

The Rector's Sabbatical Starts Now!

All the Details in this Issue



MAY ~ JUNE 2010

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DEAR FRIENDS

By The Rev. RICHARD A. MAXWELL
Rector

As you read this I will be beginning my very first sabbatical.

My dictionary defines a sabbatical this way: Pertaining or appropriate to the Sabbath as a day of rest. A year during which land remained fallow observed every seven years by the ancient Jews. A leave of absence with pay, usually granted every seventh year, as to a college professor, for travel, research, or rest.

Although I'm obviously not a college professor, Episcopal priests also are granted sabbaticals, and I will be doing a bit of travel, some research, and getting some rest during my time away. The sabbatical itself is three months long and I'll be adding some vacation time; I'll be away almost four months, which sounds like a long time but I expect it will fly by for us all.

My travel will be primarily to visit my sisters. My eldest sister Nancy lives in Chula Vista, CA with her husband of fifty years, John. They will have returned

from their anniversary trip to Great Britain and France when I visit them, and I'm looking forward to hearing their stories. Our "middle" sister, Mary Catherine, lives in our hometown, Midland, MI and I expect to have a great time seeing her and visiting some of my old "stomping grounds."

As the "research" part of my sabbatical, I'll be taking an intense five-day course in mediation skills training, which I expect will be very helpful in my future ministry. My primary focus during this sabbatical, however, will be on exploration and renewal. I want to reinvigorate my creative energies: I've already begun a ten-week drawing class at the Silvermine Guild Art Center in New Canaan, and I'm loving it. I'll inflict some of my creations on you when I return in the fall. I'm also going to begin studying the piano again . . . but don't worry, I will NOT inflict my playing on you!

There is also a pile of books that I intend to dip into. A partial list can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. There's no particular rhyme or reason to the list; they're simply books about which, at some time or other, I've said to myself, "Oh, I really want to read that!" but have never found the time. I don't really expect to finish them all, and I predict that some other books may attract my attention while I'm away, but I do expect to have fun trying to read as much as I can.

The final piece of my renewal will be a couple of retreats that I'm very much looking forward to. I'm planning on spending a week at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY, and a separate week at Emery House, in northern MA, which is run by the Society of St. John the Evangelist.

The "rest" part of the sabbatical should be the easy part: Paul gave me a hammock for my birthday . . . it's already set up and ready to be broken in.

And while I'm away, what will YOU do? Well, I certainly hope that you'll continue to attend mass and participate in church activities. A few parishioners have decided to reorganize the parish office while I'm away, and there's a rumor that Grace will be establishing a stronger presence on the Internet . . . look out Facebook and YouTube! And I have a not-so-secret wish that a gardener will decide to reclaim/create a garden along the fence between the church and the school parking lot . . . if that's you, go for it! (But please let the junior warden know what you're up to . . .)

You also might follow my lead. Pick up a book that you've been meaning to read and READ it. Pursue a creative outlet that you've fantasized about but never given yourself permission to undertake. Make a point to spend time with family and friends . . . especially those you haven't seen in a long time. Make the effort to step back from the rush of everyday life and spend some time with . . . God. And get some REST!

I'm already looking forward to reconnecting in the fall and comparing notes about our fabulous summer!

Yours in Christ,
Max+

Fr. Max's Sabbatical/Vacation Schedule

The Rector's last weekday Mass before leaving on sabbatical will be Thursday, April 29, 2010, which is also his last day in the church office. His last Sunday, however, will be May 9. He returns to the church office on Tuesday, August 31, which will also be the first weekday Mass that he celebrates after his sabbatical. His first Sunday back at Grace will be Sept. 5, 2010.

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By THOMAS A. PHILLIPS
Senior Warden

SENIOR WARDEN'S CORNER

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!
The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Happy Easter! It always amazes me how well we make it through Lent, Holy Week and Easter! Being Anglo Catholic is not for wimps — that's for sure!

This year, Holy Week was a bit tougher than usual for me due to a resurgence of youthful exuberance on my part. Two weeks before Good Friday, I managed to hit a speed bump while racing my bicycle with a group of riders from my racing club which launched my bike and I into low earth orbit resulting in an undignified and hard landing on my left side. In addition to the usual "Road Rash" (abrasions) that result from such episodes, I managed to fracture my left hip-socket, acetabulum, and have been clomping around with a walker for the past three weeks with three more to go! No surgery, just no weight on the left leg. I hope to be back on two legs by the time this Newsletter comes out.

