

Spirit of St. John's

MAY 2010

The mission of St. John's Episcopal Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.



Sunday Services

8 a.m. Rite I
9:30 a.m. Family Service
10:30 a.m. Rite II & Choir



From Father John

Dear Friends,

As we continue in this holy season of Easter and look forward to Ascension and Pentecost, we want to truly thank God for all His mercy and goodness toward us and our families. When we look around, there is so much chaos – earthquakes and wars and so many other natural and human-created calamities. As Christians, we are called to reach out to as many as we can who are hurting and in pain within this country and outside. Whatever help we give, I am sure will take these people who are hurting a long way.

On the other hand we are called to be peacemakers as well. How can we be peacemakers in this world? The world is torn by strife; people just cannot live with one another even though human beings have been around for a long, long time! How can we at St. John's be people who spread Jesus' peace to this broken world? Let's start at home, in our families, in our community, in our state, in our country and in our world in whatever small way we can. Blessed are the peacemakers.

On Sunday, April 25, we confirmed nine of our young people. A special thank you to Marc Vavolizza who has been working with me in the confirmation class. We want to wish our young people all of God's blessing as they make their commitment to God and His church.

I also ask for your help in the Tag Sale. (See Maronda's article on page 6) There is much to do. Any help you can give will be appreciated!

God bless.

Your friend,
Fr. John



**Pleasantville
Ecumenical Vacation
Bible School 2010**

For children in grades K-8

Save the dates:

Monday 8/9 to Friday 8/13

9 a.m.-noon

at Holy Innocents Church

Volunteers: We need your help for another successful program! Registration begins in early May. Please contact Sarah Hoadley:

sdshoadley@msn.com
or 769-1819.

Sunday School

We're in the home stretch! We are in our final Teaching Block and graduation is right around the corner, on Sunday, June 6. We would greatly appreciate if every family could bring in a breakfast item to help make coffee hour special for the kids that day. We could use pre-sliced bagels, donuts, cakes, cookies, muffins, brownies, cream cheese and butter, juices, milk, plates, napkins, forks and cups. Please contact Gina or Christine to sign up to bring an item. Thank you!

Following is the Block 4 schedule:

- 4/11 Jesus teaches in a synagogue
- 4/18 Fishermen astonished by a miraculous catch
Sunday School Food Drive
- 4/25 ***Mother's Day Project***
- 5/2 Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus
- 5/16 Jesus teaches about rewards
- 5/23 Jesus teaches about loving enemies
- 6/6 ***Sunday School Graduation

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Sunday School Food Drive on April 18.

As always, please feel free to contact us for any information you may need regarding the Sunday School program.

<i>Gina Lyons</i>	<i>Christine Vavolizza</i>
<i>lyonsg2@aol.com</i>	<i>vavo27@optonline.net</i>
<i>769-0340</i>	<i>760-0807</i>

Marisa's Battle

As some of you may already know, there is a family here in Pleasantville dealing with an unexpected and serious illness. Marisa Lumadue has recently been diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer with metastasis to the liver. Her son Skylar is in first grade at Bedford Road School and takes Kung Fu with my son Zachary.

Prior to getting ill, Marisa was working two jobs to support her family and is now unable to work. Skylar's Dad, Clarence, is now supporting the family alone with his job at a local dog kennel. Unfortunately, this is not nearly enough to cover the family's current expenses.

A web site has been set up where you can volunteer to help out the Lumadue Family by either contributing financially or helping out with groceries, dinners, baby-sitting, etc. Please consider helping in any way you can.

I realize you may not know the Lumadues personally, but please trust me, Skylar is a beautiful boy, same as yours or mine, and this family really and truly needs your help. You can read much more about their ongoing battle on the web site.

How to help:

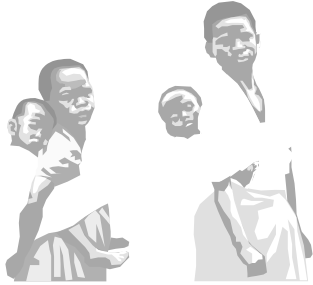
Go to this web site:

<[www.carecircle.com/vis_login.asp?sitename=Marisa's Battle](http://www.carecircle.com/vis_login.asp?sitename=Marisa's%20Battle)> and click the "Visit" tab. Or to <www.carecircle.com> and click on the "Visit a Site" tab – the log-in is "Marisa's Battle," no password necessary. Or send a check made out to "The Marisa Fund" in care of Chad Kraus, 24 Manville Lane #4, Pleasantville, NY 10570.

Thank you all so much for showing your love, and please pass this information along to others who may be in a position to help.

With love and thanks,

Gina Lyons



Carpenter's Kids

Thank you to all who have contributed to Carpenter's Kids. The times continue to be difficult for our fellow parishioners in Swaswa. The rains have finally come and the drought is over, but they came with heavy winds which destroyed many homes and much of their crops.

Lauren asked me to update you on Father Jonah's daughter's death. She did not die of sickle cell anemia (as we were originally told), but from malaria. Although Carpenter's Kids does provide mosquito nets to our parishes, malaria does strike occasionally.

