



SUNDAYS FEBRUARY 24 AND MARCH 2, 2008 THIRD AND FOURTH SUNDAYS IN LENT

- 8:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist**
8:45 a.m. **Lectionary Study and Group Discussion**, library
9:30 a.m. **Adult Forum, Feb. 24**, Parishioner Judith Wellington, president and CEO of Clay Center, will update us on proposed improvements to the center's grounds; **March 2**, Parishioner Brooks McCabe, WV state senator, will discuss his proposals for tackling the state's economic woes, Room 109.
- 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 through Grade 5**: Toddlers, Room 298; Godly Play, 4 to 8 years old, Room 299; St. John's Eagles, 3rd to 5th Grades, Room 221.
- 10:30 a.m. **Holy Eucharist**, with choir
11:30 a.m. **Coffee Hour**, Hunter Hall
5:00 p.m. **March 2, Evensong, followed by High Tea**

John's mission statement upheld by recent search committee and vestry actions

by Bob Rosier

Diocesan policy is clarified

Late in 2007 the vestry unanimously approved a motion that the search committee be made aware of the direction provided by Title III, Canon 9, sec. 3(a)3 of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church; furthermore that the committee has complete support of the vestry. This canon states, "Race, color, ethnic origin, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by these Canons, shall not be a factor in the determination of the Ecclesiastical Authority as to whether such person is a duly qualified priest." The wardens and interim rector visited Bishop Klusmeyer to convey this message to him.

Have a Great Time and Help Manna Meal Program

An outstanding line-up of musicians will boost Manna Meal at a fundraiser slated Saturday, March 1, at 7 p.m. at St. John's. Among those performing will be the Bare Bones Gospel Quartet, Bill and Becky Kimmons and Mark David, as well as the Martin Luther King Jr. Male Chorus. The extra dimension of a cappella singing also will be featured. You and your donations are especially welcome and those who work so hard to make Manna Meal the success it is will thank you. And stay for a reception afterwards in Hunter Hall.

While the bishop's initial reaction was interpreted as being positive, Archdeacon Faith Perrizo subsequently addressed a joint meeting of our vestry and search committee, stating that the bishop has clarified his policy, saying, "all candidates for rector or priest-in-charge ... need to either be in a monogamous married relationship recognized by The Episcopal Church or celibate."

Formal meeting with the bishop

On Jan. 15 Bishop Klusmeyer came to St. John's to meet with vestry and search committee members in discussion of his newly-disclosed policy. Although all St. John's representatives who addressed the bishop were in solidarity, with not one saying that they considered his new policy appropriate for St. John's, the bishop said only that he will continue to pray about the matter.

My reasons for objection

In a prepared statement, which I read at the meeting and later shared with the bishop via e-mail (and which he has thanked me for), I told him that, knowing him fairly well through our mutual work for the West Virginia Council of Churches, I am certain he is not homophobic.

I then differentiated homophobia from heterosexism, "the final frontier in the fight for equality, following racism and sexism." A heterosexist can be one who does nothing to dismantle a system that rewards heterosexuals at the expense of homosexuals, just as racists and sexists can include those who do nothing to stand up for equality among races and genders respectively, I maintained.

Noting that-just as has been the recent trend in The Episcopal Church at the national level-we at St. John's share a mission and vision that erases the lines that encompass each of these "isms," I said. To discriminate by eliminating any promising candidate from the search process based on their being in committed, long-term, same-gender relationships "goes against everything this parish stands for," I continued.

"Our prominence as a truly welcoming place for all would be greatly endangered were we to

exclude any qualified person from ministry here, and I firmly believe that more people would be disaffected by your stated policy than would be offended by our possibly calling a partnered gay woman or man as rector," I concluded.

Vestry members add their voices

Vestryman Page Hamrick addressed the bishop as follows: "I have been particularly chagrined at the actions of the U.S. Episcopal Church in trying to placate the international Anglican Communion over the gay U.S. bishop. Now, it appears that this parish is being asked to placate the rest of the W. Va. diocese. I am not sure what the rest of the diocese wants or does not want, but that is really of no concern to what is right for this parish.

"We are proud that [St. John's] is more inclusive and more liberal. I know that you, as bishop, must consider the feelings of the rest of the diocese, but this parish does not have to consider how the rest of the diocese feels about what we consider right for us. I am asking you to allow us to do our own thing our own way. Let us take the heat. Just as some are trying to drag the Anglican Communion into the 21st century, allow us to drag the rest of the diocese into the 21st century."

Educational consultant and parish treasurer Becky Burns noted that equality and equity are not the same. "All children do not have the same educational needs, so to treat them equally would be unfair," she said. "In regard to the diocese, all churches are not the same nor do they have the same needs. Each should receive equitable (fair)-not necessarily equal-treatment.

"St. John's has struggled with social justice issues, including gay/lesbian rights, for many years. We have reached a very different place in our spiritual journey than have many other churches in our diocese. We ask our bishop to work with us and support us in seeking an equitable outcome in our search for a new rector."

Additional opinions offered Among many other appeals made to the bishop were:

- We may lose our best candidates, whether straight or gay, because of a policy that goes

against our mission.

