



# The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

December 2011/January 2012

## CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY!



Opening exposed to undercroft.  
Mary Vekasi peeking through.



Ben, Chris and Mike



Todd Hardy, General Contractor

# SENIOR WARDEN'S TRAVEL REFLECTIONS

Once he came in blessing, all our ills addressing  
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy  
Bore the cross to save us, hope and freedom gave us.  
*Hymnal 1982, 53*

## *Don't Postpone Joy*

bumper sticker seen in the St. John parking lot

The morning before I set out for my trip to Jerusalem, Vesta Kowalski wished me a trip as "life-changing" as hers had been twenty-five years ago. We have not yet had a time to compare notes, but I can say that the trip was transformative in ways that I am only now recognizing. There was a richness and intensity to the experience that surprised me. Although every day was filled with epiphanies, two aspects of the trip were recurrent themes and bear brief discussion here. The first was the concreteness and contemporaneous nature of the Biblical places we visited. The second was a recognition of how closely linked the three monotheistic Abrahamic faiths are, and how those faiths borrow from and contribute to still other faith traditions. For the purpose of this short newsletter piece, I want to focus on the first of those insights

The trip or "pilgrimage" was sponsored by the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and included in about equal measure visits to the traditional holy sites (e.g. the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, under which Jesus is said to have been born) and visits to diocesan sponsored schools and health clinics. Anne Wetzal and Jim Bowditch from Camden were also among the Maine contingent. If one wanted a relaxing or restful vacation trip this was probably not it, but it was enormously stimulating and rewarding in ways that a week at the beach is not, or not for me.

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem funds and administers about thirty-five institutions in Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, beyond its twenty-four parishes in that region. A significant part of concreteness of the trip for me was the result of this interaction between these two disparate aspects of our visit: a deepening connection with discovering these sites mentioned in the Bible and coming to grips with the tension in Holy Land led also to a deepening encounter to how that touches the lives of many today and tomorrow. In other words, we connected with grounded reality of our faith but also saw first hand the living out of that faith in the lives of the children

and disabled that the Diocese serves. Christians represent about two-percent of the population of Israel and the West Bank, and Anglicans represent a significant minority among Christians, numbering about eight thousand or a bit more than half of the number of Episcopalians in Maine.

I have an easy time distancing the biblical narratives by either sequestering them to a remote time thousand of years ago or draining them of the factual contexts so they become universal myths, thereby making the stories in the Bible cartoons, myths or object lessons. That is to say, the stories have value as ethical instruction, theological statements or simply as remarkable stories, but do not always lived as mysteries to absorb and inwardly digest in non-rational or non-empirical ways. The trip changed that.

By way of example, one particular memory of an early morning moment stands out. We were walking the Stations of the Cross through the old city of Jerusalem. As one of us was silently carrying a large wooden cross from one station to the next a Muslim woman in her black chador fell silently into step with Jane. As Jane slowed or sped up so did the other, no words were spoken, and after several minutes at the next turn each went their separate ways. In that moment the past was brought forward and also broadly shared in ways that reflect Jesus incarnation in our own lives. May you have a joyous Christmas filled with unexpected gifts.

*Ted Fletcher*

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

If you would like to contribute to the Christmas greens and flowers for the church, please send a check to the church at PO Box 767, Southwest Harbor ME 04679 or put it in the offering plates in an envelope before December 19.



If you would like your gift to be in honor or memory of someone, please be sure to include their name(s).

# WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY IN ACTION

## Thanksgiving Sign Up



## MDI PET FOOD PANTRY



Diana de los Santos started the MDI Pet Food Pantry in 2008. She often drives her car to the Westside Food Pantry and gives participants food for their animals from the back of her car. St. Francis loves her! If you would like more information call Diana at 461-2871. Diana brings food that has been donated by many sources. For example Walmart gives dented cans and torn bags to Diana and she repackages the food. Donation cans are found around the island as well. If you have opened bags of food you can call Diana and she will pick them up and repackage them for our animal friends. The bottom line is that Diana wants family pets to stay with their people no matter the circumstance and she is there to help them do that.

