



the evangelist

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

inside...

PARISH NOTICES
UPCOMING EVENTS
LECTIONARY
VESTRY MINUTES
OCTOBER SAINTS
CALENDAR

DATES TO NOTE

October 12th:
Parish Train Ride
5 PM - 7 PM

October 18th:
Gently Used Winter
Clothing Sale
9 AM - 2 PM

November 1st:
All Saints' Mass
10 AM

November 3rd:
All Souls' Requiem
6 PM

November 8th:
Harvest Dinner

Church of S. John the Evangelist

61 Poplar Street
Newport, RI 02840
Tel: 401-848-2561
Fax: 401-848-2562
saintjohns-newport.org

October 2008

Dear Friends in Christ:

On Thursday 18 September, the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church, meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, took another considered, deliberate and predictably arrogant step in its ongoing march away from the Anglican Communion. After sitting as a Committee of the Whole (which action allowed the proceedings to continue without minutes), they voted 87 to 36 (with 4 abstentions) for the deposition of Bishop Robert Duncan of Pittsburgh. Bishop Duncan was accused of abandoning "the communion of this Church by an open renunciation of the Doctrine, Discipline, or Worship of this Church." Bishop Duncan's crime was leading a Diocese that is moving toward a vote to leave TEC because of TEC's revisionist teachings.

It is with deep gratitude that we can report that Geralyn Wolf voted against the deposition, along with thirty-five Catholic prelates. She and several other honorable and moral leaders of the Church brought forth several challenges intended to slow the rush to judgement, and designed to require greater personal accountability of the House of Bishops. Sadly, most of these challenges were defeated.

In response to the deposition, Bishop Keith Ackerman SSC, President of Forward in Faith North America and good friend to S. John's Church wrote the following on FIFNA's website (www.forwardinfaith.com):

The deposition of Bishop Robert Duncan of Pittsburgh is a very sad day for the Episcopal Church and consequently the worldwide Anglican Communion. The way in which it was executed is contrary to everything that was discussed at the Lambeth Conference.

The initial reactions to this deposition by worldwide Anglican leaders indicate how deep the wound has become. This action leaves me speechless and drives me to me knees.

Other quick responses to the questionable actions taken by docile and arguably corrupt members of the House of Bishops include expressions of strong support from the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Sydney, Australia, and Archbishop Peter Jensen, who stated that "Bishop Duncan remains in good standing with the majority of the Communion". In a similar vein, Primate Gregory Venables of the Southern Cone¹ announced that he and the Southern Cone House of Bishops welcomed Bishop Duncan as a member of their Anglican province, thereby preserving his holy orders as a bishop and giving him episcopal standing internationally. Finally, the Archbishop of Canterbury was petitioned to take immediate action in suspending the Episcopal Church of the United States from any further participation in activities of the

¹ British immigrants brought Anglicanism to South America during the nineteenth century. The South American Missionary Society continues to work among indigenous peoples. In 1974, the Archbishop of Canterbury gave over his metropolitan authority for the dioceses of the Southern Cone and, in 1981, the new Province was formed. It includes Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

The Most Revd Gregory James Venables is the Primate of the Province.

the Anglican Communion, and to call a meeting of the Primates to give formal recognition to a new Province in North America.

And therein lies the real truth of the actions taken by the House of Bishops and Katharine Jefferts Schori . . . they are in direct defiance of more than 80% of the 77 million Anglicans worldwide for whom the Catholic Faith of the ancient Catholic Church, as preserved in the Catholic Creeds and Catholic Scriptures, and maintained in the Catholic and Apostolic constitution of Christ's Church from the beginning, continue to define Anglo-Catholicism.

Suitcases that returned from Lambeth haven't even been unpacked yet. Yet the fragile hopes expressed by some participants at the conclusion of that conference have been utterly dashed by Schori and those Episcopal Bishops supporting her. In truth, the deposition of Bishop Duncan has grimmer, more far-reaching implications than the condemnation of a faithful, strong and honest shepherd of Christ's flock. It represents utter and specific contempt for the principles, processes and peoples of the Anglican Communion, both within and without TEC.

For some time we have been hearing in the mainstream media that the crisis within the Episcopal Church was brought on by the consecration of Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire. The reality is that the crisis within TEC has been brewing for more than thirty years, fueled by escalating displays of contempt and derision aimed at Catholic believers by an increasingly post-Christian leadership. For much of that time, leaders of (and followers within) the Episcopal Church subscribed to the "ridicule-it-and-it-will-go-away" approach regarding Catholic beliefs and practices. That tactic having manifestly failed, Schori and her followers are now attempting to crush the perceived opposition through tactics that are both legally and morally questionable. They simply don't understand that the tighter they clench their fists, the more faithful Catholics – people, parishes and dioceses – will slip between their fingers.