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned that I was hoping to learn just what a Senior Warden does. Well, I found out. As noted elsewhere in this Newsletter, I, along with Junior Warden Bill Pascucci, will be in charge of the Parish during Father Max's well deserved sabbatical and vacation, May through August of this year. During Fr. Max's absence, I will be the primary contact for all matters pertaining to the Parish. We have a schedule for clerical coverage of the weekly services through the period. The following article explains what will take place during the next four months.



Our Clergy Schedule During the Rector's Sabbatical

By THOMAS A PHILLIPS, Senior Warden

We have established the following schedule for clerical coverage during the Rector's sabbatical and vacation during May, June, July and August.

- **Sundays** ~ For the majority of the Sunday 8 AM and 10:30 AM services, we are fortunate to have The Rev. Lesley Hay as the Celebrant, starting Sunday, May 16, 2010. Rev. Leslie was ordained as a Priest in Oxford, England in June of 2006, has an Anglo Catholic background and has been canonically resident in the Diocese of Connecticut since January of 2008. She recently served as Interim Rector at Grace & St. Peter's Church, Hamden, CT.
- **Tuesdays** ~ Fr. Richard Tombaugh, a familiar face at Grace Church will be the celebrant at the majority of the Tuesday evening, 5:30 PM services.
- **Wednesdays** ~ For the Wednesday, 7:15 AM Mass, Fr. Carroon, Fr. Pokorny and Fr. Borden Painter will be sharing the duties as Celebrant.
- **Thursdays** ~ The Rev. Lesley Hay will celebrate Mass at 5:30 PM. The program for the month of May will be led by Deacon Gary Mongillo, starting at 7:00 PM. Those attending Mass usually bring something to eat in the Parish House or go to a local restaurant for dinner before the program.

I have put all of the details in The Sabbatical Coverage Calendar which is available on line at <http://ical.me.com/tomaphillips/Sabbatical>. If you are a MacIntosh Computer user, you can subscribe to the Sabbatical Coverage Calendar at webcal://ical.me.com/tomaphillips/Sabbatical.ics. This calendar will be updated as necessary.

In the event that the services of a Priest are necessary outside of the scheduled services, we have an impressive array of Clerics, including Fr. Carroon and Fr. Pokorny who have agreed to minister to the spiritual needs of the Parish during the Rector's absence, subject to their availability. In case of an emergency, please get in touch with me and I will contact the appropriate Cleric as necessary.

We also have a very active Pastoral Care Committee who routinely visits those shut in or in the hospital. Namely, Sharen Baker, Kathy Jaeger, Jane Lacedonia, Elizabeth M. Miel, Deacon Gary Mongillo, Tom Phillips, Jim Shafer, and Betsy Ward Chicares. Do not hesitate to contact me if you or someone you know would like a visit or to add someone to the Prayer List.

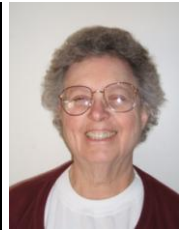
I know that while we will all certainly miss Fr. Max, we all just as certainly hope he has a fruitful and invigorating Sabbatical and vacation! We look forward to his return in September, as bright eyed and bushy tailed as Cosmo!

This will be an interesting period for all of us. We will have to pull together to keep the Parish running smoothly. We few, the faithful, the Anglo Catholics!

The Peace of the Lord be always with you!



FINANCIAL CORNER



By ELAINE PHILLIPS
Treasurer

As discussed elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Vestry has been working with the Rector to provide for his sabbatical (already a year overdue). Although all of us will miss Fr. Max while he is on this extended leave from his parish responsibilities, we know that it is for his benefit and ultimately for ours that he have some time for rest and rejuvenation.

Of course, we will continue to have most of our regularly scheduled worship services and we need priests to cover these services. Fr. Maxwell has found priests willing and able to celebrate Mass with us, and this will be an opportunity for us to become acquainted with some of the other clergy in our diocese. Of course, this will be an additional expense for the parish.

