

SEPTEMBER 2011

# St. John's Newsletter



## My Window on Main Street

In July of 1876, the body of General George Armstrong Custer was found near the crest of a small hill close by a relatively unknown stream called the Little Bighorn. They found him reclining against the carcass of a horse, naked with only one small wound in his chest, unscalped but quite dead. He was surrounded by the remains of his unfortunate command.

I read a book *The Last Stand* by Nathaniel Philbrick last year about this particular incident in which Philbrick suggests that Custer came to that particular hill and ending because of ignorance. Custer's small band faced the largest assembly of Indians that had ever come together on the plains. He did not know that he and his men were going up against an Indian Force larger than any of them had ever seen before. Their end was swift and sure because of ignorance. In the true sense Custer's enemy was not the Indians, it was ignorance. If Custer had known what he was up against and acted accordingly, he and his regiment would have survived. General George Armstrong Custer's real enemy was ignorance. And so it is for us all. John Dewey, the famous educator-philosopher, ranked ignorance first among the 4 common enemies of humanity; the other 3 being poverty, disease and injustice. Ancient thinkers also pinpoint ignorance as the foremost enemy of humanity. Crito believed that ignorance rather than original sins caused the evil in the world. Crito said that no one does wrong willingly, but is ignorance of the good – of the morally good. Plato and Socrates held similar views. "Knowledge is virtue," Socrates taught. That is to say, if a person knows what is the right and virtuous thing to do in given circumstances, he or she will do it; failures are due to ignorance. Aristotle, also writing on Free Will and Determinism, held that a person is responsible for actions unless the person acts out of ignorance.

The Apostle Paul, it seems, went along with this or at least was influenced by such thinking. In writing to Timothy, Paul reflects on his earlier mistake of persecuting Christians and blaspheming and insulting Jesus. He attributed it to ignorance: "I had acted ignorantly in unbelief." (1 Tim 1:13).

That was not to blithely excuse it. Paul was looking for a cause not an excuse. Paul recognized, along with his near-contemporary Greek thinkers, that ignorance was the dark and dangerous, always out of which crawled such monsters as blasphemy, persecution, hatred and the like. Paul differed from them, however, in that he linked ignorance to sin and believed that God's mercy and grace, rather than straight knowledge was the conqueror of that enemy. The

Christian theology would follow that, in addition, that God's grace can come to us through knowledge.

With schools beginning the fall term and our church beginning Christian Education for children, youth and adults, I must remind you that ignorance is an enemy that must be overcome; that there is no bliss in ignorance. Education has always been one of the strongest thrusts of the Judaic-Christian heritage. Wherever the Christian faith has bone schools, colleges, Sunday schools, pre-schools have been quickly established and nurtured. I believe that God champions the education of our minds as the means of fulfilling our potential as children of light.

St. John's continues our battle against ignorance starting on Sunday, September 11, 2011 by inviting children, youth and adults to register for Christian Education.

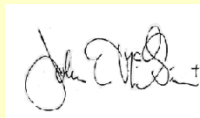
This year we are blessed with Myriah Bruce becoming our Director of Christian Foundation for Children and Youth. Myriah brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm for this important ministry and leadership position.

The Reverent Maggie Arnold will be with us each Sunday beginning September 11<sup>th</sup> and her preaching, teaching, spirituality and knowledge will provide adults, children and youth with an exciting vision of the "Good News."

Finally, ignorance is the college freshman who admitted, in English class that he had never read the Hunchback of Notre Dame because he did not follow football.

Join me for a revitalized Christian Education program and an exciting journey to learn more about Jesus.

Agapé



Father John McGinn



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

## **From the Wardens: A Re-dedication to our Children and Youth**

We are very pleased to report that St. John's is reorganizing and recommitting its resources to our children and youth ministries. We have created a new staff position – Director of Christian Formation for Children and Youth. And, with the Vestry's overwhelming support and approval, Fr. McGinn has hired our own Myriah Bruce to serve in the new and demanding role. As of August 1, Myriah will take on the challenges of this new full-time position overseeing all aspects of these ministries.

