

The Eagle's Wings



February 2011 A monthly newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church, 628 Main St., Stamford, CT 06901 Vol. 4 No. 2

Renovations

Have you enjoyed walking in our newly renovated Middle Building? The same building, but with new floors, new tiles, shiny surfaces, new paint, new everything. The building looks great. It is wonderfully improved, much more functional, more accessible and a joy to be in. Of course, a normal consequence of building repair is that those parts of our building that were not renovated now look old and tired in comparison. We are indeed discussing further building renovations. What about the people who walk through that building, the community of Christ gathered at 628 Main Street in Stamford? We, the body of Christ in this beautiful renovated new building, are the same old saints of God. Do we look like we could use some refurbishing? Perhaps we do!

Let me suggest a few refurbishments that might freshen us up as the people of God. The primary way I would like to see us freshened up would be for us to get to know one another better. I'm not speaking about growing deeper with those you already hang out with in our Sunday coffee hour, but rather getting to know some folks you don't know so well, perhaps a newcomer or someone of a different age group, as well as those people getting to know you.

The first step in renovation the people of St. John's Church is for us to get to know each other's names. A couple years ago several of us attended a workshop at St. Paul's, Norwalk about newcomer and greeting ministry. They have developed some great approaches to welcoming



Pictured from the top: the newly refurbished hall upstairs; one of the new Godly Play rooms; and the new name tag system at work

ministry. Our Deacon Liz who comes from St. Paul's gives us an inside source to their best practices. One idea she has brought to us that we are introducing is new name tags. We presently have name tags that hang on the wall in the dining room and only rarely make it to

anyone's shirt pocket. But on Sunday, January 23 our Greeters passed out new name tags to people as they entered worship. Two complete sets of name tags (one set with an eagle and one without) have been made. Each nametag is reversible and will hang on a lanyard over our necks. Established parishioners will be given their name tag and newcomers will write their name. There will be baskets to leave off our nametags and lanyards when we leave the building. Then they will be back for us in alphabetized order come Sunday morning. Imagine greeting one another by name at the Peace. Imagine not being embarrassed to talk with someone because you forgot their name. Imagine getting to know many more of your fellow parish family. That's a great start to a new look to the people of God and one at least as good as a new paint job!

A second step in our corporate renovation is for us to deepen our fellowship. For that I have two words, *fellowship group*. Starting in February you are invited to join some of your fellow parishioners by forming a small group and enjoying fellowship, prayer and a meal together. It doesn't matter if you are single or married, younger, older or in-between. The plan is to mix people up, not group people by age or demographic. Those who are interested will be assigned at random to a fellowship group. Each group will have a leader who will help organize the group gathering at one of their homes for a relaxed evening of

Continued on page 2

Our Mission / Vision

St. John's is a wonderfully diverse community of faith rooted in the heart of downtown Stamford, where the Holy Spirit is leading us toward a new humanity in Christ. We embrace this vision by welcoming all people to:

- Celebrate God in the beauty of holiness through the richness of Anglican worship and glorious music;
- Strengthen their spiritual journeys through prayer, study and scripture; and
- Serve as instruments of God's peace, justice and love in the world.

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Need more information?
Visit our website!
 •••••
www.stjohns-stamford.org

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 and Choir

11:30 A.M.

Coffee Hour

6:15 P.M.

L'Eglise de L'Epiphanie Holy Eucharist in French

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

Renovations *Continued from page 1*

fellowship and sharing. After the groups have a chance to meet 3-4 times we will have a short break for the season and then invite folks to form new groups. The invitation and details to the new Fellowship Groups can found in the article below.

Of course, for a complete community renovation many activities help in that transformation: study groups, worship, prayer, healing, and reaching out to others in need beyond ourselves. We'd be inviting our friends and neighbors to come and see what's happening at St. John's and to come and worship with us. You never know where a few parish renovations might lead!
Jim+

New! Fellowship Groups

An invitation to join a home Fellowship Group this winter:

Have you signed up yet? Don't miss the fun! You are invited to join a fellowship group for a series of dinner gatherings in someone's home.

The goal is to meet for dinner 3 times during February and get to know each other better each time. You can join at any point during the month. We'll break during Lent and start up again after Easter with new groups.

