



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

St. John's Church, Salisbury, Connecticut 06068

The Rev. John F. Carter, Rector

Summer, 2008

Gaile Binzen, Editor
Karen Byers, Layout Design

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The Rector's Corner

WELCOME ABOARD TERRE!

Terre Lefferts To Lead Church School

What a joy and delight it is to welcome Terre Lefferts to our parish! Starting in September, Terre will be leading St. John's Church School. Many, many thanks go to Deborah Carter, her students and their parents for sustaining this vital ministry over the last few years.

The 14th of September will be Opening Day for the Church School and the return of our beloved Choir.

I have known Terre for about ten years. We arrived in this lovely place about the same time. Terre is no stranger to St. John's or the Episcopal Church. In the past, she held dance classes at St. John's, offered several performances of liturgical dance with her students in the church, and has recently been using the Lower Parish Hall for children's classes in dance and art. When she and her young charges are around there is always joy and music in the air.



Amongst other gifts, Terre brings those of art, music and spirituality. She fosters a strong sense of community wherever she is. I know she will offer these good things to our children, their parents and to all of us as well.

Starting with Opening Day, we will be offering Church School *every Sunday*. Terre will be here three Sundays a month. The fourth Sunday will be taught by volunteers. In accordance with Diocesan guidelines, we will

need an assistant teacher every Sunday. If you are interested in helping out from time to time with this vital aspect of our life together *please let me know*. With the creative collaboration of children, parents and other parishioners we can offer something beautiful to God.

If you know of a family with young children who might like to be part of this new and lively program, *please encourage them to come!*

More about Terre

She *loves* teaching children. She has been teaching dance and creative arts to children of all ages for 30 years. While living in Westport, Connecticut, she taught at Westport Dance Center and Connecticut Ballet Theater School. Upon moving to Maine she was an instructor at Bates College, Portland Ballet and Ram Island Dance. While there, she created and directed productions of *Peter and the Wolf*, *Peer Gynt*, and *L'Histoire de Soldat*.

Since moving back to Connecticut 10 years ago she has been running *Arts in Motion*, where she teaches ballet, modern dance and Pilates exercise, while also providing art classes to students from 5 to 10 years old. She has painted the backdrops and sets for her annual spring dance productions including *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Coppelia*. She has also taught art classes to senior citizens and to children at the North East Community Center in Millerton. Terre is a painter and exhibits in shows throughout the region.

Terre strongly feels that through creative venues people can be brought together to communicate and understand one another, on both personal and social levels. The daughter of an Episcopalian organist and choirmaster, she often attended multiple services per week. Terre grew up on the parables and the insight that Christ's teachings give us, and has used them as a model to guide her life.

John +

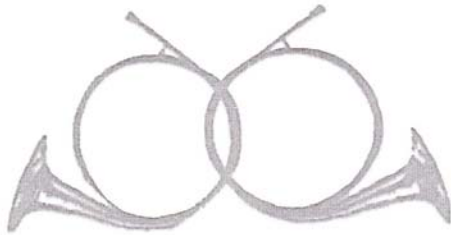
22 Drummers Drumming!



Photograph: Alan DiStasio

Master drummer John Marshall of Litchfield leads a Wednesday evening drumming circle at St. John's Church. The circle has included about 22 people from the surrounding communities as well as St. John congregants from both the 10 a.m. and Misa services.

The Northwest Music Association
Summer Concerts



July 23rd and 30th
August 6th and 13th

Bach, Handel, Vivaldi and more!

Wednesdays – 5:00 P.M.

**with the acclaimed
New England Baroque Soloists**

Free admission to all concerts

St. John's Episcopal Church, 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
The Church is now air-conditioned.

BIRTHDAYS

July

22	Peter Miller
23	David Hannegan Nancy López
29	Katie Voldstad
30	Peter Shiras
31	Kevin Aquilar

August

8	Brenda Slater Robin Beyer
9	Bradley Werntz
12	Kathy Voldstad
14	Caroline Voldstad Benjamin Gruen Kurt Stampfle
15	Alipio Pinto
16	Ann Thorne
17	Fa Liddell George Vincent
19	William Zekas
20	Maria Felix Umaña
23	Valerie Lenis
25	William Pulver Lucy González
26	Sophie Harris Nancy Rathbun
30	Candice Barker Laura Werntz

Life in the Parish

Rosemary 'Rosie' Shove Shiras died on June 6, 2008. She was a resident of Orr's Island, Maine, and Norfolk, Connecticut, and a member of St. John's, with her husband, Peter. A celebration of her life was held in Maine on June 28.

