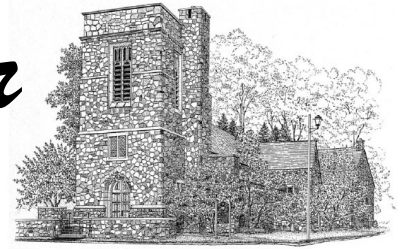


St. James Newsletter

May 2011



MDC Report

In my last letter, I referred to the last two years as a long Lent. Easter was made all the more poignant when, on Holy Saturday, Lynn Bates Cannon to the Ordinary and Transition Minister for the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont sent the Ministry Discernment Committee a list of thirty-two candidates for rector at St. James. The candidates are from every corner of the United States and one from abroad. We are in the process of sending each candidate a letter of greeting, inviting them to submit their resume and responses to three questions. We hope before the end of May to have received their information and begin the process of discerning those individuals who meet the needs of our parish.

As Barbara wrote in the March newsletter, neither the MDC nor the Vestry choose a rector, instead we must ask God to move a candidate to accept our invitation. I have been enjoying rereading the Acts of the Apostles. It seems as if we, like those cities and towns touched by the gospel, are making the call for a teacher of the Way to settle among us. Please pray for us and those who are called to share our journey. With love.—*Joseph Morel, Acting Chair of the Ministry Discernment Committee*

There will be an informational presentation and an opportunity for discussion, both about the house purchase and the related projects, including remedying the drainage, making the building handicapped accessible and renovating the basement. We would also encourage everyone to discuss any questions with members of the Vestry in advance of the meeting.—*Isabelle Bradley, Senior Warden*

Grounds Clean Up Saturday May 7

Please join George Calver and the Building and Grounds Committee for the annual spring clean-up. We'll begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday May 8 and we will be finished by noon. Bring your rake and a straight edge shovel if you have one.

Special Breakfast Meeting May 15

Please join us for a special breakfast meeting on May 15 at 9:00 a.m.

As you know, for several months the Vestry and the Parish family have been discussing their dreams and visions for the future of St. James. At this meeting, the Vestry will present a resolution on the purchase of the house next door to the church and will ask the congregation to approve the granting of a mortgage to partially finance this purchase, as well as to authorize designated individuals to sign the mortgage documents on behalf of the Parish.

Mother's Day Tea Sunday May 8

The Annual Mother's Day Tea will be held on Sunday May 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please call the office to make a reservation.

St. James Episcopal Church
On the Green
Woodstock, VT 05091
(802) 457-1727
www.stjameswoodstock.org

The Rev. Sarah Horton, Interim Priest
The Rev. Gunnar Urang, Interim Priest

802-457-1727 or 603-298-5345
sarah.horton@valley.net
gunnar.urang@valley.net

News from Outreach

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this newsletter you have already started to fill your green shopping bag for the Woodstock Community Food Shelf. You do not have to purchase every item on the list and items that are not on the list will also be welcomed. Please return the Green Bags to church on Sunday May 8.

On May 15, please come for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. We will serve a delicious cheese strata along with fruit and wonderful breads. This is a great chance for those of you returning from warmer climates and those of you who stayed in Vermont to catch up with each other. This time will also allow for an important parish meeting led by the Vestry.

The Outreach Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month and everyone is always welcome.—*Karen Vitols, Treasurer*

Knitting 101 at St. James in May

For three Wednesday evenings in May, Betty Berlenbach will teach a beginning knitting class, sponsored by the Outreach Committee. The classes will be on May 11, 18, and 25, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The first project will be a simple hat. Yarn will be provided, and needles will be lent for the course.

This course is open to members of St. James and any other folks who would like to join us. Those who register should be at least 8 years old. Registration is necessary so that enough supplies are available. Please call the church office to register by May 9.—*Betty Berlenbach*

Treasurers Report

Many thanks to all who have kept up with your pledge. In the spreadsheet below, the bottom line "profit" for March is due to a generous bequest that was recently received. This amount may be transferred to restricted funds by the vestry for a future project. The fuel oil expenses have used a very large portion of the 2011 utility budget which may present a problem in the fall.—*Karen Vitols, Treasurer*

