



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

St. John's Church, Salisbury, Connecticut 06068

The Rev. John F. Carter, Rector

April / May, 2008

Gaile Binzen, Editor
Karen Byers, Layout Design

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The Rector's Corner

Dear Parishioners:

While I was away on retreat recently, The Rev. Christopher Webber preached a sermon that many of you liked and appreciated. I concur full-heartedly! The sermon is reproduced here in its entirety with permission from Fr. Webber.

John+

Doubting Thomas

One of these years I want to reverse Easter Day and the Sunday after. It seems to me that it's just a real shame that the gospel the Easter people need to hear comes up the next week in the story of Thomas. And it would make a lot of sense to make that switch because Thomas was not there on Easter Day, but he was there a week later. Somehow we need to do it that way: we need to get the doubters here to hear about Thomas or get Thomas' story read when the doubters are present.

I think you could almost say the story of Thomas is more important than the story of Jesus. That's probably heresy, but we live in a world that needs to learn to live with doubt and I think that really means that we need Jesus *and* Thomas. People need to know that doubt and faith can go together. They need to know that doubt is OK and more than OK. Doubt is a necessity of life and we shouldn't get so edgy about it.

I think you could diagnose the daily news in terms of doubt. What are the big issues? The Iraq war? I think the latest polls show the doubt level at about 60% - maybe more. And the problem isn't the doubt

itself but the response to the doubt. I mean, suppose at the very beginning, when the first plans were being developed, a few more people had expressed their doubts and been listened to. Suppose the doubts had been carefully checked out and contingency plans made. Suppose the people in charge had said, "I don't think you're right, but we'd better allow for the possibility."

Some doubts expressed and listened to might have made a difference. But instead what happened was that the doubts were not just ignored but rejected as if somehow it was unpatriotic to question, and even now that often seems to be the attitude: it's unpatriotic to doubt. But doubt is true patriotism. It's raising the questions that enables us to explore the possibilities as fully as possible and get the best possible answers, and let everyone know that their views are valued and their concern appreciated. We might still have invaded Iraq, but we would have done it with more people on board and a better chance of success.

Without doubt, we don't grow. Without doubt, we become divided. Without doubt, we die. Thomas doubted, and as a result got the evidence he needed and came to a deeper understanding and deeper faith.

I remember noticing a headline two years ago that said "Divisions Harden after Immigration Rallies." Hasn't that been the story of our national life in recent years? We have a problem, we choose up sides, we fight. Abortion versus right to life. Gay unions vs defenders of so-called traditional marriage. Intelligent design versus evolution. We choose up sides and we fight and no one learns anything and the anger grows.

What I find frightening is the utter conviction of righteousness, the "take-no-prisoners righteousness" that will shoot down abortion doctors and blow up clinics, that sends suicide bombers into wedding parties,

that flies passenger planes into buildings, or, for that matter, the mind-set within the Episcopal Churches in this diocese that would sue Bishop Smith and the Diocese of Connecticut, that would rather divide the church than sit down and talk it out and find ways to work together.

Three years ago there was a report issued by a commission created to study the tensions in the Anglican Communion and suggest a way forward. That report, the so-called Windsor Report, said that there needs to be an "ongoing process of listening and discernment, and that Christians of good will need to be prepared to engage honestly and frankly with each other on issues relating to human sexuality. It is vital that the Communion establish processes and structures to facilitate ongoing discussion . . . it has to be recognized that debate on this issue cannot be closed whilst sincerely but radically different positions continue to be held across the Communion . . . Moreover, any demonizing of homosexual persons, or their ill treatment, is totally against Christian charity and basic principles of pastoral care."

Without doubt, we don't grow. Without doubt, we become divided. Without doubt, we die.

