

The Net Tender - April 2013

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

April 2013



UN-COMMITTED

An awful lot of things happen day by day and week by week at St. Andrew and St. John. Michele and I may work together to prepare the Sunday bulletin, or I may meet with the Wardens to deal with pastoral and administrative questions as they come up. At the same time, lots of folks are working day by day and week by week to make sure the grass gets mowed and snow shoveled, that the linens and vessels are prepared for the altar, and that the worship space is adorned with flowers and plants. People make sure that there are coffee and snacks after church, and that our neighbors coming to the food pantry are well taken care of. People teach Sunday School and visit those who need pastoral care. People rehearse hymns, plan events, update the website and edit the *Net Tender*. These things just seem to happen on their own, but in fact, faithful people do all these things and more to make our parish the active place that it is.

In a congregation of highly efficient, highly committed people, one can usually count on things getting done. If Martha notices that the trash needs to be taken out, she does it. If Joseph sees that a light switch needs to be fixed, he fixes it. If Mary hears that someone has been ill, she visits them. It all works with a minimum of time wasted on committees and meetings.

But what if Martha is only taking out the trash because nobody else will do it; what if she's getting darned tired of it, and would really like some help? What if Joseph is getting to an age when he really shouldn't be up on a ladder anymore, but nobody else knows where the ladder is kept? What if Mary gets ill and nobody thinks to visit her?

What if we have a new member who would really like to get more involved and would be happy to take out the trash, but doesn't want to step on Martha's toes, since trash is "her" ministry? What if we get a new priest, and he doesn't know whom he's supposed to call to get something fixed? What if Lazarus is sick and dying alone, wondering why no one is visiting him?

Many of us have probably been in congregations that were organized around lots of committees. Vestry handbooks often assume that a parish can't operate without a Buildings and Grounds Committee, a Finance Committee, a Worship and Music Committee, and a Committee for the Establishment of New Committees. Especially in a large, complex congregation with lots of ongoing ministries, a robust committee structure can help maintain priorities and focus.

The reality, though, is that very few people actually like serving on committees. A wise vestryperson said to me, "If someone asks me to help them in the garden, I'm happy to do it and am glad to have been asked. If someone asks me to serve on the garden committee, it sounds like a prison sentence and I start thinking of excuses." And while there is value in a stable committee that meets consistently to track the parish's investments and spending, there is no real reason why a group coordinating coffee hours needs to have monthly meetings with officers and minutes.

After considerable discussion, your vestry and I have adopted an organizational scheme based on the ministries that are actually done at St. Andrew and John, rather than some idea of the committees that a parish is "supposed" to have. Some of these are well-established groups with their own history and structure. Additionally, we have included some groups of ministries that perhaps need greater attention paid to them than has been in the recent past. This is intended to be a flexible organization, to be re-evaluated periodically – no group is permanent, and no one is a permanent member of any group.



MUSICAL EVENINGS

Our next Musical Evening will be on Friday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. Debbie Kiley will be our host (please contact Susan for directions) and we will be welcoming Marta Rieman and her a cappella group '4 Cryin' Out Loud'. Please remember to bring some finger food or a beverage to share.

Looking ahead, on May 17 we will be sharing sea shanties, with Skip Fraley & Ed Horvath. Please let Susan know if you would like to be added to the email list. The list is used about once or twice a month to provide details (location, performers) about upcoming gatherings.

Susan Buell and Stephen Sampson

CONGRATULATIONS TO TIM AND BOB

A potluck supper was held at Bill Baker's to celebrate the marriage of Tim and Bob on March 6th.



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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 May *Net Tender* is April 28

FAQ # 2: "How Long Have You Been Coming To Maine?"

Compared to many, not long at all! My childhood summers, as I described last month, were spent by a little pond near Litchfield CT. where I, as an only child, amused myself with lots of reading, outdoor explorations in the nearby State Park and sailing around this little pond with my father who was a WW1 US Navy veteran and passionate about boats and any body of water, no matter how small.