## THIRD ANNUAL WREATH MAKING FUNDRAISER



With many thanks to Sue Newman, Mary Mitchell, Edie Stanwood and Ida Smalidge. They made about 40 wreaths to add beauty to our

homes. The money made will be added to our church's general fund. The women begin this ministry by gathering greens, lichen, cones etc. from MDI in November and add their personal touch to each and every wreath. The only artificial items are the bows and bells. They love sharing their creativity with you. All orders have been filled but if you want to order one give Sue, Mary M., Edie or Ida a call.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- born in Manhattan
- summered on Islesford for the first time at age 8
- loves to explore Acadia National Park
- have a goal to travel and explore as many of the National Parks as I can (have already been to Denali; Glacier; Yosemite; Yellowstone; Tetons; Grand Canyon; Arches to name a few)
- avid reader
- mentor of teachers
- retired from teaching after 43 years
- just successfully completed my Designated Broker coursework
- Associate Broker at Margo Stanley Real Estate
- author of reading material called "Sound Off"
- breast cancer survivor of 28 years
- member of a walking team called "Esperamos" which does an annual Avon Walk for Breast Cancer
- mother of twins

**WHO AM I?**

# 19 STATISTICS ABOUT THE POOR THAT WILL ASTOUND YOU

#1 According to the US Census Bureau, the percentage of “very poor” rose in 300 out of the 360 largest metropolitan areas during 2010.

#2 Last year, 2.6 million more Americans descended into poverty. That was the largest increase that we have seen since the US government began keeping statistics on this back in 1959.

#3 It isn't just the ranks of the “very poor” that are rising. The number of those just considered to be “poor” is rapidly increasing as well. Back in the year 2000, 11.3% of all Americans were living in poverty. Today, 15.1% of all Americans are living in poverty.

#4 The poverty rate for children living in the United States increased to 22% in 2010.

#5 There are 314 counties in the United States where at least 30% of the children are facing food insecurity.

#6 In Washington DC, the “child food insecurity rate” is 32.3%.

#7 More than 20 million US children rely on school meal programs to keep from going hungry.

#8 One out of every six elderly Americans now lives below the federal poverty line.

#9 Today, there are over 45 million Americans on food stamps.

#10 According to The Wall Street Journal, nearly 15 percent of all Americans are now on food stamps.

#11 In 2010, 42 percent of all single mothers in the United States were on food stamps.

#12 The number of Americans on food stamps has increased 74% since 2007.

#13 We are told that the economy is recovering, but the number of Americans on food stamps has grown by another 8 percent over the past year.

#14 Right now, one out of every four American children is on food stamps.

#15 It is being projected that approximately 50 percent of all US children will be on food stamps at some point in their lives before they reach the age of 18.

#16 More than 50 million Americans are now on Medicaid. Back in 1965, only one out of every 50 Americans was on Medicaid. Today, approximately one out of every 6 Americans is on Medicaid.

#17 One out of every six Americans is now enrolled in at least one government anti-poverty program.

#18 The number of Americans that are going to food pantries and soup kitchens has increased by 46% since 2006.

#19 It is estimated that up to half a million children may currently be homeless in the United States.

As you can see from reading the above, what we see locally is a reflection of the national problem; worse here, perhaps, because of the lack of industry and seasonality of available jobs. From my perspective, this means we as individuals and as the institution must both give generously, and also carefully husband our resources for future needs, which presently seem ever-increasing.

Submitted by *Jean Rohrer*

## LIGHTER SIDE...

### Three Gifts

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting together for Christmas, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

The first said, “I built a big house for our mother.”

The second said, “I sent her a Mercedes.”

The third smiled and said, “I’ve got you both beat. You remember how mom enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can’t see very well. So I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the church 12 years to teach him. He’s one of a kind. Mom just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it.”

Soon thereafter, mom sent out her letters of thanks:

“Dear Milton,” she wrote one son, “The house you built is too huge. I live in only one room, but I have to keep the whole house clean!”

