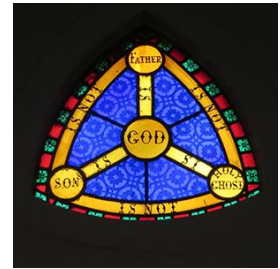




St. John's Episcopal Church

Ashfield, Massachusetts
Corner of Main and South Streets



July 2014

From the Vicar:

Sermon preached by the Rev. Eliot Moss on his first Sunday back after sabbatical:

First of all: It's good to be back! Today, I should preach on the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; but I should also tell you about my sabbatical time. What should I do? I've decided that telling you about my sabbatical is about the Holy Spirit, so here we go.

You probably know about my trip to Africa, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and going on safari in Tanzania in January. March, April, and May fall pretty much into three separate journeys of my sabbatical. The first was a five week trip to England. In addition to having sabbatical time from church, I have a one-semester sabbatical from UMass. Three of the five weeks in England were devoted to developing a new research idea with a colleague of mine who lives in Canterbury. We were indeed successful in developing a new idea. The latter two weeks of that trip I wandered around Cornwall, going from one bed and breakfast to another. Some of it was like vacation, but the heart of my purpose was to get outside again, as in January, and experience the moors and coast up close. I did a number of afternoon hikes on parts of Dartmoor and on the coastal path, which runs all the way around Cornwall. The open spaces and the vast power of the sea definitely put me in a spiritual mood, and the walking itself was good for me. I also came to know that the moors are not simply open spaces with heather and bogs. They are quite varied and have deep ravines and bits of forest, as well as grazing land.

In April I was back in Massachusetts, reconnecting with family and my students. For worship I mostly attended services at All Saints, South Hadley. It gave me perspective to simply come and worship, without responsibility for organizing or leading, and also to see how another Episcopal community does things.

(con't on page 2)

July 4th Tag Sale

The tag sale will be Saturday, July 5, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Items can be left on the porch of St. John's Corner starting June 29; or call Susan Todd for pick up. No clothes, please. If you would like to help set up on Friday evening or help during the sale please call Susan Todd (628-3998).



Summer Picnics!

Come join us for food and fun. We will be having four summer picnics for our parish and friends. They will be held on July 10th & 24th and August 7th & 21st at 6:00 pm. Hopefully the weather will be nice and we can enjoy the picnics outdoors, if not they will be at St. John's Corner, across the street from the church.



(Sermon preached by the Rev. Eliot Moss on his first Sunday back after sabbatical - con't from page 1)

In May I attended our usual clergy conference, because there was going to be an interesting presenter and topic. Indeed, it was interesting. It was about how people and organizations have a kind of "immunity" to change. (That term comes from the title of a book.) I think we all know this, but what was hopeful about the presentation, and the exercises the presenter had us do, was that it began to show how we can overcome that immunity to change. Perhaps there will be some interest here in discussing that book.

For most of the month of May I was in residence at Holy Cross Monastery. This is an Episcopal monastic community of men (they welcome female guests) on the west bank of the Hudson about 40 miles south of Albany. It's a beautiful place and the food is good, but the heart of what they offer is spiritual quiet and deep worship. There are five worship services a day, based on the Prayer Book services of Morning Prayer, Holy Eucharist, Noonday, Evening Prayer, and Compline, but with more psalms, often chanted. A key quality of the time for me was quiet, the lack of other distractions and responsibilities. But this was different from a pure retreat. I came with sabbatical projects, related to UMass and to church. The church-related project is a book I am writing with a friend who used to live in Amherst but is now in North Carolina. It is about inviting and welcoming people into the Episcopal Church in the 21st century—though much applies to other denominations, too. It will give practical guidance but also point to the harder kinds of changes that many congregations need to make in order to be places that 21st century people want to come and join. The "immunity to change" ideas come into play here.

On a personal level, a significant part of the long stay at the monastery was experiencing deeply the ordered rhythms of monastic life. I hope to translate the benefits to my everyday life, maintaining a better balance of time devoted to different things. We'll see how I do!

