

The Light

A monthly newsletter for
St. Augustine's in-the-Woods
The Episcopal Church serving Whidbey Island.



MAY 2011



We are rapidly approaching two very important events in our parish's life in the next few months:

The dedication of our new building on the Day of Pentecost
Our parish sabbatical.

Elsewhere in the Light and on our Website (and, I'm sure, in other places too) there will be information about the June 12 dedication. I want to observe, though, that it represents a remarkable achievement for our congregation – the fruit of nearly 15 years of planning, preparation, and fund-raising, not to mention all of the effort and hard work of the last year.

And there has been an enormous amount of work in the last year! From a huge number of us. As I talk with many of you what I hear is that you are ready to take a break! I'm right there with you – this has been an amazing journey but it has also taken a great deal of energy, not to mention all the time involved.....!

We all need a rest. We all need some refreshment. That is, in essence, what a sabbatical is supposed to be about: taking a break and doing something refreshing.

As the vestry and I have continued to discuss the sabbatical period – June 20 to September 20 – we have become convinced that we need not to over-schedule events. Our plan, therefore, is that the forum will be the place where any sabbatical-related 'stuff' happens.

In the mean time the plan is to get ready to move into our new building. In the fall we can start to think about the ways in which our ministry to each other and to our community will be changed by this feat.

For now, take some time to 'kick back', relax, and enjoy a Whidbey island summer!

Grace and peace,

Nigel

From the Director of Christian Education

Submitted by Annie Deacon

During Lent our nursery attendant Elena Rice took a six week vacation to visit her family in Russia. May 8th will be her return to the nursery. During these six weeks Elaine Ludtke volunteered as the lead nursery attendant. Thank you, Elaine, for your time in the nursery and, I would add a “thank you” to all the volunteers that are our nursery assistants.

A “thank you” to Rebecca Reid for her work scheduling the Godly Play and nursery volunteers. Not an easy task she did a remarkable job keeping both programs staffed. She will no longer be our scheduling coordinator.

All volunteer scheduling questions should now be directed to me at: 360.929.1563 or acwd88@gmail.com. We do need volunteers for the nursery this summer. The nursery program is an all year program and needs a volunteer assistant year round. During the summer the nursery hours will be from 10:15 to about 11:15 or at the Passing of the Peace.

All other youth programs are suspended for the summer with the exception of a camping trip for our youth and Vacation Bible Camp for the community. Both will be held in July. Specific dates and events for both will be in the June Light and up coming E-Pistles.

I had a conversation with Ted Brooks our Chair person for the Greening Committee recently. He asked if the J2A(Journey to Adult Hood) group would be interested in putting together a display board for the Greening Committee. I thought this to be a brilliant idea. I have asked Dick Hall if he could mentor the J2A group with the taking of and processing photographs from Stig’s visit on June 19th as well as from the dedication on the 12th. This display would then be available for events at St. Augustine’s or community events where we might have booth.

We have an amazing group of young people. It is an awesome thing to see them stepping up and engaging in our church life and ministries like Altar Guild. They are doing a great job as they learn about our Episcopal traditions and where they come from.

We are blessed with a talented and generous community. Thank you for all that you have given. However, we need to continue to work together to be the strongest congregation we can be, with God’s help, and build our volunteer group for our youth programs.

The hours for the Nursery until June 12th are 9:15 to 11:15
After June 12th beginning June 19th will be 10:15 to 11:15

For the remainder of the Church School Year which ends June 12th:

Godly Play begins at 10:15 and runs to 11:15 or the Passing of the Peace.

Both Tween Time , (ages 7 to 10) and J2A(Journey to Adulthood, ages 11 to 18) begins at 11:50 and runs 12:30 after the 10:30 service.



Sabbatical

After much conversation the vestry has decided that we need to take seriously the meaning of the word "Sabbatical", as in "R & R"! We have all been incredibly busy for the last year and we all need a break. So the decision is that we will not "over-schedule" the three months when Nigel is gone. We will have the regular Sunday forum, and some of the prayers in our Sunday service will have the sort of creation-centered theme that is reflective of Celtic spirituality. Beyond that we will relax and enjoy the summer - and our new building!

As part of our preparation we had discussed a Sunday pattern that included as many of our clergy as possible, including Fr. Fletcher. However, he advised Nigel this week that his schedule for the summer was still "up in the air" and so asked not to be included in the scheduling. Thank you, Fr. Fletcher for all that you have done for us and with us!

