

THE MESSENGER

A seasonal publication by and for the community of Saint Ann's
to inform and involve them in its activities, programs and ministries.

Epiphany 2011

Inside this issue:

Page 2 ~

Youth Ministries

Page 2 ~

Money Matters

Page 3 ~

Stewardship Update

Page 4 ~

Search Committee

Page 5 ~

Godly Play

Page 6 ~

Onesimus

Page 7 ~

The Nearly New Shop

Page 7 ~

Beyond Our Doors

Page 8 ~

The Lost Art of Thankful

Page 9 ~

Love Baskets

Page 9 ~

LENT

Dear Friends in Christ -

First, a word of thanks to all who helped to make Christmas 2010 a joy-filled occasion. Kudos to all of the Altar Guild folks who give time, energy and skills, largely behind the scene; and to Violeta and the choir for all the wonderful music; and to Acolytes, Lectors, Intercessors, Ushers, and Oblation Bearers for tasks well done. Special thanks to the children who assisted with the 'Gospel Presentation' on Christmas Eve, and to the adults who worked with them. Saint Ann's was (is) blessed with the participation of the several clergy who worship with us and share their many talents with us. And, please know that all the people of Saint Ann's and their guests who shared in the many Christmas Liturgies are much appreciated. It is always a thrill to see the church filled and to hear happy voices lifted in song, worship and praise.

Second, please keep the Search Committee and the Vestry in your prayers as they move toward the call of a new Rector for Saint Ann's. The list of candidates is long, sifting and sorting is time-consuming and difficult, but, with the guidance of God, Holy Spirit, and the encouragement of supporting prayer, the task will be done with wisdom and care.

Third, preparations are well underway for the 2011 **Annual Meeting to be held on February 13**. Please add it to your calendar. Printed reports from the various Parish Programs, Committees and Organizations are due in the Parish Office on Thursday, January 27, 2011, or sooner, if possible.

Fourth, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent is 'late' this year, falling on March 9, 2011. Please watch for announcements of special Lenten events and opportunities for enriching our spiritual lives as we move toward the solemn keeping of Holy Week and the Great Celebration of Easter. Is there interest in a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper? Will you serve on the Committee? Please let me know.

Lastly, please know that I am most grateful for the warm welcome and many expressions of appreciation for my ministry with you here at Saint Ann's. It is my delight to have an opportunity to share with you in the Lord's work in this place.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rev'd Canon Robert J. Miner
Interim Rector

Worship

A happiness that is sought for ourselves alone can never be found: for a happiness that is diminished by being shared is not big enough to make us happy. There is no end to the sharing of love. Infinite sharing is the law of God's inner life.*

Youth Ministries **The Rev. Stephanie Johnson**

Building on our discussions about prayer, the youth group has begun to explore the meaning of The Lord's Prayer. We viewed paintings and drawings illustrating how "Our Father in Heaven" has been imagined. Next we explored how people attempt, within our limited human understanding, to find words to describe God. The bulletin board in the Griswold Room shows some of the words we discovered that are used to name God. In the weeks ahead, we will continue to unwrap the themes and concepts in The Lord's Prayer.

With help and guidance from Kathy Kronholm, the youth made small teddy bears to include in the layettes which I took to the Sisters in San Pedro, Dominican Republic. The Sisters were very grateful for the continued support of Saint Ann's to their important ministry in the Barrio.

In early January, the youth group hosted the annual Burning of the Greens. Several very dry Christmas trees and wreaths went quickly up in flames as we watched and sang Christmas carols. It was a cold and windy evening but we were warmed by the enthusiastic group and the hot, mulled apple cider, cocoa and doughnuts served by Mac and Anya.

On Sunday, January 30th the youth group will host a Chapel on the Green service in New Haven. We invite everyone in the congregation to gather in the kitchen at 9:30 that morning to make 100 bagged lunches. The lunches will be distributed to the homeless after the short Eucharist service on the Green.

As always, members of the congregation are warmly welcome to come to the youth group on Sunday evenings at 5:30 pm. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at Stephanie.m.johnson@yale.edu or leave a message at the church office.

