



NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH,  
YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, AND MOST  
IMPORTANTLY AT GOD'S TABLE.

Dick's Dialogue 2 & 16

Curate's Corner 3

Musical Musings 4 & 5

Education Celebration  
6, 7, 8, 9 & 12

Jr. Warden's Wisdom  
10 & 11

Office Oration 13

Calendar 14 & 15

Money Matters 17

Parish Life 17 - 19

Staff & Board Listing 20

## Annual Church Picnic

**What:** "Mass on the Grass and Fun in the Sun"

**Where:** Great Island Common, Newcastle, NH

**When:** Sunday, August 29

\$4 per person, \$10 families of 3 or more

Gates open at 9am, Service starts at 9:30 am

Picnic thereafter - please bring food to share

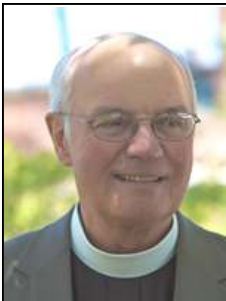
Call Shirley Brookhouse w/questions at 433-2769

## September 12th Kick-off Sunday Kicks off new Service Times

8:00 am - RITE I

*New time*

10:00 am - RITE II



# Dick's Dialogue

## Pastoral Care Update

*The Reverend G. Richard Siener, Assisting Priest*

Dear Friends,

Being an active member of the St. John's Parish Community has been an enormous blessing to me for the past eight years. I have been the recipient of continued support, spiritually and emotionally, dealing with two major illnesses. Our Pastoral Care Committee chaired by Annie Rainboth (430-8066) will provide meals and rides to Drs. Appointments. Susan Mennel (430-2830) leads an Intercessory Prayer Ministry. Your clergy, supported by Eucharistic Visitors, visit the sick and bring Holy Communion to shut-ins. Yet, I am aware that some among us have needs that are not being met largely because their needs are not shared with parishioners who could facilitate support.

As part of our on-going assessment of what we envision our Parish to be five years from now led by our Vestry, I am seeking input from you toward identifying new ways for our Pastoral Care Ministry to meet more needs of parishioners and friends. I have begun having conversations with parishioners toward this goal. Dr. Rick Miller, one of our very active parishioners, offers his insight as we begin the dialogue.



Rick Miller

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

I have been in conversation with Father Dick about extending the net of St. John's Pastoral Care Ministry. As a physician, I am evermore certain of the power of "the laying on of hands" as well as the power

of shared prayer in the healing process. Recently, for the very first time in thirty years as a neurosurgeon, I experienced healthcare "from the other side" when I had emergency surgery. This was a humbling and enlightening experience for me, even though I have long been imbued with the importance of a holistic as well as spiritual approach to the process of healing. When I first awoke in the recovery room I remember being very confused and disoriented, thinking the folds of blue-green curtains surrounding my transport gurney were either the northern lights or a psychedelic dream, until the most familiar voice of one of my nursing colleagues, Recovery Room nurse Dagmar Lieder, RN, said gently: "Hi Dr. Miller, you are just waking up, you are just fine, is there anything I can do to enhance your comfort?" Hers was the most heavenly voice of reassurance, immediately comforting and re-orienting. This was just the first of many such experiences while I was hospitalized. The next morning, while still in a fog from post-operative analgesics, I opened my eyes to see Father Rob smiling at me and offering his kindly words of comfort and encouragement and bringing messages of concern from many of my fellow parishioners. Each of these many supportive visits were in their unique ways reassuring and uplifting, life-line drawing me back to the secure society of friends and family.

The words, the touching, the eye-contact, and every gesture, small or large secured my return to health and were of inestimable value. Many of you are aware of the Federal government's HPPA (Healthcare Portability and Privacy Act) which severely constrains all communications regarding the interactions of physicians with patients.

Continued on page 17



# Curate's Corner

## 2010 J2A Pilgrimage...It's not over yet!

*The Reverend Jeffrey D. S. Thornberg, Curate*

Somehow it has already been several weeks since the J2A Pilgrimage to Ireland. By all accounts, it was a tremendous success! The sights were exciting, the scenery extraordinary, and the relationships among us made that much deeper and richer. It will years for all of us, adults and youth alike to process the many experiences and insights gathered on the journey.

One theme that kept returning to me during the trip was the presence of the people of St. John's with us while we were away. Be it the encouraging emails before we left, the many comments to our blog posts, or the prayers from so many people, we all felt as if this great community was with us in Ireland from beginning to end.

For me, the most inspiring aspect of this experience was that the people of St. John's supported these teenagers with such abundance and unwavering love at every stage of the process. Beginning with planning the journey, then with the Soiree and further fundraising, then with prayers of support, and finally with excitement upon hearing about the trip, this community has shown that it cares, and that it was a part of this process.



