

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

September 2013

MISSION POSSIBLE

I imagine that many folks reading this will have been part of the process of writing a Mission Statement for some church, board, committee, or other organization. In my experience, it usually involves a long period of self-study and soul-searching, followed by small and large-group conversations, at least one of which is usually about the difference between a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement. After considerably wordsmithing, a single highly polished sentence is crafted which seems to touch all the things discussed. It is announced publicly, with promises that it will be used as a rubric to guide decisions in the future: it may be added to publications, website and signage so that it cannot be forgotten. And then, more often than not, it is mostly ignored.

There are a lot of reasons for this. In some cases, I think that we don't really know ourselves as well as we think, or that we don't want to say out loud what we actually know. In other cases, we don't know or really want to know about the world around us where we might be expected to actually live out our mission. Sometimes we may be unrealistic about what we can actually do, or we may be too timid to commit to much of anything at all.

At least in the mainline church, I believe that one reason that Mission Statements are so often meaningless or irrelevant is a fundamental misunderstanding of the concept of Mission. The word *mission* has taken on a rather uncomfortable connotation in the Church because of its association with Christian missionary activities over the last few centuries. We don't want to talk about mission if it means the sort of western-European cultural imperialism that imposes a particular brand of Christianity at the point of a gun, or at the cost of destroying indigenous ways of life.



We don't want to do mission if it means going where we're not invited, imposing "our views" on other people. And so we carefully construct Mission Statements with all the rough edges sanded off: watered-down versions of our Baptismal Covenant that couldn't offend anyone.

I believe that the fundamental misunderstanding here is that mission is something we design. One may decide to go on a journey, but one is *sent* on a mission. Mission is a sending that comes from something or someone outside ourselves. Remember the old television series "Mission Impossible" (I'm afraid I don't know if this occurs in the more recent films)? The main character was given a cassette tape with the message that began, "Greetings, Mr. Phelps. Your mission, should you choose to accept it..."

We have been given a Message with numerous missions we can choose to accept or ignore. At Creation, God sends humankind on a mission to be fruitful, and to be responsible for every living thing. A few generations later, God sends Abram and Sarai and their descendants on a mission to leave home and travel to a new land, and to be a blessing to all the families of the earth. Again and again, in person and through the prophets, God gives messages to Israel, saying in effect, "Greetings! Your mission, should you choose to accept it..."

Through Jesus, God sends us on a mission to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit the sick and imprisoned. Through Jesus, God sends us out to make disciples of all nations, to baptize and to teach. Through the Holy Spirit, saints are given missions in every generation, if they choose to accept them. Mission is all around us. Mission is being the church.

And this brings us back to our initial discussion of Mission Statements. One can certainly spend a weekend retreat hashing out a Mission Statement. But the fact is, we publish a mission statement every time we adopt a parish or diocesan budget. You've probably heard me say before that a budget is (or should be) a mission document, and in fact is a much more realistic statement of our priorities than any sweet slogan we can dream up.

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YOUR MINISTRY AND VESTRY LIAISONS

On September 22nd the Forum will be an opportunity to select the ministry for which you prefer to volunteer during the months between September 2013 and September 2014. You do not need to volunteer for the same ministry you were engaged in last year. Here is your opportunity to learn something new. There are committees in each area of ministry for which chairs and members may be established.

In order to assist the Rev. Tim Fleck, members of the Vestry have assumed the role of liaison in the ministries of St. Andrew and St. John. They are: **Finance and Investment:** Liz Erickson and Jim Vekasi; **Building and Grounds:** Mary Mitchell; **Worship:** Susan Buell and Eleanor Watts; **Christian Formation:** Floy Ervin; **Pastoral Care:** Floy Ervin; **Events:** Karen Craig and Marilyn Mays; **Martha's Guild:** Chloe Hatcher; **Outreach and Mission:** Susan Buell; **Communications:** Jayne Ashworth; **Long Range Planning:** Patsy Fogarty. Questions and concerns should be addressed to the appropriate Vestry member rather than to Tim.

OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION

On September 29th the Forum will be an Open Budget Discussion with Liz Erickson and Jim Vekasi. A Vestry Dialogue will be scheduled for another day.

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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 October *Net Tender* is September 22

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN TO The Love/Dread September Spectrum?