Maine was never on the horizon and, as best I can remember, my first trip here was with Sandy in 1969 when our daughter was an infant and we stayed (along with our Labrador and German Short Hair Pointer), in what is still the Harbor View Motel in SW Harbor. That was our one excursion: Westport Ct was then an ideal place for family summers and we did not go far afield.

Fast forward through years of parenting, volunteering, gardening, singing, all in Westport, much of my volunteer efforts focused on the large amateur chorus, The Fairfield County Chorale, that I had been part of for many years. One day a violinist friend of mine said "You know, Bunny, you could earn money doing what you do! You could get a graduate degree and see where that takes you"

"AHA!" I thought...the children were far enough out of the nest for me to commute to Columbia to work on an MFA in Arts Administration. I don't believe I learned much in the class room that I hadn't already discovered in the volunteer world: board work, fund raising, marketing all had been crucial to the organizations in which I had been active. But it was important for me to expand my horizons beyond Fairfield County and to have the credibility offered by the degree.

In 1990 the volunteer pool was shrinking and small performing arts groups were beginning to realize they would have to hire paid staff in order to survive. And so it happened that the Arcady Music Festival advertised for a summer Festival Administrator, a job which not only fit my skills and interests but also which dovetailed perfectly with my Chorale work in CT. The Bar Harbor location had strong appeal and at that point in my life Sandy and I were divorced so the 8+ hour trip from CT was not a deterrent.

Arcady was founded by Masanobu Ikemiya in 1980 with a mission of bringing a wide variety of music to Downeast Maine not only to the summer population, but

to school children and winter audiences as well. Some of you may remember concerts at St. Johns in the early years. By the time I started in 1992 Arcady had established a seven week series of regular concerts in Bar Harbor, Bangor and Dover Foxcroft with occasional runouts to Belfast, Bingham, Bucksport and even Millinocket. Each week saw a new group of musicians, often from the New York area who were guests of local families in each venue and who needed to be housed, fed and sometimes transported. Some of you, I know, took part in those efforts. It was an intense, totally absorbing occupation! There were lots of rewards: I usually managed an early morning walk in Wonderland and often was the tour guide for those who had never been to Maine. I was needed in some capacity at our off island venues and I especially enjoyed the trips up to Dover Foxcroft. And, of course, there was the music which ranged from the standard classical chamber music repertoire to an orchestra of Japanese clarinetists and even one of Masanobu's specialties: Ragtime. I soaked it all in, met lots of talented and interesting people some of whom have continued to be friends.

At some point during that first summer two things became clear: I would like to continue the Arcady summer job and I would need to invest in permanent housing. The property that we call Bass Harbor Gables was on the market and was a going business with three rentals supporting the property overhead. Purchase was arranged and I began to put down roots in this unique area never thinking that it would become my permanent home.

After seven years with Arcady I was ready to have some time of my own! There were opportunities for summer travel abroad with the Chorale that I no longer wanted to pass up. Sandy was newly retired from almost 40 years with Met Life Insurance Co. in New York City and was more than agreeable to sharing the Maine Experience. We remarried in 2000 and, as they say, the rest is history!

Bunny Watts
Sr. Warden

The Sunday School teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?"
"No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My mom is a good cook."



NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

A wonderful and always refreshing characteristic of music is its diversity - a diversity of genre, instrumentation, emotional content, and many other qualities. I was recently reminded of the great range of musical styles, and the limitless possibilities for combining them, when I heard an interview on National Public Radio with the singer-songwriter Tift Merritt and classical pianist Simone Dinnerstein. Despite their very different musical styles and performance practices, the two musicians realized that they shared the bond of an intense personal commitment to music, and decided to collaborate on writing and performing music that integrates their musical languages. The radio interview included a performance of Franz Schubert's song "Nacht und Träume", with the piano accompaniment (slightly modified in rhythm and harmony) played by Ms. Dinnerstein, and the vocal part (translated from the German, and somewhat modified) sung by Ms. Merritt. Once I recovered from the jolt of hearing the entrance of a high-pitched, country-style voice following a flowing Schubertian piano introduction, I was absorbed in the emotion of the music; to me, these two musicians made a very direct and unique connection with Schubert's music.

