

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

June 2013



EXPERIENCING GOD

This is the first of what I hope will be an occasional feature of the *Net Tender* and the *Voice*. We know God through our own experiences and by sharing the experiences of others (what is Scripture, after all, but a record of humanity's experience of our relationship with God?) We meet God in community, and I invite you to share your experiences as Bob has, so that we all may be enriched. I won't always give over my whole column, but there is always room for stories of God acting in our lives. Peace, Tim+

EL SHADDAI

I believe that God is constantly acting in our lives in one way or another. It can be as simple as our eyes being drawn to a flower, reminding us of God's creation; or as large as standing at the rim of the Grand Canyon and sensing one's own place in that creation. I also believe that God does things for us that are intended to be shared, and others that are ours alone. There are examples of both found in the scriptures, and it is left to us, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to discern whether to share, or secret it in our hearts. This is the dilemma in which I found myself a few weeks ago. But, I get ahead of myself...

Many of you know that I recently had spinal surgery that involved removing part of a disk and bone. Like so many operations, it was a one-day procedure and I was sent home that evening to recuperate with a bottle of prescription pain medication. I began taking the medication and using ice during the car ride home in an attempt to ward off the "discomfort" that I was told to expect. But, as we arrived home and I settled into a mound of pillows on our over-stuffed sofa, it was evident that "discomfort" would be a welcome relief from the pain that was building in my lower back.

Some several hours later it was time to think about sleep (at least for Tim). I had taken all the medication as prescribed – and then some – to no avail. I had even supplemented the prescription with over-the-counter pain reliever, yet the pain level continued to rise, wave upon wave. Having truly done all that he could for me, I sent a reluctant Tim off to bed while I remained in my pillow-nest on the couch.

I began praying - well, I guess it really wasn't praying so-much-as telling God how it was going to be.

"I know this is going to be really awful for a few days..."

"I know that I won't be able to sleep..."

What folly! All the while, the pain continued its grand crescendo. (OK, I am sometimes given to exaggeration, but seriously, on a scale of 1 to 10, this was at least a 12!) As a result, I lost the ability to even instruct God; the only thing I could concentrate on was the pain.

Then, a strange thing happened. I began saying the word "El Shaddai" over and over and over. It was as if I were an infant, and that was the first and only word that I knew. Now, I was not entirely unfamiliar with the word, I had heard it before and vaguely understood it to be one of the names for God. But, I had not a clue to its meaning or origins; I knew only that it seemed the single word that my mouth could form at the moment.

Then, an even stranger thing happened. As I repeated the word, El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El Shaddai, I began to feel as though a giant hand, one that dwarfed my body, was gently pressing down on me. I felt my entire body begin to go limp, and the pain emptying from my body from the core out to my extremities. The pillows beneath me, which had felt like boulders, seemed to give way and envelope me in gentle warmth like floating in the balmy waters of the Caribbean. The pain receded, falling from a paroxysm of 12 to a true "discomfort" of 2 or 3. As tears of relief and gratitude began to well

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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 July Net Tender is June 30

Downeast Spiritual Life Conference
Remember to register for the Second Annual Downeast Spiritual Life Conference which will be on Friday and Saturday, August 23 & 24. This year's conference is conveniently being held at The Atlantic Oceanside in Bar Harbor and the theme is *Spirituality in Our Times: Embracing Diversity, Creating Community*. What better subject is there in view of recent events in our country? The conference is sponsored by St. Francis by the Sea in Blue Hill. To register call 207-374-5200 or go to <http://downeastspiritula.org>.

THE LIGHTER SIDE...

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minutes to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."



“SUMER IS ICUMEN IN.... LHUDE SING CUCCU!”

I wonder if the singers who composed this round in Merrie Olde England c. 1250 did so during a prolonged spell of cold, damp weather! If so they would have been anticipating, as we are, the optimism that will come when the sun does break through in the next few days.