Money Matters: A Look Back at 2010 **Heather Dillenbeck, Treasurer**

This time last year, it was hard to be optimistic about 2010. Our financial results for 2009 had been disappointing, pledge commitments for 2010 were down significantly, we faced uncertainties in the costs of a new rector and youth minister, and the rectory was in need of significant, expensive repair. Now, looking back, the year turned out pretty well.

Here are a few highlights:

- ◆ During 2010 pledge receipts totaled over \$210,000. This was \$21,000 more than was indicated on the pledge cards for 2010.

On Sunday, January 30th the youth group will host a Chapel on the Green service in New Haven.

Worship

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- ◆ There were also favorable surprises on the expense side. Most importantly, clergy benefit expense went down during the year, rather than up as we had feared. While we all would have preferred the Rector issue to be settled, the fact is that having Harlon half time, and having both Harlon and Father Bob not needing medical insurance, was hugely helpful.
- ◆ The rectory renovation was completed, and on budget.
- ◆ Unexpected gifts and bequests during the year totaled \$119,000, which we added to the investment account.
- ◆ Late in the year two of the church's paintings were sold, bringing in another \$18,000, which was also added to the investment account.
- ◆ The investment account itself did well, reaching \$2,152,275 at yearend.

What does 2011 have in store for us? I wish I knew. Early results from the pledge drive are disappointing-see Carl Igelbrink's stewardship update below. Many costs seem certain to rise. It could be a very difficult year, or we could be lucky once again. Please, if you haven't yet sent in your pledge, do so now.

The Vestry discussed the budget for 2011 at its meeting on January 19th. A full financial report will be presented at Saint Ann's Annual Meeting on February 13th.

Who ME? Yes US! Carl Igelbrink, Stewardship

The 2011 Pledge Drive is in its last stages. As you know, we did not set a pledge goal this year; relying instead on the belief that each individual gives as an act of love which thereby draws us into a deeper relationship with God and each other.

The results, detailed below, speak for themselves. You will note that the decline in pledge income and pledges has accelerated during this period of transition for Saint Ann's and points out the need to hold and grow behind a new rector.

ITEM (\$,000)	'08	'09	'10	'11(a)
Planned Pledges	\$230.0	\$220.0	\$200.0	NA
Pledged	\$202.5	\$201.9	\$188.8	\$157.5
% chg. Vs. Prev. Yr.		(0.3%)	(6.4%)	(16.6%)
Actual Pledges	\$207.2	\$209.3	\$209.3	NA
Pledges (#)	140	133	116	96
% chg. Vs. Prev. Yr.		(5.0%)	(12.8%)	(17.2%)

(a) as of 1/04/11

NA Not Available or Not Applicable

We would like to thank all of you who have pledged and advise you that we have begun following up with those who have not.

What does 2011 have in store for us? I wish I knew.

You will note that the decline in pledge income and pledges has accelerated during this period of transition . . .

Communion

But if we live for others . . . we will see that we are human, like everyone else, that we all have weaknesses and deficiencies, and that these limitations play a most important part in all our lives. It is because of them that we need others and others need us.*

Search Committee:

Bill Cuddy - *Chair*
860-434-5212

Beth Sullivan - *Co-Chair*
860-434-7911

Kathy Kronholm -
Secretary
860-434-5150

Jane Keydel - *Chaplain*
860-388-4648

Carole Lamourine -
Chaplain
860-434-9682

Dick Dillenbeck
860-434-9737

David Friez
860-691-1877

Ken Kraus
860-434-3893

Pat Rogerson
860-691-3305

Dot Smith
860-739-5390

Search Committee at Work on New Search Bill Cuddy, Chair

The Search Committee has been working on the *new search* for our new rector since **October 2010**.

The initial process started in September of 2009. Two original members of the Committee, *Maggie Faulkner and Linda Winzer*, decided not to continue with the new search. We thank them warmly for their many contributions and views and will miss their help and opinions as we continue.

The first action after the Vestry directed another search was a meeting between the Vestry and the Search Committee to talk about the Vestry's decision. Subsequently the Diocese posted the position opening for 30 days. The Search Committee met during this time to talk about our procedures and inquiries going forward. After the Diocesan deployment officer had reviewed expressions of interest from and talked with priests who responded to the position posting, he met with the Search Committee on **December 1st of 2010** and presented us with initial information on 18 candidates.

