



# St. John's Prologue

“In the beginning was the Word...”

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
Williamstown, Massachusetts**

**October 2007**

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Dear People of God,

The most cherished words I've heard since my return from study leave: “You look younger!”

For nine weeks, mid-July to mid-September, I experienced time differently. When I started reading a magazine article, I would finish it. When I saw little things that needed tending-to, I would do them rather than put them on a list. I cared as much about reading enough each day as I did about tackling projects in the gardens, and reading as much fiction as the more serious stuff. And keeping silence with God.

It hurts, to have to admit that in my two weeks back in the saddle I haven't maintained this balance or retained this focus. So it helps, to revisit what was so good about this summer, as I write this letter to you.

Time away included three days in Boston, visiting two hospitals where I observed the kind of interdisciplinary rounds that I help facilitate each month for Northern Berkshire Healthcare, focusing on compassion in health care.

And a rich full week at The Chautauqua Institution, where I attended three lectures each day on the role of sacred texts in Judaism, Islam, and Christianity (while Diana took a writing course), each evening enjoying a symphony concert, opera, dance performance—what a banquet of possibilities! One night, we attended the first half of Massenet's opera “Werther” and the second half of an Emmylou Harris concert... only at Chautauqua!

While we were there, a lovely dinner party was given for us by Bethany Baker (Williams '10) and her family, who live in nearby Westfield, near Lake Erie. They'd invited several clergy friends from the Diocese of Western New York, including Eric Williams (Williams '86), whom St. John's sponsored for ordination, and his wife Susan, from neighboring Jamestown.

And the last two of these nine weeks were spent in Maine, at the house we go to each year in September or October, on Potts Point in South Harpswell. Spectacular weather made it easy to walk several miles a day, visit favorite places like the beach at Popham State Park, and get together with friends including Mary Richardson (Williams '91), whose reception as new Executive Director of Maine Initiatives, a foundation supporting grassroots social justice ventures, we attended in Augusta (she was just back from Boston, where her sister Catherine (Williams '88), married here last fall, had just given birth to a baby girl, Maya.

A day after our return, I re-entered the orbit of St. John's. On a Sunday (how smart was that?), and darned if I couldn't find my clerical collar after all those weeks. That day would see the sun room full of kids and parents and teachers for Worship Outside the Box, a bustling parish picnic at Sand Springs, and endless warm greetings. What a wonderful way to return!

That was the day I heard it the first time: “You look younger.” Now I need to remember all that helped that be true, including the freedom give me by you, the people of St. John's, to take care of myself and to keep growing.

Gratefully,

The Rev. Peter Elvin

## **MEET JACKI PETRINO**

As you might have read in last month's Prologue, we have a new interim youth minister. Here's what you might not know about her: Jacki Petrino has a degree in history from the University of New Hampshire and is currently working on her masters of education from MCLA. Having completed her coursework for her teaching certificate, she is taking time off to lead the children and youth of St. John's before continuing her career in early education. She resides in Williamstown with her husband, Mark, and children, Anthony and Julia. She can be found most weekday mornings in her office here at St. John's. Stop by and say hello! *See more Youth Ministry News on page 5.*

## **WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH?**

Good question! Learn what the Bishops of our Church did, at their recent meeting in New Orleans, to navigate the tossing seas of the Anglican Communion—tune in to Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's live webcast on Tuesday, October 16, at 3:00 p.m. Access will be through the Episcopal Church's Website ([www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)) and the site of Trinity Church, Wall Street ([www.trinitywallstreet.org](http://www.trinitywallstreet.org)).

## **COME TO THE HARVEST BRUNCH!**

Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup> immediately following the 10a.m. service. Hope to see you at there! This will be a wonderful opportunity to relax, listen to some musical entertainment and meet with your friends from St. John's, all the while enjoying some delicious food. Look for a sign-up sheet next week.

## **ST. JOHN'S IN THE WIDER WORLD**

On October 10, the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition will award St. John's a Community Recognition Award for supporting a North County family after their home was destroyed by fire, earlier this summer. In addition to a cash gift, we welcomed this family to store their remaining belongings in our vacant space in the ground floor here, until they could relocate.

On October 25, St. Stan's School in Adams will again welcome St. John's Mission Trip as their Make A Difference project, and will encourage their children to collect toiletries and personal supplies that our missionaries will take with them next summer. On October 10, some of this summer's missionaries will visit St. Stan's to share experiences from their Bolivia trip.

## **IS THE BIRTH RATE RISING?**

Sophia Catherine May was born to Anne Carman May & EJ May on July 25<sup>th</sup>—congratulations, Grandmother Linda!

Zoe Radha Buhner was born in Miami in September, to the joy of grandparents Bob and Judy.