Glendalough, overlooking the Upper Lake

One of our stops on the trip, Glendalough, was home to St. Kevin, a hermit monk who went into the wilderness to be away from people and to find God. The irony of St. Kevin is that due to his charisma, and connection to God, people came to him, and a community was formed. As a

group, we had a great discussion in Glendalough about how all of us discover and find God, both away from people and the world, and within our relationships with the many people we love. Likewise, while we were in Ireland, we were never really away from the people who loved us, but

rather connected in Christ, and as a church.

The journey is not yet over. That is to say that there are so many more wonderful stories to tell and so many people that were on the trip to tell them (the youth are so much more qualified to tell the stories than I am!) In that light, I would like to thank everyone at St. John's for their support in this endeavor, and invite everyone to keep a look out for many more stories, newsletter articles, adult forums, slide shows, etc. from the pilgrimage, because while the physical voyage is over, the experience for this community has just begun!



# Musical Musings

*Dr. Abbey Siegfried, Music Director*

## **in-CHOIR-er's welcome!**

There is a place for you in the Choir Loft at St. John's! Whether you are age 4 or 94; whether you have sung in a choir your whole life, or have never sung in a choir before; whether you read music or don't; there is a place for you! **Come, seek, sing!**

We seek to provide easily accessible musical opportunities for all ages at St. John's. Details about each choir and rehearsal schedules are below, but a few things to consider are:

- Consider joining choir as a FAMILY. With our service schedule, families can learn and worship together. Why not in the Choir Loft? Learn about music and fellowship in your age-appropriate choir, and learn about liturgical leadership and worship as a family. While children are in Sunday School, their parents can attend Parish Choir rehearsal in the Choir Loft. I think we have a unique opportunity at St. John's to commit to serving our church – and helping to lead the services – children and parents and grandparents together.
- If you have always wanted to try choir, just come! In-CHOIR-er's welcome! We always welcome visitors! Pop in on a Wednesday afternoon or come up to the Choir Loft on a Sunday morning.
- Join a choir for a special season or event – Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, The Christmas Pageants, The Spring Musical, Evensong, etc. Schedules are busy, life is hectic, soccer season is long! Just because you don't start in September, doesn't mean you can't join later: talk to Abbey if you have special circumstances!

If you have any questions about our Music Program at St. John's, please don't hesitate to contact Abbey at [music\\_director@stjohnsnh.org](mailto:music_director@stjohnsnh.org).

## **Weekly Musical Opportunities for Everyone at St. John's:**

### **At a Glance:**

**Wednesdays 3:30 – 4 PM Cherubs: The Children's Choir (Pre-K, K)**

**4 – 4:45 PM Explorers: The Junior Choir (Grades 1-5)**

**4:45 – 5:30 PM Rite 13/J2A: Jr. / Sr. High Ensemble (Grades 6-12)**

**First Thursday\* 7 – 8:30 PM Parish Choir**

**Sundays 8:30 – 9:45 AM Parish Choir**

***\*during September, our "First Thursday" rehearsal will be on Thursday, September 16 instead of the First Thursday of the month.***

# MUSIC

## **Cherubs (infant to K) : The Children's Choir**

The St. John's Children's Choir, or "Cherubs," consists of our youngest children: Pre-K and Kindergarten. Children from St. John's and the wider Seacoast region are welcome. They learn basic musicianship skills in a fun and engaging atmosphere, by playing games, learning riddles and jingles, and learn simple anthems to perform approx. one time per month. The Cherubs sing at the 10 a.m. Sunday service on the third Sunday of most months during the academic year, and sing in the Christmas Pageant, Family Christmas Eve service, and on Easter Sunday. Rehearsals for Fall 2010 begin **Wednesday, September 15** and last from 3:30 – 4 PM.

## **Explorers (1-5th grade ): The Junior Choir**

The St. John's Junior Choir is open to singers grades 1 through 5 from St. John's and throughout the greater Seacoast area. Singers receive weekly vocal training, learn to read music, sing in several languages, and sing music from a variety of traditions, from Taizé chant to gospel to world and Anglican music. The Junior Choir sings regularly at Sunday morning services, discovering what it is to be a minister in the church. They also enjoy special events: Evensong services, Lessons and Carols, the Christmas Pageants, and the Spring Musical. Rehearsals for Fall 2010 begin **Wednesday, September 15** and last from 4 – 4:45 PM.

## **Rite-13/J2A (6-12th) : The Junior / Senior High Ensemble**

The St. John's Junior / Senior High Ensemble provides an opportunity for singers in grades 6 and up to receive special musical attention and learn challenging, multi-part anthems appropriate to this age group. Rehearsals will also be devoted to some Parish Choir repertoire, and members will join the Parish Choir one Sunday each month. The Junior / Senior High Ensemble also provides music for special liturgical events like Evensong and Lessons and Carols and its members are given key roles in the Christmas Pageant and Spring Musical. Fall 2010 rehearsals begin **Wednesday, September 15**, lasting from 4:45-5:30 PM.

