
Church Street News

The Newsletter of St. Lawrence Episcopal Church

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July 2004

Travels in the summer

Summertime is a good time for taking a vacation. It's a very common experience in our society. Some prefer to go back to the same familiar places that anchor them, while others like to take a chance and seek out something new and exciting.

Perhaps it's because we've been steeped in the Anglican tradition, but our family seems to seek a *via media** — so we strive to do both, something familiar **and** something a bit more exotic in our summer travels. We have a favorite campground in the Upper Peninsula that we have returned to for many years in a row. And then, of course, we like to discover something new. This year, it's Alaska. I'll send you all a postcard.

Liturgical travelers to Scotland

If I were sending a postcard from some of my favorite places of travel, I might send one like the photograph on this page. It shows the abbey on the isle of Iona, in northwest Scotland. In 597 AD, an Irish monk named Columba arrived on the remote island and established a monastery. He brought his Christian faith and fellowship with him, of course, and he is credited with a large part of the success of the conversion of that wild country.

In our own day, the abbey has been refurbished and re-energized by The Iona Community. The members of this community have dedicated themselves, after the pattern of those ancient monks, to "rebuilding the common life, bringing together work and worship, prayer and politics, the sacred and the secular." If you ever have a chance to make a pilgrimage there, I trust you will experience for yourself that it is a place of profound holiness.



Most of us won't be going there, so we'll have to settle for something less. A brief description of the place and its significance. A photograph of a building and a cross. At St. Lawrence, we can get a taste of the place in another way as well, by sharing some of the prayers they use, because we're going to Scotland in July! At least liturgically! We'll use prayers from Iona. They're pretty familiar, following established outlines and such, but they're a little exotic too. (So I guess we'll be praying in a *via media* of our own.)

God goes with you, wherever you are, but won't you keep in touch with those of us who stay behind. Send us a postcard and we'll find a place to post it. And when you're in town, please keep coming to church. We'll check out the postcards people send us to see where others have been. And maybe — after seeing some of the sights and praying some of the prayers — we'll feel a little like we've gotten out of town a bit as well.

* *Via media* is a Latin phrase, translated as "middle way." As least as it's used by Anglicans, it asserts that it is a strength to find the middle way (or sometimes a "golden mean") through contentious times. Hence, out of the conflicts of the Reformation, we established a church that was **both** catholic and reformed, and, after the Revolutionary War, we created a church in communion with England, and yet firmly American.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "jed +", with a small cross symbol to the right.

How We Got To Where We Are Today!

Having just completed our most recent Capital Campaign for our new space we joined in by making calls on some of our members both new and old. We found it interesting some of the questions regarding the history of the decision to undertake such a large expansion. In many ways, we are newer members of St. Lawrence since we both started attending after Jed's arrival but we are "long term" members compared to many of our other members.

Based on the questions and comments raised we thought this would be a great opportunity to review how and why St. Lawrence undertook the expansion process and why some of the decisions were made.

Slightly over ten years ago Father Jed was installed as rector of St Lawrence. Jed's arrival came at a time when the parish was in need of direction and guidance due to several problems which had enveloped over the previous years. The financial status of the parish was of great concern along with the awakening that the parish was indeed growing.

The Parochial Report for 1996 showed an average attendance of 156 persons of which 130 were at the 9:00 am service; this represented 80% of our total seating capacity. We also had 468 in attendance on Easter Sunday alone. From all research sources, we were beginning to present a picture of being overcrowded; thus sending a negative message to newcomers. In 1997 the 11:00 am service was added and was received well; thus providing an opportunity for some members to attend service at 11:00 instead of 9:00 am. The end result was that the space opened up by the addition of the extra service was quickly taken by new families coming to 9:00 am; as such, no change in overall seating capacity was attained.

The parish retained Inspired Partnerships, which was recommended by the Diocese, to prepare a "Conditions Survey" of the existing space in 1998. The main goals of this survey were:

- Improve insufficient worship space
- Improve traffic flow and accessibility in and around the sanctuary.
- Make the chancel more flexible.
- Create pleasant areas for fellowship time.
- Improve landscaping, signage, lights and entrances to attract new members.
- Create a large Fellowship hall.
- Provide handicap accessibility
- Create better meeting, classroom and office space.