Lauren will once again be visiting Swaswa this summer and would like to be able to bring gifts for the children as well as those who work so hard all year to support "our" kids. Some of the items she'd like to give this year are extra school supplies and soccer balls for the kids, gifts for the Committee Members and Communication Coordinators, and hymnals for the Catechists in the church, as well as a few English/Swahili books for the local school teachers. She would also like to give gifts of baseball caps with New York on them (including NY sports teams). Any *new* caps you could contribute would be most appreciated.

If you would like to give a donation for this, please send or drop off a check to St. John's, payable to "St. John's," memo line: Tanzania Gifts. Please don't forget the memo line!

Thanks again for your support of Carpenter's Kids. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email: kathleen_williamson@msn.com.

Kathleen Williamson

Midnight Run

Our first Midnight Run of the spring took place on Saturday, April 10. The St. John's family continues to generously support the Run with donations of clothing, toiletries and your time. Following the heavy rains at the end of March, we decided to purchase and give out a supply of rain ponchos, which were graciously received. We all had a chuckle as one of the recipients tried his on instantly and chose to keep it on as a welcome addition to his wardrobe.

Our next Run is scheduled for Saturday, June 19. Please continue to remember the Midnight Run as you refresh your summer wardrobes. Donations of gently used t-shirts, knit shirts, jeans, khakis, sweatshirts, light jackets, backpacks and comfortable sneakers and shoes are always needed. A great way to gather more clothing donations is a simple email to co-workers or friends asking for their help.

For the next Run, we are making a special appeal to each of you to bring in a package of new women's underwear, and some women's knit shirts. We encountered a larger population of women on our last Run and would like to be in a position to be more helpful to them as well.

If you have any questions or would like to get more involved in the Run, please reach out to me via email (mcandrew4@optonline.net), or speak with me after Sunday services.

Thanks for your generosity and support.

John McAndrew

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Lauren & Neal Salminen
- 6 Elizabeth Osborn
- 7 Sylvia Prescott
- 9 Kerry Irwin
- 13 Isabella Matra, Jan Valentine
- 15 Carol & Tom Acheson
- 16 Olivia DeVito, Susan Fischer, Christine Forte
- 17 Kathy & John Pickens
- 22 Keira Irwin
- 23 Lou MacCartney
- 24 Josh Lyons
- 25 Lev Borodovsky, Lee Williams
- 26 Alexander Aponte, Samuel Edward
- 27 Jake Albi, Michael Russell, Rhona Washburn, Gina & Otto Lyons, Heather & Pierre Mounier, Debbie & Stephen Paruolo
- 28 Addaline Edward, Nancy & Jeff Latino
- 31 Fr. John Edward, Pierre Mounier, Melissa Murphy, Danielle Pierce, Susan & Tom Fischer



Stewardship

Stewardship at St. John's church is not only about pledges and donating money. Part of our stewardship is taking time, developing our ability to pray – to communicate with God in prayers both for ourselves and those in need. In practicing good Christian stewardship, it is not time or abilities or money, but all three, given to make known God's love for this world. We are called not to retire from God's service, but to serve God's world. We are always called upon to practice good stewardship.

Christie Evans Sturges
Stewardship Chairperson



A letter of memories about Bess

Rebecca Ketchum, whose father was rector here at St. John's from 1950-1974, wrote this lovely note which the Altar Guild wants to share with all of us:

To Bess Rumball's Altar Guild Friends:

I was sorry to learn that Bess Rumball died. The last time I saw her was at Lyz Buckstine's service. Bess was on Altar Guild that day. She somehow spotted me in the congregation and came by my pew during the recessional hymn. We talked on the way out. I commented on how great the Church looked. She told me how important she thought it was (and how concerned she was) about "being able to leave the Church strong for the younger generation."

She also talked about her Sunday School adopted grandchild – apparently part of a program to connect seniors and young people in the Church. Great idea and one that was certainly important to her. (I think Bill Buckstine's daughter Hannah was her "granddaughter.") As we passed the chapel she pointed in the direction of the columbarium and said that someday she would be interred there. She went on to say that her space was right below Edith Peck's niche and she felt protected and had peace of mind because of this vision of eternal friendship. (I think Edith would have liked knowing

that she played a role/helped to provide this sense of comfort.)

It had been many years since I had last seen Bess. However, I can remember when I was growing up in the parish seeing "Miss Rumball" at church. She never missed a Sunday and always sat in the same pew (sometimes, but not always, her brother came, too). She was the epitome of the professional woman of her day – always a stylish outfit and high heels, petite and trim, fresh hairdo and a very perky demeanor. "Pulled together" is a term that comes to mind! I'm sure whomever's secretary she was was very lucky to have her!

Although the last few years of her life were not easy ones, I know the support she received from her St. John's friends helped to carry her through. She did cherish the relationships and was so very proud of St. John's in general.

