



St. John's Acts

St. John's Episcopal Church Cornwall, NY
March 2008
Volume XXXI

The Rector's Message Fr. Tom Margrave

As I write to you, I am emerging from the worst period of sickness that I have endured since I was in language training in 1982, and it developed into pneumonia because it was not properly treated by the Army medicos. I know that your prayers have been both with me and Vera as we have battled this 'bug.' Thank you all.

I have seen the new portions of our Columbarium. They fit well and will provide dignified lodgings for the mortal remains of many of our family and friends for years to come. All the praise goes to Ed Moulton who not only handled the contracting but was present throughout the installation. Thank you, Ed. Well done!

Sunday was the Third Sunday in Lent. We are three-fifths of the way through Lent and only 3 weeks away from the Great Feast of the Resurrection, Easter. There is still time to begin reading the little booklet of Lenten devotions around the Episco-

pal Church's support of the UN Millennium Goals. Over the last few days of my illness I have noted in the NY Times several articles decrying the effects of extreme poverty and lack of education here in our own country. Please consider joining us for

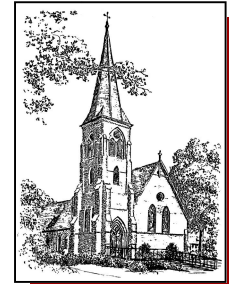
"I spoke about the fact that only God forgives and forgets; for the rest of us there are still the challenges of consequences."

Food for Thought—good food for the body and the mind.

Last night Marianne and I went to the AME Zion Church of Newburgh for their Wednesday evening Lenten service where I "brought" the message. The theme of the evening was "Walk away free and forgiven," and the text was Luke 7.36-50—the story of Jesus' dinner at the Pharisee's home and the sinful woman who came to bath his feet with tears, wipe them

with her hair, then kiss and anoint them with ointment. Jesus sends her off forgiven and free, saying "Go in peace; your faith has saved you." I spoke about forgiving as a way of setting us free. Not that forgiving is either always easy or immediate, but it is freeing. I spoke about the fact that only God forgives and forgets; for the rest of us there are still the challenges of consequences.

One thing marred the day: the knowledge that a man had died in a local fire and his family left homeless and in grief. I was not at the fire because I was still sick but I found myself praying for the man, David Jessup, and his family. I subsequently learned that a number of parish members knew the family through school and community activities or were in some other way connected to this terrible tragedy. Today as I finish this piece, his Mass of Christian Burial is occurring at St. Thomas of Canterbury. May he



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The Rector's Messagecontinued

rest in peace with the Saints in light. Members of this parish will continue to help and support David's family in the weeks to come. It is my hope that we will keep this family in our prayers. If you are in a position to give, I encourage a gift to the fund set up for the family at the Bank of America.

March 9th at 4:30 in the afternoon we would like to meet with our youth and parents to talk about the FWF of St. John's, our new program for youth in grades 5 & 6, 7 & 8, 9-12. Please try to be there or contact Lois Hicks-Wozniak, Tom Hub-

bard or myself if your youth are interested but can't make this meeting.



We are drawing toward the end of Lent with the joys of Easter ahead. Please make plans to bring friends and family to one of our services. Remember that service timings change for the 16th and 23rd: 7:30, 9 & 11:00.

Blessings, Fr. Tom

150th Anniversary Committee to create Commemorative Quilt of all Parish

In preparation for St. John's 150 celebration, we are assembling a commemorative quilt and asking all parishioners to participate by completing a square for each member of their family. The goal is to have all parish families represented. The deadline for submitting them is March 16.

Please contact Bea Demers at 569-0388 for information or your family's "squares!"



The Warden's Corner—Jay Townsend, Senior Warden

Last month Scott Stewart, Pat Rodriguez and I attended a Vestry conference in the Bronx hosted by the Diocese. Rev Jerry Keucher, Chief of Finance and Operations for the Diocese, was one of several who addressed more than 300 people who gathered on a cold, wet, rainy Saturday in February .

His hour long talk that day centered on the difference between healthy and not so healthy churches in the New York region:

1. Have you in recent years changed your worship format or added worship services with different styles?

2. Have you gone through the last five years without a "Major Conflict?"

3. Does your church have a website?

4. Are there people of different races and ethnicities in your

congregation?

5. Are you clear about your mission and purpose?

6. Does your church have an active program for children and does it offer Sunday School?

7. Have you given thought to recruiting new members and do you

sponsor events that attract non-members to your church?

"If you answered in the affirmative, you have a healthy church," according to Keucher.

While I was pleased to say we have done or are doing all of these things at St. John's, we still have work to do.

