

The Net Tender - March 2013

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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The Net Tender

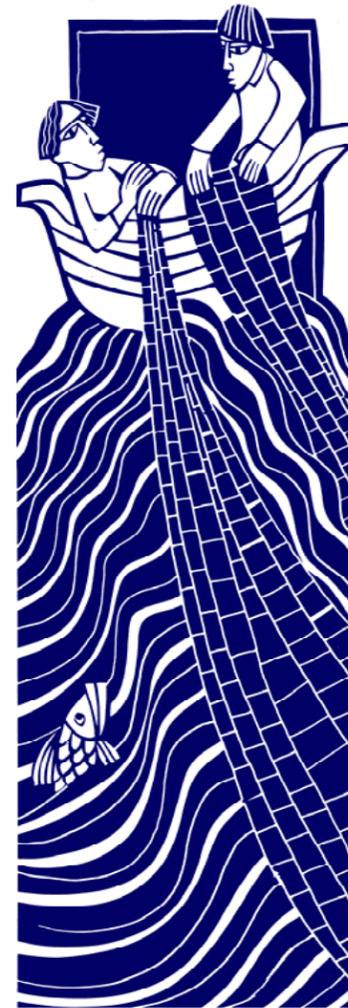
Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

March 2013

EXPERIMENT

The first time I spoke with anyone about St. Andrew and John and St. Saviour, I remember hearing about “The Experiment” – even in the phone conversation, I could hear the Capital E – whereby the four parishes of MDI cooperated more closely over the course of a year, sharing clergy and resources, coordinating worship and other events. I remember being told that some folks were more enthusiastic about The Experiment than others, and that at the end of the year, two parishes decided to pursue a closer relationship, while two other parishes determined that they preferred to stay with the status quo from before The Experiment. I’m sure that some feathers were ruffled, some folks weren’t happy with the outcome, and some folks thought it was terrific and should have gone on forever.

As many of you have already heard, your vestry has decided to try another experiment. At the Annual Meeting in January, a number of members commented on how much they enjoyed having one Sunday service where they could see the whole community together. As those folks continued to talk, some of them brought the idea to their vestry members, who put the question on the agenda of the regular meeting February 21.



There was much discussion about the merit of a single service for a church our size, as well as the faithfulness of the regular attenders of the 8:00 service. Ultimately, though, what the conversation came down to was the idea of experiment.

The vestry talked about the possibility of delaying the experiment for a month to gather opinions, but came to the conclusion that there is little point in gathering feedback before doing the experiment. At this point, people can only respond to the experience they know.

We know what it feels like to be a community with two Sunday services: we’ve been doing it for a decade or so. We know what it feels like to have different worship rhythms in summer and winter, and we know what it feels like to have combined services on special occasions like the Annual Meeting. We don’t really know what it feels like to have one service as the regular routine for a significant chunk of Sundays. Even for those who remember the days before the second service was added, the community is significantly different than it was in 2002.

At the end of the experiment in May, the vestry will solicit feedback from the congregation. I have my own guesses about what that feedback will look like, but the point of the experiment is that guesses beforehand are only guesses. Real feedback comes from real experience. Real discernment comes from openness to the speaking of the Holy Spirit, and we cannot presume to anticipate that voice.

The idea for this experiment came from members of the congregation and was brought forward through the vestry, but speaking as your priest there are a few things that I will promise you. First of all, that this experiment is genuinely open-ended. This is not simply a way to force through a permanent change (if I thought it were, I would have opposed it). I ask that you commit to listening for the Spirit, being open-minded

INSIDE:

Anniversaries/Birthdays	6
Ash Preparation	7
ERD	4
Organist	4
Lenten Study	4
Library	6
Marriage & Celebration	7
Musical Evening	4
Prose and Poetry	6
Prayer Group	4
Rector’s Notes	1-2
Requiem	4
Sr. Warden	2
St. John’s Bell	3
Vestry Bullets	
Westside Food Pantry	7



“Give me a break, Harold—You haven’t been fasting *that* long.”

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 April Net Tender is March 24

FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN: FAQ #1

“Are you a cradle Episcopalian?”

That’s a tricky one! I’ll have to answer “yes” because I was duly baptized as an infant at an Episcopal Church in Morristown NJ with appropriate godparents and, I’m sure, the best of intentions. There was no attempt at church attendance after that; my parents ran a small travel agency in New York City and they escaped each weekend to a large rambling house on a little pond near Litchfield, CT.

The girls’ school I went to had a daily chapel service and the words to the hymn or hymns of the day were hung on a large screen, much as one would pull down for a class room map. We sang them with enthusiasm and I’m sure that my love of hymn singing dates back to those years.

