
On Eagles' Wings

Volume 13, Issue 3

June 2010

A Communication From
The Church of Saint John the Evangelist
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A Message from Fr. Matthew

Dear Friends,

I have been witnessing some amazing acts of faith lately in this parish. First, I see new outreach initiatives. Sunday attendance seems to be good. We have made some major headway with the capital campaign. We have new people taking leadership roles, and I have never enjoyed Vestry meetings as I have in the last couple of months. All of these things individually are great, but they speak to something greater; all these things speak to an underlying faith and openness to the Holy Spirit. We have just passed Whitsunday, the day of Pentecost. This is the day when the Holy Spirit came into the church and spread it across the globe. Last year at Pentecost, I ended my sermon by saying, "the question is not *if* the Holy Spirit is doing something at St. John the Evangelist; the question is *what* is the Spirit doing at St. John the Evangelist?"

The Holy Spirit is almost tangible in this place. Scripture talks of Her descending like a dove and being like a wind. John 3:8 says, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." The Spirit seems to be blowing in new directions all the time.

One note of caution about the Holy Spirit is that She cannot be controlled or ignored, but in our own minds, we can shut Her out. It is like closing a window to keep out the wind. It does not mean the wind is no longer there, only that we have shut it off from ourselves. Faith is opening that window; and open that window, you all have.

In the mundaneness of life, it could be so easy to shut out the Spirit; to go about business as usual as if it were...just business. However, at St. John the Evangelist, the windows have been opened wide to let in the Spirit. There is great faith in this place.

There is prayer where one does not expect it. There are people involved in their greater community. There is a genuine concern for each and every member of our parish. I see that every Sunday, as people ask about one another and check up on one another. This is the Spirit at work. Friends, this is a great time to be at St. John the Evangelist. In these days after Pentecost, let us continue to see the Spirit at work. Keep the window open. The breeze feels great.

Blessings and Peace,
Fr. Matthew+

Vacation Time is Coming Up

With the summer months and vacation time soon to be upon us, we need to realize that, as with your household, bills and salary obligations keep coming up each month and have to be paid. Cash flow need not be a problem for us in our Parish if we take steps to keep our pledges current. If you are going to be away, consider paying in advance, when you can, for those Sundays you will be gone. Just because you are not here does not mean the expenses stop coming in. Please try to keep up-to-date with your pledge. Thank you!

Dick Engle

Capital Campaign Kick-off Event

The **Capital Campaign Kick-off Event** on April 17 was an acknowledged success. Those present were taken on a tour of the church to see what repairs are needed because of damage caused by our leaking roof. We further viewed a slide show illustrating how the church plans to pay to have the roof and aging boiler replaced. Despite the serious nature of St. John's fundraising needs, the kick-off event was a festive affair, thanks in great part to the optimism that permeated the evening, as well as to the delicious refreshments prepared and graciously served by the Women's Guild.

As the result of both the kick-off event and a subsequent mailing requesting financial support from prospective donors, St. John's has already received pledges of over \$19,000 and direct donations of more than \$20,000. In addition, our fundraising activities have brought in close to \$5,000. We are off to a great start and plan to keep up the momentum by continuing our fundraising activities (see the article on **Capital Campaign Fundraising**, below) and holding bi-monthly Capital Campaign ingathering collections during Sunday services. If you have questions or wish to make a pledge or donation, see any member of the Capital Campaign

Committee: **Gene Pillar, Fr. Matthew, Marge or George Koleser, and Michele Bacorn.**

Capital Campaign Fundraising

Sales from the Women's Guild initial **Rada** fundraiser in February and March were respectable, making it worthwhile for the guild to add a second order in May.

The **Tricky Tray** was well-advertised and brought in good attendance. The church should be grateful to **Peggy Koleser** who did an outstanding job of organizing the auction and obtaining donated items from local merchants; we had a beautiful array of high quality gifts on display and the event ran smoothly. We sold hot dogs and hamburgers and served complimentary home baked desserts. It was a fun day and the Guild was able to realize a \$2,000 profit to donate to the Capital Campaign!



On June 16, the church is urged to support **Dining to Donate** at the **Applebee's Restaurant** in Milltown or the Applebee's in Piscataway. Between the hours of 11 AM and 9 PM that day, Applebee's will donate 10% of your bill (excluding tax, tip, and alcohol sales) to St. John's! You must present one of their flyers to your server before your bill is tallied. (See the back of the newsletter for a flyer.) You are encouraged to copy this flyer to hand out to your friends, but **do not** stand outside the restaurant handing out flyers or the agreement

will be negated and we will not receive a single dime. The restaurant wants to encourage people to come in to dine who otherwise might not eat there and it will defeat the purpose if we give flyers to anyone who is already on his/her way into the restaurant. If we can bring Applebee's new customers, this will be a win-win proposition for everyone!

Bring your family and friends out to eat a good, modestly priced meal on June 16 and help raise money for our new roof and boiler! Hope to see you at Applebee's.

Another current fundraiser is the Women's Guild's sale of **candy bars** and single serving **packages of nuts**. If you would like to take a box of 30 assorted candy bars and/or bags of peanuts or cashews to your office, club, or sports event to sell by the piece, please make arrangements with **Joyce Szabo**. The candy and nuts cost only \$1 per item and your co-workers and fellow soccer moms and dads will love them. With minimal effort, we can make a tidy profit.