Along with “sumer” comes the Quietside Festival and with it the opportunity for St. John’s to be a very real presence in the community. A group of us met in mid-March to determine to what extent we wanted to participate this year. I knew that some of our stalwart workers had, understandably, decided that they could no longer take an active part and I wondered if we had the man power to pull it off on the same scale as in years past.

The group agreed that there are great benefits to be had from making the most of this chance for visibility in town as well as from connecting with each other as we work to make it all happen. We all enjoy seeing little tots dancing in front of the church steps as Fred Benson, Jim Vekasi, Ruth Grierson and others entertain us with lively familiar tunes. People emerge from the Treasure Trove tent with bags full of things for the kitchen in their camp or their son’s first apartment. The garden booth overflows with blooms, slices of pie and other goodies arena great demand and there is a high spirit of good will as people wander the grounds and enjoy our efforts.

And it is a huge effort. Much as we might like to repeat everything that we’ve been doing in the past it won’t happen unless there is a significant commitment **in advance** from people willing to work setting up on Friday July 12 and working in the various areas on Saturday the 13th. There will be sign up sheets at St. John’s each Sunday so please take a look and find a spot where you can spend a couple of hours helping to “Make it Happen!”

*or, in Modern English:
Sumer has come in
Loudly sing, cuckoo!
Seeds grow and meadows bloom
and the woods spring anew
Sing cuckoo!

There are a number of versions of this on You Tube - you might enjoy taking a look.

Eleanor (Bunny) Watts
Sr. Warden

WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY

For over 20 years, the Westside Food Pantry has served our neighbors from Tremont, Mt Desert and Southwest Harbor. Our food pantry season runs from November-April.

As many of you know, we distribute vouchers instead of food. The vouchers are redeemable at the Southwest IGA, Gott's Store and Sawyer's Market. With the exception of tobacco and alcohol products and fuel, neighbors may redeem the vouchers for whatever makes sense for their families.

We have just completed the 2012-2013 food pantry season. Over \$95,000 in vouchers were distributed to more than 2,000 adults and children during the six month season.

The Westside Food Pantry is funded by donations from businesses, churches, service organizations, schools, foundations and individuals from the year round and summer communities. Fundraisers such as the recent baked bean supper and upcoming book signing, recitals and raffles help make our work possible.

The Westside Food Pantry committee is grateful for those who come to us and grateful for those who contribute. Together we will build a stronger and healthier community.

To make a contribution please write a check payable to the Westside Food Pantry, PO Box 767, SWH
With gratitude,
Susan Buell
Dean Henry
co-chairs, Westside Food Pantry

MARTHA'S GUILD SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

HELP! Have you always wanted to help with a coffee hour and have been too afraid of the new kitchen to say yes? The Martha's are ready to assist you with all of your questions and will be there to help if necessary. You don't need to bake or shop. There are usually cookies in the freezer or cupboard and all other supplies are provided. Coffee Hours are an important part of our Sunday worship and a special time to welcome visitors. Please contact Chloe Hatcher (669-2801) or Dianne McMullan (244-4582) or sign up in the Undercroft.

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

St. John’s is now home to a new Yamaha baby grand piano that took up residence on May 22. This is an occasion both to celebrate the arrival of our new piano and to express gratitude for the Vose & Sons baby grand that had been here for over 20 years and so significantly enriched the musical life at St. John and in the community. The Vose & Sons was acquired by Marilyn Dolliver about 25 years ago in Bar Harbor. The piano required some restoration, and Susannah Jones and her family, together with the Lawrence family, organized and financed the necessary repairs. The presence of this piano brought new musical life to St. John. Music groups including the Arcady Music Festival and the Arthur Russell Strings were now able to use the space for performances, and it became clear that St. John is an outstanding musical space both aesthetically and acoustically. In recent years, however, it has been increasingly difficult for the trusty Vose & Sons to hold its tune, as many of the pins that hold the piano strings in place have become loose. It was finally declared that the piano could no longer be tuned, and hence it was agreed that the time had come for a new piano.