Much of this expense has been anticipated in previous years, but our chronic deficit has left us short of cash. If anyone would like to (and is able to) make a contribution toward these expenses, it would be most welcome. As always, when you give us a check, clearly state (on the memo line, or on the enclosing envelope, or with a Post-it note) what it is for: in this case, “Rector’s Leave Fund.” Most importantly, please continue your regular pledges and contributions — we still have the regular bills to pay!

We wish Fr. Max a refreshing leave and look forward to seeing him again in September. Meanwhile, the parishioners of Grace Church will continue to worship every week (Sundays and most weekdays), and enjoy our usual coffee hour fellowship. I hope to see you there!

I Have 17 (so far!) Books on My Summer Sabbatical Reading List

By The Rev. RICHARD A. MAXWELL, Rector

When members of the vestry and I began discussing my sabbatical, I told them that I had “a pile of books” that I’d like to begin to read. Below is a list of some of those books. I don’t expect to get through them all . . . and it’s possible that the spirit will lead to some new books I haven’t come across yet. But nevertheless, here are some of the titles I’m yearning to get to.

Books by a few friends came out in the past year or so, which I want to read: *Good Influence, Teaching the Wisdom of Adulthood*, by Daniel Heischman; *Reasonable and Holy, Engaging Same Sexuality*, by Tobias Haller; and *The Business of Believers, Reflections on Leadership*, by Richard Norris. Dick gave me early drafts of some of the essays that appear in this book and it’ll be fun to see how his thinking changed and evolved as he worked on these pieces.

I also want to reread Dick’s *Understanding the Faith of the Church*, which was part of an earlier Church Teaching Series; *The Song of Songs*, which is a collection of his translations of early Christian and medieval commentators’ writings about this book in the Bible; and a special edition of *The Anglican Theological Review*, centered around Dick’s essay, “Homosexuality, Ethics, and the Church.”

I provided a small bit of assistance to that edition of the *ATR*, and as a thank you, one of the collaborators sent me copies of three of her books, which look quite good. Her name is Kathryn Tanner and the books are: *Jesus, Humanity, and the Trinity, A Brief Systematic Theology*; *Spirit in the Cities, Searching for Soul in the Urban Landscape*; and *Economy of Grace*.

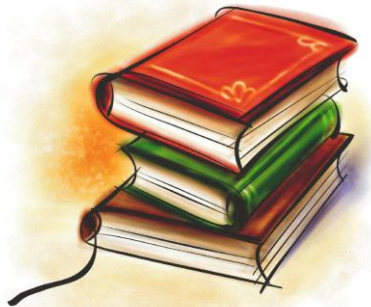
On the re-reading front, I'm hoping to look again at St. Augustine's *Confessions*; *Meister Eckhart*, a collection of his writings in the Classics of Western Spirituality series; *Saving Belief*, a collection of Austin Farrer's writing; and *Paths in Spirituality* by John Macquarrie. I'll probably also find myself dipping into some of the many books I have by Evelyn Underhill, as she is a perennial favorite of mine.

Two new-ish books are also on my radar: *A History of Christianity, The First Three Thousand Years*, by Diarmaid MacCulloch; and *From Disgust to Humanity* by Martha Nussbaum. This later book may lead me to reread *Covering, the Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights*, by Kenji Yoshino, which I found to be very powerful.

There's also a book that's moved from one pile to another many times, which I really DO mean to read this summer: *Christianity for the Rest of Us, How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith* by Diana Butler Bass.

Finally, there's a big fat volume sitting on my desk, which I'm yearning to play with: a new edition of *The Shape of the Liturgy* by Dom Gregory Dix. This is still THE book on the development of the Eucharistic rite.

