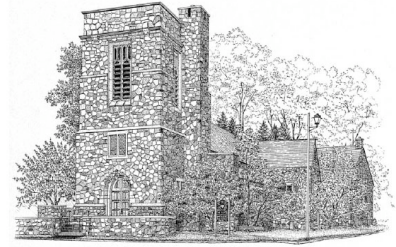


St. James Newsletter

September 2010



Report of Senior Warden

Our Ministry Discernment Committee is hard at work with its discernment process. By the time this is published, the MDC will have held its first parish-wide meeting reviewing our history. Their parish discernment meetings will be held on September 19 and 20.

One of the most important questions for our future is whether we have a full-time Rector, a part-time Rector, or a lay ministry. This question is to be answered by our Vestry as it sets the budget for 2011.

As we all know, the economy is not in great shape and this has affected many in our parish, as well as the State of Vermont and even our Diocese. Our parish has done well through all this, however. The main source of income for our parish is our pledges. This year our pledges are budgeted at \$130,000 (our

actual pledge payments were \$142,794 in 2009). It appears we are on target with this year's budgeted pledges.

Our parish has made remarkable progress as a church family over the last year and a half. We are alive and well as a parish and have pulled together with the help of Sarah, Gunnar and Jane, as well as each and every one of you. I couldn't be more pleased with where we are now and I am extremely optimistic about our future. We all have given generously of our time and talent. The big question before us is where will our giving of our treasure, our pledges, be this fall. Our pledges for 2011 will be a major factor for our Vestry in reaching a decision on the question of approving a full-time Rector, a part-time Rector or a lay ministry.

Our current budget for the cost of our 2/3 part-time clergy is \$58,100 for 10½ months (an annual cost of \$66,171). I estimate the cost of a full-time Rector at \$123,000 to \$134,000. This estimate is based upon the minimum salary requirements of the Diocese which is contingent upon the years served by the Rector, the cost of medical and dental insurance, required pension payments, and the cost of housing. I estimate the cost of a 60% part-time Rector at \$103,000 to \$123,000.

A full-time Rector would mean an additional \$65,000 to \$76,000 for our yearly budget beginning in 2012, assuming there are no other adjustments to our budget. The additional amount for the 2011 budget for the full-time Rector will be less, assuming we will not hire a Rector until some months into 2011. This will be balanced against the substantial increase for the budgeted amount for the MDC Committee to allow them to make visits to the present parishes of the final candidates. A 60% part-time Rector would mean an additional \$45,000 to \$65,000 for our yearly budget. These represent substantial increases, but these are the realities we need to face. The cost of a lay ministry would of course be substantially less. The actual figure would be dependent upon how the lay ministry is structured and the cost of supply clergy for our services.

In order to make this important decision as early as possible, I have asked Candace Vandouris, Stewardship Committee Chair, to move our ingathering of pledges to an earlier date, which will be October 24. The Ministry Discernment Committee needs to have this decision from the Vestry in order to move forward with the last phase of their responsibilities, advertising our position for a Rector and making its recommendation to the Vestry.

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Senior Warden

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I am asking each one of you to begin considering the value of St. James in your life, both spiritual and otherwise. What has St. James meant for you in the past? What does St. James mean for you now? What will you want St. James to be for you in the future? Should St. James consider calling a full-time Rector, a part-time Rector, or embark on a lay ministry? Your thoughts and feelings need to be shared directly with the members of the Vestry and the members of the Ministry Discernment Committee as well as at the Parish Meetings on September 19 and 20. I also ask you to consider these questions now as you consider your pledge for 2011 so that you can make your pledge on the ingathering date of October 24.

Many delay making their pledge until later in the year. We need to have these pledges made earlier this year so the Vestry can make its decision in a timely fashion for the MDC.

The future of St. James is in our hands. I know that the Holy Spirit will lead us in the direction we are meant to proceed. God bless and keep each and every one of you.—
Bob O'Donnell, Senior Warden

New Adult Ed Series Planned

The Adult Education Committee inaugurates a new series this September. During this time of transition, every month we will bring in speakers to explore with us the history of St. James. Each of these sessions will take place on Sunday after the 10:00 a.m. service, and we encourage attendees to pack a lunch or run out and grab one to enjoy while we hear about the parish's past.

