

# The Episcopaper – October 2011



## St. John's Episcopal Church

913 Second Street

Snohomish, WA 98290-2918

Phone: 360-568-4622

Email: [office@StJohnSnohomish.org](mailto:office@StJohnSnohomish.org)

Website: [www.StJohnSnohomish.org](http://www.StJohnSnohomish.org)

The Rev. Mark J. Miller, Rector

### Year-Round Schedule:

Sundays: 8am and 9:45am

Thursdays: 10am and 5pm

## From the Rector:

One thing Episcopalians were known for among denominations was all the “up and down” in our services. Most were not used to standing, kneeling, and then sitting, again and again.

That has changed a lot. Many Christians are very active at prayer. And there has been a slow modification of our practice, too.

We used to say, “We stand to praise God, we sit to receive instruction, and we kneel to pray,” a very sensible way to describe it. Liturgical reform introduced changes, some thought to be based on ancient church practices: mainly, standing for prayers. That explanation is less useful.

Let's describe the postures at worship from another angle: what do the postures mean, how do they affect us? That is the reason to use them: they both express and form our inner intention of worship.

Standing is a normal posture of respect, attention, and active participation. Standing ovations, standing up at a baseball game, etc., all express excitement, maybe joy. It leads to going somewhere, so it indicates that what we are saying leads to action.

Sitting is a resting position, resting but awake. It readies us for receiving inwardly, so we listen to scripture and sermons like that. It also can be a posture for meditative, inner prayer, and quieting our minds. So good for the Lessons, and also some hymns and prayers.

Kneeling seems to be in the process of being abandoned, and is not found in our culture; well, maybe an occasional marriage proposal! So it can be powerful: worship is deepened by experiencing the presence of God also as “outside the box” and unique. Kneeling itself does express humility, submission, intensity of the request, but also love. Many find it physically quite a challenge, and none of these postures are required. I urge people to be careful of abandoning it entirely. The Christian experience is a “dappled thing”, and the joy of praise is felt more when balanced with awe.

~Fr. Mark

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### Looking Forward:

- ❖ Muslim Speaker “Prayer In Islam”
- ❖ Family Service/Blessing of the Animals
- ❖ “Safeguarding God’s Children” Training
- ❖ Snohomish Crop Walk
- ❖ Stewardship:
  - Dinner with Bishop Rickel
  - Cottage Meetings in late October
- ❖ Diocesan Convention
- ❖ Episcopal Church Women News:
  - Cookbook Addendum
  - Holiday Tea Planned
- ❖ Puget Sound Christian Clinic - Free Medical Care in Snohomish
- ❖ St. John's Garden Keeps Growing

- ❖ Women's Book Group - New Book
- ❖ Bishop Visit/Confirmation in November

### Reflecting Back:

- ❖ Sunday School Off to a Good Start
- ❖ Ministry Faire Wrap-up
- ❖ Outreach Report & Upcoming Efforts
- ❖ VBS Penny-Matching Challenge Results
- ❖ Songbook Preview Completed
- ❖ Moving Planet - Snohomish: Farm - Food Bank
- ❖ Vestry Report

### Plus:

- ❖ Endowment Scholarship
- ❖ Directory/Email Updates Needed
- ❖ Prayer Requests
- ❖ October & November Calendars

## Muslim Speaker to Visit St. John's – Saturday, October 1



Abed Jawad will give a presentation at St. John's on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. He visited us several years ago, and was well received. His theme is "Prayer in Islam" and will explain some of the basics of Muslim prayer, including the five times for prayer each day. He also will share with us how Jesus is remembered and indeed revered among Muslims. Coffee and muffins will be provided. All who come are asked to bring a brown bag lunch. There is no charge to attend this event, and childcare will be provided.

