

Your Priest's Perspective

When Dale and I go hiking in Colorado, each trail takes us through several different mini-environments. Typically, we begin in a dense forest, walking on damp earth finding our way among wildflowers beside a creek that will lead us to a waterfall that we cannot see, but whose soft roar fills the air. As the trail becomes more steep, we find our selves on a more narrow and rocky path, gradually able to see over the trees. Eventually, we are above the tree line, able to look down on the waterfall whose sound had guided us through the forest, able even to see other lakes in the distance; the light is brighter, the land is more barren, and the views more grand. As we wind around the mountain each view is breathtaking, but it is only when we get to the top of the mountain that we realize that we had only see parts of a vista; from there, we can see 360 degrees, and all views that we had enjoyed along the way were just parts of a larger vision.

I thought about St. John's and about the larger Episcopal Church as I hiked this summer. We can get caught up in our immediate concerns—the integrity of our building, the way we teach our children, the health of the people we love, the efficiency and consistency with which we conduct our business. But as we travel together in our faith, what loomed large seems smaller; the waterfall —whatever our deeper hope may be- suddenly looms before us in all its grandeur, and in the light of God's grace we see more accurately the true proportion of all the different pieces of our world. At the same time, at any given moment our view is only partial; at best, we see only 180 degrees, and around the bend there will be a scene we cannot yet imagine.

St. John's is called to be the Body of Christ in this place and at this time: to walk a path that winds and climbs, a path that continually changes and shows us scenes that we have not anticipated. We are here to comfort those who mourn, to feed those who are hungry, to guide those who are lost, to hold accountable those who abuse their authority. We are here to make God's presence unmistakably felt—in our beautiful building, in our welcoming practices, in our contributions to the food pantry and Community Missions, in our support to the schools, in our fellowship with other churches. We are here to help one another walk faithfully with God, whatever our questions and our doubts and our fears. We are called to profound responsibility, to open our hearts and minds in ways we have not yet anticipated; we are also profoundly blessed to be here, together.

The Episcopal Church is similarly called to be the Body of Christ in this time and in this place. Those who attended and voted at General Convention in July were profoundly faithful to this vocation. The Presiding Bishop's letter about the Convention is included in this newsletter, and I urge you to take the time to read it. As she points out, the many different decisions made by our delegates consistently reflect our call to serve with a vision larger than any single individual or group can comprehend. Even in acknowledging our limited size and resources, we re-affirmed our commitment to address domestic and global poverty, to be both more rigorous and more pastoral in our canonical discipline, and to honor more persons in our calendar of saints. In agreeing that we will not presume to exclude anyone categorically from a call to ordained ministry or to intimate relationships we also acknowledge our humility in relation to the infinite mystery of God. Our call to hold one another accountable for living faithfully is too profound. We cannot simply decide that we don't want to bother; we cannot pretend to know the heart of God. To be the Body of Christ, to embody the gospel, is to grow into the profound truth that no one of us is excluded from God's embrace, and that our path will continue to change and our vision to expand until we reach a place where we can what currently lies hidden around the bend.

Judith+

From the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

The 76th General Convention is now history, though it will likely take some time before we are all reasonably clear about what the results are.

We gathered in Anaheim, as guests of the Diocese of Los Angeles, for eleven full days of worship, learning, and policy-making. The worship was stunning visually, musically, and liturgically, with provocative preaching and lively singing.

Our learning included training in Public Narrative, as well as news about the emergent church, in the LA Night presentation.

We welcomed a number of visitors from other parts of the Anglican Communion, including 15 of the primates (archbishops or presiding bishops), other bishops, clergy, and laity.

You can see and hear all this and more at the Media Hub: <http://gchub.episcopalchurch.org/>

The budget adopted represents a significant curtailment of church-wide ministry efforts, in recognition of the economic realities of many dioceses and church endowments, which will result in the loss of a number of Church Center staff who have given long and laudable service. Yet we will continue to serve God's mission, throughout The Episcopal Church and beyond. This budget expects that more mission work will continue or begin to take place at diocesan or congregational levels. Religious pilgrims, from the Israelites in the desert to Episcopalians in Alaska or Haiti, have always learned that times of leanness are opportunities for strengthened faith and creativity.

As a Church, we have deepened our commitments to mission and ministry with "the least of these" (Matthew 25). We included a budgetary commitment of 0.7% to the Millennium Development Goals, through the NetsforLife® program partnership of Episcopal Relief & Development. That is in addition to approximately 15% of the budget already committed to international development work.

We have committed to a domestic poverty initiative, meant to explore coherent and constructive responses to some of the worst poverty statistics in the Americas: Native American reservations and indigenous communities.

Justice is the goal, as we revised our canons (church rules) having to do with clergy discipline, both as an act of solidarity with those who may suffer at the hands of clergy and an act of pastoral concern for clergy charged with misconduct.