Emelia Christine Secor was born on September 12<sup>th</sup> to Carla and Tom Secor. Congratulations to uncle and aunt Jonathan and Ana Maria, and cousins Christina and Alegra!

## **OCTOBER QUIET DAY**

The Servant Leadership Center of the Berkshires invites you to participate in the **Fall Quiet Day Retreat** on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Helena's Chapel in Lenox, MA. The Rev. Tom Damrosch will be the leader. Suggested donation is \$10.00 To register, contact Pastor Daina at 413.728.8110 or by e-mail at [DSalnitis@aol.com](mailto:DSalnitis@aol.com)

## **CROP (COMMUNITIES RESPONDING TO OVERCOME POVERTY) HUNGER WALK**

You are invited to participate in this year's CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk. CROP was the inaugural program of Church World Service sixty years ago, and this year's local effort will take place in North Adams on Sunday, October 21, beginning at 12:30pm. The route is 3 miles long. Each person who walks will get an envelope in which to collect donations or pledges. The organizers suggest that each walker aim for \$500. For more information, talk to Jim Mahon at 458-2814 or go to [nbcropwalk.org](http://nbcropwalk.org). Jim also has envelopes.



## **A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARY GURLEY**

A requiem holy eucharist will be celebrated here for Mary Gurley on Saturday, October 13, at noon, with a reception following at Sweetwood Retirement Center, where she lived.



## **ST. JOHN'S PERSONALS**

Elizabeth Pasipanodya (Williams '09 and lay eucharistic minister here) is spending the year in Africa, immersing herself in Arabic. This semester she is studying in Syria.

The Rev. Dr. Theodore Sedgwick, founding Rector of St. John's (1894-1900), has been remembered with a handsome mahogany plaque that now hangs just inside the doorway from the vestibule. Several years ago, the parish received an extraordinary bequest from his son, The Rev. Canon Harold Sedgwick, in memory of his father—and with the request that something like this be done to leave a quiet witness to his father's life and work here. Theodore's granddaughter, Emily Sedgwick Bagwill, and her husband, John, were present for the installation of this plaque on September 23. We are grateful to them for helping us make this memorial possible.

André Alan Horton was baptized in Christ here on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. He is the son of Amy and Alan, now of Seattle, and the grandson of David and Wendy Horton (and nephew of their younger son, Christian).

## **WE WEEP AND WE REJOICE**

Raymond James Degere died on September 3<sup>rd</sup> after a long illness. Jim's requiem eucharist was celebrated here on September 6<sup>th</sup>. A well-loved member of St. John's, Jim served as an usher, a Vestry member, a lay eucharistic minister, and a steady cheerful friend. We send our love to Sue, Cheryl, Peter, Paul, Mitch, and their families.

A memorial service for Danforth Geer III was held here on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Janice B. Shotwell died on September 17<sup>th</sup>. More than nineteen months earlier, Jan had faced a prognosis of six months or less. With determination, grace, and powerful support from many friends and her family, she helped us learn how to face the ultimate challenge. There are many now who will miss Jan: the children she taught and respected here and at Herberg Middle School, her colleagues there and at the law library, her family, friends and congregation. Our prayers are with Rich, Andrew, Jean, and Rich.

## **BERKSHIRE COUNTY DOWN SYNDROME BUDDY WALK**

The Berkshire ARC Down Syndrome Family Group invites you to participate in Berkshire County's 1st Down Syndrome Buddy Walk in Dalton on Saturday, October 13, 2007. The primary purpose of the event is to promote awareness for all people with Down syndrome and help overcome outdated stereotypes of persons with Down syndrome. In addition to raising funds to help local programs, national research and advocacy, the event includes a short walk (less than 1 mile) starting at 10:30 AM with food and games to follow. Please contact North County Coordinators Stephen and Donna Narey at (413) 458-9231 or [dontanarey@msn.com](mailto:dontanarey@msn.com) for more information.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HABITAT**

to work on the new Henderson Road project. Must be 16 or older. Supervisors will teach the skills needed for the day's work. Teams are at work Wednesday and Saturday mornings, 9:00 to noon. Information: David Willette, Volunteer Coordinator, 413-663-8563 or [dwwillette@yahoo.com](mailto:dwwillette@yahoo.com). Learn more by visiting [www.northberkshirehabitat.org/buildupdates.html](http://www.northberkshirehabitat.org/buildupdates.html).

## **AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, we have miniature trees**

for sale (still \$5.00) to decorate as part of the Northern Berkshire Habitat For Humanity annual fundraiser: Christmas Tree Showcase, a raffle of these decorated trees, which will be held Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at the First Congregational Church from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.



