

The Eagle

The Newsletter of
St. John's of Lattingtown

Fall 2006 Issue

From the Priest-in-Charge

GOING FOR GROWTH

You can hear my background in Economics, Management and Resource Planning with a title like that! However, I am not going to talk about "supply and demand diagrams" or "fiscal policy," you'll be pleased to hear! No, this is an expression I have coined to describe what St. John's is about. Growth—and growth in a whole host of ways. Growth in numbers worshipping and in being a part of the parish community.

In any parish when God's servants go into God's closer presence through death, God sees to it that the Church carries on and grows, if we are ALL alert to the opportunities to grow the Church that God provides. I now have a box of index cards of those who have joined us over the last few years—and that is exciting.

St. Francis received the call to "build the Church" and so must we through our individual witness and invitation and faithful attendance at worship whenever we can. One of the Parish Programs I am introducing in the Fall is called "Going for Growth" and will address these issues and provide a forum for discussion and ideas for the future which will be shared with Vestry members. *(continued on page 2)*



From the 2006 Fair Chair

The Saint John's Fair

I hope all my fellow parishioners are enjoying their summer. But I am afraid it is almost over and it is time to turn our attention to other things, children going back to school, closing the pool and yes it is almost too good to be true, and hard as it is to believe, the St. John's Fair is not even a month away! This however leaves plenty of time to check the attic, cellar and garage for those gently used items that you have been wondering what to do with, and donate them to the Fair. Your reward will be more space, a tax deduction and the warm glow that comes from doing well by doing good.

Plans for this year's Fair have moved along nicely thanks to the hard work and dedication of our small, but crack group of volunteers who are already sorting the generous donations received so far. The activities committee has been busy and entertainment at the Fair should be excellent. The drum circle was such a big hit last year we will have it again as well other new entertainment. Of course the rides will be there along with the friendly tests of skill for young and old alike. As always there will be plenty of good food for all.

So far donations have been a bit slow and lagged previous years; however the quality of the items donated has been excellent and we have even been able to do without the mid-summer dumpster. Thank you for the top-drawer donations we have received! I expect the Parish Hall will be filled with wonderful

(continued page 3)

From the Assistant Priest

Why Spirituality Matters

The other day, someone asked me, "Why does spirituality matter? What is it anyway?"

I think my short answer to why is, "Because we breathe."

Spirituality is essentially connected with Creation and with Breath. Because it is connected with Creation and with Breath, spirituality is essentially connected with Life. Spirituality is our connection with God.

Spirituality is very hard to define in broad terms.

Marcus Borg, a theologian who has written much about the historical Jesus, described spirituality as being "about the transforming relationship with God in the present" and "becoming conscious of and intentional about" this relationship.

St. Augustine said that our hearts are restless until we find our rest in God. Spiritual practices are what we do in our gropings toward, in our searching for God. And they are many and varied... *(continued on page 5)*

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Ginny Byrne's Retirement

Ginny Byrnes, our parish secretary, has served this parish very faithfully for 25 years and will be retiring Aug 31st. As clergy have come and gone, Ginny has remained! She no doubt has become a champion decipherer of the attempted handwriting of the clergy, but she is still alive.

It is always sad to say goodbye—but this is not a goodbye—just *au revoir* from the church office.

Thank you, Ginny, from the clergy and the parish for all you have faithfully done.

With our best wishes for your retirement,

And remember, you don't have to attend staff meetings on Mon at 9 am any more...

S+

If you would like to make a contribution toward Ginny's leaving gift, please pass it to the clergy in an envelope marked "Ginny's Gift."



Going for Growth (cont'd)

This parish has significantly developed its Continuing and other Education Programs in recent years, too. We are growing in this area and even more opportunities will be provided this Fall for all ages to grow in learning. All Christians are called to be perpetual students. That's what the word disciple means.

Thirdly, we are called to grow in the practice of our faith and to deepen in spirituality. For me this has meant to grow in the disciplined pacing of myself and in self care. I very intentionally now much better balance the

different aspects of my work as a priest. These include work in the Parish, the Diocese (for all priests are Diocesan Priests serving in the parishes of the Diocese), and sharing collegially in supporting the Parish, the Diocese of which it is a part, as well as the Deanery and Archdeaconry. All these are based and rooted in my own spiritual disciplines of prayer, reflection, study, recreation, and relaxation.

