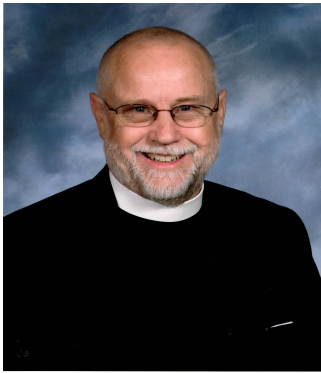


St. James Newsletter

July 2013

From the Rector



In the coming days, Elizabeth and I will prepare to head for Little Compton, Rhode Island for two weeks. It appears all three of our children will join us for some of our time, a rare event as these young adults experience the swift and varied changes of their age cohort. We have rented small places in that seaside community every summer since 1984, two years before I went to divinity school. Our first child was eighteen months that year, so the kids have always known Little Compton.

This quiet corner of the Ocean State constitutes a land's end. People do not go there on the way to someplace else, because the road stops at Sakonnet Point, a sandy finger pointing to Vineyard Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. A combination of marshy ground and fussy landowners has spared the place from development, so there is blessedly "nothing to do." Nothing except to go the beach, spend time doing simple things with people you love and eat fresh corn. Life always has complications, of course, and there are still trips to airports, extended family gatherings to attend, the occasional health crisis. Still, this seaside corner draws us year after year.

The thirtieth year of entering into this world brings to mind how the place has shaped me. My passion for care of our Earth arose through connecting with the primal elements of earth, air, fire and water known through the rhythms of swimming, sleeping, walking and eating. Odd that a place so remote grows such deep connection. I look forward to this time away, a real Sabbath.

I also look forward to our time together in September and beyond. The connections I feel in that place of rest nurture the ties we share with one another. The Capital Campaign we will launch the Sunday after Labor Day will bind us together even more strongly than the cords of worship, service and friendship which have made us the community we are now.

In the meantime, my prayer for each of you is that you will find your own Sabbath times of rest and contemplation.

Yours in Christ,

Benediction: Gladness

Gladness is a lovely feature of human life. It is a happy response of the soul to life as it is best lived. We are glad when we have friends, we are glad when a baby smiles, we are glad when we accomplish something important to us. It is a soft response and a beautiful one. It's not all that intense or focused, it is diffuse and peaceful.

Sometimes we use the word glad to mean less-than-honorable responses: I'm glad they're dead/going to prison/shut out of life some way. This isn't really "glad," it's a way of separating ourselves from fearful people who have done or we believe can do us harm, hurt us. It is in the vengeance spectrum, not the gladness spectrum. These are very different; we know that in our bones.

Sometimes we use the word glad to mean relief: I'm glad that test is over, the bills got addressed as best as possible, the cleaning got started, and the laundry got done (and put away)! But gladness is different from relief. Gladness is about the present. We are relieved a stressful task is done; we are glad we can enjoy clean clothes and the way they smell and feel.

Where is God in all this? Right with us! God is God of the present – that is where we know God best, most personally. If you are glad, God is right there. Well, God is right there whether you are hurt, afraid and vengeful or whether you are stressed and relieved. But we are freer to appreciate and experience God when we are glad. There is no ego in gladness, there are no walls either up or tumbling down, there is just the gladness, our soul's happy response to life this moment.

We all know people who are rarely glad. These beloved creatures of God are trapped in anticipation of the future (which never happens correctly) or in past assaults that never get shed, healed or forgiven. They are so terrified of the present, of something horrible happening – right now – that they can't see a pretty smile, a lovely flower, and a lazy day. It is the job of those of us who are glad, who are free enough to know gladness, to hold these injured souls in our gladness.

What does this mean? It does not mean that we say, "Hey look, there's a lovely flower! Let's be glad about it!" It means that we, glad because of the lovely flower, reach out and hold that damaged person in our glad hearts. It means we hear all the fear and acrimony they lay on us. It means we, out of the gladness of our hearts, minister to the truly unlovely, the hardest to love of all human beings: the ones who can never be glad.

Gladness: a lovely, peaceful, pleasant state known in the moment, in the present. We can access gladness simply by being in the moment and letting our souls recognize the blessings God has set before us to delight our souls. Gladness; the soft light at night, the soft response to the day, the diffuse presence of God than never leaves, is always there.

~ Jane Wolfe for Bog Chapel Inc.
www.bogchapel.org

Department of Children and Families Seeks School Supplies

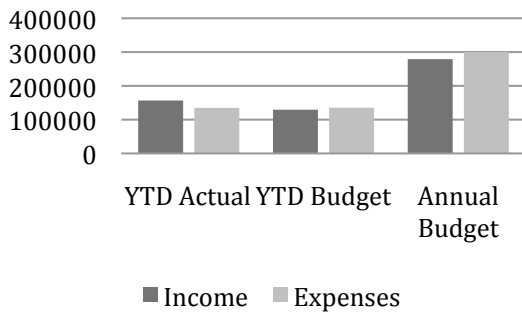
DCF is once again seeking donations of school supplies for children in the Vermont foster care program. They are in need of pencils, pens, notebooks, and anything else school related. There is a box for donations at the back of the St. James Church. Donations will be accepted until Sunday, August 4.



