

The Eagle

The Newsletter of
St. John's of Lattingtown

Summer 2006 Issue

From the Priest-in-Charge

FIRE

Pentecost, the birthday of the Universal Church, this year fell on June the 4th. On this day we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit appearing like tongues of flame on the heads of Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Apostles in the Upper Room.

At Pentecost the Christian community was empowered with power from on high to do what God wanted them to do to build the Church and the Kingdom. The symbol of fire is an appropriate one.

Fire represents heat and warmth, burning up as well as purifying, as molten metal is purified.

The Holy Spirit is alive and well in the Church today as well as in our own Church community.

People comment on a warmth and friendliness that is growing. But there are other things going on too. God's Spirit burns up what is not helpful. I think of the endless committees we had and so many other instances where what is not helpful has been adapted or changed to fit being the Church for our day.

Hearts and lives are being touched and purified as we open up to God's work amongst us and in our daily lives. The Holy Spirit seeks to burn up and get rid of the dross of the unhelpful and debilitating.

The Holy Spirit is alive and well here in our midst. May we be open to this work of the Holy Spirit.

One image that has always been at the forefront of my mind is of a church steeple with flames coming out - not literal ones by the way(!) but a symbol of a parish aflame with the work of the Spirit making us day by day more into being the community and people the Spirit wants to make us.

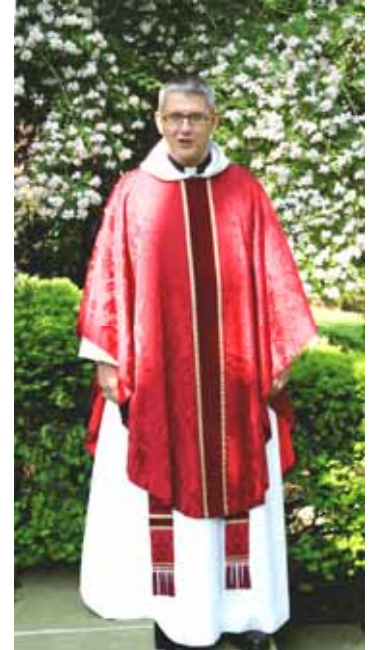
Let us not resist the Spirit but be open to the flames SHE brings (The Holy Spirit is traditionally referred to as SHE).

Let each one of us be FIRED UP by God for the work God has called each one of us to do for the good of the Kingdom and this Church and Community.

When you are having a barbeque next may the flames remind you of the Holy Spirit at work in you and in our midst.

Happy Pentecost and Happy Summer

Simon+



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From the Assistant Priest:

GENERAL CONVENTION:

Have you had a chance to read the colorful Sunday bulletin inserts on General Convention?

The 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be held in Columbus, Ohio, June 13-21, 2006. General Convention meets once every three years. Here is some background on our church form of governance from The Rev. Dr. Gregory Straub, Executive Officer of the Convention and Secretary of the House of Deputies:

With few precedents for a republican form of church governance the first General Convention met in 1785 in Philadelphia. That convention began work on a constitution and a revision of the Book of Common Prayer, the church's book of worship. Within ten years the General Convention had agreed on its form of governance and its pattern of worship, both of which endure to the present day. Uniquely for its time, the first General Conventions determined on a bicameral house in which elected (rather than royally appointed) bishops would make up one house and lay and ordained deputies (equally represented) would make up the other house.

All bishops of the Episcopal Church, active and retired, are entitled to seat, voice and vote in the House of Bishops (unless deprived of the privilege). Each of the Episcopal Church's domestic and overseas dioceses (and the Convocation of Churches in Europe) is entitled to elect eight deputies, four lay persons and four priests and/or deacons, to the House of Deputies. (The diocesan electors of deputies are themselves elected representatives from local parishes.) Deputies are not delegates; that is, they are not elected to represent the electing dioceses.

Deputies vote their conscience for the good of the church. They cannot be instructed to vote one way or another, for to do so would preclude godly debate and preempt the work of the Holy Spirit. Deputies are expected to serve on committees, if appointed, to attend forums and hearings, to read the reports to the church from its commissions, committees and appointed boards, to listen to, and if so moved, to respond to resolutions on the floor of the house...

The House of Bishops is chaired by the Primate of the Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold... At this General Convention the House of Bishops will elect a new Presiding Bishop, whose election must be confirmed by the House of Deputies...

General Convention meets prayerfully. Each morning bishops, deputies, registered alternates and delegates to the ECW Triennial gather for Bible study and Holy Eucharist... A highlight of every General Convention is its festival Eucharist at which the United Thank Offering is presented. (The United Thank Offering is taken up in parishes

twice each year for the mission of the church.)...

Convention is more than legislation. One of the most interesting parts of convention is the Exhibit Hall... a marketplace of goods and ideas in which the organizations and interest groups within the church present their wares, recruit members and do their best to influence legislation. It is a colorful part of convention, and it would not be General Convention without it.