So, what about YOU? Are there any books that you're yearning to read? Why not join me this summer and finally get to them? We can report back in the fall





May 13, 2010

Ascension Thursday

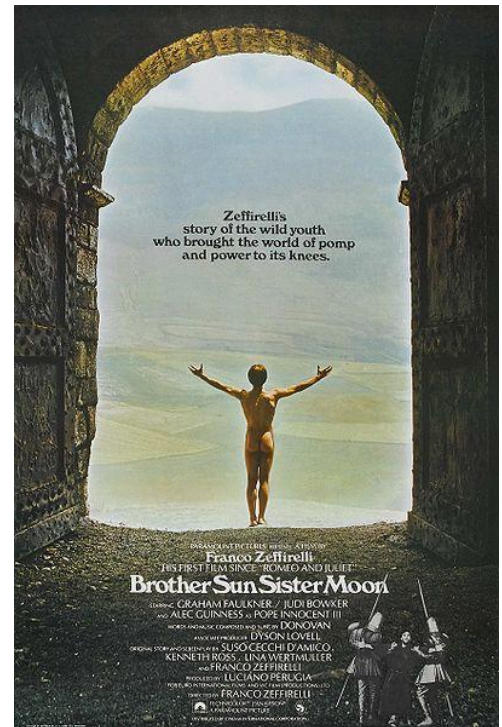
The Feast of the Ascension will be celebrated at Grace with a Solemn High Mass at 6:00 PM followed by a potluck supper in Nason Hall.

The Other Thursdays of May

Gatherings to Focus on St. Francis

The Thursday Gatherings in May feature three programs dealing with St. Francis of Assisi led by Deacon Gary Mongillo, who is himself a Franciscan. During the first one, May 6, 2010, he will show the first half of the movie, *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*. On May 20, and May 27, he will show the remaining segments of the movie. As usual, each Gathering begins with Mass in the chapel at 5:30 PM. After Mass, some folks bring supper to eat in Nason Hall, while others sup at “Lena’s” pizza restaurant on Park Street. Everyone then gathers back at church at 7:00 PM for the program and discussion. Everyone is welcome to participate as little or as much as they wish.

Brother Sun, Sister Moon is a 1972 Italian film directed by Franco Zeffirelli and starring Graham Faulker and Judi Bowker. It is a biopic of St. Francis of Assisi and features Zeffirelli’s lush photography. The film attempts to draw parallels between the work and



(Continued on Page 12)



May

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  | St. Philip & St. James, Apostles  | |
| Easter V 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | |
| 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass | AA | 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group | 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at <i>Effie's</i> 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Thursday Gathering | | | |
| Easter VI 9 ♥Mother's Day♥ Rogation Sunday | 10 | 11 | 12 | Ascension Day 13 | 14 | 15 | |
| 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass |  AA | 5:30 p.m. Healing Mass AA | 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at <i>Effie's</i> 4:00 Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 9 a.m. Pantry  6 p.m. Solemn High Mass Potluck Supper |  |  Bishop's 5K for Kids 8:00 a.m. On-site Registration 9:30 a.m. 5K Start 9:45 a.m. Kids' Field Day | |
| Easter VII 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | |
| 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass | AA | 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA | 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at <i>Effie's</i> 4:00 Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Thursday Gathering | | | |
| Pentecost 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | |
| 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass 12:15 p.m. Vestry Meeting |  AA | 5:30 p.m. Low Mass AA | 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at <i>Effie's</i> 4:00 Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Thursday Gathering | | | |
| Trinity Sunday 30 | Vistation of 31 the Blessed Virgin Mary Memorial Day | <p style="text-align: center;">May Notes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Father Maxwell's Sabbatical Begins Contemplative Prayer Group (Tuesday, 5th, 19th - 7 p.m.) Thursday Gatherings (6th, 20th, 27th.) <i>St. Francis</i> ~ 5:30 p.m. Mass, followed by discussion at 7 p.m. ASCENSION DAY (Thursday, 13th ~ 6 p.m.) Solemn High Mass followed by Potluck Supper Education Hour (Sundays, 9:45 a.m.) Healing Mass (Tuesday, 11th, 5:30 p.m.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bishop's 5K for Kids (Saturday, 15th) Vestry Meeting (Sunday, 23rd ~ 12:15 p.m., Rector's Office) PENTECOST (Sunday, 23rd) TRINITY SUNDAY (Sunday, 30th) Memorial Day (Monday, 31st)</p> | | | | |  AA |
| 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass  | | | | | | | |