St. John's Episcopal Church is a family called by Christ to grow spiritually, to share life with others, and to make known His love through word and deed. At St. John's, we offer a multitude of ministry opportunities for people to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church. As we come together to worship God and strive to follow in Christ's steps, the liturgy of our services, the sharing aspect of our eucharist, the pure Christian ideals of our caring ministries, and the many ways in which people served and helped are all spiritually uplifting.

Of the many elements in our Church's life, one that stands out for most of us is the abundance of children and young people in our parish. We are blessed with one of the largest Sunday School enrollments in the diocese and such an active Youth Program – three of our young people now serving in El Salvador. Any given Sunday the Church comes alive at the 10am service when the children come streaming out of their classes to join us! St. John's always has more young people in confirmation programs than any other local church, more in youth leadership roles, and on and on. We are truly blessed.

With that blessing comes the responsibility to nurture and develop as well. Of those to whom much is given, much is expected. For many years we have had two part-time staff members, Susan Nee and Myriah Bruce, who were devoted to Christian Ed and youth programs. Both have done a remarkable job in helping our young people develop and come to their own relationship with God. We are grateful for all they were able to do and thank them both for putting so much love and hard work into their positions.

Over the past year, the wardens have worked with Fr. McGinn to address the needs and demands of our parish within the limited resources we have at hand. It became clearer and clearer that our children and youth ministries are an ever-growing aspect of St. John's calling for more resources and support. And, in our visioning sessions this past spring, many of these concerns were articulated by parishioners. Late this spring, we came to the conclusion that, rather than two part-time positions, a full-time staff member devoted to these ministries can be much more effective and beneficial. We agreed to consolidate the two positions and bring all of these ministry areas together.

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Through our Christian Formation ministry, we hope to better enable the young people of our parish to grow in their understanding of God's desires and to strengthen their ability to live and serve through the example of Jesus Christ. Under the direction of the Rector, Myriah is now responsible for all aspects of our children's and youths' programs – from nursery and Sunday School, up through Youth Group and confirmation studies, to the Community Youth Project – ensuring vibrant and viable Christian Formation program activities.

St. John's is very pleased to have Myriah's gentle spirit, devotion, good humor and special skills now dedicated full-time to all of our young people. Adding this position and strengthening our efforts here is an important re-focusing of our ministry, and we are all excited about the potential that Myriah brings and know that she will make a positive difference in the lives of our young people, helping them grow and serve through the example of Jesus Christ.

Please join us in welcoming Myriah to her new role!

*Faithfully,  
Glenn Paré*



### **BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE SHADOW**

If you were at St. John's on the morning of July 31, you will remember the service for a long, long time. If you missed it, you may have heard about it. If not, let me share the story. A lovely Sunday morning, Michael McLaughlin parked his car, got out. As he was going up the steps into the Church, he called out to someone. "Good news and bad news." The bad news is that Fr. John Thomas is ill. The good news is it is not a heart attack or worse. Fr. John has the shingles. The other bad news is Michael has called Fr. Benschoff and Maggie Arnold to see if either was available to do the service right now, this morning. No luck. He telephoned Fr. McGinn, but he is too far away to get here at nine A.M. "Who will do the service?" "That's the other bad news," says Michael, "I will," and adds humbly, "I'll do my best." His best was a miracle. Father McGinn would have been as proud as everyone fortunate enough to be there was. The service was reverent, sincere, and uplifting as any we have witnessed. Misao was on vacation but the Thomas Brass was up front and the church swelled with the congregation singing "Amazing Grace". We all know Michael McLaughlin is a gift, but what he gave us on

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that beautiful Sunday morning is a present we will remember always. Thank you, Brother Michael.