We have dinner hosts and leaders. All we need are more participants to join in. Groups will start on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday evenings. To express your interest in St. John's Home Fellowship Group, sign-up and let us know which evening works best in your schedule.

Carol Wheeler is organizing the sign up process; there are 4 ways to let us know you are interested:

1. Email Carol at: cmeadwheeler@hotmail.com
2. Add your name to the sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour in the Dining Room
3. Fill out the Fellowship form in the Sunday bulletin and turn in to an usher or greeter
4. Call Carol, especially if you have a question, at 203-588-9894

Sunday Morning Adult Formation: Anglican Covenant Study through March 6 at 9:00 a.m.

Come, Pray, Learn and Explore the proposed Anglican Covenant! We are offering a series of study, prayer and discussion on Six Sundays in Epiphany, January 30 to March 6, 2011. The Episcopal Church has asked each congregation to study the proposed Anglican Covenant and to provide feedback to the Diocese and Convention Delegation.

Why study and pray about the Anglican Covenant? The study of the Covenant goes to our deepest identity as Anglicans. As Anglicans we "believe as we pray," bound together by a common catholic and apostolic history that extends back through the twelve disciples. The Anglican tradition did not grow out of a Confessional statement. Rather, Anglicanism has been defined by praying together and staying together, despite differences of belief. A written Anglican Covenant was proposed in 2004 "to maintain unity and different viewpoints."

Study of the covenant will involve our deepest theological questions. What does it mean to be a person? How does God reveal truth? How is Scripture read and interpreted? What does it mean to have differing beliefs? How do beliefs change? We will use the study guide and questions developed by the Episcopal Church as a basis. Copies will be made available for review at the first meeting and can be found online at: www.ctepiscopal.org/Content/Anglican_Covenant.asp

And the Winner is . . .

As we shared in last month's edition, we have been looking for a new name for the beautiful upstairs hall formerly known as The Gym. Over the last month, parishioners have submitted a wide range of very creative ideas with themes ranging from our Stamford history to Anglican tradition to warm & fuzzy welcomes to silliness around all elements of the theatre. The choices were very difficult and the task left to the Building Committee to choose just one. To keep us all honest, the committee conducted a secret ballot and the winner is: "The Eagles Loft". We love its reference to both St. John's symbol and the informal high space and think it will be both warm and versatile for performances, receptions and meetings. Thank you to Jane Holt for submitting such a terrific name. Honorable mentions go to parishioners David Lehner, Elizabeth Nivicella, Karen Smith and Denise Wade, our dear friend in New Haven Peggy Atherton and All Phase Construction's Bart Lansky. We're saving your name ideas for the next room!

Submitted by Alison Chaltas

Parish Annual Meeting

On January 23rd, we gathered for the first time in the wonderful new space on the second floor of the middle building which is now so aptly named the Eagle's Loft. Quite a fitting way to begin 2011 and inaugurate the new room!

Father Wheeler's opening remarks focused on counting our blessings as a parish. These include our dedicated staff and volunteers, our hardworking leadership team as well as our parishioners continued commitment to the financial needs of the parish. He also highlighted how the parish dealt so well with the many changes and disruptions in 2010 -from major inconveniences caused by the construction to the transitions in the positions of Assistant Rector and Children's Education Director.

The slate of nominees for officers and members of the Vestry, Convention delegates/ alternates and St. John's Community Foundation trustees was introduced and elected:

Sheelagh Schlegel was elected Sr. Warden and David Johnson elected as Jr. Warden. Jane Holt will continue on as Treasurer as well as Lisa Cerulli in the position of Parish Clerk. New members elected to the vestry are Ed Cameron, Lynne Muth and Heather Neff.

St. John's Parish Delegates are Gus Schlegel, George Smith and Alternate Delegates are Roslyn Mainville and Sunny Stearns.

Alison Chaltas was elected President of St. John's Community Foundation and parishioners, Ann Barnett, Roslyn Mainville, Cleveland Perry, and Glenn Wecker were elected to the board of the foundation.

Our new Senior Warden, Sheelagh Schlegel, gave an update on several projects undertaken by the Outreach committee this past year. They also divided themselves into three sub groups to provide better focus in each area: Inreach (with in the parish), Community (St. Luke's, Dove Boxes, etc.), and International (primarily Haiti at this time).

