

# The Eagle

The Newsletter of  
St. John's of Lattingtown

Special Advent Issue

November / December 2004

## Welcome to New Members from Rev Simon Foster, Interim Rector

In my last Eagle letter to the parish I said how important welcome must be. It has been good to see in recent months new people coming to worship and sharing in parish life. Just know we are delighted that you have chosen St John's as your Church and that you are most welcome at all our events and activities. Watch out in announcements for a special WELCOME SUNDAY and a WELCOME EVENING. You really are most welcome!

## A Welcome from Eric Milnes, Director of Music

Periodically, we like to extend a warm invitation to any parishioners and members of the community for whom joining the choir seems an attractive notion. The choir rehearses from 9:15 to 10:15 on Sunday mornings, and then sings the 10:30 service. Some choir experience is preferred among those who might like to join, but please be reminded that we do, in fact, teach. We're having fun in choir, and performing a vital service for worship at St. John's as well. Please put aside any trepidation about the caliber of your vocal contribution: we are happy to make room for you! The busy seasons of Advent and Christmas, fast approaching, will benefit from your participation and enrich your worship experience in ways previously unimaginable. Give it your consideration!

## Special Events Coming in December

### Bishop's Visit

Our Diocesan Bishop will be with us as celebrant and preacher on **December 5th at 10:30 AM**. It would mean a lot to me to show a strong attendance at this service not least as a sign that St John's is alive, well and thriving and working hard to be the Parish Church. Let us show we are a strong and vibrant community. May our attendance reflect our commitment to this wonderful parish community.

### Annual Meeting,

**December 12, following the 10:30 Service**, to hear reports, adopt the 2005 budget, and hold annual elections. All baptized members in good standing are entitled to voice opinion and vote. Refreshments will be served.

### Children's Special Christingle Service on Christmas Eve

When I came here from England, I brought with me a service that is increasingly popular. Christingle means "Christ-Light", and this relatively short service (not a Eucharist) is especially for children and the young at heart. Children of Sunday school age are asked to come at 3 PM to make a wonderful Christian symbol using an orange

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*The Blessing of the Animals,  
October, 2004*



**From The Rev. Simon Foster, Interim Rector**

## **Prayer, Composting and Teeth!**

Recently I spent time with the Episcopal nuns at the Convent of the Holy Spirit in Manhattan on West 113th Street. It was a wonderful experience. The nuns offer prayer and do work for God's Church and world. The Convent is located across three houses with a Chapel, Library and accommodation. I have always tried to have access to such religious house of monks or nuns. I find them very earthy places as well as very heavenly. One of the sisters after Noon Prayer and lunch said that she was off to do composting! These nuns are very good on the environment and caring for the earth. It made me laugh and smile that there was a nun in her habit off to go composting. It is an image of someone rooted in prayer whose spiritual life was not divorced from the world and care for the planet.

We are about to enter Advent, the beginning of the Church year. My prayer is that our spiritual life may not be divorced from life. May our religion not be compartmentalized into Sunday observance. The Celtic Christians were very keen that God was involved in all of life all of the time. God's Spirit meeting us in and through our work and homes, our families, friends, through society and the planet.

May be a good prayer for us as we go through this season and come to Christmas and New Year is that we discover God at work in the midst of life, not just through our explicitly religious activities. The world is God's sacrament pointing us to God's presence and care in the everyday stuff of life.

I once stayed at a monastery in England and was talking to one of the brothers. He said to me something like "You know people think we are very holy but I have to take one of the older brothers denture teeth to be repaired today and that sort of thing is part of life here too!".

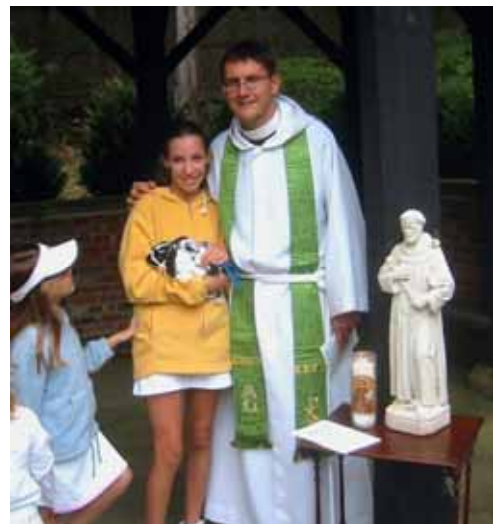
My friends at St John's let us go on building our spiritual lives, both individual and corporate but ensuring that we see the world and life as God's arena, not just the Church. The Church is far too small to contain the Spirit and God's work is as much about composting and teeth repair as it is about prayer books.