The church very generously authorized me to look for a good used or new piano, and gave me a budget sufficient for an excellent instrument. After auditioning several pianos in the greater Down East area, I found a wonderful new Yamaha 5’ baby grand piano at Starbird Music & Piano Gallery in Portland. The piano salesperson, John Nickerson, worked with me to arrange its move to Bar Harbor, and to ensure that it would be in top shape prior to and after the move. The piano has a beautiful tone, a lower register that is particularly deep and resonant for the small size of the piano (it is the smallest baby grand made by Yamaha), and a bright but not harsh upper register. And, at an even 5’ in length, it is about 3 inches shorter than the Vose & Sons, and is thus an ideal size for the church. And, as a brand new Yamaha, the piano is covered by a 10-year warrantee, ensuring that the instrument will be around for a very long time, and that there will be no unpleasant surprises for the music budget. Importantly, this beautiful instrument will increase the number and diversity of performances possible at St. John, as it is ideal for chamber music, solo recitals, and any combination of instruments and voices involving piano accompaniment. Thus, echoing the growth of musical activity following the arrival of the Vose & Sons a couple of decades ago, we eagerly anticipate the new musical experiences in store at St. John.
Stephen Sampson



JAZZ MASS Pentecost Sunday May 19



MOMENT OF TRUTH

The Sunrise Singers of Bethany Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas, will perform Tuesday, June 18th at 7 PM. at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Ellsworth. The group is made up of 25 high school students. The Sunrise Singers have performed for the last 32 years all around the United States, Canada and in the Bahamas. The entire musical; script, songs and choreography was developed in house at Bethany. Their 2013 musical is *Moment of Truth*. We all have had defining moments in our lives. In the musical, we follow Justin Jacobs as he believes he has his defining moment when he catches the winning pass in his city’s football championship. There are a hundred of those moments happening all over the world each day, but we, like Jacob, think it is only all about us. That’s usually when Christ turns our new status quo upside down and leads us to the foot of the cross - where we all have a life saving *Moment of Truth*. There is no charge - a free will offering will be accepted. FMI 667-7641 or standrewme.org

Birthdays

JUNE

1—Ted Bromage
11—John Hewlett
15—Mary Vekasi
16—B.J. Fallica
22—Betty Whittlesey
24—Ted Fletcher
25—Jim Vekasi
27—Dean Henry

Wedding Anniversaries

JUNE

7—Dana and Kathryn Hiscock
9—Scott and Chloe Hatcher
27—Bill and Diane Krueger
30—Samuel and Mary Lawrence

VESTRY BULLETS

- This past season, the Food Pantry passed out \$90,770 in food vouchers to 2,034 adults and children.
- Arthur Russell Strings will give a performance on June 9 at St. John's to benefit the Food Pantry.
- The Vestry will have a joint Vestry meeting with St. Saviour's Vestry in June.
- The Vestry is working to establish better communication throughout the parish.
- In an effort to keep the congregation better informed, the minutes from the Vestry meeting will be posted in the Undercroft within a few days after the meeting.
- A baby sitter will be available at the 10:00 service at St. John's throughout the summer in lieu of Godly Play.
- St. Saviour's will join us for a celebration of Tim's first year anniversary on June 30 from 4-6 at St. John's.

Chloe Hatcher, Clerk



SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 13
QUIETSIDE FESTIVAL



YARD SALE

It's that time again! Clean out your closets, garages and cellars. The yard sale at Priscilla's will be **June 14-15** starting at 8:00 until 3:00. We need your goodies that you no longer use. Look hard because we want this to be our best ever! You may drop off your contributions at 40 Seal Cove Road anytime.

Mary Mitchell

Susan Newman

PLANTS NEEDED FOR QUIETSIDE FESTIVAL

Please throw the plants you no longer need in your garden into plastic pots for the plant table at the annual church fair in July. I have mine sitting on boot trays on my deck. Keeps them from picking up ants and they don't need to be watered as often. There are extra plastic pots in the church garden shed if you need them. Check the office for the key. Many thanks.

