

JULY/AUGUST 2011

St. John's Newsletter



My Window on Main Street

The following inscription appears in the cornerstone of an old English Church:

*In the Year 1653 When all things sacred in the Kingdom were either profaned or demolished this Church was built by Sir Richard Shirley Barouet, whose singular praise it was
To do the best of things in the worst of times.*

I love St. John's Church. I shall never forget the first time I visited the Church in 1995. The old wooden building, under lumpy gray skies, was dirty and sullen in appearance. The windows looked dark and dreary. I stood on the sidewalk under the elms and felt disappointed. I asked "Is this the church I could become Rector of?" "It is a dour old building with no charm at all." I went inside and I need not tell you of the transformation in my attitude. It was magnificent! Even though little sunlight filtered through the stained glass, the windows were a feast for gourmet soul. Never had I seen such a nice assemblage of blues and reds and other colors. It was as if I had stumbled into the room in Heaven where the deepest hues of the rainbow are made. I could not believe the simple beauty, the rare incomparable glory of the place.

On the inside St. John's was completely different from the way it appeared on the outside. Many people have a similar experience with the Christian faith. From the outside it looks dull, superstitious and restrictive; it appears to be totally lacking in fun and charm and intelligence. But from the inside, where God is to be found, it is something else altogether – beautiful, majestic, commanding, simple and utterly fulfilling to the human spirit.

The church is a hallowing ground – a place where seeds of sacred living are sewn – a temple where we learn what God would have us be and do.

We all need to do the best things in the worst of times, especially since we no longer have a day solely dedicated to worship. We seem to be busy in the 21st Century. 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Worship in our church we know is important and is not strictly required but it seems to fade into the myriad of things to do.

St. John's Church, our church, is a symbol to us of God's importance to our lives and is a place of worship, a sanctuary – where the presence of God is found. I pray you will make time at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday morning this summer to worship and reveal yourself and your children to God at Your church, St. John's. I look forward to seeing you.

Agapé

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McGinn".

Father John McGinn

Dear St. John's Parents & Children,



Our vast pool of Acolytes has dwindled to just 7 after years of having 16 plus. We are looking for boys and girls who would be able to commit to just one Sunday per month to take part in the Service. If something comes up and you are unable to be at church on your assigned Sunday no problem whatsoever. Just let me know. Your first duty will be that of a Torch Bearer; carrying a candle. The new Acolyte will be assigned to one of our veterans, and will simply "mirror" their tasks. Everything is done super slowly.

Please call me to schedule a 15 minute training.

Thank you, Nick LeRoy, Acolyte Director



Don't forget that the Summer Schedule began on Sunday June 19th, with one Sunday service at 9:00 a.m. The office hours are the same. Monday-Friday 9:30 - 1:30.

We will return to our regular service schedule on Saturday, September 10, with a Rite II Service at 5PM, and Sunday at 8AM Rite I, and 10AM Rite with Music & Choir.



NEW NEWSLETTER/WEEKLY COMMUNICATION FORMAT

Meetings were held – you talked, we listened. Two issues were heard above all the others:
Save Money – Better Communications

In an effort to save money and increase communications, a weekly E-flash has been developed. It will supplement the newsletter. We are hoping that by the end of the year, we can cut down the amount of newsletters printed substantially. By cutting down the number of mailed newsletters a substantial amount of money can be saved. For every page that is printed it costs about 10 cents...right now over 400 copies are sent and each copy is about 10 pages. For every newsletter that is e-mailed it is a savings. Many of you are already getting the electronic copy. If you are not getting the electronic copy and you have an email address, please contact the office and ask to be put on the electronic distribution list. Contact Michael at offices@stjohnschurch-sandwich.com. The weekly E-flash will remind you of what's happening over the weekend and what may be upcoming in the new few weeks. To do that, we also need your email. You spoke, we listened, now help us to execute the new plan.