The tragedy of the spiritual quest is that people so minimize prayer as not useful and not an activity but composting, manual work, taking teeth to be repaired as real work. Prayer is as essential. real and a crucial activity as doing the other things. I suggest it makes all the practical stuff have a deeper meaning and purpose.

I am grateful to the sister for her composting. The image of a nun in her habit composting is a wonderful icon of sacred and secular merged into one. You and I are called to show that spiritual life and the business of everyday life are to be integrated not compartmentalized. God is with us in the ordinary stuff of life, not just the churchy bit. A babe in a smelly stable, heaven in the ordinary. It's a truth at the heart of this down to earth faith.

Happy Christmas and New Year!

Simon and Felix the Cat





## St. John's Fall Fair 2004

"The show must go on!" These words aptly sum up the feelings of Fall Fair co-chairs Laura Reaper and Amy Tansill and parishioners alike on that rainy Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Despite the lack of cooperation on the part of Mother Nature, the Fair went on as scheduled, with the first fairgoers arriving by mid-morning. While many volunteers and visitors alike were spotted sporting their Wellington boots, a good time was had by all. "We were very lucky, considering conditions, to have such a positive turnout," says Fair co-chair Laura Reaper. According to Interim Rector Simon Foster the commitment of volunteers and fairgoers on that soggy day displayed "a great reflection of determination."

While parents browsed the tents for hidden treasures in the peddler's market, the voices of happy children – obviously undeterred by the wet weather – could be heard throughout the fair grounds. (Several were spotted running barefoot through the squishy fields as

the day wore on.) The grill, a huge hit, provided a welcome respite from the morning rain.



The jewelry sale, always a highlight, was buzzing with activity. Wafting across the cloisters were the scents of freshly baked goods running the gamut from cookies to coffee-cake.

As the day went on – and the sun began to peek out – there was a sense that this was a special day indeed. The Fair allows St. John's parishioners to feel a sense of belonging, says Reaper. The Fair allows "us to remain a tight-knit parish. It keeps us together like a family,"

Proceeds from the day of the Fair were \$46,000. Each year the funds are distributed, via the Outreach Program, to worthy charities and programs based on a grant application and approval. "It is a true community service," states Ms. Tansill. The Fair is "so important in terms of outreach, fellowship, and it also increases community involvement," says Reverend Foster.

"Despite all the mud and wetness the sun came out," says Ms. Reaper. A strong sense of parishioner volunteerism helped make the day a success. "We hope this is a continued successful, local event that raises money for local and nationwide charities," concludes Ms. Reaper.

--Corrie Decker

## On the Reformation

Wednesdays this fall saw approximately 35 parishioners gather for a six-week course on the Reformation led by Reverend Simon Foster, Interim Rector. With both a morning and evening section, the course allowed for a diverse group armchair theologians and historians to discuss a sometimes esoteric topic. According to Simon, the intent of the course was to "think critically about faith and Christian history."

"It was a great opportunity to get together with people from the community to discuss the history of the Protestant Church," says parishioner Adele Bolitho. "We got to interact with a variety of people whom we might not otherwise spend time with," she says.

"The people at the course have a shared experience, a bonding. It's one more way for (the congregation) to interact," says parishioner Brewster Righter.

Topics covered included the pre-Reformation Church as well as the catalysts that effected change in Western Europe. Among the "characters" discussed were Martin Luther, John Calvin, Huldreich Zwingli, and Henry VIII. Ever prepared, Simon often distributed primary and secondary documents to help demystify the topic.

Students had much praise for the facilitator of the course. "It demonstrated once again that Simon is incredibly well-educated and prepared. It's clear he had read widely about the subject," says Righter. Adele Bolitho concurs: "I enjoy the level of preparation and knowledge Simon brings to the table."

"I love listening to different points of view," says Simon. "I was amazed at the level of interest. We enjoyed learning together, from each other. (The course) helps people to see that we all have questions and that we all want to learn more," he concludes.