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## Family Service & Blessing of the Animals – October 2

The first Family Service of the school year is Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:45 a.m. The Sunday School children join their families for the entire service and participate as acolytes, lectors and ushers. Fr. Mark always has a sermon planned just right for the children but pertinent to the adults, as well. The day is capped with the blessing of animals (large and small) in the courtyard during coffee hour. Please bring your leashed and/or caged animals or a photo of your animals to be blessed.

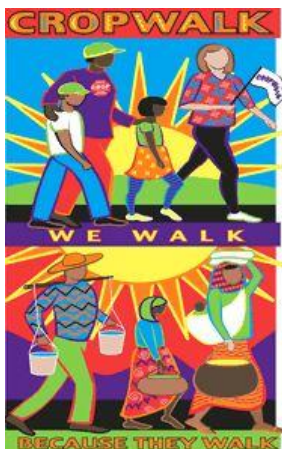
The next Family Service is November 6<sup>th</sup> when we also celebrate All Saints Day.

## "Safeguarding God's Children" Training – October 8

All people who work with our children in the Nursery, Sunday School and VBS programs, **and** those who want to learn more about protecting our children from sexual and emotional abuse, are invited to attend the training session at St. John's on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Parents and Vestry members are also encouraged to attend. A Diocesan trainer will be here to facilitate the session, which is geared toward adults only. This training must be repeated every five years. Please bring a sack lunch, and register with Mary Nilsen (425-334-0828). Childcare will not be available.

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## Snohomish Crop Walk – October 9



Meet on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, at Zion Lutheran Church, 329 Avenue A, Snohomish, for the annual Snohomish Crop Walk.

Help end hunger in our community – 25% of all proceeds directly support the Community Kitchen, which is housed here at St. John's. Registration is at 1 p.m.; walk begins at 1:30 p.m.

Walk or pledge to support parish participants, or both!!

## **"Stewardship" by our Bishop - Dinner October 18**

### **Cottage Meetings to be Held in Late October**



On Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m., an all-parish dinner will be held. Bishop Greg Rickel is the speaker, and his theme is "Stewardship: A Lavish Gift".

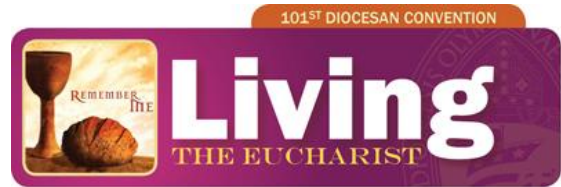
We will have Nursery care for children three years old and younger, and a program for older children.

Transportation will be provided if requested. Please RSVP to the church office or sign up in the Communications Center by the Nursery.



This dinner will be followed by 12 "cottage meetings" held in homes, for folks from the congregation to gather to discuss what the Bishop said and what stewardship means to each of us. The dates and locations for these cottage meetings were announced in September. Please contact the church office with any questions about the cottage meetings.

## **Diocesan Convention – October 21-22**



The 2011 Diocesan Convention, celebrating the theme "Living the Eucharist", is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, October 21-22, at the Lynnwood Convention Center, in Lynnwood. For more information about the Convention and matters to be discussed and voted on, please see <http://www.ecww.org/annual-convention-diocese-olympia> or your Convention Delegates: Katie Akesson, Sally Wesley, Bob Knight and Jim Church. Alternates are: Eleanor Church and Eric Fritch.

Optional workshops will be offered on Friday afternoon. These require no pre-registration and are free. They are open to all, not just Convention members. There are two sessions, 1:15-2 p.m. and 2:15-3 p.m. Four workshops will be offered in each session. See the above-referenced link for more information.

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## **Episcopal Church Women (ECW) News**

- **Cookbook Addendum** –The St. John's Cookbook Addendum of 300+ new recipes is available for \$3, and complete Cookbooks (including the Addendum) are available for \$8. Please contact Judy Burrell at [judy.burrell@yahoo.com](mailto:judy.burrell@yahoo.com) with your pre-order. The Cookbook Addendum will also be for sale at the Holiday Tea.

