

The Episcopaper – November 2011



St. John's Episcopal Church

913 Second Street

Snohomish, WA 98290-2918

Phone: 360-568-4622

Email: office@StJohnSnohomish.org

Website: www.StJohnSnohomish.org

The Rev. Mark J. Miller, Rector

Year-Round Schedule:

Sundays: 8am and 9:45am

Thursdays: 10am and 5pm

From the Rector:

In a recent sermon preached at a priest's funeral, the poet Theodore Roethke was quoted: "Art is the means we have for undoing of the damage of haste."

This line can be a key to understanding two related practices in our worship: times of silence, and the use a gesture of reverence like a bow or genuflection.

Haste. Nobody can dispute that we are caught up in a fast-moving world, and it is much more so than even a few years ago. But haste, in the bad sense, has always been the enemy of attention. Poetry, I think the quote is saying, slows us down. So does a good service in church.

Time, said a physicist, is what keeps everything from happening at once! Haste keeps us from being open to whatever God is doing in our hearts. It keeps us from noticing "now."

Why silence? To slow down. There is a long pause after a sermon, a reading, or after communion. This gives time for whatever is happening in us by the power of the Spirit to be known, cherished, and remembered.

What about bowing or genuflecting toward the altar, or at a word in the service? Because, like silence it marks a moment with emphasis, and helps us express it. A bow is an unusual gesture in our culture. So much the better. Customs include bowing toward the altar, or at the name of Jesus, or other special words like "and was incarnate" in the creed. The ministers bow before the Sacrament before inviting the people to come to receive.

Our worship should undermine the haste of our society, not collaborate with it.

~Fr. Mark

Looking Forward:

- ❖ All Saints' Sunday/Family Service
- ❖ All Souls' Memorial Service
- ❖ Sunday School News
 - Sunday School Coordinator Named
 - New Preschool Teacher Joins the Ranks
- ❖ Outreach Project: Instant Oatmeal
- ❖ Family Movie Night & "Green" Holiday Ideas
- ❖ "Environmental Geek" Column Returns
- ❖ Stewardship: Financial Pledge Appeal
 - Pledge Card Return by November 20
- ❖ Bishop Visit/Confirmations on November 20
- ❖ Episcopal Church Women News:
 - Holiday Tea Particulars
- ❖ Advent - Taize Services Planned

Reflecting Back:

- ❖ Muslim Speaker "Prayer In Islam" Wrap-up
- ❖ "Safeguarding God's Children" Training Status
- ❖ Snohomish Crop Walk Results
- ❖ St. John's Garden Produce Tally
- ❖ Endowment Committee Report
- ❖ New Name Tags
- ❖ Vestry Report

Plus:

- ❖ Many Thanks to...
 - Acolytes – Youth & Adults
 - Coffee Hour Hosts
 - Stewardship Dinner Stewards
 - Cottage Group Hosts & Facilitators
- ❖ Office Hours Information
- ❖ November & December Calendars

All Saints' Day/Family Service – Sunday, November 6

We celebrate All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 6th at 8:00 and 9:45 a.m. The later service is also a Family Service. Reminder to parents that there will be no Sunday School, and the children will be ministers at the service. The Nursery is open for children age 3 and younger.

All Souls' Memorial Service – Monday, November 7 at 7 p.m.

Join us for the commemoration of all the Faithful Departed on Monday, November 7th at 7 p.m. The service includes the reading of all the names of the departed which have been provided in the recent weeks. There is no Nursery care available.

Sunday School News:

- **New Sunday School Coordinator Named**
- **New Preschool Teacher Joins the Ranks**



Welcome to Vanessa Chudy, our new Volunteer Sunday School Coordinator! Vanessa has been a parishioner at St. John's for many of the past 27 years, since her family moved to Snohomish in 1984. After a nine-year hiatus living overseas, Vanessa returned to St. John's in 2008, with daughter Beatrix. She has been involved as a teacher with the preschool class, and spent many Sundays in the Nursery with Beatrix. Vanessa previously worked for the Everett Herald, and is currently a Certified Dental Assistant in Edmonds.

In the Sunday School, Vanessa works with the Grades 1-3 class. Vanessa reports that we have wonderful, dedicated Sunday School teachers at St. John's, and she is eager to work together with them in continuing to educate our children.

In other Sunday School news, Vestry member Jerry Johnson joins the group as a teacher in the Preschool Class. Welcome Jerry!