THE SHADOW AT PENTACOST

It was a dark and dreary morning. Telephone rang; "It is pouring outside and here at the church the basement (bottom of stairs back entrance) is flooded." Darn! "Call Rob Bruce!" Second call, "Rob is mopping." "Where's the water coming from?" Rob says, "The window wells are overflowing, he is bailing as quickly as he can" Good man Rob. Third call, "Is the picnic cancelled?" Answer, "Good Grief, NO! After that everything improved. Rain ceased, clouds hung in though. The service was perfect, reverent and happy. Our boys, the three Musketeers and High School Graduates, Robbie, Dom, and Peter, showed pictures of themselves and the Youth Group over the years. They thanked St. John's for all that has been done for them. We clapped for Jesus, said goodbye to Bob Sherwood, our Deacon-for-the-season. Massie sang "Jesus loves me", we thanked our Sunday School Teachers for their labor of love, looked at Fr. McGinn's red sneakers, enjoyed the red balloons, and then ate a grand layout of food cooked by Peter Martin and all arranged by Sue Nee.

As this is being created the golfers are over at New Seabury enjoying a cool, cloudy but not-to-bad afternoon on the golf course. Shadow was there to see the 'kick-off- as the golf carts sped off carrying our finest from the parking lot to the proper starting points. The players leaned out of the windowless cars expectantly. Clearly they could hardly contain themselves so excited are they to begin play. Shadow drank coffee and leaned on the balcony railing

Let us celebrate some of St. John's athletes Kevin Jillson ran the Boston Marathon and was 47th American to cross the finish line. Bruce, his Dad, ran the Boston several years, I think, so the skill runs in the family. Grampa Jack is proud and so are we!!!! Did you know that Art Donahue was a runner of note although to Shadow's knowledge he never ran the Boston? Art did compete in lots of local races. He was good at running perhaps that's why he was such an excellent St. John's Warden for a number of years.

The Annual Pancake Race for Ladies over 18 is another footrace worth mentioning. This is as competitive as the Boston Marathon and I kid you not. You must witness it to get the enormity of it all. The first race (a year ago) was won by our own Danna Wudyka. Last February it was the delightful Christine Kuchar who edged out the determined field. Whew!

And now some bicycle stories.

On a hot June day in the late 1980s, The Rev. John Thomas arrived at a Quaker Meeting House Road address on his bike to conduct a baptism. Can't remember if he was wearing his shorts but the rest of the congregation was. He was not wearing a helmet. No one ever thought of helmets in the 80s

Rob White is training to ride in the Pan-Mass in August. The race begins at Sturbridge Village and ends in Provincetown. This, as you probably know is a two day affair. The whole mess of riders spends the night at Massachusetts Maritime Academy but not Rob. He will go home to his own bed that night. Who can blame him? Will Colleen pick you up? Go for it Rob!!!

Jim McCoy is a biker. Although lives across the bridge at Exit 3, he can be seen anywhere here in town. Shadow spotted him late one Saturday afternoon speeding down Old County Road in East Sandwich. Jim is on the Vestry. Most every Sunday Jim takes Art Donahue to Church. Art appreciates that as do we all.

Another biker is Tom Moon. My guess is he would rather be playing hockey but he instead right now he's riding his bike for miles over the Upper Cape. Shadow saw him winging his way from 6A up the hill on Quaker Meeting House Road by the High School. He was wearing his helmet and a big grin.

Jean deJong rides a bike, too. She looks good in her helmet. Although she has moved away we talk and yes, she is still riding her bike in the big city. Her condo is on the top of a long hill and her friend Peter lives down at the foot of the hill a mile or more away. So our girl at 80, Shadow can tell this 'cause she is not here to scold me, pedals down to his house often. However, they put the bike in his car and he gives her and the bike a lift up the hill and home. We miss you, Jean.

Shadow approached Marion, If she, Shadow asked, would buy the bike, Shadow will purchase a red helmet (to go with the red sneakers). Then "He" could join Rob, Jim, Tom and Jean on the road. We'll let "#1" practice a little and then have a race. Oh, let's get real; it should be fifty miles or more. Forget the Golf Tournament and the Auction. Heck, we could sell tickets for standing room at the finish line. We will bet on the winner. Tommy Hayes and Henry White can hold the money. We would be able to raise lots. Shadow will bet on Rob. Maybe the Diocese wouldn't look kindly on this.

Look out El Salvador! St. John's kids will be descending upon you. Sarah Balkam, Lily Randall, and Robbie Bruce have reached their goal of \$2,000 each; that's a lot of money. How proud Shadow is of these young people. The trip will be an eye opener for them and for us.