## **NEW CONTACT INFORMATION**

We have heard from Pat Jefferys who sends her best wishes to all. She is settling into her surroundings and would love to hear from us here at St. John's:

Pat Jefferys e-mail:  
[pjefferys@ptsdeals.com](mailto:pjefferys@ptsdeals.com)

2657 Brighton Road (case sensitive)  
Carlsbad, CA 92010

## A NOTE OF THANKS

Once again during the last week of August, we hosted part of the Williams Christian Fellowship, a group of Williams upperclassmen, who came back to campus early as part of an intense one month New Student Outreach. They were very appreciative of our hospitality:

*"Dearest Brothers and Sister at St. John's Episcopal Church,*

*We are so blessed to have this loving church in the midst of our campus. We thank God for your support and service. Your facilities are wonderful and we are inspired by your willingness to keep the church open to community members. We pray that this year would bring much joy to you all and that the Lord would bless this community! Thank you so much for your involvement and dedication to Williams students.*

*God Bless You All,  
The Students of WCF" (and it was signed by approx. 13 students including our own Ben Kolesar)*



**STUDENTS** - there's always a place at the table for you at The Feast - a weekly gathering of college students whose roots are in the "main line" or "progressive" Christian traditions - or who are just interested in exploring spirituality, sacred texts, and the nature of faithful community. We gather every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. in the Upper Room at St. John's Episcopal Church (directly across Park Street from the Paresky Center) for a home-cooked meal (always vegetarian/vegan-friendly), fellowship, and a simple, reflective service of worship drawn from the life of the Iona Community in Scotland. For more information, please contact Williams College Chaplain Rick Spalding at [Richard.Spalding@williams.edu](mailto:Richard.Spalding@williams.edu) or 597-2483.

## ***ALL ARE WELCOME!***

**EVENSONG  
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 p.m.**

Erin Casey, soprano

The Rev. Hannah Anderson,  
Rector of St. Stephen's, Pittsfield,  
preacher



## **BUY FAIR TRADE ORGANIC COFFEE!**

St. John's continues to offer for sale fair trade, organic coffee in a variety of roasts during the



Sunday morning coffee hour in the upper room. You may also make a purchase Monday – Friday by stopping by the Youth Minister's office. Consider taking home a pound (or two) for yourself or as a gift. All proceeds benefit Youth Ministry.

## **SAFE CHURCH TRAINING HERE**

On Saturday, November 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., we'll host a training event in the prevention of child sexual abuse and adult sexual harassment, open to parish volunteers and staff members from across the Diocese of Western MA.

The Rev. John Betit, pastoral counselor and Rector of St. John's, Sutton, will be the leader.

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

For more information speak to:

Madeline Burdick (458-8144, x 10)

or

Peter Elvin (458-8144, x 11)



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY?**

The children's and youth program hit the road running with a fantastic Worship Outside the Box service featuring the musical and vocal talents of John Kolesar, Dylan Sikelianos, Tyra Nurmi & Evelyn Mahon. Please join us for these alternative services, open of people of all ages, and occurring the first and third Sunday of every month at 9:00 a.m. As we continued through September, the preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders decorated Collect boards, learned about baptism and are beginning to learn the songs heard at worship, the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders showed off their hard work by learning the bells and performing a skit witnessed at family friendly Sunday last week. Continue to look for more involvement by the Children and Youth of St. John's with the welcomed help of our Williams Students at Family Friendly Sunday – now occurring once a month. The middle school kids have moved their digs downstairs and are getting to know one another by creating raps and putting their own unique spin on what St. John's means to them. Thank you to Peter Glover, Paula Consolini and Jimmy Bergin as their leaders. Laurie Glover and Peter Starenko continue to lead the 10<sup>th</sup> graders. We are grateful to have them here (both the leaders and the kids).

Thanks to all the kids who participated in last Sunday's Family Friendly service – it was really fun. And thanks to Andrea Fisher and Haley Mahar for their help in covering the nursery.

Happy Birthday to Evelyn Mahon on September 21<sup>st</sup>, who turned 12; Charlie Starenko, who turned 8 on September 27<sup>th</sup> and Alegra Secor, who turns 7 on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations!

## **SWEET BROOK BINGO CONTINUES!**

Get your best bingo playing game face on because we're headed back to challenge our friends to some more games of bingo! *The second Wednesday of every month* will be the designated day of our trips to Sweet Brook, and all youth in the fourth grade and above are invited to begin the evening in the library of St. John's at 6:00 p.m. for Hot Tomatoes pizza. After we offer our bellies the gift of the best pizza around, we'll head on over for some bingo, returning to St. John's at 7:45 p.m. Drivers and chaperones are needed for this one, so leave word at the church office (458-8144) if you can help.

Donations of *small* stuffed animals and quarters are now being accepted at the door of Youth Minister as the youth bingo players are hoping to bring some gifts to our friends at Sweet Brook. After each game, the resident winner is given the choice of a quarter or stuffed animal. We have noticed the prize reserves are starting to run low. So we want to help, but we need your help to do so!



