



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

St. John's Church, Salisbury, Connecticut 06068

The Rev. John F. Carter, Rector

May/June 2010

Gaile Binzen, Editor
Karen Byers, Layout Design

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS...

Hector Jr. and Cristian Umaña

Read Ellen McDonald's profile on p. 5 and see the list (p. 10) of all our young people from four area churches being confirmed by Bp. Laura Ahrens at St. John's on Saturday May 22, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

All are welcome to attend this joyous occasion!

The Rector's Corner

GENEROSITY FROM A BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE

Dear Parishioners:

Below is an excerpt from a book that I find very helpful in my spiritual life. It is *When Things Fall Apart*, by Pema Chodrin, a Buddhist teacher of some renown. In one chapter she describes "activities of the servants of peace." These activities are called "*paramitas*." They are: generosity, discipline, patience, exertion and meditation.

Chodrin writes that "The word *paramita* means *going to the other shore*. These actions are like *a raft that carries us across the river of samsara (life's sufferings)*. The *paramitas* are also called transcendent actions because they are based on going beyond conventional notions of virtue and non-virtue. They train us in stepping beyond the limitations of a dualistic world view altogether; and developing a flexible mind."

We have recently added a copy of Pema Chodrin's book to our library at Church. Jesus' teachings tell us what to do, but they do not always tell us how to move towards the "mind of Christ." In a language that Jungians, Christians and those of other faiths will find resonant, Chodrin is helpful in providing insights into how we might move spiritually and psychologically to a place of mindfulness and compassion.

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Photographs by John Carter, Drawings by Paul Bacon

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From
WHEN THINGS FALL APART by Pema Chodrin
 Chapter 16: **Servants of Peace**

The first “paramita” is generosity, the journey of learning how to give.

When we feel inadequate and unworthy, we hoard things. We are so afraid—afraid of losing, afraid of feeling even more poverty-stricken than we do already. This stinginess is extremely sad. We could look into it and shed a tear that we grasp and cling so fearfully. This holding on causes us to suffer greatly. We wish for comfort, but instead we reinforce aversion, the sense of sin, and the feeling that we are a hopeless case.

The causes of aggression and fear begin to dissolve by themselves when we move past the poverty of holding back. So the basic idea of generosity is to train in thinking bigger, to do ourselves the world's biggest favor and stop cultivating our own scheme. The more we experience fundamental richness, the more we can loosen our grip.

This fundamental richness is available in each moment. The key is to relax: relax to a cloud in the sky, relax to a tiny bird with gray wings, relax to the sound of the telephone ringing. We can see the simplicity in things as they are. We can smell things, taste things, feel emotions, and have memories. When we are able to be there without saying, I certainly agree with this, or I definitely don't agree with that, but just be there very directly, then we find fundamental richness everywhere. It is not ours or theirs but is available always to everyone. In raindrops, in blood drops, in heartache and delight, this wealth is the nature of everything. It is like the sun in that it shines on everyone without discrimination. It is like a mirror in that it is willing to reflect anything without accepting or rejecting.

The Journey of generosity is one of connecting with this wealth, cherishing it so profoundly that we are willing to begin to give away whatever blocks it. We give away our dark glasses, our long coats, our hoods, and our disguises. In short, we open ourselves and let ourselves be touched. This is called building confidence in all-pervasive richness. At the everyday, ordinary level, we experience it as flexibility and warmth.”

John +

The Exploring Spirituality Reading Group

The Exploring Spirituality Reading Group was started last fall by a group of people from local churches, and some unaffiliated, all of whom wanted to explore through reading that something that we can't perceive with our senses, but know for a certainty lies at the foundations of our religious beliefs.

So far, we've read *The Wisdom Jesus* by Cynthia Bourgeault and *The First Christmas* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. For our June meeting we will be reading Paul Knitter's *Without Buddha, I could not be a Christian*, which is a reflection on how Knitter, a former Catholic brother, found that the precepts of Buddhism expanded and deepened his own Christian faith.

This is a relatively recent book, so it will be available through bookstores and on-line. We have not done a group order - each person should order it on his/her own.

We welcome to the discussion folks who have read the book, have read part of the book, haven't read the book at all but think the contents sound interesting! We meet in the comfortable Cobble Sitting Room at Noble Horizons, at 6.30 pm, where tea, coffee and cookies are served to keep us alert while pondering great mysteries.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 3rd. Men, women, young, old, informed and curious - all are welcome, with or without strong opinions. Please tell your friends about this wonderful opportunity to explore the undercurrents of our faith.