## **The Parish Choir**

The Parish Choir is made up of men, women, and select high school students. The Parish Choir sings for most Sunday morning 10 a.m. services, in addition to a full range of festival services throughout the liturgical year. They present a diverse repertoire of traditional sacred music, as well as other styles, including gospel, folk, and some world music. Parish Choir members come from a wide ranging musical background, but are brought together through their commitment to making music with great joy and fellowship! We are proud to be honing a rehearsal schedule that is open to all people – including our many members with numerous evening commitments and busy professional lives. We run a "workshop" rehearsal on the first Thursday of each month and rehearse on Sunday mornings during the Education Hour. We will begin our 2010 season with our annual "Champagne Rehearsal" on **Thursday, September 16**, from 7 – 9 PM.



# Education Celebration

Amy Dutton, Christian Education Director

Yes, Jen, Jeff and I are thrilled to report that the Pilgrimage was an amazing success and YOU SHOULD BE SO PROUD OF OUR YOUTH! They were well-behaved, intellectual, participative, responsible, involved, funny, engaging, spiritual, inquisitive, and enjoyable!

Each night on the Pilgrimage, we shared someone's life story. Now, think about that for a moment... what would you say? This exercise proved to be one of the most bonding and meaningful experiences of the trip. As a group, we went deeper, we understood and respected each other on a completely different level, and we were able to grow together.

In our search to understand Celtic Spirituality, we quickly realized that we were actually searching for our own inner spirituality. We were blessed to meet with three main tour guides throughout the trip (yes, all very short with thick Celtic accents).

\* Sister Britta: in Glendalough asked us to **think about and consider our relationship with God as a individual one-on-one communion.**

\* Patrigain Clancy: on Inishmore, one of the Aran Islands, asked the youth to **consider what changes we needed to make in our lives. And what we needed to let go of in order to allow theses changes to occur.** (When the Irish do things, they do it because it has a significant meaning. So yes, we threw a rock over the side of Dun Angus ~ a 300 ft. cliff straight down~ representing what we

were *letting go*). She urged us to think about our lives or "think before you act".

\* Sister Mary: at St. Brigids's Well asked us as we were crossing over the bridge to **consider what relationships in our lives that need bridges built.**

I urge you all to consider these questions personally! They are hard to answer and meaningful in spirit! We were lucky enough to be in a location that emanated beauty & spirit and blessed with a bit of time to reflect on these challenges. And as we reflect on our trip, we realize that we have taken these challenges to heart and have genuinely tried to consider our relationships with God, ourselves and others. Think about your life story.



What would you tell people about yourself? Can you consider what Sister Britta, Patrigain Clancy, and Sister Mary put before our youth? I challenge you to also consider your own Pilgrimage at St. John's and look at your relationship with your church as a part of your own journey.

Wonderful things lie ahead this year at St. John's. Challenges and changes that will stimulate, inspire and ask you to consider your life in a new way. We are trying new things on for size, nothing is set in stone, we are trying to figure out what speaks to us as a community and what works structurally. Consider opening your heart to becoming involved and invested in the future of St. John's. We need your voice, your heart and your hands. For the challenges that come before us will form who we become.

# EDUCATION

## the new CHERUBS program

ages: Infant - Kindergarten

The Nursery and Pre-school rooms have been renovated to reflect a calmer and natural setting. The curriculum has also changed to an organic approach to teaching children with simple structure and a flexibility in instruction.

We would like to introduce and thank Kevin Siegfried & Sue McPherson for being our lead pre-school teachers. With the Waldorf method as a influence, the children will learn to use their hearts, hands and heads as their relationship with God develops. Integrated into the morning will be free play, song/ rhymes/movement, story time, and crafts. There will be three festivals that we will celebrate together as a parish throughout the year as part of the curriculum. We are very excited to present this new program and hope that you will stop by the nursery and pre-school to explore with us!

### Schedule:

The nursery & pre-school will be open from 9:00am - 11:30

9:00 - 9:45:	Instruction Classroom Time
9:45-10:00:	Gathering
10:00 (Rite II begins):	Free-Play & Craft with youth leaders
10:20:	Option to attend Children's chapel and join parents in church or return to the pre-school.

**Special note:** In order to flexible to families needs & schedules, we will have sign-in sheets and so that you can let us know where you will be and your thoughts about Children's Chapel.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to our J2A Youth, Susan

## the new EXPLORERS GROUP!!!

grades: 1st - 5th

This is an interactive ~ outside of the box ~ workshop based program for children in grades 1st - 5th. The Explorers Group will gather at 9am in Thaxter Hall during the Parish Gathering Time, then all the children will walk over to the Seacoast Reparatory Theater. We will then play a quick game to build relationships, tell a story that is lectionary based then the children will move to stations for projects. Most of our projects will be centered on the church calendar and creating projects for church events such as the Holly Hill Fair, The Christmas Pageant and much more, thus integrating the children into the life of the parish.

