

The Eagle's Wings



October 2008 A monthly newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church, 628 Main St, Stamford CT 06901 Vol. 1 No. 6

The "We Will" Campaign

"Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?" ... "We will!"

We say it at every baptism. We are asked the question and we shout, "We will!" Are we saying it because the prayer book tells us that is the proper response to the question? Or do we say it because we truly know what the question means, and we give our response with meaning behind it? What exactly does it mean to support the newly baptized persons in their life in Christ? Perhaps we don't realize how many ways we can respond to this call. Here are some ways to support our young people in their life in Christ at St. John's that you may not have thought about:

- Organize a team to sort toys & books and clean the Nursery
- Contribute toddler's faith building books and toys
- Volunteer to assist in the Nursery
- Serve as a Godly Play Storyteller or Doorperson
- Bring supplies for the Feast: napkins, snack, drink
- Supply art materials for the children's work
- Supply Children's Service Books
- Create Children's or Toddler's Church Packets of a soft toy, little Bible book, etc.
- Organize the crayons every Sunday morning!
- Purchase materials for stories or lesson books for teachers
- Serve as a Teacher or Helper
- Present a lesson or tell your story to the group (guidance available)
- Arrange a simple meal or outing for the youth (pizza, bowling, movie night)
- Donate a foosball table in good condition for the Addison Room
- Pray for the children and families & pray for the teachers
- Take care of the Children's Corner supplies in the dining room
- Ask a young person to usher with you or serve coffee hour with you
- Help kids make a banner for Pentecost or Easter
- Contribute to the Christian Education budget
- Prepare the meal for a Baptism Preparation Night
- Hold a baby at coffee hour (with parents' permission of course)

Feel free to add to this list. There are scrolls on the bulletin board by the Godly Play room. Please make your "we will" promise come to life and sign the appropriate scroll that fits your offering, the type of support that you would like to give, and someone will call to help you fulfill your promise!

The list above is for our children and youth, but they are not the only ones who need support in their lives in Christ. As Christians, it is our duty to support not only the young newly baptized, but the adults as well. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ, and we all need support in our spiritual journeys. Think of ways in which we can support each other in our lives in Christ, fulfill your promise, and make the "We Will" campaign one that has no end.



Photo by Lisa Gerulli

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 A.M.

Holy Eucharist with
Healing – Rite I
With Organ

10:00 A.M.

Children's Program
and Nursery

10:15 A.M.

Holy Eucharist with
Healing – Rite II
with Organ

11:30 A.M.

Coffee Hour

6:00 P.M.

L'Eglise de L'Epiphanie
Holy Eucharist in French

Contemporary Worship
every 2nd Sunday of the
month at 5:00 p.m.

SATURDAY SERVICE

5:00 P.M.

Holy Eucharist –
with healing

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 7:00 A.M.

Holy Eucharist – with
healing and light breakfast

THURSDAY 12:10 P.M.

Holy Eucharist –
with healing and music

**Need more
information?**

Visit our website!

There are always

**Updates, and additional
information**

at:

www.stjohns-stamford.org

A Message from our Associate Rector

Early Autumn Greetings from Deacon Julia!

It's been a very full first month here as your Associate Rector at St. John's, where I continue to discover blessing after blessing. As we begin the "new year" and return to the rhythm of life together, our church halls are lively with the sounds of earnest engagement: children learning, choirs singing, cabaret rehearsals underway, phones ringing, printers printing, acolytes practicing, and everywhere - meetings! It is something to behold - and we're just getting started!

As we step forward into this new season, I'm reflecting on the road ahead. I see the faithful community of St. John's gathering together, and I'm reminded of images of Jesus' faithful followers, gathered together to travel the road with him. What stands out to me in this image as I write to you today is the way these followers kept moving forward with him - they never stopped for long in any one place - and how the group continued to grow. New followers were intrigued, and welcomed, and were moved to follow him too, until the road was literally thronged with his people, moving forward after his example. This is what I hope for here at St. John's, too. I see, through the eyes of a newcomer, the wonderful work and extraordinary worship being offered here in his name, and yet I see the church pews with a surprising amount of empty space. I look ahead to seeing our throng grow - intriguing and welcoming new people to join us. Like Jesus' earliest followers, we must always be moving forward too: nurturing each other with the beloved and familiar, we are fed for the journey and made ready to stretch forward into the new places and ways we are called, to be his body in the world. We can do this, and it will be our joy!