Outreach Committee Project: Instant Oatmeal



The St. John's Outreach Committee is joining forces with other organizations in Snohomish to assist the Snohomish Community Food Bank efforts to provide their clients with bags of food for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We are collecting **boxes of individually-packaged instant oatmeal** for St. John's contribution to the Snohomish Food Bank program. Our goals are to collect:

- 325 boxes by Nov. 20th for Thanksgiving food bags; **AND**
- another 325 boxes by Dec. 18th for Christmas food bags.

The boxes of oatmeal can be placed at the back of the church or behind the piano between services.

Please contribute and help feed our neighbors!

Family Movie Night & Greening Your Holidays – Saturday, November 19 at 5:30 p.m.



Returning again this year, a seasonal favorite: Family Movie Night and “Greening your Holidays” – on Saturday, November 19th. The kid-friendly movie is “Rio” – sure to be a crowd pleaser!

Tickets to cover the cost of snacks will be sold in advance, beginning on Nov. 6th. Ticket price is 50 cents.

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m., with family activities: make an Advent calendar and easy gifts, and have the opportunity to purchase gifts that keep on giving. There will be a display of recycled decorations and “Green” carols will be sung, too!

The movie begins at 6:00 p.m. Children can wear their PJs or regular clothes, bring sleeping bags, enjoy popcorn and juice. Adults will enjoy popcorn and hot cider. Bring your family...bring your friends!!

Food and Community, by the Environmental Geek

Lately the Creation Stewards have focused a lot on food. During the summer, the garden, of course, and donating our organic produce to local food banks. And then we had an event moving food from farm to food bank without the use of fossil fuels—that involved wheel-barrowing (is that a word?) produce from the farm to the water, canoeing/rowing food down the Snohomish River, and then biking or walking it up to the food bank. Many people were involved in that, and the weather cooperated beautifully to make it a fun day that demonstrated that we really can get around without driving.

Our most recent event was the dinner with the Bishop, coordinated with the Stewardship committee. The food was organic, seasonal, and local—and really delicious too, don't you think? We even had homemade cheese in the lasagna, thanks to Candace. Homemade bread, homemade beer, homemade lasagna—

and the best part is that they were all prepared in community with other church members.

If you want to change your eating, I think it will be easier if you think about it in terms of community. Yes, cooking is so important for good nutrition and sustainable eating, but it's a lot more fun if family members are cooking together. Enjoy your time in the kitchen together and it will be easier to find the time to cook. The other part of this is about supporting your local community—and that means supporting our local farmers by shopping at farmer's markets or joining a CSA. Plus this is fun—getting a CSA box with interesting produce is just like Christmas with unexpected gifts. Going to the farmer's market you are sure to run into people you know, and you can get to know the farmer as well. And thinking back to Bishop Greg's talk.....isn't this all the very essence of stewardship?

~Nancy Vandenberg, St. John's Environmental Geek

Stewardship: Financial Pledge Card - Return by November 20

St. John's parishioners recently received pledge appeal packets in the mail, to commit their 2012 financial stewardship at St. John's. Please return the completed pledge cards, either in the mail, or bring them to Sunday worship and place them in the collection plates. All financial pledges will be blessed on November 20th.

Bishop Visit/Confirmations on November 20

November 20th – the celebration of Christ the King (which marks the end of the church liturgical year) is also the day of Bishop Rickel's visit to St. John's. He will join us for both services. There will be confirmations at the **10 a.m.** service.

Please note the time change for the later service!

Episcopal Church Women News: Holiday Tea, December 3 from 2-4 p.m.



The annual Holiday Tea is Saturday, December 3rd from 2-4 p.m. Ticket prices are: \$12/individual; \$25/family (1 or 2 adults and children), and will be sold starting November 13th. Raffle tickets are \$1 each for a chance to receive Christmas dishes (snowman motif) - a service for 12.

The Holiday Tea will be held in the Parish Hall, with the Parson's Pantry set up in the Memorial Room. The St. John's Cookbook supplement and latest Cookbook will also be for sale. Make special baked goods to sell in the Parson's Pantry. Invite your friends and family to join you. Come and enjoy!

Advent - Taize Services Planned



Candles, darkness, soft Advent music...find peace and prayer during Advent. Join us on Wednesdays: November 30 & December 7, 14 and 21 at 7 p.m. in the church. The 30-minute Taize prayer services will include Taize chants, reading of psalms and lessons, and Advent hymns.

