

## 2015 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Nominating Committee elected at the 2014 Annual Meeting will present its slate of nominees for election at the next Annual Meeting, to be held immediately following the 10:00 AM liturgy on January 25, 2015.

Matt Hart has been nominated for a two-year term as senior warden and Linnet Tse for a one-year term as junior warden (to finish the term vacated earlier this year). Additionally, four parishioners for the next vestry class have been nominated:

# **GUEST CLERGY IN JANUARY**

As is customary between an interim minister's departure and the arrival of the new rector, guest clergy will join us for two Sundays in mid-January. On Jan. 11 we will welcome

## EPIPHANY SUNDAY AND FAREWELL RECEPTION

Alon's last Sunday presiding will be Jan. 4, when we will celebrate Epiphany with a baptism and some special music from parishioner Elizabeth Fitts! Plan to stay after Liz Bruce, Jay Klancnik, Michael O'Connell and Sue Wahrhaftig.

Many thanks to the Nominating Committee, chaired by Jamie Vardell, and comprising Susan Matelich, Karen Gray, Lisa Young, Ryan O'Connell and Elizabeth Fitts.

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting to welcome the Rev. Joe Greene on his first Sunday with us, cast your votes, and hear reports from various parish leaders. A light brunch will be served.

back the Rev. Timothy Morehouse, and on the 18th, the Rev. Jim Hagen. Both priests will preside at the 8:00 and 10:00 liturgies.

the liturgy as we bid farewell to Alon at a reception and celebrate her ministry and time with us.

Thanks and peace to all,

-Cindy

INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN	¦ CARD OF THANKS	i Midnight run
The Rev. Alon White's final column recaps her	The McCurdy family expresses its appreciation	Explore the many ways available to you to
time as Interim at St. John's. P 2	for the support of the St. John's family. P 5	participate. P 10
FROM OUR RECTOR-ELECT	BAZAAR PREVIEW PARTY	PAGEANT PHOTOS
Fr. Greene muses on the meaning of the season	A gallery of photos of parishioners partying on	Images from our 3:00 Christmas Eve liturgy P 11
of Epiphany. P 3	the eve of the annual Bazaar P6&7	·
BAZAAR CO-CHAIRS OFFER THANKS	PARISH TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE	CHIMES DEADLINE
It takes many people to make the Bazaar such	Changes have been completed. P 8	Articles and photos for the 2/15 issue must
a success, raising almost \$23,000 for local	VOYAGERS	be submitted to the parish office by Jan. 14.
charities. P 4	A page of photos of our young people P 8	

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### **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**



## NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

**EDITOR/DESIGNER** Bruce Baiter

**INTERIM MINISTER** The Reverend Alon White

**RECTOR ELECT** The Rev. Joseph D. Greene

**PRIEST ASSOCIATE** The Rev. Dorothy A. Greene

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC** Dr. Paul-Martin Maki

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Debra Quintana

PARISH ADMINISTATOR Laura Rawlings Parent

PARISH SECRETARY Joan Saunders

> **SEXTON** Carlos Ortiz

**WARDENS** Cynthia Taleb Russell Hall

VESTRY Michael Bucci Mary Conway Barbara Gessler Neil Gray Dave Ingram Sanjiv Jaswal Victoria Maggard Wendy McFee Sally Noone Dorothy Rainier Stan Ramsay Aaron Simpson Scott Swanezy

> **TREASURER** James Sheker

## "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

When Senior Warden Cindy Taleb and I were first speaking early on during my time as interim, I mentioned that there was no such thing as a "typical" interim period. Reflecting back on this past year, I can easily say it was full of many best of times and a few really worst of times. There have been times full of joy and sorrow as well as times of anxiety and flurries of activities. There have been baptisms, weddings, and, sadly, funerals. We've weathered two Lenten/Easter seasons, two Advent and Christmas seasons, two stewardship campaigns, two Christmas Bazaars (and preview parties), and the installation of a new computer/phone system. These things have all been possible with the hard work, participation and support that you have provided. I am so grateful for the gifts of the St. John's community. It has been a blessing to work with our devoted staff and volunteers. You all make life here work so well, and your cheerful spirit of willingness has been a true delight.

St. John's really is a special place. You have beautiful and well cared for property. You generously support outreach efforts throughout the year. You care for each other. You come together regularly for worship. It will be hard to say good-bye, but I look forward to hearing good things about your future. For the time we have been given, I am truly grateful.

The journey through the transition pilgrimage is almost done. Today, you stand at the edge of the desert looking over into the Promised Land. You are almost there. You are excited about and getting ready to welcome Fr. Joe and his family. But, it is important to remember that arriving does not mean done. It means that one pilgrimage is over and the next is ready to begin. Everyone's participation will be required for that journey.