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## **SUDAN RELIEF TASK FORCE**

### **School Days in Khartoum**

The rainy season necessitates repairs to the mud brick building and woven mat roof of "our" school, whose budget is being overwhelmed by rising prices and an unfavorable rate of exchange.

To maximize services to the approximately 60 youngsters, allocation of our monthly \$800 reduced total staff compensation (already more an honorarium than living wage) from \$400 to \$250. Meals now cost about \$400, allowing a Wednesday meat stew, bread and maybe a salad. Only tea and bread are usual during the rest of the week but children and their families are grateful for this simple meal. \$150 is allocated to materials & school expenses.

An extra \$600 in August enabled purchase of a keyboard in Cairo. Earnings by the choir paid its taxes. Two shipments of reading eyeglasses have been sent; recipients who can, pay for them with funds going to the school.

Unexpected funds from several churches and soup sales enables the Task Force to send \$1,000 from September through December. We will re-evaluate what we can do come January, and look for new ways to raise funds.

### **Episcopal Church Highly Supportive**

There are 28 Sudanese Episcopal congregations in the U.S. Most priests are from Sudan but in June, former "Lost Boy" Zachariah Jok Char was ordained a Priest at Grace Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The news article says that as coffee hour for the regular Sunday service ends, drums, shakers and a cappella singing of the 11:30 Dinka service filter into the churchyard.

A recent survey on Sudan.net showed a strong desire of refugees around the world to return and rebuild the country. However, respondents raised serious questions about the lack of food, water, security and infrastructure such as schools and medical clinics, feeling that the Government of Southern Sudan is not effective in these areas.

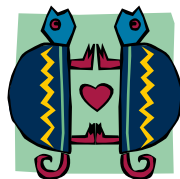
**BIRTHDAYS**



- 1 Warren Hunke, Paul Park
- 2 Anthony DeVito, Wendy Passetto
- 3 James Martin
- 5 David Sprague, Erik Wobus, Richard Scullin, Jr.
- 6 Peter White
- 8 Bart Robinson, Eric Kerns
- 9 Fred Copeland, Lynne Myrth, Jean Wierum
- 10 David Ware, Wendy Greene, Clarissa Allen  
Stephanie Birrell Luedke
- 11 Brandon Burns, Brooke Pickrell,  
Dana Geislinger
- 12 Edward Ortiz
- 17 Charles O'Brien
- 22 Judy Myrth
- 23 Trevor Manning
- 24 William Parsons '07
- 25 Aidan Kozik
- 26 Christopher Bope, John Elder, Jr.,  
Virginia Talbot
- 27 Robert Greene
- 30 Jonathan Bolton, Jim Drummond, Alegra Secor
- 31 Win Brown, Schuyler (Montgomery-Nassif) Gail

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Lew Fisher & Barbara Halligan
- 8 Francis & Penny Willette
- 11 Bob & Gail Burns
- 17 Lou & Tracey Skidmore  
Bart & Ingela Robinson
- 20 Ned & Michele Smith
- 24 James & Catherine Kocsis  
Richard & Dawn Daniels
- 29 Steve & Polly Birrell



**FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH**

- 26 Ruth Laidlaw



**FROM THE PARISH CALENDAR**

*Specials this month:*

Harvest Brunch, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 a.m.  
*see p. 2*

**ONGOING:**

**Tuesdays**

- 9:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Upper room
- 9:30 a.m., EI Playgroup
- 2:30 p.m., Evening Prayer, Sweetbrook  
(not 2nd week of the month)
- 7:30 p.m., AA, Lower Room (*note: new time*)

**Wednesdays**

- 9:30 a.m., EI Playgroup
- 5:45 p.m., Meditation, Room 3

**Thursdays**

- 1:00 p.m., Affin-KNIT-ty Group
- 7:30 p.m., Choir rehearsal
- 8:00 p.m., AA, Library (*note: new location*)

**Fridays**

- 10:30 a.m., Bible Study, Rite-13 room
- Noon, AA, Upper Room

**MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

Wednesday, October 10,  
 10:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Wmst. Commons  
 6:00 p.m., Pizza and Sweetbrook Bingo  
 7:00 p.m., VESTRY

Thursday, October 11  
 6:30 p.m., National Alliance for the  
 Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group, library

Wednesday, October 17  
 12 noon, Staff meeting, library

Sunday, October 21  
 11:30 a.m., Home Delivered Meals

Wednesday, October 24,  
 10:30 a.m., Conversation with Caregivers.  
 upper room  
 2:30 p.m., Sweetbrook Holy Eucharist

Monday, October 29  
 4:00 p.m., Sweetwood Holy Eucharist