A series of "assembly work parties" are being planned for several afternoons in late October. Please contact Barb Miars, June Gregory or Judy Burrell if you are available to help!

- The next ECW meeting is Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.
- **Holiday Tea Planned - December 3** – Pat Chapin, Holiday Tea Chairman, reports the annual Holiday Tea is scheduled for Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2 – 4 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Plans are underway, with more news to come. Be sure to invite your friends and family to join in this very special event!

## Puget Sound Christian Clinic Provides Free Medical Care in Snohomish



There are over 100,000 uninsured people in Snohomish County. Several churches in Snohomish have partnered together to bring a free mobile health clinic to our community every Thursday from 5 – 9 p.m. Serving since January, the mobile clinic has regularly served between 7 and 12 patients each Thursday night at its host site - the parking lot of Cross View Church (formerly known as Snohomish Free Methodist Church), behind Snohomish Family Medicine, 629 Avenue D. The mission of the clinic is to offer compassionate health care to low-income, uninsured and underinsured persons, extending the love of Christ in a supportive, confidential environment.

Physicians, nurses, and other staff volunteers, along with funds to support the clinic, are provided by a number of city churches. St. John's has given funds

only so far. It is a tremendous effort of our churches partnering with one another to meet a basic human need and a right for every person within our community.

If you know someone who might be able to use this service, appointments may be scheduled by calling 425-679-1232. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per visit, but this is not required.

If you would be willing to consider volunteering in this team effort, the following positions are available: volunteer drivers with a CDL (commercial driver's license) and receptionists are urgently needed, and a meal coordinator. A training session is required for all volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Jalle Gebisa, PSCC's Volunteer Program Manager, by emailing her at [jalleg@pschristianclinic.org](mailto:jalleg@pschristianclinic.org).

The response of patients has been overwhelmingly positive - with many gladly spreading the good news of a free clinic with friends and neighbors who have no medical insurance. While the wheels of the mobile clinic have been turning since January, with additional help from other churches in the community, we anticipate running fully on all cylinders this fall.

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### St. John's Garden Keeps Growing

Nancy McConnell reports that the St. John's Garden at Chinook Farms has provided more than 35 lbs. of organic produce weekly to the Snohomish Food Bank since July. New this year, our organic produce is delivered to the Marysville Food Bank – 121 pounds (total at "press time") of produce! St. John's will receive a "thank you" \$25 gift certificate from Sunnyside Nursery to purchase seeds or supplies next year.

### Women's Book Group: New Book

The Saturday morning Women's Book Group is starting a new book. "Same Kind of Different as Me", a true story told by Ron Hall, and Denver Moore with Lynn Vincent, is an inspirational and emotional story of faith, fortitude and friendship.

The group meets each Saturday from 8:45 – 10 a.m. Join them in the Memorial Room, or read along.

## **Bishop Visit and Confirmations – Sunday, November 20**

We celebrate Christ the King Sunday - which marks the end of the church liturgical year, on November 20th. Bishop Rickel will join us for both services, with confirmation and reaffirmation at the 9:45 a.m. service.

Father Mark has been meeting with a group of parishioners over the last few months preparing them for confirmation and reaffirmation.

## **Sunday School Off to a Good Start**

The Fall session of Sunday School started in September. The classes are filled with enthusiastic, energetic children, and committed teachers. Classes meet each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. – except for Family Service day, when they are in the church to experience the complete service.

## **Outreach Report & Upcoming Efforts**

In September the Outreach Committee learned that the Snohomish Community Food Bank distributed **511** backpacks to elementary, middle school and high school students for the start of the school year. This was quite a community effort, and the contributions of St. John's parishioners helped make it possible.

The committee continues to contribute monetary support to several local food banks, as well as provide personal hygiene items to the Snohomish Food Bank. The Outreach Committee will be working with the Snohomish Food Bank to collect food items for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. More information to come.

