



The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

December 2012 & January 2013

FOR THE TIME BEING

*Darkness and snow descend;
The clock on the mantelpiece
Has nothing to recommend,
Nor does the face in the glass
Appear nobler than our own
As darkness and snow descend
On all personality.*

W.H. Auden,

“For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio” (excerpt) 1942



Many of us experience tension and anxiety this time of year. Days grow shorter, nights get colder, and it seems as though our homes get smaller, closer, feeling either cozy and peaceful or claustrophobic. This can be a time to reconnect with our spouse and family without the distractions of summer, but in close quarters we can't hide from the tensions between us, either. And if friends and family are far away, loneliness can be compounded.

And of course there is pressure around the holidays themselves. Do we have the “right” gifts? Can we afford what we're expected to spend? Will our family feast be as spectacular as it's supposed to be? Will our family and friends, also under pressure, behave themselves? Will we feel as happy and fulfilled as the commercials and greeting cards tell us we should?

Voices in the church remind us that Advent brings its own special gifts, and encourage us to opt out of consumerist frenzy and keep Advent as a season of quiet contemplation and anticipation. But even this advice can cause stress; as several online articles have recently expressed (http://www.episcopalcafe.com/lead/evangelism/on_looking_down_our_noses_at_t.html and http://www.episcopalcafe.com/lead/faith_and_culture/shamefilled_advent.html), it is not particularly helpful for the church to scold us for “ruining Advent” just because we enjoy feasting and gift-giving, or because we like to put up lights and decorations more than two days before Christmas. In fact, we may find ourselves in the paradoxical state of worrying that we are not relaxed enough.

The fact is Advent has tension built into it. It is a season that carries within it beginnings and endings: the beginning of the church year, the anticipation of the birth of the Christ child, as well as dire promises of the Day of the Lord, when this world will be both judged and redeemed. Advent is four weeks that stretch from before creation to the end of time, that pull our focus from the local-interest story of an unmarried pregnant small-town girl, to the nationalist dreams of an occupied people, to the cosmic consummation of creation's relationship with God.

Advent is a time to consider the mystery of the Incarnation: that the same God who created humanity chose to become human, fully human, truly human, while remaining fully and truly God. This is a fundamental contradiction that is at the heart of our faith. It is no wonder that our response to it is a little bit bipolar.

And perhaps, therefore, it is perfectly appropriate for us to feel pulled between joy and anxiety, between loneliness and claustrophobia, between expectant waiting and instant gratification, between self-emptying and self-indulgence – indeed, to feel pulled between the poles of heaven and earth. We are pulled, not just because of the tension at the center of Advent, but because of the tension at the center of what it means to be human: dust and clay, but just a little lower than the angels.

*...To those who have seen
The Child, however dimly, however incredulously,
The Time Being is, in a sense, the most trying time of all.*

W.H. Auden, “For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio” (excerpt) 1942

SENIOR WARDEN BIDS AU REVOIR

"To be a witness does not consist in engaging in propaganda or even in stirring people up, but in being a living mystery; it means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist."

- Emmanuel Célestin Suhard

As I end my second and last term as your senior warden, I want to express my profound thanks to all in the Parish for your trust in me, your care for our common life together, and for your abiding friendship.

I have found the last four years "full" and on reflection immensely rewarding, often in subtle ways that only become clearer with the passage of time. These past four years have been unusual because I served as the "ecclesiastical authority" for the parish during two and a half of those four years. I hope I was humble and gracious in carrying out that role. This, my last column for the *Net Tender*, provides an opportunity to account for how I approached the role of warden, to explain how I went about writing this column, to look back over some highlights during four years of transition, and to give thanks again.

By personality and profession, I am resistant to change, perhaps more than most people. But as your warden, I have tried to approach your ideas, proposals, new directions starting with 'yes' and 'why not' rather than 'that's the way we've always done it,' or the 'Church/Bishop/canon/rubric says so.' There is much wisdom in those resources, but we are all in new territory, too.

Quite unlike any other organization, today a parish requires the engagement and participation of everyone, at some time, in some way. That calls for skills in "collaborative" leadership, recognition of institutional strengths and history, and an ability to anticipate future challenges: "who are we, where have we been, what baggage are we carrying/ what might we jettison, where are we going?"

More broadly, the Episcopal Church has crossed an intersection of significant transformations in mission, liturgy, governance, theological emphasis, and the effects of diminished financial resources. Looked at another way, for fifty years the Church has been digesting and absorbing social transformations in race and ethnic relations, the full inclusion of women and minorities in leadership, sexuality and its appropriate expression, and a change in how we view our natural environment as not just another source for exploitation. Just as one might want to take a post-lunch nap, much of the Church's digestion has been an internal process that has neglected to account for or engage with the lives of younger people who have little understanding of or patience with that history. Coupled with these societal changes has been a transformation of our relationship with clergy, putting to rest any idea that we could 'out-source' our spiritual well-being to paid agents in another realm.