--Corrie Decker



## Vestry Update

### From The Warden

As noted in an earlier edition of the Eagle, your Vestry began the year focusing on the administrative aspects of running St. John's. Over the years a rather cumbersome structure of some thirty-three committees focusing on the non-spiritual side of Parish life had evolved.

This fall we are bringing a more streamlined structure to this aspect of our Church life. For example, finance and investment, formally two committees, is now one. As another, ECW, Outreach, and Fair had many overlapping activities. They are being brought together. An Administration Committee is pulling together all personnel functions and office administration including a modernization of the computer systems.

By our next retreat in January, the Vestry expects to finalize a revised, more efficient structure which should modernize our administrative life.

— Frank Polk

### Management Team Forms

In order to ease the administrative burden on the Rector and with the hope and expectation of making things at St. John's run more smoothly, the Vestry has appointed Katie Schwab and David Brewer (both Vestry members) and Brewster Righter (Treasurer) as a team to assist Simon in overseeing parish operations. Katie and David bring their keen legal skills to this effort while Brewster will function as an enthusiastic "utility infielder".

While St. John's is small, it is complex with management issues ranging from local regulatory matters to federal and national Church issues. Among the tricky aspects of the team's early actions will be to keep itself action oriented, and avoid being "just another Committee". The initial programs include creation of staff position descriptions, updating personnel files, defining and regularizing our benefits programs and the like. In Simon's absence or in case of his unavailability any of the team will be available to respond to non-pastoral needs or questions.

— Brewster Righter, Treasurer

### Stewardship

By now you will have received at least one if not two letters on the Stewardship of St. John's of Lattingtown. Your participation in the financial support of the church is crucial to the vitality of the parish and its programs, and pledges at all levels are important. Remember that **Sunday, November 21st** is "Stewardship Sunday", and the Rev. Simon Foster will be reminding us of the spiritual side of stewardship and its importance within the church. Please contact me with any questions or comments you might have.

— John Macaskill

### Parish Hall, Cloister And New Kitchen Available For Meetings And Receptions

With the completion of our cloister, guild room and undercroft, comes the task of managing their use. In order to avoid conflicts, we've created a "MASTER CALENDAR" located in the parish house foyer, in the "FACILITY" file. We are asking all committee chairs to enter in dates, times and location of meetings or events in this calendar. This will eliminate conflicts, aid in the Sexton's maintenance and map availability of our beautiful facility for community use. Included in the approved guidelines for the use of our new facilities are the names of preferred caterers (who are familiar with the facilities) and a schedule of suggested donations to St. John's for facility use.

— John Vessalico, Facility Chair



## Committee Reports

### Greetings from the ECW!

We are very excited to be taking on this new role in our parish life and would like to share our plans for the ECW's upcoming events.

As the weather has turned colder and the days grow shorter, we all look toward the upcoming holiday season. The thoughts of family and friends joining together to share a warm hearth, great food and the many joys of the season is something that we all share. This is not always the case for all of our neighbors. ECW has a few projects that we are asking for help from our parishioners so that we may make this time of year happier and more comfortable for those less fortunate than ourselves. This year the Thanksgiving Food Drive will be collecting canned and non-perishable food items that will be distributed through the Hands of Love in Glen Cove. If you would like to help or you have any question please contact Ruth Colgrove, 676-4720. ECW is continuing its relationship with the INN in Glen Cove by collecting funds and purchasing items such as canned goods and stuffing mixes which they will distribute to the families who count on them every week but especially during the holiday season. It means so much and costs so little. We are also in contact with the good people at North Shore Sheltering to see if they may need our help. We will keep you informed.

And finally a new event that we hope will become a holiday tradition at St. John's; the first annual Christmas Open House. **On Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 pm the ECW will be host a "caroling and cocktails" party.** Wine, hors d'oeuvres and plenty of good cheer will be served up. Our own Eric Milnes has graciously agreed to play for us. In conjunction with North Shore Hospital we are asking that everyone brings a new, wrapped book that will then be donated to the "Reach out and Read" program. Although we are all so busy during the Christmas season, we hope that everyone can join us or just stop by to raise a glass or a voice in song! Check the bulletin.