In December, 1998, St. Lawrence received a communication from the Village of Libertyville "expressing interest in acquiring the St. Lawrence Church property". At the time of the communication it was known that St. John's Lutheran Church was available for sale. The 1999 Vestry retained the services of Criezis Architects to inspect both locations and prepare a report outlining the options and costs of either:

- a. Purchase St. John's and renovate it to our needs -or-
- b. Expand and renovate our existing building.

Also in 1998, the Vestry undertook a Revising project coordinated by Bob Ferguson and Cathe McEnerney dedicated to creating a mission statement and providing goals for St. Lawrence in the future.

The Vestry held a retreat in May, 1999 to evaluate all the options as presented between the two reports that had been previously commissioned. At the June, 1999 Vestry meeting a vote was taken and approved the decision to stay at the current location.

In July, 1999 Revisioning was complete and the committee presented it's report to the Vestry for approval. The Vision Statement approved was:

***St. Lawrence Episcopal Church is a worshipping community of faith
in the Anglican tradition, called by Christ:***

—To gather as an extended family open to all

—To grow in the knowledge and love of God

***—And to embody that love in service to the world around us,
so that all will know themselves to be children of God.***

Based on the Vestry's decision to remain at 125 Church Street, a Capital Campaign Committee, chaired by Dave Jones was formed with a directive for raise funds so that St. Lawrence could move forward with decisions made at the retreat in May, 1999. The first Capital Campaign kicked off Easter, 2000 and worked diligently through the end of the year obtaining pledges totaling over \$1,000,000.

The formation of the Expansion Committee in the summer of 2000 was the next step in the process of fulfilling our dream. The first assignment was interviewing and making a recommendation to Vestry on an architect for our expansion. The committee researched 10+ firms shortening the list to three that were interviewed by the committee. The selection of David Schultz and Associates was virtually unanimous since they specialized in doing churches only.

In January, 2001 the Vestry approved the recommendation and the committee was vested with several assignments to be completed in early 2002 by the architect. The main project was the completion of a parish wide survey to help the architect understand the needs and wants of all members of the parish. Once complete, two concepts were presented and reviewed by the parish over a period of several meeting throughout the summer of 2002. Both concepts required special variance approvals from the Village of Libertyville. As such, St. Lawrence, via our attorney, appeared in front of both the Planning Commission and Zoning Commission on September 24, 2001 pleading our case as to why we needed to expand and also why we were asking to take all our land for this project. This approval was granted in theory at that meeting subject to providing more documentation and the creation of special wording for the variance needed. The next major recommendation that the Expansion Committee needed to make was a contractor. The committee originally decided to choose one contractor to work with the architect to determine costs so that we could better determine scope. We again started interviewing several contractors and by January, 2002 we had made a recommendation to Vestry, Berglund Maintenance. Unfortunately, this approach didn't work with Berglund and we began interviewing again; the committee recommended Nicholas and Associates mid year 2002 to the Vestry for approval. After several meetings and several revisions in scope a special meeting of the Vestry was held in February, 2003 to approve the recommendation of the Expansion Committee to approve a scope of work not exceed 3,282,500 which included all expenses for the actual construction and renovation plus professional fees for the architect, lawyer and bonds.

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Market Day

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is once again sponsoring Market Day this summer.

Market Day sells a variety of packaged foods including meats, side dishes, breakfast foods, beverages, and snacks. Many are individually packaged making them convenient for any size family. ECW earns a share of the profits from each item sold; all profits earned by ECW will go towards outreach.



Our second sale date is Wednesday, July 21st. Pick-up times will be **6:45 to 7:45 pm**. (Note the change in pick-up time!) Order forms, which are found in this month's *Church Street News*, will be due back to the church on Monday, July 12th. You may also log on to www.marketday.com to place your order up until Saturday, July 17th at Noon. If you are unable to pick up your own order, please make arrangements to have it picked up by someone else, as we have limited freezer/storage space.

We also need assistance the day of the sale. If you have any questions you may contact Liz Halbert or Julia Karnstedt.

Sunday School News

Plans are being made for next year's Sunday school classes. If you would like to be involved, you have many options! There is a Sunday school board consisting of Wendy Guarnaccio, as coordinator, Julie Feely and Sue Vogg working on special events, Cathy Adamsick and Ann Carrano stocking supplies, and Betsy Rinella recruiting teachers. If you would like to assist in any of these areas, please contact any one of the board members. The more people they have, the less daunting the task, and everyone will benefit!

