

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

November 2013

Disestablishmentarianism

For a moment, imagine a world where everyone, or nearly everyone, is a Christian. Children are baptized as a matter of course, and are brought up learning the faith in the household of God. Young people choose to make a mature affirmation of their faith, and grow into leadership roles in their faith communities. Activities are not planned for Sunday mornings because families are all in church (or at least they claim to be). Pews are crowded, church nurseries are crowded, Sunday school is crowded. There are conversations and even debates about faith, religion, and morality in the public square, but the speakers all assume a Christian or Judeo-Christian foundation for their arguments. Some may doubt and question, but their doubts and questions come from within the tradition of faith. Church, society, and even government all seem to speaking the same language.

Now imagine a world where Christianity is one among many spiritual and religious paths. Some folks are enthusiastic public Christians, but they are a minority, albeit a highly visible one. Some folks are devoted to other faiths that have nothing to do with the Judeo-Christian tradition, and many choose to shape their own beliefs and practices from elements of several different traditions. Some follow new religions and philosophies that seem to spring up to meet particular social and psychological needs, and then wither as a generation passes. By far the largest group of people does not follow any organized religion other than the civil celebrations of the nation's history, of personal rites of passage, and sports and entertainment events. The wider society makes few allowances for religious worship, practices, or belief.



Which of these sounds more like the world in which we live today? Which of these sounds more like the world in which many of us grew up? Which of these sounds more like the world for which our congregations and churches and buildings were designed and evolved?

It is no secret that we live in a society where religion fills a very different role than it did just a couple generations ago. In the United States, churches were disestablished (separated from the government) in the eighteenth century, yet our culture had remained decidedly Christian until very recently. In Europe and Great Britain, where the Church remains established by the state, the Church has been culturally irrelevant even longer. Church officials are terrified to see attendance and membership plummet across denominations and traditions (evangelical and megachurches, which for a while looked like the exception, seem now to be merely a few years behind the Mainline churches in their decline in North America). The majority of two generations of young people have grown up without any exposure to a faith community, and in fact those who have been involved in church youth groups are less likely to be church members as adults than those who grew up unchurched. While the Church is healthy and growing in the Developing World, it seems to be withering in Europe and North America.

The first paragraph of this article describes (at least in caricature) the culture of Christendom that was dominant in much of the European-American world from the early Middle Ages through some time in the middle of the twentieth century. The second paragraph, while it applies to some aspects of our current society, was written to describe the late Roman Empire – the first several centuries after Christ, when the early Church experienced explosive growth. In many significant ways, the post-Christian world looks more similar to the pre-Christian world of 100 AD than it does to the world of fifty years ago.

Continued on page 3

INSIDE:

Advent Book Study	4
Anniversaries/Birthdays	6
Backpacks	2
Bean Supper	4
Book Gatherings	6
Diocesan Convention	4
Forums	5
Landscaping	6
Mahjong Classes	7
Nominating Committee	7
Organist	3
Rector's Notes	1/3
Remembering Vonnie & Phil	7
Solar Flashlights	4
Sr. Warden	2
Thanksgiving Dinner	7
Vestry Bullets	4
Westside Food Pantry	3
Worship Schedule/Scripture	5

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 Dec/Jan Net Tender is December 8

CHRISTMAS FAIR and WREATHS

St. John's will hold their Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 14 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. **We will need items to sell** - both crafts and foods (cookies, cakes, pies, etc.). If you are willing to help before, during and after; bake goodies; donate crafts; please contact:

Edie Stanwood, 244-3429, ediestanwood59@gmail.com

Michele Daley, 244-3229, saints315@myfairpoint.net

Bunny Watts, 244-3699, bhgables@aol.com

Chloe Hatcher, chloehatcher@gmail.com

Wreathes are for sale again this year at \$20 each. There is a sign up sheet in the Undercroft. Wreath creation will begin on November 20. We are looking for helpers so please plan to join us for this fun activity! Contact Edie Stanwood for more info!

SR. WARDEN

The topic of the forum which Floy Erwin presented several weeks ago was based on "Godly Play," (from Jerome W. Berryman's book by the same name, Vol.1) which is the program that is the basis for our church school. Each participant was to answer the question: What was important when you were younger than 5? And then what was important at 5 year intervals after that? We were asked to make notes of those important things and then to pick the ones that were most meaningful to us (6 to 12 was suggested). We were then to represent these either by drawing a picture (a sailboat, a guitar, a baby) or selecting a picture from a wide variety of materials (magazines, catalogues, postcards) that Floy provided. These were to tell our stories. Happily we did NOT have to share the pictures we had drawn!