2010



June



| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
|  | <p>June Notes</p> <p>Corpus Christi (Sunday, 6th) Healing Mass (8th, 5:30 p.m.) Contemplative Prayer Group (Tuesdays, 1st, 15th, 29th - 7 p.m.) Last Choir Rehearsals for Summer (Wednesday, 2nd - 7 p.m.) Last Education Hour for Summer (Sunday, 20th, 9:45 a.m.) Parkville Classics Presents <i>Musical Friends</i> (Saturday, 26th - 7:30 p.m.) Vestry Meeting (Sunday, 20th - 12:15 p.m.) Father Maxwell Sabbatical Continues</p> | | | | |  |
|  |  | 1 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA | 2 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at <i>Effie's</i> 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 3 5:30 p.m. Low Mass | 4 | 5 |
| Corpus Christi 6 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass | 7  AA | 8 5:30 p.m. Healing Mass AA | 9 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at <i>Effie's</i> 4:00 Pantry Food | 10 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass | 11 St. Barnabas The Apostle  | 12 |
| Pentecost III 13 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass | 14 | 15 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA | 16 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at <i>Effie's</i> 4:00 Pantry Food <i>Packing</i> | 17 9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass | 18 | 19 |
| Pentecost IV 20 Father's Day 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass 12:15 p.m. Vestry Meeting | 21  AA | 22 5:30 p.m. Low Mass AA | 23 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at <i>Effie's</i> 4:00 Pantry Food | 24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist  9 a.m. Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass | 25 | 26  7:30 p.m. Parkville Classics " <i>Musical Friends</i> " |
| Pentecost v 27 8 a.m. Low Mass 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass | 28 | 29 St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA | 30  |  |  |  |

2010

(Continued from Page 9)

philosophy of Saint Francis and the ideology that underpinned the worldwide hippie movement of the 1960s and early 70s. The film also contrasts Francis' innocence, piety, and virtue with the worldliness of many ecclesiastical office holders, who are depicted as greedy and concerned with internal politics. The film is known for the score composed by Riz Ortolani, and it received an Academy Award nomination for best art direction.

Saint Francis of Assisi (Giovanni Francesco di Bernardone, 1181/1182 - Oct. 3, 1226) was a deacon and preacher. He founded the Order of Friars Minor, commonly known as the Franciscans, and is known as the patron saint of animals, the environment, and one of the two patrons of Italy (the other is Catherine of Siena). At Grace it is customary to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his feast day in October. His coat of arms is the Tau.



A FRANCISCAN CROSS

By KEN NORIAN, TSSF

The first recorded reference to the TAU is from Ezekiel 9:4, "Go through the city of Jerusalem and put a TAU on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it." The TAU is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet and looks very much like the letter "T".

At the Fourth Lateran Council, on November 11, 1215, Pope Innocent made reference to the TAU and quoted the above verse in reference to the profaning of the Holy Places by the Saracens. It is widely accepted that St. Francis was present at the Fourth Lateran Council and that he heard the words of Pope Innocent III when he said, "The TAU has exactly the same form as the Cross on which our Lord was crucified on Calvary, and only those will be marked with this sign and will obtain mercy who have mortified their flesh and conformed their life to that of the Crucified Savior. From then on, the TAU became Francis' own coat of arms.

Francis used the TAU in his writings, painted in on the walls and doors of the places where he stayed, and used it as his only signature on his writings. St. Bonaventure said, "This TAU symbol had all the veneration and all the devotion of the saint: he spoke of it often in order to recommend it, and he traced it on himself before beginning each of his actions."

“Still Learning”

By Ann J. Witt

i am still learning how to walk along life's sidewalk
learning to walk in other people's shoes
and it is a lesson so hard to learn
will it take so long to learn it then?

everything gets carried down the sacred river
do you think your body is so different
its mass of flesh and bones
do you think you are so different than that bird
who will lay supine as it is
carried down through
the same water?

and yet you are different
you are precious,
light full of light
God calling to God
in you.

and maybe it will take many lifetimes for you
to know who and what you are
this sacred being, this heartbeat
of the universe
even as others walk beside you
visible and invisible.

God watches you as once he watched
the bellowing, shivering dinosaurs
he waits for you to get it
to know that to live for others is better
than living for your small concerns.

i will fetch it now
for you
this small drink of water
this infinite, seemingly indifferent gift:
you drink it down, waiting for God
to notice your pain
but we all have pain
and today in sending you this
i hope your pain weakened
and that your joy
(radiant pause)
enveloped you at last
the way it's really meant to be
really.



