

# The Eagle

The Newsletter of St. John's  
Episcopal Church  
June 2010 Edition



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Fourth Annual May Market

This event was a huge success! The support from so many parishioners was heart-warming. We raised \$1105 for the work of the church. Way to go!

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## June Calendar

### Happy Birthdays:

1 Megan fisher  
4 Elliot Clark, IV  
7 Carol Leatherbury  
14 Erik Thompson  
16 Joe Smith

21 Marie Warfel  
22 Matt Gengenbach  
23 Ethel Zellman

29 Olga Stanbury

### Happy Anniversary:

19 Bruce and Stephanie Lyon  
20 Frank and Joan Calder  
20 Carol and Joel Thompson  
28 Penny and Joe Schmidt

### Dates to Remember:

June 13: Woodwinds Concert, our church, 3:00pm  
June 20: Fr. Bill's first service at 10:15 am with brief reception to follow. One service only that day.

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### Please Give the Office Your Email Address

If Barbara has your email address, you will receive a monthly calendar and the Eagle. Due to postal regulations, we are no longer bulk mailing our newsletter. Please encourage anyone who wants to continue receiving the newsletter to email the office at: [stjohnshdg@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnshdg@verizon.net)

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### Meet Fr. Bill Burt on June 10, 2010 at the 10:15 am service. A short reception will follow.

#### Here is a bio to introduce you to this most interesting man, our new rector:

I was born in Newark, NJ on Feb. 17, 1952. My work background prior to seminary was in several fields, including advertising, food service, sales, music and legal support services.

Coming to you from the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, I will be coming to St. John's from the Anglican Parish of Digby-Weymouth, my first cure. Prior to ordination, I graduated from the University of Trinity College, Faculty of Divinity at the University of Toronto, Ontario. While at Trinity, I received several top academic prizes and graduated close to the top of my class. My undergraduate degree (Cum Laude) is from the City University of New York and is in Food Anthropology.

However, lest anyone think that I'm all head and no heart, God has given me an embarrassing abundance of creative gifts and talents:

**Cooking/baking.** When people ask me what I do for fun, I tell them that I go the kitchen and create something! I'm an accomplished cook and baker and much prefer home-made bread to *anything* that can be had from a store. I enjoy cooking with friends and, especially, going to dinner parties.

**Writing.** Prior to answering my call to priesthood, I wrote numerous food-related articles for weekly handout publications in the New York area. Yes, I *do* enjoy eating out!

**Music.** Life without music would, to me, be no life at all. In my former life, I received operatic vocal training, as well as acting lessons. My last venture into the world of music was closer to my roots... I'm an accomplished player and teacher of the Scottish bagpipes.

**Hand crafts.** I'm an avid knitter; I've made several of my own sweaters and even a couple of pairs of kilt socks... not something for the uninitiated! I'm eager to share my talents and experience in my ministry in any way that I can.

I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know everyone at my new family at St. John's. It looks as though I'll have my work cut out for me but I'm a firm believer in shared ministry. So, with your prayers, support and the contributions of your ministries, I'm sure that we'll help to make others aware of the Reign of our Loving God!

Fr. Bill+

## CHURCH ETIQUETTE

By: Dee Ashby

In the last few months the subject of church etiquette has come up several times in conversation. In response to some of the questions that were raised during these talks, I did some checking on what is the proper etiquette while we are in church. Here are some of the answers that I found.

**Standing or Sitting:** It is sometime confusing when it is appropriate to stand or sit during the service. It is true that we have instructions in the Book of Common Prayer that tell us when to stand or kneel but just for general information, here are some other helpful tips on when to stand. Always stand during the Gospel reading, at the singing of the opening hymn and at the singing of the closing hymn and during the dismissal. During Communion you may stand or kneel. It is your choice.

**Arrivals:** The time to arrive at church is before the start of the service. You are to enter quietly and spend the time before the service in prayer or contemplative reflection. If you wish to greet others prior to the start of the service, do so quietly so as not to disturb anyone who is in prayer. If you arrive late and the service has begun, try to enter quietly and take note of what is happening. If a scripture selection is being read or an entrance is taking place, wait until it is finished before finding a seat. If you arrive during the sermon, stay in the back of the church until it is finished. Above all, try not to interrupt a service by your entrance.