Then we were asked to consider these questions:

What did you select?

What did you leave out?

How would you describe the things you picked out as important?

Can you name any theme that links or connects the objects you selected?

Why would it be important that you be the teller of the story?

Would someone else tell it differently: for example, a parent, a partner, child or long standing friend?

If you were at the Forum, you might want to revisit the process and see if there is more work to be done...time ran short and some of us have long stories to tell!

If you were NOT there I suggest you spend some time reflecting on your life in five year increments and see what patterns emerge.

I shared much of my story in the February ("Am I a cradle Episcopalian?") and March ("Have I always come to Maine?") *Net Tenders*. As I look back I find it helpful to look at my life in terms of the changes that took place and whether they were part of what could be considered a normal process or were abrupt and unexpected.

My early years in New York City had a routine and pattern that was familiar and solid. Then a bump! Off to Connecticut to go to public school and live with my grand-mother. Two years later another bump: my father died suddenly. Off to boarding school and then college. Those environments provided a good pattern for 8 years. Lots of opportunities and choices, one of which led to marriage and life as working girl (NOT career woman at that point!) for another 8 years. Another unex-

pected change came with the passing of my aunt and the opportunity to live in her spacious, garden-surrounded house in Westport CT.

I won't continue because the story is familiar to many of you...and is in those early *Net Tenders*. As I consider what pictures I would put in each of these segments of my life there is a clear pattern - always music, mostly choral singing, starting in high school and continuing right through last summer's Verdi "Requiem." And a passion for other kinds of music, especially chamber music, and an on-going attempt to master some very simple piano playing. Outdoor activities have always been, whether it is sports oriented, leading children on environmental education tours or working in the garden, OUT is where I want to be! And knitting, always knitting! A friend came up to me after a lecture at our 25th college reunion and said "Bunny! You're still knitting!" Yes, I still am... although these days it's on big needles in light colors. Sorry, Sandy, no more argyle socks!

I find that I have always chosen activities that balance the solitary with the social - enjoying and needing a good amount of solitary time vs. longing to be part of a group, an experience denied because of the lack of siblings and close cousins.

In browsing through previous *Net Tenders* I discover that Tim's first piece was "What is your story?" So, with apologies to Tim, I ask the same question. Our lives are made up of stories, as is the Bible. The patterns that emerge are fascinating. One of the frustrating things about coming into a community as an older adult is that it's hard to get to know people's stories. I often read an obituary and think: "I wish I'd known that when she was alive...we have so much in common!" Can we find ways to share our stories...perhaps St. John's own adult version of Godly Play?

Bunny Watts

ITEMS NEEDED FOR BACKPACKS

We continue to work with Harbor House to provide weekend food backpacks to students at Pemetec and Tremont. This year the need has grown to 17 students each week. Please bring easy-open, no prep (other than microwaving), child-liked soups (pop-top cans of chicken noodles, chicken with stars, etc.) and 100% real fruit juice boxes for this ministry.

Dianne McMullan

REMEMBERING...

Vonnie Bell

I got to know Vonnie in 2007 after I started going to St. John's mid-week service on a regular basis. Vonnie always sat with Priscilla Trafton. I'd known Priscilla when she worked in the lunch room at Pemetec and she had earned a place in my heart making sure that our son Eben, the only vegetarian student at Pemetec at the time, was well provided for in the cafeteria. Both Vonnie and Priscilla were always happy to see me. Vonnie had long been a volunteer at the public library where Susan works. Vonnie and I always had lots to talk about. Occasionally I would help get her to or from the service, either in our car or, in good weather, walking slowly between St. John and her rooms in the Ridge Apartments. We never talked about politics but clearly she liked the Obamas. The door to her apartment was covered with photographs of the candidate and then president and his family. When Vonnie moved to Sonogee I started to visit her there. After a while she moved from the south wing to the north wing. Vonnie always liked to talk. I told her about our family and happenings at the library and showed her pictures on my phone. Some days I would read to her from *Country of the Pointed Firs*. She liked that. We would sometimes visit in the sitting area with large windows looking out onto Frenchman Bay. She would call my attention to birds and flowers and boats. As time went on, I had a harder time understanding her. She always smiled when she saw me and I was always happy to see her.

