



St. John's Prologue

"In the beginning was the Word..."

St. John's Episcopal Church
Williamstown, Massachusetts

July-August 2009

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Dear members of the St. John's community,

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."

This ancient wisdom helps us accept Jacki Petrino's decision to step down as our Youth Minister, a role she has filled with great energy and wonderful results over the past two years.

It's time, she says, to pay closer attention to the needs of her family. With her husband Mark working in the Boston area and commuting home on weekends, Jacki needs the freedom to be together as a family—and weekends are prime time on the job for youth ministers.

So we've begun the process of transition, intent on maintaining the momentum Jacki has helped develop. During her tenure, enrollment in our Sunday children's program has increased, attendance at twice-monthly Worship Outside the Box has boomed, a Christmas Pageant has been born, and new strides made in our monthly Family Sundays. The first of our youth ministers to be a parent, Jacki has reached out effectively to other parents. We're very grateful to Jacki, and to God, for her enthusiasm, creativity, and deep caring.

Please join me in praying for the Spirit's wisdom now, as we seek new leadership on what I believe is our most important frontier. God has blessed us with each of our youth ministers over the years. God is at work in this transition, too.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Peter Elvin

SUMMER SUNDAYS AT 9:00, PARABLES!

Recent summers have shown the popularity of using 9:00-10:00 a.m. as a forum for adult education of one kind or another. This year, our Rector offers a basic Bible course focused on **Parables: Stories for Life in God's World**, a seven-session experience shaped by the Kerygma Program.

If you consider yourself in need of a "Biblical Literacy" boost, here it is! And if you're well-grounded in the Bible, then come and help this happen. Here are the remaining sessions:

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| July 5 | Parables of Growth |
| July 12 | Parables of Reversal |
| July 19 | Parables of Preparedness |
| July 26 | Parables of Decision |
| August 2 | Parables of Treasure |
| August 9 | The Parable Tradition |

Whether you can commit to most, or can attend only occasionally, you're welcome to be part of this summer enrichment. Coffee awaits you, 9:00 a.m. sharp in the upper room.

ST. JOHN'S PERSONALS

Alexandra Peacock-Villada has been awarded a James Stacy Coles Research Fellowship in Chemistry and Biochemistry at Bowdoin College, where she is a rising junior. This fellowship, given in honor a former Bowdoin president, is awarded for substantial participation in a scientific research project under the direction of a faculty member.

When Principal Amy Meehan spoke at Drury High School's graduation on June 5th, she mentioned several inspirational stories from the senior class's experience, including "the graduate who fled from Sudan to Egypt, where he would work 12-hour days to come to America and captured our hearts as he learned English." That is **Johnson "Shakir" Odragwa**, son of Ruben and Kawthar, a grandson of Mother Raile Daffala, and we are mighty proud of him, too!

Gabriel Edward Coughlin arrived on June 13th weighing 7 lbs, 4 oz. Congratulations to Libby and to the new grandparents **Sam & Dave Coughlin**.

Josh Lawton and Maggie Ronald were united in holy matrimony at Bement Camp on June 20th, our Rector officiating.

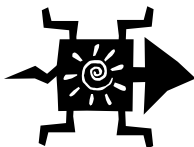
WE EXTEND CONDOLENCE

Louie Tabor, Geoff's father, died in Niles, Ohio, on May 29th. Our prayers are with Kelsey, Trent, Geoff, and Paula as they mourn his passing.

Former U.S. Representative Daniel E. Button, father of Sally White and grandfather of Lucy and Sam, died in Albany on March 7th.

NEW CHAIR OF STEWARDSHIP

It's happy news for the parish that Alison Kolesar has accepted the chairmanship of our Stewardship Ministry Team. Long active in many dimensions of the parish's life and work, Alison knows us well and brings keen leadership and clear faith to this important work. We're deeply grateful to Aaron Gordon, completing two years as SMT Chair (and, happily, remaining on the SMT). As each chair has done before him, Aaron helped us make real strides in our giving as a parish. The SMT's members include Ali Perry, Judy Buhner, Dave Coughlin, Aaron Gordon, Polly Macpherson, Peter Elvin, and its newest member, Amanda Wilcox. Jim Kolesar is completing a tour of duty on the team, representing the Vestry.