Such melding of musical styles is increasingly common these days; for example, the classical pianist Christopher O'Riley has arranged and recorded music of the alternative rock band Radiohead, and classical cellist Matt Haimovitz's repertoire includes his own version of "The Star-Spangled Banner", modeled on that of guitarist Jimi Hendrix. Here on Mount Desert Island, the repertoire of the now-extinct contra-dance band Green Mountain Railway (whose members included Jim Vekasi and me) included "Red Rubber Ball", a top-40 hit for The Cyrkle in the mid-1960s, and "Secret Agent Man", the theme song for a 1960s T.V. show. Still here on MDI, we have a wonderful diversity of music at the monthly 'Musical Evenings' presented in various homes in the area (see notice from Susan Buell in this Net Tender). For example, the February Musical Evening included performances of traditional folk music, an aria from an opera by Puccini, and singing of American show tunes. So, in conclusion: keep your ears open to the exciting diversity of music that surrounds us, and, if you haven't already done so, drop into a Musical Evening: there's one every month!

Stephen Sampson

WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY FUNDRAISING SEASON IS IN FULL SWING

The food pantry distribution season ends on the 3rd Sunday of April. Since November we have been able to share your gifts and the gifts of 100's of neighbors with 100's of neighbors who have come to us. Voucher totals for the 2012-2013 season are estimated to be at least \$90,000. (FYI: the Westside Food Pantry is only one of twelve food pantries in Hancock County.)

Susan Buell

Best Spaghetti Supper Ever

Saturday, April 6th, 5:30, at the SWH Congregational Church, 29 High Street, SWH; \$7.00 per person. The supper is hosted by members of the Congregational Church. ALL proceeds will be donated to the Westside Food Pantry. Please join us for a great supper and a great chance to visit with our neighbors.



Touch a Truck



The delightful joint fundraiser for the Westside Food Pantry and the Harbor House Child Care will be held again this year on Saturday, May 18th from 10:00-2:00 at the Bar Harbor Airport. For a small donation, you are allowed to be close to and touch a variety of vehicles and construction equipment. And, if you are under **this** height and **this** age, you *might* be invited to climb aboard some of the "trucks!" It is so much fun - please join us!

Susan Reiff

Birthdays

APRIL

1—Sarah Flynn
6—Margaret Fletcher
8—Mary Parkman
13—Susy Clark Ogden
14—Kristin Vekasi
15—Stephen Fallica
22—Diane Krueger
28—Ken Cochrane
29—Henry Goodwin

Wedding Anniversaries

APRIL

19—Jim and Mary Vekasi

UN-COMMITTEED *(continued from page 1)*

We would like to be able to include a name or two with each group of ministries; not to make that person “responsible”, but to see that the work gets done and to make it easier for new or seasonal people to know who to contact about a particular need or call to serve.

We would like to discuss this organization at our next Parish Forum, scheduled for April 14. Have a look at the chart: be ready to tell us the important ministries we have forgotten, as well as those to which you may be surprised to find yourself called.

Tim+

NATURAL CAUSES KILLED VICTOR

The Opera: A middle-aged man; an ill, frail, quiet immigrant, imprisoned for a minor crime; a callous, avoidable death. Be a part of the presentation of this folk opera written by George Swanson. There are parts for young and old, male and female. Auditions are Sunday, April 7 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Saviour's in Bar Harbor. Call backs are Monday, April 8. Accompaniment will not be provided. Rehearsals begin Sunday, 26 May 2013. World Premier is August 16 and 17, 2013.