May God's blessing upon your ministry and life with Fr. Joe bear much fruit!

Peace and Blessings,

Alon+

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined." —Isaiah 9:2

## A WORD FROM OUR NEW RECTOR

The time after Christmas can seem almost anticlimactic. For weeks we have been preparing for the annual celebration of the birth of the Christ child, the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. Christmas is a celebration of the Incarnation which we mark with lots of decorating and baking, parties and presents, family gatherings and obligatory card sending. And once the 26th hits, it's almost like all of the energy and action that's been leading up to Christmas day, consuming most of Advent and stretching out before Thanksgiving, goes away. As if it never happened, with the exception of a few lingering reminders: Toys that were obsessively begged for go unplayed with. Mounds of trash and empty boxes. Vague resentments over dinner conversations with ornery family members. Sadness over those that we did not see in our celebrations. Relief that the elves have returned to the North Pole, no longer occupying our shelves or creating havoc in our homes. A bit more darkness as the lights come down.

And what are we left with? A child, in a manger, who will grow into a man destined for death. We know the story doesn't end with his death (and I imagine the Easter candy will be appearing in stores soon). But maybe in the stillness and hollowness that occur after Christmas, we can come to understand that it is all about and always has been only about God. And this is bigger, in many ways, than just Christmas. This is what the Epiphany and the season after it point to-that the light illuminating our world and our lives is a light that shines with such radiance and such joy that it fills up the hollow bits and puts energy abounding into the stillness of winter. That light is the light of Jesus, born in human flesh yet fully God, a light of the revelation of God's love to all the nations.

St. John's is a place that radiates with that light. It has called me to you. My family and I look with great excitement as we join in with the light that beckons us to Larchmont. And this light, this brilliant, divine light, calls us all to look around and see where we can bring it—to neighbor and stranger who may still be dwelling in darkness or the shadow of death, who can use a little light right about now. Because the light is for us, and for us to give away.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Joe

### **Mission Statement:**

St. John's is a family called by Christ to grow spiritually, to share our life with others, and to make His love known through word and deed.

St. John's Church is a parish of the Diocese of New York, a branch of the Episcopal Church in the United States, which is a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

## The Anglican Communion

Archbishop of Canterbury The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby



A global community of 70 million Anglicans in 64,000 congregations in 70 countries

## The Episcopal Church

Presiding Bishop The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori



A community of 2.4 million members in 113 dioceses in the Americas and abroad

## The Episcopal Diocese of New York

Bishop of New York The Rt. Rev. Andrew M. L. Dietsche

Bishop Suffagan The Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin



A community of 203 congregations covering 4,739 square miles, with approximately 600 priests and 72 deacons, and where the Eucharist is celebrated every week in 14 languages: American Sign Language, Bontoc, Chinese, Creole, English, French, Ga, Igbo, Japanese, Korean, Malayalan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Tamil



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Susan Amlicke Tiffany Andrade Jackson Avery Holden Baucom Nick Blanchard Amelia Brown Dillon Brown Zachery Brown Ellie Bruce Peter Brush, Jr. Mary Conway **Burton Corwin** Lillyanne Donnelly Sheila Dorsey Paul Fanto Ann Geary Katherine Goodman Robert Goodman Dorothy Greene Kim Holocher-Furletti Gianna Isidori Ann Kirkham John Kvernland Kate Larkin Molly Lawler Alexandra Liggins Olivia Maggard Ollie Maggard Ellen Martin Charlie McDonald Carolyn McMichael Ian Milward Charles Moore Jen Mullen Kevin O'Connell Hunter Pawloff Ned Purves Aaron Simpson Robert Snedeker Gigi Stolorow Ann Wilson David Wilson J.D. Wilson

**Nicaragua Trip** Interested in joining our tenth yearly trip to Nicaragua with Bridges to Community (June 27–July 5)? The deadline is fast approaching! After Friday, Jan. 16, any available spots will be opened to non-parishioners. Questions: Linnet Tse (<u>linnet.tse@gmail.com</u> or 833-2871) or Carla Berry (<u>carla.c.berry@gmail.com</u> or 235-5303). Nicaragua Trip Interested in joining our tenth yearly trip to Nicaragua with Bridges to Community (June 27–July 5)? The deadline is fast approaching! After Friday, Jan. 16, any available spots will be opened to non-parishioners. Questions: Linnet Tse (<u>linnet.tse@gmail.com</u> or 833-2871) or Carla Berry (<u>carla.c.berry@gmail.com</u> or 235-5303).