Unused Treasures

From its inception, the Expansion Committee has dedicated itself to preserve and protect the architecture and features of our existing worship and gathering space. We have taken great care to assure that those features that we could not incorporate into the new space or remodeled areas have been saved and stored. Many of these items, such as pews, windows, organ pipes and miscellaneous accoutrements have architectural or decorative value. More importantly, they are a fond & gentle reminder of our heritage.

In December, 2003 the Vestry approved a proposal from the Expansion Committee regarding the disposition of items. The intent of the proposal was to assure that all St. Lawrence Parishioners have the opportunity to purchase these items prior to offering them to the general public as well as designating the proceeds to expansion related expenses. In the coming weeks, there will be notices and announcements to inform everyone regarding the logistics. If anyone has any questions or would like to help, please contact Hans Karnstedt.



Attention Coffee Hour Volunteers

There was an error in the schedule for September volunteers that was recently mailed out on the master schedule. The correct scheduling was on the list that was mailed separately to you in May. To review, here are the volunteers for September --

Sept. 5 -- Rinella & Pomes
Sept. 12 -- Raub & Larson
Sept. 19 -- Gustafson & Kampe
Sept. 26 -- Aull & Finch

The June, July and August volunteers on the master schedule match what was mailed out in May so there are no changes. Sorry for any confusion!!
 Thanks, Liz

St. Lawrence Book Group News

The book group has selected our books for next year at our June meeting. We are always looking for new members! You can join us every month or just occasionally if that fits better in your schedule. We meet in the church library at 7:30 pm the second Monday of the month from September to June. Hope you can join us!



September	"The DaVinci Code" by Dan Brown
October	"The Buffalo Soldier" by Chris Bobjalian
November	"Life of Pi" by Yann Martel
December	"The Five People You Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom
January	"Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson
February	"To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee
March	"The Rich Part of Life" by Jim Kokoris
April	"Bel Canto" by Ann Patchett
May	"Saint Maybe" by Anne Tyler
June	"The Floribama Ladies' Auxiliary and Sewing Circle" by Lois Battle

Chorister for a Day

Have you ever thought of joining the Choir? If you would like to come and see what it is like, please join us on July 11th or August 8th (or both). We will rehearse at 8:00 am in the choir room and sing at the 9:00 am service.

Please call Wendy Unrath Young with any questions.



Our Future in Focus

2004 Capital Gifts Campaign

As part of our Capital Campaign we offered several gift opportunities to honor or remember a loved one. The total pledge for the Building Expansion (including gifts toward the 2000 campaign) could be used towards this naming opportunity. At this point in time we have 13 named gifts as follows:

<i>Named Gift</i>	<i>Amount Pledged</i>
Sacristy	\$100,000
Rector's Office	\$75,000
Library	\$50,000
New Rite 13 Classroom	\$50,000
Elevator	\$50,000
Associate Rector's Office	\$50,000
Upper Level Hallways	\$50,000
Atrium	\$25,000
Coffee Bar	\$25,000
YAC Room	\$25,000
5 & 6 Grade Classroom	\$25,000
3 Grade Classroom	\$25,000
J2A Classroom	\$25,000

We still have several naming opportunities available; please contact me for more information. Elizabeth Green, chair of the Memorials and Recognition Committee, and her committee will be designing appropriate signage to recognize these named gifts.

The Memorials and Recognition Committee is also in the process of designing a board to recognize all those who have generously donated to our building expansion project. Over the summer all those who have donated to either capital campaign will be contacted to confirm how you would like your name written on the recognition board. Your prompt response will be appreciated.

Julia Karnstedt
Capital Campaign Chairperson

“What’s the Future Hold?”

In July 2003, the St. Lawrence Vestry commissioned the formation of the Financial Oversight Committee to review the overall financial position of the parish and make recommendations on a future direction. With that humble beginning, 11 parish members started meeting and gathering financial information on the church’s financial status and obligations.



By the fall it was obvious that St. Lawrence needed to take positive steps towards securing our ability to fulfill the ministries of the church. The team made a recommendation to the Vestry in November 2003 to immediately begin planning for a capital campaign and work with a professional consultant. As you have seen on these pages, the work that Julia Karnstedt and the campaign committee has been fantastic...thanks also go to you for your generosity.