- The policy deeply hurts the many who have joined our congregation because of our openness and honesty.

Motion from the search committee

"As the search committee, we want to uphold our mission to find the best candidate for St. John's rector. We want to go forward with our eight candidates, which include two gay-partnered individuals. We ask for authority to continue." Motion approved unanimously by the search committee and forwarded to the vestry.

Vestry approval

At a special Jan. 20 meeting, a Burns/Bolyard motion was offered: "That the vestry authorize the search committee to continue with the search process in the way they see fit following the plan they have outlined for the vestry. " Motion approved unanimously, one abstention.

Episcopal Scholarship Available

The Armstrong Scholarship is awarded each year to an Episcopal resident in the Diocese of West Virginia who will be enrolled in an associate, undergraduate or graduate degree program in an accredited college or university in any state or country. Students applying may maintain full or part-time status. Applicants may also be pursuing course work that is of a non-degree or continuing education nature. Seminarians are ineligible. Deadline for applications is March 30. For more information contact St. Christopher Episcopal Church, Charleston, at 342-3272 or info@stchristopherwv.org.

Note: this is the same scholarship formerly awarded by St. Luke's which joined with All Saints, St. James and Church of the Good Shepherd to become St. Christopher.

Lenten Events at St. John's

Lenten Series, Created and Called: Discovering Our Gifts, will be held on five Tuesday nights. Remaining classes will be Feb. 26, March 4 and 11

with a prayer service at 5:30 p.m., light supper at 6 p.m. and a program at 6:30 p.m.

Evensong will take place March 2 at 5 p.m., followed by High Tea.

Holy Week is March 16 to 22, beginning with **Palm Sunday** services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. with Liturgy of Palms and Eucharist. Monday through Wednesday there will be Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m. and Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday service is 7 p.m. with Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing.

Good Friday Liturgy will be at noon, followed by Stations of the Cross at 1 p.m. and Reconciliation of a Penitent at 2 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter begins at 6 a.m. March 23.

Look on the Back Cover

There you will find the names of all those vestry officers and members, as well as ministry teams, who will serve this church during the next year.

In addition to those listed, the following were chosen as vestry liaisons to ministry groups: Christian formation, children, Parker Smith; Christian formation, youth, John Canfield; Christian formation, adults, Beth Marquart; evangelism/new members, Joe Bolyard; outreach, Bob Miller; parish life, Page Hamrick; pastoral care, Cheryl Clements; property, Brian Hamra; and stewardship, Ellen Archibald.

Special thanks go to the outgoing vestry members who have served so well for the past three years - Greg Clarke, priest's warden; Michelle Walker, peoples' warden, Diane Hendricks and Ann Morris.

Intern Joins Archives Department

Let me introduce myself. My name is Brad Pauley and I am a senior history major at West Virginia State University. As a senior in the history department, I chose to serve my internship in the public history field and chose to assist Janet Morris and Juanita Reed with the archiving of

records at St. John's. This will allow me to gain experience of research and organization of files, articles, photographs and artifacts. I will also be under the supervision of Dr. Billy Joe Peyton. I must complete 100 hours of service, so I will be assisting Janet and Juanita as they see fit and I am looking forward to this experience.

Interchange Deadline

The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of March 9 and 16. Please submit items to:

julkemp@verizon.net
or bdearier@stjohnswv.org
by Tuesday, Feb. 26, at 4 p.m.

Reflections on the Vestry Retreat

By Becky Burns, Priest's Warden

St. John's vestry retreat was held Feb. 1-3 in Parkersburg. The vestry decided some years ago that uninterrupted time for reflection and discussion is needed as a new vestry begins its work together.

In previous years our retreat was a planning and working meeting. This year was different. David Hackett, our interim rector, planned the retreat as a time of prayer, reflection and conversation. No business was transacted.

Getting to know one another and ourselves better during our Friday evening session helped us to develop mutual understanding of the unique gifts each of us brings to the vestry table. We are a diverse group with different talents and experiences who come from all over the country. Some of us have been at St. John's for many years and have served on previous vestries, while there are folks who have been at St. John's a relatively short time and are vestry "newbies." We have served St. John's in different capacities and, therefore, have a broad knowledge of the programs, achievements and needs of our church. I feel blessed to be working with such a wonderful group of fellow Episcopalians.

We prayed together daily, reciting Compline, Morning Prayer, Mid-Day Prayer and Evening Prayer. On Sunday morning we celebrated the Eucharist together, and during the Liturgy of the Word, we chose our officers and ministry team liaisons for the coming year. We reminded

ourselves that we are not only temporal leaders of this church, but spiritual leaders as well. We focused on our growth in both areas during the retreat.

Saturday was spent in discernment and conversation about the vestry's role, our individual responsibilities, our relationship with each other and with the congregation, and the work that we need to do together during the coming year. We participated in a mutual ministry review and discussed our life in the community of faith at St. John's. We identified achievements and disappointments of the past year and identified issues to be resolved. I found it gratifying to see so much mutual agreement among my fellow vestry members in these issues.