Michael Shook

Phil Fox

For more than ten years, Phil Fox and I were known as Melissa and Andy almost as much as by Chloe and Phil. Over the years we came to have not only a deeper understanding of our characters but ourselves and each other. Performing *Love Letters* was always a special time for us but in August of 2012 something magical happened. I am told the audience felt it too. There are no words to explain, it was just a magical performance. We never imagined that it would be our last. To all of you who attended our performances, thank you. We were humbled by the many of you who returned time and time again which enabled us to continue doing a show which we came to love.

Phil lived a large and interesting life wherever he was. His many friends in Michigan, Tennessee, his Acadia Rep friends from around the country and especially his friends and family here on Mount Desert will miss his clever wit, challenging intellect, loyal friendship, great sense of humor and his delicious Cioppino! Rest in peace, dear friend.

Chloe Hatcher



THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

A Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner to be held at St. John's is in the planning stages. Every one is welcome to join in the fellowship! A call to the office would be helpful so we know how much food to prepare but reservations are not necessary. If you would like to help, call Dianne at 244-4582 or Chloe at 669-2801.



MAHJONG CLASSES

Barbara Campbell will be teaching Mahjong! To learn how to play this fun game, please plan to join us in the Common Room for three two-hour classes (attendance at all three is highly recommended) on Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. The first class is November 1, the second November 22, and the third TBD. We will need four people to hold the class. Call Karen Craig, 244-5267 to get on the list.



Birthdays

NOVEMBER

5—Mary Lawrence
12—Joseph Fallica
14—Winthrop Short
15—Elke O'Donnell
16i—Elisabeth Buell
18—Ellen Gilmore
22—Kathryn Hiscock
25—Spencer Ervin
26—Michele Daley
29—Floy Ervin

Wedding Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

23—Elaine and Bob Theriault

HELP WANTED

Requirements: some time, energy, sense of humor and, most of all: **Life Experience**

We are at that time in the church year when we are seeking people to take on the duties and challenges of serving on the Vestry. This year there are important posts to be filled:

Clerk: one year RENEWABLE term

Junior Warden: two year RENEWABLE term

Vestry member for a one year term to fill the vacancy of Patsy Fogarty who is retiring

The Nominating Committee will be announced shortly. If you are interested in serving on the vestry please speak to me, Tim, or any vestry member. If you know someone whom you think would be a good candidate please let one of us know. We will approach them in confidence to determine if they are interested.

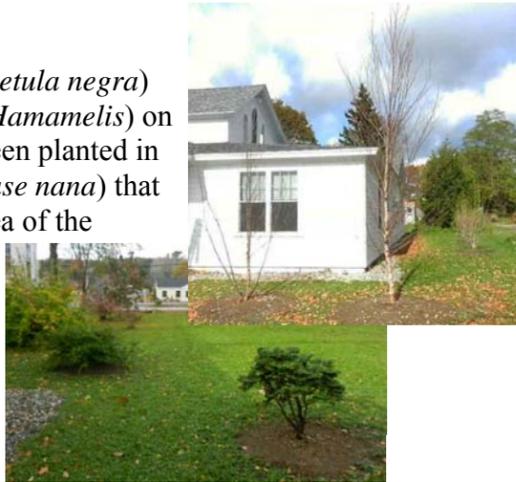
This is an opportunity to contribute your unique talents to the ministry St. John's. We all have gifts to share and many in this parish have given freely of their time and energy for many years. Is it YOUR turn now?

NEW LANDSCAPING

The Landscaping Committee recommended planting two river birch (*Betula negra*) on the southeast corner of the Church property and three witch hazel (*Hamamelis*) on the east side of the new wing. A boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) has been planted in the northeast corner of the property and the cedar (*Chamaecyperis obtuse nana*) that was given to us by Sam Felton from Elise's garden is planted in the area of the entrance to Father Tim's office on the north side of the new wing.

The trees were planted Thursday, October 24th using funds from the Design Construction budget and a generous gift from the Buell family.

Floy Ervin



JANUARY BOOK GATHERINGS

The Education for Ministry group that meets at St. Saviour's on Tuesdays from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. will be discussing two supplemental texts: *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by Reza Aslan and *And God Spoke: The Authority of the Bible for the Church Today* by Christopher Bryan as a part of their studies this year, and is inviting anyone who is interested in reading and discussing these books to join them on January 14 and 21 from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. at St. Saviour's in Bar Harbor.

Books can be obtained via your local bookstore or perhaps via your local library. If there is sufficient interest, we may be able to order some copies for individuals or for sharing if you are willing to help pay for them. Please let Sarah Flynn (sarahbf@myfairpoint.net) at St. Saviour's or Jayne Ashworth (jayne.ashworth@gmail.com) at St. Andrew & St. John's know if you would like to pursue this approach to obtaining a copy of the books or if you have questions.