With the formal campaign phase winding down, the role of the Financial Oversight Committee changes also. Our charter is to be a standing committee, reporting directly to the Vestry and working as one of three main influencers on the financial health of St. Lawrence: 1) Vestry – overall financial accountability, 2) Finance Committee – day-to-day financial management, 3) Financial Oversight Committee – long-range financial planning.

In monthly meetings, we are currently developing a 10-year business plan for the parish. This plan will allow us to understand the obligations that the church has and create “what ifs” for investment to help St. Lawrence grow as a parish family extend our ministries to the community. We will work closely with the Vestry to use this long-range financial planning to make solid budgeting decisions in the future. Look for a series of communications through this newsletter and special events where we will explain our recommendations.

Finally, please take the time to seek out committee members if you have questions about our work or future directions. Thanks again for your continuing support!

Kris Rich, Chairman, Greg Adamsick, Rich Babjak, Ken Carrano, Carolyn Finch, Julia Karnstedt, Don Halbert, Jed Holdorph, Bill Keating, Robert Moseley and Jeanne Murphy

A Thomas Merton Retreat

“Returning: Thomas Merton as Guide for Our Journeys Home”, a Thomas Merton Retreat at Marytown, being held July 30-August 1, 2004. This retreat features a unique combination of music, poetry and reflections on Thomas Merton’s witness to our need to return home to ourselves, to our neighbors and to our God that begins with a Merton Concert entitled “My Name is That Sky” at 8:00 pm on Friday, July 30th, and ends at noon on Sunday, August 1st. It is presented by Sister Kathleen Deignan and Jonathan Montaldo.

For more information there are flyers located in the Narthex, or you can contact Marytown at 847-367-7800, email at mail@marytown.com.

Wanted Convention Delegates

The Vestry would like to appoint delegates to this fall’s Diocesan Convention. If you’ve ever been to Convention in the past, forget everything you know because it’s been drastically revamped the past couple of years and is wonderfully stimulating and rewarding. If you’ve never been, it’s an opportunity to consider. If you think you might be interested, please speak to one of the parish clergy, a warden or any member of the Vestry for more information.

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We were on our way!

On March, 2, 2003 we held our groundbreaking ceremony; the heavy equipment arrived shortly after Easter; and on February 8, 2004 we held our first service in what was previously our English Garden.

The Expansion Committee met on a continuous basis during construction, several members of the committee met every three weeks with the contractor and architect to discuss progress and problems which were then discussed with the committee as a whole. This committee is in it's final stages of existence; the Facilities Ministry will begin to transition taking over many of the projects currently under the guidance of the Expansion Committee.

We now have a beautiful facility that meets the goals created by the 1998 Vestry.

- Improve insufficient worship space - **We doubled it**
- Improve traffic flow and accessibility in and around the sanctuary. **We are now full circle; no dead ends.**
- Make the chancel more flexible. - **Done**
- Create pleasant areas for fellowship time. – **The narthex is awesome!**
- Improve landscaping, signage, lights and entrances to attract new members. **Done**
- Create a large Fellowship hall. **Demonstrated by our Kick-Off Dinner in April, 2004**
- Provide handicap accessibility **Done**
- Create better meeting, classroom and office space. **Done**

Where do we go from here?

We need to make sound fiscal decisions in managing our funds to pay off our indebtedness in a timely manner. The recently formed Oversight Committee, chaired by Kris Rich, is actively creating recommendations to achieve this concept and still have funds available for future capital fund needs (i.e. organ, kitchen, on-going repairs). Concurrently, we also need to maintain our new facility at the same time work toward achieving the concepts that came from Revisioning. As we review our current 2004 Operating budget noting the overages in Utilities and Insurance and begin work on the 2005 Operating budget, we are taking into consideration the many changes that need to be made to preserve our facility. This will constitute making increases to our 2005 budget. We have just recently completed our Second Capital Campaign which has been very successful thanks to the valiant effort of Julia Karnstedt, chairperson but we need to begin to focus on the 2005 Stewardship Campaign that will take place in November of this year so that we have the funds available to maintain our new facilities based on the 2005 projections.

We truly have grown since 1996...

	1996	2003
Avg Attend:	156	210
Annual Exp.	\$235,142.	\$289,301

We, the Wardens, on behalf of the Vestry thank each and all of you for your support of St. Lawrence Church through your financial contributions and your donations of time. It is greatly appreciated by all!