During those years when I had to return to Connecticut shortly after Labor Day there were always people who said: "Oh! You're missing the best time of the year! September is so beautiful, so clear so....etc." But I didn't see it that way! For me those first hints of yellow on the goldenrod mean that the sun wouldn't be on the deck at the usual time for breakfast, that the swimming season would gradually wind down and that our evening walks with Bailey would have to start earlier and earlier. In Connecticut the first katydids, signaling the approach of frost just six weeks later, would trigger the same regrets. Each year I mourn the loss of summer's intense visible and tactile pleasures. Underlying it all, I am sure, is the emotion expressed in Kurt Weil's *September Song*. The older gent wistfully sings to the young woman he is courting: "Oh it's a long, long time from May to December...but the days grow short when you reach September." He wasn't just bemoaning the loss of daylight but rather the awareness of mortality that becomes more acute with each passing year.

To be sure, we all breathe a sigh of relief as August draws to a close and we can drive through Main Street without the constant terror of taking off some unwary tourist's car door or mowing down a shopper who is crossing the street, arms full of bundles, oblivious to the cross walks. A "quick stop" in Carroll's is no longer an oxymoron and we can get ice cream cones without feeling as if we're in the subway at rush hour. Of course these inconveniences are also the life blood of the town's summer season and I welcome - indeed depend on - my share of the business.

September can also bring fleeting moments of nostalgia to many of us. Do you tear up as those first school buses begin to roll? Would you like to go out and get a brand new box of 64 Crayolas? How about a lunch box? And loading up that car for college? These annual rituals call up memories in all our lives.

Along with the nostalgia, many of us have anniversaries or a special birthday to compound the emotional load of these fall days. The shadow of 9/11 will accompany even the most brilliant September day, no matter where we were when we heard the news or how personally we might have been affected. Those of us who have spent our lives along the East coast have dramatic hurricane memories: in the 1938 storm which walloped Long Island Sandy remembers (as a wee tot, of course!) crying "we're next! we're next!" as he saw their garage sway in the hurricane gusts. In 1954 Hurricane Carol did such significant flood damage to my little corner of Northwest Connecticut that I had a hard time finding a way to get to college.

Whatever our feelings about the change in season, there is a universal sense of new beginnings and possibilities. At St. John's we will focus on the work of the parish at our Sunday Forum on September 22. A vestry liaison represents each of the ministries which are described elsewhere in the *Net Tender*. Take a few minutes to look carefully at these and think about where you fit in now...and what might be a new direction for you in the year ahead. Would you like to take part in planning the forums? Maybe you'd like to help out with flowers or ushering. There is always a need for more people to help out on food pantry Sundays. Is it time for an Introduction to the kitchen so that you will be comfortable hosting coffee hour and special events? The pastoral care team welcomes new members as do the finance and long range planning ministries, among others. Maybe there is an aspect of St. John's ministry that you feel is being neglected. This would be a good time to suggest it. So come with your ideas and energy...and maybe a new box of crayons!

Eleanor (Bunny) Watts



YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED FOR SASJ BUDGET

In order to make sure that our budget reflects our mission and priorities as a parish, the Vestry and the Finance and Investment Committee are providing opportunities for any and all to weigh in on the distribution of money among the many ministries of St. Andrew and St. John in 2014. Individuals and groups representing different ministries are invited to submit **written requests and rationale** for changes to the budget allotments for their ministries, or for potential new ministries. These requests are due **September 22**; on September 29 between services we will offer an **open budget forum**, at which the FIC will make a *brief* presentation on the current (2013) budget, and all will be invited to discuss **mission and budget priorities** for next year. If you have questions, concerns, or need to see a copy of the 2013 budget for reference, please contact Elizabeth Erickson, Treasurer.



SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT: Jazz, Justice, and the Journey of Tradition

Theodicy Jazz Collective is a group committed to making justice real through the creative, spiritual power of music. Part of that commitment is the teaching and sharing of ways to incorporate into our worship the jazz ideals of community, flexibility, and listening, to help the church thrive in our rapidly changing world. More information about them is available at <http://theodicyjazz.com/>



St. Andrew Lutheran Church, St. Saviour Episcopal Church, and The BTS Center (formerly Bangor Theological Seminary) are sponsoring a workshop with Theodicy Jazz Collective for worship leaders and church musicians, and others interested in jazz and/or worship, exploring jazz, justice, and the journey of tradition. We ask: how can we bring our worship into the creative tension between spontaneity and preparation, between structure and play? How do jazz ideals like listening, supporting, and improvising inform our understanding of Christian community?

In addition to the workshop, Theodicy Jazz Collective will offer a public conversation and concert of music inspired by jazz, blues, gospel, traditional hymns, and world music. This music is a constant prayer, sometimes a cry of joy, sometimes a shout for action, sometimes a deep, silent hope. It is truly soul music.

The workshop is Tuesday, October 1 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Ellsworth, Maine (175 Downeast Highway). Participants are encouraged to bring instruments for an optional Jam Session beginning at 3:00, with the workshop beginning at 4:00 and ending with dinner. At 7:00, workshop becomes worship in a Jazz Vespers Service. The cost for the workshop is \$35 (\$25 for students) and includes dinner. Scholarships are available. The Vesper service is open to the public at no charge.

The concert is Wednesday, October 2 at St. Saviour Episcopal Church, Bar Harbor, Maine (41 Mt Desert St.) The musicians will be available for a public conversation about jazz and justice at 6:15, with the concert beginning at 7:00. A free will offering will be received; after expenses, all donations received will be given to the Emmaus Homeless Shelter in Ellsworth.

For more info, contact The Rev. Priscilla Hukki at 207-667-7641 or pastorh@gwi.net.

To learn more about the mission of The BTS Center, visit their web site at www.thebtscenter.org.

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot: Jazz, Justice, and the Journey of Tradition

Registration form for Tuesday, October 1.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

E-Mail: _____

I plan to participate in the jam session & will bring the following instrument: _____

of years playing experience: _____;

Dietary restrictions/preferences _____

Registration fee (includes supper): \$35 or \$25 for students. Scholarships are available.

Register by email or snail mail; but please mail checks, payable to St. Andrew: **St. Andrew Lutheran Church, PO Box 145, Ellsworth, ME 04605**. Registrations are preferred by September 16. Some walk-in slots may be available; however the workshop is limited to 70 people.

Birthdays

SEPTEMBER

1—Vesta Kowalski
5—Paul Haertel
7—Sarah Vekasi
10—Sonia Loizeaux
14—Margot Haertel
20—Samuel Lawrence
21—Susan Hazard
26—Barry Pollard
30—Alice Downs

Wedding Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER

12—Spencer & Floy Ervin
18—Ted Fletcher & Ann Kidder
19—Stephen & BJ Fallica
23—Haywood May & Vicky Vendrell

VESTRY BULLETS

Chloe Hatcher

- The final amount collected for the piano fund is \$9,370.
- Floy Ervin, Susan Buell and Marilyn Mays will be working on a landscaping design plan for the church grounds.
- There will be a forum on September 29 to discuss the budget.
- A Ministry Fair will be held during the forum time on September 22. All parishioners will be encouraged to join an area of their interest.

SPRING EXPERIMENT EVALUATION

An evaluation of the Spring experiment was mailed to all regular and attending members recently. We encourage each person in your household to complete the survey and return it by its due date on September 10, 2013 (deadline extended since extra copies did not make it to St. Andrew and St. John by 8/25!). Extra copies of the survey are now available at St. Andrew and St. John should you want one. Another opportunity to evaluate the Spring experiment will happen at the 9:00 a.m. forum on October 13.



ORIGAMI PEACE CRANES

Early in August, I hung the origami peace cranes to commemorate the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (August 6 and August 9, 1945). I also placed the large white crane on the altar which many years ago was folded for the altar by Susan Plimpton.

Japanese legend states that if 1000 cranes are folded what is wished for will come true. A few of the hanging cranes are what remain of the 1000 cranes folded years ago with the hope of healing for my daughter, Elisabeth.

In 1988, the legend and power of crane folding was brought to Southwest Harbor through Elise Harvey, who was a friend of Charles and Susannah Jones. After Elise introduced the gift, lots of us were teaching others how to fold cranes. My daughter was very little at that time. She and her friends had fun folding cranes, and we often had cranes all over the house!

Children folded cranes at school and through a weekly after school program at the library. At St John, I remember 1000 cranes hanging from the ceiling above the altar rail. A group of children and adults folded and then carried 1000 cranes to the dedication of the Samantha Smith statue in Augusta. 1000 cranes folded by our community were presented to then Senate Majority Leader, George Mitchell. Another 1000 cranes were carried by a Southwest Harbor family to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. Around the time of the one year anniversary of 9/11, the library set up a table for crane folding. More recently the folks who march for peace in the July 4th Parade have carried 1000 cranes in the parade. And at different times we have folded cranes at St John. All of these thousands of cranes were folded with the hope of peace throughout the world.

I equate crane folding with prayer--Folding is a quiet, meditative task, and at least for the time spent folding this small token of love, I am given the opportunity to hold someone or something in my heart.

Susan Buell



MUSIC NOTES

Making music with others can both carry us into other worlds and anchor us more firmly in the present, through communion with our fellow music makers. Two recent musical experiences, both involving singing in a group, illustrated these characteristics very clearly. The first was singing Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem with the Mount Desert Summer Chorale, conducted by David Schildkert. This requiem is a dark and often terrifying depiction of the end of our days, and singing the piece, particularly in the midst of the ~ 30-piece orchestra, brought us out of the confines of Saint Saviour's church, as it summoned thoughts of our own mortality and the need for comfort in the face of the unknown. We also thought of Verdi's own feelings about death, which were strongly influenced by his own experiences and were reflected in the character of the music. But singing and rehearsing the piece also had a huge effect on the associations of the members of the chorus in the present world. The singers, together with the conductor, soloist singers, and orchestra, played and sang as a single, emotionally committed voice. This created an intense bond within the entire group, as we focused on communicating the many emotions of the piece as they rose and fell in intensity. Singing also created strong bonds among our immediate neighbors in the chorus, as we heard the individual voices around us during the weeks of rehearsals; talked with our neighbors (quietly) or asked questions during short breaks in rehearsal; and also, in my case, listened carefully to the neighbors with particularly strong voices, for help in singing the correct notes. So, the bonds established in singing this piece ranged from the level of the individual, to the group, to the cosmos.

A second singing experience illustrating the communal aspects of music-making was the group-singing component of the most recent Musical Evening (M.E.), held August 16. M.E.s are a series of monthly musical gatherings held at the homes of area hosts where participants listen to different performers and then commune with group singing (see note for the next M.E. elsewhere in this Net Tender issue). At this M.E. we sang old-time folk songs, rounds, and popular songs, led by Bob Myers on vocals and the mandolin. As we sang such favorites as 'Home on the Range', 'Kookaburra', and 'Bicycle Built for Two', many of us were reminded of our elementary-school days, and perhaps also of the generations that preceded us in singing these songs. In fact, many participants reflexively clapped their hands and moved their arms in the same patterns they did as wee lads and lassies in school. And the song 'The Ash Grove' tells more directly of the poignancy of the passage of time as we move from childhood onward through our lives, and remember those who are no longer with us. But as with the Verdi, singing these songs established communal bonds right here in the present. Perhaps we admired the fine harmonic line sung by our neighbor on the couch, and tried to join in. Perhaps we chuckled as a particularly inventive singer experimented with daring harmonic flights, fearing no word of admonition from any corner. And, to be sure, we often lost ourselves in singing with the group, fitting our voices in somewhere, listening to the many blended parts around us, and thinking whatever personal thoughts the songs evoked. So to wrap up this essay: sing when you can, in a group, alone, with a mandolin player or piano player, or with the radio. It is good for the soul.

Stephen Sampson

AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES, INC.

A table has been set up in the undercroft with jewelry and craft items from East Africa. You may view and buy these items on Sunday, September 1 and during offices hours (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday). The purchase of these crafts will bring relief to children and those in need by providing: (1) Help in the care and education of African orphans in eight Anglican dioceses; (2) Provision of jobs for unemployed women as they make crafts, and are thereby enabled to care for their children and parents; (3) Resources for projects of refugee relief, health education, clergy and lay education and building repair as they occur. For more information see www.africanteamministries.org

MUSICAL EVENING coming up... YOU are all invited!

St John's favorite group, *Dog Mountain*, will be our musical guest on Friday evening, September 20th; 7:00pm-9:00 at the home of Dorothy and Jim Clunan. Jim Vekasi and Fred Benson's group will play and lead us in song--should be a lively evening! The "Musical Evening" group has been gathering monthly for over 3 years. We always host a musical guest, spend some time snacking and visiting, and then gather for some fun group singing. Everyone is welcome! For more information and directions contact: Susan Buell - scovino@prexar.com





**BISHOP
STEPHEN
LANE'S VISIT
TO
ST. JOHN'S
ON
SATURDAY,
AUGUST 10th.**



FLASH IN THE PANS STEEL BAND

Join the fun Labor Day!

Monday, September 2, at 7:30 pm, Flash In The Pans Steel Band will hold a benefit concert for Everybody Eats-A Free Community Meal, at the Ramada Inn - 215 High Street, Ellsworth. Bring your family and friends and settle in or be ready to dance your feet off for an evening of great entertainment by noted area steel band Flash In The Pans - always a hit wherever they perform! Refreshments available and parking is easy at the back of the inn right near the event! Donations will be welcomed for Everybody Eats, a Free Community Meal. We are open to the public every Monday all year around, from 3-6pm in the Parish Hall of St. Dunstan's Church, 134 State Street, Ellsworth.

IN MEMORY OF JUDITH FULLER

It is my sad duty to report the death of Judith Fuller who died on June 10, 2013. I came to know Judy first in 1994. She had been hired by the then rector, George Price, as this parish's first administrative assistant. (Previously administrative tasks were done either by volunteers or by George.) As a warden, I saw Judy's devotion to this parish firsthand. George knew he would be retiring soon. In order to ensure a smooth transition, he worked with Judy and others fine-tuning processes, sorting and organizing files, setting up the computer and so much more. Judy's job also included all the administrative tasks for the Westside Food Pantry. George and Judy worked together beautifully, and I know she admired the work he did in the parish and in the community. Judy was efficient, gracious and to paraphrase Vesta's sermon today, Judy brought God to the workplace. I miss her!

Susan Buell



Thanks to Floy Ervin and Scott Martin for the beautiful arrangements in the barrels by our parking lot.

THANK YOU

Dear People of St. John's:
I would like to thank you as a parish for all the help you provided for the Memorial Service for my late husband, William Swanson. When we had spoken of the remote possibility of his death he said that he wanted a service at St. John's because of his positive memories of worshipping at St. John's with relatives, as well as his family connections there, which he wanted to honor. Of course, I had no idea it would be this soon; in many ways his death May third overwhelmed me. But the way that you as a parish helped in the planning, preparing the liturgy booklet, providing ushers, acolytes, music, flowers, your priest Fr. Timothy Fleck, your presence and prayers for the service at St. John's and the graveside service for the immediate family as William's father George wished, your support for George, and your presence at the reception that evening fulfilled William's wishes and upheld us in Christ's love. Thank you. And, as William often said, "Love and light in Christ."

Helene de Boissiere-Swanson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

Pentecost 15—September 1

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

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

Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Jeremiah 2:4-13; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:7-14

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Pentecost 16—September 8

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

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

Psalm 139:1-5; Jeremiah 18:1-11; Philemon 1:21; Luke 14:25-33

The Rev. Stacy Sauls

Pentecost 17—September 15

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

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

Psalm 13; Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Pentecost 18—September 22

8:00 & 10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine

Psalm 79:1-9; Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Pentecost 19—September 29

8:00 & 10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Thursdays: 12:30 p.m.

September 5, 12, 26 — Holy Eucharist

September 19 — Morning Prayer

MISSION POSSIBLE *(continued)*

Think about it: a budget is a statement of where we plan to use our resources and our energy. A budget that emphasizes immediate human need says that we are a church who has accepted the mission to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. A budget that emphasizes evangelism says that we are a church that has specifically accepted the mission to make disciples. By the same token, if our budget is primarily focused on keeping the lights on for those who show up on Sunday morning, that says something about our sense of mission as well.

Over the coming weeks and months, we are going to try a new way of talking about the budget for St. Andrew & John. On Sunday, September 29, your Vestry and Priest-in-Charge will be hosting a forum between the services to talk about how we believe our mission should shape our budget priorities. This is not intended to be the standard report which presents the budget as a zero-sum game with little room for change. Neither should this be a version of sitting on Santa's lap, asking for all the things we ever dreamed. The intention is to talk about our spiritual and moral priorities so that we can create a realistic budget which reflects them, as we would with our personal budget at home.

Two weeks later, on October 13, members of St. Andrew and John will be invited to make your pledges for the financial and personal support of the work of the parish in 2014. The juxtaposition of these events is not accidental. Your vestry and I pray that each of us will be able to keep in mind both the resources God has given us and the great need that God has placed before us. This is how we discern the mission on which God has sent us, and whether or not we choose to accept it.

Tim
¹ For those of a more philosophical mind, I would direct you to theologians David Bosch, Lesslie Newbigin, and Jurgen Moltmann and the concept of the *missio dei*; i.e. the *sending of God*, which grounds mission in Trinitarian terms: God the Father sends the Son; Father and Son send the Holy Spirit; the Holy Trinity sends the church into the world. Thus mission is not primarily a human activity, but an attribute of God, exercised through the Church.