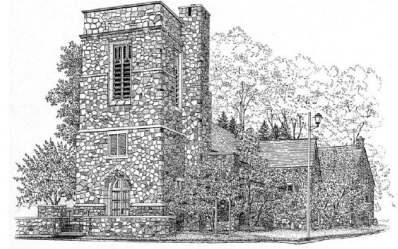


St. James Newsletter

March 2011



Sarah Horton and Gunnar Urang Returning to St. James

We are delighted to be able to welcome Sarah Horton and Gunnar Urang, who will be rejoining us as interim priests on March 7. Although they will not be keeping regular office hours, they will be available daily by appointment. We are very grateful that they were willing to step in to guide us until we are ready to call our new rector.

Lenten Meditation Group

A meditation group led by Amy Morel will meet on Wednesdays during Lent from 10:00-10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All types of silent meditation are welcome. Amy will introduce a mantra-based meditation from the teachings of Benedictine Monk

John Main and The World Community for Christian Meditation (www.wccm.org). After a short introduction, the group will sit silently for 20 minutes. You may sit in a chair or on the floor. Cushions will be provided, or you may bring your own.

Recommended reading for those interested is *Word into Silence* by John Main, or any of his other writings. Please direct questions to Amy at Amorel@nwtzl.com or (802) 234-6314. The first meeting will be March 9, Ash Wednesday. Please feel free to attend any one session or all sessions.

Parish Life Committee News

The Foyer Groups are in full swing. Everyone has been enjoying the opportunity to be together and become better acquainted in a relaxed social setting. It is not too late to join a group. Please give your name to Susan Boston in the office with your email address and telephone number. We will be in touch.

On Sunday March 6 we will gather after the 10:00 a.m. service for a reception in honor of Jane Barr. That is her last Sunday with us. Please plan to come so that we can all celebrate the time that Jane has been with us. It has been a period of growth and opportunities to renew our bonds of fellowship together as a

Christian community. Jane has been an important part of all of that.

On March 8 there will be an Evensong service for Shrove Tuesday with a pot-luck supper to follow. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We have invited Our Lady of the Snow to join us that evening so I hope that many of you will sign up.

Looking ahead, during Lent we will be reflecting on the coming of Easter and its meaning. On Easter Sunday there will be a special reception after the 10:00 service. At that time we can applaud the gift to the Parish of Gunnar Urang and Sarah Horton's return to our church as interims. Please plan to come. More details will follow soon.

Important Outreach Breakfast March 13

Please join us for the Outreach Breakfast on March 13 at 9:00 a.m. In addition to the usual good food and fellowship, the Vestry will be giving a presentation about the latest developments with the purchase of the rectory and the church renovations. Come and offer your comments, suggestions and support.

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Farewell from the Interim Priest

Someone has said that Lent is the most intimate season of the year. When compared with Epiphany and Easter, its intimate nature is evident. Epiphany and Easter are more evangelical in nature as we are to spread the good news of the light of Christ coming into the world and the good news of the resurrection. During, Lent, however, we are told to go into your room, shut the door and there pray to your Father who is "in secret." (Matthew 6:6). That is what I like about Lent, its reflective mood. We all need time for prayer and self-reflection. However, the mood of Lent should not be one so much of sadness or denial but of personal reassessment and spiritual renewal. It is a time to take a step back from our busy lifestyles and re-center ourselves in the framework of God's love. Think about finding time for more prayer and reflection this Lent. Some of my best prayer time has been hiking the trails around Woodstock.

In all seasons, no matter the weather, meandering along the trails around Woodstock and in Vermont has been relaxing, energizing, and a wonderful way to partake of God's beautiful creation. Twists and turns along the trail and various side paths provide delightful choices. The winter snowfall, the first signs of spring flowers, the summer fields abundant for harvest, and the rich fall colors (I've had the good fortune of experiencing it all) remind me of the constant cycle of the

seasons of time, and the natural order of things God has invited us all to participate.

Serving as your interim priest this past year has been a splendid privilege. We have had time for sitting and visiting, laughing and crying, worshiping and praising God and working alongside one another. My gratitude goes to God for bringing us together, and I thank you all for the love, kindness and support shown me during my time at St. James. St. James will always have a special place in my heart. I will always remember with great joy the time we have spent together. I will miss all of you.