Blessed to be among you,

Deacon Julia

October Historical Note

October 11, 1762. St. John's Church received a gift of a silver tankard and salver from St. George Talbot, Esq., "for the Use of the Holy Communion in St. John's Church in Stamford to be kept for that use & no other forever". St. George Talbot was a wealthy New York Anglican who gave financial aid to several New York and Connecticut parishes. In addition to this silver, he gave St. John's some vestments for the rector, a church bell, and money to buy land for a glebe. The parish still owns this 18th century silver.

PARISH REGISTRY

NEW PARISHIONERS

Ed, Jennifer, Nicholas and Annalisa Ho
Richard Provost

DEATHS

Joan Dobrowal William Winters
Frederik Shelly

Finance Committee News

FINANCING A CITY CHURCH (in a Nutshell)

In 2007, St. John's Church has received about \$250,000 from its current contributors, yet spent more than four times that. That's not unlike most years in the recent past.

Historically, over the last 250 years, land was purchased with money from generous donors, or swapped with the town. Some land was initially used to provide income for support of the Rector, some was acquired to build our current buildings. Some was donated to start other churches; some was sold and the proceeds placed in our endowment. Some land, which currently surrounds the present church, has been leased to the owners of Canterbury Green, providing us with substantial funds (currently \$650,000 per year) for our operations.

Our endowment, which now has a market value of over \$3,000,000, consists of far more than the proceeds from land sales. It is principally made up of contributions from those who have gone before us, and wanted to make gifts to St. John's that would create income lasting beyond their stay with us. Thanks to their generosity, we are able to spend well over \$150,000 annually from the Endowment while maintaining and growing its value for future years.

These two key inputs as described above, when combined with the generosity of our current parishioners who tender over \$250,000 annually in their pledges and other gifts, make it possible for us to do what we do.

And what do we do? In a nutshell, we run a church with a robust set of worship, pastoral, and educational programs, costing us about \$500,000 per year. We maintain our buildings, spending about \$200,000 in operating funds and \$100,000 in capital funds for facilities; and, unlike many other churches, we are able to spend over \$300,000 per year in support of others, with our contributions to the St. John's Community Foundation, the Diocese of Connecticut, St. Luke's Lifeworks, L'Eglise de L'Epiphanie, and others.

The charts below use actual financials from 2007 to demonstrate our finances at this level in graphic terms – showing that what we can do at this time is a function of our heritage, coupled with the great generosity of Stamford Episcopalians, including those who came before us, and those who contribute in the here and now.



The Eagle's Wings

September 2008

The Eagle's Wings is a monthly publication of St. John's Episcopal Church, Stamford, CT

Contributors:

A. Atherton, L. Cerulli, T. Chaltas, S. Clapp, P. Eder, C. Gage, J. Holt, S. Johnson, S. Lamoreaux and St. John's Staff.

Your comments, suggestions and offers to contribute on future issues are encouraged. Please contact Bronice Pikul at: 203-348-2619 ext 14 or bpikul@stjohns-stamford.org. **The deadline for the next issue is October 15th.**

St John's Episcopal Church

628 Main Street
Stamford, CT 06901
Telephone 203-348-2619
www.stjohns-stamford.org

Clergy and Staff

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs.
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Rector