The Windsor Report said "debate cannot be closed" and asked for "listening and discernment," but without waiting even 48 hours, Archbishop Akinola of Nigeria issued a statement condemning the Windsor Report and saying, "After an initial reading it is clear to me that the report falls far short of the prescription needed for this current crisis. It fails to confront the reality that a small, economically privileged group of people has sought to subvert the Christian faith and impose their new and false doctrine on the wider community of faithful believers. . . . Instead of a clear call for repentance we have been offered warm words of sentimentality..." That's no way to have a dialog. Those with whom he disagrees are said to be "subverting the faith" and teaching "false doctrine."

continued on page 10

God Speaks

I made Man with too many faults.
Yet I love him. And if he wishes, I have a
home above for him.
I should like him to be happy.
I am genial. He should not paint me as if I
were abominable. As for instance, that I
had a son and gave him for their
salvation.
This is one of the faults I meant. It leads
to nervous prostration.
All the same, there is a difficulty.
I should like him to be
happy in heaven here,
But he cannot come by wishing.
Only by being already at home here.

Stevie Smith

English poet and novelist, 1902 – 1971

Poem submitted by Gaile Binzen



LIFE IN THE PARISH

In Memoriam

Evelyn Woodruff Firth departed this life on February 5, 2008. Her service was held at St. John's on February 23rd.

Patricia Anne Bernadoni departed this life on March 9, 2008. Her service was held at St. John's on March 10th.

Rollin Hamilton Bates departed this life on March 26, 2008. His service was held at St. John's on April 5.

May the souls of the departed rest in peace

♪ Music at St. John's ♪

ANOTHER GREAT BAROQUE CONCERT!

The Northwest Music Association presents another wonderful spring concert by the New England Baroque Soloists on Saturday, May 10th - 5 PM at St. John's.

Those who have come to these concerts have raved. If you haven't come, do so. You are in for a magnificent experience!

Baroque music with instruments including: trumpet, oboe, violin, cello, keyboard and piccolo French horn ("Corno da caccia") will be played by this distinguished ensemble of musicians (all soloists with renowned orchestras and symphonies.)

The concert begins at 5 pm, is about an hour in length, and will be followed by a reception. Admission is free. Donations gratefully accepted.

All ages will enjoy this beautiful music!



CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Trinity Sunday, May 18

**Dedication of Sanctuary Piano
Donated by Harlan Ross Pianos**



Coming this Summer

Young Artists at St. John's

Do you know a talented young musician?
If so, call Lillie at 435-9290.

Please remember St. John's in your will.

The High School Mind

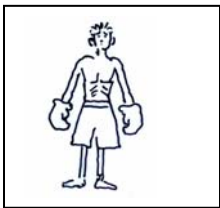
Every year, English teachers from across the USA can submit their collections of actual analogies and metaphors found in high school essays. Here are a few of last year's winners – we have 25 but can't fit them all in this month. More later, if requested!

Her face was a perfect oval, like a circle that had its two sides gently compressed by a Thigh Master.

The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.



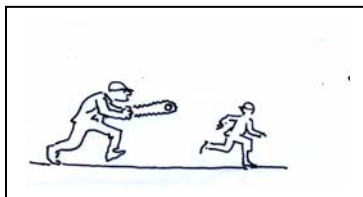
The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.



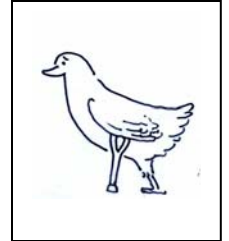
The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.

She had a deep, throaty, genuine laugh, like that sound a dog makes just before it throws up.

It was an American tradition, like fathers chasing kids around with power tools.

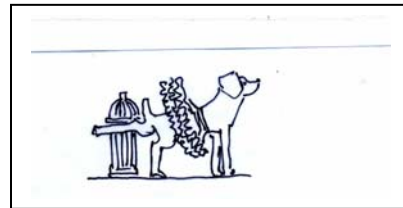


He was as lame as a duck. Not the metaphorical lame duck, either, but a real duck that was actually lame, maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.



Even in his last years, Granddad had a mind like a steel trap, only one that had been left out so long, it had rusted shut.

The ballerina rose gracefully *en pointe* and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant.



His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.

Sketches kindly contributed by Paul Bacon

Bishop Curry's Visit

Bishop Curry visited St. John's on Palm Sunday this year, to officiate at our 10.00 o'clock service and to hold a dialogue with parishioners afterwards. Sadly, it rained that morning, so the Palm Sunday procession had to be cancelled and the bishop's mitre and crozier were not seen leading the parade down Main Street.