— Mary Williams and Jan Hagner

### Sunday School and Children's Ministry

On **November 28**, we will open the Advent Season with our annual Advent Wreath making activity. As they did last year, grades one through eight will join together in the Parish Hall to make their Advent Wreaths. We hope that the wreath will be given a place of honor in your home as you light the first candle in a family circle later that day. Please note on this day, we will not hold classes for Jr. Pre-K, Pre-K or Kindergarten. Nursery will be available.

We are seeking volunteers for our Christmas Pageant on **December 12**. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Nicole Engels who is coordinating the event. We need help with costumers, scenery, singing. **Proposed rehearsal dates are Saturday December 4 and 11 at 9 AM and Sunday, December 5 after the 10:30 service.** We may add dates to the schedule as needed.

To help us serve our children more fully, we would like to collect your feedback on our Sunday School and children's ministry. We will be circulating a questionnaire to gather your thoughts on the program. In the meantime, please support us by ensuring your children's regular attendance.

— Johanna Babcock, Director

### The Pot Luck Ministry

Join the Sunday Night Pot Luck Ministry in the Parish Hall! Occurring with some regularity (almost monthly), these dinners are very informal with many people deciding to attend on the day of the event. Children have been our most vociferously enthusiastic supporters and lend their energy to the gathering. All are welcome (including your friends and family), and the RSVP is loose. **The next pot luck is Sunday, December 12 at 5:30 (we generally finish up between 8:15 and 9pm)** – this one promises good fare as a few of the regulars are bringing leftovers from Christmas parties the night before! Contact me at (516) 656-3389 or naylorjt@optonline.net with questions, recipe ideas and to get yourself on this exclusive guest list. If you're coming last minute, just grab a loaf of bread, a jug of wine and thou. The border guards will clear you for entry.



## Reflections

Life is difficult. It took me nearly forty six years to realize and embrace this fact. Up until that point in time, I thoroughly believed that if I worked hard, I was entitled to a good life; a life absent of pain and need. More importantly, I believed that I was the sole reason for my successes or failures. Looking back, I can only thank God for his patience as I learned the most important lesson in my life.

The past two years have been the most painful yet the most enlightening years of my life. In my weakest moment, I found my great-

est strength; Him. He helped me learn that the bottomless pit I had fallen into wasn't a pit at all, it's a great reservoir of understanding and courage. It is now the core of my peace. No one travels alone in this world. He is with us at every step and twist of the road. His hand guides us through the darkest and most painful times. I know and believe this with all my heart. All we have to do is believe and open our hearts, minds and souls to Him.

Church. I have had the pleasure of meeting with Simon Foster during the past few weeks to prepare

for my confirmation and to better understand the rich history and traditions of the Episcopal Church. The one on one dialog has been educational and rewarding, and has deepened my relationship with God. The confirmation process has also enlightened me to the many details and nuances in the church itself, making the Sunday service even more fulfilling.

I have embraced the Episcopal Church and St. John's because of three fundamental reasons. First and foremost, it is an inclusive and warm environment. It makes an outsider feel wel-

reflect on the most important things life, and the teachings reinforce the need to always do the right thing. Last but not least, is the passion and energy of Simon Foster. Simon has a unique ability to connect to his parishioners which in turn stirs the mind and the soul. Simon provokes; he acts as a catalyst, turning good intentions into good actions. And isn't that what it's all about? I am grateful to have found Him and look forward to becoming an involved member of the St. John's community.

— Jeff Molchan

## St John's Acolyte and Youth Group Member Shares in Special Church Program

Victoria Beisler recently attended the Heifer International Mission Project at a Farm near Boston. She writes:

I worked for a week with 12 other young people and youth leaders from the Diocese of Long Is-

land. It was all about character building, team work and Christian fellowship. I loved the people I met and the farm animals. Our work was about taking care of these animals, working as a team in a Christian environment, recognizing the troubles of the world

and socializing in a new environment.

We fed the animals, did barn work, milked cows, cleaned, cut weeds and had services too! It was a great experience.

Victoria's lead. It was wonderful to have St John's represented on the program. Well done, Victoria. St. John's very much values all the ages represented in our congregation and gives thanks not least for our young people. We are proud of you.

## Greetings from Seminary!

Simon writes that next year he will be asking other young people to follow

As a student of Theology, I have certainly known the unfortunate reality of being so wrapped up in study that parish life seems a distant memory. Now in my third year of seminary, I have become acutely aware of the need to strike a balance between academic work and the joys of sharing in Christian fellowship.