May the souls of the departed rest in peace

DOING CHURCH DIFFERENTLY:

Name Tag Project

By Trish Acree

Last Sunday, July 13th was a big day for all who love and are dedicated to St. John's. Our "Doing Church Differently: Name Tag Project" was joyfully put into play. I'm pleased to report our beginning went quite well!

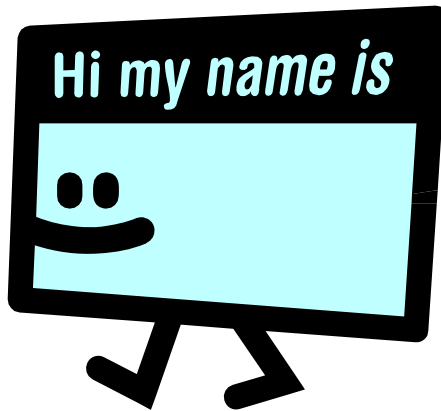
Here's the Back Story: When I signed up for the Name Tag committee, certainly my intentions were to contribute, but, honestly I had not intended to become committee chairman nor did I expect it to be a complicated matter. I mean Name Tags...really, how tough could it be, right? WRONG! It was problematic. But, with the help of Father John and Lisa Richards, we successfully resolved the issues at hand. With all in order, an ushers meeting was scheduled to report, review and rehearse the what, when, where and how aspects of implementing our project.

On the big day, upon welcoming arriving parishioners and visitors, each was handed a lanyard....aka "the red cord thingie" and directed to locate their name tags. Wooden boxes housed the name tags which were found filed alphabetically. To our delight, almost everyone did so with enthusiasm.

During Coffee Hour, helpful suggestions as to how we might improve the process were offered; all ideas are welcome! Having received valuable feedback, we are implementing one suggestion this upcoming Sunday.

From the get-go, the purpose of wearing a name tag was to provide a visual announcement of one's name. That was our

obvious reasoning. But, the purpose runs deeper than that. Our objective was not only to provide an immediate visual aid in learning the name of someone you acknowledge or speak with, but in turn, having your own readily known as well. Seeing your neighbor's name is especially valued during Arrival, The Peace and Coffee Hour. Also, during segments of our worship service that require quiet interaction, such as the Offering, the Peace, or Holy Communion, it is comforting to know each other's names. Hearing your name spoken in conversation or just a simple greeting creates a feeling of inclusion. i.e. "Good morning name." "Welcome name." Words of welcome seem more sincere when we are able to refer to a parishioner/guest by name.



When someone visits St. John's for the first time, it is important that we make every effort to help that visitor feel more than just welcomed. We want him/her to feel the kindred spirit that we as members experience. The old rule states, "You have but one chance to make an impression." Let our

impression be evidenced by the offering of a Name Tag, so that all can welcome our visitor(s) in a more personal manner, which will leave them with a feeling that they are immediately a part of something very special.

We are planning to introduce Name Tags to the 8:00am service soon. While we remain a work-in-progress, we are pleased with our beginning.

Yours in Faith,
Trish Acree

A Website for St. John's: How and Why?

by Susan DiStasio

A majority of households in the United States have Internet access and there is free access at local libraries and schools. As the number of people using the Internet grows, so do the potential benefits of having a church website. Having a good church website can help improve our contact with the community, bring new people into the church, and keep everyone informed about our activities. A good website reflects positively on our church as being up to date and relevant! People can enter our virtual sanctuary, meet our members, sample our ministries, and learn what our congregation believes.