That's not to cast aspersions on the distinct vocations and leadership of our deacons, priests, and bishops, but to recognize that they too wrestle with new models of ministry.

With that historical context in mind, I reported at the St. Andrew & St John Annual Meeting in 2010 that we needed to adapt its facilities for an expanding and changing role in the community, to work closely with our sister parishes, to do that before calling new clergy, to continue serving the community through the Food Pantry and other ministries, and that we needed to examine systemic issues in our relationship with clergy and each other. In other words we could not wait for a search process to deliver to us the person to accomplish these transformations. We did that ~ all of it, in the course of three years. That we succeeded so abundantly in meeting all of those goals is a tribute first to providence, second to the Vestry, and then to the generosity and commitment of this Parish. To the extent I had a hand in that success, I am immensely grateful and gratified.

You may find it counterintuitive that I would ramble in these monthly columns on topics that often seemed only remotely (at best) connected to these five goals. Every month bits of flotsam and jetsam would remind me of my faith and the life of this congregation. Usually this was something I read, but it might involve overhearing a tune or comment, encountering a blooming rose bush in late October, bird song, a movie, a cartoon, etc. Then I would try to incorporate that experience into an examination of my faith, the life of the parish, and these five over-arching goals or themes. In re-reading some of them, I find some are pretty good and others 'not so very good.'

In short, my thesis is: God throws me surprises, as I (we?) encounter God in the natural world around us, in our artistic creations, especially music, in humor, and in each of you, our parish family. They are, of course, informed by my Latitudinarian attitude and an incarnational theology.

Over the course of four years, I was often surprised to find that many people read them, passed them along like "samizdat," that they left some impression.

Writing these columns became one of my great joys in serving as your Warden. I hope this one form of witness has been a suitable testament to the living mystery among us.

Ted Fletcher

When you next look up at the night sky, remember George Herbert's poem copied on page 3.

The Starre
George Herbert

Bright spark, shot from a brighter place,
Where beams surround my Saviours face,
Canst thou be any where
So well as there?

Yet, if thou wilt from thence depart,
Take a bad lodging in my heart;
For thou canst make a debter,
And make it better.

First with thy fire-work burn to dust
Folly, and worse then folly, lust:
Then with thy light refine,
And make it shine.

So disengag'd from sinne and sicknesse,
Touch it with thy celestiall quicknesse,
That it may hang and move
After thy love.

Then with our trinitie of light,
Motion, and heat, let's take our flight
Unto the place where thou
Before didst bow.

Get me a standing there, and place
Among the beams, which crown the face
Of him, who dy'd to part
Sinne and my heart:

That so among the rest I may
Glitter, and curle, and winde as they:
That winding is their fashion
Of adoration.

Sure thou wilt joy, by gaining me
To flie home like a laden bee
Unto that hive of beams
And garland-streams.

ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE

The Sea Coast Mission in Bar Harbor once again welcomes the community to their annual Advent Vespers Service on Sunday, December 9th at 4:30 pm at the Mission's Colket Center. The liturgy is a beautiful, melodic, contemporary (and participatory) evening prayer setting composed by Marty Haugen. Local cantors and musicians will lead, and there is no cost to attend.

HELLO FROM NEW MEMBERS

My husband Michael and I wanted to introduce ourselves to you all as new members. We are the DaCosta family: Candace, Michael and our 2 year old son Jackson. We live in Southwest Harbor and have for almost a year now, not too long, but long enough to know that we love it! Michael works for the Jackson Laboratory, which is what brought us up this way last January. I have the wonderful blessing of being able to be a stay at home Mom for Jackson. Neither Michael nor I were brought up Episcopalian, (he's Catholic and I'm Lutheran), and Jackson was baptized within the Lutheran church. However, we felt such a sense of community at the St. John parish that we knew this is where we wanted to share our faith. We want Jackson brought up within a community that is accepting and welcoming of all people and are so happy we have found that here.

Michael, Candace and Jackson DaCosta



Though I have been worshiping with you for some time, like the DaCosta family, I am now a member of the parish. My husband Dave and I moved here "officially" this past summer. We have been coming to the Island on vacation for over 20 years. I tell people that some people show their children the world, we showed our daughter (who lives near Boston, MA, with her husband) Mount Desert Island summer after summer after summer. I retired from answering questions about how to work on computers at the University of Virginia in late April 2010, at the same time that my husband retired from engineering. We moved here from Charlottesville, Virginia. I grew up a Presbyterian, found myself in a United Methodist congregation in Virginia for many years, and am excited to be a member of this Episcopal parish. I, too, feel a huge sense of family here and am excited and happy to be a part of you!

Jayne Ashworth

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Got a Master's Degree from The University of Iowa
- Went to China for 6 weeks with a cultural exchange program
- Have a collection of African Makonde wood carvings
- Have no children but have 9 grandchildren
- On 12-12-12, I will be 66

Who Am I?

NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

With a particularly music-filled season upon us, the various keyboard instruments at St. Andrew and St. John have been spruced up. David Wallace, of David E. Wallace & Co., LLC Pipe Organ Builders (Gorham, Maine), and his crew recently made the trek to Southwest Harbor and tuned and repaired Greta, our 1885 Hook and Hastings pipe organ. They fixed a pedal note that had not been working, and also eliminated some of the extraneous noises that venerable pipe organs sometimes emit.

The Voss baby grand piano, which had gone badly out of tune during the temperature and humidity changes over the past several months, was tuned by Paul Dickson, a piano technician and organist who lives in Bass Harbor. Paul also repaired three notes in the lower reaches of the keyboard by tightening the pins that hold the strings in place. The pins had been loose, and consequently those notes had been continually under pitch. The piano has also been wearing a large quilt recently, donated for this purpose by Mary Vekasi. The goal of covering the piano with a quilt is to muffle the sound, as this piano is very bright, particularly for a relatively small space.

The Estey reed organ at St. Andrew—Eloise—is resting comfortably this winter. Eloise is probably feeling a sense of accomplishment, having been registered with ‘The Reed Organ Society’ last summer (www.reedsoc.org). Eloise’s registration number is 4577. It is unlikely that Eloise will be lonely this winter, as several families of mice are known to take up residence inside Eloise with the close of the summer season. This does not harm Eloise, but it would be nice if the mice cleaned up after themselves.

Stephen Sampson

This Net Tender entry closes with a poem.

Sonnet IV. How Many Bards Gild The Lapses Of Time!



How many bards gild the lapses of time!
A few of them have ever been the food
Of my delighted fancy,—I could brood
Over their beauties, earthly, or sublime:
And often, when I sit me down to rhyme,
These will in throngs before my mind intrude:
But no confusion, no disturbance rude
Do they occasion; 'tis a pleasing chime.
So the unnumbered sounds that evening store;
The songs of birds—the whispering of the leaves—
The voice of waters—the great bell that heaves
With solemn sound,—and thousand others more,
That distance of recognizance bereaves,
Makes pleasing music, and not wild uproar.

John Keats (1795 – 1821)



YWCA NEEDS HELP



The Bar Harbor YWCA is seeking donations of new, unused, unwrapped books, toys, and clothes for children ages 2-5. The items will be sent to a child care center in New York City that was flooded by Hurricane Sandy. United Way is cleaning and restoring the physical facility, and your gifts will be used to provide gifts for the children when the child care center re-opens before the holidays. Please take your gift to the Bar Harbor YWCA before December 10.

FEAST OF ST. JOHN

We will be celebrating the Feast of St. John on Sunday, December 30 with a Parish brunch after the 10:00 service. Our meal will celebrate the end of our construction/renovation. Details will follow, but please mark your calendars now and plan to join us.

Dianne McMullan



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Advent 1, December 2

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

Advent 2, December 9

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist
Canticle 16; Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Advent 3, December 16

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist
Canticle 9; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
The Rev. Tim Fleck

Advent 4, December 23

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist
Canticle 3 or 15 or Psalm 80:1-7; Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55
The Rev. Johanna Johannson

Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 p.m. — Family Eucharist at St. Saviour's
The Rev. Lynn Orville
4:00 p.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John's
10:00 p.m.—Choral Eucharist at St. Saviour's
The Rev. Tim Fleck

Christmas Day, December 25

7:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. Saviour's
10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. John's
The Rev. Tim Fleck

The Feast of St. John, December 30

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist
Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14; Exodus 33:18-23; 1 John 1:1-9; John 21:19b-24
The Rev. Tim Fleck

The Epiphany, January 6, 2013

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
The Rev. Lynn Orville

Baptism of Christ, January 13, 2013

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist
Psalm 29; Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
The Rev. Johanna Johannson

Epiphany 2, January 20, 2013

Annual Meeting to follow service

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist
Psalm 36:5-10; Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
The Rev. Tim Fleck

Epiphany 3, January 27, 2013

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist
Psalm 19; Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
Clergy TBA

Thursdays: 12:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist

December 27 — no service

December 13 and January 17—Morning Prayer

Birthdays

DECEMBER

- 3—Ginny Agar
- 4—Vicky Vendrell
- 12—Scott Hatcher

JANUARY

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

Wedding Anniversaries

DECEMBER

- 21—Peter and Judith Obbard

JANUARY

- 22—Paul and Margot Haertel

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 19th, 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.