As there was no sermon, in order to allow time for the reading of the Passion narrative, Bishop Curry began his remarks, after a brief reception, by advising us to choose a person in the Passion story with whom we

identify, and to let that person's actions guide us through Holy Week. He then told us that two years before, he had been in Mozambique and was taken to the Gathering Tree; in the recent past the government wouldn't allow church services, so during that time people worshiped outside, under the Gathering Tree. Now they begin their Palm Sunday procession at the Gathering Tree every year. He said that

Bishop Smith was that day celebrating Palm Sunday in Colombia, participating in the move of the Anglican Community towards greater global unity. But, said Bishop Curry, still the realities of division have to be addressed constantly. "We are called in the real world, but also are called to Christ's Kingdom of Peace. We have to struggle to stay in community. The unity of Christ, of faith, is a gift from God Himself."

Bishop Curry was asked to bring us up to par on the situation of the churches in Connecticut who want to move to different dioceses in order to adhere to more conservative doctrines. Following the election of openly gay Bishop Eugene Robinson of New Hampshire, six parishes decided they could not accept the authority of Bishop Smith, and decided to leave. The bishops

tried to hold dialogs with them but were told by some, please don't come. Bishop Curry told us that the rector of St. John's, Bristol, was deposed because of fundamental disagreements with the Diocese, but the church now has a new priest and remains within the Diocese. Trinity Church, Bristol, voted to accept the authority of a different bishop but still to continue to worship in the same church, so the Diocese is currently trying to move them out because the church property belongs to the Diocese, not to the parishioners. Christ Church, Watertown's congregation decided to join a non-Episcopal

church; St. Paul's Darien has decided to remain within the diocese, in order to have their conservative viewpoint heard in Connecticut. Bishop Seabury Church's vestry has voted to leave, and the diocese will repossess the property. The

Diocese is discussing selling the assets of disaffected churches to help the rest of the diocese, which is overchurched, to amalgamate congregations. Altogether six churches in the Diocese of Connecticut are in the process of re-formulating. That, said Bishop Curry, leaves one hundred and seventy still in the diocese, all of whom enjoy a wide range of personal understandings of Anglican doctrine.

Bishop Curry told us that twelve congregations in the Diocese of Connecticut worship in Spanish, all across the state. All are tied with English-speaking congregations, but in some churches there are more Spanish- than English-speakers.

Speaking of the disaffection caused in the Episcopal Church of the United States

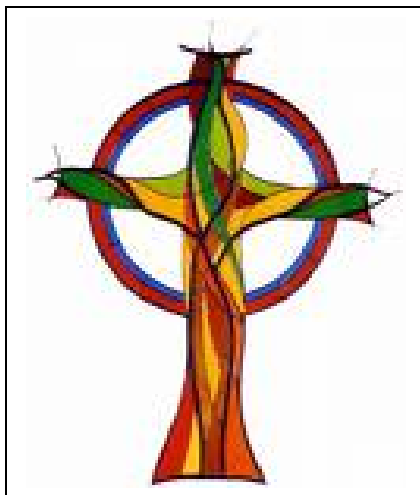
"We are called in the real world, but also are called to Christ's Kingdom of Peace. We have to struggle to stay in community. The unity of Christ, of faith, is a gift from God Himself."

(ECUSA) by the consecration of Bishop Robinson, Bishop Curry explained that the Diocese of San Joaquin, California has always been very conservative and fundamentalist, and has now aligned with the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone, in Africa. Its Bishop Schofield had refused for many years to come to the House of Bishops' convention and had abandoned communion with the ECUSA. Therefore ECUSA has voted to remove the bishop's privileges, and is now re-organizing San Joaquin into a small diocese with only 25 churches that want to stay with ECUSA.

Bishop Curry was asked what it was like for Bishop Robinson to be shut out of the next Lambeth Conference. He explained that the Archbishop of Canterbury has invited all bishops of ECUSA to participate except Bishop Robinson: "We have been told that he definitely will not be invited. He was told he could 'sell his wares' in the outer halls, but

not come in and vote, etc. He will therefore not attend the Conference at all, but all the ECUSA bishops will be there to speak for him."