Harry Anderson and Margaret Schultz for your Vestry



A Building Fund Update

Submitted by Isabel Neddow

Just when we thought our work was over and a beautiful new Parish Hall almost completed, there is always someone to bring us back to reality. The bank loan and private loans have to be paid back with interest; furniture and shelving would be nice if we want to sit and have books in the library; and there is always a surprise at the last minute either inside or outside a new building.

We've done a splendid job to give \$1,244,500 through March 2011 for the Parish Hall but more is needed. More than half of the commitments come from 5 families, but all of us will in some way be using the building. Now is the chance for people who haven't participated to step up. Perhaps you are new and weren't at St. A's when the Capital Campaign started; perhaps 2008, 2009 and 2010 were not your best times financially.

Now is the time to catch the spirit and be able to say I helped build that great structure, either with your time, talent or money. If you can see your way clear to pay your 2011 or 2012 commitment early or make a new commitment, it all helps to reduce the loan payments. There's a Building Fund envelope in each pew and a basket of envelopes under the poster in the undercroft calling you to fill one.



Sunday Adult Forums

by Ted Brookes



1 May - Whidbey General Hospital's (WGH) Future. Trish Rose, WGH Public Relations Coordinator, will talk about WGH's near and long term goals to continue to provide quality health care on Whidbey Island. WGH's strategic plan calls for replacing the hospital's 41 year old inpatient wing and they have placed a bond issue on the May 17 ballot toward that end. The bond would raise \$50 million to modernize their aging facilities, accommodate new technologies and provide for 39 single patient rooms. Single patient rooms are now the standard for top-quality hospital care as they provide faster recovery times, improved infection control, better privacy and confidentiality, and enhanced patient and family comfort. The proposed bond would add around \$50 per year in cost for the owner of a \$250,000 tax-assessed home. Please come to get the unadulterated facts about the WGH bond issue for the upcoming election. Ted Brookes hosts.

8 May - Earliest Stages-Paul and the Oral Tradition. Over the period of some 40 years, the memory of Jesus was selected and shaped by the continuing experience of the believers in the communities of Christ. In this presentation, we will consider the basic patterns of memory found in the oral tradition, according to the discipline called "form criticism." We will note the forms of Jesus' sayings and deeds. We will also consider the various ways in which the memories of Jesus reached writing in the letters of Paul, in the passion accounts, and in the collection of Jesus sayings. Ted Brookes presents.

15 May - Palestine-Israel Status. Seven members of the Bishop's Committee for Israel/Palestine attended the 8th international Sabeel conference in Bethlehem, "Challenging Empire: God, Faithfulness and Resistance," between 23 and 28 February. At this ecumenical conference, our delegation was briefed on the current political and economic realities in Israel and Palestine, the effects of Israeli policies and matrix of control on the lives and livelihood of the Palestinian people (both in Israel and the West Bank), and Christian efforts to mount a faithful liberation movement. Site visits were conducted at Jerusalem, Hebron and other Palestinian farms and villages now being colonized by Israeli settlers. Bishop Cabby Tennis, our Suffragan Bishop and a member of the committee, will give a very timely presentation on the results of this conference. Fr. Fletcher Davis hosts.

22 May - Renewable Energy Sources. Kelly Keilwitz, Owner, Whidbey Sun & Wind in Coupeville, will give us a power point presentation on renewable energy sources with particular focus on their application and efficacy on Whidbey Island. He will provide an overview on how those sources are built, operate, and the costs/cost savings they provide. Ted Brookes hosts.

29 May - Why Compose Gospels? The writings of the Gospels represented a real shift in the understanding of "Good News." The answer to the question "Why compose Gospels?" also leads to a consideration of the nature of the Gospels. Theories that connect such an important innovation to a temporary or local development are inadequate. The need to compose connected narratives of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection arises from a combination of pressures that converge around the time of the Jewish war and the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Ted Brookes presents.



Some Thoughts on Stewardship

by Elaine Ludtke

*The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)
Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (Proverbs 3:9-10)*

The word, *stewardship*, simply means to manage someone else's property. Scripture says everything belongs to God, and we manage the property of our Lord. Since everything belongs to God, we need to have the attitude that our things are his things, our stuff is his stuff, that all we could have now, all we have lost, all we will have, is his, including our bodies and spiritual gifts. All that we are and all that we have: property, money, relationships, talents, time, and even our lives belong to God. So it is up to us to learn how to responsibly manage the resources entrusted into our care. Being good stewards of our property, money, relationships, talents, time, and lives to the best of our ability honors God just as our worship honors him. And we exist to honor God. Wow! That is BIG. If we can get our heads and hearts around that St. Augustine's wouldn't need a Stewardship Committee, now would it?