Bartolomé Esteban Perez Murillo, *Infant Jesus and John the Baptist* (1600's)

June 24

The Nativity of John the Baptist

By ELIZABETH MAC KIERNAN MIEL

We celebrate the Nativity of Christ at the time of the Winter Solstice, the darkest day of the year when the sun (in the Northern hemisphere) is at its weakest. At the Summer Solstice, when the day is longest, the church commemorates the birth of John the Baptizer, the forerunner of Christ.

St John's day has had many folk customs associated with it – especially the lighting of bonfires and fireworks. Flaming wheels were set rolling down hills on this day to represent the sun as it reaches its peak and then immediately begins to fall away again. At this time also, the yellow wild flower, St Johnswort, is blooming everywhere (yes, even in New England), a weed whose properties are said to include the healing of depression.

Only in the Gospel of Luke is John's birth story told. His aged father Zechariah, a priest at the temple, is performing the ritual offering of incense when the angel Gabriel appears to him and announces that Zechariah's wife Elizabeth, although aging and apparently barren, will bear a son, who "will drink no wine nor strong drink and will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb." Zechariah is skeptical and asks for a sign and so is struck dumb, forced to communicate by signs and writing until the child is born.

Then we read, "In the sixth month, (that is, in the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy) the Angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David and the virgin's name was Mary."
Lk. 1:26,27

Traditionally then, John is conceived at the autumnal equinox and born at midsummer while Jesus is conceived at the spring equinox and born in midwinter.

The first meeting of John and Jesus is a very strange one — they are both still unborn and in their mothers' wombs. When Mary who had just conceived the Savior, visits and greets her kinswoman, Elizabeth, John, already a prophetic presence even before his birth, leaps for joy. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and speaks prophetically herself. "How does it happen that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?"

The second meeting of John and Jesus is by the River Jordan when Jesus joins the large crowds coming out to hear John who is preaching and baptizing in the desert. Jesus also is baptized and John, seeing the sign of the dove which is the Holy Spirit, cries out: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Jesus and John have parallel but very different ministries. John is an ascetic, living in the wilderness. He wears a camel skin instead of woven cloth and appears like the prophet Elijah who, in Jewish tradition is always expected to appear before Messiah comes. John limits his diet to wild food — even insect food — locusts, and wild honey from the bees. (Locusts by the way are actually Kosher because, although they are insects, they hop rather than creep along the ground.)

Jesus, in contrast, seems to be always having dinner with someone. He eats with his friends and also with sinners and tax collectors; he feeds the crowds with miraculously multiplied bread and fish; and instructs his followers to remember him in a sacred meal.

The disciples of John asked Jesus: “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” And Jesus answers: “Can the wedding guests mourn when the bridegroom is with them?” (Mt 9:14, 15) “For John came neither eating nor drinking and they say: He has a demon. The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say: Behold a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.” (Mt 11:18)



Titian. *St. John the Baptist* (1542)

John’s message was urgent and violent. He warned of the end times and an imminent doom about to fall on the unrighteous. He expected the Messiah to come as a judge who would overthrow all the evildoers and purify the world by fire. “REPENT! you brood of vipers. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.... Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the tree. I baptize you with water but he who is coming...will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Mt 3:7-12

Jesus’ ministry puzzled the disciples of John.

They came to him when John was in prison and asked: “Are you the one who is to come or should we seek another?” (Lk 7:19) Jesus’ answer shows a different picture of Messianic ministry than John had predicted. (I wonder if this explanation satisfied the headstrong Baptist.) “Go and tell John...the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.” (Lk 7:22)

At midsummer when the sun is strongest, the church remembers the birth of John, the fiery preacher of the desert of whom the Gospel says: “He was not the light; he was sent to bear witness to the light,” and in the Daily Office we remember the birth of John the Baptist when we recite the Canticle of Zechariah which ends with these lines:

“And thou. child. shalt be called the prophet of the Highest
For thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways.
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people
For the remission of their sins,
Through the tender mercy of our God
Whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,
To give light to them that sit in darkness
And in the shadow of death,
And to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

“A Place of Grace” Food Pantry Astounds **FOODSHARE** Inspector

“When hunger stops, so will we.”