**Correct Posture:** In some Orthodox cultures, crossing one's legs in church is taboo and considered to be very disrespectful. In our church culture it is not such a great taboo. However, that said, while crossing one's legs is not taboo, it is too casual and too relaxed for being in church. Just think about it, when you get settled in your favorite chair at home, you lean back, cross your legs, and then your mind begins to wander wherever it wants. This is inappropriate for church. One does not want to become too relaxed in the pew. In fact, one should sit comfortably but attentively so as to be aware of the entire service and the message being presented during the service. When sitting in church, keep your feet flat on the floor, ready to stand at attention at any moment. The general rule is to cross yourself with you fingers, cross your hands, but do not cross your legs.

**Coming and Going During the Service:** Do not casually leave and re-enter the church during the service. It is disruptive to the others in attendance. Use the restroom in the Parish Hall before entering the church. Get a drink before entering the church. No one should need to get a drink during the service. If you must bring something to drink into the church, make sure that it is in a closed container and that you remove the container when you leave. Leave your drink outside the church to minimize the risk of damage to pew cushions, pew books, and the carpet. If you must leave and re-enter the church during the service, do it quietly and follow the guidelines for a late arrival when re-entering.

**Dismissal:** Leaving the church before the Dismissal deprives one of a blessing. Worship has a beginning and an ending. To leave immediately after receiving Holy Communion is not good etiquette. We live in a fast paced world where we seem to be hurrying from place to place. But in God's presence we need to make every attempt to remain to the end of the service to partake of God's precious gifts and to thank Him for them.

**Lipstick:** Lipstick looks fine on lips, but it looks horrible on the Communion vessel and the purificatory. What is the answer to the issue of wearing lipstick? Blot your lips well before receiving Communion.

**Talking During Church:** It is very comforting to see your friends and family members at church, but engaging in conversation with them during the service is in very bad taste. It is disturbing to the people

around you and it is rude to God. Take the time in church to talk to God through your prayers, hymns and thanksgiving and talk to your friends in the Parish Hall during coffee hour.

**Sunday Dress:** Remember the time when people put on their "Sunday best" to go to church? In fact, dress clothes were often referred to as "Sunday clothes". This is not all that common today. Overall our style of dress has become very casual and our wardrobes reflect this casual style. In all the areas of our lives, we should offer Christ our best; and the same is true of our dress while we are in His house. The general rule is to dress modestly when you enter God's house and not too casually.

**Snacks for Children:** Small children tend to be given snacks in church as a way of keeping them occupied and quiet. If one does give their child a snack during the service, that person should make sure that they clean up any mess made by the snack before leaving church. By the way, chewing gum is a NO-NO during Liturgy for everyone.

**Pew Blocking:** (Here's one etiquette problem I wish we had. When it does become a problem, at least we will know what to do.) Pew blocking is the practice of sitting right next to the aisle so that no one else can get by or sit in the middle of the pew. Everyone has seen it. In fact, the best pew blockers come early so that they can get the coveted aisle seats and then be sure no one can get past them. The most effective form of pew blocking, takes place when two people take their places on opposite ends of the same pew, thus effectively eliminating anyone else from sitting. The simple solution is to move towards the middle of the pew leaving the aisle seats for those coming later. If you cannot handle sitting in the middle of the pew and must take an outside spot, graciously allow those coming later to go past you (you may even need to move out of the way so they can get by).

While it is obvious that there are many areas of church etiquette, and some I'm sure that I have failed to address, keep in mind that most of church etiquette is based on common sense and on showing respect for God and others. Hope you enjoyed this little article and it has been helpful.

## Announcements:

Congratulations to Billy Brandon, son of Jackie and Bob, on his graduation from Salisbury University on May 22.

Congratulations to Jennifer Retzlaff, daughter of Kallie and Mark Lyons, on her marriage to Josh Smith on May 21, 2010.

We mourn the passing of Maxine Risby on May 12, 2010.

## Building and Grounds

by Bill Price

Joe Smith, Greg Shinn and Bill Price have created a St John's "Honey-Do" list from around our buildings. We will be working one day a month for the next several months trying to get things done as they have piled up over the last several years. Some of the items include; painting window sills of the church, clearing out the area between the church and Parish Hall, etc. etc. We will announce the date soon and let everyone know so you can come and lend a hand. The goal is to regularly chip away and get everything up to snuff.

This same group of merry Musketeers have been working on the Rectory in preparation for the arrival of Father Bill. Greg and Bill did a walk through and created a list. Bill went and got supplies, then Greg and his wife Ann, took a good whack at getting something done. Still much to do if anyone is interested in helping out, contact any one of the merry trio via email. One thing that we all could knock out quickly is a day of cleaning. The Rectory isn't in bad shape but with a little TLC and a good day of cleaning it would be spot on for Father Bill.

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### Greetings from the treasurer:

I want to remind everyone that although we may all take vacation during the summer months, the bills do not go away. Please don't forget to keep up with your pledges!