“Dear Gerald,” she wrote to another, “I am too old to travel. I stay at home most of the time, so I rarely use the Mercedes.”

“Dearest Donald,” she wrote to her third son, “You have the good sense to know what your Mother likes. The chicken was Dee-licious!”

### The Three Wise Women

You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise **women** instead of men, don't you?

They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable diapers as gifts!



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

### Advent 2—December 4

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Isaiah 50:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

### Advent 3—December 11

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 126; Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28  
The Rev. Deborah Little Wyman

### Advent 4—December 18

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38  
10:00 a.m.—Festival of Lessons and Carols at St. Saviour's

### Christmas Eve—December 24

4:00 p.m.—Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
The Rev. Johanna-Karen Johannson

### Christmas Day—December 25

10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
The Rev. Johanna-Karen Johannson

**Thursdays:** 12:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist  
The Rev. Debbie Little Wyman



**LESSONS AND CAROLS** will be a joint celebration at St. Saviour's. After the service the trees will be trimmed while enjoying snacks. One tree will be decorated with mittens and gloves. Debbie Little will take the water-proof men's gloves to her Boston Common service on Christmas Day. All other mittens and gloves will be taken to the Emmaus Center. While the trees are being trimmed, we'll also be preparing cookie tins for shut-ins. People should bring some tins if they have them and cookies to share during the tree trimming, and some to put into the tins.

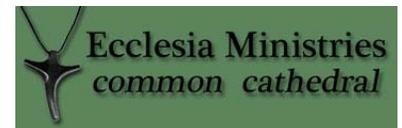


## Men's Gloves Needed

One of Debbie Little's ministries is with the homeless in the Boston area. She began *Ecclesia Ministries* and has a website that will explain all about that ministry. Visit [www.ecclesia-ministries.org](http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org) for more information. This holiday season Debbie is requesting gloves for homeless men in the Boston area. If you would like to bring in new men's water-proof gloves, drop them off in a box on the back pew at St. John's or take them to St. Saviour's on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

The glove collection will last until Christmas Eve. Thank-you.

Questions or Comments contact Debbie by email: [deblitwym1@myfairpoint.net](mailto:deblitwym1@myfairpoint.net)



## IN-GATHERING Sunday, December 11

Remember to bring your pledge cards to worship.



## Birthdays

### DECEMBER

- 2—Shelby Young
- 3—Ginny Agar
- 4—Vicky Vendrell
- 12—Scott Hatcher
- 23—Floyd Parkman

### JANUARY

- 8—Carl Storage
- 13—Rod Lucas
- 20—Peggy Walls
- 28—Bill Baker
- 30—Judith Obbard
- 31—Sally Clark

## Wedding Anniversaries

### DECEMBER

- 21—Peter and Judith Obbard

### JANUARY

- 22—Paul and Margot Haertel



## NEW NT EDITORS

Three years ago Frank and Mimi Barnes asked if I would step forward and be the new editor of the *Net Tender*. They told me that it would be fun.

I raised my eyebrows and Mimi said when she was asked she raised her eyebrows too! Mimi said that she and Frank grew to love putting the newsletter together. I have also found that to be true.

I had a similar experience. Now it is time for me to turn the reigns over.

I am grateful and pleased to announce that Jayne Ashworth and Anne Wetzel agreed to being the new editors of the *Net Tender*! Jayne and Anne will publish their first NT in February 2012. Please continue sending your NT articles to [stjohmandandrew@gmail.com](mailto:stjohmandandrew@gmail.com)

Mary Vekasi



## CONGREGATIONAL PASTORAL CARE (CPC)

CPC teams are now being formed. Through prayer, study of the book *Christian Caregiving-- A Way of Life*, and practice of listening and caring skills, several members of St. Saviour's and St. John's are preparing themselves to be witnesses to the love of God to those among us who may be in need. If you would like to be part of this ministry please contact Deacon Jenny Reece (812-2365) The second session will take place on December 14th at 5:30 in the Rectory Library at St. Saviour's. Then we will be alternating between St. Saviour's and St. John's for meeting sites. The schedule is as follows:

- December 14, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at St. Saviour's
- December 28, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at St. John's
- January 11, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at St. Saviour's
- January 25, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at St. John's
- February 8, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at St. Saviour's.
- February 15, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at St John's

Please bring a simple "brown bag" supper that includes something for yourself and something to share. We will incorporate fellowship over a shared meal into each evening's learning and growing. Each session will combine a presentation and discussion of the ideas in the book with a hands-on practice of caring skills. Our prayer: *Make us instruments of your healing, O Lord. Teach us to live in your hope so that others may know your love, in Jesus' name, Amen.*

## WHO AM I?



Anne Welles

## **BULLETS...**

### **From the Joint Vestry Meeting with St. Saviour's on November 29**

- The plan remains on track for Canon Vicki Wiederkehr to present the names and profiles of five or six candidates selected by Vicki and Bishop Stephen Lane to the two vestries on December 15.
- Most of this meeting was spent formulating questions we would ask of each candidate and discussing the leadership and process for interviewing, which will begin in January. There will be approximately six questions, which will go out to the candidates in advance.
- We will ask the Maine Sea Coast Mission for use of their boardroom and audio-visual equipment to conduct initial remote interviews, with in-person meetings planned later with at least one final candidate. To prepare, we will ask Scott Planting, executive director of the Mission, to play the role of a candidate.

### **From the Regular Vestry meeting of November 17**

- The Sawyer house sale remains on tract to close on January 5, 2012.
- Church building construction continues, with the outside walls now rising.
- Discussion, to be continued, took place about how to raise the remaining \$140,000 of our capital campaign goal of \$600,000.
- The vestry approved a nominating committee of Ted Fletcher, Dianne McMullan, and Elaine Theriault. Please offer them your nominations for next year's vestry and offices of junior warden, treasurer, and clerk.
- The vestry approved a donation of \$1250 for the Westside Food Pantry Christmas dinner program. Parish members are encouraged to donate personally as well to help meet the growing numbers of those in need.
- Training for a joint congregational pastoral care program, led by the Rev. Jenny Reese, deacon at St. Saviour's, will be offered on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.
- The Thursday service will continue to take place at 12:30 PM at least until the end of the year.
- Together with the vestry of St. Saviour's, our vestry will be formulating questions for use in interviews with priest-in-charge candidates. The parish is also invited to submit ideas for questions.

*Patsy Fogarty*

## **WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S November and December**



Chloe Hatcher, George Swanson,  
Mike Kennedy



Johanna-Karen Johannson



Henry Helmke



Debbie Little



Moorhead (Mike) Kennedy and his wife

# The Net Tender - December 2011 & January 2012

## St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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**Office Hours:** Monday · Tuesday · Thursday, 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

### Parish Administrator

Michele Daley

### Music Director

Stephen Sampson

### Editors

Jayne Ashworth

Mary Vekasi

Anne Wetzel



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If you no longer wish to receive the Net Tender or prefer to receive it by e-mail, please call the church office.

Deadline for articles for February *Net Tender* is January 29

## TOP FRESHMAN 2011



William Fletcher has been selected by MaineTrackXC as the top freshman for 2011.

Fletcher had a very strong season starting the year running in the 19's for 5k & progressing down to the 17's. Fletcher showed he could run with the best freshman as he was third at the Festival of Champions freshman race (17:57.94). He continued to get stronger with a fourth place finish at the Hancock county championship and then a sixth at the PVC Conference championship. He had perhaps his best race of the season at the Class B Eastern Regional where he ran a personal best 17:41.2 to finish sixth overall to qualify as an individual for the state meet. Fletcher's time of 17:41.2 was the fastest for all freshman during 2011. He would finish out the year with a 41st place finish at the Class B state meet, his time of 18:22.36 was the third best freshman time at the state meet. The future looks bright for Fletcher who will compete in the Footlocker Northeast race later this month.