News from the Junior Warden

May 10, 2010

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. John's,

For the past two years the Garden Committee has been planning the future of our garden area in the rear of the church. We envision the use of the space in several attractive ways:

1: How we, *as a Congregation*, may include the garden in our worship.

2: How we, *and the Community at large*, may want to enjoy the space for multi purposes.

Uses will be: a quiet space, where one can relax on a bench or on a rock, meditate, find peace, while listening to the healing sound of a babbling waterfall; reading under an umbrella; coming to meet friends and refresh your senses in a beautiful outdoor setting, or, one may rent the space for a luncheon, a wedding reception, a rehearsal dinner (all the needed kitchen facilities are in place.)

We also plan a Columbarium, where we can deposit the ashes of our loved ones.

Continued on p. 4

An Unforgettable Consecration in Connecticut

by the Rev. Canon Lance Beizer

On April 17th, my wife Ann and I attended the ordination and consecration of a new diocesan bishop for the Diocese of Connecticut, Ian Douglas, a professor at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The event was a bigger deal than usual for Connecticut, since Bishop Ian was to be the first bishop in its 225-year history who didn't come from the ranks of its own diocesan clergy.

At the Eucharist the three bishops from Connecticut used a chalice and paten that had originally been used by Bishop Samuel Seabury, the first bishop of Connecticut as well as the very first bishop of the Episcopal Church in America. Bishop Seabury had had to receive his ordination in 1784 at the hands of Scottish bishops, since if he had been ordained in England, he would have had to swear allegiance to the head of the Church of England, King George III - obviously not likely to happen in the wake of the birth of our new nation after the War of Independence.

Continued p. 8

Outreach at St. John's

- ❖ Your Mite Box donations helped towards a \$182.00 contribution from St. John's to the Bishop's Fund for Children, a Diocesan effort that supports dozens of programs that help children at risk in the state of Connecticut. Every mite helps. Thank you for your participation.
- ❖ We collected \$283.00 from the Good Friday Offering to support the ministry of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle-East.
- ❖ Many thanks also to the Hatchkiss students who recently put on a benefit concert of beautiful music at St. John's. Proceeds for Haiti Relief exceeded \$400.00. Special thanks also to Tom Evans and Sue Spring who prepared a lovely reception for the young musicians, following the concert.

Continuation of junior warden report from p. 3

Originally, dating back centuries, churchyards were used as burial grounds and also as gathering spaces for happy occasions. Wouldn't it be exciting if St. John's garden becomes a magnet for such uses in the North West Corner?

The first step has already been taken. Several years ago a parishioner had the foresight to enclose the garden with a wooden privacy fence, thereby creating an outdoor room. Now, we are ready to install a waterfall. We have found a local mason/builder, whose artistry in "placing natural rocks" is unsurpassed. He has made an estimate for building a waterfall, tumbling over natural rocks. Some of us have seen and admired his work locally on some residential properties. We want *you* to use the garden at any time. We also want your enthusiasm, your approval and your financial participation. We have already received funds from parishioners for this very purpose.

As soon as the waterfall has been built, we would like to plant some trees, shrubs and flowers to enhance the waterfall even more. This will be *your* garden. We would love it if you'll help us raise the funds to make it all happen.

You may send a contribution in memory of someone, or in celebration of someone, or in honor of someone, i.e. a grandchild, your parents, a special friend, an anniversary, a pet. The names for whom the donations will be given will be printed on a special plaque.

We hope you will be as enthusiastic as we are, so we can proceed with the project.

Please contact Lisa Richards, at the office; she is ready to assist you. The number is 860-435-9290.

This garden project will be "ongoing," until it is finished (but is a garden ever finished?)

Thank you for your interest, for your support and for your encouragement.

In cheerful thanks and anticipation,

Trish Acree
 Patricia Prem
 Marian Schwaikert
 Kurt Stampfle
 Joan Turnure
 Mieke Armstrong, Junior Warden
 Garden Committee



PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Profile of Hector Jr. and Cristian Umaña

by Ellen McDonald

BIENVENIDOS!

The two charming young Umaña brothers are shining examples of what good parenting can do. They are well-mannered, thoughtful, intelligent and fun. Their parents, Hector and Maria Umaña must be very proud of them. Hector Sr. is one of our newer members on the Vestry at St. John's.

Hector Jr. and Cristian were both born in San Miguel, El Salvador. Their father had come to the US when he was eighteen years old to stay with relatives in Los Angeles. He received a residency card during the years he was there. After some time he returned to El Salvador, met Maria, and they were married. When their second child, Cristian, was born in 1996 Hector decided to return to the US. He was studying to be a doctor, but for political and financial reasons thought his family would be better off in the US. He applied for a visa, which in those days required a wait of only five years to get a residency card for the family.

