



The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

November 2012

I DREAM OF A CHURCH...

At our Diocesan Convention in Northpoint this weekend, much of our conversation had to do with the future of the church: The Diocese of Maine, The Episcopal Church, mainline denominations, and the Church as the Body of Christ in the world.

Many of the signs are frightening. We look at statistics and see that we are fewer in number and older in years. When asked “what is the default future of your church,” one delegate described it as “a bunch of seventy-year-olds caring for a bunch of ninety-year-olds, in a hundred-year-old building that is falling down around our ears.”

Notice that this was predicted as a default future – the future if we don’t change anything about the way we’re doing things. We keep putting out signs that say “The Episcopal Church Welcomes You,” and then wonder why only the same folks keep showing up. We keep talking the same church-talk about the same church-issues, and wonder why the world isn’t interested. We keep adopting the same budgets with a two-percent cost-of-living increase (if we’re lucky), and wonder why folks aren’t excited about the mission of the church.



As frightening as this default future is, though, change is also frightening to most of us, especially if it requires us to consider giving up some of the things that we value; some of the things that make us feel safe. Scripture is a long history of God daring the people to take risks, to give up the things that make us feel safe, in order to enter into a new adventure with God. Abram and Sarai gave up the security of Ur and went to a land they had not seen. The Hebrews gave up the security of slavery to follow a stammering fugitive into the desert; the people laid aside the idols that they had made and could control, to follow a god who did not always give them the answer wanted. The people trusted in God’s faithfulness even as the Temple was destroyed, even as the Messiah was hung on the cross to die.

Make no mistake, stepping out into God’s future will mean letting go of things that we love, even things that are good and valuable in themselves. The future of the Body of Christ may not look much like the past, and may not even look much like what we think of as church. But that’s okay, as long as we trust God more than we trust our own likes and dislikes, our own prejudices, our own fears.

Many of us have heard Bishop Lane speak about the difference between technical change (adjustments to allow us to keep doing what we have been doing in the way we have always done it, even as circumstances change) and adaptive change (re-thinking what we are called to do and how we are called to do it in new circumstances). Technical change will keep us running smoothly, right into the ground. Adaptive change will be messy, uncomfortable, will include spectacular failures, and is our chance at new life.

At the Diocesan Convention in October, the bishop invited us to participate in an exercise that was done at General Convention this past summer. We were asked to complete the sentence, “I dream of a church...” You can see examples of folks’ responses from General Convention at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaFQ0ByAQY4>, and from folks at the Maine convention at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZFN5RB9wPA>. As you listen to their answers and meditate on your own, ask yourself, “Is this a dream of a church that is just like the one we have now, only tidier and more to my taste? Or is this a dream of a church that makes me a little uncomfortable, but might actually have something to say to this world?”

COMMON LANGUAGE...

Religion, it must be understood, is not faith. Religion is the story of faith. It is an institutionalized system of symbols and metaphors (read rituals and myths) that provides a common language with which a community of faith can share with each other their numinous encounter with the Divine Presence.

Rezan Aslan, No God but God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam

One of the greatest challenges I have faced as warden has been helping to provide that “common language” that will help St. Andrew and St. John move forward as a community of faith connected to the wider community in which we live and work and “have our being.” In our tradition, that common language starts with the Bible and Book of Common Prayer, and this first and foremost a task for the attending clergy. Nonetheless, the “lay” leadership plays a significant role in telling our story: issues of music selection, placement of symbolic liturgical furniture, who serves as visiting clergy and when. These are all part of the telling of that story. Equally or more important questions of who gets to use parish facilities, what kind of support the parish extends to charities, and who is responsible for what areas of our common life sometimes fall to clergy, sometimes to lay people.

For many people, however, all of that is tiresome “inside baseball” that interferes with their “numinous encounter.” That challenge is compounded with younger generations that seem increasingly disinterested in or disconnected from those central and elemental scriptural and liturgical references. For these younger people the very idea that there is an “institutionalized system” that provides a “common language,” for connecting with God or the “numinous” may strike one as preposterous, irritating, absurd, or alternatively, liberating, comforting and surprising.

Aslan’s fascinating book on the development of Islam provides one way of seeing that these institutional concerns are human concerns that cross cultural barriers and historical periods. One can try to avoid or escape a “numinous encounter with the Divine Presence,” but in my experience, that avoidance only postpones one’s reckoning with parts of one’s life that are beyond one’s control and sometimes one’s understanding. That is when that “common language” and that “institutionalized system” may prove helpful.

Following on the completion of the addition to St. John and the calling of Tim Fleck as Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry is actively engaged in revisiting policies about building use, conducting staff reviews, and plan-

ning for the next phase of the parish’s life. The parish has made significant changes over the past three years as it tries to retain clergy and provide facilities that will help it live into God’s mission. These institutional tasks may be very important for the continued health of the parish, but they are not substitutes for finding new ways of “providing a common language” as we connect our faith with the world that surrounds us. In January, the parish will elect new lay leadership to attend to these institutional concerns and tell our common story. I hope you will consider your own leadership role and reflect prayerfully on who you think can best lead us in the year ahead.

Faithfully,
Ted Fletcher

FREE MEALS EACH WEEK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Mondays, 3-6 p.m. — *Everybody Eats*
Parish Hall of St. Dunstan’s Church
134 State Street, Ellsworth

Wednesdays, 3-6 p.m. — *Welcome Table*
First Congregational Church
2 Church Street, Ellsworth

Thursdays, 4-7 p.m.
Holy Redeemer Church
21 LedgeLawn Street, Bar Harbor

THE LIGHTER SIDE...

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle’s picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. “The Flight to Egypt,” was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, “That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who’s the fourth person?” “Oh, that’s Pontius—the pilot!”



MUSIC NOTES

For this Net Tender, I would like to share a poem of music.

Stephen Sampson

For Some of Jerome Robbins' Thoughts
Concerning Bach's Goldberg Variations

John Tagliabue

*Are those gestures
written on the waters of the world?
the mind, where is it, the memory
where is it? those graceful varied diversified unified
fluent it seems almost supernatural
curves of the arms, motions of
the hands, leaps of the beautiful bodies, very young,
fluent and remind us of respect, play, ardor,
emotions of freedom from the pressures of the will,
reminding us of thoughts that make flowers
blossom, petals in the softness and
celebration, Bach in his ascendancy, ease, perfections and
delight, a place of no graves, a source
of beginnings in Eden, the seed of
innocence, songs that bodies make to remind us of
angels, diversity in light's music,
the many in the One.*



ST. SAVIOUR'S PRESENTS CHORAL EVENSONG and TAIZÉ SERVICE

A Choral Evensong—St. Saviour's Episcopal Parish, 41 Mt. Desert Street in Bar Harbor will present a service of Evensong on Sunday, November 4th at 4:00 pm. This Anglican form of sung Evening Prayer will feature the St. Saviour's Festival Singers, conducted by Julia Morris-Myers. Music will include works by Michael Praetorius, Edward Bairstow, and modern composers Gerald Near and Richard Shephard. After the service there will be a wine and cheese reception and an open house at the rectory hosted by Tim Fleck and his partner Bob Schmeler. There is no charge for Evensong and all are welcome. St. Saviour's is handicap-accessible.

The Taizé service will be at 7:00 pm on Friday, November 16th. The Taizé style of chant reflects both the simplicity of life of the abbey, and our community's commitment to an all-embracing, ecumenical approach to ritual and prayer. The service moves gently, ebbing and flowing through its succession of chants, silent reflection, and the reading of scripture. Silence is key to the service, allowing us to be not only active in the voicing of our prayer, but contemplative in our openness to hear and experience the compassionate, forgiving Christ, whose image we see beckoning peace and reconciliation. Come experience another form of worship with members of the community.

WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY ANNUAL APPEAL

Nearly 400 Westside Food Pantry appeal letters have been sent out by the food pantry committee. For over 20 years, our community has responded very generously to the annual appeal letter. Thank you to Barbara Campbell, Dianne McMullan, Karen Craig, Marilyn Mays and Linda Lewis for the hours spent writing notes and addressing and stuffing envelopes. Approximately 50% of our funding comes from the annual appeal letter.

Susan Buell and Dean Henry

FOOD PANTRY QUILT RAFFLE

Tim Fleck drew the winning ticket on Sunday, October 21st for the Westside Food Pantry Quilt Raffle. The winner, Pat McAfee, was thrilled to learn she had won and picked up her prize quilt right off the piano the very next day. Pat lives in Bass Harbor and is a quilter herself. In fact, at the moment I called her to tell her she had won, Pat was sewing with her quilt group! We are very grateful to the Island Quilters who made the quilt and donated it to us as a way to raise money for the Westside Food Pantry. And raise money we did! Thanks to the hard work of our ticket sellers and thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised almost \$1900. Thank you raffle sellers: Dianne McMullan, Barbara Campbell, Floy Ervin, Neela Zinsser, Mary Vekasi, Patsy Fogarty, Jayne Ashworth, Dot Meade, Louise Rich and Marilyn Mays.

Susan Buell



OCTOBER 14—MDI MARATHON finish line in front of St. John's



Doris Walton, Ted Bromage, Spencer Ervin ready to cheer on runners in the rain!

SUPPLY CLERGY AT ST. JOHN'S DURING OCTOBER



Debbie Little Wyman



Persis Williams

REMINDERS...

George Swanson's Opera, *Victor Died of Natural Causes*, has been postponed until next year. Watch for updates in the future!

Vestry Retreat: Friday and Saturday, November 2-3 at Maine Seacoast Mission jointly with St. Saviour's.

Serendipity in Bar Harbor is looking for more clothing donations: nearly new or slightly worn men's, children's and women's clothing of all sizes; plus shoes, purses, bags, hats, scarves and any jewelry. Please make donations during open hours Tuesday & Wednesday 12-4, Thursday 12-7, Friday 12-3, Saturday 10-4, or call 288-2000.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

All Saints Day, November 4

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 24; Wisdom 3:1-9; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44
Dr. Kay Collier McLaughlin, preaching

Pentecost 24, November 11

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 127; Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Pentecost 25, November 18

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
1 Samuel 2:1-10; 1 Samuel 1:4-20; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8
The Rev. Tim Fleck

Thanksgiving Day, November 22

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 126; Joel 2:21-27; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33
The Rev. Tim Fleck

Christ the King, November 25

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 93; Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37
The Rev. Lynn Orville

Advent 1, December 2

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 25:1-9; Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
The Rev. Tim Fleck

Thursdays: 12:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist

ADVENT DISCUSSION GROUP

Come to St John's on Wednesday mornings from 10:30-12:00 for some lively discussions around themes of Advent. Using poetry and our lived experiences, we will explore:

- Making space for God
- Expectations of change
- Living between "the world" and hope
- Possibilities for new birth

The four sessions, beginning November 28 (the week before Advent begins) and ending December 19, will be facilitated by Sarah Flynn. No preparation required. Come to one or all four sessions prepared for good discussion with a focus on how we can bring Christmas more fully into our lives and our communities.

9:00 AM SUNDAY FORUMS

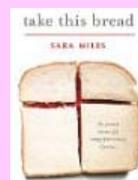
November 4: Parish Town Meeting

November 11: TBA

November 18: *Take This Bread*, 2nd session (Tim Fleck)

Books for this discussion are available in the meeting room for \$15

November 25: TBA



Birthdays

NOVEMBER

511—Vanessa Pinkham
12—Joseph Fallica
14—Winthrop Short
15—Elke O'Donnell
16—Elisabeth Buell
18—Ellen Gilmore
22—Ann Cox Halkett
22—Kathryn Hiscock
25—Spencer Ervin
26—Michele Daley
29—Floy Ervin

Wedding Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

23—Bob & Elaine Theriault

NOTE FROM THE REV. DEBORAH McKEAN

As part of her Diocesan ministry, The Rev. Deborah McKean consulted with our Capital Campaign Committee about fundraising for our expansion project. (She was delighted with our success.) She sent a postcard before she and her husband left for California where they live in the winter. It reads:

*“Dear friends at St. John the Divine,
On the eve of our departure for CA, I send you my congratulations and blessings on this beautiful new addition that you have created to the glory of God! I'm glad to have had a tiny part in this project in its early stages. I'll come and worship there next summer!*

*With love,
Rev. Deborah McKean”*

Joan Bromage



TENTATIVE UPCOMING EVENTS

Merchants Open Evening in Southwest Harbor, Friday, December 7th. St Andrew & St. John will be offering some type of Open House food event.

Feast of St. John (week after Christmas) we will have a Parish party to celebrate the end of construction of our new/renewed spaces.

All are in the planning stages so please watch the weekly email and bulletin for updates.

Dianne McMullan

REQUEST FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS

In 2010 the four Episcopal parishes on the island collected approximately 2,000 Christmas cards for prisoners incarcerated at Jessup Prison in Jessup, Maryland? Chaplain Reginald Bellamy would like cards again to give to the prisoners so they can send Christmas greetings home to their families. A decorated box/basket is in each of the four Episcopal churches on Mount Desert Island. Please put new Christmas cards in the box.

Cards that you donate could be the leftover cards from previous years or a new box. Please place Christmas cards in the box between October 28 and November 14. The cards will be mailed on November 15 in time for distribution. Thank-you very much. If you need more information please contact Mary Vekasi (244-3499)

mary.vekasi@gmail.com

Mary Vekasi



CHRISTMAS FAIR AT ST. DUNSTAN'S

Saturday, November 17 – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm - Christmas Fair in the Parish Hall of St. Dunstan's Church, 134 State Street, Ellsworth. Come do your Christmas shopping and find a few things you can't live without for yourself! Decorations, jewelry, books, sporting goods, games, household goods, Christmas Basket Raffle - everything you need to make a great Holiday Season! Enjoy a delicious lunch served from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm to refresh you as well!

193rd ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF MAINE

Then I Saw a New Heaven and a New Earth

Mary Mitchell and Margot Haertel represented the Parish of St. Andrew and St. John as delegates to the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Maine on October 26 and 27. The convention was held in a lovely wooded campus and convention center at Point Lookout in Northport.

On Friday the agenda included committee hearings on resolutions, finance and canons. Optional workshops were offered and included workshops on stewardship, mental illness, missions, domestic violence, health ministry, etc. Activities included participation in the convention choir and walks. There were many booths by organizations (UTO, ERD, etc) to visit, and the Cathedral Shop was open for business.



Convention began with a procession of congregations and prayers. Mary and Tim+ walked in the procession carrying our new St. Andrew and St. John banner. (Thanks to Anne Wetzel and Ted Bromage for providing the banner and holder.)

First order of business was election of officers. Ted Fletcher was nominated by Margot Haertel (representing St. Andrew and St. John) to be lay deputy to Provincial Synod. Ted was duly elected to that position. The evening

concluded with a social gathering, dinner and a fire-side Compline.

Saturday began with a foggy sunrise worship service at the summit of Point Lookout. The convention resumed at 8:00 am with Morning Prayer and was followed by a focus on resolutions. Resolutions on lay compensation for 2013 and clergy compensation for 2013 were both adopted as were resolutions on revisions to canon 14 and 15. Resolution # 4, which was about Palestinian and Israeli peace, required extended debate, as did resolution # 9, which focused on people living in poverty. The 2013 Diocesan budget was passed.

A note of sadness prevailed as St. Matthias' Episcopal Church in Richmond, Maine, forfeited the right of representation at Convention. On a happier note, St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Boothbay, Maine, was admitted into union with the Convention by vote of the Convention. Noonday prayer was celebrated. The Convention resumed in the afternoon and ended with Holy Eucharist.

Mary and Margot would be glad to answer any questions concerning the Convention. Please check out the website for Bishop Steve's address and information about resolutions adopted.

Margot Haertel

Delegate of Diocesan Convention

Visit www.episcopalmaine.org for results on elections, resolutions and the 2013 budget.

THANKSGIVING BASKET DISTRIBUTION

Once again, the Bar Harbor Congregational Church will supply Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets to be distributed through the Bar Harbor Food Pantry and Westside Food Pantry. Help is needed to pick-up the baskets in Bar Harbor and deliver them to the Southwest Harbor Fire Station on **Monday, November 19th late afternoon**, and help in distributing the baskets to our clients on **Tuesday, November 20th from 10 AM to 12 noon**.

Please contact Dean Henry with offers of help at 664-8615, or deanhenry27@gmail.com.

Thank you, *Dean Henry*



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St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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

Priest-in-Charge

Timothy Fleck

Music Director

Stephen Sampson

Parish Administrator

Michele Daley

Editors

Jayne Ashworth

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 Dec/Jan Net Tender is December 2



"Halloween is over, Bub. It's All Saints Day. Beat it!"