

St. John's Announcements

October 29, 2023

Rev. Marc G. Eames

www.stjohnsvernont.org

860-872-0517

cmorin@stjohnsvernont.org

The Apostle Paul Window



Aren't you blessed to have me write two weeks in row on the exciting topic of church governance? Last week, I shared with you about the role of conventions, and how that separates us from the Roman Catholic Church. This week, the topic is on parish governance focusing on the vestry and parish meetings. Parish governance is a major difference we have from the Congregationalists and many other Protestants. The primary leadership body within an Episcopal parish is the vestry. The vestry is composed of a Rector/Priest-in-Charge, a warden, a treasurer, a clerk, and vestry members. Different churches have multiple wardens and treasurers, but they always have at least one. The vestry meets regularly (typically once a month). The vestry is the fiduciary responsibility for a church. The vestry must review financial statements regularly, and pass a budget each year. The budget is the responsibility of the vestry, though it is wise to seek input from the parish and to explain the budget at a church's annual meeting. Though the most important role of the vestry is financial, the vestry plays an important role in leading an individual church. The vestry assists the clergy in looking out for the spiritual welfare of the congregation. The vestry also makes sure the building and grounds are kept in good order. The vestry represents the whole parish and should help communicate the important decisions it makes to the rest of the parish and take parishioner concerns to the body. The vestry is elected by the parish at a meeting of the whole parish. Unlike many Protestant churches, Parish meetings in the Episcopal Church do not involve a lot of voting. Often, the only thing that will be voted on is the vestry slate. Like today, the parish meeting is also responsible for having and amending by-laws. The vestry is not permitted to change the bylaws on their own. The parish must support the amendment, or in our case today, the creation of bylaws. I hope you are able to come to today's meeting. We will have an Annual Meeting at the end of January, as we normally do, but that meeting will not have a vestry slate, as we are handling that today.

Blessings, Marc

Happy Birthday!

Kathy Brown, Paul Finney

Betsy Sartori, Sally Vaughn

Jackie Petrizzo

Hawkwing Outreach - It's that time of year again for our annual collection for our brothers and sisters on the reservation! There are many ways that you can help:

- Toys for boys and girls in the \$10-\$12 range for ages 5-10 and no batteries. These will be given at The Great Give Away in December.
- To help with the brutal winter cold, we will accept only new and gently used clean winter coats for all ages. Kids sizes are especially in need.
- Any questions, please call Terri at 860.644.5892. Please find more information at www.hawkwing.org.

Bins in the Narthex – There are bins in the Narthex collecting the following items:

- Toys for boys and girls and gently used coats

Tree of Light – Join us in making our Tree of Light shine bright this holiday season. Order forms will be in the back of the church. **Due date for forms is Sunday, November 19th**. Please contact Linda Borovicka, Kimmie Farrell, or Bethany Chanthavisouk for any questions.

Gift Card Sales - Gift Cards are available for purchase. Order forms will be available in the Narthex. **The last day to turn your order in is Sunday, November 5th. Gift cards will be distributed on Sunday, November 12th at both services.** Please leave your order form in either the drop file in the Narthex in Bill Francis's file or deliver them to Christina in the office. You can also mail the order form to Bill Francis at 41 Pinnacle Rd., Vernon, CT. 06066. 860-872-2044.

Please consider buying a gift card to replenish grocery cards for our in-house food ministry, or you can donate the gift cards to our Holiday Bazaar raffles. They also make great gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Save the Date – Holiday Bazaar will be Saturday, November 18th from 9am – 2pm. More details to follow!

Bible Study - Our weekly Bible study has begun with a study of the Prophet Daniel. Daniel is the last of the greater prophets, and it focusses on a later period in our Old Testament. It contains some of the best-known stories in scripture like Daniel and the Loins' Den, as well as, apocalyptic literature much closer in genre and tone to the Book of Revelation. If you have been reading the Bible your whole life or never cracked one open, you are most welcome to join our Wednesday Bible Study at 12:30. We are going to try a hybrid bible study meeting both through Zoom and in the Parish Hall. If you would like a Zoom invitation, please reach out to Father Marc. Anyone can come in-person at any time.

The St. John's Men's Ministry is happy to announce the success of its annual BBQ and Chili Contest, held on October 14. We were able to raise enough money to donate to Cornerstone, Arm2Arm, Food Share, and Manchester Area Council of Churches, and we will decide about specific amounts at our November meeting. Bill Francis won the Chili contest, and his prize was a \$25 gift certificate to the new Rocking Horse Restaurant in Vernon. The fellowship that evening was wonderful, and we thank everyone who supported us at this event. See you next year!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Healing Service w/Eucharist
11/1 @ 10:30am

All Soul's Day Eucharist
11/2 @ 7pm

All Saints Sunday
11/5

Bible Study on Daniel
11/1 @ 12:30pm
Hybrid

Evensong with Re-dedication of the Memorial Garden
11/5 @3:30pm