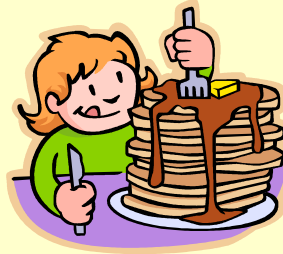
Graduates: Brian Balkam from Bryant College; Rob Bruce, Dom Lasorsa, Michael Nee, Michael Grundman, Helen Cutler from high school. Congratulations to all! Parents, too!

Until next time, The Shadow





The third annual St John's Pancake Breakfast and 4th of July celebration!



Time ... Monday, July 4th from 8 am to 10 am!

Cost ... \$5.00 at the door, tell all your friends and neighbors!

50/50 Raffle ... Cash Grand Prize, many other prizes!

St John's Parade Float ... loaded with squirt guns and water balloons, Bourne Braves players will be marching with us again this year!

Kids ... Eat breakfast with your favorite Bourne Braves players! Get your autographs too!



It takes a lot of volunteers to make this event a success. We need volunteers for setup, pancake flipping, selling raffle tickets, building the float, marching in the parade, and clean up!

For more information contact:

Donna Wudyka
Nancy Travers

DWudyka@hotmail.com
nancytravers312@hotmail.com

THOUGHTS FROM THE WARDEN

As you know, the Vestry meets regularly each month to review our finances, assess and evaluate our ministries and activities, deliberate and take any necessary action, and set policies and direction for the Church. Sometimes frustrating, sometimes challenging, sometimes tedious, Vestry meetings are where the business of the Church is conducted by active Church members. Although we ought to be focused on the "big picture", we are often very wrapped up in the details of the budget or fundraising or some program. It often seems like we don't have the time to step back and take it all in.

In addition, the wardens meet with the Rector weekly (and sometimes even more often than that) to review operations, ministerial concerns, and the general life of the parish as a body. We've been transitioning into clearer organizational structure and trying to improve our communications among ourselves, with specific committees and volunteers, and with the entire Church membership.

So, it was very helpful to hold our visioning sessions in May where Church members helped to reflect on what we do and how well we do it, and what we could do as we look ahead. We held two sessions, one after Sunday service and the other on a Wednesday evening, in the parish hall. In all, we had close to 50 people join us and put thoughts on paper.

We want to share with you the issues, concerns, and good ideas that were the results of those sessions. Clearly, communications – in all forms – was identified over and over as critical, both internally among all of the members of St. John's, and through our greater communities (within the Episcopal Church and within the Sandwich / Cape Cod area). Over the summer, the Vestry will meet to review this material and help formulate action steps for addressing the many good ideas. Then, moving forward, we hope to continue to have general discussion sessions with as many of our church Members as possible so that everyone's thoughts are heard and good ideas can be acted upon.

Please take the time to share with me any thoughts you may have or anything you may want to see added to these pages.

Faithfully,
Glen Paré



St John's Episcopal Church, Sandwich MA
Visioning Sessions 5/22/11 & 5/25/11

A. Communication: Needs Improvements & organization

1. Community newspapers & gorilla marketing (flyers etc...)

- A. Issue press releases of church happenings & ministries. Celebrate our success and good deeds
- B. Community. Toot our own horn "Best kept secret in Sandwich"
 - Food Pantry
 - El Salvador mission trip
 - 14 first communion kids
 - Golf outing
 - Auction
 - 4th of July float & pancake breakfast
 - Better branding of events

2. Newsletter & Bulletin

- A. Print vestry notes in monthly newsletter & bulletin.
- B. Add budget update in monthly newsletter & bulletin so parishioners can know financial status.
- C. Synchronize all communications and keep communications updated on a timely basis. Facebook, website, Google groups, newsletters and bulletins
- D. Large print options for elderly
- E. Process to print & distribute is long and cumbersome. A successful newsletter needs volunteers, schedule deadlines and predictability
- F. Email the newsletter.
- G. Publish visioning meeting results and ongoing work

3. Networking

- A. Collaborate with other community churches on ministries and common issues.
- B. Network & build relationships with other local churches.

