

The Eagle

The Newsletter of
St. John's of Lattingtown

Christmas 2006 Issue

From the Priest-in-Charge

Gospel Rock

At our Diocese of Long Island Convention in early November I rejoiced to see so much diversity of skin colors, cultures, backgrounds and ages. The worship was wonderful and for me I had a thought when we all sang the Lord's Prayer together that Pentecost must have been so like this. People gathered in one place worshipping God in all their human diversity. The atmosphere in worship was electric. I especially loved the Gospel music and instruments led by a Choir from Brooklyn. The music really rocked. Jesus felt very much at the center as we gathered around our bishop as a Diocese to worship.

As we go through Advent, Christmas and New Year let us be especially mindful of the richness in diversity of the human family. The Episcopal Church is at the front line challenging racism in all its forms – challenging the use of inappropriate language and thinking about God's children whatever their skin color.

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From the Rev. Clare Nesmith

Happy New Year!

What, you say? Don't rush the season!

But, on November 30th or the Sunday nearest to that date, the Church begins its new year. Why that day?

November 30th is when we remember St. Andrew the Apostle. Yes, Andrew! Who we remember around here because of Scotland and golfing...

Andrew is called "The First Apostle" because it seems that he brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus, and brought some Greeks who asked "Sir, we would see Jesus," and brought the kid to Jesus who had the basket of bread and fish to share. He is the first named evangelist in the Gospels.

And since "Mission One" in the Church is to share Christ with others, we begin the year on or around the day we remember him in the calendar.

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Children's Special Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 3pm

When I came here from England, I brought a service with me which I know is increasingly popular. Christingle means "Christ-Light", and Children of Sunday school age are asked to come to the Church at 3 PM to make a wonderful Christian symbol with an orange and other things to be used in a lovely service and candle-lit procession in the Church at 4pm. The service is relatively short (and not a Eucharist) and is especially for children and the young at heart. Please come and support this. Celebrate the Light of the World at Christmas.

The workshop (rehearsal) is from 3 to 4 pm and the actual service is at 4 pm.



New Staff

Karin DeMario joined Saint John's October 16, 2006.

Karin managed Accounting at a major bank in NYC for many years, and has lately opted for a less pressured lifestyle (she thought).

She currently also serves as administrator for Locust Valley Reform Church.

Karin has already discovered that there are bottomless opportunities to help Simon and Clare spread the word at Saint John's!



Duncan Naylor also threw his hat into the organizational effort on October 16. He brings an MFA in acting, 25 years of computer software design and coding experience, familiarity with organizations and budgets, and several years of on-the-job training in graphical design, publishing, website development and 'new media' development (audio and video for the web).

Besides the considerable daily demands in all these areas in the church, Duncan hopes to discover ways to leverage youth's attraction to new media and dramatic ritual.



Dear Friends,

I profusely thank those of you who gave so generously to my "leaving gift". It will help a lot with the move. Unfortunately, time is running out and although I would prefer to write you individually there is no opportunity.

We will be going to Massachusetts (south of Boston) in the near future and cleaning out a house in preparation for its sale after 40ish years is a big project! I'll probably be working harder at home!

It seems like I just arrived at St. John's. I consider having been the Parish Secretary as a "calling" rather than a job and I am very happy to have known all of you. Thank you again.

With my best wishes to all, *Ginny Byrnes*

Happy New Year (continued)

A couple of weeks ago, I attended a church-wide conference in Richmond, Virginia. There were folks from "liberal" and "conservative" areas of the country, "red" states and "blue" states, from California, various parts of Texas, Georgia, Illinois, Washington state, New England – and everywhere in between. We met together to talk about "Going Forward Together: Christianity for the Third Millennium."

We heard some of the best new thinking on post-modernism; we heard from traditional writers on spirituality. We heard from bishops in developing countries; we heard from leaders in emerging congregations in Seattle and Belfast, Northern Ireland. We experienced the best of traditional worship, worship that uses global music resources, contemplative worship, and worship that reaches out to those who are on the margins. We also shared with each other the ideas from our own congregations.

