



# The Eagle

January 2013

## Caring for God's Children By Maggie McClure

St. John's has a long history of hiring college students to staff the nursery on Sunday mornings. The students have been devoted and reliable in caring for our youngest and most energetic members. However, it seems with the nursery on the second floor and out of sight that we take it for granted that the nursery has qualified attendants. Are you aware that the coordinators, Annie Schreiber and Rachael Schexnailder, have been having difficulty finding reliable paid staff to work Sunday mornings? Did you know that they have been spending most Sundays caring for those who need it? Do you think they should have the opportunity to attend Sunday worship service, too?

I have spent a few Sunday mornings helping in the nursery. I admit it can be tiring but I find being around the youth to be refreshing. I am wondering who else might be able to help. Wouldn't it be a wonderful gift to provide additional support not only for the coordinators but to our youngest members? The bigger question of addressing how to staff the nursery requires attention but until a more permanent solution is found, will you help?

Contact Annie or Rachael if you can work one, two, or even three Sundays in the nursery over the next few months. They will give you the details and the information you need.

## Search Committee Report

We are wrapping up our process and pleased with where we are. As soon as we are able to reveal more, we and the Vestry will do so! As you know, personnel matters are delicate, sensitive and confidential; we need to respect all the people with whom we are dealing.

## United Thank Offering

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through United Thank Offering, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. Every penny donated is used for grants to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and in invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world. More information and blue donation boxes can be found in the Commons

## Reminder

Sunday, February 3 is our Annual Meeting. Combined Eucharist at 9 am with brunch and meeting to follow.

## Interim Thoughts By Larry Minter

At the beginning of this New Year, the work of the Vestry and the Rector Search Committee is moving closer to the time when a new rector will be called. I want to take the opportunity to thank all of you at St. John's for the privilege of serving you as a priest. St. John's will always be a very special church for me. I thank you for the ways you have opened your hearts to Jane and me as we have sojourned with you in transitional ministry over a two year period. I will always love and admire the way St. John's puts together faith and action in service to Christ and the world. Especially I will always remember your beautiful worship and the life of prayer at St. John's which is so palpable.

It is too soon for me to know my next place of service, but I cherish your prayers in my own time of search and discernment for the future. I will continue my ministry at St. John's during January, and that means I will be on hand helping prepare for the annual meeting and for an early Lent which begins on February 13. Bob L'Homme will assist us during January and February by taking on some additional responsibilities for worship. It has been a privilege to serve as a priest with Bob, and I appreciate the gifts that Bob and Carol offer St. John's during this transition. This is the month when Hilary Cook and her husband, Greg Buzzard, will be going to France for their sabbatical. They are another clergy couple who bless us with many gifts. We will all miss Hilary and Greg and their boys, Isaac and Ezra, while they are gone. I will think of them often, wondering what they will be doing as they enjoy sabbatical time as a whole family.

The first Sunday of January this year is the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6. The Epiphany follows twelve days after Christmas and is sometimes called *Twelfth Day*. It is a Holy Day that I especially love. It commemorates the visit of the Magi who followed the star, as they traveled to pay homage to the new born Jesus. Imagine the wonder of the Magi who gazed upon God in humanity who was also humanity in God, the immensity of God contained in a tiny baby boy. They offered royal gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The day represents the manifestation of Christ to all Nations, and its mystery calls us to contemplate our own mission in the world as we too manifest (make present) Christ to the world. Another thought: How will you, and how will St. John's manifest God's purpose in a holy and joyful way as St. John's inaugurates a new year with new opportunities for ministry?

I like thinking about all that is going on in God's Name at St. Johns.

## Pre-sabbatical Thoughts

### By Hilary Cooke

As I sit down to write this note to you I am aware that January 1 is fast approaching and that my family and I will soon board a plane to France. While I've known for nearly a year that this day would come, it has felt distant, yet now suddenly it's almost here! I have been experiencing a wide range of feelings about our upcoming travels: excitement to try something new; anticipation of a period of rest after four years of balancing school, church and motherhood; deep sadness to be apart from the St. John's community that I hold so dear; and of course a tinge of fear about getting on a plane (though far less than I might have imagined).

Most of you know that we are going to France because Greg will be doing some research at the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (just south of Paris), but many of you have been asking what I will be doing while we are there. Sabbaticals in The Episcopal Church are about rest, renewal and study, and so my hope is to incorporate all these aspects into our time in France. I see this time away as an opportunity to explore areas of interest that don't easily fit into my current lifestyle. I have long practiced meditation, and I wrote my doctoral thesis about the intersection between meditation and psychotherapy; I look forward to having some time to do more reading and writing about the connections between the two. It is my hope to visit the headquarters for the World Community for Christian Meditation in London, I have reserved a week at Taizé, a meditation retreat in France, and if I can arrange it, I will visit the labyrinth at Chartres.