Grace be unto you, and Peace . . . Jono Babbitt

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

I want to thank Father Winsor for all his dedication this summer for all his support to S. John's during these past few months. His dedication to our Sunday masses both at 8 and 10, Wednesday services of Benediction and Evensong, Thursday morning healing service and Saturday morning mass has far exceeded his call to support the faith. A special "thank you" to Jean for all her help at the dinners and the summer fair for her time and effort to make S. John's the hospitable place it is. We all look forward to their return for the Christmas season. Thanks to the Women's Guild and the Men's Club for all their help in preparing and serving the farewell brunch served on Sunday, September 28th, honoring Father and Mrs. Winsor for their service.

The Vestry and Search Committee have reviewed submissions of nine candidates who have indicated an interest in serving S. John's. Five of these profiles have been forwarded to the Diocese for review.

As Senior Warden, I am attempting to accomplish the finish of the brickwork which was started some time ago. As you can see, the walkway from the rear of Grafton House has been completed. Bricks with names have been installed in the shrine area. Jay Jacot has taken the responsibility of retrieving the book of names of donors of bricks from the previous chairperson so that we can continue to do all remaining brickwork thru the engraver who has done the work. In the future, if you wish to purchase and pay for a brick, please contact the Senior Warden and we will get it accomplished.

Upcoming Parish events include a sunset train ride on October 12th aboard the Islander Touring Train, as well as a Good Used Clothing Sale sponsored by the Women's Guild on October 18th in the Guild Hall. Donations of clothing will be received in the Guild Hall beginning October 13th. Finally, there will be the Annual Harvest Dinner on November 8th presented by the Men's Club. Watch for flyers and sign up early!

As Senior Warden, I thank the Vestry for their continued support. If there is anyone who wishes to talk with me about anything, please contact me at (401) 847-0012. My time is your time. Thank you and please keep the Vestry and the Search Committee as well as all the other committees in your prayers.

God Bless ~ Charles White, Senior Warden

NEWS UPDATE

At their Annual Diocesan Convention on 3 – 4 October, the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Rt. Rev. Robert Duncan being the Bishop, voted to leave the The Episcopal Church of the United States. Katherine Jeffers Schori immediately called the action illegal, and characterized the vote as moot, arguing that Dioceses do not have the right to leave the Church. The Diocese of Fort Worth Texas will vote on the same question at their annual convention in November. As of this writing, it appears that the question is likely to pass in that Diocese as well. These two jurisdictions will join San Joaquin as North American Dioceses associated with the Province of the Southern Cone, the Most Reverend Gregory Venables being the Archbishop.

Your prayers are asked for Bishops Duncan and Iker of Pittsburgh and Fort Worth, and for the people and clergy of their Dioceses as they stand firm in the face of revisionist theology and practice.

~~ NOTICES ~~

GENTLY USED WINTER CLOTHING SALE

The Women's Guild will host our Annual Winter Clothing Sale on **Saturday, October 18th** in the Guild Hall from 9 AM until 2 PM. Donations should be dropped off anytime from Monday, the 13th, on. Needed are coats, jackets, hats, scarves, childrens items, sweaters, boots, etc., as well as blankets and spreads. We will also accept good Christmas items (i.e., ornaments, wrappings, trees, lights, etc) for a special table, as well as craft materials or unfinished items.

SCHOLA CANTORUM RELEASES CD

The Schola is pleased to announce the release of its newest CD, recorded in June this past summer. Entitled *Soli Dei Gloria*, it includes a capella works of Tallis, Byrd, Rose, and Palestrina, as well as the pillars of the Anglican Church movement from the 19th century. They will be available early in November, at a cost of \$15. All proceeds go to benefit the music program of S. John's Church.

SAINT GABRIEL'S CONFERENCE 2008

This fall's conference, founded in 1999 by a group of New England Anglican clergy, is scheduled for Friday, **October 17th thru Sunday, the 19th** at Calvary Retreat Center in Shrewsbury, MA. Registrations are still being accepted for this valuable adult retreat. Please contact Fr. Cheney or Lois at 401-397-9987 or by e-mail at mcheney2@cox.net for more information.

SAINT JOHNS, EBAY, AND PAYPAL

St. John's has set up an account on eBay's Giving Works, a program that handles non-profit listings on eBay, administered by MissionFish which checks to ensure that non-profits are legitimate. In the past month, we have sold several of the Summer Fair auction leftovers and you may still find some there now. On the eBay home page, click on Giving Works (at the end of the list to the left of the screen) and then on the "searching here" part of "There are over 13,000 non-profits raising funds on eBay. Meet them by browsing below or searching here." located at the bottom of the screen.

You can support St. John's or another favorite cause by participating in the eBay Giving Works program. Donate 10% to 100% of the final sale price of an item to a certified non-profit organization - in the spirit of giving, eBay rewards your generosity by crediting the fees back to you when you create a listing with eBay Giving Works. When that item sells, eBay will give you back the amount of the fees equal to the percentage of the final sale price that you elected to donate. If you would like to have help setting up an auction (with or without donating to St. John's), contact Ann Boyer at sjweb@saintjohns-newport.org or through the church office.



To set up a payment method for our Giving Works account, St. John's has also set up a PayPal account. Besides being used by buyers sending payment for an auction, anyone can make donations to the church using a bank account or credit card. If you go to www.paypal.com, it will lead you through screens to help set up an account. To "send money", use the office@saintjohns-newport.org e-mail address as the payee.