The Treasurer, Jane Holt reported that overall we are currently in good shape financially but we must continue to focus on areas to reduce spending. One area to explore is "going green" where possible in our parish communications. She also pointed out that utility costs for 2011 could be a problem because we have no history for the new middle building which now uses gas instead of oil and is also air conditioned.

Our now former Senior Warden, Alison Chaltas, reported on the St. John's Rising Update/ Building committee with assistance from John Svagr. She then led a discussion on the possible renovation of the kitchen and dining room (estimated to cost \$325,000) as well as commissioning a task force to improve accessibility to our property with a budget of \$100,000 in 2011. These two projects require fund raising. She reports that she already has \$150,000 in pledges toward the effort. A Grant committee is pursuing outside funds. Some form of capital campaign team will explore incremental direct donations. The parish voted to go ahead with the projects.

Overall, I found it a very upbeat, informative annual meeting.

Submitted by Sandy Libby



The Eagle's Wings

February 2011

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

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C. Wheeler & St. John's Staff

Your comments, suggestions and offers to contribute to future issues are encouraged. Please contact Bronice P. Gage at: 203-348-2619 ext 14 or bpikul@stjohns-stamford.org.

The deadline for the next issue is February 16th.

St John's

Episcopal Church

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www.stjohns-stamford.org

Clergy and Staff

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

Rector

The Rev. Dr. James R. Wheeler

Assistant to the Rector

The Rev. Kathleen Berkowe

Associate Clergy

The Rev. Liz H. Skaleski, Deacon

L'Eglise de l'Epiphanie

The Rev. Judith Alexis

Organist

Dr. Sean Jackson

Parish Administrator

Sandie DeFilippis

Christian Education

Patricia Chery

Seminarian Intern

Karl Griswold-Kuhn

Communications

Bronice P. Gage

Sexton

Owen Brissett

Volunteer for the

Administration

George Howard

New Member Ministry

Phyllis Wilson

Parish Historian

Polly Vanderwaart

Save the Date!

Tuesday Evenings ~ Quilting Group ~ 6:30 p.m.

The quilting group meets in the Conference Room every Tuesday evening. If you are interested in or have questions, please call the parish office for details.

Wednesday Evenings, February 2, 9, 16, 23 and March 2 ~ Fireside Bible Study ~ 7:30 p.m.

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study will gather for a fireside series on Wednesday evenings right up to Lent. The group will read and reflect on the Lectionary Readings for the coming Sunday. For more information, contact Linda Clapp at 203-862-9402 lindaclapp@optonline.net.

Thursday Morning Bible Study ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Thursday morning bible study group continues with a study of the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome to join us in the Conference Room from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. every Thursday. Many often stay for the 12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist and brown bag lunch afterward. Come early for coffee and fellowship.

Sunday mornings in February ~ Adult Formation - Anglican Covenant Study ~ 9:00 a.m.

Come, Pray, Learn and Explore the proposed Anglican Covenant! Study guides will be provided. Please join us. Look for full details and dates on page 2.

Monday Evenings ~ Adult Bible Study ~ 7:30 p.m.

Monday night Bible study and Prayer Group meets every week from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. for fellowship and Bible study. We will be studying and meditating on "*The Message of Acts*" by John Stott. Come and join us on this journey. All are welcome!

Sunday, February 13 ~ Children's Worship Service ~ 10:15 a.m.

There will be no Christian Education classes today. We will all worship together as a church family at the 10:15 worship service. (Nursery care will be provided.)

Sunday, February 27 ~ The Rodney Mack Philadelphia Brass in Concert ~ 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a rousing afternoon featuring trumpet prodigy and virtuoso Rodney Mack and his big brass band with Sean Jackson on the organ. "Precision, excitement and charisma best describe the audience engaging performance by the Rodney Mack Philadelphia Big Brass. Our stage was filled with energized, talented musicians who performed a variety of works from the Baroque to Jazz eras. This is a show that should not be missed." - *Doris Hall- Gulati, Franklin Marshall College Sound Horizons Concert Series*

Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door; \$10 for seniors and students; Free for children under 12. Call Sandie in the Parish Office at 203-348-2619 x10 to reserve your tickets now!

Saturday, March 5 ~ Habitat for Humanity, 12th Annual *Hearts and Hammers Gala* ~ 6:00 p.m.