Faith Based Non Violence Activism

Submitted the St. Augustine's Peace Fellowship

"Nonviolence is a weapon of the strong." (Mohandus K. Gandhi).

Nonviolent "people power" has been the most effective and reliable force for change in the world since World War II. Did you know 46 percent of nonviolent campaigns have prevailed against tyranny whereas only 20 percent of violent campaigns have succeeded against violent repressive states? ("*People Power*," *Erica Chenoweth in Sojourners*) A few of these successful faith based nonviolent campaigns are Black Freedom Movement (United States), Antiapartheid (South Africa), Removal of Marcos regime (Philippines), Solidarity (Poland) end to authoritarian military rule (South Korea), free and fair elections (Ukraine) and, although they are apparently not faith based, Egypt and Tunisia have overthrown repressive regimes by non violent "people power." As we celebrate the hope of the Resurrection we are reminded that the example of Jesus' nonviolent ministry and his Resurrection has had the most lasting impact on the world of any event.



Thank You from the Mission Sunday Offering Committee

Ron St. George, Chair, MSO Committee

We are so thankful to have had Nancy Paris as a member of the MSO Committee. She contributed so much to the success of the MSO Committee over the years, and we are so fortunate that she shared her kindness and talents with all of us and our entire community.



*Compact Fluorescent Lamps
Why You Should Use Them
Submitted by Grant Heiken,
Member, Parish Greening Committee*

When you change a “traditional” incandescent light bulb, you wait a few minutes for it to cool. Why? The bulb is hot—incandescent bulbs can consume up to 90% of electricity as heat. Cool *compact fluorescent lamps* (CFL) are replacing incandescent light bulbs and in some cases, for example in the European Union, incandescent bulbs will be phased out by 2012.

CFLs have become popular over the last decade, but their existence goes back to 1890. A major change in their acceptance has followed the use of electronic ballasts that fit into the base of a screw socket lamp, which can be used in a standard incandescent light fixture. CFLs use only 20% to 33% of the power of an incandescent bulb with the same light output. For example, the light output of a 25 Watt CFL is the same as a 100 Watt incandescent bulb. If every American replaced one incandescent bulb with a CFL, we would save \$600 million in energy costs.

CFLs come in all sizes, bulb types, and color temperatures. They are more expensive than incandescent bulbs but are becoming cheaper every day, especially with discount coupons from Puget Sound Energy. CFL lifetimes are 8 to 15 times longer than an equivalent incandescent bulbs and the savings in energy costs over a lamp’s lifetime is significant. Between 2006 and 2009 WALMART sold 260 million CFLs, with an energy savings equivalent to the output of 6 average power plants!

Older CFLs take a few seconds to warm up, which isn’t a problem if you are having trouble facing the day and bright light is startling. Newer CFLs quickly come to full strength and many are dimmable.

There are traces of mercury in CFLs, but not enough to panic if you break one. Old CFLs can be dropped off at any Home Depot, most Ace Hardware stores, and at Puget Sound Energy sites. FYI, ACE Hardware has a partnership with PSE whereby consumers can purchase CFLs at considerably reduced prices. For example, a five pack of 20W/75 lamps which are normally \$13.99 can be bought for \$7.99. In addition, St. Augustine’s has an account with ACE that gives the church a 10% discount. Thus, if you purchased the lamps through the parish Greening Committee you could realize a saving of almost 60% off the normal retail price.

We at St. Augustine’s can have a significant impact on energy consumption and will definitely see reduced electric bills by using CFLs. If you would like more information about the efficacy of using CFLs or you would be interested in purchasing them through the church please contact a member of the Greening Committee. Further, if you need assistance in installing CFLs in your home, members of the Greening Committee will help you.



A Thank You to St. Augustine's From "Time Together"



Thank you, St. Augustine's for your ongoing support of Time Together Adult Day Services throughout all of our years of service. Some of our finest volunteers are from your community.

Elaine and Fred Ludtke, Dorothy Nester, Ted and Donna Johnson, Gerry Rosenau and Beth Sizer served on the Advisory Board in the early days of Time Together, bringing it into existence. It is fair to say that St. Augustine's is deeply woven into the tapestry that is Time Together ADS and equally fair to say we appreciate your support!

Time Together Adult Day Services is a program of Senior Services of Island County located at South Whidbey Center. Time Together, offers participants social, physical, and cognitive activities in a secure, small group setting led by a caring staff and volunteers.



