitarian Universalist in Woodbury OR Sunday: 09/30/07 1:00 pm till 7:00 pm at Temple Sholom in New Milford. This workshop introduces you to the basic concepts of faith based congregation organizing. It provides an overview of the methodology utilized by United Action of Connecticut (UACT) and taught by the Gama-liel Foundation. This methodology empowers congregations to bring about positive concrete change in their communities. It helps build meaningful relationships between congregation members while discovering their common interests and concerns. It identifies potential new leadership and increases existing leadership abilities. In short, it aims to teach ordinary people how to do extraordinary things. This one-day workshop is being offered twice so you can choose which date works best for you. You can register for either the Saturday, September 29th or the Sunday, September 30th date, (refreshments provided.)To register, please contact: Ken Esposito. UACT staff

Cell: 203-994-3366 Or

E-mail: espositoww@earthlink.net

Please leave your name, organization, date you wish to attend, and a phone or e-mail address you can be reached at.

Come one, come all to St. John’s first ice cream social and fundraiser for ERD (Episcopal Relief and development). Come see Pastor Gail and Kim Polhemus’ pictures and presentation of the mission trip to Africa while enjoying and ice cream Sunday. Held on Sunday September 30, 2007 following the 10:00 AM service in St. John’s Parish Hall. Proceeds will be donated to build schools for children in Africa

On September 6, 2007 Life Line Screening will offer four screenings (in our Parish Hall) using Doppler Color Flow Ultrasound: Carotid Artery Screening – looks for plaque buildup in the arteries, which can lead to stroke. (Up to 75% of all strokes are linked to carotid artery blockage); Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) test – checks for an aneurysm (enlargement) in the abdominal aorta leading to a ruptured aortic artery. The majority of people who have a AAA have no symptoms and the mortality rate for a ruptured AAA is 80-94%; An Ankle Brachial Index (ABI) –screens for Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) in the lower extremities. Peripheral Arterial Disease is a strong indicator of heart disease. Bone Density screening tests both men and women for the early detection of osteoporosis. You must pre-register by calling 1-800-324-1851. These screenings are completely painless, non-invasive, and each test requires ten minutes or less to complete. The cost is \$35-\$45 each or all four for \$129. Flyers are available in the front and the back of the church.

IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER ARE HAVING ANY MEDICAL PROBLEMS AND ARE LOOKING AS TREATMENTS, SURGERY OR SPECIAL CARE, PLEASE LET THE RECTOR, DEACON OR THE HEAD OF PASTORAL CARE, LISE SMITH, KNOW. LIKewise IF YOU KNOW OF ANOTHER PARISHIONER WHO IS DEALING WITH HEALTH ISSUES, PLEASE LET US KNOW. THE CLERGY AND PASTORAL CARE ARE SOMETIMES THE LAST TO LEARN THESE THINGS.

September Birthdays

9-2 Nancy Brown	9-17 Chelsea Dubret
9-2 Sheranne Roswell	9-19 Christopher Wallin
9-4 Debra McGuire	9-20 William Huntington
9-6 Cecelia Anderson	9-21 Maggie Torres
9-6 Kyle Andreko	9-22 Kang-Sun Ktrten
9-6 Janie Larson	9-23 Gregory Joseph
9-7 Benjamin Wallin	9-23 Morgan Killen
9-8 Heidi Giangregorio	9-25 Jennifer Thierfelder
9-9 Hayden Frisbie	9-26 Linda Blessing
9-11 Bob Warner	9-27 Kelly Rafferty
9-12 Kris Cassar	9-27 Julia Duffy
9-12 Clayton Ellman	9-28 Bonnie Puglisi
9-13 Jake Stachlewitz	9-29 Mildred Murphy
	9-29 Louis Alhage

September Anniversaries

9-4 Bill and Blanche Hamilton	9-17 George and Kathy Leier
9-7 Jiri and Kang-Sun Krtten	9-17 Rick and Kim Polhemus
9-9 Russell and Elsie Watts	9-21 Daniel and Carol MacInnis
9-14 Kevin and Kimberly Marsan	9-28 Ron and Kathy Engle
9-17 Timothy and Cindy Dubret	9-29 David and Heidi Giangregorio

Youth Group

Youth Group St. John's youth will have their first meeting of the school year on Sunday, September 9th at 5:30 pm with pizza. There are three groups at times in the youth program. The classes are: Rite 13 which will be led by Ann Kannan and Leigh Alhage. These are youth who are 11 - 13 years of age. J2A is the pre-confirmation group who are ages 14 - 16 and they are often joined in activities and classes by YAC (Youth At Church), who are confirmed and active in worship and ministry, ages 16-through 19. This group is led by George Barnett and Rick Cassar. Rite 13 and J2A classes will be the third Sunday of each month at 11:30 and Pastor Gail will work with all of the youth and meet with them for her own class, the second Sunday at 5:30 pm each month. To be confirmed, youth must be at least 15 years of age, involved in ministry in St. John's (acolytes, ushers, greeters, lectors, ministers of communion, nursery assistants, etc), attending classes regular and understand that confirmation is their decision to be live the Christian life and to continue in the fellowship of church. Fourth Sundays will be a movie night at 5:30 pm. In addition there will be: Fun activities, such as bowling night, ice skating, lock in/sleep over, game nights, etc. Fund raising and mission projects: Breakfasts, car washes, serving in the feeding program, etc And trips to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC and to our own cathedral in Hartford. Please see the rector if you have questions.