A participant asked why people are leaving the Episcopal Church for fundamentalist churches. Bishop Curry responded, "In our baptismal covenant, the Episcopal Church is unique in opening and embracing all the teachings of Christ. The religious right has offered a more limited understanding. We need to stand up and proclaim what we believe is Christ's *inclusiveness*. We need to speak up for our way of seeing Christ's Word. Historically the Protestant church has gone up and down many times, and we are presently in one of those periods of change. Therefore we must, ourselves, take the Cross out into the world."



People Who Make a Difference:

Profile of Louise Carter

by Ellen McDonald

I don't know if cheerfulness is considered one for the Virtues. If it is, Louise Carter is very virtuous indeed. Her round, cheerful, smiling face imparts an upbeat feeling right away. She has been singing in church choirs ever since Sunday School days and is now one of our stalwarts in the choir at St. John's.

Louise was born in Denver, Colorado, where her father was working for the Denver newspaper, the Denver Post. Her parents and she moved around the West a bit when her father was assigned to do stories about areas beyond Denver which the Post covered. When she was three years old the family went to visit Louise's grandparents in Danbury, Connecticut and they urged the young family to move to Connecticut. Louise's mother finally convinced her father that they could live in Connecticut . . . if he could find a job. The Denver Post reluctantly let her father, Mr. White, go, urging him to work for a good paper in Connecticut. He found a job with the Torrington newspaper that was part of the Associated Press network, and they lived in Torrington for seventeen years.

While in Torrington two brothers, Raymond and Robert, were born, Raymond in 1937 and Robert in 1942. The family moved several times to different parts of town. Louise attended Sunday school at Trinity Church in downtown Torrington, to which she walked from whatever part of town they lived in. She sang in the Bluebird Choir, the Sunday School choir. She attended the Torrington schools and graduated from the Torrington High School.

Right after graduating Louise entered the Danbury Hospital Nurses' Training School. She

was 17 years old. By the time she was twenty she was ready to take the State Board tests but she was too young, so the hospital let her stay there working as a probationary until she was old enough to take the tests, which she passed with flying colors.

Sometime during this period Louise's parents had moved to White Plains because Mr. White had been transferred within the Associated Press to RCA in New York City. Also, during this period a mutual friend had introduced Louise White and Douglas Tompkins to each other. Doug was working for ConEdison. Louise and Douglas got married in 1940 and lived in an apartment in White Plains. Doug joined the Naval Reserves. Their first child, Carol, was born in 1941. A year later Douglas was called up by the Reserves and assigned to work on electricity and telegraphy in the Naval reserves. The young family moved around the country a bit and spent some time in Texas. Douglas eventually was sent to the Pacific with the 7th fleet.



When Doug was sent to China Louise put Carol in a nursery school and went to work at St. Agnes Hospital in White Plains. After Doug's return from the Pacific when the war ended the couple bought a house in Pleasantville in 1946. While Louise, Doug and Carol lived in Pleasantville they were members of St. John's Church there and all sang in the choir. Very good friends they made during these years were Brad and Priscilla Ketchum. Brad was the minister of St. John's. The Ketchums had a beautiful home in Maine which the Tompkins visited and the two families shared many happy times together.

After some years Doug was recalled to the Reserves because of the Korean War, and was sent to Labrador. Louise had started to work for a surgeon in Pleasantville and luckily enjoyed her work very much because she and

Carol were alone much of the time, though Doug had a few home leaves. Their son Robert was born in 1951.

With the long separations which the two wars had caused, the Tompkins' marriage began to break up and Louise and Doug were divorced. After the divorce Louise and the children moved to Ft. Lauderdale to be near her parents. They lived there for a year and a half. Robert was in kindergarten and Carol attended Pompano High School. Louise worked for a medical group but after a while decided that she didn't like working there and she and the children moved back up north to Thornwood, NY (near Pleasantville) where she bought a house. She had always kept in touch with the Ketchums.