Those who come to Time Together are people who have lived rich, active and vital lives and now find themselves now in a place of needing support. The staff and volunteers endeavor to learn about their lives, honor the accomplishments and contributions they have made in the world and in their families, get to know them, invite their stories. A stroke, Alzheimer's, a brain injury, depression, frailty, isolation, and a myriad of other conditions might bring a person to Time Together, but

the condition is not what defines them. Time Together is a community of people who enjoy and who care for and about one another.

The program can accommodate up to 12 participants Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Some Time Together clients are brought to the Center by caregivers or family, while others use Paratransit's door-to-door service.

Enjoying coffee and muffins recently, the chosen topic of conversation was "Friendship." The quote: "A friend is one who makes me feel totally acceptable" is posted on a white board. The Activity Coordinator asks: "What makes a good friend?" and "Do you remember a special friend in your life?" The participants took turns answering. The stories of friendships past and present eliciting laughter, smiles, and nods of recognition. Connections were made and savored.



The focus is on what can be done, on one's abilities, not what dementia or Alzheimer's, stroke or advanced age has taken away. The Time Together program is a positive way to face and move beyond the losses that life hands each one of us.

If you have someone in your life who could benefit from the Time Together program, and if you need safe, responsive care for your loved one, contact Adult Day Services Director Hestia Laitala at South Whidbey Center, Bayview 360-321-1600. Or, if you have time and energy to give as a volunteer, one day a week for four hours, again, call Hestia for details.



History of Mother's Day

Submitted by Dick Hall

Mother's Day began with a woman named **Julia Ward Howe** (*Battle Hymn of the Republic*), who nursed the wounded during the American Civil War. In 1870 she started a crusade to institute a Mother's Day as a Day for Peace. Here is her Mothers Day proclamation.

Proclamation

"Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of fears! Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice." Blood does not wipe our dishonor nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live



in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace."



CHILDREN'S HOSPICE NEWSLETTER

Dear friends:

In late winter many children catch cold, so they especially need our regular support and medical counseling. In February, out-patient service workers - doctors, nurses, psychologists and social workers - performed 420 visits to children. Eighteen patients received comprehensive care in our day-care center, twenty-two children - in the around-the-clock care center (including five children diagnosed with cancer).

Several weeks ago, Children's Hospice received modern physiotherapy equipment. At present, we are applying for a license for its use. We hope that in March we will be able to offer these services to our patients.



In connection with a reorganization of public welfare services, now not all of our patients may receive necessary care articles and medicines free of charge. In February we supplied these children due to received donations. Our benefactors paid also for treatment of three children from other regions in our in-patient facility (the city authorities do not cover costs for children from other regions).



February was a very cold month in this year; our patients were almost never able to go out. Our task was to give them the warmth of our hearts, our concern and attention, and such vivid impressions that would prevent them from getting upset.

In one of the most frosty and sunny February days we were not afraid to travel outside the city: our patients were invited to visit the Volkswagen Center in Pulkovo.

The Center's staff welcomed the children with great hospitality: they guided us through the showroom and invited us to be photographed in the cars. Then they not only showed us the repair zone, but also allowed the children to hold various parts and tools in their hands, bringing our boys rapture! We agreed with the Center to continue our cooperation in the future.

We consider it very important that our young patients win more true friends, who are always happy to meet with them. Specialists from the company "Pallada" are among these friends. The company is successfully restoring relics and monuments of history and culture for more than nine years and is actively involved in charitable activities. In the last newsletter we reported about our visit to their restoration workshops. Now the company's workers come to Children's Hospice and conduct training sessions on working with clay. Every Friday our children and their parents model toys with clay. Pallada's employees take the toys with them to glaze and then fire in a kiln. A week later, our patients receive the figures back, transformed into a state strong enough to be kept and allowing them to remember the touching, creative interaction.

One more activity has become an integral part of life in the in-patient facility: there are meetings with an historian who is a specialist in ethnography and a very creative person - Olga U. She talks to the children and parents and teaches them domestic handicrafts. Due to the ability of Olga to find an individual approach to each child, even the most disabled children create unusual things by their own hands and put a part of their souls in it.

There is a six year old boy, Pasha, among the patients of Children's Hospice; he suffers from a severe genetic disease. Due to the features of the disease this child needs constant medical attention. His family encountered serious difficulties arranging this for him. In addition, Pasha's state of health is unstable almost all the time. Hospice doctors found out that the boy had an infection and offered an additional treatment to him. After that, our workers regularly visit Pasha at home to take tests and to monitor his state of health.