*Sincerely,
Becky Ketchum*

Editor's Note

If you missed her funeral and would like to read the wonderful commentary about our "St. Bess" as delivered by her goddaughter, Charlie, that day, just call Grace in the church office and she'll be glad to send you a copy of this tribute to "a good woman, a good life."

Please submit articles and information for the June issue of our Spirit newsletter by May 15th!

Ten Reasons for being an Episcopalian

according to Robin Williams

- #10 No snake handling.
- #9 You can believe in dinosaurs.
- #8 Male and female, God created them; male and female we ordain them.
- #7 You don't have to check your brains at the door
- #6 Pew aerobics.
- #5 The church year is color coded.
- #4 Free wine on Sunday.
- #3 All of the pageantry, none of the guilt.
- #2 You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.
- #1 No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

Speaking Episcopalian

Here are some terms beginning with the letter "T" as used by and in the Episcopal Church.

Taize: An ecumenical (largely Protestant) experiment in France in communal Christian living. Taize is famous for its chants.

Tenebrae: A service originating in western monastic communities as a kind of catalyst for Holy Week. It is chanted and prayed in the context of gradually waning candlelight, and consists of Psalms and Old Testament lessons pointing to the Passion of Christ.

Thurible: A vessel containing burning incense.

Thurifer: The acolyte designated to carry the thurible in procession.

Thanks from the Food Pantry

Dear parishioners of St. John's,

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Pleasantville Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry. In the past two months your congregation has donated many bags of food for the pantry. That is a tremendous show of concern for those less fortunate and has helped the pantry provide special holiday bags as well as meet the basic needs of its clients. With the continuing economic crisis, the need for supplemental nourishment for families increases daily and we are always grateful for your consistent generosity. Thank you for your continued caring for the needy in our community.

May you all continue to be blessed with good fortune.

Sincerely,

June DeVaris

Corresponding Secretary



Loaves & Fishes on Saturday, May 22

St. John's will host the Loaves and Fishes "soup kitchen" outreach program for the second time in 2010 from 3-6 p.m. on Saturday, May 22, at Trinity Episcopal Church on Rte 9 in Ossining. Volunteers are needed for baking, cooking the meal, set-up, serving and clean-up. If you would like to bake some dessert or help out at the event, please contact Nancy Lisy at 993-0265 or by email at n_lisy@msn.com.

Axial Theatre presents "For the Love of Money" at St. John's

Our resident theatre group will present an evening of monologues about our romance with money from May 13-23 in the parish hall. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, and at 4 p.m. on Sunday. (May 13 & 14 are previews and opening night is Saturday, May 15, after a 6:30 p.m. reception.) Tickets for the show only are \$20; for the Saturday reception and show, it's \$45. For reservations: 286-7680 axialtheatre@gmail.com.

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St. John's Episcopal Church

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frjohnpvllle@optonline.net

ON THE WEB:

www.stjohnspleasantville.org

RECTOR

Fr. John Edward

WARDENS

Drew McFadden (2011),
Sally Myers (2011)

VESTRY

Marianne Aponte (2012), Suzanne
Cortese (2011), Otto Lyons
(2012), Lauren Salminen (2013),
Joan Scire (2011), Paul Stone
(2013), Christie Sturges (2012),
Christine Vavolizza, (2011), Tim
Wike (2013)

TREASURER

Margot Juros

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jan Valentine

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Grace Luiso

SEXTON

Greg Wind

Team Captains

Buildings & Grounds

Larry Boyd

Carpenter's Kids

Lauren Salminen

Kathleen Williamson

Communication

John McAndrew

Christian Education

Gina Lyons, Christine Vavolizza

Christmas Fair

Marianne Aponte, Robbin Levy

Finance

Peter Russell

Hospitality & Membership

Kurt McKinney

Outreach

Rosemary Carlough

Pastoral Care

Joan Vitkevich

Stewardship

Sally Myers

Tag Sale

Maronda McKinney, Joan Vitkevich

Youth Group

Marc Vavolizza

Join the Tag Sale Team!

The Tag Sale committee needs volunteers to sign on. The sale is June 4 and 5 with a preview night on Thursday, June 3. With questions or suggestions, please contact Joan Scire-Vitkevich at 584-6346/joanscire@aol.com, or Maronda McKinney at 741-9751/ maronda@optonline.net.

We need your help with:

Collection and Sorting – Sorting through donations on Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings in the Undercroft

Events Planning – Organizing food for the workers the week of the sale

Advertising – Putting up flyers and placing ads

Set-up – Arranging the donations the week of the sale

Cleaning – Washing and polishing sale items

Café – Donating food and working the cafe (Saturday June 5 only)

Sale Day Workers – Cashier and floor help during the sale hours

Pricing – Pricing all the donations the week prior to the sale

After-Sale Clean-Up – Boxing up, throwing out and setting aside as donations

Also, we need bags!!!! Please collect bags from the grocery and shopping and bring them to church for the Tag Sale.

The Tag Sale is one of the largest fund raiser for the church. If we all do a little, a lot will be accomplished. Thank you!

Joan & Maronda