In 2001 the family moved to Fairview, New Jersey, where they had relatives. The move was a big one, particularly for Maria and the two boys, and required a lot of adjustments. From 2001 to 2004 Hector Jr. was in 6th - 8th grades at the Lincoln Public School in Fairview. Cristian, at age 5, had lessons in English

before he also started school at the Lincoln School.

During this time, while looking for a job in New York City, Hector Sr. met a man who had a company in Millerton, New York. He liked Hector and said he would give him a job if he would move up to this area. At this point Hector Jr. tells a wonderful story about his mother. When they lived in New Jersey she prayed every day that they would find a place to live which would be quiet and more countrified, suitable for bringing up her two boys. Fairview was very urban and



Hector Jr.



Cristian

noisy. When her husband received the job offer he came up for a weekend and then Maria came up to look things over. This was the quiet, countrified area she had been praying for; they both liked the area and moved in 2005. Hector Jr. says he and his brother tease his mother and tell her in the future to be very specific about what she prays for!

Since then they have settled in here very well. Hector Sr. works for his friend's company, Old Country Painting, in Millerton. The family has rented a house in Lakeville from which the boys can bicycle to the Grove in the summer and Hector Jr. can get to his part-time job at Deano's Pizza in

Lakeville. The Umañas have made a great contribution to the Fall Festival at St. John's; they have created a hugely popular food stand, where Maria and friends make *pupusas*, Hector Sr. works as cashier and Cristian is a general helper.

Hector Jr. graduated from HVRHS last year and is now attending the Northwestern Community College in Winsted. He says he enjoyed the high school very much and now is beginning to like the community college as well. When he finishes there he hopes to go on to further training to become a nurse. In this reporter's opinion he will make a very fine nurse - and who knows, perhaps he will go on to fulfill his father's plan to become a doctor.

Cristian is in the eighth grade at Salisbury Central School, which he says he likes very much. He loves music and plays several instruments. In the school band he plays the euphonium, a small tuba. He also plays the horn and has played for us at St. John's on several occasions. He has a set of drums, which his brother Hector says is mercifully now kept in the basement where he practices the other instruments as well. Cristian says he hopes to be either an architect or do something in music. His uncle, his mother Maria's brother, is an architect in El Salvador so perhaps he is a rôle model. Next year Cristian will follow in his brother's footsteps to HVRHS.

Both boys have taken their transition to a totally new lifestyle and language in their stride and this is, one feels, because of the strength and guidance they have received from their parents. Both Maria and Hector are strong churchgoers and their boys are in this year's confirmation class. They and the other confirmands will be confirmed on Saturday, May 22 at 11:00 AM. It is our good fortune at St. John's that we will have two such fine new members of our congregation. We wish them all the best - and BIENVENIDOS!



2010 Graduates

"So my one wish for you as you leave this place and make a life for yourself is that you be a person who feels, who is aware of the water you're swimming in, who is interested in the plight of others who may not be as fortunate, or as good looking, or as young, or as rich, or as blessed with family and friends. My wish for you is that as you leave this place, you strive to be conscious. I know you don't FEEL unconscious. After all, you're walking around, right? But, believe me, it is the preferred way of life in America. And unless you work at it, you will be unconscious too. It takes an act of will, a courageous act of will, to stay conscious in your life."

-The Right Reverend Gene Robinson.

Alex Alvarez will be graduating from Neumann University with a B.A. in Biology. Her parents are Jorge and Fanie Alvarez.

AC DiStasio will graduate from Siena College on Sunday, May 16, with a BS in Computer Science and a minor in Mathematics and Multimedia. AC has been inducted into the National Honor Society for Computer Science. He is the son of Alan and Susan DiStasio.

Alice Maggio will be graduating from Wesleyan University with a B.A. in Sociology and French. Her parents are Peter and Ellen Maggio, and Patricia Maggio is her grandmother.

David E. Richards, Jr., will be graduating from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. He will be attending Western Connecticut State College in the fall. His parents are David and Lisa Richards.

Bradley Werntz will be graduating from Princeton University with a degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. He is the son of Stephen and Laura Werntz.

Marian Schwikert's grandson, **John C. Schwaikert**, graduates from St. Anthony's Parochial School (elementary) in Winsted.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS!

will be held at St. Anthony's Parochial School
Sunday June 13th at 3:00 p.m.