Betty Berlenbach to Preach and Celebrate

The Rev. Norman MacLeod will be on vacation in August. He will leave Woodstock on Friday, August 2, returning to the office on Tuesday, August 20. The Rev. Betty Berlenbach will preach and celebrate on Sundays, August 4, 11 and 18. She will also be available for pastoral emergencies.

Operating Income & Expense as of 5/31/13



Thanks to a large number of early pledge payments, income stayed ahead of expenses through May. As shown on the graph, income is ahead of its projected level for this point in the year, while expenses are very close to what was expected. A more detailed listing is posted on the bulletin board.

Hopefully, by the time you read this you will have also received your pledge statement for the first half of the year. Most of these are sent by email. If you made a pledge and did not receive a statement or have found a discrepancy, please let either Laura Kent or Karen Vitols know so that we can make any needed corrections. They may be contacted through the church office, 457-1727.

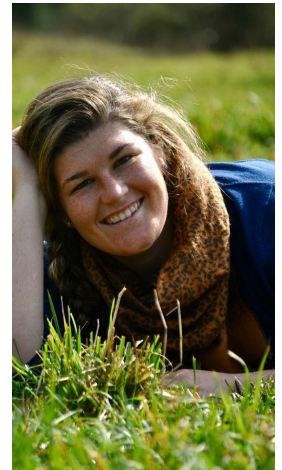
~Karen Vitols, Treasurer

St. James Awards Scholarship To Elizabeth Miller

We are pleased to announce that the Scholarship Committee has chosen Elizabeth Miller as a recipient for a scholarship to help defray her college expenses.

Lizzie, a 2013 graduate of WUHS was President of her senior class, a three-season varsity athlete (2 yr. captain of soccer, 3 yr. captain of alpine skiing, tennis), and President of the Student Athletic Council.

She was also a member of the National Honor Society and Secretary of the Spanish National Honor Society.



This fall she will attend St. Lawrence University, located in upstate New York. She plans on playing soccer and participating in various athletics along with extra-curricular activities. With a desire to major in Pre-Law, she feels fortunate enough to be attending a university where her learning opportunities are limitless, no matter what she may decide to study. She loves spending time with friends and family here in Woodstock and states she will surely visit them and her congregation when she returns from school throughout the year.

Alleluia! Family Fun Day

Saturday, August 3

**The Episcopal Church in Vermont Summer Gathering at Rock Point, Burlington
12-5 p.m. with BBQ at 3 p.m.**

**Face painting, homemade pie contest, scavenger hunt, softball, volleyball, basketball,
swimming indoor card games....something for everyone!**

\$10 Adults, \$5 Children or \$30 for a family of four or more. Scholarships available.

To register: RSVP to the Alleluia! Family Fun Day by contacting the Diocesan Office at AdminAsst@DioceseofVermont.org or call (802) 863-3431 by Sunday, July 21st.

Pay at the event with cash or check please.

Enter the Pie Contest by bringing your favorite home baked pie to claim fame and prizes.

Our Children, Climate, Faith Symposium August 16 & 17

Set in the tranquil hills of Vermont, there will be two days of thought and discussion with lay and ordained leaders from many faiths. This inclusive symposium will focus on moral, ethical, spiritual, and religious consciousness addressing climate disruption, social justice, and the rightful future of all children.

Speakers include: Mary Evelyn Tucker (Yale), Bill McKibben (350.org), Rabbi Michael Cohen, Sister Patricia Sieman, Shyla Nelson (One Earth, One Voice), Cinnamon Spear (Native American), Will Allen (Cedar Circle Farm), and many more!

Symposium will be held in Strafford, VT and more information can be viewed at Faithclimateconference.org.



Thanks to All who Made the Fair Possible!

Many thanks to the many members of the St. James community who worked so hard to make this year's St. James Fair a success. Under the tireless leadership of Fair Chair Scott Kinne, volunteers processed thousands of items large and small, precious and over-used. In the July heat and humidity, the Parish Hall seemed to sprout small rummage like the lawns grew mushrooms!

Thanks also to those who donated and those who came to the fair as customers. Our fair shows a remarkable synergy of giving and receiving, with the goal of sharing the results with those in material or spiritual need in Woodstock, Windsor County, the State of Vermont, our country and far beyond.

Capital Campaign Process to Begin Sunday, September 8

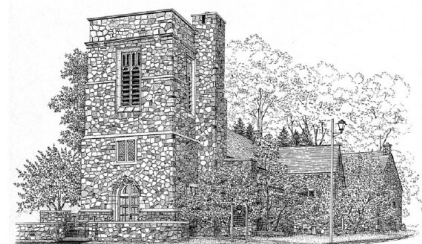
Capital Campaign Consultant Maryann Doyle will lead a resource meeting after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, September 8. This begins her six-week residency with us. She will guide the people of St. James through the Stewardship process needed to realize the completion of our capital projects. The Campaign will seek pledges to be paid over a three-year period. She will also lead us in our efforts to obtain pledges to support our operating expenses for the year 2014. The campaign will wrap up by about Columbus Day.