**YOUTH LEADERS!** 4th and 5th graders will be the leaders for this group. They will be partnered in Thaxter Hall with a younger child that might needs some assistance in reading or activities and help the teachers for the day, therefore, learning the value of leadership.

The Explorers Group will meet parents at 9:45 back in Thaxter Hall as they set off to the 10am Rite II service as a family.

# EDUCATION

## CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Every Sunday morning throughout the school year there is a Children's Chapel held during the sermon portion of the church service. Children are invited to go follow the leader over to Thaxter Hall for an informal but structured program.

During Children's Chapel the children hear a message related to the sermon and complete similar rituals as the congregation in church but at an appropriate age level. The underline premise they will learn is that "God loves you".

Children in the Cherubs pre-school will be invited to attend Children's Chapel and then return to class or join their parents for the Eucharist.



Geared toward children ages 3 to 10. We invite older children (4th & 5th graders) to attend as "Youth Leaders" and youth group children to help with the Cherubs. When parents feel that their children are ready to sit through the sermon they may do so, please feel comfortable making your decision as a family about attending Children's Chapel.

Feel free to sit in on Children's Chapel anytime you would like.

## SJK - St. John's Kids grades 4th & 5th

St. John's Kids is an INTRODUCTION TO YOUTH GROUP for all 4th & 5th graders of St. John's.

We gather once a month in Thaxter Hall to basically eat food and play team-building games. The structure is casual and the goal is to build a strong community of friendships prior to entering youth group in middle school.

Friends are ALWAYS encouraged to attend. This is a great way to keep your child involved in church on a social level. Watch for specifics of times & dates on our website. Email information will go out, please make sure that Amy Dutton has your email address.

### *Mark Your Calendar!*

- ⇒ September 25th
- ⇒ October 23rd
- ⇒ November 20th
- ⇒ December 18th
- ⇒ January 22nd
- ⇒ February 12th
- ⇒ March 12th
- ⇒ April 2nd
- ⇒ May 7th



# EDUCATION

## youth group... “save the date”

### **Church Picnic, August 29th @ 9:30**

the J2Ireland youth will present the gift purchased for the parish. We hope that all 12 will be able to make this presentation!

### **Kickoff Sunday, September 12th:**

A FUN time at the Rector's House... games, snacks & laughs!

Time: 2pm - 5pm

Cost: Bring \$15

Location: Hosted by the Stevens!... 84 Pinhurst Rd. Portsmouth

Note: This event is for ALL Middle & High School YOUTH & friends too!

### **Youth (middle & high school) Merrowvista Camp Retreat:**

Dates: Friday, Oct. 1 (leaving at 3:30pm) to Sun., Oct. 3 (returning at 11:30am)

Cost: \$150.- (scholarships available. See Jeff for information)

Deposit \$75.- deposit by Sept. 18th to reserve your spot.

*This is an amazing opportunity for the youth to bond and to meet their new mentors. The price includes transportation, all meals and ropes courses. A 50% deposit is required by September 18th. Please consult with Jeff Thornberg regarding scholarships, we never want finances to hinder involvement. Note: Middle and High School youth will room and experience the weekend separately when it is appropriate*

## THE BOSTON PROJECT MINISTRIES

We have been asked to participate in helping the Boston Project's community involvement in preparing neighborhood children for school. Below is an excerpt from their newsletter. Items can be given to Amy Dutton, Christian Ed. Director, and there will be a box in Thaxter Hall. Thank you in advance for making the start of school more successful for these children!

### **We are low on school supplies for children and teens.**

We are 3 weeks away from distributing school supplies to children and teens, and this year our supplies are low.

**We will provide school supplies to over 200 children this fall.** Could you help us?

Binders, notebooks, pens, markers, crayons, and more are needed to help provide school supplies to 100+ children and teenagers this fall. Watch for good sales! You can either purchase the items or if it's easier to donate [online \(www.tbpm.org\)](http://www.tbpm.org) we are more than willing to do the shopping for you.

# Jr. Warden's Wisdom

*Scott Osgood, Jr. Warden*

## SJC BUILDING AND GROUNDS NEWSLETTER A brief overview of what work is being done on 'the Hill'

The Buildings and Grounds committee met on a recent Saturday and replaced 70 feet of retaining wall. In attendance were: Jerry Simpkins, Gary Garneau, Lyle Gravelle, Liam Gravelle (age - 8, junior-warden-in-training), and Scott Osgood.



As many of you are well aware of, the heavy storms of last spring left the church in need of much repair. We recently received the insurance claim money and a generous, anonymous donor covered the deductible. Repairs to the church roof (portion above the alter) and replacement of the Thaxter Hall roof are underway. When this is completed, work on the half shell damage and repair of the shadow painting will commence in early Fall.