Animals should be caged or tethered. A free will offering will benefit the Little Guild of St. Francis. All species welcome!

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

Today, Rogation Sunday, Father John's sermon about getting up from our comfortable beds and doing something different, reminded me of a quotation I saw last month on the wall outside of Park Avenue Methodist Church:

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

Cardinal John Henry Newman

Happy Mother's Day,
Herb

(Herbert Prem Jr.)

Dear Editor,

I've read your January 2010 Parish Newsletter from cover to cover, and been blown away. I love everything about it . . . the Haiti articles and illustrations, including a marvelous mural, the Bishop's letter and your rector's sermon (on Martin Luther King), the "Story from the Deep North," and on and on. You've even got Bob Herbert in the mix.

The layout is superb and the Table of Contents impressive. All that plus drawings by BB and PB. You and Karen Byers make a winning combination. By the way, I'm taking the advice of your "In House Health Informer." A personal trainer takes me through exercise for 20 - 25 minutes twice a week and I generally walk 45 minutes to our town every afternoon.

We could have used you at the Bulletin!

Love, Peter

(Peter Binzen was a lifetime reporter, editor and columnist for the Philadelphia Bulletin and Philadelphia Inquirer before retiring)

Connecticut Consecration from p. 3

Perhaps because Bishop Ian's experience has been in world mission, there was a wide array of bishops from many different parts of the world present to lay hands on the new bishop. There was at least one African bishop present, sitting directly behind Ann and me; he did not participate in the ceremony, since it would have caused issues in his home country, given the fact that New Hampshire's gay bishop, Gene Robinson, was among those who did participate.

Sitting next to the African bishop was the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, present no doubt because Bishop Ian served on the Anglican Consultative Council, one of the Communion's most important bodies. The new bishop had also at one time served as a missionary in Haiti; so the Bishop of Haiti was one of the participants and the offertory collection from the perhaps 2,000 in attendance went to various organizations in that country. Bishop Ian read a portion of the Eucharistic Prayer in Haitian Creole, and one of the bishops suffragan read another portion in Spanish. Ann was particularly moved by the fact that our group took communion from the Presiding Bishop, Katherine Jefferts Schori, who was, of course, the primary consecrator.

The most interesting part of the ceremony by far for me, however, was the homily. The homilist was Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, whom I had never seen in person. As he strode towards the podium it was a truly emotional moment for me, since I felt that I was seeing a living legend. Inasmuch as the homily was the product of someone who had managed to bring together those who had suffered greatly during the sometimes brutal period of apartheid in his native South Africa and those who had been the oppressors, the tenor of Archbishop Tutu's remarks certainly was not surprising, but the humor with which he spoke, and the breadth of his inclusiveness, were such as to cause me to cherish those words. The archbishop recounted in a sort of précis the history of God's gracious gifts to humanity as well as our rejection of them and of God himself, but he reminded us that, although Jesus was God's Son, he was also our brother, and so we also are members of that same family. Not only did Jesus call his disciples "friends" in the foot-washing scene in John's Gospel; in that same gospel, when the Resurrected Christ appears to Mary Magdalene, he instructs her to go to the disciples, whom he calls "brothers," and report that he has said: "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

Archbishop Tutu made it clear, however, that he does not believe that Jesus meant to imply that the disciples alone were his brothers, nor that only his followers, whoever they may be, are his brothers. We are *all* his siblings, and therefore also God's children. To which, with a twinkle in his eyes and an impish chuckle on his lips, Tutu added that that designation – *God's children* – applies equally to Tea Party members and Democrats, to Sarah Palin and Hillary Clinton, to gays and lesbians as well as to straight folks, to Hindus and Buddhists and Moslems as well as to Christians; it is *all* humans to whom it applies, not only to those who live their lives in a particular way or to believers in any particular doctrine or dogma. In fact, in an aside that was much appreciated, he asked us to try to imagine a scene in which God might meet the Dalai Lama, and say to him, "You really are something else! Too bad you're not a Christian!"

Bishop Tutu ended his homily by addressing the new bishop directly: "Ian, God has called you to be bishop. We are all God's children, Ian; please hold the children of God. Each one of them is precious. Each one of them is held in the godly embrace. Each one of them is loved..."

In our fractured society could any message be more timely – or more welcome?

– Lance Beizer
Associate, St. John's Church

Impermanence Springing

Exuberant, full of adventure,
 Buoyant in the vernal radiance,
 A boy speeds down
 A dirt road on his bike.
 Hitting an implacable rock,
 He falls hard and scrapes his knee.
 Fiercely pushing down cries of betrayal,
 Stinging pain and mortification,
 He hobbles homeward
 Tasting the salt of backed up tears;
 When mama opens the screen door and sees,
 He unleashes torrential lamentations.