ELISE FELTON RECEIVES AWARD

Elise Felton has received the State of Maine Award from the New England Wild Flower Society. The award is given each year for significant contributions to the preservation of native plants. Elise was selected for her work with the Partners for Plants Program, Wild Gardens of Acadia and Asticou Azalea Garden. The New England Wild Flower Society, founded in 1900, is the nation's oldest plant conservation organization.

NEWS OF PARISHONERS

- Barry Pollard has moved from her apartment at Birch Bay to a room in their Safe Harbor section.
- Emmet and Betty Whittlesey are now living in Massachusetts near their son Sandy, who lives in Deerfield... Emmet is undergoing rehabilitation and therapy; last month he broke a bone in his back and has been living with great pain. Hopefully he will be able to join Betty in the assisted living facility where she is now (contact the Church office for her USPS address.)
- Tina Baker will have moved to Sonogee, hopefully, by the time you read this. She will receive speech and physical therapy there to help her condition improve. Visits from friends will play a big part in her support. We'll work on coordinating visits, and support for Bill and the family.

Joan Bromage

THE LIGHTER SIDE...

A Father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

●●●●●●●●

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign..."Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

WHO AM I?



Scott Hatcher

CONGREGATIONAL PASTORAL CARE NEWS

On Sunday, November 18, parishioners of St. Saviour's and St. Andrew & St. John bid farewell to The Rev. Jenny Reece who developed and coordinated the ministry of the CPC since its formation. Joan Bromage, from St. Andrew & St. John, and Marsha Lyons, from St. Saviour's, will be meeting this week with Fr. Tim to see how we can strengthen this ministry to assist him and to be available to parishioners who are in the hospital, have family needs, or support in any other ways needed. All the committee will next gather on Wednesday, January 16, 6:30 p.m., at St. John's to share our experiences and learn from Fr. Tim and each other how we can best serve our parishes. Please share with us your own concerns and please let any member of the committee know if there's someone who needs some help--a visit, a meal, with our prayers.

St. John's -- Jayne Ashworth, Joan Bromage, Dianne McMullan, Jean Rohrer.

St. Saviour's -- Sue Blaisdell, Sarah Flynn, Linda Foster, Marsha Lyons, Carmen Greene, Diane Phipps, Pamela Smith, Lucy Triplett

Joan Bromage

JIM VEKASI RECEIVES AWARD

Jim Vekasi was recently presented with the Meritorious Service Award by the U.S. Department of Interior. Meritorious Service Awards: are the second highest honorary recognition granted to employees in DOI. It is presented for an important contribution to science or management, a notable career, superior service in administration or in the execution of duties, or initiative in devising new and improved work methods and procedures. A special certificate and citation signed by the Secretary, as well as an engraved silver Meritorious Service medal and silver lapel pin are presented to recipients by their Bureau or Office head. More information can be found on the

website at: <http://home.nps.gov/applications/digest/printheadline.cfm?type=PeopleNews&id=3736>



FALL VESTRY BULLETS

- There was a joint Vestry Retreat held at the Maine Seacoast Mission the first weekend in November. It was led by Dr. Kay McLaughlin from Lexington, KY. The focus was effective leadership through understanding our churches' patterns and ourselves. It was a wonderful opportunity for the two Vestries to come together and learn more about each other's differences and similarities.
- The work of the Design and Construction Committee is nearing completion.
- A Building and Grounds Committee will be set up to handle building maintenance.
- The need for wheelchair seating in the Nave is being discussed.
- Employee Reviews have been completed.
- The two parishes are in a discussion about what is needed in the way of more Clergy help.

Chloe Hatcher



KITCHEN FUND

As we near completion of the kitchen makeover, we find that we are in need of funds to finish stocking cook-wear, pots & pans, etc. If you would like to participate in this endeavor, please make a donation by check to St. John's marked "Kitchen Fund." After we have received your gifts, Barbara Campbell will shop for and gift wrap needed items. We will then have a "Shower" where we can all unwrap our presents and say "Thanks Be To God!" for our new kitchen to be enjoyed by all.

Dianne McMullan

The Net Tender - November 2012

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

315 Main Street • P.O. Box 767 • Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

Phone: Church Office 207-244-3229; Tim Fleck 207-812-8362

E-mail: saints315@myfairpoint.net / tim@mdi-episcopal.org

Website: www.saintsmdi.org

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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CHRISTMAS FAIR...LUNCH...WREATHS

December 8th – 8:00 to 2:00



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 27

Merry  *Christmas*