UP, UP AND AWAY!

The June 16th issue of *Christian Century* reports: "In order to serve satellite congregations, megachurches in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and elsewhere have purchased helicopters so their pastors can move quickly from one site to the next. *TPJ Magazine* (May issue) reports that a used helicopter can cost \$500,000 and a new one \$2 million."

THANKS, GARDENERS!

Volunteers taking charge of garden pots around church grounds this year are:

Tom & Carol Burgess	Jeanne Blake
Dan Campbell	The Daley Family
Willy Kramer	Joy MacNulty

Thanks to these folks for bringing color to our doorways this summer!

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR PARISH PICNIC

Be sure to save the date of Sunday, September 13th, when we'll gather at Sand Springs Spa for our annual parish picnic, right after the 10:00 service. There's something for everyone at this event, a great way to enter the new school year together.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS, JUNE 10

In the course of sharing samplings from our Pentecost celebration and Bishop's Visitation, we turned tonight to consider ways for us as Vestry members to strengthen our individual spiritual practice and direction.

We approved the recommendation by our rectory advisors to accept the proposal by Tom Webb of Berkshire Home Works, for comprehensive management of the rectory rental. Tom has managed the building for us on a more limited basis, this past year.

Debbie Monahan reported for the Facilities Committee: we are still awaiting the results of a Code 34 Review being done by Centerline Architects of Bennington, VT, a required step in assessing the scope of repair work in our lower room. The committee has asked architect Gary Corey to investigate also the lower level of our church school building, to assess our options there.

Polly Macpherson reported on a recent meeting of representatives from three of the four North County Episcopal parishes, a well-enjoyed opportunity to get better acquainted.

The Vestry approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee, fixing a range for anticipated endowment income in 2010. The Budget Committee will keep within this range in preparing the 2010 budget. That range is \$120,000 to \$128,000

NOONTIME SUMMER CONCERT SERIES starts MONDAY, JULY 6th

with *Avery Griffin, baritone and Scott Bailey, piano.*

One change this year is that the concerts will be held on MONDAYS from 12 noon – 12:45 p.m.

Audience members are welcome to bring a bag lunch.

Admission is free, but donations to help offset expenses are accepted.

Performers also scheduled to perform:

July 13: St. John's Youth Band

August 3: Nick Revel, viola

July 20: Trio Café Budapest

August 10: Loadbang, contemporary chamber ensemble

July 27: Will Lang, trombone

August 17: Emily Kalish & Abigail Reisman, violin duo

Come and bring a friend!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The St. John's Men's Breakfast will continue in summer mode during July and August. There will be coffee and conversation in the Library from 8:30 am to 9:30 am on the second Saturday of each month: **July 11 and August 8.** In September we will resume our program of offering a light breakfast and occasional speakers. As always, we welcome all men associated with St. John's and any guests they may wish to bring. If you have any questions, please contact Stuart Crampton (458-8558).

TRIBUTES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The life and work of St. John's is sustained and extended as the grace of God moves people to share their time, talent, and treasure. The sharing of financial treasure moves primarily through established pathways of annual pledging, capital pledging, and planned giving. In additional ways, God's grace moves people to strengthen St. John's through special gifts, sometimes in response to personal events. Since the last issue of The Prologue, these special gifts have been received in the parish office:

From Janet S. and Charles D. Kepner, Jr., to the Major Maintenance Fund in loving memory of Janet's mother, Jane R. Grainger

From Maurice and Joan O'Connell of Ottawa Hills, OH, to the Memorial Fund in memory of Nan Alberti ("we greatly admired Nan when we were together at Williams reunions")

From Jim Mahon and Paula Consolini to the Major Maintenance Fund, in memory of Earl Smith

From Roberta Patten to the Major Maintenance Fund, in memory of Earl Smith

From Anita Barker to the Major Maintenance Fund, in memory of her husband, Francis M. Barker

From Chuck Alberti to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, in memory of Nan

From Thornton Wierum to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, in memory of Jean Wierum

From Georgia and Milton Estrella, to the Major Maintenance Fund in loving memory of Georgia's mother, Jane Grainger

From Betsy (Ware) and Andrew Fippinger, gifts to the Rector's Discretionary Fund and to "where it's needed most", in honor of their marriage

From Ed Pelz to "where it's needed most"

From Robert C. and Ann L. Sprague to the Major Maintenance Fund, in honor of John Reinke on Father's Day.