The General Convention adopted a health plan to serve all clergy and lay employees, which is expected to be a cost-savings across the whole of the United States portion of the Church. Work continues to ensure adequate health coverage in the non-U.S. parts of this Church. The Convention also mandated pension coverage for lay employees.

Liturgical additions were also included in the Convention's work, from more saints on the calendar to prayers around reproductive loss.

What captured the headlines across the secular media, however, had to do with two resolutions, the consequences of which were often misinterpreted or exaggerated. One, identified as D025, is titled "Anglican Communion: Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion." It reaffirms our commitment to and desire to pursue mission with the Anglican Communion; reiterates our commitment to Listening Process urged by Lambeth Conferences of 1978, 1988, and 1998; notes that our own participation in the listening process led General Convention in 2000 to "recognize that the baptized membership of The Episcopal Church includes same-sex couples living in lifelong committed relationships 'characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God' "; recognizes that ministry, both lay and ordained is being exercised by such persons in response to God's call; notes that the call to ordained ministry is God's call, is a mystery, and that the Church participates in that mystery through the process of discernment; acknowledges that the members of The Episcopal Church, and of the Anglican Communion, are not of one mind, and that faithful Christians disagree about some of these matters.

The other resolution that received a lot of press is C056, titled "Liturgies for Blessings." The text adopted was a substitute for the original, yet the title remains unchanged. It acknowledges changing circumstances in the U.S. and elsewhere, in that civil jurisdictions in some places permit marriage, civil unions, and/or domestic

partnerships involving same-sex couples, that call for a pastoral response from this Church; asks the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, and the House of Bishops, to collect and develop theological and liturgical resources for such pastoral response, and report to the next General Convention; asks those bodies to invite comment and participation from other parts of this Church and the Anglican Communion; notes that bishops may provide generous pastoral responses to the needs of members of this Church; asks the Convention to honor the theological diversity of this Church in regard to matters of human sexuality.

The full text of both resolutions is available here: <http://gc2009.org/ViewLegislation/>

I urge you to read them for yourself. Some have insisted that these resolutions repudiate our relationships with other members of the Anglican Communion. My sense is that we have been very clear that we value our relationships within and around the Communion, and seek to deepen them. My sense as well is that we cannot do that without being honest about who and where we are. We are obviously not of one mind, and likely will not be until Jesus returns in all his glory. We are called by God to continue to wrestle with the circumstances in which we live and move and have our being, and to do it as carefully and faithfully as we are able, in companionship with those who disagree vehemently and agree wholeheartedly. It is only in that wrestling that we, like Jacob, will begin to discern the leading of the Spirit and the blessing of relationship with God.

Above all else, this Convention claimed God's mission as the heartbeat of The Episcopal Church. I encourage every member of this Church to enter into conversation in your own congregation or diocese about God's mission, and where you and your faith community are being invited to enter more deeply into caring for your neighbors, the "least of these" whom Jesus befriends.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

Vestry Highlights **July 22, 2009**

Repairs and Renovations – Update

- ✓ Work on the schoolroom floor has been delayed by continued dampness along the north wall.
- ✓ The window on the north wall was sealed and enclosed in cement.
- ✓ Linda Miller reported on an estimate by Unit Step of Sanborn to replace the front steps of the church, replace the roof supports and the concrete slab with rods. Estimate is \$2875. The Vestry agreed to seek other bids and to make a decision regarding this vendor by August 1, 2009. (***The Vestry has agreed to work with Unit Step; the job is scheduled to be completed by late August.***)
- ✓ The Sunday School teachers have selected a design for storage units and countertops.

Acolyte Festival Update

27 youth and adults have made the commitment to travel to Washington D.C., and most deposits have been received. Jeralyn Carney will be the treasurer for the project. The acolytes will gather for a barbeque and campfire at the Vogt home in Newfane on Saturday August 8th.

Drifting Meadows Dancing Horses: An American Gala on September 19th - update

Cheri and Todd Lyon are organizing a benefit for St. John's to be held on Saturday September 19th at Drifting Meadows Farm. Cheri Todd, Jocie, and Kyle will perform with guest riders (including Pastor Judith). Sharon Rhodes and Janet Hoffman will organize & prepare lunch; Gloria Bryant and Jacquie Rodgers will organize the basket auction.

Garden Swing by Linda Miller – Auction

Linda Miller has built a large wooden swing for porch or garden, to be raffled to raise funds for our capital repairs. Tickets will be sold during August and September, with the drawing taking place at Applefest.

Applefest – Update – We are looking for a new coordinator for Applefest.

Next Vestry Meeting – Wednesday August 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast & Yard Sale

Thanks to everyone who helped with our first Pancake Breakfast for the Wilson Soccer Tournament & Town-wide Yard Sale. The event was judged to be a success and we hope to make it an annual event.

