



the evangelist

NEWS & EVENTS OF THE CHURCH OF S. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

May/June 2008

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Cantorum

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Dear Friends in Christ:

Alleluia! The Lord is risen!

One of the most glorious parts of our celebration of the Sacred Triduum this past Easter Season was, for me, the baptism of Madison James at our Holy Saturday Great Vigil. There in the darkness, we welcomed the newest member of the Church; from the darkness of the tomb there arose the new light and with it, new life.

In wondrous parallel, beneath the glorious sunlight of a May morning on Whitsunday we baptized Robert Simmons at the beginning of our Pentecost liturgy. In both cases, the light of the Paschal candle shone over the gathered community in witness to the light of our risen Lord.

The new light kindled on Holy Saturday and the new life welcomed into the community at baptism is clearly central to our lives as Christians. Yet on Ascension Thursday, we extinguished the Paschal candle during the Mass, signifying our Lord's departure from us as He ascended unto His Father's throne.

The challenge that we face as we enter Trinitytide – those weeks of green vestments, green grass and “ordinary” liturgies – is to maintain the light of the Risen Christ in our hearts and in every aspect of our lives. It is only through our daily witness to our faith in Christ Jesus that we can reach the goal set for us by our Lord, to love Him with all our hearts and minds and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. In our striving for this, the community of S. John the Evangelist will not only survive but will thrive.

As we enter Trinitytide, I pray that we will together continue to carry the light of Christ in our hearts, souls, words and actions, and that in doing so we may continue to work for the coming of God's kingdom in this place.

In Christ's Peace

~Jono Babbitt

Church of S. John
the Evangelist

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Dear Friends & Parishioners,

As we look back over the last couple of months, I'd like to thank everyone who helped during Holy Week at St. John's, especially Jono and the Schola, and the Hospitality Committee, Women's Guild, and Men's Club for putting on the reception for the Easter Vigil in the rectory. I'd also like to thank Cheryl for organizing the Easter egg hunt for the kids, and the Altar Guild for doing such a beautiful job with all the flower arrangements – the church looked beautiful.

As we now look forward, the church could use volunteers for yard work, tending to the gardens, cutting the grass, etc. David Dresser has loaned the Parish a rider mower to help in this purpose. Please contact myself or Jono.

We have formed several committees, many of which have met once or twice to date. If you would like to join one of these groups, please let me know! (The Finance Committee is already filled up.)

The Kitchen Committee would like to remind folks to sign up for Coffee Hour – if we have 8 people for 8 o'clock and 8 for 10 o'clock, everyone will only have the assignment every 8 weeks. Once enough parishioners have signed up, a schedule will be put together and distributed.

St. John's Summer Fair is scheduled for Saturday, July 19th. Lots of hands are needed for a successful fair. Please contact Jay Jaycot and let's make this the best one yet!

As always, I thank each and every one of you for your support and for supporting the Vestry and we move forward in our search for a Rector to serve St. John's. Please contact me anytime with any concerns or input.

*Your Senior Warden and Friend,
Charles White*

THE CHANT CORNER, FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

In recent months, we've looked at several different aspects of plainchant, specifically with regard to chanting the psalms. Based upon the success of congregational participation at the service of Tenebrae on Wednesday of Holy Week, it certainly appears to me that our corporate chant life has taken on a new and vibrant life of its own!

As we moved through the forty days of Eastertide, our liturgical schedule shifted back to include Wednesday Choral Evensong. Our tradition at St. John's is to offer the psalms using Anglican Chant, the more florid harmonized system that, as the name implies, developed in English churches as early as the 16th century. It was a well-established means of singing prose settings of the psalter by the 18th century, and its use was expanded to sing the canticles of Morning and Evening Prayer as well.

As with plainchant, the basic underpinning of Anglican Chant is that good chanting is just good reading aloud. The participants need to be willing to be members of a team, and to again be followers rather than leaders; again, in this way all the members of the congregation can take ownership of the rhythm and cadence of the chant. Above all, good chanting comes from the heart. For specific and very accurate instructions for Anglican Chanting, I recommend to everyone "Principles and Directions for Chanting" which can be found following Hymn #600 in The Hymnal 1940.

NOTICES

SECRET GARDEN TOUR & ST. JOHN'S OPEN HOUSE

Newport's Secret Garden Tour on The Point has always been a perfect event in which to showcase the beauty of our parish grounds and church. The Guild Hall has traditionally also served as a "rest stop", making available facilities and seats. Volunteers are requested to staff – please contact Teddi Shaw if you are interested.