4. Social Media & Website

- A. Synchronize all communications and keep communications updated on a timely basis. Facebook, website, Google groups, newsletters and bulletins
- B. Large print options for elderly
- C. Utilize Constant Contact

B. Membership

1. *Recruitment*

- A. Market to members using Information from services such as baptisms, weddings, confirmations
- Send letters reminding them of preschool, Sunday school etc...
 - Actively recruit community members seeking a new church by advertising & event marketing
 - Ministry Sunday a day to explain the needs of the church and ministries we need help with.
 1. Prepare honest expectations and needs
 2. Publicize talents and needs to fill gaps

2. *Parish Directory, Database & Follow Up*

- Organize and maintain a data base of our members & communicants in good standing
- Publish an up to date directory
- Can we add a talent field so we know what member's talents are?

3. *Recognition for volunteers say Thank You!*

- A. Recognize efforts of volunteers maybe on St John's day or create a special day known as "Recognition Sunday"
- Print& publish a thank you list of all volunteers
 - Annual Volunteer of the year award vote and award ceremony at auction

C. Ministries

1. *Elderly Needs*

- A. Establish a committee to determine the needs of our elderly members
- Mobility in church. Accessibility of church
 - Home visits
 - Caring ministries sending notes. Need Volunteers
 - Large print bulletin & newsletter option

2. *New Comers*

- A. Have a party 2 x per year to welcome all to St John's
- Invite the vestry and Senior communicants in good standing to share
 - Invite priests & acolytes
 - Caring ministries sending notes. Need Volunteers
 - Large print bulletin & newsletter options

3. *Christian Education*

- A. Reorganize and Revitalize Youth & Adult programs
- B. Find better learning opportunities for older youth to get the message of God and understanding of Episcopalian principals
- C. Communicate and recruit Sunday school teachers.
- D. Offer training and guidance as the year progresses.

4. **Community Involvement**

A. Participate in more community projects and programs

- Food Pantry
- Housing Authority
 1. Need rides to services and food pantry
 2. Flyers about services

5. **Summer Shut Down & Sports Conflicts**

A. St John's needs to be open and fully active on a year round basis

- When Rector is on vacation the whole church moves to slowdown
- Offer a summer Sunday School
- Revitalize a collaboration with First Church summer bible camp
- Open church for touring at times in summer like in Europe. Add a donation station

B. Work with other local churches and take a stand on Sunday morning sports

- Bourne does not schedule sports on Sunday am why does Sandwich?
- Meet with local sports organizations to free up time for youth and church
- Offer a Saturday church school option for youth involved in church

6. **Youth Programs for high school**

A. We lose kids in 9th grade and up.

- Offer more interactive programming for 9 to 12 fun and positive activities
- Find ways kids can connect and work time for church into their lives
- Formalize volunteer programs kids can use for college resume's and recommendation letters both in church opportunities and ministries participated in with the church
- Parents want more involvement with stressing their child's schedules and forcing them to participate

D. Worship / Music

1. **Alter Guild**

- A. Desperately needs more volunteers
- B. Especially Christmas & Easter

E. Financial

1. **Balance the Budget**

2. **Audit**

3. **Formalize and market an estate planning/planned giving program**

- A. Forms and explanations for will, bequests and trust are online

4. **Grant Writing needs to be serious about sourcing grants to help with ministries.**

- A. Organize a grant committee

F. Administration

1. **Pledge software is old and inadequate for our needs**

- A. Alternatives are QuickBooks, Power Church Plus and Blackbaud. We own QB
 - Data transfer is a problem. Need help with this



Celebrating the Spirit of St. John's

Save The Date: St. John's 2nd Annual Auction!

We will be holding our 2nd Annual St. John's Auction Gala at Heritage Museum and Gardens on Saturday, October 15th. Last year's Auction was the event of the season and was a sellout. The Gala will feature food, cash bar, live entertainment, and a silent and live auction with games and surprises. This is a great opportunity for the adults in our church to celebrate our fellowship and raise money for our programs!

What you can do:

Buy your advance tickets now - only \$15 each!

Invite your friends and neighbors!

Be on the lookout for auction items; many businesses are more inclined to donate during their busy season!

Please contact us with any questions, to purchase tickets, donate items, or to help!