This week the Fellowship of the Way of the Cross (I am a member) held one of its quarterly gatherings. The reflection this time was based on some thoughts developed by Rick Bellows, a now-retired priest under whom I served and trained before I came here to Ashfield. Rick wrote of three metaphors for the spiritual life. One is the metaphor of life in general, and the spiritual life as a journey, a journey that ultimately brings us home to God. The second metaphor of the spiritual life is that of holy habits, following a spiritual and moral discipline. The third model is one of depth, that is, of going ever deeper. Here we become ever more intimate with God by finding God within ourselves. All of these metaphors for the spiritual life can be found in Scripture, I am sure, and more too. But I think you can also see that my sabbatical has explored all of them. Certainly journey, in both a physical and spiritual sense, and holy habits is clear from my intent and experience at the monastery. What about depth? Well, the quiet times on the mountain in Africa, on the moors and coast in Cornwall, and at the monastery were all about depth. Working on the book about inviting and welcoming people into the Church is about depth, since it challenges me also to change. I was also challenged around letting go of things here while on sabbatical. But in the end I did let go and received the blessing of going deeper with God. But it further occurs to me that God may be calling all of us to go deeper, together; for us to try to reach a deeper level of honesty and vulnerability together and for us to become even more curious about what God may be calling us not only to do but to become.

So I hope you can see that there is indeed action of the Holy Spirit going on around us and inside us. Perhaps we will experience our own resurgence of the Spirit, a kind of Pentecost of our own!

Blessings - Eliot+

Blueberries!!!



A donation jar to help cover some of the cost of supplies can now be found at the back of the church. While the Fall Festival seems far off, blueberries are ordered in July and jam is made soon after. We will be making the cobbler on October 9 & 10. The Fall Festival is Columbus Day weekend, October 11 & 12, there are many opportunities to volunteer during the Festival. Consider saving the dates and contributing your time and talents to make this event the best yet. For more information about dates and how you can help, contact Jane Wagener at (413) 625-2111.



Camperships to CampOUT have been donated!

Posted on **May 31, 2014** by **farmerbsm**

by Emmy Howe

In celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Gay Marriage and so much progress in other areas, several Camperships have been donated to support families wishing their children to attend CampOUT at Red Gate Farm. Unfortunately, LGBTQ kids are still not safe in schools and kids from LGBT families are in educational communities where they are witness to homophobia and anti-gay name calling. There is still a great need for the one week in the year where they are safe from hearing negative messages about their families and caring adults in their lives. We can protect our kids quite effectively but over the years my children (28, 26, 18 and 18) have found that there is special strength, comfort and sparkle in the company of other kids with LGBTQ parents and guardians.



Time spent in a farm setting is a great opportunity for young people. Put tools in the child's hand and watch them discover the joys of activity, challenge and satisfaction of a job done well. Campers actually become part of the farm. They learn the value of real work, find love in the nurturing of animals, and discover something about themselves in the process. As we work side by side, we find fellowship in each other, and learn more about ourselves. What we do is simple farming, but what we experience is profound and a lasting life experience. Interested families should call (413) 625-9503 or email Ben Murray to discuss their need for financial aid and to make payment arrangements. No families will be turned down. The minimum fee will be \$50 per CampOUT applicant.

<http://explore.redgatefarm.org/2014/05/31/camperships-to-campout-have-been-donated/>

What is CampOUT at Red Gate Farm?



CampOUT provides unique overnight farm camp experiences where young people from LGBTQ Families are productive members of a farm community and share in the fun of summer camp activities. Through farm work and programs we create a sense of community where difference and diversity are celebrated and children can be themselves. Young people have the opportunity to talk openly about their families and the experience of being in an LGBTQ family.



July 28th is one of the many days on which the Episcopal Church recognizes multiple saints, this day is set aside for three composers: Johanne Sebastian Bach, George Frederick Handel and Henry Purcell. All of these composers wrote in the Baroque style of composing. It is said that each of them showed an early interest in music and started composing while young. Each of them devoted much of their composing to their Christian beliefs.

Of the three only Henry Purcell (1659-1695) was English. He started as a chorister in the Chapel Royal and eventually became the main organist at Westminster Abbey. During this time he composed many anthems for coronations, birthdays and funerals of English monarchs. He died at the young age of 37. It is not known why he died. Two theories are that he died from a simple "chill" or possibly from tuberculosis. He is buried next to the organ at Westminster Abbey. He has become known as one of the greatest English composers; in 2009 Peter Townsend said that the harmonies of Purcell influenced much of the music he composed for The Who, especially in the introduction to "Pinball Wizard."



Johanne Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a German composer born into a family of professional musicians. During his life he was thought of as an average musician. His abilities as a composer were not appreciated until 100 years later when Felix Mendelssohn conducted a performance of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. Bach wrote more than 300 sacred cantatas approximately 200 are still known. He is known for writing The Well-Tempered Clavier, a two book compilation that contains a prelude and fugue written for every major and minor key. Among the many composers that were influenced by Bach's composing are Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann and Mendelssohn. When the Voyager space probes were launched they included three pieces by Bach. A crater on Mercury is named the Bach Quadrangle. There are also two main belt asteroids named for him: 1814 Bach and 1482 Sebastian. He is believed to have died from a combination of a stroke and pneumonia.