This year's tour is scheduled for June 21st and 22nd. As an added draw, the Schola will be offering music in the church on Sunday afternoon, from 1 - 4 PM and Jay Jacot will be on hand in the building in order to answer questions from visitors. Please spread the word and plan to spend a moment absorbing the surroundings and sounds offered by our glorious sanctuary.

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP MEETING

The Prayer Group continues to meet regularly on the third Monday of every month. All are welcome to this evening of fellowship and contemplation. For location and further information, please call Mary Jane Rodman at 846-9199.

UPDATING THE PARISH DIRECTORY

The current master version of the parish directory is available for markups at coffee hours and Lenten suppers. In addition, a link to the Parish Registration form (in PDF format) is available on the website which can be downloaded and filled out. Please give your form to Ed Carnes so that all of our parish lists can be updated.

ST. JOHN'S ORDO CALENDARS FOR SALE

Printed Ordo calendars are still available in the church office for \$8.50. A PDF version can be found on our website (www.saintjohns-newport.org). A HUGE thank you to Ann Boyer for producing these.

ST. JOHN'S IS A HOT SPOT!

Our Internet connection is up and running, and we have established a wireless connection for the use of anyone within range (connect via SaintJohns_Public). We're also planning to set up a library with a couple of computers in the upstairs study for anyone's use. Once complete, any parishioner can have an e-mail address within the Saint John's domain (yourname@saintjohns-newport.org). For those who would like a tutorial on the use of the Internet and other computer "stuff," Ann Boyer has volunteered to get together with you (or hold a class if there is enough interest). Please contact her in the church office.

MISSING THE APRIL EVANGELIST?

Do not fear - - your mailman is not to blame. Due to a combination of hectic schedules and perhaps an involuntary effect of saving a bit on the printing & postage budget, an April 2008 edition was not produced.

SPRING SAINTS

At the end of the sixth century anyone would have said that **Augustine** had found his niche in life. Looking at this respected prior of a monastery, one would have predicted he would spend his last days there. But when Pope St. Gregory the Great, who had lived under Augustine's rule in that same monastery, decided it was time to send missionaries to Anglo-Saxon England, he didn't choose those with restless natures or the young looking for new worlds to conquer. He chose Augustine and 30 monks to make the dangerous trip to England. Missionaries had gone to Britain years before, but the Saxon conquest of England had forced these Christians into hiding. Augustine and his monks were to bring these Christians back into the fold and convince the warlike conquerors to become Christians themselves.

Every step of the way they heard the horrid stories of the cruelty and barbarity of their future hosts. By the time they had reached France, the stories became so frightening that the monks turned back. Gregory had heard encouraging news that England was far more ready for Christianity than stories would indicate. He again sent Augustine and the monks fortified with his belief that now was the time for evangelization. King Ethelbert himself wasn't as sure, but he was curious. He listened to what they had to say. He did not convert then but was impressed enough to let them continue to preach — as long as they didn't force anyone to convert. They didn't have to — the king was baptized in 597. Unlike other kings who forced all subjects to be baptized as soon as they were converted, Ethelbert left religious a free choice. Nonetheless the following year many of his subjects were baptized. Augustine was consecrated bishop of the English and more missionaries arrived from Rome. Augustine had to be very careful because, although the English had embraced the new religion they still respected the old. Under the wise orders of Gregory the Great, Augustine aided the growth from the ancient traditions to the new life by consecrating pagan temples for Christian worship and turning pagan festivals into feast days of martyrs. Canterbury was built on the site of an ancient church.

Augustine was only in England for eight years before he died in 605. His feast day is celebrated on May 26 in England and **May 27** elsewhere.

All we know of **Barnabas** is to be found in the New Testament. A Jew, born in Cyprus and named Joseph, he sold his property, gave the proceeds to the Apostles, who gave him the name Barnabas, and lived in common with the earliest converts to Christianity in Jerusalem. He persuaded the community there to accept Paul as a disciple, was sent to Antioch, Syria, to look into the community there, and brought Paul there from Tarsus.