There are a number of repairs and upgrades that the Building and Grounds Committee are ready and willing to perform or coordinate. What follows is a B&G To Do List (not prioritized):

1. First and foremost - PAINT the exterior of the Church and Thaxter Hall, including the bell tower. It desperately needs paint. Estimate: \$ 26,000.
2. Remodel the Philbrick Room (new carpet, paint and furniture). Estimate: \$ 8,000.
3. Sandra Pagel's office (a.k.a. - the dungeon). General upgrades of interior. Estimate: \$ 1,500
4. Repair step outside sacristy. Estimate: Time and materials donated by B&G committee members
5. Handicap access for both the church 2nd floor and Thaxter Hall. Dick Seiner has mentioned that a chair lift might be an immediate solution. I have done initial pricing and they are \$2,500 each. It might not be the final solution but seems reasonable enough for quickly making our church the welcoming place for ALL that we strive to be. Estimate: \$ 5,000

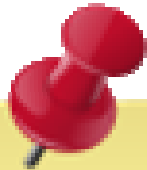


## NEWS FLASH: FLASH FLOOD DAMAGES THAXTER HALL BASEMENT



In the middle of drafting this update, the intense thunderstorms of Monday, August 9th poured hundreds of gallons of rainwater through the back door in the basement, leaving the basement offices, classrooms and the Philbrick Room with water-logged carpeting and flooring. We had to pull up the carpets and there has been damage to the freshly painted (by Amy Dutton) Sunday School classrooms. The insurance company has been contacted and we will not make the deductible. So we are on the hook for this repair and something will need to be done in short order to get the classrooms ready in time

for September's kick off. The Philbrick Room will be painted over the dates of Aug. 16 - 18 (exact times to be determined) and any helping hands would be welcome!



**NEEDED: NURSERY ITEMS  
LOST IN FLOOD**

Gently used:

- \* Wooden toys
- \* Wooden kitchen
- \* Books

There are many other projects waiting for our attention but these are some of the things we would like to get repaired in the short term. In an effort to raise the funds to complete these repairs, I would politely ask you all for donations. Simply write on the memo part of your check: Building and Grounds repairs. Or if you would like to fund a specific repair, note that as well. Any donation, large or small, is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use. So far we have raised a couple of thousand dollars. I will keep you all informed of how we are doing each month.

Please do not hesitate to call me directly at 603.436.0709 to discuss these or any other repairs you would like the B&G committee to address. Of course, I would happily welcome calls regarding donations as well!

Thank you,  
Scott Osgood, Jr. Warden

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS... MUSIC & MISSION

**MUSIC : See page 4-5 for info**

**MISSION: ECONOMY SHOP**

**AGES: 4 and up  
TIME: 3:30 - 6PM**

**OPEN FOR ALL AGES AND FAMILIES TO COME TOGETHER  
AS A LOCAL MISSION SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND PARISH.  
WE ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO ATTEND TOGETHER.  
IF PARENTS ARE UNABLE TO VOLUNTEER ON WED. AFTERNOONS,  
THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR LENDING A HELPING HAND.**

### **OUR MISSION WORK WILL INCLUDE:**

- + **Financial Management (and learn about business development)**
- + **Sales Team**
- + **Marketing**
- + **Pricing, Sorting & Inventory Team**
- + **Sewing & Repairs**
- + **Washing**
- + **Distributing to Goodwill**

**Each of these areas needs a volunteer leader. Please contact Amy Dutton if you are interested.**

**The volunteer teams will rotate from station to station to keep interest and focus. A volunteer Schedule & Calendar will be created so that everyone has an opportunity to make a commitment to the program. For a short or long time period, weekly, biweekly, monthly, bi-yearly we feel that it is important to create a flexible space where you and your family can serve others.**

**While this program runs consecutive with Cherub, Explorers and Youth Group Choirs, it is not exclusive to those families. We encourage children and families of all interests to participate in this amazing mission!**



# Office Oration

*Joanne Ferguson, Office Administrator*

**So how do you like it?** **The new website**, that is - now that you've had over a month to get acquainted.

Phase 2 of our workplan consists of enrolling community participation in building more depth of information about St. John's activities, groups, etc. Content building will be an ongoing process of managing the website, but we would like to get a solid base of information that reflects the mission of St. John's and enables individuals to participate at a level that meets their needs.

Areas we know we need to work to include:

- ✦ Add more Frequently Asked Questions with their answers
- ✦ Include meeting/activity details, place, contact name and phone # in the calendar
- ✦ Develop descriptions for the baptisms, funerals, the musical, concerts, lessons and carols, etc.
- ✦ Add photos that will visually tell the story of St. John's

We need your help!! We got some great feedback and ideas from folks after we released the new website, some of which has already been addressed and some which we are incorporating into our work in this Phase. But the more we understand what St. John's members want and need (that would be all of you) the better we can provide it for you. Please send all ideas, recommendations, dreams, etc. to me at [administrator@stjohnsnh.org](mailto:administrator@stjohnsnh.org). All input is welcome and very much appreciated.

## *It's time for a new Parish Directory!*

Warm up those smiles and mark your calendars as we prepare to create a new member directory. Olan Mills will once again photograph and develop the directory.

