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CROSS-EXAMINATION

Finding Our Bearings
By Greg Clarke, Senior Warden

I experienced a slew of emotions when Karl Ruttan informed me of his plan to retire. Shock, sorrow, concern and disappointment were followed by admiration for the depth and clarity of his discernment process, gratitude for the robust community he has helped to build and maintain and a touch of anticipation about the growth opportunity ahead that the interim and search process represent. Rapidly cycling between positive and negative emotions and bearing no small resemblance to a chicken with its head cut off, I met immediately with Liddy Hoster and made an appointment with Bishop Michie Klusmeyer. Both of these were very positive moves on my part.

Liddy was a tremendous source of strength and reassurance. She is with us. She is one of us. She will be with us through this transition. She has a great head on her shoulders and has a good concept of the challenges and opportunities we will face.

My meeting with the bishop was also extremely helpful. It is clear to me that he values St. John=s and respects our unique features and requirements. I came to him with many of the concerns we are all sharing at the moment, such as Awhat will we do about an interim rector?@ and Awhen do we crank up a search committee?@ The biggest piece of advice he gave me had nothing to do with either of those issues. To paraphrase, he told me that, Athe biggest question you need to address first is how to say goodbye to a priest who has been as spectacularly successful as Karl?@

Let=s tackle that one first.

The other interim and search issues are things with which we can actually afford to take some time. I learned that the national church now has specially trained interim priests whose duties consist of providing leadership to parishes going through the interim process. We should expect to have an interim rector within a couple of months of Karl=s retirement who will likely be with us for a year or more while we go through the search process. They don=t rush this process and neither should we. We will have help. The diocesan archdeacon, Faith Perrizo, will be assisting us through this process along with the bishop, the diocese and the national church. The bishop was very accepting of my comparison of giving directions to our parish having a certain similarity to the process of herding cats. Like cats, we end up where we=re supposed to be.

We will hurt, we will learn, we will exult, and we will grow. I=m glad we=ll get to do it together. I=m glad we=ve had Karl to develop our capabilities to achieve the next level.

The Rev. Dr. Karl D. Ruttan
rector
The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster
associate rector
Brenda Vanderford
director of music
Brenda Dearien
parish administrator
Katherine Giltinan
Christian Formation
Bob Westmoreland
verger
James Wilson
custodian
Vestry
Greg Clarke >08
priest-s warden
Lila Ramkey >07
people-s warden
Bren Pomponio >07
clerk
Becky Burns >06
treasurer
Ellen Archibald >09
Joe Bolvard >09
Cheryl Clements >07
Faith Hamrick >09
Diane Hendricks >08
Ann Morris >08
Bob Swartz >07
Michelle Walker >08
David Ramkey
Assistant Treasurer
David Ramkey/Becky Burns
finance
Wanda Dettinger/Rose Smith
evangelism/new member
Mary Fitzgerald
parish life
Mary Barklow/Donna Hamra
outreach
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald
Bob Swartz
Nathan Annett
children-s Christian formation
Melonie Knorr/Kasey Russell
youth Christian formation
Dianna Headlocks
Marion Perry
adult formation
Patsy Alvord
Barb Gwigg
Bob Swartz/Bob Miller
parish life
Cathy Windon
Beth Jo Lloyd
Beth Jo Lloyd
Magda Goble
Ann Sarcello
Primit Shop
Lulanne Kenner
interchange editor

John=s Interchange

The parish newsletter for the people of God called to form the Christian community of Saint John=s Episcopal Church, Quarrier at Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, West Virginia.

October 5, 2006, Vol. 46, No. 17

Sundays October 15 and 22, 2006

Nineteenth and Twentieth Sundays after Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Oct. 15, The Reverend Karl Ruttan, rector and Greg Clarke, senior warden, will talk about ATransitions: moving toward a new Rector.@

Oct. 22, Parishioner Laurie Thompsen will discuss the relationship of mental illness to domestic abuse

9:30 a.m. Nursery Open - Babies - 2 years old, Room 297
10:10 a.m. Parents= Fellowship, Room 208
10:10 a.m. Chapel for Older Children, Room 225
10:30 a.m. Classes for Toddlers - Grade 5; Toddlers , Room 298; Godly Play, 4 - 8 years old , Room 299; St. John=s Eagles, 3rd - 5th Grades, Room 221
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with choir
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall
11:45 a.m. Rite 13/Journey to Adulthood, Room 208.

Be a Good Steward: Mark your calendar for Sunday, Oct. 15. Please come to a potluck luncheon after the 10:30 a.m. service. Bring a dish to share and learn more about our church=s mission in the coming year.

Life In Belgium: Women In Faith, Fun and Fellowship will hold their monthly luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 12. The program will feature Julia Beury who will show pictures and talk about her family=s experiences while living in a small village in Belgium. Please make luncheon reservations by Oct. 10 by calling the church office, 346-0359.

Saint

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Please address correspondence to: 1105 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301-2493

Dear Saints of John,

As many of you have probably heard by now, I will be out on medical leave starting the week of Oct. 16 for 4 to 6 weeks. I have to have some surgery (might as well name it--routine hysterectomy). There's no major health scare, it just needs to get done. This way I will be in good shape before transitions in the life of our church.