Those of us who were there have a desire to move beyond our differences and focus on the one thing that is important. We want to find ways to bring others to Jesus, to show Christ to our own communities and we want to focus on ways to share resources in mission with others.

That is our Mission One in this community of St. John's as well. The 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in our Sunday School who are gathering school supplies for kids in the Dominican Republic are focusing on it. The folks who come for worship and prayer on Sundays and throughout the week are focusing on it. The people who invited a friend to come to a class or potluck are focusing on it. Through this new year, you are invited to become like St. Andrew! And we will be a part of Going Forward Together, choosing to set aside our differences and focus on the mission—to bring others to Christ.

Clare+



Outreach



Dear Brother Rev. Foster,

Greetings from us all and all the members of our Christian Community greet you and your family. It is our hope that the Lord is continuing to bless you and all brothers and sisters of St. John's of Lattingtown. We are always delighted to see that you have us in mind by sending us financial aid to save us from problems of hunger, clothing in wintertime and other needs. God bless you and the congregation and that the Lord may bless you more for the work that you are doing—there are so many Christian churches in the world but could not think in the way you are doing.

I came from the third world where we are very poor—but you think of me and my family plus the Christian Community around us as people who need help. We thank you so much. I received the sum of \$500 with thanks. May the good Lord bless you.

Yours in the Lord

Rev. Prof. MMD Sibande, St. John's Residence

Luwinga Township, Mzuzu Malawi, Central Africa



I have to thank you very much for your concern about us and your prayers for our needs and thank you my dear brother and the church community for what you are doing for us. It is not simple to build a house for someone as poor as ourselves. May the Good Lord continue to bless you! We have received the sum of \$500 for our upkeep. Thank you so much for the good work you are doing for us. I read the church magazine which was and is very spiritual and full of Gospel messages. This shows that the church is growing every day because of good leadership. Greetings to Episcopal Church Women and all our friends in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours in the Lord. Rev. Sibande

Thank You from Bishop Michel

Dears Father Simon, Mother Claire, Wardens, Vestry and all the People of God at St. John's Church.

Thank you for your very kind and generous gifts to commemorate my impending Retirement from active ministry, which were presented at my recent Visitation to St. John's of August 27th. Marie and I were overwhelmed at your generosity as well as your kind words and kudos. The beautiful Reception was also greatly appreciated. Thank you!

It has been my great joy and privilege to serve the People of God in the Diocese of Long Island for these past ten years as the Seventh Bishop Suffragan and I was especially happy to work with and assist St. John's Church of Lattingtown on several occasions. I think of the words of that wonderful Psalm 33 which begins: "Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!" It appears that all the brothers and sisters of Jesus are living together in unity at St. John's right at this time and I rejoice with you and give thanks to God for that great blessing.

Please know that we leave a bit of our love and a part of our hearts at all the congregations in this great Diocese and will always hold ou and your clergy in our prayers and thoughts. Thank you again for your generosity and may God continue to bless you in every way.

Gratefully and faithfully yours,

The Rt. Rev. Rodney R. Michel





Saint John's Annual Fair—2006



The Fair Chair and some of the many parishioners that make it possible.



With Homeland Security concerns looming, we called on our most experienced members to meet the challenges of an insecure world.



Wine not?



What do you read in this picture?



My Fair Ladies!



Admission was a fair price

Thanks for the captions Edie!



Ring around the can



Simon's trip to China

A Chinese Dinner was held at St. John's of Lattintown Episcopal Church on October 26. The evening program featured food, fellowship and fun in celebration of the Rev. Simon Foster's recent travels in China.



Simon compared a Westerner's impressions of China to the reality of China today. He enlightened the group with his observations on culture, religion, politics, trends of youth, fashion, fitness, and social justice. His presentation was enriched with photos and other mementoes of his 21 day experience. He challenged those in attendance to explore the myths that surround Chinese culture.