	Actual	Budget
	Mar 2011	Jan - Dec 2011
Operating Income		
Plate	2,832.49	20,000.00
Pledges	30,403.50	160,000.00
Endowment Funds For Operations	23,000.00	39,000.00
Interest On Operational Account	2.61	10.00
Undesignated Income (rent,weddings, etc.)	682.00	5,000.00
Undesignated Legacies & Bequests	20,000.00	
Donor Designated-Operations (flowers, etc)	3,385.41	7,250.00
Total Operating Income	80,306.01	231,260.00
Operating Expense		
Music, Flowers & Altar Supplies	796.26	8,625.00
Education Programs	500.00	600.00
Advertising & Hospitality	417.97	892.00
Discernment & Clergy Search	226.36	5,000.00
Cost of Clergy	13,111.74	77,671.00
Clergy Moving Expense		5,000.00
Rector's Business Expense	50.47	329.00
Supply Clergy		350.00
Sabbatical Annual Commitment		200.00
Lay Employees	14,527.83	52,640.00
Contract Services	3,971.25	18,190.00
Office Expenses	645.55	3,389.00
Computer & Copier	586.21	880.00
Telephone	510.19	2,052.00
Utilities (fuel oil, electric, etc.)	13,826.93	20,184.00
Repair & Maintenance Supplies	337.30	900.00
Insurance (Bldg & WC)	2,757.12	5,082.00
Convention		500.00
Vestry Expenses		300.00
Miscellaneous Expense	745.00	100.00
Diocesan Assessment	8,778.75	35,115.00
Total Operating Expense	61,788.93	237,999.00
Net Profit or Loss	18,517.08	-6,739.00

Changing the Conversation

Do you wonder what the future of Christianity might be in these aggressively secular times? Are you concerned about declining membership in churches, including St. James? Anthony B. Robinson, author of *Changing the Conversation*, will address these concerns at Trinity Rutland on Sunday, June 5 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Several vestry members have read his book, and found it to be an inspiring resource in these interim times. Please join us at Trinity Rutland on June 5.—
Candace Vandouris,
Stewardship Facilitator

Jesus

If you don't read the Gospels a lot, or if you just go with sound-bite type stories making some solemn Sunday morning point, you miss a lot about Jesus. You miss the guy as a human being, you miss any sense of time, and you miss things kind of hanging together. Some people would say this is ok, because there's not a shred of verifiable historic truth about Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. But, the Gospels were written to give you the life of a real human being, even one we know spare little about. If you just read (or learn) this story, that parable, this miracle – all as discrete things – Jesus is profoundly unreal. He becomes the wallboard on which you slap post-it notes – a sort of “pin the story on the person” game, with all the flesh-and-blood reality of

a paper doll or a Jesusville game.

The first way to insert a little reality into the Jesus “issue” is to nail down a timeline. This timeline is undoubtedly dodgy in parts, but dodgy is better than nothing. Time is important to human beings and it's important to allow Jesus to live in Time even if the facts aren't lined up just right. The two time things Jesus shares with all of us – getting born and dying – are fairly well covered, but the in between space is fairly timeless in most of our understandings. For instance, we forget that Jesus went to Egypt after being born in Bethlehem, not back to Nazareth. We lose sight of the fact that at some point he moved to Capernaum from Nazareth and used that town as a base for his operations. We get fuzzy on how much time he actually “worked” his ministry – years? 18 months? 3+ years? It's not so much the exact time that matters as is the fact that he had a fairly short run of it in a public sense. We miss the fact that he was socially pretty well connected as were his disciples—knew a lot of people all over the place. He was a real, normal guy in many respects. If you only play pin-the-story-on-the-person you miss this.

Another way to keep Jesus a real person is to ride easy with his normal out-of-it behaviors we all share. Time in “the zone”—his mother has to jump start his miracle ministry at Cana: “It's not my time,” he tells her. She pays no attention. He gets the wine going. Abusing power when nervous – Jerusalem is going to be

dangerous and difficult: act weird and zap the fig tree for not blooming out of season. White lie time: are you going to Jerusalem? No. Goes. Impatient with bozos: send disciples out on a field trip to cast out demons and heal. Is rested, renewed and enthusiastic on their return “I saw the devil fall from heaven!” There are lots of funny little cameos like these that keep the person real, relatable, and a C+ student of daily living just like the rest of us.

And the best way of all to enfold all this into your system is to read the Gospels every day. They are not the oldest pieces of New Testament writing, but they are the ones that keep Jesus central, not just “about Jesus” central. One chapter a day will do it. Start at Matthew, read through John and go back to Matthew 1 the next day. Over and over. You don't have to pay attention; you just have to do it. Just like with the people you know well: you don't have to pay attention, you just have to show up and be there.—*Jane Wolfe*

St James Newsletter

May 2011

(802) 457-1727

email: office@stjameswoodstock.org

www.stjameswoodstock.org

St. James Episcopal Church

On the Green

Woodstock, VT 05091

SCONES ♦ SILVER TEA SERVICE ♦ CRISP NAPKINS
SPRING FLOWERS ♦ CUCUMBER SANDWICHES ♦ PRETTY CHINA
LIVE PIANO MUSIC PROVIDED BY R. LEE ADAMS

Please bring your favorite mother to a special



Mother's Day Tea

St. James Episcopal Church

Sunday, May 9, 2010

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Adults-\$10.00 Children-\$5.00 (under 5-free)

Reservations appreciated. Walk-ins welcome!