Louise went back to work for the same surgeon for whom she had worked before in Pleasantville and was, of course, seeing her friends the Ketchums. By this time the Ketchums' two young sons were attending the Salisbury School. One of the boys was studying French and the Ketchums became friendly with his instructor, Lawson Carter, whom they invited down to Pleasantville from time to time. They introduced Lawson to their friend Louise Tompkins and then a slow courtship began. After two years of courting, Lawson convinced Louise to marry him, which she did in 1961 in Pleasantville.

Some of Lawson's family antecedents, the Averells, were among the first settlers of Cooperstown, New York and Lawson had inherited a beautiful house overlooking Lake Otesaga. That is where the Carters and Louise's children moved after the wedding. Lawson had attended Yale and the Harvard Law School so he was trained as a lawyer. But he had learned French as a small child from his French nanny. So that is how he had come, eventually, to teach French at Salisbury School.

The Carters spent summers in Cooperstown and winters in Lakeville, which Lawson had come to know during his teaching years at Salisbury School. They bought a house on Undermountain Road. Robert attended Town Hill School, then Indian Mountain School and then a prep school across the Hudson south of

Newburg. By this time Carol was in college and was attending Brevard College in North Carolina where her particular interest was music.

In 1972 when Louise and Lawson had returned from a trip to Europe to see Lawson's daughter Isobel, who lived in France, they were met at the airport and were being driven home to Salisbury when they had a terrible accident. A car driven by a teenager slammed straight into them and Louise suffered bad internal injuries and a badly fractured left leg. Lawson had both hips broken, internal injuries plus other injuries. It took the Carters over a year to recover. The large house on Undermountain Road became somewhat untenable to two aging, injured people, so their doctors urged them to buy a smaller house in the center of town, which they did.

Lawson died in early 1991 and Louise then moved to Lion's Head, where she still lives. Louise's brother Raymond, who had been an Episcopalian priest, died in the late 1990s at the age of 63. Then, sadly, Louise's daughter Carol, who had been living in Georgia where she worked for IBM, died in 2000, unnecessarily, according to Louise, because she was in poor health and didn't take good enough care of herself. We can only feel sympathy for a mother who was a nurse and who suffered such a loss. Louise is such a warm, loving person that her family losses have left her feeling sad and somewhat diminished.

Fortunately, Louise's brother Robert is still alive, as is her son Robert, who had a career in the Army from which he has now retired. He lives in Ft. Walton Beach, in the panhandle of Florida. Louise tries to visit him once a year at least.

Louise has a very busy life here in Salisbury, doing all sorts of volunteer jobs and seeing friends. She also travels and, of course, sings in the choir at St. John's. She has been a member of St. John's for many years and often, when comparing years of membership; she wins hands down. She says she knows she is the oldest member of the Salisbury Garden Club.

When Louise first joined St. John's Jim Hyde was the rector. Shortly after she joined he asked her to serve on the Vestry, which she did. Then, back in the 1970s she started the Altar Guild. She said she used ideas she had gotten from Lawson's cousin, Ann Choate, and also from Brad Ketchum, her minister friend from St. John's in Pleasantville. She first invited various ladies to her home on Undermountain Road, to come for tea and cookies and discussions about forming an altar guild. She remembers that Liz Sly and Paige Hyde were among the early supporters of the Guild. Louise has remained active on the Guild ever since. We all owe her a great debt of gratitude for that very important gift to the Church.

Let us hope her happy, smiling face graces our choir for many years to come. Tra-la-la-la-la, Louise, and thank you!

PRAISE

Praise the shadblow's shy annunciation. Praise the teeming, stalking life of the marsh and the white stillness of the egret against black mud.

Praise the slow-winged gull and the mussel shell that falls from his purposeful beak. Praise the bluebird, unmistakable jewel. Praise the brown duck circling his mate in the act of creation.

Praise the fawn's grave innocence, the red fox high-stepping through the cattails on dainty, ink-dipped paws. Praise too the vole in her mouth that will feed her cubs.

Praise the raccoon's impossible tricks, the squirrels' tag, the wild turkey's unloveliness.