It is my plan to spend time exploring French culture (including tasting as many types of cheese as I can find ☺) by visiting museums and touring the area on foot. I have registered for the Paris Half Marathon in March and look forward to viewing the city from a different perspective that day! Both boys will be enrolled in French school, and so I anticipate spending some time with them, helping them adjust and learning from their experiences in the classroom.

I have been asked about our family's knowledge of the French language. Greg spent a semester at the Institut in the 90s and has a reasonable, if somewhat rusty (his word), speaking ability. I studied French for nine years and am hopeful that my speaking ability will return (we've both managed to maintain our readings skills fairly well). Of course we anticipate the boys outpacing us in short order in terms of conversational ability and so imagine they will soon be translating for us (or perhaps correcting our mistakes!).

I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity that you have given so freely, and as I said, I feel sadness about being apart from you all. To help maintain a bit of a connection I have started a blog and I hope that you will find it to be a helpful way to keep up with our travels. You can find it at: [meditatingpriest.wordpress.com](http://meditatingpriest.wordpress.com). I hope you will keep me in your prayers just as I intend to keep you all in mine.

## So You Want to Help With Godly Play... By Hilary Cooke

You've been hearing a lot about Godly Play, you strongly believe that children's Christian Formation involves the whole church community, and so you've decided you want to become involved in this important program, but you don't know how. Here are some specific roles we'd love you to explore:

**Storyteller (9-10:05 am):** The storyteller presents the material for the day (the story). This involves learning the story ahead of time and then sitting on the floor in the circle with the children to tell the story. The storyteller guides the wondering and invites the children to choose his or her work for the day. After the work time, the storyteller invites the children to put away their work to participate in the feast. When all have gathered in the circle once again, the storyteller goes around the circle to ask each child if he or she would like to share a prayer and then the feast begins. The storyteller bids farewell to each child before they leave the classroom.

**Doorperson (9-10:05 am):** Thresholds are important in Godly Play and the doorperson greets each child as they enter the room helping to ensure that the child is "ready" for the story. The doorperson greets any latecomer, and is available if a child needs to leave the circle during the story time. The doorperson is available during the work time to assist any child who might need help setting up artwork or getting materials from the shelves (but the doorperson stays in his or her chair unless the children need help in order to keep the classroom child-centered). The doorperson helps the children set out the feast (if needed). Finally, the doorperson greets parents at the door and calls the names of children when the parents arrive.

**Gathering Room (9-9:15 am):** The purpose of the gathering room is to give the children a space to get ready for the Godly Play story. In an ideal world, the noise will be kept to a minimum as children begin to center and prepare to enter the classroom (often after a hectic morning getting up and out of the house). The adults in the gathering room help the children begin this process and they get the feast items ready for the younger classroom (setting out graham crackers and water on a tray outside the classroom). When the teachers are ready, the adults in the gathering room help the children walk quietly and respectfully to their classrooms. The adults then straighten up the gathering room.

**Assisting a child with special needs (9-10am):** We have a child who very much enjoys Godly Play and needs a bit of extra assistance to be able to participate. This child is in a wheelchair and needs a strong adult to sit behind him to help with his stability as he listens to the story. This adult also helps the child back into his wheelchair and ensures that he makes it safely to the nursery following class.

Please contact the office if you are interested in any of these areas.

## January Book Discussion By Mary Campbell

I don't know about you, but the only U.S. History class I took was during my junior year in high school. Mr. Payne (the basketball coach) was a good teacher, but the course did not inspire.

And what about our 20<sup>th</sup> President, James Garfield? Well, he survived less than a year in office, so I'll bet he had one (maybe two) paragraphs in our textbook. Aside from a street in my hometown being named after him, I've had no clue about President Garfield all these years.

Then, Helen and Bob Slagel recommended that we read *Destiny of the Republic*, published in 2011 by Candice Millard. Of course, as the convener of our Book Discussion, I had to read it, so I trudged ahead. I think Ms. Millard grabbed me after the first few paragraphs. What an exciting book! Yes, really! And all about President Garfield.

The subtitle of the book says it all: "A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President." I won't spoil your read by saying anything more!

Join us on Wednesday, January 23, as we share our reactions and comments about *Destiny of the Republic*. We meet at 6:30 in the Commons. (Enter through the garden gate.) Call Mary Campbell (426-5541) with questions or for help with transportation.

