

The Arimathean

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Summer is almost here and things are really hopping at St. Joe's. Out in the church garden the trees have blossomed and are now in full leaf and flowers are blooming. Inside the church things are growing and blossoming too.

First of all a big thank you to everyone who has been working to make our tag sale a success. In May we first watched the McNealy room fill with donations and the sign-up sheets for volunteers fill with names. Then came the days of sorting, pricing and setting up for the sale and at last, the sale itself. Thank you to all who helped make this event possible.

May was also a month marked by loss. Memorial services were held for Maggie Jensen and Carol Carroll, both of whom died in April. The family of Bill Lord returned to St. Joseph's for a service at which a memorial plaque was placed alongside those for other family members. Bill died last August. Andrew Gmoser's father, Carl also died in April. On each of these occasions members of our parish family reached out to offer comfort and support. Thank you.

The search committee is hard at work sifting through applications for rector. The next step is for committee members to travel this summer to see the best candidates in action in the parishes where they now serve. A big thank you to Althea and all the search committee members.

The Sunday School is bursting at the seams and a new committee is meeting to make plans for an expanded program beginning this fall with two classes, one for the younger children and one for the older. Cathy Gmoser and Richard Wisniewski are doing an amazing job as teachers.

Connie Barrett is already making fall plans for our Children's Orchestra. Earlier this spring she worked with two of our talented young musicians and composers, CJ Larrow and Anthony Haus who wrote a setting of the Gloria which we sang in church for the first time on Easter Sunday. This lovely Gloria is now a regular part of our Sunday worship.

The acolyte program is becoming more organized. On Sunday June 7 all eleven of our acolytes will be officially recognized and we will soon be implementing a regular schedule for acolytes, similar to the ones we have for lectors, ushers and the altar guild. A big thank you Rick Ewen for training



Letter from Jr. Warden, Connie Barret

Dear St. Joseph's Family,

You may have noticed that I have been "missing in action" for the past several weeks.

Due to the death of my grandmother in February, I have been asked to take on more responsibilities in the family business – a marina on the Jersey Shore – which has pulled me away from Westchester on weekends. After long thought and prayer, I have come to the conclusion that something has to change in order for me to offer the best of myself to the communities that mean so much to me: St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church, my students at Central Middle School in Greenwich, and my family.

I asked myself: if I cannot do it all, what do I do the best?

Without a doubt, I am first and foremost a child of God who has been given the gift of being a good musician with the skill to help others find their own musicianship. I can

offer to St. Joseph's the gift of my time and energies towards the music program, assisting Alex in any way I can and offering the members of the congregation – adults as well as children – a way to share and explore musical experience for themselves and with others. I can continue to find wonderful musicians who are willing to share themselves and their music with us in our on going "Sundaes on Fridays" series. I can help the members of the congregation to compose and improvise music that we can use in our worship and in our other fellowships together.

I asked myself: what can others do every bit as well as me, if not better?

The Wardenship of St Joseph's is something that requires love, respect, and dedication for God, God's Will, and God's Other Children. While I believe that I have those qualities, I know that many others in this parish

do, too. The other part of the Warden's job description is administrative and organizational activities. Without a doubt, there are many other people in this congregation who have those qualities in far more abundance than I do.

Therefore, it is with the greatest regret that I must tell you, the members of St Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church, that I resign as Junior Warden. Stepping down immediately offers us the chance to have a new Junior Warden in place as quickly as possible so that the transition from our beloved Foster Shepherd to our new Rector will be smooth. This gives our new Junior Warden the opportunity to get experience under his/her belt in how to help run the Church with the efficient model set by both our Senior Warden, Rick Ewen, and our Warden Emeritus, Charles White. Meanwhile, I will help in anyway I can in an advisory position. It has been requested

Sunday, June 14th

Annual Church Picnic

Please sign up to bring a dish to share.

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Sharing the News—Gerry Tuttle

Mary Jo and I, life-long Congregationalists were first invited to attend St. Joe's in the early 70's when Morning Prayer was commonly used. Jim and Carol Carroll convinced us to try it. As we entered the church, seated in the back pew was Rev. Walter McNeeley, former pastor for 60 years. When we returned the next Sunday Rev. McNeely knew our names and our kids names. What a welcoming!