We hope to see you there!

NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH



Several interesting musical activities are on the near horizon. On Sunday, November 3, recorder player Eileen Brennan will play music by J.S. Bach and Jean Baptiste Loeillet during the 10 a.m. service, accompanied by me on the piano. Eileen's sensitive and musical playing has graced our service twice in the recent past, and we are very happy to have her back. Looking ahead to post-November activities, Eileen and I plan to present a recital of recorder and piano music at St. John's in the evening. Stay tuned for the date.

We have an additional opportunity to hear beautiful music on Sunday, November 3, this time at St. Saviour's church in Bar Harbor. At 4 p.m., the St. Saviour's Festival Choir will offer a service of Choral Evensong, singing music by Robert Powell and Bob Chilcott. I can give first-hand testimony that the choral music is beautiful, and very moving. The service will be followed by a wine and cheese reception.

And of course we have our usual St. John's Singers rehearsals, on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, from 5 - 6 p.m. at St. John's church. These are opportunities to sing the hymns selected for the upcoming services, both to familiarize ourselves or become re-acquainted with the music, and to discuss whether we want to recommend any different hymns. All are welcome, regardless of singing experience or ability.

Peace,

Stephen

AND THE WINNER IS...

Robyn Maltz from Newton, Massachusetts!

Tim drew the winning ticket during the October 27th service. The raffle made \$3515 for the food pantry. Or, as Dean would say, raffle earnings have provided 351 vouchers for our neighbors who come to the food pantry. Thank you to our stalwart ticket sellers, those who bought tickets and all who support the Westside Food Pantry. Special thanks to Jayne and David Ashworth who made the beautiful prints of the painting, which we were able to use at the raffle table. We are so grateful to Judy Taylor and Kay McDonald for donating their gifts. Please visit Judy's studio at 1517 Tremont Rd., Seal Cove and Kay at K. A. McDonald Framing on the corner of Wayman Lane and Main St., Bar Harbor.

With gratitude,

Susan Buell

Disestablishmentarianism (continued from page 1)

So what are we to do about this? Should we be travelling from town to town, preaching on the village greens and daring the authorities to arrest us? Perhaps some will find this effective. What seems clear, though, is that it does little good to go on pretending that all we need to do is to open the doors to our magnificent buildings, and that people will show up seeking what we have to offer.

Look at the first two paragraphs again. While the world of the first paragraph may seem cozy and familiar to some, it was also stifling and stultifying to many. I am quite sure that there are many people active within our parishes and faith communities today that would not have felt welcomed or engaged by the church-world of the first paragraph. The second paragraph offers us no guarantees, but allows much more space for creative co-creation with the Spirit of new ways of being the Body of Christ.

Beginning the first week of Advent (December 1), I will be leading a series of discussions based on the book *People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity*, by Dwight J. Zscheile. I jokingly said on Sunday that this is the most recent in the series of new books that are meant to save the Episcopal Church, and the fact is that no book can do that (other than perhaps the Book that we already have). What Mr. Zscheile does, however, is challenges us to get past our assumptions about how we can be the church in a world where we are neither established nor the Establishment, but a small band of missionaries sent out to preach the reconciliation of the World with God. Are you ready?

Tim+



ADVENT BOOK STUDY GROUP

People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity by Dwight J. Zscheile (pronounced like "Shiley") is an invitation to re-imagine what it means to be an Episcopalian in North America in the twenty-first century, in a post-Establishment, post-Colonial, post-Denominational, and nearly post-Christian world. Father Tim will be leading a discussion of the book during Advent on four Mondays from 9 to 10:30AM following Morning Prayer in the Library at St. Saviour, and four Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2PM in the Common Room at St. John's. Anybody from any parish can attend either group, and it's okay to bounce back and forth. The Book is available at Morehouse Publishing or at Amazon (\$12.89 plus shipping); if you would like the church to order one for you, please contact Tim, Muffet, or Michele by November 18.