On Sunday, September 26, Jack Anderson, director of the Woodstock Historical Society, will be our speaker. Jack is a long-time resident of Woodstock and served for several terms as the representative in Montpelier for Woodstock and Reading. He is currently on the Town Select Board. Jack's topic for the afternoon will be "Woodstock and St. James," the intertwining history of the town, the village, and the parish.

Future events will look at the rectors of the parish, the outreach ministry, the art and architecture, and other aspects of our past. Come to learn as well as to share!—*The Adult Education Committee: Isabelle Bradley, Lyle Hall, Molly Mcdermott, Joseph Morel, Wyman Rolph, Steve Swayne, Candace Vandouris, and Paul Wildasin.*

Outreach Corner

September is here; everyone is talking about fall projects and the Outreach Committee is no exception. We hope to have many new projects this year, but your help is needed. If you have any suggestions for new outreach projects, please share them with one of our committee members: Bev and Scott Kinne 457-1078, Louise Fowler 457-1012, Dave Clark 296-3194, Liz Hall 457-4854, Karen Vitols 457-3522 or Katherine Webster 457-1435.

An ongoing ministry that we plan to continue this fall is the sample-size toiletry collection for the Upper Valley Haven. The Haven offers a public shower and those who use it receive a set of toiletries. If you have any small personal care items such as soaps, shampoos, conditioners, body lotions, etc., please bring them to church. There is a basket in the back of the church for your donations.

We had a small gathering for the breakfast on August 8, but it was wonderful! Many thanks to Katherine Webster for all her work on this breakfast. We will not have a September Breakfast due to the MDC gatherings that are planned. We will keep you posted on the date of the October breakfast.

The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 7, at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will look at various organizations and projects to use the year's remaining budgeted funds.—*Bev Kinne, Chair*

News from the MDC

The Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC) has met regularly during the month of August to sketch out the work that lies ahead of us. By the time you read this, the members of St. James will have had an opportunity to come together and explore the history of our parish, the first outward expression of the MDC's work so far. Many thanks to all who attended.

If August was a month of recalling our past, then September is a month to imagine our future. And the MDC invites you to join us in imagining that future.

First, we have scheduled two identical all-parish meetings—one on Sunday, September 19, immediately after the 10:00 a.m. service, and the other on Monday, September 20, beginning at 6:30 p.m.—at which we consider together three questions that are crucial in understanding what lies ahead.

- Who are we at this point in our faith journey?
- Who is God calling us to be in the next season of our ministry together?
- What gifts and skills do we need, both in ourselves and from clergy leadership, to get there?

Please plan on attending one of these meetings. A light meal and child care will be provided at both meetings. If you wish to

attend the one on Monday evening, please call the church office (802-457-1727) so that we can prepare enough food for that evening.

Second, we are keenly aware that not everyone who considers St. James their church home will be able to attend the meetings the MDC is holding in August and September. So in addition to these meetings, we will be conducting a survey of members of the parish beginning in late September. Your responses to this survey will assist us in better understanding who we are and where we are heading together. You'll be hearing more about the survey in church and in other announcements from the church.

Third, we continue to ask you to pray for us. We have adopted the following prayer and used it for the first time on August 29. Will you join us in praying for our life together?

"In this interim time, we pray for St. James Church, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, imaginative about our future, and daring in our faith. As we seek to welcome, instill in us your grace; as we seek to challenge, commit us to your mission; as we seek to inspire, fill us with your Spirit. All this we pray, empowered by the love of Jesus Christ. Amen."

And lastly, we invite you to share with any one of us your

thoughts and your visions as we move forward in this exciting time of hearing what the Spirit is saying to St. James Episcopal Church in Woodstock, Vermont.—*Yours in service together, The Ministry Development Committee:*

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Notes from Jane

Fall is my favorite time of the year. Maybe it is because I grew up in the deep South and I longed for the cool weather. But I also love the color of fall as the leaves on the trees begin to fade into shades of red, yellow and orange. It's August in Vermont, and already it feels like fall to me. I even welcome the darkness as the days grow shorter.

After summer vacations, I look forward to everyone coming back together after being away. We settle into our daily routines of living. We need routine, and hopefully worshipping on Sunday morning will be part of everyone's weekly routine. We all have very busy schedules, and coming to church to give thanks to God should be a priority. Sunday morning is at the heart of our common life. Stepping into St. James allows us to be more aware of God – so easy to shut out in ordinary space. We gather week by week to lift up our prayers and praise to God and to taste the bounty of God around the table. This is the most important thing we do.

This time of year I am especially grateful for all the blessings of life, and I am reminded every year of the gift of this marvelous world and everything in it. Our worship together reminds us that all that we have and all that we are is God's gift – the reality of God's grace in our lives. Our first response to God's generosity and grace is to give thanks. We make our thank offerings through worship, through service and through our financial gifts to the church.

Stewardship is about considering the many ways that we have been blessed and to give out of that blessedness. Stewardship is about belonging, the opportunity for all of us to claim ownership of the common work that we share at St. James. We value our life together and know that the life we share in Jesus Christ gives us meaning and purpose. We want to contribute to what we value.

We live in a culture of abundance, and the frantic pace of consumption tells us that we should always have just a little bit more than we do. However, when we think of ourselves as stewards, we consider all that we have been given rather than what we might lack. When we commit ourselves to being stewards we find ourselves wanting less and able to give more. We pledge not only because it helps the church. We pledge because it helps us become the thankful, generous people we hope to be.

During the months of September and October we will be looking at how we are stewards of all that God has given us. And we will be asked to give a portion of our income to support the ministries of St. James. We ask ourselves in what ways are we thankful for what we have been given – the comfort and challenges, the successes and the failures, the full abundance of being alive as children of God. May we all celebrate what has been given to us as we consider our gifts of time, talent and treasure. We have been blessed abundantly. May we give out of that abundance.—*Jane*

Sunday School begins Sept. 19

Sunday School begins on September 19 for children ages 3-12. The Sunday School uses the Godly Play curriculum, which is a popular program of Christian formation based on the Montessori approach to children's education.

Amy Morel coordinates the Sunday School program. A second adult in the classroom, acting as a storyteller, is a key component of the program. Volunteer storytellers are needed. Amy will provide the script and props and will be sure the class runs smoothly. Please call the office or contact Amy at 234-6314 if you would like to volunteer.

Each month there will be a Family Sunday when children are invited to attend the church service with their family. Family Sundays are scheduled for October 17, November 21 and December 19. A Christmas Pageant is scheduled for the December Family Sunday. Family Sundays will be designed to engage the children and their participation is encouraged.

There will be an opportunity for the older children who are enrolled in Sunday School to become Acolytes. Training will be offered and these children can actively participate in the Sunday services during the year.

Parishioners Enjoyed Varied Summer Activities

Jane and Franklin Sanders left Vermont for Wyoming on May 30. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with children and grandchildren in Yellowstone National Park, and attended the Airstream Caravan Club International Rally in Gillette, WY. From there they left for Alaska with their Airstream trailer in tow. In Alaska, they visited the Kennecott Copper Mine Historic Site, stopped in Valdez for a wildlife boat tour to the Columbia Glacier, spent a few days in Denali National Park and several days in Fairbanks. As they started home recently, they drove the "Top of the World Highway", and visited Dawson City, Yukon—site of the 1898 Yukon Gold Rush. We expect them back at St. James the last Sunday in September.

Bev and Scott Kinne spent lots of time with the family. They hosted several cookouts, including one to celebrate both Scott and Baby Lenny's birthdays. A much-anticipated trip to see friends down south on Labor Day will complete their summer.

Ann and Joe D'Anna spent several lovely warm days this summer at Basin Harbor on Lake Champlain with several of their children and grandchildren. The weather was perfect.