The website committee consists of Karen Byers, Gaile Binzen, John Carter, Alan & Susan DiStasio, Lisa Richards, and Laura Werntz. At our initial meeting we chose a "domain" name: "stjohnssalisbury.org." We purchased the rights to this name as well as "stjohnssalisbury.com." We discussed the budget, audience, scope, aim, emphasis, development, and management of the website. There was agreement that our site should reflect the uniqueness of St. John's with lots of photographs (breakfast club, choir, grounds, groups, stained glass windows, ESL, *Misa*, etc.)

We extensively researched the various options for website design, including volunteers, "Click 'n' Build Church Websites," or hiring a professional designer. Members of the committee have computer/internet experience but little in designing a website. We agree that the "click 'n' build sites (templates) were limited in flexibility and creativity. They were also very time-consuming! In addition, there was concern about "advertising pop-ups" on free programs. There was still the issues of "hosting" the site (a monthly fee for our website to be on the internet), security, help with problems, etc. Most of all, we wanted

the site to reflect positively on our church, appear professional, easy to use and to understand. As you can tell, this can be a very complicated process!

Robin Beyer put us in contact with Roman Victor, a software developer/website designer from Amherst, MA, with family ties to the Salisbury area. He has designed Ragamont, Passport, and Elyse Harney's websites to name a few. Roman was extremely helpful in explaining the entire process to us and was understanding of our limited budget. We have engaged Roman's services to design our website with our input. He will design the site so that we can easily maintain and update it (he will train us). In addition, he will "host" our site for a yearly fee and would be available to us for "problem solving" and will maintain security updates (keeping hackers from getting on to our website and making changes).

We liked the idea of working with a local designer, not some unknown Internet design company. Thank you, Robin, for making the connection with Roman!

The next step in the process is designing the site content with Roman. There is so much to think about: color, font, pictures, wording, links to newsletter, and more. Other concerns such as child protection and privacy issues need to be addressed. Promotion of the website will include listing on church stationary, brochures, business cards; cross links with other sites such as the Town of Salisbury, and other methods. We are planning a slide show presentation when we have a "site" to share with the congregation. We promise to keep you up to date with our progress and welcome your suggestions. It is an exciting time for St. John's to join the Internet world and share with it our wonderful congregation and ministries. ▲

The world is like this . . .

Sometimes parishioners send us letters and e-mails from friends and relatives who have had interesting experiences in foreign countries. This month we are publishing an e-mail sent by Naomi Binzen, Bill and Gaile's 19-year-old granddaughter, who is spending the summer in Kenya as part of a course she is taking at Prescott College in Arizona. To make the picture she paints more complete, we should mention the fact that Naomi is tall, slender, silvery blonde – and beautiful.

Subject: Enkishui sadai pi (life is completely beautiful in Maa)
Date: Monday, July 7, 2008 4:02 AM
From: Naomi Binzen

Wow, is it difficult to pack such an epic, rich experience into a few select paragraphs. But I'm gonna try.

Set the scene: After many kilometers of tromping through six inches of dust, it is pitch-black but for the fiercely-shining stars above. I may soon become a uniform shade of beige, as dust is determined to settle comfortably into my pores, every hard crease and soft fold of skin, caressing the crinkles of my smile. It tucks itself in to my skin as a person might wrap themselves up in blankets until comfortably ensconced. Despite the dark, my face is lit up like a lantern, my mouth undergoing a constant barrage of smiles. I've been speaking a combination of broken Maa and English with Kaika, a Maasai warrior, who is leading us to his village. The Maasai villagers have been preparing for our visit all day, beside themselves with excitement. We have been crossing the savannah for a while now. I have no concept of time, because time is treated as an entirely different entity here in Kenya. Time is more of a gentle suggestion than a demand that leads to



frayed nerves and gray hairs. We don't charge with brazen abandon because we have to keep our eyes peeled for elephants crossing (and potentially charging) our path. I attempt, with Kaika's encouragement, to walk a 'Maasai walk.' The warriors walk some untold number of kilometers daily, herding their cattle, so they really have walking down to a science.

The village suddenly pops up just ahead of us. I didn't see it until we were right on top of it. Protective thorny acacia branches form a formidable barrier around the circular perimeter. The Maasai's precious livestock, enkishu (cattle), enkerre (sheep), and enkine (goats), reside in the center, encircled by their round cow-patty huts.

