

The Eagle

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



The Rector's Corner

Wow! It's already been two months... time flies when you love what you're doing!

I have to say that I'm looking forward to this coming autumn; it's been too hot and sticky. Even though I'm from New Jersey and know what summers in this part of the world are like, a few years in Atlantic Canada made me forget how hot it gets here!



1. Coming at the end of September, look for mid-week services with a little bit of a twist... We'll be having Wednesday evening themed pot lucks followed by informal Eucharist. Sound like fun? Stay tuned for more info!

2. A big fund raising event in the beginning of November. We'll need all hands on deck for that, so look for notices.

3. A concert from a visiting choir—spread the word!

Oh yes, how could I forget? On September 26, there will be just one service at 3:00 PM. That's the Celebration of New Ministry and Institution when I'll officially be welcomed to the parish and the diocese by Bishop Sutton. A reception will follow; look for invitations in your mailboxes!

B'Shalom,
Fr. Bill

I asked Fr. Bill's permission, and he is allowing me to reprint this letter sent to our office in August. Barbara
Dear Father Bill:

Earlier this week, I spent time crafting an e-mail to Bishop Sutton. I wanted him to be aware of what a remarkable disciple of Christ is at the helm of St. John's Episcopal Church in Havre de Grace, MD.

As you recall, you graciously and generously gave of your time and effort to assist my daughter on Thurs., August 12, who had a seizure while traveling alone on I95 north at a rest area. On that Thursday evening, my daughter's friend of many years arrived at BWI airport and was transported by car service to Harford Memorial Hospital. With ease and simplicity after my daughter's discharge from the hospital, the two of them walked across the street, no stress, no complication to the parking garage, got into my daughter's car and left. They left together after a horrifying day of loss of control. That is what having a seizure is after all, losing control over what is happening. You made the ease of leaving the hospital ER in the comforting presence of a friend, after the experience of a very traumatic and stressful event, **so much easier.**

Although I am not at present a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church, it is the only Christian church with which I feel I could ever align myself. I have over the last two and a half years spent many Sunday mornings at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church in Ardmore, OK, praying for my mother's recovery from a severely broken ankle, then for guidance as to the best solution for my mother's failing ability to live safely alone. She now comfortably resides in a very nice assisted living facility in Ardmore that is coincidentally, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. More recently, during many consecutive Sunday mornings during the cold, bleakness of a Brooklyn winter, I have prayed at St. John's Episcopal Church in Park Slope, for my daughter's recovery from a lengthy episode of major depression.

The week before Erin was driving through the Havre Grace area she successfully defended the major area paper, a requirement that had to be completed before she could advance to doctoral candidacy. The difficulty in completing that requirement was part of her depressed state. Just last week, I prayed that you, the priest at St. John's Episcopal in Havre de Grace, would see the urgent need that we attempted to convey to your secretary, when as total strangers we asked for your help.

It would seem that St. John is a connecting thread since Erin lives on St. John's Place in Brooklyn just down the street from St. John's Episcopal Church, and only a little more distantly from St. John's in the Harbor of Grace where she was touched by grace on many levels.

With deepest gratitude,
Janis Martinez

September Calendar

Happy Birthdays:

8 Tom Biondo
9 Gladys Keithley
11 Syd Drury
22 Frank Calder
28 Jessica Calder



Happy Anniversary:

21 Joe and Margaret Smith
30 John H. and Donna Fisher

Dates to Remember!!!!

September 17: Groundbreaking Ceremony for St. John's Commons

September 21: Grace Place. See Lillian Burch for information.

September 21: Vestry 7:00 pm

September 26: 3:00 pm Celebration of New Ministry and Institution of the Reverend William R. Burt Jr. as Rector at St. John's Episcopal Church

ST. JOHN'S COMMONS

After seven years of planning, the groundbreaking ceremony for St. John's Commons will take place at 10:00 on Friday, September 17th. This is a very exciting time for the Commons Board, St. John's Church and the community of Havre de Grace! Our parish is privileged to be the sponsor of this new senior housing facility which is much-needed in our rapidly growing city. The Commons will be built on the corner of Pennington Avenue and Stokes Street. It has been designed to fit in with local architecture and will be three storeys high with 40 apartments. The social room will be named the Fr. John Elledge Room in memory of our former rector, who was also a board member.

We give thanks to God that this project is finally coming to fruition and also for the hard work of members of the St. John's Commons Board and the dedication and tenacity of Executive Director, Sharon McGlothlin.

From our treasurer:

Have you ever had to use crutches? Well, I have and it is both a blessing and a curse. It's a blessing because there is a sense of freedom and a curse because it is uncomfortable, awkward and can leave you feeling unbalanced.

In writing checks and balancing funds the other day, I realized that the time had come to sell more of our investments simply to make ends meet. It was then that it hit me that the option to do this was a crutch, both a blessing and a curse. However useful, it was something to keep us moving while we grow. But it's not a way to live forever. While I do feel we are blessed to have the option, an option so many churches do not have, making the call to our broker to sell more makes me uncomfortable and leaves me feeling unbalanced.

I feel that you all need to know that we are relying on these funds yet again. We're on a very tight budget and the investments won't last forever. We have to use them carefully until we grow enough to be 100% self-sufficient again. I believe this day will come!

However, until then, we need to be good stewards with those investments. I can't speculate on how long they will or won't sustain us simply because the market fluctuates as do our needs. (Remember the plumbing problems a few years back? While some of that cost was paid for with donations, much of it was paid for with sales from investments.) If our investments run out...well, I say we don't let it get to that point! Let's become able to walk on our own and throw away the investment selling crutch!

I'm asking you all to pray for insight on what you can do to help. From making sure all lights get turned off to perhaps giving an extra dollar or two a week. Ask yourself when and where you can help us during the tough economic times. I know it's never fun to budget, to economize, but together we will make it through the lean times.

As always, blessings and peace to you and those you love,

Kallie Lyons

*A Celebration of New Ministry and Institution
with the Holy Eucharist
for*

The Reverend William R. Burt, Jr.

As Rector of

St. John's Episcopal Church

114 North Union Avenue

Havre de Grace, Maryland

The Reverend Petrina M. Pyatt, Guest Preacher

The Right Reverend Eugene Taylor Sutton,

Bishop of Maryland, Celebrant

Sunday September 26, 2010

3:00 p.m.

Visiting Clergy are invited to vest

Reception to follow in church hall

410-939-2107

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R.S.V.P.

**You are cordially invited to attend the
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY
of**

**ST. JOHN'S COMMONS
HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY**

on

Friday, September 17, 2010

at

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Located at

601 PENNINGTON AVENUE

HAVRE DE GRACE,