

UPDATE FROM THE WARDENS

Dear Church Members:

It has been approximately six months since May when your new Wardens and Vestry members were voted in and teamed up with the continuing Vestry members. We're pleased to report, that in this short time, our Church has made very significant progress.

The following is to provide a brief update on a variety of areas at St. John's of Lattingtown. It includes a number of significant developments at our Church but is by no means an exhaustive list. Please feel free to inquire about other areas of interest to you if they do not appear below because there have been other developments which volunteers, staff and clergy have worked together to achieve.

Here are some areas where we have made progress at St. John's in the last several months:

- Sunday School enrollment is 45 students and 27 families registered, up from last year. Attendance averages 22 (even with ice hockey season underway) up from 10 last spring during all the tensions in the Church.

The new "Godly Play" curriculum, which unitizes each Sunday's lesson (so that children missing a class don't feel lost when they return) has been a positive change. Further, at Reverend Simon Foster's recommendation, Michael Sniffen, our Curate has assumed oversight and management of the Sunday School. Some may remember that many years ago, under a different minister, the Sunday School was actually suspended for lack of enrollment.

- We have attracted 16 or 17 new Church Members in 2008 and at least one family who had dropped out, has returned. We are still down slightly as a result of the 23 departures in May (16 of which represent eight couples). Instead of being down 23, we're now probably down about seven, in our estimate. Our weekly attendance averages 120 between the two services, which compares very favorably with most of the local parishes.
- In addition to regular Sunday services, there are now two opportunities for daily worship Monday through Thursday with regular attendees and a Sermon given each day. St. John's of Lattingtown also has a most active Education Program to develop spirituality and a strong spiritual base – classes, courses and lectures.
- 55 families have been involved in Pastoral Rites (baptism, wedding and funeral) in the last year and one half.
- We have many new volunteers – eight new Acolytes, 10 new Sunday School teachers and six new Altar Guild members.
- Vestry meetings have been opened to Church Members for a portion of every meeting to hear and accept input of any kind and to provide an opportunity for better communication.
- We've developed a Welcoming Committee to steward and sustain new members who join St. John's of Lattingtown.

- Jim Large, our Treasurer, has developed a new budgeting process, which will standardize, add objectivity and improve the budgeting process of the Church. We are in that budgeting process at present.
- By-Laws have been revised by Carlyle Dunaway, as required by Bishop Walker and brought into conformity with NY State Law and Canon Law. The revised By-Laws have been reviewed and approved by Chancellor Robert Fardella of the Diocese of Long Island. The By-Laws have been approved by the Vestry pending their presentation to the Parish Members at the next Annual Meeting.
- The contract with Simon has been revised to reflect the expressed views of Bishop Walker. We expect that agreement, which will continue in effect until and unless modified in the future, will be completed in the next few days, following which it will be submitted to the Diocese for approval.
- The Vestry and Wardens have been attending The Mercer School of Theology (Garden City) programs in Leadership, Spirituality and Racial Awareness.
- We have upgraded our phone systems and are in the process of budgeting for new computer workstations.
- The St. John's Annual Fair generated Net Income totaling \$50,287.86, up +2.1% from \$49,250.27 in 2007.
- The 2008 Annual Giving totals \$233,796 through September 30, 2008, up +1.6% from \$231,029 on September 30, 2007. We have a very well organized Stewardship Committee, led by Danny Davison. However, as the economy and markets have turned down dramatically, contributions during the rest of the year are hard to predict. The support from Church Members in the Fourth Quarter and next year will be essential.
- The investment environment is something of which we are all acutely aware. The significant losses incurred by the markets and by St. John's investment portfolio are described in the Investment Committee letter also published in this issue of the Eagle. This situation is of concern, and it too makes stewardship and support for St. John's of Lattingtown all the more important.

We believe there is good reason to be very encouraged by the progress made by our Church as highlighted in this update (other than investments). St. John's of Lattingtown has been developing through the mutual efforts of its leadership and Church Members. Your Clergy, Wardens and Vestry are working hard and with open minds to lead St. John's of Lattingtown to better serve its members and the community. Your participation, ideas and involvement will always be welcomed.

Sincerely,

Tom Gimbel
Warden

Anne Glenn
Warden