

# *The Episcopaper – May & June 2011*

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**913 Second Street, Snohomish, WA 98290-2918**

**Year-Round Schedule: Sundays 8 & 9:45 a.m.; Thursdays 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.**

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## **From the Rector:**

Dear People of St. John's Church ~

CHRIST IS RISEN!

We often and quite rightly, too, thank the many people who make things possible around St. John's: the folks in the kitchen, the altar guild, choir, lay ministers, acolytes and more.

I'd also like to thank the *congregations* too!

You who come to Sunday services contribute more than you know. It is not just something others do for you. Where would the inclusion of children be without the *willing embrace of their restless joy* by those who worship with them at 9:45 a.m.? How would the 8 a.m. Eucharist be a place *so easy to enter*, without quiet attention to God? Our Easter Vigil has its impact due to the energy of the participants.

The fact is you, the worshippers, are the biggest factor in a good service: what you come seeking, and your attention. I want to acknowledge that, and thank all who visit and regularly attend here for their presence. The presence of each of us, for who we are, is the worship that we offer, and which God lovingly embraces and consecrates to serve God's children in the world.

And yes, I do want to thank also all those who worked so hard behind the scenes in the month of April to help us all stand before God and together receive and give joy in Christ's resurrection. We all are better servants for your support.

Fr. Mark

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## Looking Forward:

### **Safeguarding God's Children – Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

All people who work with our children in the Nursery and Sunday school, **and** those who want to learn more about protecting our children from sexual and emotional abuse, are invited to attend the training session at St. John's on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Parents are also encouraged to attend. A Diocesan trainer will be here to facilitate the training, which is geared toward adults only. It is not too late to register with Mary Nilsen. Please bring a sack lunch.

### **Current Events Discussion Group Kicks Off – Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. – Crepe Escape & Coffee**

The Adult Education Committee is sponsoring something new! Come and launch a discussion group on Christian response to current events and issues. The Crepe Escape & Coffee is located at 110 Cedar Avenue, one block or so east of St. John's, between First and Second Street, in the Patrick Building across from Old Library/Arts of Snohomish.

### **Blessing of our Garden and Gardeners – Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 a.m. – St. John's Garden at Chinook Farms**



2010 Blessing - St. John's Garden

Join the St. John's Church Family following the 9:45 service on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Chinook Farms for the second annual blessing of the Chinook Farms' CSA, St. John's Garden and our Gardeners. The Creation Stewards and our Gardeners worked hard last year to grow organic produce to share with local food banks and to serve at our Community Kitchen meals.

Directions to the farm will be distributed at church on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Wear gardening clothes and bring your trowel and gloves! Spend a few minutes planting some veggie starts. We will have some coffee hour treats, too, and there will be time to inspect the farm, bird watch, and enjoy the sun! If the weather does not cooperate, the "rain date" is May 22. Please carpool!!

### **Support Life at St. Vincent's Center for Handicapped Children School and Medical Facility, Episcopal Diocese of Haiti – Campaign for 50 Days of Easter**

All Episcopalians in Western Washington are encouraged to give 20 cents per day during the Fifty Days of Easter (which amounts to \$10 per person) to support the Diocese of Olympia campaign to raise funds to feed the poor, deaf, physically disabled and blind children in Haiti. Pentecost, which is Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, is the in-gathering date, and 25 percent of the funds collected will go toward immediate relief for food and water, and the remaining funds will go toward an endowment. The St. John's Outreach Committee is supporting this effort by matching contributions up to a total of \$1,000. Contributions can be mailed to St. John's or placed in the collection plate at church in the designated envelopes distributed on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Stroller-Friendly Walk in the Works – Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Noon** The Creation Stewards plan a stroller-friendly walk on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details as they develop. This is a great way to build community with our young families.

**Sunday School Graduation at Family Service on Pentecost – June 12<sup>th</sup>**

Our last Family Service of the school year on Pentecost - Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. will celebrate the accomplishments of our Sunday School children, and thank the dedicated Teachers and Nursery Helpers.

**Biblical Arts Summer Sunday School to Begin – June 19<sup>th</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>**

Summer Sunday School is conducted by teams of volunteers, focusing on biblical arts and fun activities – a great way to get involved with educating our children. It is a “one room” concept with an age range of preschool through age 10, and we need at least two helpers each Sunday. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the Kitchen. Our Sunday School teachers appreciate the opportunity to attend church services during the summer and our youth enjoy learning from our parishioners!

**Midsummer Picnic & Bonfire– RESCHEDULED–Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> –6 p.m.– St. John’s Garden at Chinook Farms**

To continue the tradition started last year, we will gather for our Midsummer Parish Picnic on Tuesday evening, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. Details to follow, but plan on a potluck, with time to explore the garden, sing around the bonfire and fun for all ages! Bring a friend!



**2010 Midsummer Picnic & Bonfire**

**Men’s Retreat – Sat., June 25<sup>th</sup> at Granite Falls Masonic Park 9 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Save the date for the third annual Men’s Retreat. Plans are still being finalized.