HOUSE OF PEACE

L. Gregory Jones writes in the June 16th *Christian Century* about Maggie, who founded and runs Maison Shalom in Ruyigi, Burundi.

“Maggie’s story goes back 15 years to the civil war in Burundi. When the Hutu militia came to her Tutsi community and massacred most of Maggie’s extended family and many of her friends, she escaped with her seven adopted Hutu and Tutsi children and found refuge with Hutus in the compound of the Catholic bishop. But a group of Tutsis came to the compound to kill the Hutus there. Because she was a Tutsi, they spared Maggie, but as punishment for her adoption of Hutu children they stripped her, tied her up and forced her to watch the massacre of 72 people. Eventually she found her seven adopted children hiding in the church sacristy.”

Maggie devoted herself to rebuilding her village as a place of peace. She adopted another 25 children, paying the militia for their freedom. She built huts for the children, a health clinic and school, a swimming pool, and a film theater. She set up microfinance programs and taught sustainable agriculture.

“She explained the power of God to foster reconciliation and create new life. She seemed intuitively to know how to embody the gospel in a community by developing the interconnections of a holistic understanding of salvation.”

When rebel forces demanded payment in exchange for not destroying the theater, Maggie invited them to watch movies instead—but first posted a sign indicating that weapons were not allowed inside. The rebels came to the movies.

“Now the town also has a hospital and a nursing school—and a morgue. The morgue is important to Maggie because she believes that one teaches people how to live in part by taking care of those who have died.

“Some of the first children to benefit from living in Maison Shalom have become teachers in the schools and community leaders. The huts are set up so the older children can become the caregivers for younger children. Over 30,000 children have benefited from Maison Shalom.”

Maggie has a driver. He first came to Maison Shalom to kill her. She talked him out of it, persuading him that he should come and live in her community and help her. He chose not to be defined by hatred and violence.

Looking Ahead: Sudan Relief Task Force

Darius Jonathan enjoyed visiting Cairo and connecting there with friends and family from Sudan. The Sudan Relief Task Force sent several personal gifts for the family, including a wonderful wooden cross made by Curt Tong especially for Raile Daffala. Books for the school included Dr. Seuss, several science reference books, two about maple trees and syrup, and a photo album of the area focusing on St. John's and First Congregational Churches. We look forward to an update from Darius!.

Please mark your calendars and recruit card players for “Bridge to Sudan”– Tuesday afternoon, September 22, at the Williams Inn. The Task Force will meet at 9 a.m. in the Congregational Church office on Tuesday, August 11 to finalize plans for the event. This is a FUN as well as fundraising event; we hope to exceed last year's profit and to raise \$900, which would support the school for one month.

Elizabeth Williams, Co-Chair

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Molly Fedotowsky
- 2 Anne Jones, Hilary Hardman, Wendy Martin,
Madeline Burdick
- 3 Stephanie Johnson, Neale Secor
- 4 Ted Gilley
- 5 Leslie Orton-Mahar
- 7 William Kent Wootters, Alexander Acheson,
Elaine Leonard, Matthew Schumacher
- 8 Caroline Burgess, Taylor Cummings
- 11 Kaitlin Hendrickson, Marian England
- 12 Martha Fairfield, Carter Stripp
- 13 Andrew Elvin, Emily Molyneux,
Sirianna Santacrose
- 16 Alison Howard
- 17 Elizabeth Toomajian, Jimmy Bergin
- 18 Sophia Gebara
- 19 Samuel White
- 20 Nate Nurmi
- 21 Sandy Schryver, Fred Scarborough,
Benjamin Kolesar
- 22 John Campbell, Laura Kolesar, Enrique Peacock
- 24 Andrea Fisher, Zach Lecuyer
- 26 Joshua Lawton
- 27 David Simonds Jr., Judy Walraven
- 31 E. John Reinke



ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION:

- 29 The Rev. John Denaro

JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Matt & Amy Buck
Carla Meehan & Jack Cook
- 7 Rachel & Peter Anderson
- 12 Michael Noyes & Cynthia Parker
Charles & Liz Toomajian
Roger & Phoebe Dennett
- 13 Enrique & Marcela Peacock
- 17 Tom & Gail Bearup
- 25 Jim & Alison Kolesar
- 28 Beth Michaels & Gary Jacobsohn
- 29 Cameron & Nicole Wobus



FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH:

(or memorial service)

- 7 Audrey E. Bowers, Ruth Quinn's mother

FROM THE PARISH CALENDAR

This month: July

Summer Sundays at 9:00 a.m., PARABLES!, p. 1
Annual Summer Concert Series, p. 3
Men's breakfast meeting, p. 2

ONGOING:

Tuesdays

9:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, upper room
2:30 p.m., Evening Prayer, Sweetbrook
(1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month only)
7:30 p.m., AA, lower room

Thursdays

1:00 p.m., Affin-KNIT-ty Group, library
7:30 p.m., AA, library

Fridays

Noon, AA, upper room
12:15 p.m., Bible Study, room 3

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Wednesday, July 8th:

10:30 a.m., Williamstown Commons Holy Eucharist
7:00 p.m., VESTRY, library

Thursday, July 9th

6:30 p.m., National Alliance for the
Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group, Room 3

Sunday, July 19th

11:30 a.m., Home Delivered Meals

Wednesday, July 22nd

2:30 p.m., Sweetbrook Holy Eucharist

Monday, July 27th

4:00 p.m., Sweetwood Holy Eucharist



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Trista Moore, Anita Barker
- 2 Becky Birrell, Francis Barker
- 3 Susan Hart Smith, Michael Sprague
- 6 Barry Walraven
- 7 Rita Brown, Katie White
- 9 Dorothy Hopton
- 10 Ned and Sandy Smith
- 11 Betsy Atkins, Fran Willette
- 13 Michael Noyes
- 14 Ginger Rothacker
- 16 Matthew Jacobsohn, Ryan Wilson, Sherry Wobus.
Ethan Edward Wobus
- 18 Virginia Fletcher
- 19 Phoebe Dennett, Polly Hamilton,
- 21 Mary Kelley
- 22 Charles Toomajian, III
- 23 Lucy White, Tom Mahar, Kevin Gillis
- 24 James Kocsis
- 27 Melissa Mendes
- 29 Gay Klaus Scarborough, Alejandra Peacock-Villada,
Katherine Toomajian
- 31 Morissa Daniels, Cathy Kocsis



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7:30 p.m., AA, library

Fridays

Noon, AA, upper room
12:15 p.m., Bible Study, room 3

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Wednesday, August 12th:

10:30 a.m., Williamstown Commons Holy Eucharist
7:00 p.m., VESTRY, library

Thursday, August 13th

6:30 p.m., National Alliance for the
Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group, Room 3

Sunday, August 16th

11:30 a.m., Home Delivered Meals

Monday, August 24th

4:00 p.m., Sweetwood Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, August 26th

2:30 p.m., Sweetbrook Holy Eucharist

AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 James & Maria Greig Williams
- 5 Toby & Sheila Mason
Richard & Bonnie (Macpherson) Ricci
- 12 Tim & Joanna Sunn
- 15 Lawrence & Elaine Leonard
Jarrett & Jennifer Bayliss
John & Kathy Pritchard
- 19 Alison & Steve Geislinger
- 20 Harry & Elaine Anderson
Ralph & Arlene Mason
- 22 Arthur & Wendy Campbell
- 29 Bryan & Olivia Baldwin
- 31 Kyle & Lili (Peacock-Villada) Chambers