Many church-related organizations hold meetings in conjunction with convention, and there are lunches and dinners hosted by seminaries, provinces, societies, boards and staff offices of the church. One gathering not to be missed is the triennial meeting of the Episcopal Church Women. The ECW meeting has changed over the past several decades; it focuses on the mission and service of the church, and many of the church's most distinguished members are invited to address this body.

General Convention is a combination of legislative assembly, bazaar of goods and services and family reunion. It is one of the most exciting and, truth be told, one of the most awe-inspiring gatherings in the world.

Please remember the convention delegates and all participants in your prayers as they meet in governing and guiding our National Church. To participate in the Prayer Octave prior to the Convention and keep up with the happenings during convention, here is a webpage you might want to check out:

www.episcopalchurch.org/53785_ENG_HTM.htm

Clare +

The Children and Communion class





The Annual Fair

Well, I guess the first order of business is to report there will be a St. John's Fair this fall. The fair will be held on September 23rd. I know many of you heard eliminating the Fair was considered; it was, but the consensus was the Fair was an important part of our church and we want it to continue. It is certainly reasonable to ask why eliminating the Fair was even considered following the tremendous success of last year's Fair.

While we have always had a wonderful turnout of volunteers the day of the Fair, over the last several years more of the work leading up to the Fair was falling on the shoulders of fewer and fewer people. The situation made it very difficult to recruit new volunteers and especially chairpersons when they saw the time commitment required. Something needed to be done or the Fair would eventually fall apart. After considering possible changes (including eliminating the Fair) and getting feedback from the Vestry and the members of St. John's, the Fair Development Group has decided on some modifications to the way the Fair is run that we feel will keep the Fair healthy and ongoing for many years to come.



The first and most important difference is that the Fair is being overseen by the Vestry and Fair Development Group, acknowledged as part of the Parish business. As you may know, in the past the Fair has been organizationally run under the auspices of the ECW (Episcopal Church Women), and it is because of its growth and success, not least due to their recruitment of volunteers from the entire parish, that the Fair has become the success it has become. In recognition of the considerable amount of work done, the Vestry, Fair Development Group, staff and others are seeking to work together to ease each other's burdens and support one another as much as we can. Initial changes will include a voicemail box for the Fair along with advice and support of the staff. The next major change this year will be the elimination of the furniture on the lawn. This furniture has a very low return but it requires a lot of time and work as well as elevating disposal cost for the furniture that is not sold. This does not mean we don't want you to donate furniture, just please donate only those pieces that you feel would sell in the "Silent Auction" or "The Cream of the Crop" sale in the Parish Hall.



Speaking of donations, we will start accepting your donations July 1st. Times to drop off donations will be between 9AM and Noon on Saturdays and one day during the week which we will announce in a few weeks.

Please do not drop-off donations at other than the posted times. Quite often these donations are caught in the rain and eventually end up in the dumpster when they should have been saleable. If you have items that need to be picked up please call the Parish office and leave a message on the fair voicemail. Someone will call you back to arrange a time.

The Annual Fair Luncheon took place on Wednesday, June 7th at 12:30 PM. Present and past booth chairpersons and others shared ideas, fellowship and lunch. The primary guidance was to begin re-organizing procedures with an eye towards more vestry involvement and making the fair easier to manage—and thus more attractive to future volunteers.

Of course we still must have volunteers to secure the viability of the fair this year. Please see if you can spare a few hours over the summer and sign up! 671-3226. The more people involved the more we will all enjoy the Fair.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. White—Fair Chairman 2006



Sunday School

Our last day of Sunday School for the 2005-2006 term was celebrated on June 4, Pentecost Sunday. During the 10:30 Service, children entered with doves and streamers representing the Holy Spirit. Those who participated in this year's Communion Class were acknowledged and all of our children were given their end of the year pins and bracelets proclaiming "I love Sunday School!"

Special thanks to all who made this year's Sunday School a great success; from this year's team of extraordinary teachers for their time, energy and service: Diane La Bella, Adele Reardon, Victoria Balser, Liza Picoli, Evelyn Vetrano, Nicole Engles, Lelia Harrington, Bonnie Tate, and Adrian Bogart to the three men who aid me in making sure each Sunday runs smoothly: Lawrence Ward, John Vessalico and Jerry Tate.

Have a safe, happy and blessed summer. We'll see you again on September 10 for the new 2006-07 Sunday School year. Johanna C. Babcock, DCE



Children gather around a picture of the Resurrection at their Good Friday service.

Summer Sunday School—will be held in a single classroom for all ages and conducted by volunteers. The following are scheduled (please contact Evelyn Vetrano at 674-9828 to volunteer for the remaining openings in August.

Date	Teacher	Date	Teacher
June 11	Laura Reaper	July 23	Victoria Balser
June 18	Elana Vetrano	July 30	Liza Picoli
June 25	Mary Elizabeth & Scott Brennan	August 6	Open
July 2	Bonnie Tate	August 13	Open
July 9	Lelia Harrington	August 20	Open
July 16	Duncan Naylor	August 27	Open

Volunteers are provided with all necessary teaching materials.