**Reflecting Back:**

**Holy Week & Easter Services**

Holy Week began with the Palm Sunday procession across the courtyard to the front doors of the church, but the raindrops didn’t deter parishioners from singing and waving their palms and branches. On Maundy Thursday many people helped make the Agape Fellowship Dinner a big success. We fed over 150 people a delicious and festive meal – for our guests at Community Kitchen and our Parish Family, which culminated in the Lord’s Supper Liturgy with foot and hand washing in the church. The children who attended were invited up to the altar to observe the service in a new and exciting way. The Good Friday services were well attended.

We began the Easter Vigil in darkness in the courtyard. Parishioners gathered around as a fire was kindled to light the Paschal Candle, and we walked in darkness to the front steps of the church. There, the flame of the beeswax Paschal Candle was used to light the tapers that we carried into the dark church to begin the Vigil by listening to the stories of the Old Testament. After the lessons and renewing our baptismal vows, the joy of Easter was loud and clear with many bells ringing and the unveiling of all the flowers in the church. The Eucharist was then a feast of joy! The Easter party after the service was festive, and went smoothly thanks to those who brought delicious food and volunteered their help.

The Easter Day services were beautiful, and at the 10:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist, the choir sang an anthem, and Pavel Spichak played the trumpet to accompany Jim Van Horn on the organ. The Saturday and Sunday Easter services combined attendance was over 200 people!!

## St. John's & Creation Stewards Celebrate Earth Day on May 2nd

Fr. Mark led the kids on a Creation scavenger hunt, the Creation Stewards provided coffee hour items featuring local organic produce, the kids ate dirt cake and planted flower pots for Mother's Day, a spur-of-the-moment gospel band provided entertainment, adults shared plants, one lucky person aced the garden trivia quiz and was rewarded with a ready-to-use rain barrel, and the Lord provided a glorious sunny day.



Learning how the natural world is included in our service.

The Lord has given us everything we need to live happy productive lives on this tiny planet, our island home. April 22 is officially designated as Earth Day 2011. But, in reality, 'Every Day is Earth Day.' The Lord has not only given us everything we need, but has also given us the responsibility of taking care of Creation.

Join the Creation Stewards as we work to become good stewards of God's Creation. We meet the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the Snohomish area and have several on-going projects.



Dirt Cake  
Not Bad  
It tastes a little  
bit like Oreos.

We grow organic vegetables for the Monroe, Snohomish, and other community food banks.

Walks and talks help us connect with the natural world. Join the stroller-friendly walk on June 5.

With the support of the Vestry and many others, we have reduced our energy use by 20% - and saved money for the church's use.

We are now an Earth Ministry Greening Congregation and are sharing our experiences with other churches in our area.



Planting petunias to give to Mom on Mother's Day.

## **Cathedral Recital on Mother's Day**

Jim Van Horn, our organist, and Pavel Spichak, son of Andrey Spichak, our Choir Director, performed the “post-Compline recital” on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, following the 9:30 p.m. Compline Service at St. Mark’s Cathedral. They reprised the organ/trumpet pieces played at the 10:00 a.m. Easter Day service and other music as well. See [www.saintmarks.org](http://www.saintmarks.org) for more information about Compline, which is broadcast each Sunday on KING-FM, 98.1 on the radio.

## **Outreach Committee Tours the Snohomish Food Bank**

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Outreach Committee delivered 325 packages of napkins contributed by our parishioners and 200 boxes of Stash tea to the Snohomish Food Bank for the first annual Easter Dinner Program. Sam and Connie Janke gave us a tour of the facility and we learned that our local Food Bank differs from most as their clients get to “shop” on a weekly basis, and actually select their food, instead of being given a pre-determined bag of food. The high school volunteers and Sam & Connie joined us for a photo. Elizabeth Grant, the Executive Director, expressed her great thanks for St. John’s continued generosity.



St. John’s Outreach Committee Members & Snohomish Food Bank Volunteers

## **Work Party Wonders**

Under the direction of Jud Chapin, our Junior Warden, about 20 parishioners gathered on April 16<sup>th</sup> to take on various cleaning and repair tasks to help get our parish home ready for Easter. We even had some “stealth workers” who power-washed the courtyard, and in the weeks preceding, the courtyard beds and plants were given their spring “sprucing”. Thanks to everyone who helped in so many ways!

## **It’s Your Vestry: Watch Them Work**

The Vestry focus of the month is four-fold: stewardship of the building, survey of foundation and soil, replacing the sewer and water lines and planning for exterior painting. These are all very important, necessary and costly – all a part of having an older facility. Surveys have been/are being done on the foundation and soil conditions. The Vestry decided that coffee for parish events will be funded out of the operating budget (parish functions).

Once the minutes have been approved at the next Vestry meeting, the minutes are posted on the Vestry bulletin board in the Communications Center for all to read. This is your parish and your Vestry represents you!!



Your Vestry Members are: Dottie Nelson (Senior Warden), Jud Chapin (Junior Warden), Mike Allert, Cathy Davis, Sharon Hall, Jerry Johnson, Rick Jusko, John Macho, David McConnell, Jack Norvell, Marsha Russell and Nancy Vandenberg.