Moreover, neither the Wardens or the Rector or the Vestry can do it alone. With the conclusion of the Capital Campaign and the launch of a new website, the Vestry and church leadership have turned their attention to growth, programs for youth, and even more events which

will attract non-members to walk through our doors. And we've seen several new faces at Sunday services since the first of the year.

What can you do? When you see someone on Sunday morning that you've not seen before, make a special effort to introduce yourself. Invite them to coffee hour and engage them in conversation. Learn what their interests are and introduce them to fellow parishioners. Just as important, make it a point this year to invite a friend to attend services or an event at St. John's. You might find them among the growing number of people who've walked through our doors in recent years and decided to stay.

Jay Townsend, Senior Warden

Contact information:

E-Mail: htj@frontiernet

Snail Mail: St. John's Church

Att: Jay Townsend, Sr. Warden

Prayers & Assistance Needed

Our community has been shaken by the recent death in a house fire of David Jessup on February 27. He and his family have many friends among us. What to do? Keep this family in your prayers and pray for the repose of David Jessup. While help is pouring in now, in a few weeks there may be a need to deliver prepared food that can be re-heated to the family in their temporary lodging or help in other ways. We will let you know through the Shepherding Committee or by direct contact. Clearly the family will need financial help so I urge you to make a donation to the Eloisa Jessup Family Assistance Account and either mail the check to the account at PO Box 232, Cornwall, NY, 12518-0232 or drop the check off at any local Bank of America branch. The strength of any community is often shown best when we help those whom we may not know anything about except that they need our assistance. Fr. Tom

Habitat for Humanity Update—Paul Herbert

On a cool Saturday morning, February 9th, St. John's had a work session on our Episco-Build house at 60 Clark Street in Newburgh. The house was getting painted that morning and in addition to support from other Hudson Valley Episcopal Churches, the following people all helped paint the ceilings and walls: Liz Cochrane, John De-Teresa, Bill McCracken, Cynthia Leghorn and Paul Herbert. We even managed to get more paint on the walls than on ourselves! This is the second house that will be completed by the Episcopal Churches in the Hudson Valley and should be completed and ready for the partner family by April 2008. We hope that you can join the dedication and by participating in the Walk for Housing on April 27th (see page 7). We're looking forward to having you join us for a fun event and great cause.

Watch for these upcoming 150th Anniversary Events!

March 2008

✠ 1st - Concert: Taize (St Helena's Convent), 7:30 PM

✠ 16th - Holy Week begins

April 2008

✠ 5th - Pancake Breakfast: Benefit for Habitat, 7:30 - 10 AM

May 2008

✠ 10th - Mothers' Day Tea, 2-4 PM

✠ 17th - Wine Tasting, 6 - 9 PM

June 2008

✠ 7th - Concert, 7:30 PM

✠ 8th - Ice Cream Social, 12:30 PM

July 2008

✠ July 4th—Celebration and Parade Float

✠ July 5th - Concert, 7:30 PM

August 2008

✠ 17th - Outdoor Concert; Chicken BBQ, 5 - 9 PM

✠ 23th - Movie Night

September 2008

✠ 6th - Concert, 7:30 PM

✠ 13th - Cornwall Fall Festival

✠ 14th -Homecoming Sunday; Church School begins

October 2008

✠ 4th - Concert/Harvest Square Dance, 4 - 7 PM. KFC-style Chicken Dinner

✠ 25th - Progressive Dinner

November 2008

✠ 22nd - ECW Soup/Dessert & Christmas Fair, 11AM - 3PM

✠ 25th - Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, 7 PM

December 2008

✠ 6th - Victorian Christmas,- Quiet Music & Guided Meditation 2 - 5 PM

✠ 20th - Greening of the Church

✠ 21st - Advent Feast of Lessons and Carols. **Margrave Open House** at the Rectory

✠ 24th - Christmas Eve Services: 4 PM, 10:30 PM

January 2009

✠ No events scheduled

February 2009

✠ 7th -Concert: Apple Tree reading, 7:30 PM

✠ 24th - Shrove Tuesday: Pancake Dinner, 5 - 7 PM

March 2009

✠ 7th - Concert: Quiet/Guided Meditation, 7:30 PM

April 2009

✠ 13th - Friday Fish & Chips Fund-raiser Dinner, 5 - 7 PM

✠ 15th - Holy Week begins

✠ 25th - Quilt Show, 10 AM - 3 PM

May 2009

✠ 10th - **Rededication of St. John's Church: 150th Celebration Service at 10 AM**



Upcoming Events

- ✠ **Food for Thought Lenten Series** continues each Thursday during Lent, starting at 6:00p.m. with hearty soups and bread. We are focusing on the Millennium Development Goals and what we as Christians should be doing.
- ✠ **St. John's 150th Anniversary Committee:** The next meeting will be Saturday, **March 8 at 10 a.m.**
- ✠ **Easter Flower Offering:** Beginning **March 9**, envelopes will be available in the pews.
- ✠ **Attention kids in grades 5-12:** The 1st meeting of St. John's FWF - **Faith, Work, & Fun Fellowship, Sunday, March 9, 4:30-5:45 p.m.** The FWF group is St. John's newly formed Youth group for grades 5-12 with groups for 5&6, 7&8 and 9-12 grades.