The Rev. Dr. James R. Wheeler

Assoc. Rector

The Rev. Deacon Julia Fritts

Associated Clergy

The Rev. Richard Schuster

L'Eglise de L'Epiphanie

The Rev. Wectnick Paul

Organist

Dr. Sean Jackson

Parish Administrator

Sandie DeFilippis

Christian Education

Linda Clapp

Communications

Bronice Pikul

Sexton

Owen Brissett

Volunteer for Administration

George Howard

Director of New Member Ministry

Phyllis Wilson

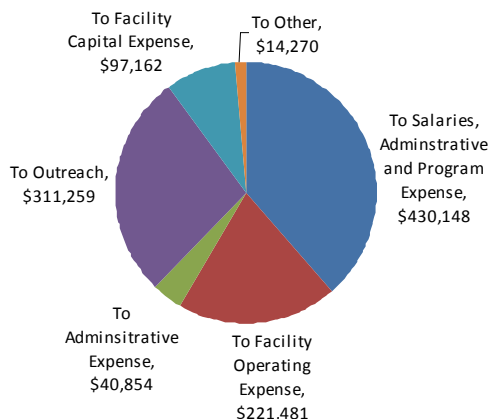
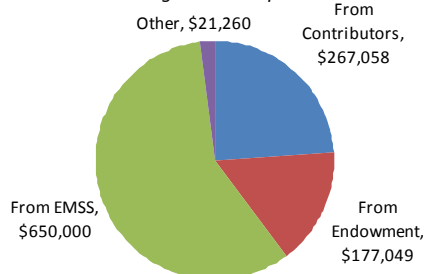
Parish Historian

Polly

Expense (2007 as Example)

Income (2007 as Example)

Note: Building Fund Receipts Excluded From



Stewardship News

“The Stewardship Committee met in early September with Fr. Jim and Emily Puskar, a Diocesan Stewardship consultant. We started to plan the annual appeal with one idea, and came up with a much better one! Instead of the campaign stretching from November to June, we hope to shorten the appeal period to two months—October and November, thereby helping the treasurer and Vestry to plan ahead.

“We’re going to send a short, hand-written letter to every member of the parish. It’s a big job, but we’re hoping to get enough volunteers so we’ll each have to write only about ten letters apiece (the letter will be three or four sentences long). We’ll all receive orientation and will have model letters to follow. The date for the orientation is after church on October 19 (alternate date October 15, 7 pm); after that we’ll all sit down together to write the actual letters after church on October 26. Stationery will be provided.

“Please join us! Let Fr. Wheeler or Stephen Clapp know of your interest.”

Ministry News

Join St. John’s Kids Choir!

With the beginning of a new Church year, the St. John’s Children’s Choirs has begun on Sunday September 21. Led by Dr. Sean Jackson and Jennifer Famous, we have two great groups: *Cherub Choir* for children 4-6 years old and *Choristers* for kids 8-12 years old.

The two choirs are a wonderful way to introduce our children to the joys of making music. At rehearsals, the kids learn about music in general while also learning songs. Both choirs typically perform several times during the church year. Rehearsals are easy to make too! They are from 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. on Sundays, so your kids can have a quick snack and join in the fun while you enjoy extended coffee hour fellowship.

Sign up for either choir with Jen or Sean or just come to any of the upcoming Sunday rehearsals!



Ushering at St. John’s

One of the more meaningful ways to participate at St. John’s is to volunteer to usher once per month. The rules are simple, the timing is right (you’re there anyway), and you get the chance to play a vital role in the successful execution of the Service. Through this involvement, you will gain a greater understanding, a fuller appreciation, and ultimately, more enjoyment in the Sacrament of the Mass. It is truly a win-win situation for everyone -- you and the congregation at St. John’s. Please contact Stephen Lamoreaux (slamorea@optonline.net or call 595-9610) for more information about this opportunity to serve God and this church.

Volunteer Opportunities

Update! And The Winners Are.....

Ann Laczko and William Cook volunteered to paint the signal box located on the curbside at Main Street in front of St. John’s.

The *Stamford Downtown Special Services District* (DSSD) in the city of Stamford approved their designs and since they are the only people from our congregation who submitted drawings, Ann and William have decided to work together on this project.

Look for our talented artists in the next few weeks as they put their brushes to work. A prayer or two for our beautiful weather to continue would certainly help to complete the job before the winter months are upon us.

Ann and William’s artwork will transform this drab, gray metal box into a unique work of art that will complement and enhance the location as well as bring notice to our beautiful church. Thank you Ann and William. We all look forward to enjoying your hard work for many years to come.

Outreach – St. John’s Community Foundation

Since 1987, St. John’s Community Foundation’s mission has been to fund organizations that address social issues affecting Stamford and to provide assistance to groups offering shelter, rehabilitation, and education support. Since its first grants were made in 1988, the Foundation has been proud to have awarded more than \$3.5 million to over one hundred organizations. Over the last several years, the Foundation has given higher priority to new projects that help people change and improve their lives—in areas such as housing, education, and social services.