Recuperation will take a little time. Frankly, I can be a very crabby patient, and I will not be good company for anyone, so this will not be a good time for me to have visitors or receive calls. This doesn't mean I care about you any less! However, I welcome your cards and rejoice in your prayers.

I will give Karl and Brenda regular updates on how I am doing, and will be keeping all of you in my prayers. Thanks for being the caring, understanding folks that you are.

Many Blessings,
Liddy

Health Ministries Coming to St. John=s: Are you interested in being part of a Health Ministries program at St. John's? For the past year and a half Mary Barkalow has been involved in the diocesan Health Ministries Committee. It's time to bring this idea to St. John's. Health Ministries encompasses any program or activity that focuses on wellness of body, mind, and spirit. Please contact Mary Barkalow at mbarkalow@hotmail.com or 343-0581 if you are interested. We will find a time to meet to begin exploring the many ways that Health Ministries might be implemented at St. John's.

Gospel Concert: Ethel Caffie-Austin, an outstanding gospel singer, will present a concert at St. John=s on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 4 p.m. A reception will follow in Hunter Hall. WIFFF and the New Member/Evangelism Committee are sponsoring the event to which all parishioners and their friends are invited.

Christian Formation Team News: Thank you to everyone who helped with Sunday school this past month. On Oct. 1 we launched a new Rite 13 class with an informational luncheon for parents. Lisa Cline, Diane Hendricks, Guy Vitaglione, Kasey Russell, Jo Blackwood, and Karl and Liddy helped make it a festive as well as useful event. Thanks to Lisa and Jo for seeing to it that we have food for the upcoming J2A lunches. Our morning classes are coming together thanks to many volunteer efforts. Julia Beury and Katherine Paybins have the Eagles soaring into shape. Amita Janeshek is adapting Godly Play to the toddlers= room with good results. Nathan Arnett, Bonnie Bailey, Sarah Walker, Sally Love, Susan Ferguson and Jo Anne Christian are doing a super job of managing Godly Play. Our new nursery volunteers have done fine jobs. In addition, Sarah Korwan got POINTs off to a wonderful start with Rosalie Graziano=s talk and Beth Hamrick has offered to help prepare children during Children=s Chapel for an Advent recital. **Please note:** Our next meeting will be on the fourth Sunday, Oct. 22, this month. Speaker will be Jason Beschinski, our new Diocesan youth director, who will discuss his ministry plans as they relate to our church. We=ll meet in 209, following the usual covered-dish luncheon. B *Kathie Giltinan*

James Dent Dinner: This year's James Dent Dinner will be Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Charleston Marriott Hotel. The dinner will feature the return of comedian Susan Vass. The Dent Dinner, named for the Charleston Gazette=s late humor columnist, is the main fund-raising event for the Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center. In 2005, the funds raised allowed the center to provide 1200 counseling hours at the minimum fee to children, families, individuals and couples who have little or no insurance and very limited income. More information and tickets, \$70 per person, can be found on the web at www.kpcc.com or by calling KPCC at 346-9689.

Say Happy Birthday: Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks: Oct. 9, Robert Cochran; Oct. 10, Elliott Perry; Oct. 11, Joseph Jarvis and Alan Skiles; Oct. 12, Sara Birckhead; Oct. 13, Elliott Birckhead and Makenzie Sears; Oct. 14, Cheryl Clements; Oct. 15, Mechelle Vickers; Oct. 16, Alexandra Macia, Randy Valz and Sara Wright; Oct. 17, Wesley Goodwin and Mildred Howie; Oct. 18, Lew Cole; Oct. 19, Laura Thaw; and Oct. 21, Chad Love IV and Philip Shimer.

Dinner Parties: Dinners for Eight is an opportunity to meet other St. John's parishioners over dinner. We are getting a new list of dinner opportunities together this fall. If you would like to attend a dinner, please contact Rose Smith at rsmith1@charter.net or Wanda Dettinger at WDettinger@aol.com

From the Archive the Department: Did You Know? Here=s the story of how Alcoholics Anonymous got its start at St. John=s in 1943:

Men=s Forum Bringing AA Head Here

William Wilson, founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, whose article on alcoholism in the Saturday Evening Post attracted nation-wide attention, and whose book *Alcoholic Anonymous* has resulted in the formation of hundreds of groups to help alcoholics with a problem they cannot solve by themselves, is being brought to Charleston by the Men=s Forum of St. John=s to speak on Monday, March 29, at 7:45 p.m. This is to be a men=s meeting and is open without charge to any man who wishes to attend.

The work of Alcoholics Anonymous is carried on with individuals and not related to nor does it advocate Prohibition propaganda. It is not an *anti-liquor organization* but it has helped thousands of men and women to conquer an alcohol problem.

Covenant House Needs: The Drop-In Center on Shrewsbury Street is in need of feminine products and toothpaste. At the Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church donations of dry beans such as pinto or Great Northern, plus macaroni and cheese would be welcome. The Clothing Closet located at St. Mark=s United Methodist Church has a great need for men=s white shirts and black pants for restaurant work, men=s socks (not brand new, just clean), men=s underwear sizes 32 to 36 and children=s clothing.

Interchange Deadlines: The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Oct. 29 and Nov. 5. Items may be submitted to julkemp@charter.net or bdearien@stjohnswv.org by Tuesday, Oct.

17, at 4 p.m.