We look forward to having many more fundraisers to support our Capital Campaign throughout the next several years. If you have any ideas for different activities, kindly let **Fr. Matthew, Joyce Szabo**, or any member of the **Capital Campaign Committee** know.

A Picnic to Celebrate our Students and Teachers

Sunday school classes will end on June 6 to allow our teacher, **Stacie Kelly**, her assistant, **Vanessa Bacorn**, and their students the opportunity to rest and enjoy their summer holidays before classes resume in September. Thank you, Stacie, for giving so graciously of your professional teaching services and for the loving guidance you have shown our children. Thank you, Vanessa, for helping with those efforts.

Following the service of Holy Eucharist, the congregation will host an informal **Parking Lot Picnic** to celebrate our students, their parents, and teachers. The entire congregation is welcome and encouraged to participate in this happy fellowship. We will grill hot dogs and hamburgers in the parking lot. Chances are we will eat our picnic in the shade and comfort of the parish hall, although you may eat outdoors if you prefer. Everyone is invited to contribute a covered dish or dessert to share. A sign-up sheet is available in the parish hall.

Into the Streets

On Saturday, May 22, a stalwart group set out from St. John's on a mission to clean up the neighborhood. Led by **Kristen Buterbaugh**, three teams of two walked along George Street and streets adjacent to the church collecting refuse and recyclable items. The weather was beautiful and the teams were able to accomplish a satisfying mini re-beautification of the neighborhood in under two hours before returning to the church to eat lunch and continue socializing. It is heartwarming to realize how little time and effort is required to make a big difference. If you would like to participate in an **"Into the Streets" Community Clean-up** or another one of Kristin's future community-outreach projects, let her know. You will be glad that you did.

Stewardship is a Year Round Pursuit

Following is the fifth of seven spiritual practices relating to stewardship that are found in a pamphlet entitled, "Finding Hope in Hard Times". [www.episcopalchurch.org/stewardship.]

Keep on Giving

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to

provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. [2 Corinthians 9:6-8]

It's vital that we continue to give during an economic downturn, and not only because our faith communities and charities depend on our giving. We give because we need to give. The Holy Spirit is continually at work shaping and growing our hearts, leading us to reflect the generosity of God's nature, as well as the depths of God's self-giving nature made known in Jesus. As we give, we experience the deeper joy of growing into the full stature of Christ.

One advantage of thinking about our giving in terms of giving away a percentage of our income is that it helps us adjust our giving as our income goes up and down. When we have less money coming in, we can give less, but do so knowing that our relative generosity is unchanged.

► **Action:** *Review your giving, setting it in the context of your income. Do you know what percentage of your income you give back?*

|| **Pause for Reflection:** *The passage above challenges us to give cheerfully. One way of increasing the joy found from giving is to become deeply aware of how your purpose is aligned with God's purpose of **shalom**, which is the Biblical understanding of peace that comes from living in right relationship with each other and all of creation. Understanding your purpose leads to joyful giving.*

August 2010 Newsletter Deadline

Please provide Michele Bacorn with submissions for the August 2010 newsletter by **Sunday, July 18**. Your contributions are always welcome. You may leave stories, articles, news of upcoming events, and other communications in the "Newsletter" mailbox in

the parish hall, hand your material to Michele during coffee hour, or via email to stjohns9@verizon.net.

Upcoming Events

June 5	Mother's Union Mtg. @ 3 PM
June 6	Parking Lot Picnic @ 11:30 AM
June 13	Capital Campaign Ingathering @ 10 AM
June 14	Vestry Mtg. @ 7:30 PM
June 16	Dining to Donate 11 AM – 9 PM
June 27	Bagged Lunch Project @ 10:45 AM
July 3	Mother's Union Mtg. @ 3 PM
July 25	Bagged Lunch Project @ 10:45 AM

Committees and Chairpersons

Worship – Fr. Matthew Buterbaugh

Music – Susan Huslage

Finance – Dick Engle

Renewal (Outreach) - Martha Godfrey

Parish Life – Marge Koleser

Christian Ed – Stacie Kelly

Property – George Koleser

Capital Campaign – Eugene Pillar, Jr.

St. John's Vestry

Marge Koleser, Sr. Warden

Martha Godfrey, Jr. Warden

Michele Bacorn

Christof Beckley

Victor Beckley

Nancy Cole, Clerk

Dick Engle, Treasurer

Susan Huslage, Music Director

George Koleser, Sr.

Eugene Pillar, Jr.



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Eat in or try our Carside To Go™ service!

Dine at Applebee's® and
10% of your bill will be donated to

Church of St. John's the Evangelist

Present this flyer to your server on

June 16th
11:00am - 9:00pm

at Applebee's of

Milltown
732-651-8151

Piscataway
(732) 562-0500



**You must present a flyer for
your donation to count!**

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and alcohol sales. Valid at participating restaurants during specified hours.
Must present flyer in order for organization to receive credit for purchase.
Flyers are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of
the parking lot.

You must bring this flyer for your donation to be counted. If ordering To Go, present flyer at time of payment.