**REMINDER THAT THE 2ND
SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
BREAKFAST BUFFETS BY OUR
YOUTH GROUP WILL START UP
AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER ON
START-UP SUNDAY THE 9TH.**

I often sit in the garden at St. John's and talk to our glorious and sweet St. Francis. He has such a crushing burden as we are ravaging and despoiling his exquisite natural world. The very creatures of the earth and of the sky are being turned out of their habitats and becoming refugees and the meadows and trees and flowers that Our Father In Heaven created to exist in stunning harmony and balance, is blatantly being blasphemed in the name of civilization and progress.

As we commiserated over this, the wound in the Great Soul of which we all a part of and are were given stewardship of by Our Father and his Son Our Savior Jesus Christ who gave us the guidance and wisdom, we need to cherish the magnificent universe created by his Father In Heaven.

The most blessed event happened.....A fly alighted on St. Francis' head. A fly the very definition of pest. A creature cursed by us and vilified as filthy and worthy of eradication from existence, was given safe hospice in it's journey.

Is not a fly as all creatures. It is not evil or malicious. It is just doing what a fly does to sustain. It seeks food, it bears young and creates a legacy of being a fly.

Did not God create the fly and love it and give it a mission?

The many times that I had visited St. Francis, I could see the weight of this plight upon his face. His countenance focused on healing his beloved nature.

But, I did, when this scorned and demonized creature of Our Father the fly rested upon his head.....see him smile.

Now what a profound message from God to certain factions and stewards of our church concerning its petty and archaic attempt to create a schism in our blessed church and engage in issues that violate the very message of Love and acceptance that our Lord and Savior gave his very life for.

Our Father in Heaven is not frivolous and random. God created a universe of one sentient, beating, animated and sustained by Love. Harmony and Balance and all matter is a living cherished part of this soul. All things: Flora, fauna, tree of tarantula, mountain or ocean is in us.

The Fly On St. Francis' Head Is The What Our Church Is About. We Love And Cherish All Of Gods Creations For They Are All Beautiful In God's Eyes.

I am in awe of God's Love. It does not discriminate or eliminate. It includes, not excludes. IT IS BLINDINGLY BEAUTIFUL.

God Bless You

John Hoydilla

Since joining the community of St John's, I have experienced several personal difficulties that have tested my faith. What never ceased to amaze me was the openness and generosity of fellow members of our congregation who offered their prayers of intercession to the Lord on my behalf. Each encounter left me feeling less alone and filled me with the love of God. I am so grateful for their fellowship and concern. We are all so blessed to be part of such a caring community.

Our Church offers us so many opportunities to pray for the needs of one another. Each Sunday we are encouraged in our liturgy to pray for our own needs as well as those of our greater community and the world. After mass, individual anointing and healing prayers are offered by our priests or deacon. On Wednesday mornings, we are invited to gather to celebrate the Eucharist and offer our prayers for individuals who are in need of physical or emotional healing. Each of these opportunities for prayer reinforces the references in the New Testament to the church as the "body of Christ".

I have been so inspired by the power of prayer that I have experienced here at St. John's. In the near future, I would like to expand its reach by organizing a prayer group within our church community under the guidance of Pastor Gail. One of the group's main focuses would be the organization and facilitation of a prayer chain made up of a network of people who faithfully intercede on behalf of others in need by lifting up specific requests, concerns and emergency situations. Prayer requests from individuals in our congregation can be communicated by email, fax or telephone to any member of the prayer team. As a member, your most important task will be to be available and prepared to receive prayer requests when you are contacted for prayer. We will develop a protocol to follow for requests, but basically once a request has been received by a team member and all the information is confirmed, the next available member of the team is contacted and given the request. This procedure is continued till each available member has been contacted. All prayer requests received by the team will remain confidential at all times.

Another focus of the prayer team would be for individual members to participate (as their schedules permit) in the prayers for healing, thanksgiving and intercession during Wednesday's healing services and after mass on Sundays, supporting Pastor Gail or Deacon Marilyn.

If you would be interested in joining St. John's prayer team please contact Karen Wharton, Donna Sullivan or Pastor Gail. If you've ever asked "Is there anything I can do?", becoming a member of our prayer team is a simple way to personally make a difference and give something back to our church community.

Karen Wharton

"Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened," (Matthew 7:7)