Monday, October 18 and Tuesday, October 19

Wednesday, November 3 and Thursday, November 4

*More information regarding scheduling to come.*



St. John's Episcopal Church  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
2007 Member Directory

Anyone interested in working with me as the volunteer point person for this process, please contact me in the office, 436-8283. Largest area of responsibility would involve scheduling.



*I am so overwhelmed by the wonderful support you all surrounded me with during my recovery from surgery. The great work the office volunteers always do allowed me to concentrate on healing and the cards, good thoughts and food kept me going through the more difficult times.*

*Thank you all so much!!*

# SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

## Sunday, September 5th - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am - Rite I

9:30am - Rite II

## Sunday, September 12th - *Kick-off Sunday*

8am Rite I

9am– 9:45am Rector's Forum...Welcome Back!/John 10:10..."I came that you may have life abundantly." Does that mean that Jesus wants us to be happy?

8:30am - 9:45am Parish Choir

9am - 11:30am Cherubs Program

10am Rite II/Children's Chapel

11am Coffee Hour

2pm - 5pm Youth Group @ Rector's House

## Sunday, September 19th - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Rite I

9am– 9:45am Adult Forum: "Instructed Eucharist..."What do we do in liturgy on Sunday, and why do we do it? *lex orandi lex credendi* How does what we pray shape what we believe? A three part Adult Forum taught by the Curate and the Rector. Also Rector's Book Group - Happiness

8:30am - 9:45am Parish Choir

9am - 11:30am Cherubs Program

10am Rite II/Children's Chapel

11am Coffee Hour

## Sunday, September 26th - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Rite I

9am– 9:45am Adult Forum: "Instructed Eucharist..."What do we do in liturgy on Sunday, and why do we do it? *lex orandi lex credendi* How does what we pray shape what we believe? A three part Adult Forum taught by the Curate and the Rector. Also Rector's Book Group - Happiness

8:30am - 9:45am Parish Choir

9am - 11:30am Cherubs Program

10am Rite II/Children's Chapel

11am Coffee Hour

# September 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> 9am - Book Group 1pm - Cooking for CRH	<b>2</b> 9:30am - Healing Service 10:30am - Centering Prayer 12pm - Common Table (TH) 7pm - NA (TH)	<b>3</b> 1pm - Knitting (PH)	<b>4</b> 8:30am - Men's Grp 9am - Altar Guild 6pm - AA (TH)
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:30am - Counters (PH) 3-5pm - SJC Bridge 3:45pm - 6:45 Sandpipers 7pm - FA (TH)	<b>7</b> 10am - Staff Meeting (PH) 7pm - Youth AA (TH)	<b>8</b> 9am - Book Group	<b>9</b> 9:30am - Healing Service 10:30am - Centering Prayer 12pm - Common Table (TH) 7pm - NA (TH)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9am - Altar Guild 11am Lamontange Funeral 3:30 - 6:30 Cooking at Salvation Army 6pm - AA (TH)
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:30am - Counters (PH) 3:45pm - 6:45 Sandpipers 7pm - FA (TH)	<b>14</b> 10am - Staff Meeting (PH) 7pm - Youth AA (TH)	<b>15</b> 9am - Book Group 3:30pm - 4pm Cherubs 4pm - 4:45pm Explorers 4:45 - 530pm	<b>16</b> 9:30am - Healing Service 10:30am - Cntring Prayer 12pm - Common Table (TH) 1pm - Sewing Crafts 7pm - NA (TH) 7pm—9pm Parish Choir	<b>17</b> 1pm - Knitting (TH)	<b>18</b> 9am - Altar Guild 6pm - AA (TH)
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:30am - Counters (PH) 3:45pm - 6:45 Sandpipers 4pm - Finance Committee 7pm - FA (TH)	<b>21</b> 10am - Staff Meeting (PH) 10am - Guild Aux 7pm - Youth AA (TH)	<b>22</b> 9am - Book Group 3:30pm - 4pm Cherubs 4pm - 4:45pm Explorers 4:45 - 530pm Jr/Sr Ensemble	<b>23</b> 9:30am - Healing Service 10:30am - Centering Prayer 12pm - Common Table (TH) 7pm - NA (TH)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9am - Altar Guild 6pm - AA (TH) St. John's Kids
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30am - Counters (PH) 12:30pm - YOC (PH) 3-5pm - SJC Bridge 3:45pm - 6:45 Sandpipers 6:30pm - Eucharist 7pm - FA (TH) 7pm - Vestry (PH)	<b>28</b> 10am - Staff Meeting (PH) 7pm - Youth AA (TH)	<b>29</b> 9am - Book Group 3:30pm - 4pm Cherubs 4pm - 4:45pm Explorers 4:45 - 530pm Jr/Sr Ensemble 5:30pm Usher Mtg	<b>30</b> 9:30am - Healing Service 10:30am - Centering Prayer 12pm - Common Table (TH) 7pm - NA (TH)		