Finally, we are called to grow in giving, in seeing our lives and finances as for our good and the good of the Church and the

world. We are to see all our blessings as something to share. Will you consider increasing your financial giving to this Church if you have not considered doing so in recent times. This parish is on the move, growing and developing, and God has provided all that we need for growth. There are many demands for our giving, but may God's house and the Church always reflect the generous God we serve and who calls us to offer our very best.

"Build my Church" said God to St. Francis. Go for growth!

Please do all in your power to be in Church for our **WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY** on **SEPTEMBER 10th** at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. when we will commence a very exciting Fall Parish Program.

Enjoy what is left of the Summer—and we'll see you on the 10th!

Baptisms

Genevieve Laine Decker

With parents Tom and Corrie Decker



Gabrielle Laine Cranfield

(Genevieve's 1st cousin)

With her parents and godparents





Millennium Development Goals What are they?

At the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, the House of Deputies and House of Bishops joined in supporting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, otherwise known as MDGs. It is urging its parishes, missions, congregations, and dioceses across the Episcopal Church to work for their implementation.

The MDGs are an eight-pronged declaration that has, at its core, the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by the year 2015. Specifically, the following are supported by the Church:

- Establishing MDGs as a stated mission priority of the Episcopal Church for the next three years;
- Urging each diocese, congregation, and parishioner to give 0.7 percent toward the MDG's by July 7, 2007; i.e. by 07/07/07;
- Designating the Last Sunday after Pentecost as a special day of prayer, fasting, and giving in the Episcopal Church toward global reconciliation and the Millennium Development Goals;
- Calling on every diocese to establish a global reconciliation commission to mobilize Episcopalians to work for achieving the goals of the MDGs;
- Endorsing the "ONE Episcopalian" campaign that calls on the U.S. government to spend an additional 1 percent of its budget to combat global poverty; and
- Asking the budget committee of the Episcopal Church to consider a line item equal to 0.7 percent in the coming three-year budget for work that supports the MDGs.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Create a global partnership for development with a focus on debt, aid, and trade.

Saint John's Annual Fall Fair (cont'd)

items for Cream-of-the-Crop and the Silent Auction. I have it on good authority that the selection of books will be as good as always and that Bumble's tent will be filled with bargains galore. For the sports enthusiast there are more than a few great items and of course we always have wonderful selections for the kids. All-in-all, if present trends continue or accelerate I think we will have a wonderful fair.



Those of you who still have items to donate can do it on Saturdays between 9AM and Noon and on Thursdays between 10AM and Noon. We ask that you do not leave donations at any other time. We will be accepting donations until Saturday, September 9th.

None of the progress made to date would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the hard core of "regular" volunteers who are heading up the committees and booths. They are a small and greatly appreciated band who labor in the background, making sure that all is prepared for the big day, however, we can always use additional volunteers to help us set-up for the fair, both during the week before and the morning of, as well as volunteers to help us during the fair. Remember "MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK" If you are able to help, please let Simon+, Clare+ or myself know.

I'll see you in September,
Stephen White
2006 Fair Chairman

Processional Cross

Some of you have noticed that we've been using a different cross to lead us in on Sunday mornings. You've asked what happened to our hand-carved, full-color, work-of-art cross that we've always used.

Unfortunately, it is broken. The staff of the cross is constructed in two pieces that screwed together in the middle. Where it came together, the combination of wood that had weakened and dried out and an immovable brass inner fitting caused the wood to split and break. It was necessary to locate someone who could repair this liturgical art piece so it could continue to be used in worship.

Have you ever had the opportunity to look closely at this intricately carved, hand-painted, and gilded cross? In the words of Davis d'Ambly, the artisan who is coordinating the repair work, "It is magnificently carved."

(continued back cover)





SAINT JOHN'S DOMINICAN SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2006



ST. JOHN'S MISSION - A speaker from the Dream Project will describe how our church supports the project.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS will be bringing their Dominican Republic projects and songs to share with the congregation during the service.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY After the service a typical Dominican meal will be served in the Guild Hall (sit-down).

PINATA FOR THE KIDS.

DOMINICAN TOY RELAY RACE.

SLIDESHOW WITH DOMINICAN MUSIC.

THE DOMINICAN PROJECT (DREAM) CONTINUES TO MAKE INCREDIBLE PROGRESS. MORE AND MORE WONDERFUL PEOPLE HAVE BECOME INVOLVED.

The Camp has been an overwhelming success story for the third year running. This year we have over 200 children with 40 volunteers. As begun last year, the children enjoy field trips and take part in science, language arts and crafts activities. Teenagers are placed in internship positions with local businesses.