Now our journey together comes to a new junction as Sarah and Gunnar arrive to serve with you until you call a new rector. My last Sunday will be March 6. I do hope you will plan to be in church so that we can bid farewell to one another. You will continue with the lively spirit of community and sharing of gifts at St. James in building God's kingdom here in Woodstock. What an exciting time! I pray for God's sense of deep peace and joy in your lives. I expect blessings to continue to attend the ministry of St. James, and may we all continue to be open to new hopes, new dreams, new possibilities as we continue to allow God to work in each of us through this wonderful community in which we have experienced God's abundant grace.—*Jane*

Ministry Expo **Mark your calendars!** **Saturday, April 2, 2011**

Trinity Church, Shelburne

Check in: 8:30 a.m.
Workshops: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Susan Ohlidal
Baptismal Ministry
Leadership

Lynn Bates
Safe Church in VT

Angie Emerson
Ask Thank and Tell,
Growing Financial
Stewards

And more TBA

Let's carpool!
Candace Vandouris
Stewardship Facilitator

News from the MDC

The Discernment Process in which we are engaged is rooted in the scripture and tradition of the Church, based on the wisdom of countless search processes. With the completion of the Church Profile, we have entered a new phase of this work in which candidates will be identified based on the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst—among members of the Ministry Discernment Committee, our guides in the Diocese, the Vestry, and you, the friends and members of the congregation. We must remember that the Vestry is not “hiring” our new Rector; they are calling someone to ministry, and the MDC has begun the process of discerning the best people for the Vestry to consider calling.

In order to move beyond the Self-Study and Profile work of the last several months, MDC members have acknowledged that we have done our best, and we have given what we are able to give at this time. For you, too, how you personally deal with transition or change will affect your ability to move forward with us in this next phase of our work. As we look forward, we must also “let go” and allow ourselves to experience the rhythm of movement and life. At the heart of each decision we make during the application review process, we must be willing to take the time to discern God’s will for St. James at this time, and then resolve to act on that will when we discern it. We

invite you to remember, with us, that God never leaves us, even for a moment; God is with us, always; and God can feel our longing for the Holy. Your prayers will help us to keep our MDC group grounded in daily prayer, whether we are alone or together. The discernment process will continue to be grace-filled and life-giving, with God’s help.—*Barbara Johnson*

Outreach Update

The Outreach Committee continues to offer almost monthly breakfasts between the services. The February breakfast was notable for the great Valentine decorations provided by its organizer Louise Fowler, the great pancake flipping done by Scott Kinne, and the wonderful presentation by Betty Berlenbach. Betty wants to get every member of St. James to share their talents with the wider community. A couple of ideas have already been tried: floor cloth painting and an ornament making workshop for youth.

Betty is now organizing a whole series of workshops for 2011. Many ideas from knitting to gardening were suggested as possibilities, and various talented members were identified. The calendar still has lots of room for other great ideas and dates have not been finalized for any of the programs, so expect to hear more from Betty in the future.

Also remember there will be an Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 1 at 4:00 p.m. that is open to everyone and a breakfast on Sunday, March 13 at 9:00 a.m. which will feature an update from the vestry and discussion about future plan for St. James.

Special Coffee Hour March 6

There will be a special coffee hour following the 10 a.m. service on March 6 to celebrate Jane’s ministry at St. James and to wish her well in her new position.

Ash Wednesday Services, March 9

12:00 noon: Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes.

6:00 p.m.: Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes.

Diocesan Lenten Retreat

The Diocese of Vermont will hold a Lenten Retreat March 18-20. The topic will be "Living with Peace, Joy and Compassion" and will be led by The Very Rev. Diane Nancekevill.

Jesus said, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." John 15:11

Jesus really means what he's saying here; we *are* supposed to live lives that are joy-filled, loving and compassionate—every day. Our time together will include reflections on some of the blocks we put in the way to fulfilling Jesus' invitation to us. It will also include reflections on ways to practice expanding our hearts and minds, ways to believe that we can be joyful and ways to imagine living with compassion. Please bring a journal for your own reflections, but no other books.

Diane Nancekevill is currently a part-time priest associate at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington, and a sometime helper at St. Stephen's in Middlebury where she also leads a well-established Christian Mediation group. She

lives with her husband Tom Baskett in Bridport in a 200 year old farmhouse on 40 acres looking out at the Green Mountains. Together they have four grown sons and eight grandchildren. Before moving to Vermont five years ago, Diane was Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Trenton, NJ. She has led retreats at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY and is President of the Board of Kids4Peace Vermont.