I admit I do not remember Don Cutler's homily that first Sunday [I am sure it was equal to his normal outstanding performance]. However one of his announcements made a lasting impression; "there will be a football game for all ages at 3:00pm in a nearby field." This is my kind of church and we stayed for over 30 years. As a side note the injuries to us older jocks started to mount up. I always looked forward to the pre service coffee hour. Captains of industry plus we ordinary folks had the most

stimulating conversation always started with a group of men huddled in a corner [including Don] captivated by one of Grady Jensen's slightly off color stories. This was followed by much hooting and knee slapping.

Lifelong friends were made for us including Don and Jinny. Many years of gourmet club fun and food with both [plus the Drysdales and Widmayers]. Many years of tennis with Don. I think I beat him once...I think. When I lost the use of my right arm he insisted I come out and play lefty and proceeded to pound me with no mercy.

We lived 5 minutes from the church. I don't recommend being that close! I quickly learned Don spent every spare moment working in the garden He never asked me to join him but he had a way of convincing you to do just that. That took care of my Saturdays!

Both MJ and I got immediately involved in many facets of the church. We both "taught" the youth group. I told Don that in case he hadn't no-

ticed we were emotionally unqualified. He said "you get the kids to come and leave God to me". We ran the youth group for about 8 years while our Tracey and Jerry were there. We had over 20 kids from 8 different school districts, a logistical nightmare! Ski trips to Bromley, excursions to Fred Burnam's place in the Adirondacks, tubing down the Esopus River [that's another story], spring trips to Cape May, spaghetti dinners, talent shows- remember "the Miserable Offenders Hour?". And who can forget the Halloween party in the crypt, thanks to George Watts? They even ran an entire Sunday service. Jerry had a Jewish friend, Jason who joined our group- he read from the old testament! We kept them busy with lots of help from the Hechts, Drysdales, Mc Dermotts, Watts Widmayers and more. And Don took care of God Mary Jo spent hours

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Sharing the News, cont.

in the kitchen with Barbara Widmayer, Jinny, Barbara Hecht, and a whole cadre of help turning out wonderful meals. Many supplemented our Friday night specials consisting of dances, square dances [no one wanted to square dance with Don, he swung them with too much enthusiasm], concerts, movies and special guest entertainers. And we always looked forward to the Hellthalers 's hot dog cart. St. Joe's was swinging! The vestry Jr. warden, Sr. warden search committee, etc. took many hours of my time. I enjoyed every moment, almost anyway. MJ was busy for years with the Altar Guild. One of the big events of our time was the fund raising campaign in the early 90's when the church was refurbished and the Cutler Room was added.. We had been advised by Bishop Moore to hire a professional fund raiser...we didn't. I had the extreme pleasure of telling the Bishop when he attended our celebration on raising

\$1,000,000, that " we did it our way." I think he smiled...I think.

In the archives there is a video of the entire building process. I took photos of every part of the building, before during and after construction. Grady Jensen and I spent hours poring through hundreds of photos and they were cleverly put on video by Gavin Cutler with Grady's narration. It is a must see for anyone interested in St. Joe's. And don't forget we made the Architectural Digest! One note, I never said it was easy. Many people worked very diligently for many years to make St. Joe's what it is today. I purposely did not mention a lot of names for fear of omission. But two persons I must recognize are Nancy Cooper and Don Buttenheim They were my mentors and my friends through the good and the bad. And the lord knows there was some bad. I shall miss them both. We finally left for Williamsburg, Va. in

2001, and we have never found a church like St. Joe's. We attend Bruton Parish on occasion but George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, etc. don't hold a candle to our St. Joe's friends. Unfortunately many of our friends from St. Joe's are gone. We lost our son Jerry in 2007. He is resting peacefully in the beautiful garden. We hope you will enjoy his bench on the hill under the trees and maybe the labyrinth that is in the planning stages. The rest of our family will eventually join Jerry there.

For that reason we ask that all you new people and some old ones too keep St. Joe's vital. Realize the special place you have. Be good stewards. It is very meaningful to hundreds of families. See you once in a while and visit Williamsburg. You will love it.