### **Saints one and all! The Lay People**

What would our church or any church do without Lay People who volunteer their time to serve God by giving their time and talent? Case in point the story above. There are so many here at St. John's who do just that. Do you know who is on the Altar Guild \* or what the Altar Guild does? Simply put, the work of the Altar Guild is to set the table for the service. The work is done week after week, regular services, weddings, funerals, special services. Do you know what a verger is? Shadow had to learn. Michael described the duties of a Verger as the "Celebrants' Butler". Our Michael is a Verger\*, so is John Dingess, and Jared Cohen is a Verger-in-training...aren't we proud of Jared? You bet we are. They or one of them is most always up on the Altar during the Sunday Services. There are "LEMs"\* on the altar too. They read, they help with the Eucharist, carry in the Bible. Phyllis Helfrich leads the Lectors\* who read from the New Testament each week. Nick LeRoy directs the Acolytes.\* Acolytes are the youngsters who carry in the Cross, the Candles and Gospel ( if a Deacon is not present) in the procession. They stand with the candles during the gospel reading. From Grade 4 and up they try to sit still and listen during the service. The Choir\* is our pride and joy. The Choir is the only group demanding weekly attendance. All the rest rotate or come on a specified Sundays. Choir singers come twice a week regularly. Thursday night is rehearsal and Sunday for the service. The Choir sings from September to June. A real commitment! Last but far from least are the Ushers\*, directed by Bob Johnson. Their faces must be familiar. Cathy Johnson recruits the generous folks who provide refreshments\* after the service. Each week Phyllis Briggs takes the cassette home to type the sermons that can be found in the narthex and on our web site. These Lay Volunteers are only those who are part of the church services on weekends and special services. Do you know who they are?

\* Altar Guild: Louise Stupack, Jackie Barhoff, Jan Czarnetzki, Flo Buchinski, Sylvia Conner, Carole Colleran, Heidi Dean, Katie Parsons, Phyllis Helfrich, Lourana Thomas, Leslie Hanna, Cheryl Hulslander, and Yah!! Newcomers Nancy Duquette and Pam Balkam!!! The ladies are divided into three groups. Each group serves for two weeks and then rotate.. Which means an if there is a special service during a two week period the active group is on duty . Directress Carole Colleran would be thrilled to have volunteers. It would be great to have a fourth active group to share the responsibilities. Try the Altar Guild... you will like it....so says your Shadow!!!

- \* Vergers: Brother Michael, John Dingess, and Verger-in-training Jared Cohen
- \* LEMs: Jack Huber, Gregory Roche, Linda Austin, Cliff Rideout, Sean Moroney, and Heidi Dean. Need more LEMs too. Walk in procession, read, serve the Eucharst!
- \*Lectors: Phyllis always needs more readers, Sarah Swain, Don Helfrich, Vivian Gosnell, Flo Bushlinsky, Glenn Paré and Erin Greenhalgh.
- \*Ushers: Jack Jillson a pro at ushing , Gerry Czarnetnki, Gail Alcorn, Flo Bushlinski, Tom Anderson...of Treasurer fame...Paul Coyle, John Wudyka, Brian Kuchar...Pledge Campaign main man!!, Jenifer Curtis, Mary Howe, and Bob Halasz., Jim Webb..big smile, and Sean Randall...Auction Man another big smile!!!

New Ushers welcomed and always in much need...easy job

\*Acolytes: Nick LeRoy, John LeRoy, Nick LeRoy, Griffin Ridosh, Jack Robert, and Ben, Andrew, and Nick Pinard. Alternates (Acolyte Emeritus) that can be counted on during the Holiday Season are Patrick Tierney, Riley Sorenson, Ryan Fuller, John and Alison Gomes, and Peter Balkam; how "bout some of you girls?

\* Coffee/lemonade Program: Cathy Johnson...her list is too long to add but this is a gift much appreciated and needed. Shadow thanks all you good folks who sign up!!!!