Beginning in the 7th grade I lived with my grandmother in Litchfield where she regularly attended the Congregational Church. It seemed the right thing to do to go with her but I don’t recall making any connections there. My uncle and his wife lived nearby and suggested that I come to the Episcopal church with them one Sunday. To my great surprise two of the cutest boys in the 7th grade were acolytes! Would you call that a conversion experience? Whatever you want to call it, I was convinced that this was the church for me...and I haven’t looked back!

Boarding school (Miss Hall’s in Pittsfield, MA) followed and weekly church attendance was very much a part of life. Hatted and gloved we boarded the bus for either the Episcopal or Congregational church (the few Roman Catholics must have gone by taxi). Hymn singing continued at various in school events and there was a weekly bible passage to memorize. All routine, solid “stuff” but nothing that made me think or question. The one spark was provided by a teacher who taught a course on St. Paul our junior year and communicated a contagious love of and enthusiasm for his letters.

College in Cambridge MA was a great time to explore various options...or none. My roommate was a Unitarian and we had occasional excursions to King’s Chapel in Boston. Sunday mornings frequently got taken up with other things but we did establish a pattern of attending the brief non-denominational service at Memorial Chapel every morning at 8:45 under the leadership of Rev. George Buttrick who brought in the great minds of the university to challenge and stimulate us. His influence, and that of the professor teaching an introductory

humanities course led me to major in philosophy and to seek answers to the eternal questions...ones that I am still asking.

“Cradle Episcopalian”? Not in the traditional sense up to that point. No Sunday School, no Christmas pageants, no church picnics, but enough seeds planted over the years to continually draw me back to see what fruit might develop. Next month I’ll explore more of where the story goes.

Bunny Watts

EXPERIMENT *(continued from page 1)*
and honest in your feedback, and I promise that feedback will be taken seriously.

Secondly, the outcome of this experiment will NOT be decided by a majority vote. The early service will almost certainly always be smaller than the principal service, and this is not a popularity contest. At the end of the experiment, if there is a significant felt need for the early service, it will come back, period. And I want to be very clear that this experiment does not in any way affect the schedule of summer worship at St. Andrew.

So, I invite you to enter thoughtfully and prayerfully into this period of experiment, beginning on the Third Sunday in Lent (March 3) and ending on Pentecost Sunday (May 19). We will all worship together at 9:00 AM. When forums are scheduled, they will follow the service. I would also highly recommend the Thursday 12:30 PM Eucharist as a time of centering in the middle of the week.

I know that this experiment will be stressful for many of us, and I hope that you will continue to feel welcome to come to me with your concerns. I hope that we will all be able to relax, to look, listen and feel, and to experiment without fear.

Tim+



A video of the wedding can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ud1guV0mHws&feature=youtu.be>

A FESTIVE POTLUCK SUPPER to celebrate the marriage of Tim and Bob will be held at Bill Baker’s home, Bass Harbor, Rt. 102, across from Tremont elementary school, on Wednesday, March 6, at 5:30 p.m. Please bring the beverage of your choice and either hors d’oeuvres, main dish or salad to share. RSVP to Joan Bromage (244-3227) or joan@bromage.us. Questions, call Bunny Watts (244-3699) or bhgables@aol.com

PREPARING THE ASHES

Ever wonder where the ashes used in the Ash Wednesday service originate?

They are made by burning the ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday palms.

Ted Bromage does this service for us, and this year provided us with pictures of the process.

These are some images I took while preparing the 2012 palms to become 2013 ashes. The process starts with cutting last year's palms into 8" strips and loading them into a home made retort (a piece of 1" iron pipe with end caps, 1 of them vented). The loaded retort is placed in the coals of a roaring woodstove for several hours.

In the process the biomass (palms) are first converted to char, releasing methane and tar rich in polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (thank you Wikipedia!) which shoots out from the vented end like a blow torch. Once cooled down the char is then ground with a mortar and pestle, thence strained, and are ready for Ash Wednesday imposition.

Ted Bromage

WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

February 2013 was our largest month this year in dollar value of vouchers distributed (\$15,510). We had four returning neighbors who had not drawn vouchers this season, but now need to do so. One man suggested that funds are running low, especially with work slowing down and heating bills mounting. He was sad to be back to the Pantry, but grateful that we were there. As is our custom, we are making plans for a special distribution for Easter.

