

The Eagle

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



The Rector's Corner

I have always loved our great American poet, Walt Whitman. Without doubt, one of his most famous poems describes the situation we are facing together at St. John's:

*DAREST thou now, O
Soul,
Walk out with me
toward the Unknown Region,
Where neither ground
is for the feet, nor any
path to follow?*

*No map, there, nor guide,
Nor voice sounding,
nor touch of human hand,
Nor face with
blooming flesh, nor
lips, nor eyes, are in
that land.*

*I know it not, O Soul;
Nor dost thou—all is
a blank before us;
All waits, undream'd
of, in that
region—that
inaccessible land.*

The fact is that change can be terrifying; it takes us from the familiar into unknown regions. In the Church, this is especially true when it comes to needed changes in how things are done. Yet change is the nature of all living things and—make no mistake about it—St. John's is very, very, very much alive!

Whitman knew this and he knew that fear, as we can see from the first three stanzas of the poem. But bear in mind that he finished this poem on a positive note; this is a very timely message for us:

*Till, when the ties loosen,
All but the ties eternal,
Time and Space,
Nor darkness, gravitation,
sense, nor any bounds,
bound us.*

*Then we burst forth—we float,
In Time and Space, O
Soul—prepared for them;
Equal, equipt at last—(O
joy! O fruit of all!) them to
fulfil, O Soul.*



We are now at a place where moving onward and upward is our only option; not a bad place to be if we have vision and good stewardship. There *is* hope and there *is* direction if we choose to seek it and follow it as a vision. Having a vision means being adaptable to changing times and circumstances and being open to what the Spirit may want for us. By the way, the operative word in that last sentence is *us*, as in *all of us together*, myself included!

Wishing you God's Shalom,

Fr. Bill

Monthly Treasurer's Report - October 2010

As a monthly feature, I will now be indicating expenses over income for the month prior. Keep in mind that the Eagle article is always due before the present month closes, so as you read this it is November, but I typed it up in October for finances from September.

That being said, September 2010 expenses were \$7,328.15 and income was \$4,385.90 for a deficit of \$2,942.25. Needless to say, that deficit had to be funded from our investments.

In other news, it's almost time to make your 2010 pledge. Please be thinking and praying about this!! I know many people do not like to fill out pledge cards, but remember, I will be the only one that sees them and they can be changed if your circumstances change. Also without pledges, budgeting becomes harder because I don't know what to expect from month to month.

As you pray about your 2011 pledge, keep in mind what we say each week as the collection is presented: *All things come of thee, oh Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.*

Lastly, as we come to this season of Thanksgiving, I am so very grateful for all of the many blessings God has given me. Among those blessings is my St. John's family and I am very grateful for all of you.

God's blessings to you all,
Kallie Lyons

St. John's Bake Sale A Success

I want to thank everyone for all their baked items that were brought to the church and to our bake table on Washington St. at the Graw Days Festival. I also want to thank the guys who

brought their truck and helped to take the items, tables, chairs and helped put up our tent. As more items kept coming to us at our table during the festival, I had to have another table brought down to Washington St. from the church.

Our famous St. John's Apple Dumplings that Fr. Bill helped us to make were gone in the first hour of the sale. The mayor and his wife bought some of the Apple Dumplings along with two large bags of our other baked items.

We had a lot of fun on a beautiful day and made over \$330 dollars that will go towards our new church sign. Thank all of you again so very much!

Sincerely,
Donna Patnode

November Calendar

Happy Birthdays:
1 Wayne Erickson
1 Kallie Lyons
6 Jan Biondo
6 Beverly Pryor
15 John B. Fisher
20 Donna Fisher
28 Gwen Clark



Dates to Remember!!!!

November 6: Expressions of Faith Gospel Choir, 7:00pm in the church. Tickets \$7.

November 16: Vestry 7:00

November 18: Towers' Thanksgiving

November 24: Community Thanksgiving Service at St. James AME

November 25: Happy Thanksgiving

Ongoing

Mondays 9:30 am Morning Prayer
Wednesdays 5:30 Evening Prayer
Wednesdays 7:00 Bible Study
Tuesdays Grace Place 11:15-12:30; our day is the third Tuesday of the month

The Expressions of Faith Gospel Choir

The Expressions of Faith Gospel Choir of St. James Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square, Baltimore, Maryland was founded in May of 1995 by the Fr. Michael Curry now the Bishop of North Carolina. Under the direction of the late Rodrickus Howell, the choir made its debut that very next **month** in the first Gospel Liberation Mass held at St. James. From the first rehearsal until now, the Choir proudly boost representatives of all age groups, is multi-generational, as well as racially diverse.