Karen Craig



RECITAL FUNDRAISER

The Arthur Russell Strings group has planned a fundraiser recital for the Westside Food Pantry on Sunday, June 9th at 4:00. The performers are youth string players. Over the years, they have used St. John as a practice and performance space. The ensemble, directed by violinist Samuel Glazman, will be playing a selection of works including Vivaldi: "Summer" from The Four Seasons. This is a performance to benefit Westside Food Pantry and donations will be accepted at the door. For more information, call Betsy Hewlett, 244-9775.

EL SHADDAI *(continued)*

at the corners of my eyes and slowly roll down my face, the mantra of "El Shaddai" was replaced with "Thank You, God, Thank you God, Thank You God". With those words still spilling forth, I drifted off to peaceful, blessed sleep.

I awakened some 6 or 7 hours later, still only in mild discomfort, but greatly amazed and equally humbled. What exactly was this experience that I had? I began by researching "El Shaddai" and learned that, in our lexicon, it is generally interpreted as "God Almighty"! Digging a little deeper, I discovered that it has 2 potential roots: 1) God the Destroyer; or 2) God the Supporter and/or Sustainer! Without a doubt, I had experienced God as both – how wondrous!

I have no doubt that God put the word El Shaddai on my tongue. A word that I had seldom, if ever, used, and for which I had no definition or understanding. My Pentecostal roots notwithstanding, this was the purest form of "speaking in tongues" that I have ever known! The repetition of the word took me out of myself, and opened the door and invited God to do as God saw fit, not as I saw things! God did for me what I, nor anybody nor anything else, could. If that is not the definition of a miracle, then I don't know what is!

This brings me to my opening comments about what is to be shared, and what is to be treasured alone. My inclination was to keep it to myself as a special moment between God and myself, lest it become polluted or diminished in the telling. I must also confess to fears of being labeled a "nut-job", and it was this great fear of being known as the *Crazy Man of High Street* that kept me from immediately sharing.

Eventually, I decided to consult some of the brightest, kindest and truly Christian people I know – my fellow *Education For Ministry* (EFM) classmates and mentor. Through gentle guidance, and a little prodding, I came to understand the importance of sharing our experiences of God. Some had similar experiences, others were reminded of completely different, yet equally powerful and moving, experiences of God. However alike or dissimilar the stories were, they had one thing in common. They served to unite us under the umbrella of God's great and everlasting love and mercy for us. We found peace, hope, love – for God and each other – in the telling of the stories. And that, my dear friends, is why I chose to share this.

I sincerely pray that you find peace, hope, love and, most importantly, a sense of The Divine in reading this. In turn, I also pray that you will share your experience of God so that we, too, may experience God's love and hope and mercy through your story.

God Bless,

Bob Schmeler

HOLY LAND 2013 MEETING

Michaeleen Ward will be hosting an informational meeting for all those who are going on the trip to the Holy Land, and more importantly, those who think they might be interested. If you are on the fence about going, or know of someone who might be interested, this is the meeting to attend! Michaeleen will have a short slide presentation and be able to answer questions. And, as always, refreshments will be served!

Where: St. John Episcopal Church, Southwest Harbor

When: Sunday, June 9th at 12:30



GODLY PLAY

Thank you to all the Sunday School assistants and substitute teachers: Ginny Agar, Jayne Ashworth, Joan Bromage, Hannah Carroll, Spencer Ervin, Carol Nelson, Karen Craig, Edie Stanwood, and Elaine Theriault. There were two people in the Sunday School during the Service of the Word. When there is a special service such as the Jazz Mass on Pentecost Sunday, we hope that the Sunday School students will stay with their parents.

Teachers and assistants will be available between June 9th and September 22nd if you contact Floy Ervin 244-4195 or Jane Ashworth 244-5985 to give them a heads up.