January Budget vs. Actual

The figures shown below are the 2011 Actual Operating Income and Expenses as of January 31 compared with the 2011 Annual Operating Budget. When comparing the expenses to their budget, it should be noted that some expenses do not occur evenly throughout the year. Expenses for heating oil have been substantial this winter. Please keep your pledges up to date.—Karen Vitols, Treasurer

	<u>Actual</u> <u>Jan 2011</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Jan - Dec 2011</u>
Operating Income		
Plate	1,081.24	20,000.00
Pledges	15,346.00	160,000.00
Endowment Funds For Operations	0.00	39,000.00
Interest On Operational Account	0.96	10.00
Undesignated Income (rent,weddings, etc.)	91.00	5,000.00
Undesignated Legacies & Bequests		
Donor Designated-Operations (flowers, etc)	2,230.41	7,250.00
Total Operating Income	18,749.61	231,260.00
Operating Expense		
Music, Flowers & Altar Supplies	154.14	8,625.00
Education Programs	0.00	600.00
Advertising & Hospitality	-62.00	892.00
Discernment & Clergy Search	181.96	5,000.00
Cost of Clergy	6,590.69	77,671.00
Clergy Moving Expense		5,000.00
Rector's Business Expense		329.00
Supply Clergy		350.00
Sabbatical Annual Commitment		200.00
Lay Employees	6,834.93	52,640.00
Contract Services	1,081.00	18,190.00
Office Expenses	88.00	3,389.00
Computer & Copier	288.01	880.00
Telephone	172.03	2,052.00
Utilities (fuel oil, electric, etc.)	6,297.47	20,184.00
Repair & Maintenance Supplies	90.80	900.00
Insurance (Bldg & WC)	1,791.85	5,082.00
Convention		500.00
Vestry Expenses		300.00
Miscellaneous Expense		100.00
Diocesan Assessment	2,926.25	35,115.00
Total Operating Expense	26,435.13	237,999.00
Net Profit or Loss	-7,685.52	-6,739.00

Taking Care of God

God lives two places: in you and outside of you. You have two jobs:

One: taking care of the God within you.

Two: having a relationship with the God outside of you.

Tips for your first job:

- The God within needs to be fed and not go hungry.
- The God within needs to be given something to drink and not go thirsty.
- The God within needs to be welcomed and not treated like an outsider, a stranger.
- The God within needs to be clothed and not be naked.
- The God within needs to be nurtured to health and not be sickly.
- The God within needs to be free and not in prison.

Tips for your second job:

- Show up for the relationship.
- Be respectful of that person.
- Listen to the person you are relating to.
- Respond to what you hear.
- Do things together.
- Enjoy each other.
- Mature and rest with each other.

How-to's for your first job:

- Take some time each day to love the God within; this is food.
- Take some time to enjoy the God within; this is water for the soul.

- Take some time to be a friend to God within; this is hospitality.
- Take some time to share with God within; this makes God safe.
- Take some time to stimulate God within; this is nurture.
- Take some time to play with God within; this is power.

How-to's for your second job:

- Make time for God and God to be together.
- Show respect for both the God within and the God without.
- Don't talk first; listen first.
- Respond to what you hear vs. simply spouting your agenda.
- Take small steps when starting on acts God invites you to do together.
- Rejoice and play cheerfully and often.
- Be comfortable in each other's presence; in down times and in bold ones.

Start-up tip: take time daily, but only as much as you know you can take regularly. No starting great guns and quitting. Just a little, each day.—*Jane Wolfe*

Shrove Tuesday Evensong and Potluck, March 8

On Tuesday, March 8 there will be a choral Evensong at 6:00 p.m. followed by a potluck supper in the Parish Hall. Parishioners from Our Lady of the Snows have been invited to join us. A sign-up sheet for the potluck is in the hallway.

New Vestry Members Elected

At the Annual Meeting, held on January 30, three new members were elected to serve on the Vestry: Joan Lang, David Blackwell and Betsey Caldwell. Dave Clark's term has ended and we thank him for his many years of service on the Vestry.

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Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Tuesday, March 1	Outreach Committee meeting
Sunday, March 6	Jane's Last Sunday, Special Coffee Hour MDC meeting, Noon
Tuesday, March 8	Shrove Tuesday Evensong and Potluck Supper
Wednesday, March 9	Ash Wednesday services: 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meditation, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, March 13	Outreach Breakfast
Wednesday, March 16	Lenten Meditation, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 23	Lenten Meditation, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 30	Lenten Meditation, 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 2	Ministry Expo