We all sit on kindergarten-sized wooden stools that cup our bums like salad bowls. (Translation = really comfy.) Our hosts serve us big mugs of chai, made with fresh morning milk from their cattle, complemented with generously heaping spoonfuls of sugar which we had just gifted them with. As we

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Summer Storm

An early summer storm
careens across the darkening landscape
like a mother bear on a rampage,
eyes flashing bolts of light,
heavy paws of wind and rain
attacking all in her path
breaking trees like twigs.

But at the edge of the garden
near the meadow,
a lone peony,
generous in beauty,
battered by the tempest,
yields a galactic explosion of pink and red petals,
surrenders to the pummeling gales
with no dignity lost;
bent and pushed out from the center,
a circle of loveliness
caressing the rain-soaked earth,
the pink and red petticoat of a dancer
taking her last glorious bow.

John Carter June 2008

*You are cordially
Invited to attend a service
Honoring the Office of the Holy Ministry
On the Sixty-fifth Anniversary
Of the Ordination of*

*The Reverend Cyril M. Wismar, Bishop
Retired*

*Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock, CT
Corner of Route 112, E. Dugway Road*

*Saturday, July 26, 2008 at 11:00 am
Coffee Hour Following*



Great Opera Composers Turn to Church Music

The Litchfield Country Choral Union will be singing music by Rossini and Puccini on July 27th, but not opera this time. Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* and Puccini's *Messe di Gloria* are seldom-heard treats for music lovers, full of wonderful melodies and tremendous vocal/orchestral excitement.

The concert is, as always, performed in the Music Shed at the Ellen Battell Stoeckel Estate in Norfolk, on Sunday afternoon, July 27 at 3.00 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00 for adults, \$15.00 for seniors and students. You could buy tickets from Gaile Binzen at church on July 27th, or reserve them at 860-868-0739, or buy them at the door.

Come and enjoy an
afternoon of soul-lifting sound!

Cont. from page 6

sip our chai and tell and attempt Maa and English tongue twisters, I feel a presence building behind me. Looking over my shoulder, I spy masses of children's faces peering out of the dark, eyes gleaming with a timid excitement.

'Kekeja encarna?' I ask their names. Some respond, others giggle and hide. We start singing to the children, and they emerge and converge into the light of a single paraffin lamp. Somehow we all are jumping up and down, one cohesive unit. It's the gentlest mosh pit I've ever been a part of. Adults begin trickling in and before I realize what's going on, the entire village is surrounding us. Once singing and dancing commences, the Maasai are in for the long haul. Words cannot begin to express the profound beauty of my experience singing and dancing with them, only that I felt blessed, so deeply blessed. Their support was a gift in and of itself: all smiles as men drape me in Maasai necklaces, women encircle my neck with massive plate chokers, men push me forward towards the center, women take a hold of my hands and pull me into the center of the peaceful, energized mob. I am in the eye of the storm, surrounded by layers of faces devout, reverent, gleeful, free; shaven heads glistening with beads of sweat; hands clapping, grasping. The energetic pulsation of this shared experience lofts me above the crowd, yet grounds me at the same time. I am at the center of a circle of Maasai, in the center of a circular village, on a remote plain in Africa on our globe under the stars, and every cell of my being is exploding with bliss.

The woman and I face each other and dance. We dance for ourselves, we dance for those enveloping us, we dance for the Maasai, for the earth, for connections, for the true intention behind the overused term 'globalization.' We thrust our shoulders back and pop them forward while bouncing on gentle waves up and down, letting our heads bob from our bodies' rhythms. We are birds doing a mating dance. We are a collective celebration of life. Everyone sings to set our bodies' tone and pace. When they finish, people clap and cheer, laugh and smile in appreciation. Arms are extended, outstretched to me everywhere I turn. I reach to them and we grasp each other's shoulders, then slide our hands down each other's arms as a means of a silent compliment. I fuse with the other bodies and as one unit, we welcome in the next pair. This is a competition, although no winner is physically announced. Later I am told I was one of the best dancers tonight. Although this matters little, it is a huge compliment coming from those who have been born and raised dancing this way.