## Assisting Priest – Pastoral Care Update

Continued from page 2

Much of this act is very appropriate and yes, necessary, to ensure the privacy of the doctor-patient relationship. But sometimes it so severely constrains information flow that it "trips up" even the most well-intentioned efforts to rally the supportive society of friends and family. For example, your Pastor will not likely show up at your hospital bedside unless someone outside of the healthcare team tips her or him off that a parishioner is hospitalized or ill, in need of pastoral care. Father Rob has been gently addressing this communication gap recently during his Offertory remarks. He very much wants to serve his flock, yet needs to know when one of the sheep has gone astray! But when he, or any other members of the Pastoral Care Ministry are alerted, it is a wonderful thing: witness the many occasions when I, as surgeon, have entered the room of my next patient in the surgical holding area to be welcomed by Fathers Dick, Rob, or Jeff, or Mothers Ann or Susan, and asked to join hands and heart in prayer for safe passage through surgery and deliverance back to vibrant health. Not only is it calming for the patient, but also for me! (Believe it or not: surgeons DO have both feelings and anxieties!)

Like your priests, I see an opportunity to do even better in our faith community's efforts to provide spiritual support to anyone, St. John's parishioner or not, in an hour of need. But the Pastoral Care effort needs your thoughtful help in providing the all-important tip-off that there is an opportunity to extend the helping hand of this ministry. Do consider how you can help by sharing in confidence anywhere you sincerely believe there is a need, and it will likely be met with a heart-warming out-pouring of Christian Love and a strengthening laying on of hands. Yours in Christ, Rick Miller

Again, we request that parishioners reflect on our thoughts and share your suggestions or desire to offer yourself in our ministry of Pastoral Care to not only the St. John's Community, but to those whom we know in the wider community who are in need of support. Thank you for your prayers and actions. Peace be with you, Dick Siener

### Centering Prayer to start up Thursday, September 2nd

"Centering Prayer" is a method to practice the ancient prayer of the heart, commonly called contemplative prayer. It is a 20 minute time of silence where one seeks to be with God and consent to God's action and presence within. Following the period of silent prayer, there is a time for discussion of topics of spiritual importance ending with intercessory prayer. The Centering Prayer group meets every Thursday from 10:30 - 11:30 in the Philbrick Room.

## Money Matters

While the rains have come and brought about the necessity for repairs and refreshing to the Church and downstairs Thaxter, the sun continues to shine through. The financial summary below shows that pledge receipts are ahead of budget and expenses are running under budget, the positive direction for both. We are all thankful and continue to work toward breakeven for the operating account.

September Financials					
	<u>July</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD through July</u>		
<u>2010</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
<b>Income</b>					
	<b>Offerings</b>	\$ 26,735	\$ 19,255	\$ 250,587	\$ 246,429
	<b>Other</b>	\$ 20,682	\$ 19,285	\$ 109,994	\$ 123,005
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 47,417</b>	<b>\$ 38,540</b>	<b>\$ 360,581</b>	<b>\$ 369,434</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
		\$ 56,388	\$ 60,704	\$ 390,974	\$ 417,710
	<b>Operating Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>\$ (8,971)</b>	<b>\$(22,164)</b>	<b>\$ (30,393)</b>	<b>\$ (48,276)</b>

## Parish Life

### WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Wednesdays at 9am

Location: Philbrick Room

All women of St. John's and the community are invited to attend this Women's Book Group.

Starting September 8th we will be reading

Anita Diamante's, *THE RED TENT*.

*Books are available in the office for \$12.00*

This is a wonderful opportunity to build community within St John's.

contact: Amy Dutton with any questions

([education@stjohnsnh.org](mailto:education@stjohnsnh.org))

# Parish Life



## REV. JEFF WARMED UP FOR IRELAND

On a very warm July 5th Jeff and Dave Lincoln traveled to Newfound Lake in Bristol N H , on a visitors day at The Mayhew Program.

Initiated in 1967, as a successor to Groton School Camp (a camp for underprivileged boys from Episcopal parishes in the Boston area), Mayhew serves disadvantage youth from 7 districts of New Hampshire . Two sessions of 42 boys come to the island for 5 weeks, with the program staff following up with them year - round in their home cities.

Our group of 6 visitors, toured the Island with a 4th year Mayhew Boy as our guide, watching the cabin groups in their various programs structured to encourage cooperation, mutual dependency and self reliance .

Lunch provided a brief interaction with the campers, seated at table of 10 , along with their Cabin councilor. We heard of the morning activities of each cabin , including accolades of those boys who provided encouragement and support for his cabin mates, as well as sitting with Jack , a Portsmouth boy

Jeff had double credentials as a Mayhew visitor, having been born in Nashua and serving an internship in Berlin. I am delighted we finally fit the trip into schedules, as it was especially meaningful to take "my" Episcopal priest to a camp with such a rich history "in the Faith " . *Dave Lincoln*

Note : Dave's father, Howard Lincoln was Groton School Camp Director from 1929 to 1963, and Dave has been going to the Island since 1935.

