

# the EAGLE

the newsletter of  
St. John's of Lattingtown

Issue  
**Summer 2008**

## RESTING PLACES

From Simon+,  
our Priest-in-Charge

You know our resting places (Psalm 139)

The psalmist talks about resting places and I love this expression of deep spirituality. It is a theme that runs counter to our present culture. If the Bible refers to resting places then it is assumed that all people have them or ought to have them. They are to be seen as important. Have you resting places? What images are brought to mind when you think of resting places? Do you think of a place, experience or an attitude? For me it is about all three.

I love fashion and I always have. I had an ambition to work in fashion at one point. My brother is a professional artist so we must have some creative genes in us. One of my favorite fashion magazines is Details. I read it cover to cover. This last month there was a wonderful article about how obsessed human beings are with saying they are tired and busy. The article made the point that people seem to need to say these things as they feel that only then will they be valued as people. Activity and saying your doing lots will lead to great worth and appreciation from others.

The point was made though that as everyone is so busy now, no one listens or cares when you say you are busy by and large. It leads to the opposite of self worth. It just annoys and frustrates! How might we respond in our lives to the bible quote at the beginning of this letter and the insights of Details magazine? What about this summer everyone trying to stop themselves saying how busy they are and stop being so busy for busyness' sake? Rest is an essential part of what remakes us. It is an essential part of soul care - real us, inner us care.

In my life journey to date I have learned that I can only do and achieve what I do because rest is an intentional part of my daily life. If God needed to rest on the Sabbath so I need my Sabbath times. I assure you I have them and thoroughly enjoy them. I ceased some time ago always talking about what I was doing and had been doing each day

and when I was very busy and tired. I have a very small number who I do share those things with. My Spiritual Director is one of them. I got fed up of listening to myself and others saying how busy we all are.

This summer will you join me in both making time to rest - going to restful places, having restful experiences and resting the mind from its normal full program. I wonder if any of us would be brave enough that when someone is moaning about how busy they are we would say:

"I am so sorry that you have to talk about your busyness. We are all busy but actually it is more interesting and of equal importance to rest and talk about how we are resting. Can you tell me how you are resting?"

Enjoy the summer. May you know your resting places and spaces. They are crucial for a healthy soul. May we also always remember to allow each other to have our resting and rejuvenating times. It is self care, congregational care and community care at its best.

The other day in all the heat I happened to look outside the Rectory at the patio with its chairs for sitting in the sun. Two visiting cats had got on them and were resting and so sleepy. They had it right. They looked at me as if I were stupid having been at work. I have always thought cats were great spiritual teachers. My blind cat has cancer of the ear too but he has an aura of being totally chilled out and at peace. The only time he makes a noise is if his food bowl is empty. He does lots of resting though. Lots!

On behalf of Felix the Rectory cat and I....Enjoy the summer! Make time for you! Let others rest as they need to! Remember to encourage rest as much as you encourage people doing things!

With my thanks to God for each of you and for all we learn from each other, not least from God's creatures.

Simon+



Felix



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**GODLY PLAY AT ST. JOHN'S!**

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, do not stop them." As we look for new and creative ways to bring children in our parish closer to Jesus, I thought you might like to hear a little bit about the philosophy behind the new St. John's Sunday School.

Here is a brief statement about the nature of Godly Play and it's far reaching impact.

"Godly Play teaches children the art of using religious language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action - helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

Developed by author, teacher and Episcopal priest, Jerome W. Berryman, Godly Play is offered throughout the United States within denominations as diverse and varied as Catholic, Baptist, Episcopalian, Pentecostal, Lutheran, and Presbyterian. Designed for children aged two to twelve, Godly Play has been classroom tested since 1972. Deeply spiritual and highly creative, Godly Play is also used in schools, hospitals, homeless shelters, and retirement centers. Internationally, Godly Play classrooms are found in the United Kingdom, Finland, Germany, Canada, Tanzania, Australia, and in Spanish speaking countries." (Rebecca McClain, Executive Director)

I have seen Godly Play used very effectively in the nation's most thriving Sunday School programs.

As Sunday School has been a topic of much excitement looking forward to the fall, I have heard stories about how church was a formative and exciting place for many of our adult parishioners when they were children. I encourage parents and friends to continue talking about faith with young people. This is, after all, how the traditions we know and love are passed down.



You need not be a parent of Sunday School age children to help children grown in faith. Over the summer, there will be time for brainstorming and signing up for various opportunities to help in late summer and early fall with the new Godly Play program.

New teachers are needed! If you feel the tug of the Holy Spirit to participate in this ministry - please call the parish office!

Many new and exciting ideas about how to nurture children in the faith have been shared in recent weeks- as we seek to make Sunday School a renewed focus in our church, come celebrate life with the young ones of our parish church. You will be so glad you did!