Muslim Speaker "Prayer In Islam" Wrap-up

On Oct. 1, Abed Jawad returned to St. John's to lead a presentation on "Prayer in Islam". He brought with him three friends who participated and led a forum at the conclusion. They all allowed us to be with them as they did the noon prayers in our Parish Hall. It was a very moving and hopeful sharing with people of faith.

“Safeguarding God’s Children” Training Status

Six additional parishioners received their certificate at the October 8th training session. St. John’s now has 25 parishioners who have completed the Diocesan training! Thanks to all of the people who have attended!!

Snohomish Crop Walk Results

The annual Snohomish Crop Walk was held on October 9th. Close to \$9,000 was generated from this effort, and 25% of the total funds raised will benefit the Community Kitchen program that is housed here at St. John’s. Thank you to all St. John’s parishioners who walked and parishioners who pledged to support them!

St. John’s Garden Produce Tally



Nancy McConnell, Creation Stewards Chair, reports the following “rough

estimate” of food delivered to local food banks this year: 750 pounds total, most to Snohomish, and about 135 pounds each to Marysville and Monroe. About 50 pounds of tomatoes, squash, beets and greens were used for the Stewardship dinner. Some carrots remain to be delivered, but the frost finished off the rest of the squash and lettuce.

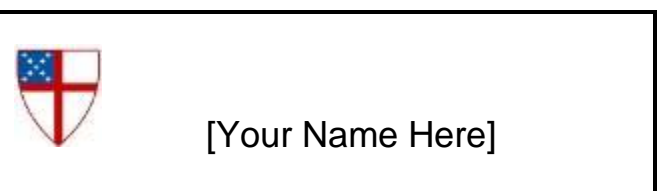
Thank you gardeners for your time and efforts!

Endowment Committee Report

Sally Bjerklie, chair of the Endowment Committee, reports that the members of the committee remain focused on continued stewardship of the fund, distribution of earnings, both within the community of St. John’s and without, i.e., Outreach, VBS, Creation Stewards and post-high school training scholarships. They are also beginning to refocus on legacy gifting. Please contact Sally if you would like to know more. Additional committee members include: Jack Brenchley, Eric Fritch, Candace McKenna, Eivind Nilsen and Gerry Vandenberg. New members are Jane Berard and Jan Skidmore.

New Name Tags

Thanks to the combined efforts of Mike and Shirley Allert, parishioners have new name tags! They are currently located in the Parish Hall, on a collapsible wooden frame that Mike made. Be sure to find your name tag and wear it for coffee hour. The trick will be to remember to return it to name tag frame before you leave!! Additional name tags can be made upon request to the church office. The children’s name tags are finished and soon to be available.





Vestry Report

At their October meeting, the Vestry accepted the audit report, as conducted by Gerry Vandenberg and Phil Sevenants. The Vestry also approved the purchase of three dozen teaspoons and three dozen dinner forks to supplement silverware that is missing.

Vestry Members:

Dottie Nelson (Senior Warden),
Jud Chapin (Junior Warden), Mike Allert,
Cathy Davis, Sharon Hall, Jerry Johnson,
Rick Jusko, John Macho, David McConnell,
Jack Norvell, Marsha Russell and
Nancy Vandenberg



Many Thanks to...

- **Our Acolytes** – both our youth and adult acolytes, who so faithfully serve at the altar on Sunday mornings. We appreciate you all! We welcome Taylor Sevenants as our newest acolyte!
- **Coffee Hour Hosts** – who help make St. John's a welcoming church home. Thank you for working together as a team to provide a pleasant coffee hour each week. Please note that the newest schedule is on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.
- **Stewardship Dinner Stewards** – numerous people helped in many, many ways to grow and prepare the local foods, set up, serve and clean up at the lovely Stewardship dinner on October 18th. There were 88 parishioners who gathered together to hear Bishop Greg's message! Thank you, each and every person who helped in any way.
- **Cottage Group Hosts & Facilitators**- another aspect of the Stewardship program this year was gracefully taken care of by people who were asked to host and/or facilitate cottage group meetings that occurred in late October, to talk about stewardship and Bishop Greg's talk. Thank you for all the extra efforts that were involved!

Office Hours Information

Just a reminder that the office hours are Monday through Friday from 9-12, and that Terrie works Monday – Thursday. You can also leave a voice message or send an email at any time.