Mary Jo and Gerry Tuttle
Tracey and Mark Lunenburg
Stephanie, Abigail and Avery Tuttle

Sunday, June 7th

Acolyte Recognition Day

Flowers at the Altar

Unfortunately the past few weeks the contributors to the flowers on altar were omitted from the Take Out (the Bulletin), our apologies. We felt it was important for you to know:

April 26 – by Paige and Rob Lockwood in loving memory of Martha Millard and by Tracey & Mark Lunenburg in loving memory of Tracey's brother Jerry Tuttle.

May 3 – by Nancy Platt in celebration of the birthday of her grandson Kirk and by Herbert Camp in memory of Geoffrey C. Camp.

May 17 – by Sally Camp in loving memory of Geoffrey Carrington Camp and by Judy Buttenheim in memory of her parents Kay and Don.

May 24 – by Eleanor and Domnick Festa in loving memory of Anna and Stephen Durec.

May 31 – by Ginny Cutler in loving memory of her parents Henry and Jeanie Barone.

June 14 – by Al Gerosa in celebration of the birthday of his grandson Jason G. Fulto

Monday, June 15th

*Coordinating
Committee
6:00 pm*

these fine young people.

We are seeing a steady increase in Sunday attendance and we have the happy problem of making sure we have enough of everything on hand; including bread and wine for communion, bulletins, coffee hour refreshments and Sunday School materials.

Sometimes we've run short. Each week we strive to keep up and get it right!

The Vestry agenda was so full in May that some items had to be held over to June and the coordinating committee has had to

schedule extra meetings. Jennifer Haus and Katie Saliba were welcomed as new Vestry members. Lucy Knight and Richard Wisniewski were officially thanked for their years of dedicated service as Vestry members and each received a small gift.

New members have been added to the altar guild, ushers and lectors rotas, and two new Eucharistic ministers were licensed. In addition Charles White, Jennifer Haus and Rick Ewen received training and were li-

censed as worship leaders.

Throughout the week the church hums with the work of the office staff, the Women's Workshop, the Sandwich Brigade; with cleaning, repairing, meetings and all the behind the scenes work that keeps the place alive and well. The parish is alive with new spring growth. May God give us all the willingness, wisdom and strength to meet the wonderful challenges that new life and growth bring.

Pastor Claire +

Survey: Americans Switch Faiths Often

The U.S. is a nation of religious drifters, with about half of adults restlessly switching faith affiliations at least once during their lives, a new survey has found.



Pew survey of 35,000 Americans.

The 2007 survey estimated that 44 percent of U.S. adults had left their childhood religious affiliation.

And the reasons behind all the swapping depend greatly on whether one grows up kneeling at Roman Catholic Mass, praying in a Protestant pew or occupied with nonreligious pursuits, according to a report issued yesterday by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

religious leaders and institutions. The report estimates that between 47 percent and 59 percent of U.S. adults have changed affiliation at least once. Most described just gradually drifting away from their childhood faith.

But the re-interviews found the extent of religion swapping is likely much greater. The new survey revealed that one in six Americans who belong to their childhood faith are “reverts” – people who left only to return later.

Sunday, June 21st

*Valhalla Residence
Dinner*

While Catholics were more likely to leave the church because they stopped believing its teaching, many Protestants were driven to trade one Protestant denomination or affiliation for another because of changed life circumstances, the survey found.

“This shows a sort of religion a la carte and how pervasive it is,” said D. Michael Lindsay, a Rice University sociologist of religion. “in some ways, it’s an indictment of organized Christianity. There’s a big open door for newcomers, but a wide back door where people are leaving.”

Age is a factor. Most people who left their childhood faith did so before turning 24, and a majority joined their current religion before 36.

“If people want to see a truly free market at work, they really should look at the U.S. religious marketplace,” said Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

The ranks of those unaffiliated with any religion, meanwhile, are growing – not so much because of a lack of religious belief but because of disenchantment with reli-

The report, “Faith in Flux: changes in Religious Affiliation in the U.S.,” sought to answer questions about wide spread religion-changing identified in a 2007

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New Vestry Members & Convention Delegates

On May 17th Katie Saliba and Jennifer Haus were voted onto the Vestry.

Congratulations and blessings to fulfill this very important post.

Congratulations and thanks to our Convention Delegate Sharon White first alternate Randy Haus, second alternate Connie Barrett. The Convention in the

fall gives the opportunity to have a voice at Nationals and Diocesan levels. It is a wonderful way to let others know St. Joseph of Arimathea is alive, well and growing.