The St. John’s Community Foundation, Inc. manages the distribution of income generated by the lease of church grounds to Canterbury Green Partnership. A board of fifteen trustees, eight from St. John’s and seven from the broader community, oversees the allotment of the funds.

In 2008, the Foundation was pleased to award thirteen grants. Included in the recipients were the following efforts:

- Stamford Partnership – for ESL for work program
- Pilgrim Towers – Event support and transportation
- St. Luke’s LifeWorks – Program enhancements
- Stamford Senior Center – Support of ESL programs
- New Neighborhoods – Expanding tenant advocate program
- The Exchange Club Parenting Skills Center – Support of families in need
- NAMI – Services to residents surviving serious mental illness and their families
- Senior Services of Stamford – Transportation for seniors

(More details can be seen on the St. John’s bulletin boards and website.)

Please keep these organizations and the Board of Trustees in your prayers, as well as those who may need assistance in the new year.

The St. John’s Community Foundation is currently accepting applications for the coming year from non-profit community organizations. Details and application information can be found at: www.stjohns-stamford.org and on St. John’s bulletin board. Applications are due by January 6, 2009, for early 2009 award distribution.

Questions can be directed to Peter F. Eder, President, Board of Trustees, St. John’s Community Foundation, Inc., tel.: (203) 358-8663. Peter’s email is: peterfeder@earthlink.net

Let us Pray

Lord Jesus, you call us as a parish community to love and serve you in a multitude of events and activities; as we move through this busy time we pray:

That you will be known in word and sacrament, in fellowship and study, in pageantry and in song as we gather week to week to worship your Holy Name;

That you will Guide the Vestry as they work on the wording to describe the mission on which you send this church;

That you will open our hearts to embrace with love and care the animals that you put in our keeping;

For the wisdom and strength to honor you with our financial offerings, our service to people in need, and support for our children;

That you will multiply the gifts we give in your name to many organizations that serve the poor and needy of Stamford and beyond;

For a special blessing on all the guests who come into our buildings for worship and prayer, for concerts and fundraisers, for meetings and gatherings, and for help and support;

And most especially that you will be known as the Lord of this place and of this people,

In the name of the Power that formed all the earth and its creatures, the Spirit that moves within us and the Love that embraces us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God. Amen

Fr. Jim+

Save The Dates:

Blessing of the Animals Service ~ Sunday, Oct. 5th ~ 4:00 p.m.

All creatures—great and small—are invited to attend St. John's Blessing of the Animals Service on Canterbury Green. A Bake Sale to benefit Stamford Animal Care & Control Shelter will immediately follow the service. The event is free and open to all. Rain or Shine.

Men's Breakfast ~ Saturday, Oct. 11th ~ 8:00 a.m.

Meet in the dining room for an abundant breakfast cooked by Scott Vezina and an engaging talk by Deacon Julia Fritts about her journey through many activities to seminary and the priesthood.

Contemporary Worship Service ~ Sunday, Oct. 12th ~ 5:00 p.m.

Women's Breakfast ~ Saturday, Oct. 18th ~ 10:00 a.m.

Julia Fritts will speak. Please bring your favorite breakfast baked goods, egg dishes, or brunch dishes to share.

Dr. Sean Jackson in Concert ~ Sunday, Oct. 19th ~ 4:00 p.m.

"King of Kings": The St John's 6800-pipe organ showcased as part of the AGO's International Year of the Organ Series. (Please see advertisement on back page.)

Stamford Animal Care & Control Free Seminar ~ Tuesday, Oct. 21st ~ 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

This free seminar is a monthly event held in the main building at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. October's topic is "Successfully Adopting a Shelter Dog". To reserve, call 322-1646 ext 6521.

224th Annual Diocesan Convention Friday & Saturday Oct. 24 – 25th

This year's convention will be held at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, Connecticut. The theme is Global and Domestic Missionary Partnerships.



Harvest High Tea Party ~ Saturday, Oct. 25 ~ 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.