A SIMPLY DIVINE DAY

Saturday, June 8

From 11-12: we will have a talk and cooking demonstration by Katie Barney Moose. Mrs. Moose is the co-author of *The Best of Newport*; author of *Annapolis: The Guidebook*, *Eastern Shore of Maryland: The Guidebook*, *God's Bounty*, *Chesapeake's Bounty*, *Chesapeake's Bounty II*, *New England's Bounty*, *Nantucket's Bounty*; *Maryland's Western Shore: The Guidebook* and several publications on the fiber optic telecommunications business, and is a consultant on international business and protocol. Her hobbies include gourmet cooking, fine wines, history, sailing, genealogy, gardening, theology, and travel. Mrs. Moose frequently speaks about food in an historical context and demonstrates recipes before garden clubs, historical and maritime societies and the DAR up and down the Eastern Seaboard.

Her presentation here in Southwest Harbor is on *The History of Herbs in New England: Colonial and Contemporary Uses*. Signed copies of her books will be available for purchase.

From 12-1pm: The Third Ever Divine Luncheon, based on recipes from her cookbooks, will be served.

Menu

Tomato and Basil Quiche

Green salad with herbs and edible flowers, cranberry vinaigrette

Zucchini bread with sweet butter

An assortment of Divine Deserts with tea and coffee

Lecture/lunch donation is \$12.50/person and will benefit the St John Martha's Guild to fund Community Outreach. Please RSVP to: Michele Daley, St John Parish Administrator, 244-3229, saints315@myfairpoint.net

TOUCH A TRUCK

JOYFUL! It was fun to sit in my car and watch the excited children and their families dance through the parking lot on their way to the 2013 edition of "Touch a Truck" on May 18. It was another very fun day! Children were touching, watching other kids touch, running around, climbing, eating ice cream, wearing their "I Touched a Truck" tee shirt and having a GREAT time. "T a T" was made possible by the generosity of the Bar Harbor Airport, SCORES of owners of every possible type of vehicle and volunteers from the Westside Food Pantry and Harbor House Day Care. Special thanks to Susan Reiff Allen, Dean Henry, Alice Downs, and Dianne McMullan from the food pantry and Mary Ellen Martel, Diana Novella, Ingrid Kachmar and Arianna Novella from Harbor House-- Over \$5500 was raised and will be divided between the two groups.

Susan Buell



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

Pentecost 2 — June 2

9:00 — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 96; 1 Kings 18:20-39; Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10

The Rev. Deborah Little Wyman

Pentecost 3—June 9

8:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by-the Lake (*first service*)

10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine

Psalm 146; 1 Kings 17:8-24; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Pentecost 4—June 16

8:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by-the Lake

10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine

Psalm 5:1-8; 1 Kings 21:1-21a; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3

The Rev. Deborah Little Wyman

Pentecost 5—June 23

8:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by-the Lake

10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine

Psalm 42; 1 Kings 19:1-15a; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Pentecost 6—June 30

8:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by-the Lake

10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

The Rev. Dean Henry

Thursdays: 12:30 p.m.

June 6, 13, 27 — Holy Eucharist

June 20 — Morning Prayers

COLLECT, REFLECT, PROJECT

Thursday, June 13th at 1:30 p.m., meet with Father Tim Fleck to brain storm ideas for speakers and subjects for the forum gatherings on Sundays in the fall.

Floy Ervin

MOVIE OPPORTUNITY

FRIDAY JUNE 14 7:00 P.M.

There will be a showing at the Grand in Ellsworth of a film called "A Place at the Table" created by Food, Inc. and starring Jeff Bridges. It addresses the very real and disturbing existence of hunger in America. Pamela Smith at St. Savior's brought it to my attention. She in turn heard about it from St. Francis in Blue Hill. There will be "Q"s and "A"s following the 1 hour and 20 minute film. Who wants to be part of a car pool?

Bunny Watts