Fr. Simon has been gracious enough to help integrate me into the St. John's community as I begin to get "in the habit" of local church ministry. It has been a real treat to meet so many of you over the past few months. I am exceedingly grateful for all the prayers and support I have received thus far and am very much looking forward to meeting each of you as the year goes on. What a joy it is to be part of such a vibrant and faithful body of Christ.

See you around the church!



## Christmastide Schedule

1 <sup>st</sup> Sun. Advent	November 28	8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist I 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist II
Wednesday	December 1	9:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M. Advent Eucharist+ (see below)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. Advent	December 5	8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist I 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist II – Bishop Walker, Celebrant/Preacher
Wednesday	December 8	9:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M. Advent Eucharist+
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun. Advent	December 12	8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist I 10:30 A.M. Sunday School Pageant, morning worship & Baptism <i>(followed by the Annual Meeting)</i>
Wednesday	December 15	5:00-6:30 P.M. Reconciliation of a Penitent (Confession) <i>(Before Christmas, Reconciliation of a Penitent is also available by appointment with the priest)</i> 9:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M. Advent Eucharist+
4 <sup>th</sup> Sun. Advent	December 19	8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist I 10:30 A.M. Service of Lessons and Carols
Wednesday	December 22	9:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M. Advent Eucharist+
Christmas Eve	December 24	4:00 P.M. Children's Christingle Service 6:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist II 11:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist I
Christmas Day	December 25	8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist I 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist II
1 <sup>st</sup> Sun. Christmas	December 26	8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist I 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist & Carol Sing
Wednesday	December 29	no Eucharist
Sunday	January 2	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. Morning Prayer

+followed by Reflection & Meditation on *Gift of the Sea* by A.M. Lindberg at 10:15 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.

## Special Events

Sunday November 28	10:30 AM: Advent wreath making for Sunday School students
Sunday December 5	10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist II with Bishop Walker presiding
Sunday December 12	10:30 AM: Christmas Pageant. Annual meeting follows in the Parish Hall.
Sunday December 12	5:30 PM: Pot Luck Supper. Jennifer Naylor, 656-3389 to RSVP.
Sunday December 19	5:30 PM: ECW Carols and Cocktail party. RSVP with the church office.



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## Baptisms

Caitlin Michelle Engels  
Nicholas James Engels  
Christen Anne Jauregui  
D'Anna Rose Maki  
Hope Anna Grace Dejoux  
Timothy Luke Jennings  
Howard Thomas Hogan IV  
Claire Chandler Hogan  
Paige Campbell  
Carlyle Manning Dunaway, Jr.  
Logan Eugene Lessar  
Rhiannon Frances Gulley  
Troy Lessar  
Charles Melville Dye  
Staffan Fernando Emanuel Garcia  
Chloe Alexis Andersen  
Katherine Ballantine Banker

## Weddings

Lawrence Christopher Martone and Pauline Elizabeth Woolworth  
Sherrell Jerone Aston and Allison Marianna Andrea Luyten  
David Stuart Smith and Ruth Frances Douzinas  
Alexander Pritchett Coleman and Anastasia Regina Tavoulareas  
Mark William Bolitho and Adele Lee Hennig  
Christopher Clark Ingraham and Frances Stewart Walker  
George Clausen Haggerty, Jr. and Pamela Marie Picoli  
Charles Harry Randall and Dania Annette Platek  
William Andrew Krusen III and Elizabeth Kent Boothby

## Burials

Dorothy P. Davidson | Richard I. Purnell | Pauline Dixon Dodge Pratt Webel |  
John L. Sole | Richard H. Leeds | Don Durgin | Gloria Welch Whitlock |  
Rod Kruger | Dorothy F. Thorne | Maria M. Ringgold | Clare F. Ruckgaber |  
Philip Richard von Stade | Jeffrey Walter Beisler | Marjorie Greenan Marks |  
William Berton Ayers, MD | Lindsay Coates Herkness III | John Haldeman Leib  
M. Eleanore Bennett | Madeleine Foster | Howard Bonbright II |  
Kathryn Elizabeth Tuttle | Charles O. Thompson |