The best news possible was received at the end of July. The construction of our new building has begun! Anyone who has dealt with a third world country knows that this is a feat only possible with divine intervention. This building will be the site of an additional preschool and a teacher training facility.

The construction of another school is also completed, financed by a local doctor, and will be in operation this coming school year.

Jim Beasley, a new parishioner, is lending his talent and experience in order for the women's groups at two of the schools to begin creating floor cloths to sell, leading the way to becoming self-sustaining.

Peter and Liz Holden, owners of GLY, the religious store in Glen Cove, have generously donated 90 children's picture books in Spanish. These will be hand delivered to our schools during our upcoming trip

After researching a published reading program for over a year and miraculously managing to get the books out of Customs after seven months. We have a volunteer this year, a teacher from California, who will be implementing the program, setting up a model classroom as well as training Dominican teachers.

Presently we are working with the Locust Valley yarn shop, All About Ewe, where the owner Laura Ecerle is donating her time and expertise. Fifty 14" teddy bears have been purchased and we are encouraging people of all ages (adults, children, men, women) to join us in knitting overalls for the bears. They will be hand carried to the preschool and kindergarten classes in the schools along with their personal copy of the children's book, Corduroy. This is another great opportunity for Middle and High Schoolers to earn their service credit. Those who are interested can contact me for details.

In addition, our next service trip is planned for October 13th through the 19th.

We are hoping to implement an English language program, working with teens and adults.

Besides my husband and I, the Reverend Clare Nesmith and Hannah Maxwell will be joining us along with two other seasoned DREAMers. *YOU* are welcomed and encouraged to *join us!*

Sheila Harmon 628-1211 Lrncntr@optonline.net



Why Spirituality Matters (cont'd)

Over the next few months, I invite you to ask the question, "Why does spirituality matter?" I invite you to try a spiritual practice. Maybe try on a Bible Study for size, or a few moments of planned silence during the day. When something out-of-the-ordinary happens during the day—or when the routine is the same as always, think about asking yourself, "Where is God in this?" How about cultivating a habit of being attentive to your

actions and reactions moment-by-moment in daily life, and then choosing the more loving response. That's living spirituality. Maybe try an active form of spirituality. When you do something for another, see if there are glimpses of God in that connection. Look for God in this parish at the Fair on September 23!

And we'll see you on Sunday!

Clare+

"What on Earth is Spirituality?"

This is the title of a Thursday evening series of four lectures at General Theological Seminary in which you might be interested. The lecture series commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Center for Christian Spirituality. For more information, ask Clare+ or contact Helen Goodkin, Director of Lay Education and the MA Program at goodkin@gts.edu.

Report from the Treasurer

Financial Matters

Results for the first six months reflect a loss of over \$92 thousand compared to a loss of \$16.5 thousand in the prior year. While revenues increased by over 12%, expenses for the period were up by over one third. The higher revenues reflect a slight up turn in Annual and Other Giving and sharply higher investment income on higher rates and dividends.

6 Mos. 6/30 (\$000)	2006	2005	Budget'06
Total Income	347.4	309.2	639.2
Total Expense	439.8	325.7	634.2
Net Income	(92.4)	(16.5)	5.0

The much higher expenses result from increased costs in almost every category—compensation, benefits, insurance and utilities, the latter wrought by higher fuel costs. The principal culprit on the expense side, however, was major repairs and improvements which surged from about \$18,000 in 2005 to nearly \$73,000 in the first six months of this year. As the year unfolds comparisons in this category should become less unfavorable.

A regular maintenance schedule has been instituted to avoid such unwelcome surprises in the future.

Not reflected in the above figures are the proceeds of two generous bequests from loyal, deceased parishioners. While bequests are capital rather than income items, they help bolster the current financial position. If you are updating your will, remember St. John's.

St. John's Sunday School Calendar

Sept. 10	Opening Day Sunday School
September 17	Children's Eucharist followed by class
September 24	Class
October 1	Class – Dominican Sunday (Blessing of the Animals 4 pm)
October 8	Columbus Day - Off
October 15	Children's Eucharist followed by class; also short parents' meeting immediately following.
October 22	Class
October 29	Class
November 5	Class – St John's Day
November 12	Class
November 19	Children's Eucharist followed by class
November 26	Class - Christ the King
December 3	Advent Sunday – Wreath Making
December 10	Pageant
December 17	Class – St. Nicholas/Father Christmas
December 24	Christingle 3 pm with Christingle Workshop 2 pm
January 7	Sunday School Resumes

Notices will be sent home the first week in September with childrens' new class and teacher. If your child was not registered for our program last year, please make sure he/she is registered before September 1. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office.