## Sewing Craft Meeting

- \* Thursday, September 16, 1pm on the stage in Thaxter Hall
- \* Thursday, October 21, 1pm on the stage in Thaxter Hall
- \* Thursday, November 18, 1pm on the stage in Thaxter Hall
- \* Friday, December 3 Holly Hill Fair preparation and sales at Open House
- \* Saturday, December all day Holly Hill Fair
- \* Sunday, December 5 until noon Holly Hill Fair



I hope your summer has been a good one and we are always looking for new and exciting items so bring your ideas and join us for tea. Contact: Dorothy Polando at 431-6052

## PRAYER CHAIN & HEALING SERVICE



To add a name to the prayer list, or to inquire about the Healing Prayer Service on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, contact Susan Mennel at 603-430-2830 or [rmmennel@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:rmmennel@cisunix.unh.edu)

Submit your articles, stories,  
observations, or creative work by the 15th of the month to  
**[newsletter@stjohnsnh.org](mailto:newsletter@stjohnsnh.org)**

# Parish Life

## Did You Know, by Dick Davidson

Robert E. McLaughlin was a member of St. John's for many years and dedicated to its history. He authored a book called 'On Church Hill' in 1982 which has bits of church history that you will be hard pressed to find in any other publications, one in particular, the rental of the basement for the storage of beer.

I quote from his book. *"Few churches can boast of an historic cellar, St. John's can. Still stenciled on the overhead beams are such things as "70 Stout", "64 Pale Ale and "XXX." This was the storage area for a local brewer, the Portsmouth Brewing Company, whose plant was on Bow Street. The climatic condition were ideal and the firm willingly paid the \$150.00 annual rental, a welcome supplement of the meager church budget. The agreement read for the storage of "Beer, ale, hops and barrels," with a stipulation that the brewer would "not allow any noise to be made in the cellar while services were being held in the church". The area was reached by a tunnel which runs under the churchyard from Bow Street and is covered by huge slabs of granite. (This tunnel still exists today) In 1894 a parish meeting voted to discontinue the practice, quite possibly due to the insistence of some of the church ladies as the vote taken to discontinue included "provided the St. John's Guild will pay the wardens the amount now received".*

De Dorothy Vaughan recalls that it made a great place for boys to play games of haunted house amidst the rows of barrels. One of the boys was her brother, Donald, later the church organist and choir master. The church sexton, disturbed by the boyish play, decided to end their fun. In the midst of one mirthful time he appeared from apparently nowhere shrouded in white bed sheets emitting groans and shrieks, a flapping apparition if one was ever seen. In terror, the youngsters fled, the fun was over forever.

An elderly gentleman recalls that as a youngster and an acolyte, he and two of his buddies went to the cellar to explore. Finding the ale barrels they decided to try it. It tasted so good that they overdid it and were in far from good condition when they reached home. Instead of sympathy, they received a long remembered whipping, so well remembered that none has touched the brew since." On Church Hill was published by St. Johns Church, wouldn't it be nice to do another printing...

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Thank you, St. John's Parishioners, for all your cards, phone calls, prayers and good wishes during my recent recuperation. Your kindness to me was greatly appreciated. Gloria Berry \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Acolyte Training/Barbeque

Date: 9/11/2010  
 Time: 11am - 2pm  
 Location: Cathy Dailey's House  
 628 Broad St, Portsmouth  
Bring a refreshment to share  
 RSVP to Jeff at [curate@stjohnsnh.org](mailto:curate@stjohnsnh.org) or  
 603-436-8283



# St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 23  
PORTSMOUTH, NH

101 Chapel Street | Portsmouth NH 03801 | 603-436-8283  
Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am until 3:00 pm

The Rev. Robert E. Stevens, Jr.  
*Rector*, ext. 111  
rector@stjohnsnh.org

The Rev. Jeffrey D. S. Thornberg  
*Curate*, ext. 113  
curate@stjohnsnh.org

The Rev. G. Richard Siener  
*Assisting Priest*, ext. 112  
grsiener@myfairpoint.net

Dr. Abbey Siegfried  
*Music Director*, ext. 114  
music@stjohnsnh.org

Amy Dutton  
*Christian Education Director*,  
ext. 154  
education@stjohnsnh.org

David Lajoie  
*Facilities Director*, ext. 116  
facilities@stjohnsnh.org

Sandra Pagel  
*Financial Administrator*, ext. 153  
finance@stjohnsnh.org

Joanne Ferguson  
*Office Administrator*  
administrator@stjohnsnh.org

## St. John's Vestry Members

Christyn Sieve, *Sr. Warden*  
Scott Osgood, *Jr. Warden*  
Peter Tarlton, *Treasurer*

Andy Bangs  
Dick Davidson  
Kathy Flygare  
Jane Holway  
Robert Mood  
Anna Kay Vorsteg  
John Tabor  
Jim Breen  
Susan Fockler