Fr. Max reports that a recent inspection by Foodshare, the Greater Hartford area’s food bank and distribution facility for nearly 350 food pantries serving the 42 towns of Hartford and Tolland Counties, revealed that the administrators of our own “A Place of Grace” food pantry obtain, on average, 1,300 pounds of food for every \$1.00 spent.

Most organizations get between 10 and 100 pounds of food for each \$1.00. “They double checked the report because they couldn’t believe this at first,” he said.

The pantry feeds about 200 needy families from the Parkville area each week. Administrators are Carol Hilton and June Blacksten. This was the first inspection that the Foodshare representative has attended in 4 years at which both the clergy person and volunteer leaders of a local pantry were present. “She was pleased and impressed,” Fr. Max said.



By BILL PASCUCCI
Junior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S CORNER

It is the Junior Warden's responsibility to ensure that the properties owned by the parish, including the Church and Nason Hall on 55 New Park Avenue and the Rectory at 42 Rumford Street in West Hartford, are properly maintained and operating as intended. This is no easy task, since our buildings are older. Although we are a small parish, we face the same type of mechanical failures, repairs and damages as larger parishes. Due to our size and limited budget, we are unable to retain a maintenance staff. However, through the efforts of Bethany-Anne Bouchard, our sexton, who keeps the Church and Hall clean and operable, we are able to serve our many missions.

Recent Developments

Last fall, a roof face board fell off of the church near the front door. It was replaced the next day. However, squirrels were observed making their way into the roof before the repair was completed. The squirrels were later heard in the ceiling of Nason Hall. We contacted A&A Residential Pest Services, LLC ("A&A") who confirmed the squirrels entered and then left the building. However, during this inspection, evidence of termites was noted.

Shortly thereafter we completed a more detailed inspection that confirmed termites have taken up residency beneath the church and caused some damage to the wood that supports the church floor. We have entered into a contract with A&A to eliminate the termites. A&A will be on the property in June and it is expected the termites will be eliminated within 2-3 weeks of the treatment.

However, to ensure they will not reappear, we must also remove as much moisture from beneath the church as possible. This will be done with the installation of a vapor barrier and a dehumidifier. Once the termites are eliminated, we will obtain estimates from contractors to repair the damaged wood supports under the floor. There is no danger of a floor collapse, since the damage to these supports is minimal and caught before more significant damage could occur.

Lawn Maintenance Contract

Trent Landscaping has been providing yard maintenance and snow removal services for the last year. We have been very pleased with the services they provide. Trent has slightly reduced the fee for their service and has submitted a guaranteed fee contract extension that will not increase over the next two years. This contract will be presented for approval at the next Vestry meeting. Once approved, the spring clean-up and mowing will begin.

If anyone is interested joining the Building Committee, with John Pryor, Eunice Lyman and myself, please let one of us know. If there are any suggestions or ideas that you believe will benefit our property and / or our parishioners, we would like to hear from you.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

55 New Park Avenue,
Hartford, CT 06106

The Rev. Richard Anderson Maxwell, *Rector*

The Rev. Gary Mongillo, *Deacon*

The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, *Senior Associate Priest*

The Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Pokorny, *Associate Priest*

Mr. Dennis Kane, *Verger*

Mr. Kyle Swann, *Choirmaster and Organist*

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to Tori Burns, Tom Phillips, Bill Pascucci, Elaine Phillips, Fr. Max, Fr. Wayne Pokorny, Deacon Gary Mongillo, and Elizabeth MacKiernan Miel for their help and suggestions with this issue of "Grace Notes." Contributions from others are always welcome and may be sent to me at any time at klemonskie@aol.com.

This is the last issue of the season. "Grace Notes" will be on vacation July and August. It will reappear in September when the Rector does.

EDWARD S. KLEMONSKI, Editor

May ~ June 2010 Issue

GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH



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If you are receiving this newsletter in error or wish to be taken off the mailing list, please notify the Church office.

PARKVILLE CLASSICALS

All concerts are on Saturday evenings in the church. They are free and start at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited and on a first-come basis. A reception in the Parish Hall to meet the musicians follows each concert.

JUNE 26, 2010 ~ MUSICAL FRIENDS