I believe our time of prayer and work together during the weekend away from any distractions strengthened us and united us for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. We ask for your continuing prayers.

Vestry Meeting Summary

The vestry met on Monday, Feb. 11, 2008. Following is a summary of the meeting: The treasurer reported that two weeks into the fiscal year we are in good shape with 11% of pledges in and 8% of expense accounted for. Approval of and recommendation to the Bishop and Commission on Ministry for Beth Marquart's licensure as Worship Leader, Catechist & Lay Preacher was made. The vestry continued to discuss our response to the Bishop's policy regarding the call of gay and partnered rectors, with Becky Burns and David Vick leading the conversation. A meeting is scheduled with the Bishop on Feb. 14. Becky Burns, David Vick and the Rev. David Hackett will attend. The vestry agreed that a communication, whether joint with the Bishop or from the vestry, needs to go out to the membership following that meeting. We affirmed that we will go forward in the spirit of prayer and love and owe clarity to the parish. It was agreed that the direction given to the search committee, to seek the best candidate, holds true. We affirmed that we are the Episcopal Church.

Who's Coming to Dinner?

Dinners for Eight are a great way to get to know other Saints of John and are back by popular demand. We're planning for spring and are seeking people to host dinners (in the home, a restaurant, a picnic in the park, potluck or sit-down, dessert and coffee, whatever suits the pleasure of the host) and people to attend.

If you'd like to participate in one way or the other, please notify Dwight Foley at 346-6813, or email dwightfoley@yahoo.com or Beth Marquart at 382-3109, email bethm1217@aol.com

Program for Evensong

Evensong will be sung on Sunday, March 2, at 5 pm. Thomas Tallis's "Short" Service in the Dorian Mode will be the evening canticles. The offertory anthem will feature the opening chorus from George Frideric Handel's setting of Psalm 110. This psalm setting is from his Three Vesper Psalms, composed after a sojourn in Italy as a young man, and is one of the few sacred works in Latin written by the composer. It will be accompanied by organ continuo and strings. The service will be followed by High Tea in the Parish Hall.

Help for Tornado Victims

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) is collecting relief funds for victims of the twisters which recently devastated the southern states. Checks may be made out to ERD with Tornado Relief on the memo line and sent to St. John's, 1105 Quarrier St., Charleston, WV.

Pray for Peace in Kenya

Many of you have been supportive of the Colors of Life project here at St. John's, which provides economic relief to those people afflicted or affected by HIV/AIDS in Kenya. We have been a project partner with Josadie Cottage Industries there for three years.

You are probably also aware of the recent violent political turmoil taking place there. I thought you might appreciate a recent message

from Isabel Muraguri, the Project Director in Nairobi.

"I am so happy to know that I have friends who pray and think about us. After the elections, Kenya the beautiful country is no more having glory but we hope there will be a change. We know the country will never be the same again.

Check List for Lent

(author unknown)

From the Ash Wednesday Sermon

By The Rev. David R. Hackett

- What is your relationship like with the most significant persons in your life? Your spouse? Your children? Your partner? Other family members?
- What is your relationship to your work? Are you a slave to your work?
- What is your relationship to money? To food? To alcohol? To prescription or non-prescription drugs?
- What is your relationship with your body? Your mind? Your emotions?
- What is your relationship with the poor? The sick? The suffering?
- What is your relationship with people of different color or ethnic origin than your own?
- What is your relationship with what you believe to be your purpose in life?
- Finally, and most importantly, what is your relationship with Christ? What is your relationship with prayer? With scripture? With worship and the sacraments? With the reality of your own sin?

The Rev. David R. Hackett
Interim Rector

The Rev. Denise Giardina
Deacon

Brenda Maurice Vanderford
Organist / Choirmaster

David Morton
Assisting organist/choirmaster

Brenda Dearien
Parish administrator

Katherine Giltinan
Christian formation

Bob Westmoreland
Verger

Dan Williams
Custodian

Vestry

Becky Burns '09
Senior warden
David Vick '10
Junior warden
Ellen Archibald '09
Treasurer
Dan McDonald '10
Clerk
Joe Bolyard '09
John Canfield, '11
Cheryl Clements '10
Page Hamrick '09
Brian Hamra '11
Beth Marquart '11
Bob Miller '10
Parker Smith '11

David Ramkey
Assistant treasurer

David Ramkey / Becky Burns
Finance

Maggie Latimer
Evangelism/new member

Michelle Walker
Parish life

Donna Hamra / Mary Fitzgerald
Outreach

Bob Cochran
Stewardship
Joe Mullins/Ann Morris
Property

Shonda Newsome
Children's Christian formation

Diane Hendricks
Confirmation

Marion Perry
Adult Forum

Phyllis Atwood
Pastoral care

Dianna Canfield/Carrie Swing
Acolytes

Bob Swartz / Bob Miller
Ushers

Carter Blundon
Altar Guild

Betty Jo Lloyd
Worship rota

Janet Morris
Archives

Robin Lester
SAGA

Martha Cole
Registrar

Ann Garcelon
The Back Door
Thrift Shop

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