In February, we decided to give some respite to Pasha's parents, who have had to care for him every day for many years, and offered them to place the boy into our inpatient facility. This child has very low immunity due to the illness, so a stay in an ordinary city hospital would be mortally dangerous for him. It was very difficult for his mother to make the decision to leave Pasha even for a short time, as her presence is very important to the boy, and she has never left him alone in the hospital. In addition, Pasha is being fed by a tube. After talking to hospice staff she agreed to a little rest.

Two weeks have passed since Pasha was delivered to Children's Hospice intensive care ward, where he is most protected from infections. His condition is stable. Hospice doctors, nurses, psychologists and social workers have provided the little boy with comprehensive care for all this time, so that he would not feel lonely in the absence of his loved ones. Soon he will go home to his parents who will take care of him with restored strength and will give him their infinite love.

We thank all of you for standing with us. We congratulate you upon spring's coming and wish you to apprehend the world around you as beautiful as if for the first time...

We would like to express our deep gratitude for your help to Children's Hospice. We hope that what you have read touches both your heart and your soul. Please share this joy with your friends and pass this newsletter on to some of them. If any questions arise, don't hesitate to contact us. We are always happy to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,

*Fr. Alexander Tkachenko, Children's Hospice,
Detski Hospis/Children's Hospice*

E-mail: children.hospice@rambler.ru

Web: <http://www.kidshospice.org>

United States:

If you would like to take a tax deduction on the donation, make your check payable to **St. Augustine's in-the-Woods Episcopal Church**, and clearly mark on the memo line "Children's Hospice". Be sure that your correct name and return address are included. Mail your donation to:

St. Augustine's in-the-Woods Episcopal Church, P. O. Box 11, Freeland, WA 98249.

March Vestry Notes

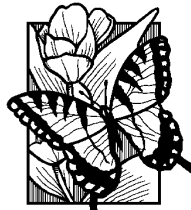
Diana Klein, Vestry Clerk

The bank loan papers have been signed. Income and expense figures will be put in the Sunday bulletins each month. Parish Promissory notes will be sold at 4% for five years, interest payable every six months, starting May 1. We have had major flooding in the undercroft and costs were approved. An Ad Hoc Financial Process Committee is being formed to restructure the job of the treasurer. The Finance Committee will be reinvented to attend to budget matters. Nigel will be taking a three month sabbatical this summer. Partial funding will come from the Wright fund, part from the Bishop and part from Nigel. Green Day will be observed on May 1 as Earth Day falls on Good Friday. The next meeting will be April 21 at 6:30pm.

March Vestry Notes

Diana Klein, Vestry Clerk

A Budget and Finance Committee will be established and appointed by the vestry, to report to the vestry. Funds for Parish Notes are coming in. Amy Donohue-Adams and William Seth Adams will be filling in for Nigel while he is on Sabbatical. The Parish Picnic will be in August at the church. Date to be determined. The new Parish Hall will be called Campbell Hall and the Narthex, All Saints Narthex. Bronze plaques will be ordered by Susan Sandri. The Animal Ministry is sponsoring a cat at WAIF shelter. The Ad Hoc Building Use Committee will be chaired by Jay Ryan and will establish policies for group usage of the new space. The next meeting will be May 19 at 6:30pm.



CALENDAR

M A Y

- 1 = **8AM & 10:30 AM Services**
Bob & Lynda Dial's Anniversary
Nigel & Rachel Taber Hamilton's Anniversary
- 2 = Art Taylor's Birthday
5:30 PM Evensong Service
- 4 = **10AM Healing Eucharist Service**
- 5 = Fr. Bill Burnett's Birthday
- 6 = Jesse Johnson's Birthday
- 8 = **8AM & 10:30 AM Services**
- 9 = **5:30 PM Evensong Service**
- 10 = Mary Hollen's Birthday
- 11 = **10AM Healing Eucharist Service**
- 15 = **8AM & 10:30 AM Services**
- 16 = **5:30 PM Evensong Service**
- 18 = **10AM Healing Eucharist Service**
- 19 = Maureen Masterson's Birthday
- 20 = Dick Werttemberger's Birthday
Mary Vaughan's Birthday
- 21 = Carol Ryan's Birthday
Gilbert Nyerges's Birthday
Michele Anderson's Birthday
- 22 = **8AM & 10:30 AM Services**
- 23 = **5:30 PM Evensong Service**
- 24 = Martin Payne's Birthday
- 25 = Richard Tussey's Birthday
10AM Healing Eucharist Service
- 27 = Mary Beth Moss's Birthday
- 29 = **8AM & 10:30 AM Services**
- 30 = Mark Borden's Birthday
5:30 PM Evensong Service
- 31 = Jan & Gary Johnson's Anniversary