The Expressions of Faith has praised God in song at St. Thomas in Philadelphia, Duke University for Bishop Curry's consecration, St. John's New York City, Emmanuel Church Wakefield, Massachusetts, Southern Maryland, as well as 5 trips to the Church of the Transfiguration, Blue Mountain Lake in the Adirondacks in upstate New York. The Choir **has** had many opportunities to sing at various events within the Diocese of Maryland including Annual Conventions, Dr. Martin Luther King Celebrations, and Absolm Jones Commemorations. The Expressions of Faith have also participated at non-Episcopal events including a monthly outreach service for the homeless, and the Annual Revival with the churches surrounding Lafayette Square.

The Choir does its part at St. James, participating in Celebrations of Christmas, Easter, Home Coming, Anniversary Sunday, and Youth Services and at neighborhood parties where all can get a hot meal, free donated clothing plus Spiritual entertainment. Our Choir has also sung at local Diocesan Ordinations and the Installation of the Reverend Allen F. Robinson, the current Rector of St. James, Lafayette Square.

Currently under the direction of Ms. Linda Harris, the members of The Expressions of Faith Gospel Choir look forward to the visit to St. John's Episcopal Church, Praising God with every Song and Prayer.



Expressions of Faith Gospel Choir

from St. James' Church
Lafayette Square in Baltimore

will perform a special concert

on Saturday, November 6, 2010

at 7:00 pm at
St. John's Episcopal Church
114 North Union Avenue
Havre de Grace, MD

Tickets are \$7

Call 410-939-2107 for ticket information
and
reservations.

Unthanked People

...an internet reflection by Steve Goodier

When William Stidger taught at Boston University, he once reflected upon the great number of unthanked people in his life. One was a schoolteacher that had gone out of her way to put a love of poetry in him. He wrote a letter of thanks to her.

The reply he received, written in the feeble scrawl of the aged began, "My dear Willie, I cannot tell you how much your note meant to me. I am in my eighties, living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely and like the last leaf of autumn, lingering behind. You will be interested to know that I taught school for 50 years and yours is the first note of appreciation I ever received. It came on a blue-cold morning and it cheered me as nothing has in many years."

Not prone to cry easily, Stidger wept over that note. She was one of the great unthanked people from Stidger's past. You know them. We all do. The teacher who made a difference. The coach we'll never forget. The music instructor or Sunday School worker who helped us to believe in ourselves. That Scout leader who cared.

We all remember people who shaped our lives in various ways. Who are some of the unthanked people from your past? It may not be too late to say, Thanks.

On Stewardship:

Some church goers are kinder to the waiter than to God. They tithe the price of the meal to the waiter, but only tip God.

—Unknown

From the church secretary:

Please check out our website. More hits mean it comes up easier when someone is googling. Also, please contact me with any updates necessary or suggestions for improvement.

www.stjohnshdg.org

People have asked me what Fr. Bill still needs for his home. I've had a hard time pinning him down to give me a list to share with parishioners who are interested. He has expressed a need for area rugs and a sideboard/buffet that is couch high. Please speak with him if you have something he might be able to use.

Please pray for the members of our church, especially our elderly beloved members who are not attending as frequently due to their poor health. I am so appreciative of the welcoming they gave me when I came to St. John's years ago, and it saddens me to see their health decline with time. I am saddened, too, as I realize the burdens many of our parishioners face. Please pray for the strength and health of our congregation.

Finally, it will soon be time to sign your pledge cards and offer what you can to maintain our church, reach out to our community, and inspire our growth. The demands on our resources are increasing daily. Many, many people seek help with eviction and turn-off notices. Fr. Bill has been generous, but there is only so much he can squeeze from the discretionary fund. The day to day expenses and utility costs continue to climb. When you pledge, please keep these "unseen" expenses in mind and give as best as you can.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