\* Welcoming Committee: we do try to please and appeal to any new visitor... Help with this is what we strive for. Talk to the Shadow or to Dottie MacDonald

Can you pick these people out of a crowd??? Please note these are just parishioners who take part in our Saturday night or Sunday Services (or special services like weddings or funerals). Not mentioned in this list are all the Vestry members, Sunday School teachers, the special event volunteers, Youth Group volunteers, Community Ministries, Finance Committee, Christian Education, Thrift Shop, Prayer Chain, and other ministries with no names at all, the Staff, or even the "Great One." It takes practically all of us to produce what we lovingly call, THE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY.

From under the red carpet toward the kitchen...Bless you all,

Lovingly, your Shadow

Have you been into the office at "161" recently? If not, go, take a look. The Betty Sweeney Library looks awesome. She must be smiling down at us!!



## ***SUNDAY SCHOOL ~ YOUTH NEWS***

*We welcome you and your children to St John's Episcopal Church as we begin our 2011/12 Christian Education program, yes it is that time again for back to school. I can hardly believe it!*

*My name is Myriah Bruce and I am the new Children & Youth Christian Formation Director for St John's and am excited to begin this upcoming school year!*

*Here are the programs offered at St. John's for children & youth this fall:*

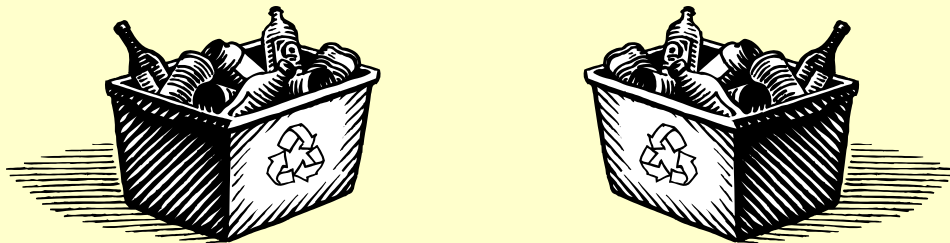
- Sunday school for pre through high school grades
- First Communion- classes TBD
- Jr. & Sr. St John's Youth Groups
- CYP- Community Youth Project

*Thank you for bringing your child to St. John's for church school. Our devoted church school teachers work very hard to provide a safe nurturing environment in which your child will learn about God's love and acceptance. Your child will have fun, make new friends, learn about the Bible, grow and strengthen their own spiritual relationship with God.*

*Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions or concerns. You can reach me at the office 508-888-2828 x222, or by email [myriahbruce@stjohnschurch-sandwich.com](mailto:myriahbruce@stjohnschurch-sandwich.com)*

*Please see the calendar and notices below.*

*Many Blessings,  
Myriah Bruce*



Start collecting those bottles & cans for redemption  
for our youth programs & scholarships! Please bring with you to church starting 9/11  
a collection bin will be outside near rubbish shed. *Our youth thank you!*

## SUNDAE SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION



**SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 AFTER THE 10 AM SERVICE**

Join us for Ice Cream Sundaes & register your children for school in the Parish Hall

Brief meeting to discuss curriculum with parents of all children

7th-12th graders will also meet briefly for overview of new program as they will be our "Shepherds"

St John's provides a Sunday School Curriculum for  
Pre-school through high school age groups

We gather on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am downstairs of the church in the large room

**First Sunday school meets on September 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Please bring your backpack to be blessed for a new school year.**

**All children must have a registration form on file prior to beginning school**

### Our school calendar through December 2011:

#### September 2011

9/11	- Sundae School Registration following the 10am service Meeting with <i>parents</i> of all children and with 7th grade and up youth for overview of program Downstairs in church after ice cream
9/18	First Sunday school class- Creation Bring backpacks for blessing!
9/25	Sunday school - Creation

#### October 2011

10/2	Sunday School- Creation
10/9	Blessing of the Animals- worship attendance with pets
10/16	Children's Chapel- Heiffer International
10/23	Sunday School- Saints
10/30	Sunday school- Saints Monster Brunch following service – Wear your costume to Church!