Gospel Rock (cont'd)

As a priest over the years I have heard some of the most racist, prejudiced comments from Christians. May God help us in this parish to show we value all people and cultural and ethnic diversity.

The Spirit is moving all over the world as well as in our parish and SHE blows where she wills amongst all the human family. Let us think about what we say about those who have a different skin color to us. All are children of God, as we are, equally loved by God.

Thank goodness we all belong together and are part of each other in the Churches of this Diocese. This is part of being an Episcopalian, recognizing we are part of a whole, standing on the Rock Christ Jesus. Gospel Rock. Jesus, the one who had a different skin color to us and redeemed us all.

Happy Advent, Christmas and New Year

Simon+



The Blessing of the Animals

Stewardship and Finance

You will all have received your Stewardship Letters with accompanying Pledge Form,

And some have already been returned with the traditional, generous pledge or donation.

Year to year comparisons of early results, a sort of Episcopalian "exit poll" are awkward, as differences in timing of our mailings and the date of Thanksgiving (of all things) affect the timing of donor responses. We appreciate the quick action of those of you who have already pledged or given and particularly thank those (few) of you who opted to increase your support of St. John's. As this goes to press the church had received about \$33,000 in direct response to the Stewardship Committee's heartfelt pleas.

As each journey begins with but a single step, and "it is better to travel in hope than to arrive", your Treasurer looks forward to December when we expect to receive nearly 30% of our annual giving donations.

If we have forecasted accurately, we will be left with an operating deficit of nearly **\$90,000**, or about \$250 for each family listed in the parish directory. It is not too late to help make up this shortfall, and to mitigate or eliminate a preliminary budgeted loss for 2007 of about **\$75,000**.

On a more cheerful note our modest endowment has performed well this year, so the church is solvent, but is consuming some of its capital.

You will recall that the Annual Meeting date has been moved to the first Sunday in May when we will have actual instead of projected financial figures.



Christmastide Schedule

1 st Sun. Advent	December 3	8:00 A.M. Advent Eucharist Rite I
		10:30 A.M. Advent Eucharist Rite I
Sunday	December 3	4 P.M. Evensong at the Cathedral
		6 P.M. Advent Potluck Supper (Guild Hall)
Wednesday	December 6	9:30 A.M. Advent Eucharist
2 nd Sun. Advent	December 10	8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist I
		10:30 A.M. Morning Prayer and Sunday School Pageant
Wednesday	December 13	9:30 A.M. Advent Eucharist
3 rd Sun. Advent	December 17	8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist I
		10:30 A.M. Lessons and Carols
Monday	December 18	7:00—8:00 P.M. Reconciliation of a Penitent (Confession) <i>(Before Christmas, Reconciliation of a Penitent is also available by appointment with the priest)</i>
Wednesday	December 20	9:30 A.M. Advent Eucharist
4 th Sun. Advent	December 24 (Christmas Eve)	8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist I
		10:30 A.M. Morning Prayer
		3:00 P.M. Christingle Workshop
		4:00 P.M. Christingle Service
		6:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist Rite II
		11:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist Rite II
Christmas Day	December 25	8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist I
		10:00 A.M. Christmas Eucharist with Carols
Wednesday	December 28	No Eucharist
Sunday	December 31	8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist I
		10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist II
		<i>(with prayers at both services and thanksgiving for the old year and prayers for the new)</i>

At-Home Communion

If you or anyone you know would like to receive communion at home, please call the clergy before December 10th.

St. John's Sunday School

All parents of Sunday School children will receive a schedule for next semester in the mail. Merry Christmas from Johanna and all the teachers! Hope to see you and your children at the Christingle service on Christmas Eve (workshop at 3 pm, service at 4 pm).



Outreach Grants – 2006

The Vestry allocated \$43,500 to be distributed by the Outreach Committee to benefit the needy in our local, national and international communities. This program was funded by 50% of the proceeds from the Annual Fall Fair (\$31,000) and the income of the "Painting Fund" (\$12,500). The committee made personal contact with organizations that submitted a Grant Application and gave each request thorough consideration. The committee made every effort to be good stewards of the money entrusted to them for distribution.