Michael+



**LAMBETH CONFERENCE**

Michael+ will be traveling to England for 5 weeks this summer to serve as a Steward at Lambeth Conference.

He has been chosen along with 60 others from around the world to aid the Archbishop of Canterbury and his staff in ensuring that the Conference runs smoothly and provides a context in which bishops from around the Anglican Communion can pray, worship and study together. Lambeth is held once every 10 years

in an effort to strengthen the bonds of Christian fellowship that exist in the worldwide church.

Michael+ will also be attending a garden party with Queen Elizabeth II as part of his trip. It is a great honor for our parish to send one of our priests to this very important meeting of the leaders of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion! A parish dinner to share stories and photos will be planned for early fall.

The nave of Canterbury Cathedral



### SIMON+ WRITES ON HIS ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION AS A PRIEST

This year has been a landmark year in so many ways but in a particular way as I will have been ordained a priest fifteen years. On one level it seems impossible to think that such time has elapsed and in other ways I feel it is longer. It is a special joy for me to be able to celebrate this anniversary with you at St. John's of Lattingtown.

It is a marker on the road of the priestly journey which began in the United Kingdom after years of academic study, selection and work in the Education Department of a Local Authority as well as Unemployment Counselor with the long term unemployed. I had wanted to be a priest from being seven years old and that feeling never went away even if a few times on the road I wish it had!

My first priest when I was a young boy attending what was known as "The Cathedral of the Fylde" under the Patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Christ College, Oxford was called Canon William Albert Paynter Francis, Vicar of St. Michael and All Angels, Kirkham, Lancashire. He had a way of being that drew me to Priesthood. I used to watch what he did at the Altar and it fascinated me. I even made an altar by the side of my bed in those early years that looked like a mini version of what I saw in Church every week. Years later I went to visit Canon Francis to tell him I had been accepted for training as a Priest. Sometime afterward he had both legs amputated and he and his wife and I kept in contact through the years of training and ordination. He said he had hoped one day to hear that I would be coming into the service of the Church.

Over the years so many people have played a part in the journey. These include my parents, brother, sister in law and young Frank and Bonnie, aunts and uncles, grandparents and wider family, friends, Spiritual Directors, Therapists, parishioners in the four churches I have served in as well of course as many clergy and of course including Clergy Assistants most certainly Michael+, bishops and archbishops. Some of my most prized possessions over the years include a personal letter from Archbishop Robert Runcie of Canterbury and one from Queen Elizabeth the Second on my ordination as well as from Pope John Paul II imparting his Apostolic

Blessing on my ecumenical work and ministry.

When I watch the video of my First Eucharist and reflect this year on the years since I am deeply grateful to God and all those who have helped me make the journey to respond to God's call to be a Priest and leader in the Church which the Church recognized along with others all those years ago.



Bishop Jenkins and Simon+

How would I sum up the years since Ordination? It has been a tremendous journey of discovery of God's Grace, God's strength and inspiration. It has been a road of tremendous joy, blessing, growth and fulfillment with doses of hellishness and plenty of cross too. I have discovered lots of saints in the churches I have served in as I do among my family and friends and those who have been a part of this road.

There are times I have been so appalled by Christians' behavior that I have wondered why bother. Those professing the faith sometimes have shown less Christianity than those who are classed by some rather patronizingly as atheists or agnostics. I have been reminded over the years of words of my ordaining bishop "there are those who get religion and become less than human." Then God reminds me why bother. It is God's calling and Church, not mine! For God so loved that He gave.

God has given so much and there isn't a day goes by that I am not aware of the excitement and joy of this road and the endless discoveries that the world, people and life are charged "with the Glory of God" as poet Gerald Manley Hopkins so eloquently put it.



Thank you for being part of the road. Do continue to pray for me and Michael+ as we seek to respond to the Call of God in ordained ministry as we do for you in your own vocation and ministry which all of you have. Pray that this Parish of Lattingtown may provide Episcopal deacons and priests as well as Episcopal monks and nuns for the Church in our day.

Vocations arise in parishes. Do talk to us if you would like to explore the possibility. Is God calling YOU?