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**November 2011**

11/6	Sunday School- Saints
11/13	Sunday School- Saints
11/20	Children's Chapel
11/27	Advent -Sunday school- Nativity Wreath making & Pageant Sign ups

**December 2011**

12/4	Sunday school- Nativity Pageant Rehearsals following service
12/11	Sunday school- Nativity Pageant Rehearsals following service
12/18	Sunday school- Nativity Pageant Rehearsals following service
12/24	Christmas Pageant- 4pm
12/25	Christmas Vacation Week Programs - TBA for Jr.& Sr. Youth Groups

**St. John's YOUTH GROUP NEWS*****JUMP IN***

We will have a **Jr. Youth group** with 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders meeting 4 times per year and a

**Sr. Youth group** for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up meeting monthly

**9/25-** 5th-6th grade **Jr. Youth Group** 3-5pm- Outreach Meal Prep and Delivery for parishioners  
St. Johns Parish Hall

**10/21-23** 7th-12th Graders **Sr. Youth Group-** Connecting for Change- Daily attendance to  
Conference in New Bedford : [www.connectingforchange.org](http://www.connectingforchange.org)

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**10/30-** Monster Brunch following 10 am service : Wear your costumes to church!

**11/4-11/5-** "Night Watch" NYC - overnight at St John the Divine NYC for 7th-12th graders :

[www.stjohndivine.org](http://www.stjohndivine.org)

**11/13- Jr. & Sr. Youth group** Yard Cleanup @ St John's lunch provided after service then work begins! 11:30-2pm (weather permitting)

**11/18-20-** Junior High Retreat in New Hampshire for more info go to:

[www.diomassyouth.org](http://www.diomassyouth.org)

**Christmas Break -Vacation Week Programs both jr. and sr. youth group**

### **CYP- Community Youth Project**

*A program for youth ages 13-20 that works for the prevention of substance abuse within our community and in partnerships with youth organizations.*

*“A safe place for young people to hang out ~ with something to do!”*

*St. John's Church is a sponsor and promotes the work of this group for the young people and their vision of a Youth Center in Sandwich.*



The Community Youth Project is a youth led, non profit, non religious, initiative dedicated to providing opportunities, events, and a location where youth can be themselves. A place where they can participate in meaningful activities, learn skills that build confidence, grow into stronger individuals, and have fun in a safe environment

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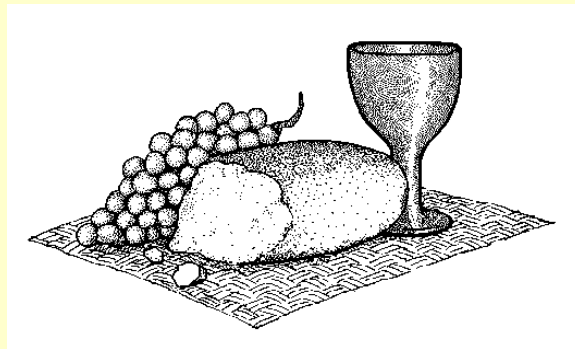
**Meetings are held in the downstairs meeting room @ the Sandwich Library- 5-6:30pm - Welcoming new members ages 13-20**

September 27th

October 25th

November 22

December 20<sup>th</sup>



### **Eucharistic Visitor Training Program**

“A *Eucharistic Visitor* is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements of our Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. A Eucharistic Visitor should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.”

(Title III, Canon 4, Section 7)

*St John's has several members who would greatly appreciate the services of a Eucharistic Visitor.*

Eucharistic Visitor Training will be offered on Saturday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Christ Church (149 Court Street) in Plymouth.

If you are interested in this training and participating in St. John's Eucharistic Visitor Ministry please contact Michael McLaughlin in the office.

## Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts Youth Leadership Academy El Salvador Mission Trip August 2011

August 6-13, 2011, nine young people from around the diocese—members of the Youth Leadership Academy—went on a pilgrimage and mission to El Salvador, hosted by the Anglican/Episcopal Church of El Salvador and The Fundación Cristosal. The following are blog entries written by the young leaders at the end of their week.

*(ed. Note: I have only used St. John's Youth comments hear.)*

### **Lillian Randall, St. John's, Sandwich**

Our mission trip in El Salvador this week was not at all what I was expecting. Before this trip I thought mission was building a house or a church and when I learned that we were not doing



much physical labor I was disappointed. But throughout the week I learned that building a house or a church was much less important than building relationships with the people of El Salvador. On the one morning we did physical work by clearing out a field, I realized why. While we were working we didn't talk to anybody and it seemed like we were only doing it to feel like we accomplished something. I enjoyed the parts on the week when we were sharing cultures with the people of El Salvador and playing games with them and the children much better than working in a field. I also learned that mission is a two-way street where

we give and receive. Showing the people of El Salvador that we cared about them by talking with them and opening up to them was much more important than us coming in and doing physical labor without knowing their stories, which seems meaningless. I am glad that my view of mission changed and that we got to build amazing relationships with the people of El Salvador and hear all of their stories.

### **Riley Bruce, St. John's Church, Sandwich**

On mission this week we didn't as much do physically challenging work as we worked on relationship building. We listened to the Salvadoran people and bonded with them throughout

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the week. Learning about their struggles and hardships hit home and it made me realize I need to bring these stories of strength and perseverance home to improve my own community.

## **Sarah Balkam**

### **St. John's, Sandwich**

#### *My Mission*

A mission is never complete.

It is not just

Building,

Dirty work,

Or fixing.

It is giving people hope.

It is showing that

No matter how grim things look,  
someone out there cares for you.

It is giving people love.