The leadership structure has begun to take shape. Joseph Morel will serve as Campaign Chair. Lyle and Liz Hall will co-chair the Leadership Gifts group. Candace Vandouris will be General Gifts Chair. Other positions related to communications and hospitality will be filled soon. Parish Administrator Sari White will be secretary for the effort.

Please mark your calendars for 11 a.m., Sunday, September 29. The formal kick-off of the campaign will take place that day with a brunch and program.

Maryann Doyle has conducted more than 80 capital campaigns over the last 30 years for New England congregations, many of them Episcopal churches. She is an active member of her own Episcopal church in Connecticut. In 2001, she successfully completed a campaign at Christ Church, Guilford, CT, when Norman MacLeod was rector of that parish.

Many thanks to Louise Fowler for hosting Maryann. Maryann will share Karen Vitols office during her time with us.



Vestry Sets Priorities for Capital Projects

In May, a lengthy study phase concluded with a presentation by architect Duo Dickinson on the full scope of possible projects, including a range of projected costs. At meetings in June and July, the Vestry studied and discussed the various projects being considered for support by the planned September-October Capital Campaign.

The Vestry decided not to include a wood-based heating system in the list of projects to be covered by the proceeds of the Capital Campaign. Much effort has gone into researching this alternative, and there is considerable support among members of the parish for using such a system to heat our buildings in the future. The Vestry will continue to research the financial, operational and regulatory viability of a wood-based heating system, and examine ways to implement a plan by other means than the current capital campaign. The estimated cost of a wood-based heating system is about \$240,000.

The Vestry created two priority tiers. Tier 1 should be possible to achieve if the campaign meets the expected goal. Elements of Tier 2 may be included if the campaign exceeds that figure. The precise goal will be set early in the campaign, which begins on Sunday, September 8. Estimates for the Tier 1 projects come to about \$1.1 million. For Tier 2, the estimates run to about \$265,000. Through Amy and Joseph Morel's magnificent pledge of \$500,000 toward the success of our Capital Campaign, St. James is in a wonderful position to accomplish our goals.

Tier 1

- Fixing the drainage problem on the north and west sides of the church buildings
- Providing interior and exterior handicapped access
- Modernizing the heating system
- Removing asbestos from the basement
- Repairing some stained glass windows
- Repairing the leaded glass windows in the Parish Hall.

Tier 2

- Basement renovation, including another handicapped bathroom

- Roof over new handicapped access side entrance
- Insulation of Parish Hall roof ends

Congo Project Update

Jean de Dieu's work for the Congo Village School Project (CVSP) progresses. During July, he has been visiting Woodstock, touching base with his many friends, and reporting on the school, soccer and farming activities in Bakwa Tshileu.

On Sunday, July 21, under the St. James Fair tent, CVSP supporters hosted a fundraiser and welcome home event for Jean and the project. Chris Balcer of the Prince and the Pauper restaurant donated barbecue and Jack Snyder played. The program began inside St. James with a CVSP video produced by Anne Maksoud.

In addition to the joy of having Jean de Dieu visiting with us, the event raised funds and celebrated two acts of commitment and generosity to the Project. Earlier this year, Peter and Jennifer Brock had given \$25,000 to help launch Phase 3. They have offered to repeat the same gift this summer to help Jean's work succeed. In addition, a fourteen-year-old young man from Virginia became excited by the prospect of drilling wells for water in the village. On his own, he set up a website and raised \$10,000.

Ray and Lynda Talkington of Exeter, New Hampshire, and Woodstock, will travel to the village in August to oversee the drilling of two wells. Ray is a drilling engineer. The Talkingtons and the CVSP board have been fundraising for the well project over the past months. Currently the 2000 residents of Bakwa Tshileu have no source of water, clean or otherwise, except from rain and a river three miles away. The successful drilling of wells will have a profound impact on the village and CVSP. In Congo, women traditionally walk to carry water. This custom prevents many young girls from going to school. Access to clean well water will also cut down on disease and will aid in the care of the growing number of cows needed by the CVSP farm. Our prayers will be with Ray, Lynda, Jean and all those involved with the drilling of wells in Bakwa Tshileu in August.

St. James Episcopal Church

July 2013 Newsletter

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St. James Episcopal Church

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Woodstock, VT 05091

Mid-Summer Picnic



Sunday, July 28

St. James Mid-Summer Picnic

At the home of Chuch and Lora Wise, King Farm

128 King Farm Road, Woodstock

St. James will provide hot dogs, burgers, and beverages.

Please bring salads, side dishes, and desserts to share.

Picnic will begin at 11:30.