Sean Randall, seanbrandall@comcast.net

Donna Wudyka, dwudyka@hotmail.com

Have a SAFE and BLESSED SUMMER!!

A BIG CONGRATS to all of our High School AND College Grads!!

We wish you the best and will keep all of you in our prayers. Stay in touch we want to hear about your adventures!!

To our BCH Campers have fun! Send pictures, please.

Sunday School and Youth Group resumes in September.

Thank you

Myriah

Happy Birthday

July	August	
<p>1 Al Hebert 3 William Lark 4 Dick Shepardson 4 John McGinn 4 Julieette Moroney 5 Joseph Martin 6 Harvey Hassan 6 Marielle Sears 7 Thomas Glaser 8 Rita Neri 8 Bruce Greenhalgh 9 Eric Small 10 Barbara Hill 10 Samantha Dean 11 Marilyn Swain 11 Fred Barhoff III 11 Susan Danehy 11 Daniel Megan 12 Joseph Barrett 12 Jennifer Gelinis 12 Bradford Ames 14 Elizabeth Wilbur 14 Jared Cohen 15 George Major 15 Devon Cohen 15 Nicholas Abbott 16 Devin Grass 16 Clarissa Gibbs 18 Claire Desilets 18 Michael O'Connor 19 Skid Schermerhorn 10 Joseph Smith 20 Peter von der Heyde 21 Michael Hoagland 21 Mark McGrory 22 Erika Flodberg 23 Jacob Moroney 23 Sarah Balkam 24 Claire Creedon 26 James Cervantes 26 Chelsea McLean 26 Kaitlyn Nee 27 Eric Foster 28 Everett Horn, III 28 Sarah Harrington 29 Korini Violette 30 Matthew Moore 31 Jameson Harper</p>	<p>1 Joseph Lank 2 Nolan Roche 3 Kristen Borghi 4 Cyndi Denmat 5 Colin McGinn 6 Sandra Hibbard 7 Colleen McLaughlin 7 Nina Sundermeyer 8 Gerry Czarnetzki 9 Catherine Harper 9 Marann O'Connell 10 John Dingess 10 Rita Gingrich 10 Jack Austin 11 FrancesThomas 11 Cliff Rideout 11 Chelsea Kristofferson 14 Glenn Merrill 14 Diane Martell 14 Jared McGrath 15 Andrew Anderson 15 Kyra Johnson 15 Zephyn Johnson 16 Trish McGrory 17 Robert Johnson 17 Jann Czarnetzki 17 Wendi Fuller 18 Jeanette Jones 19 Anne-Elizabeth TOM 19 Norma Leech 20 Molly Heinlein 21 Dennis Creedon 21 Kathryn Johnson 22 Jack Greenhalgh 23 Janet Richards 23 Miles Sundermeyer 23 Abigail McGrory 24 Josef Dauley 25 Michelle Anderson 29 Jocelyn Schermerhorn 29 Brittany Parker 30 David Gingrich 30 Donna Judson 31 Robert Blanchard 31 Cheryl Hulslander 31 Luke O'Neill 31 Owen Moloney</p>	



The Episcopal Church
welcomes you

Rector—The Rev. John E., McGinn
Rector Emeritus—The Rev. John H. Thomas

Acolyte Director—Nicholas LeRoy
Director of Children’s Ministries—Susan Nee
Director of Youth Ministries—Myriah Bruce
Sexton—Rob Bruce

Sr. Warden—Glenn Paré
Clerk—Jann Czarnetski
Steve Hayes
Mark McGrory
Sean Randall

Donna Wudyka
Brian Kuchar
James McCoy

Youth Vestry Members: Peter Balkam and Domenick Lasorsa

Clergy

Assisting Priest—The Rev. Bruce L. Benschoff
Deacon Intern—Robert L. Sherwood

Staff

Organist & Director of Music—Misao Koyama
Parish Administrator— Michael McLaughlin
Thrift Shop Director—Paula Deane

Vestry

Jr. Warden—Amy Singelais
Treasurer—Tom Anderson

Paul Coyle
Cheryl Hulslander
Peter Wack

WE’RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.STJOHNSCHURCH-SANDWICH.COM

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