St. John's Fundraising Committee will be hosting a Tea Party to benefit the Capital Campaign. There will be soothing music, raffles and a variety of scrumptious finger foods. Please come and feel welcome to bring a friend. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased in the dining room after services in October.



"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."
Isaiah 11:6-9

👤 New! Member Connect 👤

This is a new experimental column to enable members of St. John's parish to reach out to one another in helpful ways: to request items needed, or provide such items; to request of, or provide to one another, needs, talents or special services that may not be known. See below:

Babysitter

Babysitter for kindergarten child needed occasional afternoons Monday – Friday. Must have car. Contact Stephanie Johnson at 203-968-9659 or sjohnson@citationshares.com.

Help Offered

Free help offered to elderly or infirm unable to pay bills or balance checkbook. Contact Jane Holt at 348-4397 or 328-6209.

If you are in need of something or have a service or item to provide, please send it to bpikul@stjohns-stamford.org, or jholt@yahoo.com. You may also call it in to the church office 348-2619 ext. 14

Parish Calendar

Oct. & Nov. Calendar of Events

Wednesday, October 1

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Yoga Class

Thursday, October 2

10:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 3

6:00 p.m. Vestry Retreat (*Convent of St. Birgitta*)

Saturday, October 4

9:00 a.m. Vestry Retreat (*St. Birgitta until 3pm*)

Sunday, October 5

9:10 a.m. Adult Christian Ed
10:15 a.m. Acolyte Recognition during Service
4:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals Service

Monday, October 6

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, October 8

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Yoga Class

Thursday, October 9

10:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 10

6:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, October 11

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
2:30 p.m. Wedding

Sunday, October 12

9:10 a.m. Adult Christian Ed
10:15 a.m. Choir Recognition during Service
5:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service

Monday, October 13 Columbus Day - Parish Office Closed

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, October 14

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, October 15

Deadline for the November Newsletter
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Yoga Class

Thursday, October 16

10:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Baptism Prep
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 18

9:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast
1:00 p.m. Private Meeting (*Dining Room*)

Sunday, October 19

9:10 a.m. Adult Christian Ed
10:15 a.m. Baptism Service
Altar Guild Recognition during service
12:00 p.m. Stewardship Gathering (*Conference Room*)

Oct. & Nov. Calendar continued. . .

Sunday, October 19 *continued*

4:00 p.m. ****Concert** "King of Kings":** The St. John's 6800-pipe organ showcased in celebration of the "King of instruments" by Dr. Sean Jackson.

Monday, October 20

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, October 22

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Yoga Class

Thursday, October 23

10:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 24

224th Annual Diocesan Convention

Saturday, October 25

224th Annual Diocesan Convention

3:00 p.m. ****Harvest High Tea Party****

Sunday, October 26

9:10 a.m. Adult Christian Ed
12:00 p.m. Stewardship Gathering (*Conference Room*)

Monday, October 27

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, October 29

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Yoga Class

Thursday, October 30

10:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Music Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. St. John's Community Foundation Meeting
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, November 1 All Saints Day

2:00 p.m. Wedding and reception

Sunday, November 2

9:10 a.m. Adult Christian Ed
10:15 a.m. Blessing of the Church Doors
12:00 p.m. Stewardship Gathering (*Conference Room*)

Monday, November 3

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, November 5

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Yoga Class

Thursday, November 6

10:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, November 8

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, November 9

9:10 a.m. Adult Christian Ed
10:15 a.m. Flower Guild and Flower Delivery Guild Recognition during service
12:00 p.m. Christmas Show Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service

St. John's Episcopal Church

presents

DR. SEAN JACKSON IN CONCERT

**“King of Kings”: The St. John's
6800-pipe organ showcased as part
of the American Guild of Organists
*International Year of the Organ Series.***

**Sunday, October 19, 2008
at 4:00 p.m.**

Works by J. S. Bach, Reger,
Saint-Saëns and others.

Admission: Free Will Offering

Park Free in the Canterbury Green Garage
adjacent to the church
(Entrance on Suburban Avenue)
628 Main St, Stamford, CT 06901
203-348-2619 ~ www.stjohns-stamford.org

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