Everyone is invited to stay for the Informal Evening Eucharist at 6 p.m. Please plan on attending this exciting meeting as we get together to talk about what you want to get out of FWF - we want to hear *your* ideas! **Parents:** There is also an informational meeting at the same time with Fr. Tom regarding the FWF. FWF Volunteers & leaders needed. If you are interested in working with the youth group, please speak with Lois Hicks-Wozniak at 446-9241 sax-lois@yahoo.com or Tom Hubbard (562-6280)

- ✠ **Parish Council Meeting** of parish ministry leaders is set for 7 p.m., **Tuesday, March 11 at 2 Alices.**
- ✠ **Lenten Visit to the Convent:**

The ECW is sponsoring a Lenten visit to The Convent of St. Helena on **Wednesday, March 12** from 3:30– 5:30 p.m. All members of the Parish are welcome. The afternoon will start with meditation followed by tea with the Sisters, then Vespers at 5:00 p.m. If you would like to attend, contact Meri Maisonet at 561-9315.

- ✠ **The 2nd Concert in the "Celebration Series: Music celebrating 150 years of St. John's Church"**, will feature world-renowned Euphonium soloist Jason Ham. **Saturday, April 5 at 7:30pm.** Suggested donation \$7, a light reception will follow. Wait until you hear the technical facility and his amazing musicianship! This concert is a *must-hear!*

Outreach Opportunities

- ✠ **St. George's/Good Shepherd Food Pantry:** St. John's will be collecting items for the local food pantries. Please consider dropping off items when you come to any of the Sunday Services. Connie Stahl has volunteered to deliver the items to St. George's. Items to bring are tuna, macaroni & cheese, canned vegetables, soups, pork & beans, pasta & sauce. Contact the Church Office or Fr. Tom for more information.



- ✠ **Shoes for the Needy Drive—**
Donate

gently-used or new shoes at Cornwall Public Library until March 28th. If you have shoes you no longer use, consider donating them to the needy. Please rubber band the pair together. Tell your friends and spread the word! Groo's of Middletown handles distribution

to the needy.

- ✠ **Community Blood Drive Saturday, April 12** from 9AM to 12noon in the Parish Hall. Please come out and help us to provide needed blood for our local area. Any questions, please see Deacon Robin or Connie Stahl.
- ✠ **Prayer Shawl Ministry/Charity** knitting Sunday, **March 30** at 9am in the Cloister.

Noteworthy News

- ✠ **Sunday School Teachers Needed -** We need to recruit additional members of the parish willing to give the ministry of Sunday School teacher a try. Fr. Tom is particularly interested in recruiting those who have previously taught Sunday School even many years ago. This is a critical parish ministry, and we need to support our

youth fully. It is not necessary to have children presently in the classes. Let us refresh your skills and familiarize you with our current curriculum. Please pray about this, and, if you are interested or a name comes to you, call Fr Tom either at church 534-5475 at home 534-4446 or through his cell (845) 222-0876.

- ✠ **2008 Offering Envelopes:** If you would like to receive envelopes and did not get them this past year, please contact the Parish Office 534-5475. We encourage their use even if one just gives monthly and on Holy Days.
- ✠ **Blood Pressure** checks Sunday, **March 9** after all services.

Stewardship Update

It's not too late to pledge for 2008.

The Stewardship Committee is tasked with encouraging parishioners to contribute to our church so that we can continue to provide the services members are accustomed to and take care of our financial responsibilities. After closing the books and tallying our Commitments, we find we are still short of meeting our financial needs. A total 88 pledges have been received. We are now appealing to members who have not yet made a commitment.

Maybe you put money in the plate every week. If \$10.00 every week is the current level of support you are comfortable with, we ask you to multiply that times 52 weeks and put that amount in a more formal Commitment of \$520.00 so that we can know what we can count on. Pledge cards are avail-

able in the Cloister or you may pledge by phone by calling Elaine Johnston at the church office (534-5475) Monday through Friday, 10 AM – 2PM.