# **BAZAAR THANK YOUS**

Almost everyone in the parish contributed in some way to our very successful Bazaar that raised \$21,000 for local charities and, in addition, collected \$1,650 in the form of checks written at the Bazaar directly to the Hispanic Resource Center, Providence House and Family Services of Westchester. So we want say that whether you:

- Donated anything from cooking utensils to condos—we thank you! •
- Created lovely centerpieces, wreaths or cookies—we thank you!
- Made the upstairs look lovely or made children happy downstairs we • thank you!
- Sorted "treasures" or toys, books or brooches—we thank you!
- Wrote letters to Santa or P.R. for the press—we thank you!
- Cooked chili or cleaned up—we thank you!
- Helped to throw out trash or throw a great preview party—we thank you!
- Sold, served or shopped—we thank you!
- Took pictures or picture how you could chair the Bazaar next year-we thank you!

But wait! There's more! Here's what else the Bazaar contributed:

- A great church spirit. Everyone laughed and enjoyed themselves as they turned mountains of contributed goods into beautiful, tempting displays.
- A great community event. Many shoppers commented that this was their first exposure to St. John's, and they were impressed by how very nice and welcoming we are.
- A great opportunity to glean. Many organizations from the Salvation Army to an after school program in Mount Vernon were happy to have our leftover goods.

Finally, we ask everyone to patronize - and personally thank - the following businesses that contributed generously to the Preview Party and Bazaar:

- Allegra Dance Studio, Greenwich •
- Bach to Rock, Mamaroneck
- Blue Tulip Chocolates, Rye
- Coach Bags, corporate headquarters in NYC
- Decoration Day, Larchmont •
- Equinox gym, Mamaroneck
- The Flower Bar, Larchmont
- House of Flowers, Mamaroneck
- Wine Gems, Bronxville, David Calkin, in coordination with Martin Scott Liquor and Purity Vodka

-Jackie Plumez and Karen Gray, 2014 Co-Chairs

Dear St. John's,

We are so very appreciative of all that the St. John's community has done for us in the last few months. It is truly terrible to lose one's son and brother, but the love and support from each of you has helped immensely. From the visiting hours and reception held in the Parish Hall, organized on just a few days' notice, to the amazingly wellexecuted memorial service, graciously accommodating one of the largest crowds seen at St John's in many years, we thank you from the bottoms of our hearts. It was great comfort to have had former curates Randy Alexander, Brad Dyche and Katie Herron-Piazza all join Alon White and Dorothy Greene, along with Kate's brother, the Rev. Paul Russell, to conduct the service. In addition to a wonderful team of Eucharistic ministers, Altar Guild members and ushers, it also was lovely to have former acolytes Drew Purcell, Eliza Berry and Eleanor Fanto back to serve once again. Will would have been overwhelmed, even embarrassed, by the incredible outpouring to celebrate his life. He taught us many lessons: true humble gratitude for what others do for us is one of them, so we wanted to write this letter to the parish.

We feel so blessed to be members of a community as strong, loving, capable and supportive as St. John's.

With deep gratitude to you all,

Kate, Steve and Eliza McCurdy

## NURSERY SCHOOL



The afternoon 3's "princesses" pose in front of our Christmas tree forest.

## **PARISH REGISTER**

#### Deaths

- Catherine McNamara, mother of Bernadette Leccese Edna J. McCallion, mother of Kenneth F. McCallion, mother-in-law of Susan Wallace and grandmother of Foard McCallion Bernadette Mauro, relative of Carolyn Whittemore
- Contributions to St. John's: In honor of Edward Hyde Burdick by Peter Buchanan In memory of Deborah Geithner by Masar and Takako Tsumita In memory of Edward Hyde Burdick by Charlotte Brasel

## SUNDAY BABYSITTING

Free babysitting for children up to 3 years old is available every Sunday during the 10:00 AM liturgy. Two childcare providers are always present.

### **Check In and Check Out Procedures**

**Drop off:** Parents sign in their child. We encourage parents to wait until the Eucharist or end of the service for pick up so as not to disrupt the other children.

**Snacks:** The parish's Sunday morning babysitting policy prevents us from offering snacks, but parents may bring a snack for their child. Please inform the sitters of any allergies.

St. John's is fortunate to offer a delightful space and caring childcare providers. The key guideline in ministry with children is to recognize that each of us is a child of God and is to be treated with respect, love, and support as we are commanded in the Gospels (John 13:34 and Mark 12:28–31).