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR DOWNEAST SPIRITUAL LIFE CONFERENCE

The second annual Downeast Spiritual Life Conference is being held August 23 and 24 at the Atlantic Oceanside Hotel and Conference Center in Bar Harbor. This year's theme is Spirituality in our Times: Embracing Diversity, Creating Community. The conference is committed to a multi faith approach to the life of the spirit. How can we create a broader and more inclusive community of the faithful? And one that may include those who claim to be spiritual but not religious.

Conference attendees will hear from key leaders in the Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and Christian Communities as they share how they are building successful communities of faith with their memberships.

This Conference is sponsored in part by St. Francis By the Sea in Blue Hill but due to the success of last year's event (over 400 attendees) the organizers have moved it from Ellsworth to MDI. They have asked St. Savior's and St. Andrew's and St. John's to participate with them in making this year's event even bigger!

So, how can we help? St. Savior's will be hosting a chowder supper which will benefit both food pantries. Some of our members have already agreed to help with that event, which is great!

Pamela Smith will be coordinating volunteers and will need a lot of help.

I have agreed to head up ad sales for the program. In order to achieve the ambitious goals they have laid before me, I will need some willing volunteers to help call on businesses early this spring. We have been working on lists of contacts and an initial letter is being mailed. So ground work is being done - my goal is to have sales wrapped up by the end of June even though the program deadline isn't until August 1.

How does this benefit our Parish? They have offered to give us a portion of the revenues from the program ad sales! How great is that!

If anyone reading this owns or knows of a business who may wish to place an ad, please contact me at chloe-hatcher@gmail.com. We are also taking donations in any amount from those who just wish to support this worthy event. These names will be listed in the program.

Those attending our Vestry Retreat in the Fall heard Dr. McLaughlin say that we were in a wonderful location to sponsor an event such as this. Blue Hill has already done it but we have a chance to benefit without taking on the huge responsibility of doing all the work ourselves.

Please visit downeastspiritual.org to learn more and register and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Chloe Hatcher

ARE WE THERE YET?

All medical trips to underdeveloped countries are logistical nightmares; it goes with the territory. There are customs, language and transportation issues, to say nothing of how one moves the huge amounts of supplies and equipment to staff two operating rooms and one or more clinic providers at other locations.

This year's trek with Hancock County Medical Mission was more unusual than normal, to say the least. After a whole year of fund-raising and preparing ourselves and our supplies (we take all our own equipment and supplies and pay our own airfare, room and board), a blizzard cancelled our takeoff from Saturday to Monday. Okay. One of the tenets of any such trip is flexibility. So we took off early Monday, arriving in Quito at 03:45 Tuesday.



Wakeup time came about 10:00 Tuesday, as we loaded our personal luggage plus our project bags (just under 50# each) onto the bus that carried us to Salcedo, the town we would work in. We were delivered to our hotel, on the town square, and after hauling our personal stuff to our rooms, we started the unpacking of project supplies and equipment, sorting by

department, then headed to the hospital, a half-mile walk, to check out the facilities. By the next morning, we and our supplies were in place and functioning, after a fashion.

Salcedo has a large hospital, but no surgeons, so our surgeons weren't displacing anyone. For the next 10 days we did 61 surgical procedures on 50 patients, and saw 214 patients in surgical clinic between surgeries. Mary Mitchell did her usual wonderful job as the head of central sterile, assuring all the necessary instruments were sterile and wrapped for the appropriate cases.

Clinic was limited this year, as we lacked a doctor to oversee clinic providers, and ended up with just one provider, a nurse practitioner



for women's health care. Thus “clinic” was held in the hospital, and saw 160 patients, giving 325 prescriptions that were filled by our own pharmacy folks (Dianne McMullan and Pamela Smith). While Dianne, aka “kitchen diva”, played Betty Crocker with the many meds, Pamela, a nurse-turned-massage therapist, treated willing clients with Reiki and massage to ease overused and abused muscles and tendons.