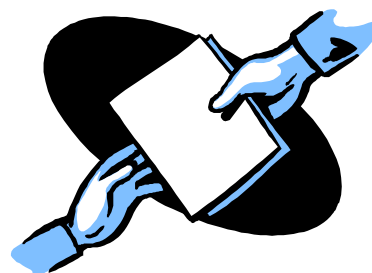
Maybe you would rather not pledge for fear of not having enough to meet your own financial

It's not too late to
pledge for 2008!

needs. We are not asking you to over-extend yourself, but to pledge an amount you can comfortably live with even in tough times. For example a \$2.00 a day financial commitment (\$728.00 annually) would make a tremendous difference to our church budget.

Finally, we ask you to consider tithing a portion of your Income Tax refund or Rebate. A commitment of any amount will help ensure the viability of Saint John's missions for the year.

Sis Obidowski,
Stewardship Committee member



Our Diocesan Assessment - Fr. Tom Margrave

Every year the members of the Diocesan Convention, both clergy and lay representatives, vote on the annual operating budget for the Diocese. That budget is met through returns on certain endowments as well as a proportional asking of all the parishes in the Diocese. Our share is over \$24,000. So what do we get for the money? I think that this is a fair question and so I'll try and answer it.

First of all we get a special kind of outreach. Our bishops' ministries include outreach activities around the diocese and, in the case of Carpenter's Kids, shoes-on the ground participation among the cooperating New York parishes and the parishes of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika that provide food, shelter, and education for AIDS orphans in their communities.

They also put a public face on the Episcopal Church's concern for the poor and the oppressed in our communities. One of the ways they do this is by asking the well-off to share in ministries like Episcopal Social Services which provide direct services to people in need and Episcopal Charities which help fund church-affiliated/church-based programs that help folks throughout the Diocese.

Second, it funds the organizational support for the churches of the Diocese. Everything from the visitations of our bishops to youth ministries to supporting persons seeking to prepare for ordination to technical assistance in church financial matters is funded by the Diocesan Budget. The annual meetings for Altar Guild members and trainings for other lay ministries

comes directly from the Diocese or through our Mid-Hudson Regional Office in Kingston. The Doing Church conference which is coming up in April gives us the opportunity to learn more about how to conduct our ministries with the latest knowledge out there.

Finally, it helps fund special ministries like Rural Migrant Ministries; it funds the Property Support Committee that provides technical expertise regarding our buildings as well as grants and loans to help churches maintain their physical assets. College Campus ministries are funded in part (the majority) or fully by the Budget. As your Rector, I appreciate the helpfulness of the Diocesan staff when I call with a concern which affects our ministry together.

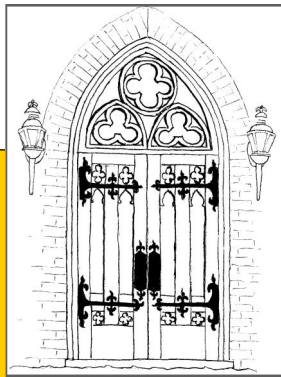


St. John's Episcopal Church, Cornwall, NY

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The Rev. Thomas E.C. Margrave, Rector
Rectory: 845-534-4446
Cell: 845-222-0876
Email: rmargrave@hvc.rr.com



Staff

The Rev. Claire Lofgren, Priest Associate
The Rev. Dcn. Robin Beveridge, Deacon
Kathleen Scott, Music Director
Sandra Clohessy, Director of Christian Education
Elaine Johnston, Administrative Assistant
Margaret Kovacs, Nursery Supervisor
Barbara Dobilas, Newsletter Editor/Publisher

Wardens & Vestry

Jay Townsend, Senior Warden
Paul Herbert, Junior Warden
Wayne Day, Treasurer
Patricia Rodriguez, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry Members

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Tom Hubbard | Fritz Lash | Kirk MacDonald |
| Lise Miller | Liz Nealon | Sis Obidowski |
| Connie Stahl | Scott Stewart | Lois Hicks-Wozniak |

All are Welcome at St. John's!

7:45 am Traditional Holy Eucharist Rite One
9:00 am Service - A Children-Friendly Family Eucharist
10:00 am Sunday School for all ages
10:45 am Choral Holy Eucharist Rite Two
March 9 — 6:00 pm Informal Contemporary Service

Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services

Sunday, March 16 Palm Sunday

7:30 a.m. Liturgy with Procession of the Palms
9:00 a.m. Family Palm Sunday Service
11:00 a.m. Choral Liturgy with Procession of the Palms

Wednesday, March 19 Wednesday in Holy Week

7:30 p.m. Tenebrae, a Service of Word and Light

Thursday, March 20 Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m. Choral Liturgy with Foot Washing

Friday, March 21 Good Friday

7:30 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy with Communion

Sunday, March 23 Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. Festive Holy Eucharist I
9:00 a.m. Festive Family Service Communion
(Followed by the annual St. John's Easter Egg Hunt)