Praise leafless trees, the unadorned bones of the woods. Praise the curve of the earth and its molten heart. Praise the intricacies of love.

With Love,
Bobbie Earle 2008

Birthdays

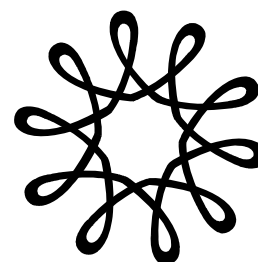


April Birthdays

- 05 Cristian Umaña
- 06 Linda Patz
Janeth Lenis
- 10 Marian Schwaikert
- 17 Ellen McDonald
- 19 Rafael Porro
- 21 Daniel López
- 22 Jacob Carter
- 23 Polly Rodie
- 27 Bunny Vincent
- 28 Lauren Allyn
- 30 Nancy Bayersdorfer

May Birthdays

- 02 Danny Lake
Gloria Janelli Mitten
- 03 Leslie Allyn
David Bayersdorfer
- 06 Fr. Juan George
- 11 Ruth Kopp
- 15 Emily Voldstad
- 23 Trish Stimpson
- 27 Ibba Williams
Leonie Brewer
Bob Tapscott



I wish I could be as sure of myself as Bishop Akinola is. I read five books on the subject of human sexuality in one month recently and the main thing I learned was that there are lots of angles of the issue that I had never yet thought of. And the tragedy is that so many bishops, priests, and lay people are so sure of themselves that they don't feel a need to read a book or a report by some of the most thoughtful Christian leaders in the whole world or sit down to talk and consider and pray. I wish they would think about Thomas.

Thomas could have said, "Look, no one ever rose from the dead and no one ever will. Why should I bother to show up next Sunday? It would just be a waste of time." But Thomas, for all his doubts, came to church the next Sunday and was converted. And because he doubted and questioned, we have even greater evidence of the resurrection.

Doubt is far better than total, absolute conviction. Doubt remains open to growth. Total conviction is deadening, closed to anything new.

Why is it, do you suppose, that in our world there are so many people so destructively sure of themselves? The tragedy is that it's the bombers and self-certain fundamentalists who get the attention and can even seem to be admirable because of their absolute faith and closed-mind convictions. Thomas was not one of them. Thanks be to God!

I suspect that those of us who try to understand and think things through and respect those with whom we disagree wind up looking like wimps. Those of us who are willing to admit that we don't have all the answers, that it's worth listening to different viewpoints, that there may be more to learn, may look confused and uncertain - Doubting Thomases. But Thomas had room to grow and so do we if we doubt as he did.

You know what I suspect? I suspect that those who come on as so sure of themselves are actually deeply insecure, I think they are frightened by a confusing world and trying to deal with the problem by rigidly denying anything that might crack them open to a deeper understanding.

You know, perhaps, the story of the preacher who wrote in the margin of his sermon, "Point weak here, shout like hell." At least he admitted to himself that he had a problem. Too many are out there denying the problem instead of facing it and sitting down to explore the problem with others who may be equally frightened -- it is a frightening world, after all -- but

are at least trying to find a way forward and preferably a way forward together.

William Butler Yeats wrote a poem a hundred years ago called "The Second Coming" in which he said, "The best lack all convictions, while the worst / Are full of passionate intensity." That's how it often looks today, but I don't think that's quite right. Yes, "the worst are full of passionate intensity." But I don't think it's fair to say "The best lack all convictions." The best, the truly best, are being thoughtful and considerate of others and respectful of other viewpoints and trying, against long odds, to engage in the kind of conversation that can lead to a deeper understanding on the part of all. That's not from lack of conviction. That comes from the kind of confidence only doubters can have.

There's no point in withdrawing into opposing fortresses and shouting epithets. The Bible says: "Your anger can never make things right in God's sight." (James 1:20) The future is with those who will take the time to listen and grow.