## **INK CARTRIDGES**

I have some Epson 273 ink cartridges that I can no longer use and would be happy to pass them along, free of charge, to anyone who can use them. Please contact me (203-324-0728 or <u>bruce.baiter@gmail.com</u>) if you are interested. —Editor

## 2014 BAZAAR PREVIEW



























## PARTY PHOTO GALLERY















### ST. JOHN'S TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE COMPLETE!

### New E-mail Addresses, New Phones, Expanded WiFi, and More!

We are thrilled to announce that our technology upgrade was recently completed. Although much of the work will not be immediately visible to parishioners, the impact should soon be noticeable in terms of better phone service and internet connectivity. The parish now has Verizon FIOS service, all new wiring, a new phone system, new computers, better WiFi in the education wing and new internet (including WiFi) service in the Murray building!!

As part of our recently completed technology upgrade, the St. John's office and staff have new e-mail addresses. Effective immediately, these are the e-mail addresses you should use to get in touch with the office and staff. Please make a note of the new addresses, as we will soon be terminating our Cloud9 e-mail services:

> Office (Laura and Joanie) office@stjohnslarchmont.org

Fr. Joe (when he arrives) jgreene@stjohnslarchmont.org

Debra Quintana dquintana@stjohnslarchmont.org

Catherine Bucci cbucci@stjohnslarchmont.org

Many thanks to the members of the Technology Committee: Michael Bucci, Wendy McFee, Neil Gray, Aaron Simpson, and Linnet Tse.

### TRANSITION PRAYER FOR ST. JOHN'S

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for calling the Rev. Joe Greene to be our rector. Be with him and his family, and with Alon, our wardens, vestry and congregation as we prepare for the next phase of transition. Grant us grace, humility and wisdom and strengthen our hearts to build on the foundation that has been laid so that we may continue to move closer to the vision of a world transformed by Jesus. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

 Adapted from transition prayers used by other churches













## MEET THE GREENES!



### SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

1/4	Family Liturgy
1/11 1/18 1/25	MLK Weekend
2/1 2/8 2/15 2/22	Family Liturgy <b>No</b> Sunday School (Winter School Break)
3/1 3/8 3/15 3/22 3/29	Family Liturgy Palm Sunday (School Break 3/30-4/6)
4/5 4/12 4/19 4/26	Easter Sunday
5/3 5/10 5/17	Family Liturgy
5/24 5/31	Pentecost; Memorial Day Weekend ( <b>No</b> Sunday School)
6/7 6/14	Family Liturgy Last Day & Parish Picnic

### SEEKING INTERCESSORS

If you would like to add your voice to the many who offer the names during the prayers of the people, please see Greg Hall, or contact the parish office. The more voices, the better.

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

We need hosts every Sunday to help create a warm welcome for those who attend the 10:00 AM liturgy. It is really easy to be a host: sign up and simply head to the Parish Hall immediately after the service to pour coffee and tea for parishioners. Everything is set up for you, though if you wish to make a nut-free fingerfood treat, it can be added to the refreshments served. Stay for a few minutes at the end of the Coffee Hour and help with the easy cleanup. Volunteers are needed for the following Sundays: Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. To sign up, or for more information, please contact Robin Ingram (636-4485 or rai811@aol.com).

# MIDNIGHT RUN

Midnight Run volunteers bring food, clothing, toiletries, blankets and conversation to homeless persons on the streets of New York City. Our next run is scheduled for Friday evening, Jan. 9.

We need your help to gather the items that we will be giving out on our run. Please clean out your closets and put the following items listed below in the bins outside the parish office. Do not leave children's clothes, women's clothes, summer clothes, or recycled underwear/socks by the stairs. Only men's winter clothing is needed. Thank you.

Please donate the following clean clothing in bags by the stairway near the parish office:

- Jeans
- Warms coats and jackets
- Gloves and hats
- Sweatshirts and sweaters
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- Sneakers and outdoor shoes
- Warm boots

In addition, the following items can be donated:

- Toiletries: toothbrushes, toothpaste, small Irish Spring soap, small shampoos, deodorants, razors, combs, band-aids, small packs of wipes
- Men's suits and dress shirts-clean/pressed on coat hangers or boxed, please (for job interviews)

Help needed Friday, Jan. 9:

- Providing 24 bag lunches (four volunteers @ 6 lunches each)
- Packing toiletry bags (starting 6:00 рм, Friday, Jan. 9)
- Preparing hot soup: (starting 7:00 рм, Friday, Jan. 9)
- Sorting clothing: Everyone is invited to help sort and pack our donations in the undercroft (starting 6:00 PM, Friday, Jan. 9)
- Making the run to NYC: This is a good opportunity for parents and teens/pre-teens to do an activity together (starting 8:30 PM, Friday, Jan. 9 and returning from NYC approximately 2:00 AM on Saturday, Jan. 10)
- Clean-up in undercroft: a volunteer or two to help clean up on Saturday morning is greatly appreciated.

You may sign up during Coffee Hour or contact Paul Schwendener (<u>pws77@verizon.net</u> or 833-1762).

## 2014 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT











