



The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

February 2012

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION REPORT

Contractor Todd Hardy of Eden Builders reports that foundation work is close to completion and framing is proceeding well. The estimated completion date remains early summer, although additional work could affect that.

Available funds from the capital campaign will allow us to complete additional work. We plan to initially focus on projects that improve safety, energy efficiency and the kitchen. Dianne McMullan is heading a sub-committee to work with our contractor on the kitchen project. In general, the plan is to remove the existing cabinets, finishes, wiring and plumbing and to completely rehabilitate the kitchen. They are considering appliance selection, layout, ventilation, lighting, and improvement of the undersized doorway.



We plan to re-side the entire building with cement board siding. This will pay off in lower future maintenance and better appearance and will give us an opportunity to better insulate and seal the exterior walls. The color be an off-white.

We plan to blow insulation into the walls when we have the siding off and improve the ceiling insulation in the Nave. We are considering alternatives for insulating the sloping rafter portion. To improve the existing windows, we are leaning toward the idea of replacing the storms and trying to secure the aluminum guides to make them quieter during operation. Other ideas include insulated shades or window quilts.

Jim Vekasi



SENIOR WARDEN'S THOUGHTS ON COMMON THE ENCLOSURE OF THE SPIRIT

"Family Meals need not be spiritual but they should always be religious."

Sam Sifton, writing in the New York Times Magazine, October 2, 2011

"Hell is Other People," or "Hell is the Other," "No Exit," Jean Paul Sarte

"Frank Griswold's concern for reconciliation is expressed in a profound regard for 'the Other.' The Other may be a stranger, even an enemy, but in Griswold's spirituality the Other is often a form through which the utterly transcendent and holy God makes God's Self present to human being."

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, "Afterword,"

IN I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS: REFLECTIONS ON RECONCILIATION, IN HONOR OF FRANK T. GRISWOLD, (Boston, 2006)

Listening to the radio driving home from Boston a couple of weeks ago, Will and I heard an NPR story focusing on Mitt Romney's entry into the world of private equity in the early 1980's. After the report, I reflected on what I think may have been the greatest under-appreciated transformation of the past thirty years: the shift from the civic realm to the world of private property and profit, and, paradoxically, the loss of privacy. Think here of the growth of gated communities, of personal communication devices that increasingly connect us remotely at the same time they separate us intimately and proximately, of the diffusion of information and opinion on the internet, of greater autonomy in transportation, shopping, and entertainment. That transformation in turn reminded me of a history I read many years ago about the rise of Puritanism in eastern England and the coincidental enclosure of public grazing and farm land for private estates in later Elizabethan and Jacobean England (1570 -1620).¹

It seemed to me then as I was navigating traffic that we live in an age of dramatic "enclosure" of public or civic life. That Occupy Wall Street is a pained and desperate response to the enclosure movement we have witnessed since the election of Ronald Reagan as president in 1980. Here I am interested in the religious aspects of these developments, and I assert (tentatively) that the decline of sacramental religion and Mainline Protestant denominations is partly an inability to respond to these challenges in a timely way. Our liturgy comes under now routine criticism for being antique and not in the vernacular of younger generations. But I think this criticism misses a larger disease with corporate spirituality and a disjunction with "establishment" religion.

I have contrasted the quotation from Sarte's play with the quotation from Bishop Lee's tribute to Bishop Griswold because I suspect they address analogous emotional, spiritual and psychological truths, just from dramatically different perspectives. Sarte, I think, is suggesting or acknowledging that we are imprisoned in our relationships with other people. Bishop Lee is raising a toast to Frank Griswold's effort to reach out of that prison, to do God's (uncomfortable) work of reconciliation in the community.

And I am not sure what Sam Sifton is talking about. I query what his definitions of the "spiritual" and the "religious" are. After all, if our Christian faith teaches us anything it is that a common meal can be both spiritual and religious. But here's a stab in the dark: Sifton, like so many of our contemporaries, seems to want to place the spiritual "out there," as if God principally lived on clouds, as something or someone to be found or "channeled" on mountain tops, in sunrises, on zafu. I am not suggesting that God is not there, only that one need not always travel so far: that God is often resting unrecognized or unnoticed among us here on and in the ground, and the challenge is to cut through the interruptions and distractions. I am, however, suggesting that contemporary spirituality has distinct similarities to the "enclosure movement" of four hundred years ago, and we need to recognize the tempting dangers there.

I raise all of this, in part, because parish life and parish leadership especially, can be spiritually taxing – even deadening. The temptation, my temptation, is often to do it by myself, to do it alone without the interference of "group process." Your vestry is now working with St. Saviour's as we seek to discern, identify and call together our next priest. The Vestries get along remarkably well, but we are also bounded by our parish histories and complexions, our individual personalities and quirks, and sometimes different unspoken assumptions and priorities. There have been and will continue to be group decisions that may not please any particular one of us as individuals. Sounds like a marriage or a professional partnership, yes? Pray for all of us as we work and talk together. In a very real sense this is an encounter with the Other.

May you meet the transfigured Jesus in these waning, lighter days of late winter,

Faithfully,
Ted Fletcher

¹William Hunt, THE PURITAN MOVEMENT: THE COMING OF REVOLUTION IN AN ENGLISH COUNTY (1983, Cambridge, MA) (Hunt describes in acute detail the intersection of the enclosure of land in Essex, the Puritan "emphasis on preaching as an instrument of personal and social reform," and response of Anglican Bishops and their reliance on tradition.)

WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY

The Westside Food Pantry, an outreach ministry of St Andrew and St John, has served our neighbors in need from the communities of Southwest Harbor, Mt Desert and Tremont for over 20 years. Instead of providing food, our food pantry gives vouchers to folks who come to us for help. These vouchers may be used at local stores: the Southwest Food Mart, Gott's, and Sawyer's Market.

Vouchers provide folks with the opportunity to purchase the food that makes sense for their families and may be used for anything except fuel, tobacco, and alcohol products.

The Westside Food Pantry's season runs from November through April. We distribute vouchers on the first and third Sundays. Recipients may receive vouchers on one of the two Sundays. Because Harbor House has an elevator and a large upstairs space, we distribute vouchers in the yellow building. We appreciate Harbor House's generosity!

Not surprisingly with the lack of jobs, the cuts in entitlements and home heating oil assistance, combined with the rise in food and fuel prices, we have seen large increases in the number of folks who come to us for help. Last season, we distributed \$90,030 in vouchers. In 2009-2010 vouchers totaled \$77,480, and in 2008-2009, \$68,450. More than 85% of our funds come from the wider community outside the parish. Our funds come from individuals, businesses, civic organizations, and other churches all of whom recognize the need and appreciate our attempts to meet the need. We are grateful, as well, for the funds that come from fundraisers organized by members of our parish and a donation from the operating budget of our parish.

Last season the Westside Food Pantry was overwhelmed by the need. In order to meet our commitments, we had to cash in CD's and hollow out our savings. Because we could not expect to raise the over \$100,000 we anticipate needing for the 2011-2012 season, we have made the very difficult decision to cut the vouchers that we give to each head of household. By cutting the vouchers we hope to have enough money to maintain our usual schedule and stay open through April.

The Westside Food Pantry requires hundreds of volunteer hours. Approximately twenty members of our parish give their time and talent to this outreach and are members of the Westside Food Pantry Committee. On food pantry Sundays, volunteers spend several hours distributing vouchers. Others have printed and cut the vouchers; put up the signs; distributed posters; responded to requests for interviews; written thank you notes to every donor; created the volunteer schedule; written appeal letters; and organized, publicized and "manned" the fundraisers.

By far the largest volunteer commitment involves the financial/bookkeeper piece. Maintaining and updating donor lists, keeping financial records, maintaining recipient records, making reports to the vestry and to our donors, and working with the grocery stores requires volunteers with bookkeeping skills and takes many, many hours of volunteer time. Until about seven years ago, this large administrative job and the writing of thank you notes and the printing of vouchers and signs were done by the parish administrator. The time she spent on these tasks and all mailing costs incurred were the parish's contribution to the food pantry.

Dean Henry and Susan Buell

JR. WARDEN REPORT

I knew Jr. Warden wasn't going to be easy. The term took off with a bang. First, there was the Sawyer home, which had been sold, but furniture had to be removed from the rental. Next, the garbage needed to be picked up and paths had to be shoveled. There's the choosing of the new rector and materials have to be read. It's all so exciting. I love a challenge. I only hope I'm up to the task. I'll do my best with God's help.

Mary Mitchell

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- where I lived (Indiana) being tall growing-up was viewed as a "waste" when you couldn't run and dribble a basketball at the same time
- entered Navy ROTC to "avoid the draft"
- regrettably ended up in the Navy's version of Vietnam anyway
- became an Episcopalian while working in Burbank, CA
- fell in love (didn't know it at the time) with a fellow traveler to the Holy Land
- led and served in the body of Christ as priest for 22 years
- fell in love again (this time with Maine) as a summer visitor to SWH
- discovered I have naturally curly hair at age 62

WHO AM I?



February 22
Services at noon and 6:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING BULLETS

January 22

- Sr. Warden Ted Fletcher reported on the status of the search for a priest-in-charge.
- Ted offered the thanks of the parish to those most involved in the recent sale of the Sawyer house and its care over the period of our ownership.
- Ted presented thank you gifts to retiring vestry member Jean Rohrer, Jr. Warden Ann Cox Halkett, Asst. Treasurer Spencer Irvin, and former vestry members Mary Mitchell and Ida Smallidge.
- Ted presented the slate for the new vestry, officers and delegates as proposed by the nominating committee of Dianne McMullan, Elaine Theriault and himself.
- The list of new and returning members is as follows:
 - o Sr. Warden: Ted Fletcher
 - o Jr. Warden: Mary Mitchell
 - o Clerk: Chloe Hatcher
 - o Treasurer: Jim Vekasi
 - o Asst. Treasurer: Elizabeth Erickson
 - o Term ends January 2013
Barbara Campbell
Dianne McMullan
 - o Term ends January 2014
Karen Craig
Floy Ervin
 - o Term ends January, 2015
Susan Buell
Patsy Fogarty
 - o Seasonal vestry
Peggy Engel
Eleanor Watts
Ann Benson
 - o Delegates to Convention
Margot Haertel
Mary Mitchell
 - o Alternates to Convention
Mary Vekasi
Ida Smallidge
- Ted Bromage moved passage of the slate, Ellen Gilmore seconded, and it was passed unanimously.
- Jim Vekasi presented the budget recommended by the finance committee and passed by the vestry.

BULLETS FROM JOINT VESTRY MEETINGS WITH ST. SAVIOUR

January 13, January 19, January 24

- Canon Vicki Wiederkehr presented us with the applications of seven out of 25 candidates who had applied for our joint priest-in-charge position. She and Bishop Lane separately chose the same seven.
- The vestries met at the Maine Sea Coast Mission to review the questions we would ask the candidates in upcoming telephone interviews and identify a moderator and two questioners from each parish. Both vestries, acting as the joint search committee, would be present and able to pass in additional questions. Scott Planting, executive director of MSCM, acted as a practice candidate and critiqued our questions.
- The vestries then met to review the candidates and selected three for telephone interviews. A fourth is held in reserve. Two of these four are finalists in other searches. The interviews will take place on February 1 and February 3. We hope to narrow the search to two finalists.
- Next steps will include reference and background checks, which could take several weeks, and bringing one or two finalists to the Island.

BULLETS FROM VESTRY MEETINGS

January 13 and January 19

- The vestry agreed to sell the Sawyer House for the gross sum of \$400,000. (Jan. 13).
- The Sawyer house sold for a net sum of \$380,000. The vestry expressed thanks to everyone who assisted in this process, and especially to Spencer Ervin, Ted Fletcher, Ann Cox Halkett, Chloe Hatcher, and Karen Craig.
- The vestry agreed to set aside \$40,000 of this sum to go towards the capital campaign, with the remainder to go into the unrestricted endowment.
- The vestry approved the 2012 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.
- The vestry approved the slate of officers, vestry members, and delegates and alternates to the diocesan convention proposed by the nominating committee. The slate will go to the annual meeting for final approval.

Watch for it!

An update on the Capital Campaign
Open Hearts, Open Doors
will appear in the March 2012 issue
of the Net Tender.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Epiphany 5 — February 5

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 147:1-12, 21c; Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
The Rev. Deborah Little Wyman

Epiphany 6 — February 12

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 30; 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

Last Sunday after Epiphany — February 19

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday — February 22

Noon — The Rev. Deborah Little Wyman
6:00 p.m. — The Rev. Johanna-Karen Johannson

Lent 1 — February 26

8:00 and 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
The Rev. Johanna-Karen Johannson

Thursdays: 12:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist

9:00 FORUM – Sunday, February 5

College of the Atlantic President Darron Collins

A Human Ecological Education at COA:

Adventurous Learning on Mount Desert Island

Darron Collins is the first president of COA to be born after the college was founded in 1969. Collins, who has a Ph.D. from Tulane University in New Orleans, came to COA from the World Wildlife Fund, where he served as the organization's director of creative assets.

He has served as a World Wildlife Fund managing director in the Amur River region of northeast Asia and as a senior advisor to the environmental organization's CEO, and has helped lead the group's outreach efforts. While at WWF, Collins helped raise more than \$10 million in grants and donations. Collins earned his Ph.D. studying [ethnobotany](#) in Guatemala, has researched the [Deepwater Horizon disaster](#) in the Gulf of Mexico, and has worked on leopard conservation on the Russia-North Korean border. He also has taught at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta. As a COA student, Collins received a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and a Watson Foundation Fellowship. As a Watson fellow, Collins studied the environmental and social impacts of hydroelectric dams in Latin America. Collins is an avid fly-fisherman, mountain biker, and trail marathon runner.



Debbie Little Wyman



Lynn Orville

CELEBRANTS during January



Pamela and John Van Sieten



Johanna-Karen Johannson

Birthdays

FEBRUARY

3—Michael Shook
5—Sally Hopkins
7—Andrew McMullan
11—Ella Jackson
12—Serena Young
16—Patti Murphy
23—Wesley DeCamp
28—Bob Theriault

Thank You to Members & Friends of St. John's

Debbie Little Wyman sends thanks for welcoming her into your community AND for the outpouring of gloves - you can't imagine how grateful the recipients were.

General Seminary wrote to say thank you so much for your gift and especially for your kind words about our graduates. You have indeed been blessed by some of our best.

The Wreath Committee (Ida, Edie, Susan N. and Mary M.) would like to thanks to all those who bought wreaths. We brought in \$892 for the general fund.

FARMING IN THE TROPICS

Becky Buyers returned to St. John's to worship with us on Sunday, December 11, and during the coffee hour between services was invited by the wardens to speak about her experiences over the past year, helping to establish a family farm in the mountainous rain forests of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, an island nation in the Eastern Caribbean.

She spoke about the joys and challenges of growing fruits and vegetables in a tropical climate, on steep slopes in competition with a multitude of unfamiliar pests. Working a 5-acre parcel of land historically known as Madam Ground, located on the North Leeward side of the island of St. Vincent, on the slopes of a river valley that has breathtaking views, she was part of a team that reclaimed ancient mango and citrus groves from the jungle vines and planted newly terraced beds with a variety of vegetables.

"I planted string beans I brought down from Johnny's on December 1st and we were eating beans from those plants by mid-January," she marveled. "I never did that in Maine."



WHO AM I?



Dean Henry

In addition to beans, in its first year, Madam Ground Farms produced peas, eggplant, cabbages, peppers, basil, cilantro, broccoli, cauliflower and chives, in addition to mangos, papayas, tangerines, oranges, lemons, cocoa, bananas, plantains and avocados from the trees. Becky and her new husband, whose great grandparents once worked the same land, added fields of pineapples, ginger and other root crops: eddos, Tanya, sweet potatoes, and dashine, as well as passionfruit.

Passionfruit grows on a vine, like grapes, and must be supported by trellises and pruned to keep the fruits coming. The fruit itself is a kind of hollow yellow husk when ripe, Inside the skin is a fragrant gelatinous goo that holds the seeds. Once the seeds are removed, the goo can be used to make juices, jams, and jellies, candies and the like. It is very pungent and concentrated, ideal for flavorings. They are now experimenting with recipes that use passion or other fruits to make into products that will one day bear the Madam Ground Farms label.

TREASURER'S REPORT – 2012 BUDGET

The Vestry has approved a balanced budget for 2012. Although final decisions on Clergy lie before us, we have budgeted for a full-time shared clergy for nine months and other support clergy for the entire year. Other operating expenses are budgeted as normal

Although the savings related to sharing a full-time priest-in-charge with St. Saviour's will be considerable, we once again face the challenge of raising sufficient funds to balance the operating budget. A pattern of decreasing pledge income and increasing costs is troublesome. If 2012 income does not increase from the 2011 level, we will be facing a deficit of about \$25,000. It is hoped that a combination of a new priest and the conclusion of the capital campaign will result in opportunities for increases in pledge income.

Some plans for 2012:

- Monitor pledge income carefully and continue to keep the parish aware of the status through the Net Tender and other communications.
- Continue to remember the successful "Blessings Fund." When good things happen in parishioner's lives – a grandchild, an anniversary, a windfall – we encourage you to share your happiness.
- Continue and expand Special Appeals for items beyond normal operating expenses including our annual contributions for theological education and the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund.
- Increase fund raising efforts even more. Ideas and help would be greatly appreciated.
- Increase efforts to bring in new members. Ultimately, our financial security is dependent on a strong congregation. This may be the most important long term challenge of all.

The draft 2011 status and adopted 2012 Budget summaries are shown below.

Draft 2011 Budget Statement and 2012 Budget					
	2011 Budget	2011 Actual	Actual - Budget	2012 Budget	Budget Change
INCOME					
4010 · Contributions - Pledges	\$100,000	\$89,957	-\$10,043	\$100,000	\$0
4020 · Non-Pledged Donations	\$13,000	\$8,726	-\$4,274	\$14,500	\$1,500
4025 · Blessings Fund	\$5,000	\$1,225	-\$3,775	\$3,000	-\$2,000
4050 · Investment Income to Operations	\$22,900	\$22,755	-\$145	\$23,300	\$400
5800 · Fundraising	\$19,000	\$15,244	-\$3,756	\$19,000	\$0
4100 · Dedicated Gifts	<u>\$4,836</u>	<u>\$2,989</u>	<u>-\$1,847</u>	<u>\$5,336</u>	<u>\$500</u>
Total Income	\$164,736	\$140,896	-\$23,840	\$165,136	\$400
EXPENSES					
7100 · Outreach	\$6,136	\$8,474	\$2,338	\$8,136	\$2,000
7200 · Personnel	\$108,775	\$70,940	-\$37,835	\$102,118	-\$6,657
8000 · Other Expenses	\$5,116	\$6,416	\$1,300	\$9,154	\$4,038
8200 · Facility Operations	\$19,101	\$14,152	-\$4,949	\$19,752	\$651
8650 · Assessments - Diocese of Maine	<u>\$25,608</u>	<u>\$25,607</u>	<u>-\$1</u>	<u>\$25,976</u>	<u>\$368</u>
Total Expenses	\$164,736	\$125,589	-\$39,147	\$165,136	\$400
NET INCOME	\$0	\$15,307	\$15,307	\$0	\$0

THE LIGHTER SIDE...

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments" answered the lady.



A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note, "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

The Net Tender - February 2012

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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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 March Net Tender is February 26



“NATURAL CAUSES KILLED VICTOR”

A folk opera, written by George Swanson, will be premiered at St. Saviour's on Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5. The opera relates the suffering and death of Maine prisoner Victor Valdez to the passion and death of Christ. For more information contact George Swanson at

244-0579 or george@katrinadream.org.

You are invited to consider trying out for one of the singing parts or working on the production crew. Tryouts are Sunday, February 26 at 1:00 pm at St. Saviour's Church. Call or email George for scores, libretto and information.

The opera is one way we can meet human needs - in this case people who lack food and fuel and prisoners who lack humane treatment. 100% of the proceeds raised will go for food and fuel donations on Mt. Desert Island. Donations for the production may be sent to St. Saviour's.