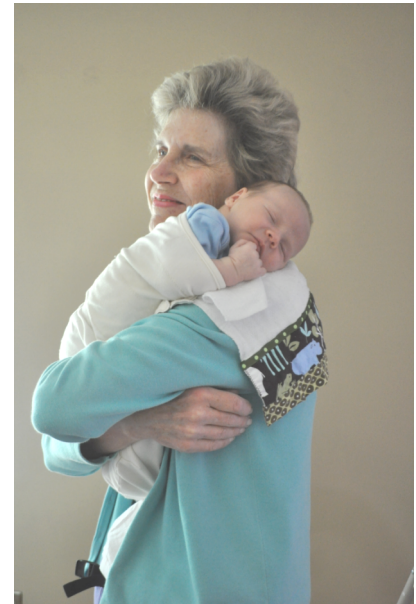
The Wise Family enjoyed their first summer as a family of four! Winter learned to be a kind big sister, and Willa learned to laugh and roll over. They spent lots of time with the chickens, goats, and visitors to the farm, and they harvested their first honey crop from the bee hives. Chuck spent time mowing, scything, and removing invasive plants. They look forward to seeing everyone at St. James in the fall.

Jane Barr and her husband **Barry** enjoyed a week of hiking, eating lobster and taking in the beauty of Acadia National Park. Barry stayed another week here in Woodstock exploring the many hiking trails in the area. He particularly enjoyed the blueberry pancakes at the Mountain Creamery.

Dwight Camp was on staff at the National Boy Scout Jamboree at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia in July.

The Morel Family spent six weeks at their home on Christmas Cove in South Bristol, ME. The children took sailing, swimming and tennis lessons and Genevieve received the award for "Most Improved Swimmer". Following their time in Maine, they traveled to Seattle to spend a week with Amy's family.

Kathy and Wyman Rolph's son, Decker, and his wife, Jessica, are the happy parents of a son, Leland George Crolick Rolph, born June 28 in Boise, Idaho. He weighed 10lbs 6oz. and was 22½ inches long. (Wyman calls him a "Big Rolphling".) Kathy spent a



Kathy Rolph with her new grandson, Leland.

week visiting and getting to know him in latter part of July. He is now sleeping well and beginning to smile and focus on black and white designs. He will be christened in late October in his maternal grandfather's family church near Syracuse, NY.

Church Directory Updates

During September we will be updating the church directory. Copies of the directory will be on the table in the Narthex and in the Parish Hall. Please check your listing to be sure that we have your correct mailing address, telephone number and email address. We are also collecting birthdays and anniversaries. A separate sheet will be available so that you can provide this information as well.

Spotlight on our Junior Warden

George Calver has been a member of St. James Church for six years and has faithfully served as the Junior Warden for the past two years.

What does the Junior Warden do?

The principal role of the Junior Warden is the general oversight of the church buildings and grounds, however the Junior Warden is always available to stand in for the Senior Warden if he is away or otherwise unavailable. The Junior Warden also serves as a member of the Vestry.

George takes care of everything related to St. James' building and grounds, from replacing light bulbs to overseeing major repairs to the furnace or roof. He is currently researching the price of oil to determine what company is offering the best price and whether the church should consider pre-buying oil for the coming winter. He researched stained glass window professionals and hired a specialist to repair and appraise the windows in the sanctuary. He recently worked with an electrician to locate and order specialty bulbs to be installed high above the altar and he is gathering a group together to paint the former Food Shelf room and the church office. He is on-call whenever a problem

arises and has been here at 10:00 in the evening to walk through the basement with the plumber.

The job of Junior Warden is never-ending with an old building like ours, but George is dedicated to doing the job well and he enjoys it.

“What I find most rewarding about being Junior Warden is the preservation of a beautiful place of worship and one of the most attractive structures in Woodstock.”

What else does George Calver do?