With thanks to God

Simon+



**ALTAR GUILD**

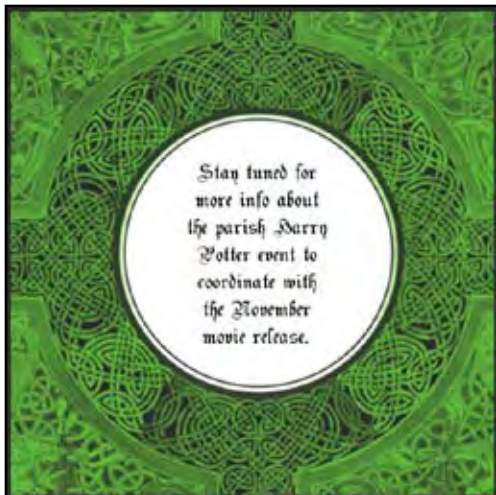
NEW RECRUITS WANTED! There is a service opportunity to work alongside others. Simon's target is to have one NEW ALTAR GUILD MEMBER per month for the next twelve months. Please call Kathy Brewer to volunteer on 922-4665. Thank you to those who have stepped up already.

**OUTREACH GRANTS – SUGGESTIONS NEEDED**

If you know of any worthy organizations that you think should be considered for FAIR Proceeds Outreach Monies, PLEASE contact the Parish Office during the month of June.



Simon+ and Michael+ with The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson following the launch of his new book 'Swept to the center by God.' Bishop Robinson will be in the Lambeth Marketplace next month speaking about justice and reconciliation in the church and the broader world.



**SUMMER SURVIVAL KIT**

1. Toothpick - to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others. Matt. 7:1
2. Rubber Band - to remind you to be flexible, things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out. Romans 8:28
3. Band Aid - to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's. Col 3:12-14
4. Pencil - to remind you to list your blessings every day. Eph. 1:3
5. Eraser - to remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's OK. Gen 50:15-21
6. Chewing Gum - to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything. Phil. 4:13
7. Mint - to remind you that you are worth a mint. John 3: 16-17
8. Chocolate Kiss and Hug - to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or hug every day. 1 John 4:7
9. Tea Bag - to remind you to relax daily and go over that list of blessings. 1 Thes. 5:18

Best Wishes for a relaxing summer! Bobbe Maass



Pictured (left to right): Fr. Bill Parker, his partner Robert Monitto, The Rt. Rev. George Councill, Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey, John & Donna George

On Sunday, June 15, two members of St. John's journeyed to Ventnor City, NJ to represent our parish at the Institution of Fr. William Parker as the twelfth rector of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany. John and Donna George carried with them our prayerful best wishes and warmest congratulations on Fr. Parker's new ministry. Fr. Bill sends his greetings to all who so kindly aided him after the rectory fire at his former parish of St. Bede's, Syosset. He was deeply touched to learn he'd been most intentionally remembered in our prayers that Fathers' Day morning and asked the Georges to convey his warmest thanks, not only for our prayers, but for the "most gorgeous flowers I've seen."



### ORDINATION AT LATTINGTOWN

The Rev Michael Sniffen was ordained to the Priesthood at St. John's of Lattingtown on March 29th by Bishop Mark Beckwith of Newark, his sponsoring Bishop. The Church was filled with joy, thanksgiving and celebration with a very long applause as Michael's calling, work and ministry were acknowledged. The preacher was The Rev. Jeremiah Williamson, a priest and seminary colleague from the Diocese of Ohio. Laity and Clergy from the Diocese of Long Island and Newark as well as ecumenical clergy shared in the liturgy. The parishioners of St. John's bought Michael+ a festive cope and matching chasuble and his parents and friends a beautiful chalice and paten.

Father Michael's First Eucharist followed the next day, the preacher being Simon+. Simon+ said "the round of applause testified to what Michael+ has achieved already as the youngest clergy person in the Diocese of Long Island. He has a passion for social justice, good liturgy, education and a colleague with a great mind and pastoral heart."

Roses expressing thanksgiving were given to Michael's mother during the ordination as well as left at the Marian Shrine in the Cloister. There were long queues



in the Chapel after the Ordination for first blessings from the new priest. Celebratory receptions were held after the ordination and First Eucharist which included the cutting of special cakes for the occasion.

**BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY**

**1ST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SEPTEMBER 7TH**

### THE VESTRY



Back row: Michael+, Corrie Decker, Jim Large, Thomas Gimbel, Peter Marshall, Carlyle Dunaway, Nancy Polk, Simon+  
Front row: JoAnn Browne, Larry Ward, Anne Glenn, Nicole Engels, Danny Davison, Victoria Crosby



### REFLECTION ON ORDINATION

It is hard to believe that I was only Ordained to the priesthood 3 months ago! So much has happened since then it seems like it was years ago. With the help and support of so many parishioners, friends and family - the liturgy and reception were truly exceptional.



Special thanks to Mary Williams and Jan Hagner who organized the reception and to my mother, Diane Sniffen, who did the flowers. It would be impossible to thank everyone who helped to make St. John's shine with God's glory on my ordination day, but still I would like to say thank you, thank you, thank you! It is a privilege to serve along side you here at St. John's.