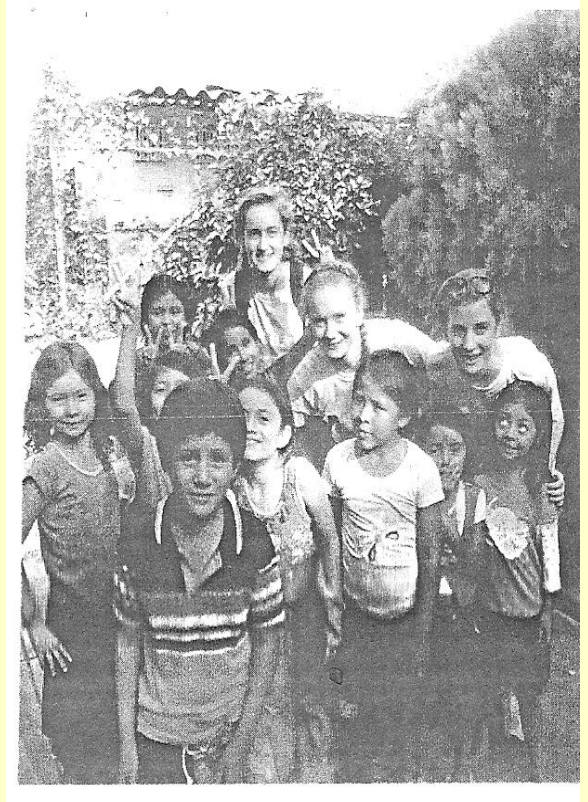
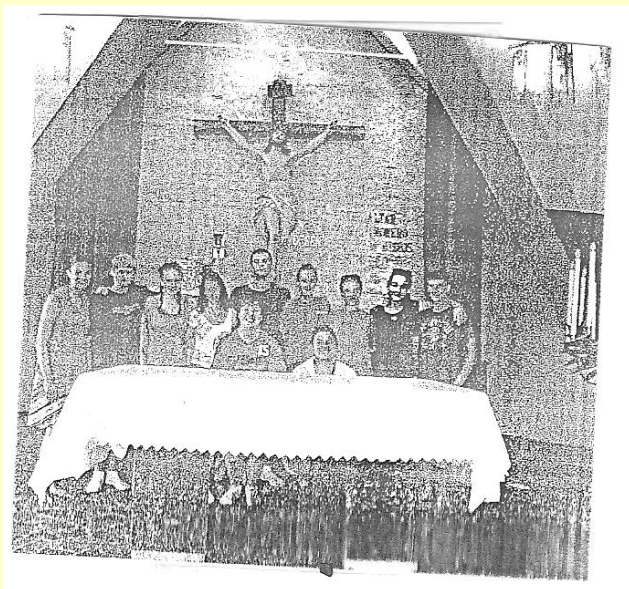
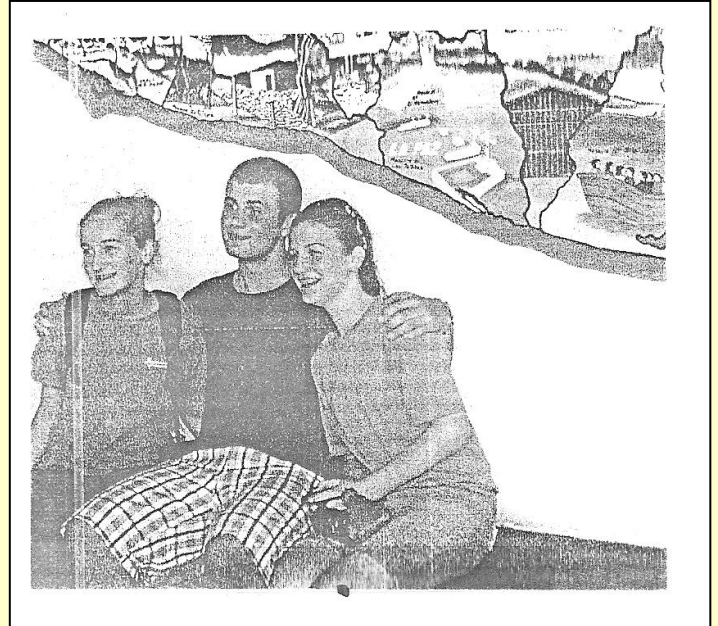
And proving that there  
are others who believe in your God.

It is giving people strength.

And letting them know  
someone is praying for them.

THAT is a

Never-ending mission.





### **NEWS FROM 2 Jarves St/St. John's Thrift Shop**

Summer 2011 has been busy here at 2 Jarves street/St. John's Thrift Shop. Lots of out-of-town shoppers again this year. Some are returnees and we like seeing that and our core of regular customers seems to be growing and we like that, too. We will go back to our usual hours beginning in September and they are:

Tuesday through Saturday 10 to 4 and closed Sundays and Mondays.

Stay tuned...2 Jarves is jumping with both feet into the social networking scene and will join Facebook (as soon as I can get one of my grandchildren to show me how to upload pictures on to the site! When we are set up please join us for all the latest news of 2 Jarves and St. John's Thrift Shop.



### **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!

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# The Episcopal Church *welcomes you*

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

**Clergy**  
Assisting Priests— The Rev. Bruce L. Benschoff  
The Rev. Margaret Arnold

Acolyte Director—Nicholas LeRoy  
Sexton – Rob Bruce  
Director of Christian Formation for Children and Youth – Myriah Bruce

**Staff**  
Organist & Director of Music—Misao Koyama  
Thrift Shop Director—Paula Deane

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

**Vestry**  
Jr. Warden—Amy Singelais  
Treasurer—Tom Anderson  
Donna Wudyka  
Brian Kuchar  
James McCoy  
Paul Coyle  
Cheryl Hulslander  
Peter Wack

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
[WWW.STJOHNSCHURCH-SANDWICH.COM](http://WWW.STJOHNSCHURCH-SANDWICH.COM)  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/299155807854/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/299155807854/)

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