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS AN ORGAN!

As many have already noticed, the O'Dell Organ Company has delivered our beautiful new organ console and moved her into her new home in the Sanctuary. The process of connecting the console to the organ proper will take another couple of weeks or so, given the complexity of the wiring. Also yet to return are the facade pipes that will fill the arch to the north of the pulpit, and which will be stencilled in the same pattern as the facade pipes that face into the chancel above the choir pews. Please keep an eye on your e-mail box and the St. John's website for announcements concerning the Dedicatory Mass and other events.



Less visible, but no less important, are the new wind chests installed in the north transept. They will allow two ranks of the pedal division to be heard for the first time in more than thirty years, along with the newly restored and completed Gamba stop on the Great Organ. O'Dell Organs has done a SUPERB job thus far, both in terms of cabinetry and technology. While on the campus, two workers from O'Dell will be living in the Rectory; if you see unfamiliar but tired and dirty faces moving across the lawn, welcome them!



Old console shell and manuals

OCTOBER SAINTS

Ss. **Crispin** and **Crispian** are the Christian patron saints of cobblers, tanners, and leather workers. Born to a noble Roman family in the 3rd century AD, Saints Crispin and Crispinian, twin brothers, fled persecution for their faith, winding up in Soissons, where they preached Christianity to the Gauls and made shoes by night. Their success attracted the ire of Rictus Varus, the governor of Belgic Gaul, who had them tortured and beheaded c. 286. In the 6th century, a church was built in their honour at Soissons. Crispian and Crispinian are also associated with the town of Faversham in Kent. In early 2007 the parish church of St Mary of Charity dedicated an altar to Crispin and Crispinian in the South aisle of the church. The supposed tombs of the saints are in Rome in the church of San Lorenzo in Panisperna. They are commemorated on **October 25th**.

St. Jude, known as Thaddaeus and one of the Twelve, was a brother of St. James the Less, and a relative of Our Saviour. Ancient writers tell us that he preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Lybia. According to Eusebius, he returned to Jerusalem in the year 62, and assisted at the election of his brother, St. Simeon, as Bishop of Jerusalem.

St. Jude is an author of an epistle to the Churches of the East, particularly the Jewish converts, directed against the heresies of the Simonians, Nicolaites, and Gnostics. This Apostle is said to have suffered martyrdom in Armenia. (The final conversion of the Armenian nation to Christianity did not take place until the third century of our era.) Jude was also the Apostle who asked Jesus at the Last Supper why He would not manifest Himself to the whole world after His resurrection. Little else is known of his life.

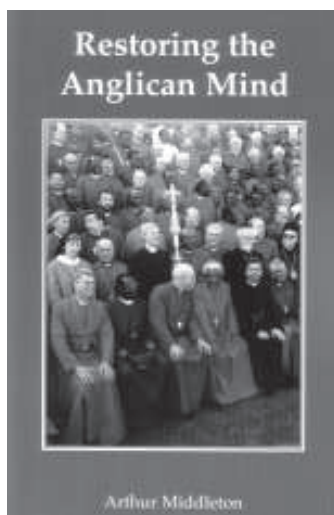


Jude is invoked in desperate situations because his New Testament letter stresses that the faithful should persevere in the environment of harsh, difficult circumstances, just as their forefathers had done before them. He is therefore the patron saint of desperate cases. His feast day is **October 28th**.

Restoring the Anglican Mind

by Arthur Middleton

“At a time of considerable unsteadiness in the Church and, with the Lambeth Conference in mind, the Anglican Association welcomes this book by Canon Arthur Middleton and I warmly commend it to you. It is a thoughtful defence of Anglican orthodoxy. Canon Middleton, a significantly published theologian, is always a resolute and ready champion of that which is right and true and wise in these matters. As well as being a theologian of very considerable ability he has had the benefit of having been for many years a parish priest - which has, in turn, kept him in touch with those in the pew.” ~~ Anthony Kilmister, President, The Anglican Association



The loss of the Anglican mind, behind which is the loss of the Christian mind, has led to the dysfunctionality and loss of identity which we see in modern Anglicanism throughout the Anglican Communion. In his *Crockford's Preface* (1987-88), Gareth Bennett drew attention to a theology in retreat, pinpointing the crisis within Anglicanism as being fundamentally theological, and called for a return to our roots, our prescriptive sources. Canon Middleton takes us back to these prescriptive sources, and shows us that Anglicanism has its own peculiar character, and one that still speaks to us today. Continuity is a dynamic and living transmission of certain living qualities of faith and order, the *Tradition* the Church hangs on. These sources speak to us of an issue facing us that is far bigger than the saving of the Anglican Church - it is the saving of the Apostolic Faith and Order of the Church. They point us in the way of the re-integration of the universal Church to a western orthodoxy that is free from the relativism of the present: such orthodox faith comes in all its saving powers to identify with the world, but refuses to be accommodated to it, because its authority lies in its bringing to bear on the world and insight more adequate than the world's own.

Visit www.gracewing.co.uk and click on 'New Titles' for ordering information.