Iris Murdoch wrote a book almost 20 years ago called "The Book and the Brotherhood" in which she portrayed a priest beset by doubt. "He said to himself, I don't believe in God or the Divinity of Christ or the Life Everlasting, but I continually say so, I have to. Why? In order to carry on with the life which I have chosen and which I love. The power which I derive from my Christ is debased by its passage through me. It reaches me as love, it leaves me as magic. That is why I make *serious mistakes*." In fact, in spite of his self-laceration, a ritual in which he indulged at intervals, the priest felt, in a yet deeper deep self, a sense of security and peace. Behind doubt there was truth, and behind the doubt that doubted that truth there was truth . . . He was a sinner, but he *knew* that his Redeemer lived." (pp.522-3)

Such a priest will never build one of those mega-churches that provide all the answers, but I suspect he may come closer to the deep truths, the costly truths, the enduring truths. After all, if you have all the answers, why would you continue to explore and learn and grow?

Today is Thomas Sunday. After the hoop-la of Easter Day, we need to remember Thomas and pray for the grace to grow in faith by allowing ourselves to doubt. Pray that we may continue to enrich our lives by doubting like Thomas until we can say with Thomas, "My Lord, and my God."

--Rev. Christopher L. Webber

A Blog from Ghana

This is an excerpt from a blog sent from Ghana to her friends by Laura Wertz's god-daughter Sara Hutchins. Many thanks to Laura for sharing it with us.

. . . so people here are obsessed with religion. it is absolutely everywhere. on the backs of all the "tro-tros" are religious sayings, the best one I've seen so far is "clap for jesus". its hilarious.

last sunday i went to my homestay family's pentecostal church. we were there for FIVE hours. that's more church than i've been to in the last year i would say easily. the problem was i couldn't tell when people were speaking in tongues because the service was held in Twi. but people all around me were getting divine interventions or something, there was a lot of shouting and screaming, and i think even some crying. all in all it was a bit different from st. marks in new canaan. it was nuts. the other night my host mom and dad left for church at 9:30 pm and got back at 4:30 am. they're pretty religious. its kinda crazy how much time they spend in church.

then yesterday while I was waiting for a tro-tro, i was talking to a ghanaian and we were just having the usual conversation, name, where are you from etc, etc. he said his name was Isaac and when i told him my name was sara he laughed and said he was my son. i gave him a blank look and he said again "like in the Bible". Let's just say it was major faux-pas that i missed this biblical reference.

we are going to Kumasi which is about 4 hours north of here, so that will bring some new interesting stories. thanks for checking up on me!

Posted by Sara Hutchins at 4:28 AM

The Changed Man

If you were to hear me imitating Pavarotti in the shower every morning, you'd know how much you have changed my life.

If you were to see me stride across the park, waving to strangers, then you would know I am a changed man-like Scrooge

awakened from his bad dreams feeling feather-light, angel-happy, laughing the father of a long line of bright laughs-

"It is still not too late to change my life!"
It is changed. Me, who felt short-changed.
Because of you I no longer hate my body.

Because of you I buy new clothes.
Because of you I'm a warrior of joy.
Because of you and me. Drop by

this Saturday morning and discover me fiercely pulling weeds gladly, dedicated as a born-again gardener.

Drop by on Sunday-I'll Turtlewax your sky-blue sports car, no sweat. I'll greet enemies with a handshake, forgive debtors

with a papal largesse. It's all because of you. Because of you and me, I've become one changed man.

by Robert Phillips
from *Spinach Days*
(The Johns Hopkins University Press).
Submitted by the Rev. John Carter

HOT

Stuff II

*Classic Jazz,
Ballads & Blues*

PAUL BACON

— WITH —

The Metropolitan All-Stars

— AT —

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Salisbury

SATURDAY, MAY 31, AT 5 O'CLOCK

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE DOOR FOR
THE NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT FOOD BANK

JAZZ

PB



A Weekly Reminder - to Remember the Hungry!

Don't forget to bring in items for the OWL's Kitchen basket *every* Sunday – not just on Hungry Sunday!

Needed most – healthy breakfast cereals, such as Cheerios and Life and dear old Corn Flakes – and regular coffee! Store brands are great. Let's help everyone get a good start for school and work in the morning!

Online Auction for Green Chimneys School!