On **December 6th** we wrote those candidates to request written answers to some questions and one or more of their sermons, in writing or on a CD or DVD. Twelve responded to our request. The other six withdrew from consideration for one reason or another.

On **January 5th of 2011** we met to consider the responses we had reviewed and decided which of the candidates to interview by telephone. These interviews are scheduled to be completed on **January 24th**. We will then meet to consider the information we have about the candidates and decide which ones we will invite to in-person interviews at Saint Ann's. It appears likely that we will complete those personal interviews, visit some candidates' churches and be prepared to present our recommendations to the Vestry in the **second half of February**.

If any members of the congregation have questions or comments, please contact *Bill Cuddy, Chair, or Beth Sullivan, Vice Chair*, of the Search Committee.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Search Committee.

Communion

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Godly Play

Share the Journey, Grow in Faith

Linda Winzer, Church School Coordinator

This year's Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm included A Liturgy for Christmas Eve, focusing on the Nativity Story as liturgy. This simple yet meaningful presentation is part of the Godly Play curriculum and featured the youth group members reading the story which was punctuated by several familiar Christmas hymns. At designated times, the church school students brought the crèche figures forward to complete the Nativity scene, joining the youth group on the altar. Following a blessing of the crèche, the liturgy culminated with a singing of "Silent Night".

Many thanks to the church school and youth group for their participation in this memorable service, and to the knitters whose beautiful hand knit figures were used in the crèche. It was so nice to have all of Saint Ann's youth sharing the Christmas story with the parish. Thanks also to the parents of these children for their diligence in getting them to the church for rehearsal on December 19th and arriving early on Christmas Eve.

We enjoyed four wonderful stories during the season of Advent which helped the children to anticipate the mystery of Christmas. We moved toward Bethlehem, guided by the prophets, with the Holy Family, the shepherds, and the Magi. With each lesson, we enjoyed the light of the Advent candles for the prophets, for Mary and Joseph, for the shepherds, and for the wise men.

During our work times following the story, the children have been enjoying the most recent additions to the Godly Play room, "The Crosses" and "Books of the Bible." The crosses challenge them to think about what crosses really represent and introduce them to the wide variety of crosses that exist, each a different shape with its own story. The books help the children to learn the books of the Bible and to connect the Godly Play lessons to the written Bible.

Beginning January 16, we launched into the Parables which will complete our winter presentations and bring us up to Lent. The Parable lessons include Parable of the Good Shepherd, Parable of the Good Samaritan, Parable of the Great Pearl, Parable of the Sower, Parable of the Leaven, Parable of the Mustard Seed, and Parable of the Deep Well.

The Godly Play adult volunteers are excited to share the stories with the children as we journey together through the remainder of the church school year, from the Mystery of Christmas all the way to the Mystery of Pentecost. We are grateful for the children who are making the journey with us.

It was so nice to have all of Saint Ann's youth sharing the Christmas story with the parish.

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*“No one can come to Me
unless the Father who has sent Me, draws him“*

Christian Vocation Onesimus

As much as we dislike the uncertainty of this Interim period it can and should be a valuable time for each of us. Just as our Search Committee takes stock of who we really are as a Faith Community, no less should we parishioners be prompted to examine our own Christian profile.

By happy coincidence, this last week brought the latest issue of the Holy Cross News, whose theme is Vocation. In his forward, the Superior of the Order shared the following valuable insight: “each Christian-every human being has a vocation. By that I mean each of us has a particular set of opportunities and circumstances that uniquely fit us to serve and glorify God in a way no one else ever did or can. In that meeting between personal character and vital opportunity, lived out with fidelity, constancy and creativity over time, we find our true selves - we discover our Vocation.”

To see ourselves in this new way and become open to such inner leading as we are meant to do, should undergird our whole Church experience. Not to say that our prior views and engagement in the life of Saint Ann’s become invalid...rather they are judged, amended in the light of becoming increasingly open to God's lead, will, and plan for our own discipleship .

As to what awaits this deepening dependency on God, St. Luke gives us these blessed assurances: “ask and it will be given you...seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives...he who seeks, finds...and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” Thanks be to God!

What better way to conduct our own interimcy than to explore our true Vocation. Amen!