While we are still operating in the red, at present it is marginal due to us not paying a full-time rector. That will change in the next couple of weeks when Fr. Bill arrives and I believe good things are in God's plan for St. John's.

I will confess that, like most people, I don't care for change. It scares me. However, I do know that change is good for us. It keeps us thinking. It keeps us on our toes. It helps us grow. That being said, this is my favorite set of verses to turn to when I am feeling fearful of changes happening in my life:

*I promise you what I promised Moses: "Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you...No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.*

*Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study the Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:3-9*

These verses have helped me more times than I can count. They are a reminder to keep the faith and in doing so, fear abates.

Blessings and peace,

Kallie

### From the Senior Warden

Isn't it great? We finally have a new rector to come to our rescue and save St. John's! Now we can all sit back and relax. Oh, wait a minute - how is he going to accomplish this feat? He can walk through town and get to know people and invite them to church! Hmm. That may not get very many people through the doors, though. I know - we can all help him by remembering him in our prayers. That is certainly something we need to do but, actually, Fr. Bill is going to need a lot more from us than just prayers.

If we care about St. John's and want to see it grow, then we all have jobs to do. A new rector is not a knight on a white horse charging to our rescue. He is there to lead us but he needs our help. Think about what might happen if we ALL talked to people and invited them to church! I know that's not easy for any of us and most of us would actually be uncomfortable doing that. Sometimes, though, God takes us out of our comfort zone so we can learn and grow spiritually. Isn't that what we are called to do? What's the alternative - become stale and wither away?

In order for St. John's to grow we each have to do our part. God gave us all various gifts and we need to use those creatively. When volunteers are needed, we shouldn't just assume that someone else will do it. We have to ask ourselves "Why not me? If not me, then who will do this?" We have to open our hearts and minds to trying something new, something different, even if we think we won't like it. That's how I became Senior Warden the first time. I really didn't want to take it on - I have never considered myself a leader - but felt that I was passing the buck if I didn't accept. With the help of wonderful Vestry members, Officers, parishioners and the Diocesan staff, I have learned the ropes and done the best I could. That is all that can be asked of any of us but we have to be ready to heed the call.

Please think and pray about what you can do. What are your interests and talents? Don't wait to be asked - suggest ideas and become involved! St. John's is YOUR parish and YOU have a say in its goals. What would you like to see happen here? What do you envision the parish doing in five years' time? How can we serve our community? How can we make our presence known to the people of Havre de Grace and the surrounding area?

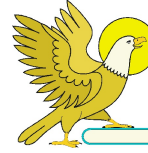
This is a very exciting time in our parish! It's a time for change; for building on our foundation; for invigorating St. John's! Think about what you like about our church; what attracted you in the first place? That's something you can share with others and maybe they will want to come, too! Is there something about it which concerns you and needs to be changed? Talk to a Vestry member about it or consider joining Vestry or a committee yourself! We ALL need to become active and DO something to nurture our little parish so it can grow.

Let's welcome Fr. Bill to our parish by getting to know him and helping him to settle in. Give him a chance to get to know us and our community and allow him to make mistakes just as we ourselves do. Let's offer our talents and dedication to help him build up St. John's. We are a team and we all must take responsibility for making the future of our parish a great one.

Blessings.

Jan Biondo  
Senior Warden

St. John's Eagle



The Monthly Newsletter of  
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
114 N. Union Avenue  
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078  
Barbara Snyder, Editor

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY! TIME-DATED MATERIAL

FYI:

### Ironbirds Game

Want to enjoy an evening out at Ripken Stadium? Christ Church, Forest Hill, has tickets available for \$15 for August 6th. The price includes a meal (usual ballgame fare) and a cap. Contact info: (410) 838-6606 or [christch@charm.net](mailto:christch@charm.net)

### Help Needed at the Harford county Farm Fair

Christ Church, Forest Hill, has been running a booth at the Farm Fair for a few years.. Mother Fran LeBlanc wants to open it up to the other Harford Co. Episcopal churches so that people are aware of our presence. In order to do this, we need volunteers to man the booth for two hours each. Each church who participates may bring info, pictures, etc. about their parish. This is a wonderful opportunity to get our name out there if we can get some volunteers. All that is required is to hand out brochures and perhaps answer some questions about your own church. If anyone is asked a question they feel unable to answer, ask the person to return when a priest is available. Harford County clergy will be there. The Farm Fair is July 29-August 1. If this is something you can do for St. John's, please contact Mother Fran at 410-838-6606 or [christch@charm.net](mailto:christch@charm.net).

Eagle deadline: June 24