At the Cathedral recently Jim Beasley, a new parishioner, was received by Bishop Rodney Michel into the Episcopal church from another denomination. Jim completed our Episcopalianism 101 class and is a regular worshipper. Welcome Jim. Simon+

Simon, Jim Beasley, Bp. Rodney Michel, Clare



Schedule:

From June 11, Trinity Sunday through Sept. 3, the Sunday before Labor Day,

St. John's Sunday service schedule is:

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, except for 3rd Sunday Morning Prayer followed by said Eucharist with homily.

Summer Sunday School during the 10:00 service

Weekday Holy Eucharist will be Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. only.

St. John's Daily Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist service schedule will return on Monday, September 11, 2006.

The Nurture Group will hold its next meeting Sept. 11,

PARISH NEWS:

Thank You...

...to all who have returned their UTO (United Thank Offering) mite boxes – both children and adults. If you missed the Ascension Day Ingathering of the boxes, please return them to the Parish Office as soon as you can. It would be nice to have our contributions sent in time for General Convention (see the article on General Convention).

Goodbye and Godspeed

We are sorry to say good bye to The Rev. Robert Close, Interim Minister at Locust Valley Reform Church and his wife, Nina Frost, Head of Adult Education at Marble Collegiate Church, Manhattan. We wish them well as they move from Locust Valley this summer and give thanks for their ministry among us here, for the strengthening of our ecumenical bonds between St. John's and the Reform Church here.

New Arrival!

Congratulations to Corrie and Tom Decker for the safe arrival of their daughter, Genevieve who was born on May 21, 2006. Corrie is a member of the Vestry here.

The **Community of the Holy Spirit**, an Episcopal religious women's order, prays for this parish every Wednesday. We will be having a parish outing to visit the sisters and they may be coming on a visit to us, too.

Congratulations!

Michael Sniffen, who many of you know from the community and from his time gaining additional ministerial experience here, is a Candidate for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Newark. He has been accepted in the Ph.D. program in Liturgical Studies at Drew University for the fall. He will also be serving as Assistant to the Rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Essex Fells, NJ. Michael preached a great sermon here at the Ascension Day Eucharist. Thank you Michael and Congratulations!

And congratulations to all our graduates!

Confirmation Candidates

Please pray for our candidates to be confirmed on Saturday, June 10, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City. May we all at St. John's stand with these young people and their families as they take this mature step in their journey in faith.

Parish Bereavements

We are a family and when one family suffers we all do. We have said goodbye to a number of dearly loved parishioners recently as the list at the back of this Eagle indicates. Our prayers are with all who mourn and are coming to terms with loss. What the Church on earth has lost, the Church in heaven receives.

Parishioner Illness

We are also remembering all those parishioners who are wrestling with illness and difficulty at this time. Know how much you matter to this Church and to God. Be assured of our prayers.

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St. John's of Lattingtown

Lattingtown Road and Overlook Road
Locust Valley, New York

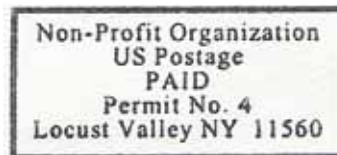
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Web Site: www.stjlat.org

Clergy: The Rev. Simon Foster,
Priest-in-Charge
& Rev Clare Nesmith, Assistant Priest

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am to 1pm

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.



BAPTISMS

Danielle Grace Jauregui

Susan Campbell Dixon

Caroline Dorothy Melbinger

Austin Vincent Crouchley

Caroline Ann Crouchley

Alexander Mark Lopez

BURIALS

Edward C.R. Whitcraft

Matthew Halstead Davidson

Frank Page Stormont

Walter Perry Neff

Edward Lewis Palmer

Reception into the Episcopal Church

James Beasley

Dominican Republic Dream Project

A poem written by Victoria R. Crosby, a parishioner who was a part of the most recent mission to the Dominican Republic.

Until you have seen it with your own eyes
it's difficult to realize
that this beautiful island paradise can be
a place of desperate poverty.

The beautiful beaches and lush vegetation
don't mean much to those living in degradation.
Four school buildings we visited, of varying size,
all with very basic supplies.

No sports equipment, no field of dreams,
no music programs or drama queens.

Yet the children in their uniforms were tidy and neat,
smiling and friendly as they greet
us, visitors from other places.

The books we delivered brought joy to their faces.

In a ghetto known as the Haitian Batey,
it's hard to believe people live that way.
From scraps of cardboard and metal they build
huts and shacks, which are filled
with family members, who don't complain,
that they work in fields of sugar cane.

In six short years the Dream Project has made
much progress, although somewhat delayed
by red tape and bureaucracy
in a country new to democracy.

With the help of St John's generosity
and a social justice philosophy,
more children will receive an education
and ease the poverty of their generation.

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