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**Annual Parish Meeting
February 13
after the 10:30 Service**

Light lunch will be served

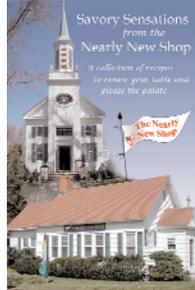
Communion

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The Nearly New Shop Jean Read

The Nearly New Shop opened for business on January 19 for the 2011 season. Intake for consignment of winter clothes will be Wednesday through Saturday from 10am to noon, the same as last year's intake hours.

The manager will take donations any day, any time and there is always someone there to give out and sign a donation slip. Donations are the easiest way to give--no sheets to fill out, no hangers to worry about and the shop gets the full benefit.



And don't forget to purchase your copy of our cookbook!

\$10 at the shop or in the church office.

The Shop is always in need of volunteers. There are jobs centered around pricing, sorting, checking out -- morning or afternoon -- all dependent on your schedule. Its a good time of year to start anew: DONATE and VOLUNTEER! You and the Shop will have a happier new year!

The Nearly New Shop opened for business on January 19 for the 2011 season.

Beyond Our Doors Outreach Carolyn Kilroy, Chair



The Beyond Our Doors committee would like to thank each and every one of you who gave so generously this 2010 Holiday Season. With the last delivery on December 23rd, Saint Ann's parish provided a total of 85 gifts in support of the Child & Family Agency's Polar Express Program and the New London Covenant Shelter. Saint Ann's Vestry members also personally sponsored an additional 2 families through the Lyme Youth Service Bureau and the Lyme Social Services Holiday Basket Programs. Please know that your generosity made for quite a few smiles on Christmas morning that wouldn't have been there otherwise. ***Saint Ann's is the Best!***

Communion

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*Do you take a moment in your day to thank your Maker for all you have?
Or do you complain?*

The Lost Art of Thankful

Are you thankful for what you have?
Or are you greedy?
Are you controlled by your cravings?
Or are you free?
Are you content with what you have been given?
Or do you yearn for more?
Do you think about those who go without?
Do you wonder if they are thankful?
Do you acknowledge your blessings?
Do you take a moment in your day to thank your Maker for all you have?
Or do you complain?
Do you plead for less?
Do you give back because you can?
Are you thankful for all your blessings?
Or do you voice your dissatisfaction?
Do you know how lucky you are?
Do you know that God loves you in spite of your faults?
Do you strive to understand your enemies?
Do you value a different opinion?
Or do you judge and turn the page?
Are you thankful for Diversity?
Or do you traverse the world down a one-way street?
What example do you set?
Which values do you represent?
How would you be described to a stranger?
Are you a positive force?
Are you honest and understanding?
Do you try to make the world a better place?
Do you see the beauty of God in simple actions?
Are you thankful for the light God brings to your life?
Do you know how much God loves you.....and are you thankful?

Jim Grabowski

***Safe Church Training
Comprehensive (Basic)***

***Saint Ann's Church
March 26th
9am to 4pm***

To register go to www.ctepiscopal.org under News and Events

Communion

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Love Baskets

It is hard to believe but it is time for Love Baskets again. This year we will be packing the “baskets” at 8:30am on February 12th . We usually end up packing around 100 baskets. For those who are not familiar with the project, it is designed to brighten the day for shut-ins who do not have visitors and for those in our congregation who are not able to join us in regular worship services and other activities.

The goodies included in the “baskets” are fruit, cookies and candy with special care to prepare the contents for diabetics with items in keeping with their diets. To accomplish this endeavor we need home-made cookies (without nuts), persons to assist in assembling the baskets and most importantly persons to deliver them.

The fruit is purchased with donated funds. If you can assist in this outreach program in any way, please contact Dot Smith or Nancy Razez. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for any assistance - it is a very rewarding time spent on a Saturday morning.

Nancy Razez 860 767-3590

Dot Smith 860 739-5390

For those who are not familiar with the project, it is designed to brighten the day for shut-ins who do not have visitors and for those in our congregation who are not able to join us in regular worship services and other activities.

Lent Begins March 9 ~

Ash Wednesday Services:

7:00am - Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Noon - Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

7:00pm - Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

~

This year, Father Bob will initiate a new tradition of holding Holy Eucharist in the homes of parishioners every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout Lent.

There will be sign-up sheets out soon for you to offer your home for one of these Eucharists. More information will be forthcoming as we close in on the season of Lent.