Communications

Did you know the Eagle is online? As we increase the amount of useful information in the Eagle, having it online makes it easy to refer to, without having to remember where your hardcopy got to. And we have added a special links page to each edition of the Eagle for anyone interested in digging more deeply into the topics, such as the United Nations' Millennium Goals,, The Dream Project, etc.

More scheduling information is available on the website also: Readers, Acolytes and Chalice Bearers can check their assignments under "Lay Schedules" and even get a heads-up on the scripture readings for a given day. www.stjlat.org



FALL PROGRAM : MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, Early November

Some of the things happening in our parish

September

- 10 — Sunday Pentecost 14: WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY after the summer
- 11 — Monday Parish Nurture Group and Bible Study on the Old Testament Book of Amos. Meets at the home of Lil Gillies - 23 Fox Ridge Lane. Meets every Monday evening.
- 12 — Tuesday Something to Chew On: A weekly Morning Bible Study begins on St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (7:30 til 8:30am) in Parish Priest's Office.
- 14 — Thursday PARISH DAY OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE - Church open for Silent Prayer 10 - 4pm. Do make this a priority if you can. Come as long as you like to pray
- 17 — Sunday Pentecost 15: UNITED NATIONS MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUNDAY - all Episcopal Church members were asked by General Convention to support and work for their implementation - see article in this edition of the Eagle about the MDG's.
- 20 — Wednesday (Following Eucharist) at 9:30 am and 7pm: Continuing Education Program: Thinking about other People's religions: The Mormons: a discussion led by the Parish Priest
- 23 — Saturday PARISH FAIR DAY AND CHURCH OPEN DAY - 10 thru 4.
- 24 — Sunday Pentecost 16 : CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICANS SUNDAY
After 10:30am service: New Confirmation Candidates first meeting in the Parish Priest's office
Monday September 25th: An Evening with Simon+ : WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING A PRIEST : A DAY IN THE LIFE OF.....with light refreshments, beginning with Eucharist at 7:30 pm.
- 27 — Wednesday Continuing Education Program : Scientology: a discussion led by the Parish priest after the Eucharist at 9:30 am and 7 pm.
ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL MEETING and LUNCHEON at 12 Noon.

October

- 1 — Sunday Pentecost 17: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SUNDAY marking the parishes outreach work in this country. 4 pm. Blessing of the Animals in the Memorial Garden.
- 15 — Sunday Pentecost 19: 9:30 am: Children's Eucharist in the Chapel followed by meeting with children and parents for the Children and Communion Class.
- 18 — Wednesday Continuing Education Program: Going for Growth Seminar Series begins: led by the Parish Priest after the Eucharist at 9:30 am and 7 pm.
- 22 — Sunday Pentecost 20: COMMUNITY AND GUEST SUNDAY at 8 and 10:30 am - services to especially invite family and friends and community friends who have not been to St John's at all or for a while.
- 29 — Sunday PENTECOST 21: REFORMATION SUNDAY when we thank God for the heritage of the Reformation and for the Episcopal Church at both services.
Affordable Housing Seminar led by S+ & C+ at 4 pm, beginning with Evening Prayer in the Chapel.

November

- 1 — Wednesday All Saints Day: Eucharists at 9:30 am and 7 pm (followed by seminar series).
- 2 — Thursday All Souls Day - special Eucharists at 9:30 am and 7pm - Commemoration of all our loved ones who have died. Please let the Church have names to be remembered of your loved on the special cards available at the back of Church and return them to the Church Office.



OUR BEAUTIFUL PARISH ALTAR FRONTALS, HANGINGS AND VESTMENTS



Draper Guild window in the Guild Hall

I have had some lovely comments about these. This makes me very happy, as many of the beautiful things parishioners have faithfully given over the years had ceased to be used. However, like St Helena finding the true cross, as I have looked around closets I have discovered so many vestments and hangings that had fallen out of use or needed repair or replacement. All aspects of our worship should be as best as we can make them—for all is for God's glory. Faithful parishioners have given so much of this, and so we repair and replace and enrich. The God who gifted people in scripture to be those who wove cloth and made garments continues to bless us here at St. John's in this long tradition. Thank you to members of the sewing group who have faithfully been working, repairing what had been hidden away. Thank you to those who have given over the years, to enable worship to be so dignified, "a pure offering" to God. We are establishing a fund to maintain the high standards we have inherited. S+

Saint John's Choir

The St. John's Choir returns to services on Sunday, September 10 after summer hiatus. The choir and Director Eric Milnes would like to take this opportunity to remind parishioners that its ranks are always open to new members. Please know that our role is to teach as well as to serve in worship: No prior experience is necessary, there is no audition process, and anyone with an interest in singing at St. John's is, as always, very welcome. Simply speak to Eric or to any choir member about your interest.