Join Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich for a fund-raising gala. For tickets and information call (203) 333-2642.

Tuesday, March 7 ~ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (Volunteers needed) ~ 6:00 p.m.

Come to our Pancake Supper to enjoy delicious food and conversation with friends. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Dining Room in mid February. Many hands will be needed to set tables, pour syrup, and clean up! Please contact the parish office for more details or to volunteer.



A NOTE FROM THE FLOWER DELIVERY GUILD . . .

There's power in flowers

The Flower Delivery Guild is a small but special outreach that we share with the community at St. John's. Every week we take down the altar flowers, rearrange them into bouquets and deliver them to people that need a little color and cheer and most importantly, to let them know that we at St. John's are thinking of them.

This ministry reaches so many in the community from the elderly and home bound to those in the hospital or nursing homes as well as families with newborns. It's a great way to have your children involved with the church and community. It's also perfect for teenagers who need community hours.

We are looking for volunteers to help us with this small yet needed service. It's a great way to be involved without being too involved. The time commitment is minimal and all we ask is about 2 hours of your time, 1-3 times a year.

There is a sign up sheet in the dining room. If you have any questions, please see Beth Dempsey, Nicky Mehan or Phyllis Wilson after service, or contact Phyllis at 201-961-1891 or phyllisjwilson@yahoo.com.

Parish Calendar - February and March Events

Tuesday, February 1

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Quilting Group Meeting

Wednesday, February 2

7:30 p.m. Fireside Bible Study

Thursday, February 3

10:30 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 6

9:00 a.m. Adult Formation (*Parlor*)
"Anglican Covenant Study"
11:45 a.m. Bell and Children's Choir Rehearsal

Monday, February 7

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, February 8

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Quilting Group Meeting
7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, February 9

7:30 p.m. Fireside Bible Study

Thursday, February 10

10:30 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 13

9:00 a.m. Adult Formation (*Parlor*)
"Anglican Covenant Study"
10:15 a.m. Children's Worship Sunday
11:45 a.m. Bell and Children's Choir Rehearsal

Monday, February 14 Valentine's Day

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, February 15 - March Newsletter Deadline!

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Quilting Group Meeting

Wednesday, February 16

7:30 p.m. Fireside Bible Study

Thursday, February 17

10:30 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 20

9:00 a.m. Adult Formation (*Parlor*)
"Anglican Covenant Study"
11:45 a.m. Bell and Children's Choir Rehearsal

Monday, February 21 – Presidents' Day Parish Office Closed

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, February 22

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Quilting Group Meeting

Wednesday, February 23

7:30 p.m. Fireside Bible Study

Thursday, February 24

10:30 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 25

12:00 p.m. Concert rehearsal
5:00 p.m. Concert rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Cooking at St. Luke's

Sunday, February 27

9:00 a.m. Adult Formation (*Parlor*)
"Anglican Covenant Study"
11:45 a.m. Bell and Children's Choir Rehearsal
3:00 p.m. Philadelphia Brass in Concert***
**details on page 4

Monday, February 28

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, March 1

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Quilting Group Meeting

Wednesday, March 2

7:30 p.m. Fireside Bible Study (Final Meeting)

Thursday, March 3

10:30 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 6

9:00 a.m. Adult Formation (*Parlor*)
"Anglican Covenant Study"
11:45 a.m. Bell and Children's Choir Rehearsal

Monday, March 7

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, March 8 - Shrove Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
6:30 p.m. Quilting Group Meeting
7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting (*location to be announced*)



According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.....Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-17

St. John's Eagle's Wings Newsletter

If you would like to receive St. John's monthly newsletter in electronic format only, let us know. Email your preference to: info@stjohns-stamford.org or call the parish office at: (203) 348-2619 ext 10 during business hours.

St. John's Episcopal Church Presents



with
Organist Sean Jackson



Sunday, February 27, 2011
3:00 pm

**Tickets: 20 in advance; \$25 at the door;
\$10 Seniors & Students; Free for children under 12**

St. John's Episcopal Church, 628 Main Street Stamford, CT
For Tickets call: (203) 348-2619 x10. For details visit: www.stjohns-stamford.org
Park free in the Canterbury Green Garage, Suburban Avenue

Saint John's Episcopal Church
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