George is retired but he is a very busy retired fellow. He currently lives in South Woodstock and spends time clearing trees and developing plans for a pond. He may install an electric turbine on the creek that runs behind his house since there is an old existing dam in that location. His hobbies include carpentry and furniture building, fly fishing, hiking, mountain biking, alpine and nordic skiing, tennis, and a lot of ice hockey. He has coached youth ice hockey and high school lacrosse in Woodstock.

He volunteers as a Guardian ad Litem, representing the best interests of children in the Vermont Courts, and he was an Instructor for an International Business Law course at Green Mountain College last Fall and Spring Semesters.

George was born and raised in Montreal, as you might be able to tell from his accent. He attended Ithaca College in New

York where he played varsity football, ice hockey and lacrosse. After college George returned to Canada and went to Law School in Toronto. He practiced commercial and corporate law in Ottawa and Toronto.

He returned to the U.S. in 1977 to become Associate General Counsel for the U.S. subsidiary of a large Canadian company then engaged in a major acquisition program in the U.S. He was based in Hanover, NH.

In 1983 he was transferred to Switzerland during which time he traveled extensively throughout the world to places such as Indonesia, Pakistan, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, and Algeria among others. The company had branch offices in London and Amsterdam and he spent considerable time there as well.

With the birth of his son in Switzerland he requested a transfer back to the Head Office in Hanover and became Vice President and Treasurer upon his return in 1987. When the company moved its head office to Charlotte, NC, he decided to stay in this area, and took a new job as General Counsel for Bombardier Capital in Burlington, VT in 1990. He retired in 2001 when he was President of the Bombardier Capital Group.

George has two adult children; son Geoffrey works in the Boston area for an internet marketing unit of the Washington Post and daughter Jenny graduated this year from Trinity College and is now very busy job hunting.

News from the Parish Life Committee

On November 1, All Saints Day, there will be a dinner following the Evensong service. We hope all will come to the service and participate in the fellowship afterwards at dinner. The Bishop will be with us on October 31 for a special service and reception following. Please watch for sign-up sheets to contribute to these events.

Also, our committee will be introducing Foyer Group Dinners later in November. We hope to have groups of eight, who will be assigned with a leader to organize the group. Each group will have dinner together in the home of a member and rotate around to the various homes of the different members in the coming months. This will be a fun, informal way to get to know each other better. More information will be forthcoming.

Please feel free to speak with any member of the Parish Life Committee about either of these upcoming events. We welcome anyone who would like to help with these events. Kathy Rolph, Chair, Phyllis Bulmer, Louise Fowler, Lorry Hoblin, Fiona McElwain, Molly McDermott, and Bev Ritchie. — *Kathy Rolph*

God Manners

You know, it's a funny thing, but a lot of the time we treat God a good bit worse than we'd treat another human being. On the plus side (if there is one), God can probably take it; on the minus side, being rude, sloppy and disrespectful must make it hard for God to get a kick out of the relationship with us even if God's love never waivers.

Consider this: when was the last time you asked God about the day? Hi, how was your day? I went over 30 years without asking this question and I'm in the relationship-with-God business! How dumb can you get! And even if God just says "fine," well, at least you asked *and listened* for an answer. We rarely do this, ask or listen.

Then, we tend to walk into church or some place where we honor our relationship with God in some kind of way, and bark out a few requests as though God was a supernatural waiter – rain please, less humidity please, more cash please, fix the Gulf oil spill, stop war, take care of Mary, etc. etc.

There's nothing wrong with these requests, it's just that the conversation is entirely one sided – we sure don't hang around to listen to God bark out requests of us. Does God bark? We do get a little pastoral and liturgical reassurance that God loves us and hears our prayers, but we are pretty generally short on the *experience* of reassurance that comes from listening to God talk to us.

Hi! How are you? How's it been going? These are good questions to ask your family and friends, and good questions to ask God. And just as with your family and friends, it's good to listen to the answers. If this seems new and strange, here's what you do: tune in with your heart, let it open. Listen. God's not going to talk your heart off right away, if ever. But I can assure you God will be pleased. Pleased to be inquired after, pleased to say "fine" or something, pleased to know one of the little ones is making time so that the two of them can sit together smiling and rest a while. — *Jane Wolfe*

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