The weather did not cooperate on Saturday, so turnout at the yard sale was light. Workers at the breakfast decided to offer it again on Sunday morning. Yard sale participants also held their tables over through Sunday as well.

Total income for the weekend was \$454.

Sunday School News

Your Sunday School teachers are beginning an exciting new experiment this year. We are designing our own curriculum, with a focus on the Scripture for each week and developing a theme for the year. Our children will also take part in our Sunday worship more regularly. On the average of once each month they will join the adults in worship, singing, reading, and sharing what they have learned.

We look forward to welcoming Kirsten Rodgers as a new teacher this year. Kirsten and Sharon Rhodes will teach our youngest children; Lois Bateman and Denise Failla will teach our 3-5th graders, and Jeff Pyskaty will teach our children in grades 6-9. Beth Pyskaty and Melissa Naylor will teach music and provide guidance in developing themes for the year.

Teaching our children brings all of us together in joy and gratitude. We will continue to grow into this wonderful enterprise. Watch for ongoing developments.

Drifting Meadows Farms
Dancing Horses

Presents

An American Gala

Saturday September 19, 2009 11 a.m.

Tickets: \$10/person; \$30 for a family of 4
Hot dogs & snacks will be served
Basket Auction

to benefit St. John's Episcopal Church

2771 Daniels Road, Wilson, NY 14172

For information call 716-751-6109 or email:
stjohnswilson@juno.com
www.stjohnswilson.com

**Believing God in the 21st Century
Workshop and Support Group
Facilitated by Dr. Dan Anger
Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m.**

**Introduction & Orientation – September 20, 2009 at St. John's
Wilson**

Session #1 – October 4 & 18; November 8 & 22, December 6

Session #2 – January & February

Session #3 – April - May

Hi! My name is Dan Anger. I've been a member of St. Andrew's for over 18 years. I led the diocesan program to send bibles to China about 10 years ago, and I have been the leader of various study groups at St. Andrew's and St. John's-Wilson. I recently took early retirement from full-time college teaching, but I continue to work in a private counseling practice in Tonawanda and Wilson.

I am proposing a Niagara Deanery study group, beginning in September 2009, that would meet on Sunday evenings about twice a month. The first orientation meeting would be at St. John's, but meetings could rotate among the churches at the preference of the group participants. Because we will be sharing what is sacred to each of us, there is an expectation of respect within the group and confidentiality outside the group. Each person will need to make the group participation a high priority, and regular attendance will be expected. Each person will be challenged for full sharing, giving and receiving: No observers only, please. Our purpose is to build a community.

This will be a support group in which participants encourage and support each other in their individual spiritual journeys, to learn to walk with God in their daily lives. My calling is to provide leadership for the Deanery to provide an opportunity for spiritual growth and development. My skills of sharing personal faith experience, managing group dynamics for positive learning, and facilitating individualized experiential growth are at the full disposal of the Holy Spirit.

I don't propose a formal curriculum or a specific book at this point, although this could develop out of our conversation. We will begin with each member sharing their personal grounding of belief in God with 3 Bible verses, and then lots of group reflection to digest these verses. Then we'll move on to research what the church fathers and current writers have to say on the topics our bible verses have raised. Our purpose will be to keep the focus of the group on personalized learning and to explore how our beliefs function in our daily lives. Our community will be based on the premise that if each of us can articulate our personal faith, maybe others can hear the Word of God more clearly.

I look forward to discussing this group experience with you. If you have questions please contact St. Andrew's at 778-7633 or standrewsburt@verizon.net.

Reader Schedule

Service Date	Lector	Prayers of the People	Lay Reader	Chalice	Crucifer	C 1st Acolyte	2nd Acolyte
August 2 Pentecost 8	Allison Carter	Allison Carter	Janet Hoffman	Gail Freischlag			
August 9 Pentecost 9	Justin Naylor	Jacquie Rodgers	Allison Carter	Robin Schulmeister			
August 16 Pentecost 10	Robyn Krueger	Sharon Rhodes	Jacquie Rodgers	Allison Carter			
August 23 Pentecost 11	Jacquie Rodgers	Robyn Krueger	Sharon Rhodes	Keith Rhodes			
August 30 Pentecost 12	Robyn Krueger	Jacquie Rodgers	Janet Hoffman	Mike Kerwin			
Sept. 6 Pentecost 13	Justin Naylor	Sharon Rhodes	Keith Rhodes	Sharon Rhodes			
Sept. 13 Pentecost 14	Jacquie Rodgers	Robyn Krueger	Janet Hoffman	Gail Freischlag			
Sept. 20 Pentecost 15	Janet Hoffman	Allison Carter	Jacquie Rodgers	Robin Schulmeister			
Sept. 27 Pentecost 16	Allison Carter	Sharon Rhodes	Keith Rhodes	Allison Carter			

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment, please find a replacement, or contact Pastor Leel Thank you!