The members of the choir are a committed group devoted to the worship life at St. John's. They so rarely, if ever, seek recognition that we thought we might take this chance to thank them

publicly as they begin a new season:

Their return will be, of course, difficult to miss if you are worshipping with us on September 10. If you pass a choir member, say thanks! Better yet, consider joining!



Prayer like a Heartbeat

Throughout the world,
many parishes
of all shapes and sizes
have daily services

Daily prayer goes on
through out the world
like a heartbeat,
in praise to God
and in prayer
for God's world and church.

All are welcome
and encouraged to attend
whenever you can.

Daily Morning Prayer
Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m.

Daily Eucharist
Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m.

Every Thursday at 8:30 a.m. –
Silent Prayer
in the Quietness of the Chapel

Vestry Notes

While things generally slow down during the summer, the Vestry continues to focus in a number of areas. While some events will have taken place by the time The Eagle goes to press, we still like to keep you abreast of our activities.

As you have recently been advised in separate letters, Bishop Rodney Michel, who is retiring at the end of the year, will be with us on August 27 to celebrate Holy Eucharist, and at the end of August, our long time Parish secretary, Ginny Byrnes, will be retiring.

Many of you met Bishop Michel when he was with us to dedicate the cloister and related new construction. He has been a good friend to our Church and wise advisor to Simon, your Wardens and Vestry. His counsel and steady hand will be missed and we hope that as many of you as possible will join in saying good by.

Ginny has been with us as Parish secretary for some 25 years and has been a main cog in keeping things moving here at St. John's. While she is retiring at the end of August we are pleased that Ginny will be available in the fall to help orient our new secretary. We are also hopeful in arranging a reception after one of the fall services to say a proper thank you and good by.

Turning to the Church and its state of repair, our organ, as many of you probably know, is not in good condition. Age and the environment have taken their toll and we are going to have to address repair and reconditioning issues in the near future. In concert with our Director of Music, Eric Milnes, we are currently talking to three or four firms that specialize in organ construction and restoration to understand our options. We will, of course keep you advised as alternatives come into focus.

Finally, the Fair is coming up. We look forward to seeing you there.

- Carla Beale
- Susie Kirk
- Julie Righter
- Beth Cromwell
- Elaine Lachica
- Victoria Crosby
- Ann Vessalico
- Virginia Gollin
- Heather Johnson
- Harold Watson
- Brian Goldman
- Jeffrey Picon
- Anthony Price
- Duncan Naylor
- Brewster Righter
- Clift Whitehead
- Chris Burchett



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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

Genevieve Laine Decker

Gabrielle Laine Cranfield

BURIALS

Diana Douglas Deregibus

MARRIAGES

Alexander Francis Baring &
Carolyn Lorraine Grace

Confirmations on June 10, 2006

Joan Aglaia Choremi

Lily Catherine Colley

Hilary Hudson Copp

Caitlin Brooke Lesko

Christian Coolidge Works

Where has the processional cross gone? (cont'd)

One face of the cross is the Easter face, carved with symbols of Jesus as The Lamb Victorious, Christ Jesus who became the unblemished lamb sacrificed in atonement for the sins of all mankind. The lamb has a banner, which is the symbol of victory symbolizing Christ's glorious victory over sin and death. This face of the cross also has carvings of the five wounds of Christ, two angels, and the Hand of God stretched down in blessing. At the foot of the cross is a pelican, which is another symbol for Christ—Christ giving of himself to us the way a mother pelican gives of herself to her young. Below the pelican is the chalice with the asp, the symbol for St. John the Evangelist, who was miraculously spared from drinking from a poisoned cup.

The other face of the cross represents the Church. Its center medallion is a Descending Dove for the Spirit bringing the seven-fold gifts, the ends of the arms and vertical post are carved with symbols of the four gospels, with

the eagle for St. John at the base. The vertical post also has the shields of The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Long Island. And it is surrounded from both sides with stylized grapes and vines. Jesus said, "I am the Vine, you are the branches." We are the branches, with the Cross as our support.

When it returns to St. John's, I hope you will take the occasion to look at this beautiful piece of our heritage here. The psalmist said, "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." We are blessed to be able to use such a work of art in our worship.

C+