If you have never bid in an online auction, this is the one to start with!

Green Chimneys is a school in Brewster that helps bring autistic children back into our world through contact with animals – birds, alpacas, rabbits, horses and many more – whom they care for all through their boarding school experience. The animals often come from shelters and form strong bonds with the children, to the benefit of each.



Green Chimneys is celebrating its 60th year, and this Charity Buzz Silent Auction will be held from April 16 through May 11, 2008. You can bid on fabulous trips, celebrity experiences, a Porsche-for-the-week-end and other unique items, with proceeds going to Green Chimneys. Our friend Jen Sipple is the organizer, so we know it will be good!

Find it at www.charitybuzz.com. Information cards and the wonderful Green Chimneys calendar can be seen on the notice board in the Upper Parish House. Take the calendar down and look at the animals – and take a card home to get in on the fun!

Mythic Imagination Institute –
Mythic Passages, the Magazine of Imagination

Towards the end of his life someone asked Robert Frost,

*‘Do you have hope for the future?’
“Yes,” he replied, “and even for the past,
that it will turn out to have been all right for what it was,
something we can accept, mistakes made by the selves we had to be,
not able to be, perhaps, what we wished,
or what looking back half the time it seems we could so easily have been, or ought.
The future, yes, and even for the past,
that it will become something we can hear.”*

CALENDAR – April 2008

APRIL

| | | | |
|----|-------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 27 | Sun. | 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. | Eucharist Rite I Eucharist Rite II Combined Gospel Choir with (No Sermon)– Michael Brown Misa |
| 28 | Mon. | 6:00 p.m. | Fitness Class (and every Monday) |
| 29 | Tues. | 5:00 p.m. | Meditation (and every Tuesday) |
| 30 | Wed. | 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. | Service at Noble Horizon Choir Rehearsal (every Wednesday evening) |

MAY

| | | | |
|----|------|--|--|
| 2 | Fri. | 6:00 p.m. | Al-Anon (and every Friday) |
| 4 | Sun. | 8:30–9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. | Breakfast Club – Breakfast Served Eucharist Rite II Misa |
| 6 | Tue. | | Clergy Day at Southport |
| 7 | Wed. | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal (and every Wednesday) |
| 10 | Sat. | 5:00 p.m. | Spring Concert: New England Baroque Soloists |
| 11 | Sun. | 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. | Eucharist Rite I Eucharist Rite II Misa |
| 17 | Sat. | | Bishops 5K for Kids |
| 18 | Sun. | 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. | Eucharist Rite I Eucharist Rite II - Choir Appreciation Day Misa |
| 28 | Wed. | 11: 00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. | Noble Horizon Service Choir Rehearsal |
| 31 | Sat. | 5:00 p.m. | “Hot Stuff II” Jazz Concert with Paul Bacon |

DIOCESAN EVENTS

HASTINGS OPEN SET FOR JUNE 19

Save the date for the 24th Annual Camp Washington-Hastings Open Golf Tournament. The Hastings Open will take place at the Tunxis Plantation Country Club in Farmington and Bishop Laura Ahrens will serve as honorary chair. Proceeds from the tournament will provide scholarship assistance for campers attending Camp Washington; \$24,000 was raised and awarded last year. For more information contact June Aziz at 860-563-4028 or juneaziz@aol.com, or check Camp Washington’s website at www.campwashington.org

BISHOP’S 5K FOR KIDS SET FOR MAY 17

Help children at risk in Connecticut by getting involved in the 5K for Kids to benefit the Bishop’s Fund for Children (BFC). Get together a team of friends and parishioners, collect pledges and compete for the “big trophy.” Or, volunteer to help out and share in this day of diocesan-wide fun and mission. For more information, check out the BFC website at www.bishops5kforkids.org

Our young parishioner Hector Umana Jr. will be running in this event. He is on the track team at Housatonic. Call the church office and sponsor him!

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street
Salisbury, Connecticut 06068

Phone: 860-435-9290



The Mission of St. John's Church

- To reveal through worship the presence of God
- To grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ
- To reach out to others through the power of the Holy Spirit.