With Paul he brought Antioch's donation to the Jerusalem community during a famine, and returned to Antioch with John Mark, his cousin. The three went on a missionary journey to Cyprus, Perga (when John Mark went to Jerusalem), and Antioch in Pisidia, where they were so violently opposed by the Jews that they decided to preach to the pagans. Then they went on to Iconium and Lystra in Lycaonia, where they were first acclaimed gods and then stoned out of the city, and then returned to Antioch in Syria. When a dispute arose regarding the observance of the Jewish rites, Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem, where, at a council, it was decided that pagans did not have to be circumcised to be baptized. On their return to Antioch, Barnabas wanted to take John Mark on another visitation to the cities where they had preached, but Paul objected because of John Mark's desertion of them in Perga. Paul and Barnabas parted, and Barnabas returned to Cyprus with Mark; nothing further is heard of him, though it is believed his rift with Paul was ultimately healed.

Tradition has Barnabas preaching in Alexandria and Rome, the founder of the Cypriote Church, the Bishop of Milan (which he was not), and has him stoned to death at Salamis about the year 61. The apochryphal Epistle of Barnabas was long attributed to him, but modern scholarship now attributes it to a Christian in Alexandria between the years 70 and 100; the Gospel of Barnabas is probably by an Italian Christian who became a Mohammedan; and the Acts of Barnabas once attributed to John Mark are now known to have been written in the fifth century. His feast day is **June 11**.

Vestry Notes: Regular Meeting of the S. John's Vestry 11 March 2008

Treasurer's Report.

- Cash available for operations is negative \$12,657.475, on a total income since 1 January of \$41,888.89 and expenditures of \$55,174.08. Pledge fulfillment is on track.
- A \$20,000 progress payment has been made to Odell Organ Builders. The original package is fully funded but an additional \$11,200 is needed for new work on the pedal chest. The Parker Organ fund is losing money with the stock market generally; the Treasurer plans to consult the fund manager at Smith-Barney.
- The general checking balance of \$6,432.56 is worryingly low.

Report of the Junior Warden.

- The exposure of priests of the diocese to S. John's has improved its image and reputation in that community.
- Fr Huntress will be staying in the rectory Saturday nights before masses he's scheduled to celebrate in April, May, and June.
- Cheryl Abney is organizing a Maundy Thursday supper and a reception on Holy Saturday, as well as an Easter egg hunt.
- A sign-up for watches at the Garden of Repose was circulated, to be posted in the Guild Hall.
- The Men's Club plans a dinner on 10 May.
- A parish picnic will be held on 9 August.
- Two weddings of non-parishioners (with \$1,500 fees) are planned for the summer.
- Odell has removed the pedal chest; the creche was moved for access and will be replaced when the work is finished.
- The Tuck family will visit the parish the weekend of Low Sunday to pack belongings remaining in the rectory. The disposition of the car, now in the garage, has not been resolved.

Rector Search. Frank Jenks circulated for consideration a matrix of attributes desired, and not desired, in candidates, to allow direct comparison and prioritization. An open discussion of almost an hour's length ensued.

Vestry Notes: Regular Meeting of the S. John's Vestry 8 April 2008

Treasurer's Report.

- Cash available for operations is negative \$15,928.05, on a total income since 1 January of \$51,154.57 and expenditures of \$72,874.71.
- Pledge fulfillment remains roughly on track, and current bills have been paid. However, the apportionment for February and March is unfunded. Partial payments will be made, and the full amounts paid when possible.
- The general checking balance has dropped to \$610.69.

Report of the Senior Warden.

- The Finance Committee will review the financial situation and make recommendations to the Vestry at the May meeting.
- The Parris home has been sold; by the will, the parish is to receive an amount equal to 10% of the probated estate.
- A schedule of payment rates for supply clergy has been received from DRI.
- The Senior Warden encouraged committees to meet, informing the parish office for scheduling and e-mail support; thanked all who contributed to the Holy Week liturgies; and encouraged Vestry members to remain faithful in these difficult times and to meet their leadership obligations.
- The Men's Club plans a dinner on 10 May.

Report of the Junior Warden.

- Supply priests have been arranged through Labor Day.
- Four weddings are scheduled, three of nonparishioners (for whom the \$1,500 rate applies).
- Two rental propositions have been received:
 - o The Finance Committee was asked to set a rate for use of the kitchen one morning per week requested by a chocolatier;
 - o The vestry approved the use of the Guild Hall by a telephone-book distribution firm 17 June–1 July, at a rate of \$150/day. Three trailer trucks will be parked in the parish lot.
- An "exchange" Evensong with St. Stephen's arranged by Fr. Tuck will be sung here on Saturday, 3 May, at 5:30, picnic supper to follow.
- The director of the Navy Chaplain School has expressed interest in a relationship between the school and S. John's. The Junior Warden will pursue the idea.

New Business. It was moved and voted that S. John's remain a member of Forward in Faith.