### Next Eagle Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the February *Eagle* will be Monday, January 21.

Email to [eagle@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:eagle@stjohns-laf.org) or place items in *The Eagle* mailbox on the porch.

## St. John's/LUM Food Pantry November Summary Report

By Lynn Johal

In November, the pantry was open 16 days serving **832** clients, up 1.1% from October 2012 (18 days open) and 20.6% from November 2011. The November **mean number of clients/day** was **52.0**, up from 45.7 in October 2012. The final two weeks of November were busiest with 62.7\*\* clients/days. Therefore we *surpassed the record numbers of clients* and their household members that was last set in October 2012.

Summary:	<u>Clients</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Clients/day</u>	<u>Days Open</u>
<b>Nov 2012</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>52.0**</b>	<b>16</b>
Oct 2012	823	2,595	45.7	18
<i>Change</i>	<i>1.1%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>		
Nov 2011	690	2,121		
<i>Change</i>	<i>20.6%</i>	<i>28.0%</i>		

Total expenditures for November were \$1,431.21 from Food Finders (FF) + \$213.95 from local stores (Aldi's, PayLess) = **\$1,644.16**; with expenses an average of **60.6¢/household member spent/visit**. This was approximately the same as October 2012; (*see annual summary for details*). Monetary donations in Nov were **\$1,686.00**; which left us in the black by around \$42.

The Pantry benefited from USDA/TEFAP commodities on November 13. As a result, in November the pantry had a good supply of food (with lots of stock stored under the stairwell). The pantry did run short on cereal, toilet paper and peanut butter about half of the days it was open. FF lacked canned and boxed items at 19¢/lb, so the pantry often had to purchase more expensive manufacturers items and do some frugal shopping. Contributions from St. Tom's, St. John's and other personal donors also helped the pantry stay stocked, particularly with items difficult to get from FF. Items **most needed** by the end of November were: **boxed cereal, rice, canned beans, peanut butter and toilet paper**.

### Save the Date By Michael Bennett

Our lunchtime concert series continues on January 9 with a performance by Katrina Brown on the oboe and English horn accompanied by our own Michael Bennett.

### Lenten Devotionals By Hilary Cooke

It's hard to believe that Ash Wednesday is just a little over a month away! This year St. John's will once again host an on-line Lenten Devotional. This year we plan to have 22 reflections...the first 14 will be brief reflections on the stations of the cross, and then there would be one reflection for each day of Holy Week. It is our hope that this would provide a helpful way to honor a Lenten practice, and perhaps a slightly different way to enter the season of Lent.

Look for a link to a sign-up on the St. John's webpage and contact Alissa Goudswaard with any questions.

**QUESTION:**

What do you get when you combine 100 volunteers, 39 families, and lots of donations?

**ANSWER:**

Jubilee Christmas!

Thank you one and all for bringing Christmas joy to those who need it at this special time of the year.

*We grieve with the many families and friends touched by this shooting in Connecticut. We mourn the loss of lives so young and innocent. We grieve that the means of death are so readily available to people who lack the present capacity to find other ways of responding to their own anger and grief. We know that God's heart is broken over this tragedy, and the tragedies that unfold each and every day across this nation. And we pray that this latest concentration of shooting deaths in one event will awaken us to the unnoticed number of children and young people who die senselessly across this land every day. More than 2000 children and youth die from guns each year, more than the soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Will you pray and work toward a different future, the one the Bible's prophets dreamed of, where city streets are filled with children playing in safety (Zechariah 8:5)?*

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

## **Congratulations Graduates!** **By Hilary Cooke**

A hearty congratulations to the graduates among us! Amelia Carow, Alissa Goudswaard and Robert Kurtz are all finishing up their studies at Purdue this December. Amelia is finishing her B.S. in Animal Science with minors in Biology and Wildlife, she'll be leaving the area to begin a volunteer position with Heifer International in Massachusetts while she applies for the Peace Corps. Alissa is finishing her M.A. in English in Rhetoric and Composition and Robert is finishing his PhD in Speech and Language Pathology and both Alissa and Robert will be staying in the area so we'll be glad to have them continue to be amongst us at St. John's. We're proud of all of you and wish you the best!



### **St. John's Episcopal Church**

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*Youth and Young Adult Ministries*  
The Reverend Dr. Hilary Cooke

*Sunday Associate*  
The Very Reverend Robert L'Homme

*Parish Administrator*  
Teresa Lohman

*Director of Music*  
Michael Bennett

*Building Use Coordinator*  
Caryl Matthews

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*Vestry*  
Sally Hastings, *Sr. Warden*  
Caryl Matthews, *Jr. Warden*  
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