Many people ask me, "What does a priest do?" Seems like a obvious enough question...but for those of you who don't spend every waking hour hanging around the church building, it may still be somewhat of a mystery. Wouldn't want you to think that a priest only works on Sundays!

Here is what the book of common prayer says about what is expected of a priest: "As a priest, it will be your task to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your life in accordance with its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform other minis-

trations entrusted to you. In all that you do, you are to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come." (BCP 531)

I have been working on living into this new job description over the last three months. With God's grace and your help, I am learning a lot about what it means to be a priest and a pilgrim. My faith has been tested and deepened. My love of the church and of God's people in Lattingtown has grown. Building upon the joy that was so tangible on the day of my ordination, I look forward to many more opportunities to grow and learn together here in the parish. Stay tuned for upcoming Sunday School and Youth Ministry opportunities in the fall!

So, that is what a priest is called to do. Each of us has our own part to play in building up God's kingdom. What are you called to do? Look at the Baptismal Covenant on page 304 in the Book of Common Prayer for some ideas. Ministry is never dull! Are you feeling called to do something new for God? Listen to the call!

Peace and Love, Michael+



Bishop Beckwith of Newark and Michael+

### FAIR DONATIONS

The barn is accepting donations every Saturday morning from 9 till noon beginning July 12th until September 13th. Please no mattresses, baby beds, car seats, televisions or adult clothing!



### FAIR VOLUNTEERS

Are always needed and very welcome! Is there a favorite booth you've always wanted to work or chair? Do you have a new idea for a booth? Please telephone Helen Bonebrake at 220-9328.



Corrie and Tom Decker at baptism of Amelia Lane

**Baptized  
Confirmed  
and  
Received**



Simon+, Jonathan Brown, Bishop Shimfky, Michael+



It is always a joy and a privilege to mark the beginning of a Christian's faith journey in the sacrament of baptism. As Simon+ often says during the baptismal liturgy, "In baptism, a person is implanted into the womb of the Church forever." The church is pregnant with possibilities as more and more join God's family at St. John's each year. Welcome to the newly baptized! We look forward to growing in the faith alongside you in this great big family of God.



Donna (received) and John (confirmed) Gilbert



Christening of Peter Mayhew Jervis

- David D. Wilson
- Addison Tucker Brenizer
- Ryan Andrew Lesko
- Miles Jefferson Works
- Frederick Sutton Grace
- Nicholas Miller Grace



**Congratulations to all those confirmed and received. Many blessings upon your spiritual journeys!**



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clergy

**The Rev. Simon Foster**, Priest-in-Charge  
**The Rev. Michael Sniffen**, Assistant Priest  
office hours  
**Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

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**

Katie Melton  
Amelia Laine Decker  
Randolph Post Eddy IV  
Peter Mayhew Jervis

**CONFIRMATIONS**

Jonathan Stephen Brown  
David D Wilson  
Addison Tucker Brenizer  
Ryan Andrew Lesko  
Miles Jefferson Works  
Frederick Sutton Grace  
Nicholas Miller Grace  
John Thomas Gilbert

**RECEIVED**

Donna Francis Gilbert

**FUNERALS & MEMORIALS**

Mimi Littlejohn  
Edmund Bartlett  
Maritta Rappley  
Joan Harris Hawkey  
Doris Waller  
Margaux Powers  
Philomena Canonica

**A N N O U N C E M E N T S**

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN**

Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for Rest, Refreshment and Prayer. The Parish Library is open at the same time. Please come and browse, select a book, write - use your Parish Library.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

If there is someone in need that you would like to have prayed for, please fill out a yellow "Prayer Request" card which may be found on the Chapel altar rail. They will be prayed for at the daily services here. Alternatively call Simon+.

**HOSPITAL VISITATION**

If you or someone you know are hospitalized and would like a visit from the clergy, please call or have someone call the church office. Due to government privacy regulations, the hospitals can no longer tell the clergy who has been admitted.

**PARISH CARE COMMITTEE**

If you are in need of temporary services for companionship, local transportation and transportation to church, pick up your prescriptions, help with shopping or referral information to community services, please contact the Parish Care Committee. They are a group of parishioners who have volunteered to help. Please contact Janet Willis, Chairperson.

**EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICE**

ECS is the social service agency of the Diocese of Long Island with offices and programs in Queens, Brooklyn, Nassau, and Suffolk counties. Professional/confidential counseling is available for problems experienced by individuals, couples, and families. Consultations are provided on a sliding scale by appointment. ECS can be contacted by calling: (631) 665-7701 or (718) 465-8585. Simon+ is the Vice Chair of the Board of ECS with Bishop Walker as Chair.  
<http://www.ecslongisland.org>