Did You Know?

The term "Red Letter Day" came into popular use with the first edition of the book of Common Prayer in England, in 1549. In this and some later editions of the Book of Common Prayer the calendar of the church year special holy days such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost were

highlighted in red. "Red Letter Day" soon came to refer to any special day and its connection to the church year and the Book of Common Prayer was all but forgotten.

Do you have smelling gym bags or luggage?
Trick: Put ½ cup baking soda in the bag. Shake well (after zipping or sealing it first please!) Let sit overnight – then vacuum out!

Save the Dates!

Search Committee: Sunday, June 7th and June 28th after service

Acolyte Recognition Day: Sunday, June 7th

Parish Picnic! Sunday, June 14th after the 10:30am service

Coordinating Committee: Monday, June 15th at 6pm

Vestry Meeting: Monday, June 15th at 7pm

Sandwich Brigade: Wednesdays, June 17th and 24th

Valhalla Dinner: Sunday, June 21st.

Girl Scout Meeting: Thursday, 5pm

Culinary Corner

This month's slow cooker recipe comes from our own Katie Saliba. It is one of the easiest recipes for doing dumplings I've ever seen - and I must tell you, not only do I adore dumplings, I am always on the look out for a way to make them as fast as possible! Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS (Nutrition)

- * 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- * 2 tablespoons butter
- * 2 (10.75 ounce) cans condensed cream of chicken soup
- * 1 onion, finely diced
- * 2 (10 ounce) packages refrigerated biscuit dough, torn into pieces

DIRECTIONS

1. Place the chicken, butter, soup, and onion in a slow cooker, and fill with enough water to cover.
2. Cover, and cook for 5 to 6 hours on High. About 30 minutes before serving, place the torn biscuit dough in the slow cooker. Cook until the dough is no longer raw in the center.

Katie's details to add to ingredients: 1 10oz box peas and carrots or mixed vegetables to directions: turn crock pot on high, cut chicken into pieces, into hot crock pot, add the butter and onion and stir for 5 minutes. Add the rest of the ingredients, turn the crock pot to low, and cook for time specified. Add biscuits and cook until dough is fully cooked (will be longer than the recipe says). It also tastes better if you stir some of the dough into the chicken and dumplings and then make the crust.

Monday, June 15th

*Vestry Meeting
7:00 pm*

Anything you'd like other Arimathean readers to know?

If you would like to add to our "Sharing the News" column or if you have other tidbits to share, please feel free to email or send us your information. Thanks in advance!

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Connie's Letter, continued

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that I remain on the Vestry, which I am delighted to do.

In the future, there may come a time when I can again serve in the Church as Warden, after things stabilize in other parts of my life, if God calls upon me

and the Congregation wishes me to do so. For now, though, it's time for us to look for someone else to take us through the transition of leadership. In your daily prayers, please ask God to show you the best candidate for this rewarding and fulfilling position.

Please look inside your hearts, ask yourselves if this is a job you feel called to do. If it is, let the members of the Vestry and Pastor Claire know so that we can move onwards and upwards.

With love in Christ,
Connie Barrett

Church Office Hour Change

At the May Vestry meeting, it was determined that closing the office an additional day would help reduce heating and lighting costs. Therefore beginning Friday, June 5th, the church office will be closed. Normal business hours will be: Monday thru Thursday, 9am – 2pm.

Prayer List

Connie Barrett, Jamie - Carol Rohl's friend, **Mary Jo Tuttle, Brenda Letford** - Billie-Ann's friend, **Sydney White** - Charles White's brother, his niece **Sheila White**, The **White** family, **Rick Merrill**- classmate of Camele White, **Alexander Borzova** - Alla Borzova's father, **John Scheib**, The **Barnaby** family - especially **Zack, Arianna Fujimoto Harris**, The **Udogwu** family, **Nancy Platt, Pastor Addie, Jane Dunne & Carol Vanecek** - Mary-Carol's friends, **Elizabeth Graves**- Jennifer Larrow's friend, **Grace Anderson-Smith** -Althea Serrant's daughter, **Debbie Gillette-Hermansen, Linda Dralle** - Barbara Brown's friend, **Rollo Miller, The Carpenter's Kids** in Mbabala, Tanzania