In July 2006 twenty-seven applications were mailed to organizations that had received funding in the past or who had been recommended by parishioners. An additional 3 applications were distributed for a total of thirty. 16 completed applications were returned by the due date of October 1, 2006.

Alberta Hersey Foundation **\$3,000**

Located in Glen Cove, this organization provides food, clothing and medicines to our needy neighbors.

Camp DeWolfe - **\$5,000**

This Episcopal summer camp and year round center, located in Wading River, requested a gift to be used to increase staffing in order to provide less fortunate children with a Christian camping experience.

Dream Project **\$5,000**

Located in the Dominican Republic, the Dream Project serving some of the world's neediest children, requested funds to provide a daily lunch for the children in their summer program.

Discretionary Fund – Simon Foster **\$1,000**

Our contribution will allow our parish priest to provide for a specific need within our Church family.

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island – Bishop's Call **\$2,500**

The Bishop's Call asked for a grant to help purchase a car which would enable a mission partner in West Africa to visit those she serves in the fight against HIV-AIDS.

Episcopal Relief and Development **\$3,000**

This arm of our National Church requested funding for bed nets as part of the Millennium Development Goals designed to cut global poverty in half by 2015

Face to Face - Faith to Faith **\$2,500**

This is a leadership program that fosters tolerance, understanding and conflict resolution among young people who live in areas of the world where hatred is part of daily life.

Generation Y Not **\$500**

A local organization of teens requested assistance in raising funds for HEART (Health, Education, Africa, Resource, Team) to provide bed nets for malaria prevention in Africa.

Glen Cove YMCA **\$2,000**

Our gift will be used in the scholarship program to allow less fortunate youth to enjoy the programs of this local organization.

Grace Day School **\$5,500**

This Episcopal School in Massapequa requested scholarship assistance for 3 students who come from disadvantaged areas where public education would not meet their potential.

Grenville Baker Boys and Girls Club **\$4,500**

Located in Locust Valley, this Boys and Girls club which runs a year round program for the youth of our local communities requested a grant to enhance their Teen Program.

Interfaith Nutrition Network **\$5,000**

The INN provides meals, counseling and temporary housing to the needy on Long Island.

Island Harvest **\$2,000**

This organization, bridging the gap between those who have and those who need by rescuing food that would otherwise be discarded, requested funds to support a new program which will provide weekend food for hungry children.

Orphan Sponsorship International – withdrew their application as needs had been met

Rotocare **\$2,000**

Located in Uniondale, Rotocare provides free medical services to the destitute who cannot afford regular medical care.

Committee Members

Kathy Brewer, Harold Burnham, Corrie Decker, Simon Foster+, Edie Haack, Sheila Harmon, Herman Hertwick, Susan Lenoir, Clare Nesmith+, Laura Reaper, Dawn Stiegelbauer, Larry Ward



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Priest-in-Charge
& The Rev. Clare Nesmith,
Assistant Priest

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8am to 12pm, Friday 8-11

If you would like to talk to the clergy about anything, need
priestly ministry or would like to receive Holy Communion at
home or in hospital due to sickness, please call to make an
appointment.



MARRIAGES

Benjamin Richard Flaim & Katherine Kehrl Bonamici

David Alexander Lovato & Debra Jean von Colln

Joel Dean Franken & Diane E. Fogler

Benno C. Schmidt, III & Sara R. Pareja

David Eugene Eberle & Lynn Louise Killington Fischer

BAPTISMS

Holly Amber Eude

Louisa Rachel Gengler Saint

Alexander Gengler Saint

Mildred Collory Tomppert

Evelyn June Engels

Raina Alexandra Yu

CONFIRMATIONS

Scott Hawkins Spiro Michaleas

BURIALS

Thomson C. Murray

David Lovato &
Debra von Colln



Benjamin Flaim & Kate Bonamici
Photographer—Brett Chang



Little Raina Yu is baptised