George Frederick English citizen, but instrument and would music and helped him to was composing. In 1726 the coronation of George since. In 1742 his most famous musical work, *Messiah*, was performed for the first time in Dublin by a chorus of 26 boys and 5 men. This piece is notable for its interpretation of texts of the Holy Scripture. He was buried with full state honors in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey



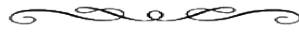
Handel (1685-1759) was a German composer who became an unlike Bach, his father would not permit him to own a musical not allow him to study music. His mother supported his interest in study music without his father's knowledge. By the age of 10 he he moved to London and in 1727 he composed *Zadock the Priest* for II. It has been performed at the coronation of every British monarch

All three of these composers have arrangements of hymns found in The Hymnal 1982: Purcell - hymn 518 Christ is made the sure foundation; Bach - hymn 168 O sacred head, sore wounded, hymn 688 A mighty fortress is our God, and 18 others; Handel - hymn 100 Joy to the World, and 4 others.

Almighty God, beautiful in majesty and majestic in your holiness, who teaches us in Holy Scripture to sing your praises and who gave your musicians Johanne Sebastian Bach, George Frederick Handel and Henry Purcell grace to show forth your glory in their music: Be with all those who write or make music for your people, that we on earth may glimpse your beauty and know the inexhaustible riches of your new creation in Jesus Christ our Savior; who lilies and reverie ions with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy Women, Holy Men, This commemoration adopted provisionally at General Convention 2009

Serving Schedule



| <i>Date</i> | <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Celebrant</i> | <i>Preacher</i> | <i>Lector</i> | <i>Altar Guild</i> | <i>Coffee Hour</i> |
|-------------|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| July 6 | 4 th Sunday after Pentecost | Eliot Moss | Eliot Moss | Mary Snow | Susan Todd | Addison Hall |
| July 13 | 5 th Sunday after Pentecost | Eliot Moss | Eliot Moss | Jim Wagener | Susan Todd | Herb Libby |
| July 20 | 6 th Sunday after Pentecost | Eliot Moss | Eliot Moss | Hettie Startup | Susan Todd | Lou Ratte |
| July 27 | 7 th Sunday after Pentecost | Eliot Moss | Eliot Moss | Susan Todd | Susan Todd | Sue Craft |



Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the newsletter need to be in by the 3rd Tuesday of the previous month. The deadline for the August newsletter is July 15th. We would love to include things that are coming up and some reports/stories on activities that have already happened. While it's good to know what is coming up, it is also nice to know how things went after the event. Send items to Kristen at taurus1457@gmail.com.



July Calendar

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|----|----------|---|
| 1 | 9:30 am | Ashfield Com. Play Group St. John's Corner | 16 | 5:30 pm | Centering Prayer St. John's Corner |
| | 3:00 pm | Food Pantry UCC | 17 | 9:30 am | Osteoporosis Class St. John's Corner |
| 2 | 5:30 pm | Centering Prayer St. John's Corner | 20 | 10:00 am | Eucharist Service |
| 3 | 9:30 am | Osteoporosis Class St. John's Corner | 21 | 11:00 am | Mother Woman St. John's Corner |
| 5 | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm | Tag Sale St. John's Corner | | 7:30 pm | Al Anon St. John's Corner |
| 6 | 10:00 am | Eucharist Service | 22 | 9:30 am | Play Group St. John's Corner |
| 7 | 11:00 am | Mother Woman St. John's Corner | | 7:00 pm | Vestry & Eliot Meeting with the Rev. Pamela Mott, Canon to the Ordinary St. John's Corner |
| | 7:30 pm | Al Anon St. John's Corner | 23 | 5:30 pm | Centering Prayer St. John's Corner |
| 8 | 9:30 am | Ashfield Com. Play Group St. John's Corner | 24 | 9:30 am | Osteoporosis Class St. John's Corner |
| 9 | 5:30 pm | Centering Prayer St. John's Corner | | 6:00 pm | Parish Picnic St. John's Corner |
| 10 | 9:30 am | Osteoporosis Class St. John's Corner | 27 | 10:00 am | Eucharist Service |
| | 6:00 pm | Parish Picnic St. John's Corner | 28 | 11:00 am | Mother Woman St. John's Corner |
| 13 | 10:00 am | Eucharist Service | | 7:30 pm | Al Anon St. John's Corner |
| 14 | 11:00 am | Mother Woman St. John's Corner | 29 | 9:30 am | Ashfield Com. Play Group St. John's Corner |
| | 7:30 pm | Al Anon St. John's Corner | | 3:00 pm | Food Pantry UCC |
| 15 | Newsletter Deadline | | 30 | 5:30 pm | Centering Prayer St. John's Corner |
| | 9:30 am | Ashfield Com. Play Group St. John's Corner | 31 | 9:30 am | Osteoporosis Class |
| | 3:00 pm | Food Pantry UCC | | | |





THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

"CELEBRATING GOD'S ABUNDANCE"

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer - JULY

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1. Diocesan Staff - Steve Abdow | 1. The Presiding Bishop - Katharine Jefferts Schori and her husband, Richard | 18. families—The Revs. Susan Crampton and Paul Morrisette, | Services (ACTS) - Springfield |
| 2. Mick Kalber and the Trustees for the Diocese | 2. President of the House of Deputies - The Rev. Gay Jennings | 19. St. Martin's, Pittsfield | 19. Education for Ministry Coordinator, Ms. Joan E. Gilchrist |
| 3. St. Peter's, Springfield, The Rev. Michael DeVine | 3. Province I. of New England | 20. St. John's, Williamstown - The Rev. Peter Elvin | 20. Contemplative Outreach, Ltd. |
| 4. Clergy widows, clergy spouses, and families | 4. Spfd. Roman Catholic Diocese - Bishop Timothy McDonnell | 21. Church School Teachers & Christian Educators | 21. Food, Friends, and Fun Program – Greater Springfield General Convention Deputies |
| 5. St. Luke's, Springfield - The Rev. David O. Nicholson | 5. National Altar Guild Association | 22. Diocesan Support Staff - Carol LaPlante, Susan Olbon, and Esther Barker | |
| 6. Diocesan Missionaries - Tom & Dianne Wilson | 6. Standing Committee | 23. Bp Jim Hazelwood, New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | 23. The Episcopal Community |
| 7. All Saints, Worcester - The Revs Judith Clark, Edward Prevost, and Ronald Crocker | 7. Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) | 24. The Repose of the Soul of Robert Hatch, IV Bishop of Western Massachusetts | 24. National Network of Episcopal Church Employees |
| 8. St. Luke's, Lanesboro | 8. The Church Scholarship Society | 25. Grace in the Southern Berkshires | 25. Northampton Survival Center |
| 9. Grace Church, Amherst – The Revs Tom Synan, Hilary Bogert-Winkler, Susan Schaeffer | 9. Forward Movement Publications | 26. St. John's, Millville - The Rev. Dr. John Derek Stubbs | 26. Anglican Society |
| 10. Ministry in Higher Education | 10. Archives of the Episcopal Church | 27. Southwick Community Episcopal Church – The Rev. Taylor Albright | 27. Western Mass. Food Bank |
| 11. St. John's, Ashfield - The Rev. Eliot Moss | 11. The Society for the Increase of the Ministry | 28. St. John's, Sutton , The Revs. Lisa Green and Kathryn White | 28. The Victims of Domestic Violence |
| 12. St. Philip's, Easthampton – The Rev. Jill Rierdan | 12. National Episcopal AIDS Coalition (NEAC) | 29. All inquirers, postulants, candidates for Holy Orders | 29. Episcopal Disability Network |
| 13. St. James', Greenfield – The Rev. Heather Blais | 13. The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) | 30. St. Matthew's, Worcester - The Revs. Nancy Baillie Strong and Jane Griesbach | |
| 14. Lutheran Social Services/ Refugee Ministries | 14. Episcopal Parish Services | 31. St. David's Church, Agawam, The Rev. Harvey Hill | 30. Worcester Roman Catholic Diocese, Bishop Robert McManus |
| 15. Diocesan Support Staff - Lainey Huribut and Karen Warren | 15. Safe Church Intake Officer, The Rev. Molly Scherm | | 31. Anglican Women's Empowerment (AWE) |
| 16. Ecumenical Committee | 16. Ministry of the Armed Forces Chaplains | | |
| 17. St. Stephen's, Pittsfield - The Revs. Cricket Cooper & Jenny Gregg | 17. Prison Chaplains | | |
| Bishop's Chaplain to Clergy | 18. Action Center Tutoring | | |



St. John's Frog

-Photo taken by Jack Burch-Monds

*May there always be work for your hands to do.
 May your purse always hold a coin or two.
 May the sun always shine upon your window pane.
 May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
 May the hand of a friend always be near to you and
 May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.*

Traditional Irish blessing