The surgical clinic was especially unusual this year, as Dr. Joe Albert, a newly retired colorectal surgeon was with us, enabling us to see many patients who needed attention but not necessarily surgery. This clinic, mostly held by Dr. Joe, a native Spanish speaker, saw 214 people and gave out more than 240 pairs of compression hose to clinic and post-op surgical patients, in addition to dispensing advice on healthy eating, reassuring those with minor ailments, and dispensing hundreds of anti-parasite meds. It was a joy to assist in this clinic, as the patients were treated to the one of the most important services we can render: listening to them and their problems.

What most amazes me, after three trips in very different circumstances, is the consistently kind, caring people—with each other and with us. They work so hard, have very little, but are happy and so grateful for any little thing we do. We are blessed by being able to work with them. They love us to pieces; hugging and kissing us. That love lasts a lot longer than the ailments we come home with.

Jean Rohrer



COME HOME FOR SUPPER SAVE THE DATE!!

Save the date for the next Come Home for Supper gatherings! On April 28th, we will gather in small groups in each other's homes, sharing an organized pot luck meal, and, if past experience holds true, some lively conversation. Rita Redfield and Elaine Theriault will be providing more information about what you can do to help and to participate in the near future. Stay tuned!

Rita Redfield

Ministries at the Parish of St. Andrew and St. John

Finance & Investment

- Establishing budget based on Vestry priorities
- Advising Vestry on financial & budget matters
- Managing endowment

Building & Grounds

Building Maintenance

- Managing minor repairs
- Hiring out major repairs
- Managing hired cleaning, purchasing supplies

Grounds Maintenance

- Managing hired mowing, tree trimming
- Managing hired snow removal

Gardens

Facility Management

- Purchasing & repairing furnishings in Undercroft, Meeting Room, Offices
- Enforcing building use guidelines
- Managing Forsythe Field

Worship

Altar Guild

Flower Guild

Acolytes, Lectors, Ushers & LEM's

Music

- Music Selection
- Saint John Singers
- Instrument maintenance and repair

Worship Planning

- Coordination of special services

Christian Formation

- Children's Sunday School & Godly Play
- Sunday Forums
- Weekday Formation events & Series
- Parish Library

Pastoral Care

Congregational Pastoral Care Team

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Events

Quietside Fair & Sale

Christmas Craft Fair

Other public events?

St. Martha's Guild (Hospitality)

- Kitchen maintenance, equipment, supplies
- Coordinating Sunday coffee hours
- Coordinating food-focused events
- Coordinating funeral hospitality

Outreach & Mission

Westside Food Pantry

Outreach

- ERD and UTO Collection
- New outreach efforts
- Peace and Justice issues

Communications

Net Tender

Publicity

- Website & Social Media
- Signage
- Press Releases & Advertising
- Publications

Internal Communication

- Bulletin announcements
- Oral announcements at worship
- Bulletin Boards
- E-mail blasts
- Phone tree

Long Range Planning

- Analysis of demographic trends
- Long-term (5 year) budgeting
- Vision-casting
- Advising Vestry and FIC

HAVE YOU EVER DREAMED OF A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND?

Contact Bob Schmeler-Fleck for more information about a group planning a trip this November to Jerusalem, Galilee, and the Rose City of Petra, Jordan. The trip is being organized through Jerusalem Tours International. Contact Bob at bob.schmeler@gmail.com, (207) 801-2586, or go to Holy-Land-2013.blogspot.com for details.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

Second Sunday of Easter — April 7

9:00 — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150; Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Third Sunday of Easter — April 14

9:00 — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 30; Acts 9:1-20; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Fourth Sunday of Easter — April 21

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 23; Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

The Rev. Debbie Little Wyman

Fifth Sunday of Easter — April 28

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

Psalm 148; Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Thursdays: 12:30 p.m.

April 4, 18, 25 — Holy Eucharist

April 11—Morning Prayers

Sunday Forums at 10:10 a.m.

April 14: Open discussion, focusing especially on the ministries chart

April 28: Presentation on *What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty* by Bill Ehlig and Ruby K. Payne, PhD.

May 12: Open discussion

May 19: Pentecost Celebration

Palm Sunday, March 24