SOLAR FLASHLIGHTS

Our mission team representing three MDI Episcopal churches and nine others from Bath and Falmouth are leaving on November 9 to work with students at Institution Univer in Ouanaminthe, Haiti with ESL classes and Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) prep training. We'd love to be able to take a number of solar flashlights with us as students often end up studying into the night in very poor light. We're looking at an LL Bean product and are hoping to get them for close to \$15 each. If you'd like to contribute to this project and help light up the night for a deserving student, you can help by contributing any amount in the following manner:

1. Placing check/cash in an envelope and put in the offering plate.
2. Drop off check/cash @ the office by November 3.
3. Mail a check directly to St. John Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 767, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679 (please note "Solar Flashlights" on check or envelope, and make checks out to "St. John's")

Rita Redfield

VESTRY BULLETS

- The personnel reviews have been completed.
- The Vestry evaluated what was said at the joint meeting with the FIC and the dialogue with the congregation.
- Most of the meeting involved discussion of the 2014 budget. Should we have a deficit budget?
- Should we budget for an associate priest?

Keep in your prayers the folks who will be traveling to Israel and Jordan November 6-17.

"God's Kingdom Surrounds Us: Let's Take It to the Streets"

This was the theme of the 194th annual convention of the Diocese of Maine, October 25th and 26th, attended by Edie Stanwood, Rita Redfield, Father Tim, and me, taking place at Point Lookout in Northport.

We accomplished the normal business of a convention, electing clergy and lay candidates to various positions and delegations. In fact, our own Father Tim was elected an alternate deputy to the general convention, as was Rita Redfield. We also passed a much streamlined budget for the 2014 work of the diocese, with the diocesan staff cut in half over the last few years, and the savings passed on to the parishes through a decrease of 1.9% in our annual assessments. Four resolutions were passed, two having to do with clerical compensation, one with the frequency of holding future diocesan conventions, and the fourth renewing our Companion Diocese Relationship with the Diocese of Haiti.

Bishop Steve's opening message asked us to do the following:

- Work to streamline and prioritize, getting rid of non-essentials, like hardly used buildings
- Offer worship that is engaging and life-changing, trying out new approaches and new music
- Give more time and attention to adult education
- Continue holy conversations out in the community so that we take our ministry outside the walls of our churches

As always, some of the most valuable results of the convention had to do with new and deeper relationships being developed, especially among the delegates from MDI.

Please feel free to ask any of us who attended if you want more information.

Patsy Fogarty

BEAN SUPPER

Saturday, November 2, 5:30 to 7:00 pm. \$8/person, 5 and under free. Menu: baked beans, vegetarian baked beans, assorted meats, coleslaw, cornbread and dinner rolls, and plenty of delicious desserts including homemade pies.

Dianne McMullan

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

Pentecost 24—November 3

8:00 & 10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 119:137-144; Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4;
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Pentecost 25—November 10

8:00 & 10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 145:1-5, 18-21; Haggai 1:15b-2;
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5:13-17; Luke 20:27-38
The Rev. Tim Fleck

Pentecost 26—November 17

9:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Canticle 9; Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
The Rev. Debbie Little Wyman

Pentecost 27—November 24

8:00 & 10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Canticle 4; Jeremiah 23:1-6; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
The Rev. Tim Fleck

Advent 1 — December 1

8:00 & 10:00 — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 122; Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Thursdays: 12:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist

November 7 — John Milton
November 14—Consecration of Samuel Seabury
November 21—C. S. Lewis

UPCOMING FORUMS

November 3: *Sunday Morning Shamwana: A Midwife's Story of the Congo* —Linda Robinson

November 10: Vestry Dialogue

November 17: *Jeremiah's Legacy: An Opportunity for our Future*—Patsy Fogarty, Ward MacKenzie, Spencer Ervin, Liz Erickson, and Jim Vekasi

November 24: *The Day a War Didn't Happen* — Fred Benson (*see article below*)

December 1: *A Christmas Story*—Michael Shook:

December 8: *Doctrine of Discovery, Native American Affairs*—John Dieffenbacher Kral, from St. John's in Bangor

December 22: Cookie Exchange

The Day a War Didn't Happen

At the 9:00 Forum on November 24, Fred Benson will present a talk entitled, "*The Day a War Didn't Happen*." It is the story of when Somalia President Siad Barre requested an appointment with a top pentagon official to purchase military weaponry with which to attack his neighboring country, Kenya. Instead of tanks and artillery he was offered an invitation to meet with a "few friends" for breakfast the next morning. Eight men gathered around the breakfast table and after three hours of discussion, the President agreed to seek a settlement, not wage war. Thousands of lives were saved that day. For many good reasons, this event has never been made public. Now that both President Barre and the Pentagon official are deceased, it is appropriate that this story be told. It is especially important to do so to demonstrate that there are alternatives to conflict, an important message as the United States finds itself seemingly enmeshed in what has become a permanent state of war.