## **St. John's Day/Ministry Faire Wrap-up**



Davis Brossard & Diana Brossard  
~Photo by Bill Tygret~

St. John's Day and the Ministry Faire were celebrated by all. Committee and group posters were hung, and parishioners had a chance to learn about the many ministries of St. John's. The ministry posters are still in the Parish Hall. Please take a look and see where you can share your time and talents!

Davis Brossard attended the 9:45 service with his mother, Diana, and he thanked the congregation for their support during his seven-month deployment to Iraq.

## **VBS Penny-Matching Challenge Results**

Many thanks to those who stepped up to the Vacation Bible School children's coin challenge – a total of \$112.75 was raised. The children voted to use the funds to purchase from the Episcopal Relief & Development "Gifts for Life" catalog: a share in a flock of chickens, a duck (or goose), food for two children while at school, and two mosquito nets.

## **Songbook Preview Completed**

A number of people helped evaluate music that the Worship Committee is considering to go in the small songbook for the pews. Your input and evaluation is appreciated!!



## Moving Planet – Snohomish: Farm to Food Bank



Loading the produce...



...at the Snohomish River

Our Creation Stewards hosted a 350.org event on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, focusing on reducing our dependency on fossil fuel and helping to end hunger in our community.

The Stewards moved 438 pounds of fresh organic produce from our garden at Chinook Farms (5.5 miles out of town) into Snohomish and delivered it to the Snohomish Community Food Bank - without using fossil fuel. The produce was first transported from the Farm to the Snohomish River by wheelbarrows, where two canoes and a row boat were loaded and continued the journey via the Snohomish River.

The water leg ended at Cady Park where people power (using bikes, wagons and strollers) moved the veggies the 1.8 miles up the hill to the Food Bank. Bailey's contributed produce as well, and representatives of the local Home Depot picked 103 lbs. of blueberries at the Blueberry Blossom Farm and transported the fruit to the Food Bank.

A total contribution of 541 pounds of fresh produce resulted, thanks to the incredible efforts of more than 50 people, including 17 folks from the community! All were grateful for a lovely sunny day for the journey. Thank you to all who helped make this event a success!!



Fr. Mark in Action

~Moving Plant Event photos by Jim and Kati Anderson~



Just about finished with the produce delivery!



Crew of Volunteers from St. John's and the Community

## Moving Planet – Snohomish: Farm to Food Bank (Continued)

The Snohomish Community Food Bank currently serves 230-250 families each week. The number of families being served is up 35% due to the current economic situation. On holidays the number of families served soars to more than 320. The Snohomish Community Food Bank is thankful for the generosity of St. John's and the Snohomish community for their financial support and contributions of goods and fresh produce.



### Vestry Report

At their September meeting, the Vestry approved Fr. Mark's upcoming Sabbatical, to take place June 11 – September 11, 2012, during which time he will study the "emerging church" movement. It is hard to believe Fr. Mark's last Sabbatical was in 2006!

The Vestry heard reports on building maintenance, plans for the Bishop's October visit and cottage meetings, and began work on the 2011 review of Fr. Mark. In the August meeting the Vestry confirmed its decision to pay back the cost of the summer painting work by (a) removing the income from a bequest from next year's operating budget, and (b) reinvesting that income into the bequest until \$30,000 is repaid. This bequest is not part of the Endowment.

Additional action taken at the meeting was the Vestry's appointment of Jane Berard and Jan Skidmore to a three-year term on the Endowment Committee.



### Directory/Email Updates Needed

During coffee hour following each service on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, please take a moment to review your address and email information and make needed corrections!! Alternatively, please contact the church office with updated information. We are particularly interested in having current email addresses to lessen our postage costs.

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### 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

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### **Endowment Committee Announces Scholarship**

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce a \$500 scholarship awarded to parishioner, Rose Beede, for her continued education at the University of Washington.

Congratulations!

### **Prayer Requests**

For those who have special prayer requests, please be sure to include your name so the office can follow up, if needed.

Remember, prayer requests must be made by Wednesday to be included in that Sunday's bulletin.