Lessons

Sunday	First Lesson	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
August 2 Pentecost 8	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	78:23-29	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
August 9 Pentecost 9	1 Kings 19:4-8	34:1-8	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
August 16 Pentecost 10	Proverbs 9:1-6	34:9-14	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
August 23 Pentecost 11	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	34:15-22	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
August 30 Pentecost 12	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	15	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
September 6 Pentecost 13	Isaiah 35:4-7a	146	James 2:2-17	Mark 7:24-37
September 13 Pentecost 14	Isaiah 50:4-9a	116	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
September 20 Pentecost 15	Jeremiah 11:18-20	54	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
September 27 Pentecost 16	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	19:7-14	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50

Applefest is a'Comin'

One of the highlights of the year for me is working as a St. John's team for our Applefest. We each have seemed to fall into our own niche as to what we enjoy doing or do best. Gloria and I have been doing our booklet since the inception of Applefest and I have taken on the basket auction part with everyone's help. Marcia has the bake table as her domain and Lois and Jerilyn have the dining room organized. Cheri takes care of advertising the event and the kitchen runs smoothly with Sharon at the helm. I think we all have fun in the end, doing our particular thing. Some may feel at a loss as to what exactly needs doing but trust me, this only works because we all pitch in together as the family of St. John's.

Should you feel at a loss as to what to do, please read on and I will give you a few hints how you too can contribute to our chief money maker of the year. If you want a job to do on Oct 19th, please tell Sharon Rhodes that you are willing and available. She will have a place for you. Do you want to bake something? Talk to Marcia for a wide range of ideas for the bake table. Still need to feel you are contributing? How about making a basket for the auction? Better yet, how about getting some gift cards from various sources, gift certificates from places you frequent. You might be surprised how many places will donate if you tell them why or what for.

If you would like, I would also take cash donations to put towards making a basket for you if you would like. Now...do you still need ideas? Here are some basket ideas I have collected along with many baskets so you need not purchase baskets at this point. St. John's seems to do a pretty good job of recycling baskets as my "project room" is full of them. Just give me a call and I will help you assemble and wrap them too.

Now for the ideas: Baby Basket with items for a new infant or mom, Travel basket with ideas for comfort away from home like a small flashlight, travel size bottles, a carry-all etc, Armchair Travel experience with a good travel book, fancy chocolates, DVD of an exotic place, A specific food basket like Popcorn, Spaghetti, Soup etc., Cleaning Basket (the holidays are coming!) or a Busy Box for kids with crayons, art materials, Play-doh, games, puzzles... You get the idea. Be creative, unique if you want but have fun doing it.

That's the point of all the work, fuss and bother that we go through. In the end, we are all tired but can say to each other, "Well, done! Good and faithful servant."

Lois Carter

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Financial Report (as of June 30):

Income to date	\$20,272.31
Expenses to date	\$23,144.80
Checking Account Balance	\$ 882.10
Outstanding commitments	\$ 3,353.00

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Fall Rummage Sale

Time for our Fall Rummage Sale is getting very close. We **Must** have more help for this event to continue happening. It takes two days to set it up and two days for the event itself including cleaning up after. There is plenty of time from Wednesday through Saturday for several people to help out for a bit. This is a parish event and there are jobs for each of us. There will be a sign-up sheet with times that you can select.

This sale provides a service to the community by helping us get our closets, etc cleaned and by giving others a chance to purchase items at a very reasonable price. Clean your closets, cupboards, etc and bring all the **Clean** items in good condition to St John's during September. The sale will take place on October 2-3.

Altar Schedule

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE					
DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE	COLOR	MEMBER
Aug 2	9 th Sunday after Pentecost	8:30am	Eucharist	Green	A. Carter
Aug 2	Parish Picnic	10:30am	Eucharist		
Aug 6	Annointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	A. Carter
Aug 9	10 th Sunday after Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	G. Freischlag
Aug 13	Annointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	G, Freischlag
Aug 16	11 th Sunday after Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	M. High
Aug 20	Annointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	M. High
Aug 23	12 th Sunday after Pentecost	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Green	J. Reid
Aug 27	Annointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Morning Prayer	White	J. Reid
Aug 30	13 th Sunday after Pentecost	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Green	M. Sabey
Sept 3	Annointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	M. Sabey
Sept 6	14 th Sunday after Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	L. Bateman
Sept 10	Annointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	L. Bateman
Sept 13	15 th Sunday After Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	A. Carter
Sept 17	Annointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	A. Carter
Sept 20	16 th Sunday after Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	G. Freischlag
Sept. 24	Annointing & Bible Study	11:00am	Eucharist	White	G. Freischlag
Sept 27	17 th Sunday after Pentecost	9:00am	Eucharist	Green	M. High