I sink into sleep on a stretched cowskin, comfortably enclosed in a fire-warmed hut. Words seem trivial, unnecessary. The genuine bonds I have built plunge much deeper than words.

I am returning to the bush in a couple days, so I may not be able to email for another month. Love to all!

Naomi



The Sharon Congregational Church
 25 Main Street, PO Box 6
 Sharon, Connecticut 06069

June 28, 2008

Rev. John Carter
 St. John's Episcopal Church
 PO Box 391
 Salisbury, CT 06068

Dear John,

The generous offerings from the Paul Bacon Hot Stuff II Jazz Concert have been deposited with joy into the NWCT Food bank account. Please extend my heartfelt thanks to your congregation.

These are difficult economic times for many here in the NW Corner. Through the goodness and kindness of the people of St. John's, the Food bank will help provide food for families that might otherwise go hungry.

In Christ,
 Rev. Jody Guerrero
 Treasurer, NWCT Foodbank

Dear Friends & Neighbors:

The H.V.R.H.S. Faculty Association Scholarship fund Drive acknowledges with profound gratitude your generous contribution.

The young men and women you have helped have learned a vital lesson about the power of a community to show care and concern. On their behalf we thank you.

Sincerely,

The H.V.R.H.S. Faculty Association Scholarship Fund Committee

PLEASE DON'T FORGET . . .



*to remember St.
 John's in your will*

A Sermon Sampler

A monk believes he has discovered THE question. He climbs to the top of the highest peak he can find, looks toward the heavens and asks,

“Who am I?”

A voice from heaven replies,

“Who is asking?”



Sketch by Bill Binzen

SUMMER CALENDAR

JULY 2008

20	Sun.	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Eucharist Rite I Eucharist Rite II <i>Misa</i>
21	Mon.	5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<i>PUENTES</i> Spanish Language (every Monday) Fitness Class “Arts in Motion” (every Monday)
23	Wed.	11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Noble Horizons New England Baroque Soloists Concert Drumming Circle (every Wednesday through August 6 th)
25	Fri.	6:00-9:00p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Carter Party Al-Anon (every Fri. evening)
27	Sun.	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Eucharist Rite I – Preacher Adam Greene Eucharist Rite II <i>Misa</i>
30	Wed.	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	New England Baroque Soloist Concert Drumming Circle
31	Thurs.	12:00 p.m.	Northwest Music Association

AUGUST 2008

1	Fri.	11:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting Al-Anon (every Fri. evening)
3	Sun.	8:30a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Breakfast Club – Hungry Sunday Eucharist Rite II - Guest Organist Mary Anne Carter <i>Misa</i>
4-13			Rector on Vacation
6	Wed.	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	New England Baroque Soloists Concert Drumming Circle – Last Class
10	Sun.	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Eucharist Rite I – Guest Preacher Rev. Mary Gates Eucharist Rite II <i>Misa</i>
13	Wed.	5:00 p.m.	New England Baroque Soloists Concert
21	Thurs.	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Executive Meeting Website Meeting
24	Sun.	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Eucharist Rite I – Guest Preacher Adam Greene Eucharist Rite II <i>Misa</i>
Aug. 27-Sep 5			Rector on Vacation
	Sun.	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Eucharist Rite I – Guest Preacher Rev. Michell Hansen Eucharist Rite II <i>Misa</i>

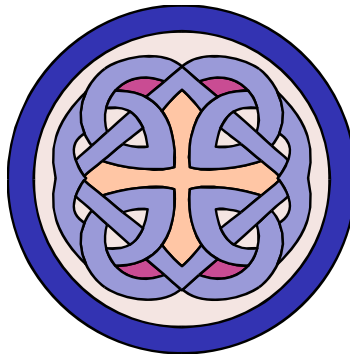
SUMMER CALENDAR cont.

LOOKING AHEAD: SEPTEMBER

1	Mon.		Office Closed – Labor Day
13	Sat.	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	“Vestry Day” at St. John’s
14	Sun		Choir Returns and Church School Opens
21	Sun	10:00 a.m.	The Rev. Dan Matthews Guest Preacher and Teacher – One Service for all.
		11:15 a.m.	Forum

LOOKING AHEAD: OCTOBER

10-12			Fall Festival
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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.