I am sometimes overthrown when spring's
 dazzling light
 Reveals the unexpected guest of sadness,
 The grief of impermanence.
 Gyped, embarrassed, forgetting how I had
 Stoically stifled wintry ululations,
 I self-bamboozled,
 Believing mother spring would solve
 everything -
 Body aches, soul pains.

Why am I surprised if
 Good Friday follows Easter?
 Nothing is disordered here.

Time to get back on the bike.

John Carter Eastertide 2010

"To journey without being changed is to be a nomad.
 To change without journeying is to be a chameleon.
 To journey and to be transformed by the journey is to be
 a pilgrim."

- Mark Nepo

(Quotation kindly submitted by the Rector)

A Recipe We've All Been Asking For

Whenever Linda Patz "does Hospitality" after the 10:00 o'clock service, (which she does with faithful and generous regularity) people ask her for the recipe for her perfectly delicious coffee cake. Today, you can at last bake it yourself, and bring it next time you do the honors – we can't get enough of it!

Linda's Cranberry Coffee Cake

For cake:

1 stick margarine, softened
 1 cup granulated sugar
 2 eggs
 1 tsp. baking powder
 2 cups flour
 ½ tsp. salt
 1 cup (1/2 pint) sour cream
 1 tsp. almond flavoring
 1 (7 oz.) can whole cranberries
 ½ cup chopped walnuts

For topping:

¾ cup confectioner's sugar
 2 tbs. warm water
 ½ tsp almond flavoring

Cream margarine and sugar; add eggs and blend well.
 Add dry ingredients, alternating with sour cream – ending with dry ingredients.
 Add flavoring.

Grease and flour a 9" or 10" tube pan.
 Put half of the batter in the bottom of the pan.
 Add half of the cranberries and spread evenly.
 Add remaining batter – then remaining cranberries
 Sprinkle with chopped nuts.

Bake at 350 degrees for 55 minutes.

Let cool 5 minutes before removing from pan.
 Then cover with topping of ¾ cup confectioner's sugar, 2 tablespoons warm water and ½ tsp almond flavoring, mixed until smooth.

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2010



THE CONFIRMANDS

Anya, Alexandrovna Bolshakova Browning
Slava, Viacheslav Alexandrovich Bolshakov Browning
Courtney Ann Duntz
Connor Costain Elwell
Cristian Alexander Umaña Guevara
Hector Antonio Umaña Guevara
Charles Lee Pryor
Kenneth James Weaver

WITH GRATITUDE **TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The Rev. Canon Lance Beizer
The Rev. John Carter
Alexis Dorf
Danielle Gaherty
The Rev. Pete Peterson
The Rev. Rosalie Richards
The Rev. Heidi Truax
Debra Tyler
The Rev. Jon Widing

The Confirmation will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2010 at 11.00 a.m. at St. John's,
with Bishop Laura Ahrens officiating.

MAY / JUNE CALENDAR

SERVICE SCHEDULE EVERY SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. – Eucharist I

10:00 a.m. Eucharist II

12:00 noon – MISA

Breakfast Served ~ First Sunday of the Month ~ 8:30-9:30 a.m.

ALL WELCOME!

Every Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Drumming Circle
Every Wednesday	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts, Meets every Wed. until June 2
Every Wednesday	7-9 p.m. ~	English as a Second Language (ESL) Class
Every Thursday	5:30 p.m.	Puentes Class
Every Friday	4:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal; New voices always welcome!
Every Friday	6:00 p.m.	Al Anon
Every Saturday	4:00 p.m.	AA

May

20	Thursday	5:00 p.m.	Vestry Meets
22	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Confirmation with Bishop Lauren Ahrens
23	Sunday		PENTECOST – One Service for All
31	Monday		Memorial Day Parade – Office Closed

June

5	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Tom Evans and Susan Spring Wedding Ceremony
6	Sunday	11:15 a.m.	Hospitality Meeting after Service
10	Thursday	5:00 p.m.	Executive Meeting
13	Sunday	3:00 p.m.	Blessing of the Animals
17	Thursday	5:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting

Six month pledge reports will be mailed out July 6th

--Thank you for your support!

Please don't forget to remember St. John's in your will.

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.

Dear Readers:



Please know that this Newsletter is also available by email.. Let us know if you are interested sjsalisbury@sbcglobal.net. It is also available on the St.John's website www.stjohnssalisbury.org