Dean Henry

WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY GIFT GIVING IDEA

For birthdays, anniversaries, graduations or other celebrations, we offer gift cards stating, "A Donation to the Westside Food Pantry has been made in your honor". To obtain a gift card please contact Susan Buell 244-3124 or scovino@prexar.com

Birthdays

MARCH

3—Jackson DaCosta
 13—Hannah Worcester
 14—Vonnie Bell
 14—Penny Place
 15—Kathryn Wake
 19—Becky Buyers
 20—Ann Kidder
 26—Jean Storce

Wedding Anniversaries

MARCH

3—Peggy and Gene Walls

THE "SOUNDS" OF MUSIC From Bach to Broadway

A benefit Evening of Song and Piano
for the Westside Food Pantry

Soprano, Bonnie Hersey
Pianist, Stephen Sampson

Saturday, March 9th, 7:00pm, St John Church
(snow date March 16th)

Reception to follow

Suggested donation - \$10.00

All proceeds go to the Westside Food Pantry
Questions? Susan Buell scovino@prexar.com



ST. JOHN'S LIBRARY

St. John's possesses a fine collection of books. A small committee has sorted them once and will do so again. The book shelves Bill Voorhies built for them were in the undercroft and have been removed. The Vestry would appreciate suggestions for a location for the library. A new member of St. John's recently wrote:

For me, finding where everything was and understanding what was going to happen when, from what source, in the worship service was a bit overwhelming (even when people sitting near me helped.) This book (from the library) helped me understand how the service flows and where to find the various components.

The library will continue to be a resource for new members and for study. Biblical dictionaries and commentaries, church histories, pastoral resources, and a fine library of children's books are available to both members and to the local community.

Please let the Wardens or Floy know your suggestions for the new location of the St. John's Library.

Floy Ervin, 244-4195 or fervin@roadrunner.com

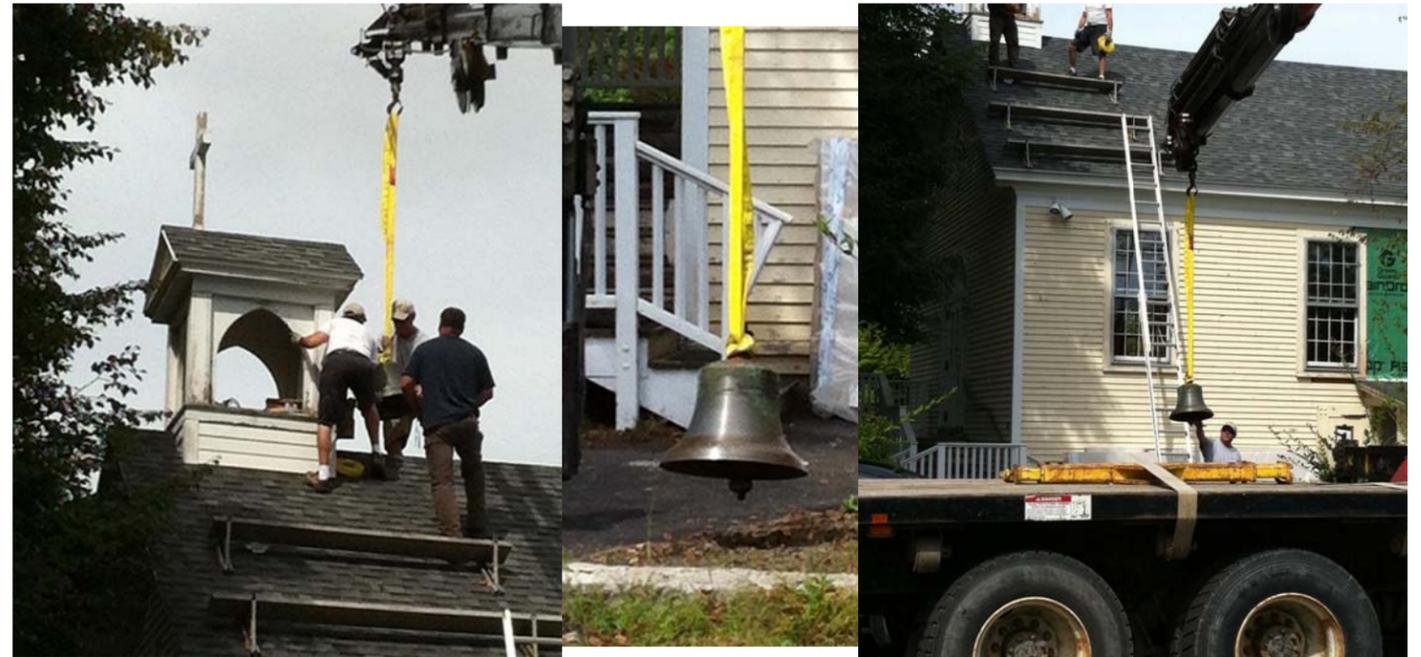
SUNDAY AFTERNOON POETRY...

Set Your Spirit on Fire with Prose, Poetry, and Inspirational Writings. Charlie Lyons and Diane Phipps host this event on Sunday afternoons from 1 - 2 pm. in the Library at St. Saviour's. Bring a piece of writing that has inspired you. Everyone is welcome (even if you want to close your eyes and just listen.) Questions can be directed to Charlie Lyons, 244-0705 or Diane Phipps, 664-3204.



Baker grandchildren watching communion

ST. JOHN'S BELL—Removal on September 9th, 2012



ST. JOHN'S BELL—Repaired and Replaced February 26th, 2013

BLESSING OF A CHURCH BELL

Our help is in the Name of the Lord.
Who hath made heaven and earth.
Blessed be the Name of the Lord.
From this time forth forever more.
The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray: Almighty God, who by thy servant Moses didst command to make two silver trumpets for the convocation of solemn assemblies: be pleased to accept our offering of this bell; bless, hallow, and sanctify it with thy heavenly benediction, and grant that through this generation, and through those that are to come, it may continue to call together thy faithful people to praise and worship thy holy Name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Stephen Sampson

With the approach of March, thoughts of spring come to mind. Hence, the following poem of song and spring:

Warm Peaceful Maine Day, Slight Breeze

John Tagliabue

Bird
whose name I do not know
and who has already flown away
though I heard a moment ago your high brief
incomparable song
your most precise clear undecipherable by me
pure note,
I saw you on the familiar branch of the tree near
my porch, my
perch, my search, our mutually needed presence,
I saw your
plump whitish belly, you, delicate, rather long and fine,
with the
practical necessity and amusing condition of long flickering tail;
my notes
probably undecipherable to you say precisely that we were meant
for each other.

MARCH MUSICAL EVENING

On Friday, March 29th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., the Musical Evening Gathering (free and open to all!) will be led by Marta Rieman and her a cappella group '4 Cryin' Out Loud'. More details will be available closer to the date. Questions? Please contact Susan Buell - scovino@prexar.com

Susan Buell and Stephen Sampson



Episcopal Relief & Development's 2013 devotional provides a particular focus on alleviating hunger & improving food supply while helping us prepare for spiritual healing. Booklets are available at the back of the sanctuary. On Sunday, March 17th there will be a special collection for ERD at the 9:00 service.

ST. SAVIOUR'S PRESENTS *REQUIEM*

Requiem by Bob Chilcott will be performed on Palm Sunday, March 24th, at 3:00 pm at St. Saviour's in Bar Harbor. Setting words from the *Missa pro defunctis* and the Book of Common Prayer, the work gives a new slant to established texts: a beautiful setting of "Thou knowest, Lord" sits alongside the powerful "Offertorio", driving "Sanctus", and enchanting "Pie Jesu". Deserving of a place among the canon of previous settings, Chilcott's *Requiem* is an elegy for the modern day. All are welcome.

LENTEN STUDY

Julia Morris-Myers and Sarah Flynn are offering a Lenten study on Kathleen Norris' *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*. Do you struggle with the words of our faith, such as judgment, dogma, salvation or sinner? If so, this is the class for you! Norris blends history, theology, storytelling and memoir in this fascinating book which encourages us to embrace ancient traditions and find faith in our contemporary world. The class is meeting on Fridays in Lent from 12-1 in the Rectory Library at St. Saviour's in Bar Harbor.

Power & Prayer

Prayer Group

This group gathers every Tuesdays from 2:30-4:00 in St. John's meeting room. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful ministry, please join us. Rita Redfield (244-4025); Gen MacKenzie (244-7313).

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Lent 3—March 3

9:00 — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 63:1-8; Exodus 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Lent 4—March 10

9:00 — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 32; Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16i-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Rev. Johanna Karen Johannson

Lent 5—March 17

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Collection for Episcopal Relief & Development

Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Palm Sunday—March 24

9:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine

Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or 23:1-49

The Rev. Persis Williams

Maundy Thursday—March 28

5:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist, Food washing, soup and bread

Joint Service at Church of Our Father, Hulls Cove

Psalm 116:1, 10-17; Exodus 12:1-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday—March 29

5:30 p.m.—Taizé style Solemn Liturgy

Joint Service at St. Mary and St. Jude, Northeast Harbor

Holy Saturday—March 30

7:30 p.m.—The Great Vigil of Easter

Joint Service at St. John the Divine, Southwest Harbor

Psalm 114; Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-8

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Easter Sunday—March 31

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:1-25;

1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

The Rev. Johanna Johannson

Thursdays: 12:30 p.m.

March 7, 14, 28 — Holy Eucharist

March 21—Morning Prayers

