

The Net Tender - February 2014

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

315 Main Street • P.O. Box 767 • Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

Phone: Church Office 207-244-3229; Tim Fleck 207-812-8362

E-mail: saints315@myfairpoint.net / tim@mdi-episcopal.org

Website: www.saintsmdi.org

Office Hours: Monday · Tuesday · Thursday, 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Priest-in-Charge

Timothy Fleck

Music Director

Stephen Sampson

Parish Administrator

Michele Daley

Editors

Jayne Ashworth

Anne Wetzel



The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

February 2014

HOW WE DOIN'?

Report Cards. The State of the Union. The annual medical check-up. New Year's resolutions. Employee reviews. It is a very human and healthy impulse periodically to seek out and share feedback on how things are going in our lives, our relationships, our development and progress. To set goals and then check back to see how well we have achieved them. To name our assumptions and see if they still hold true.



In the church, though, our ultimate goal is nothing less than the Kingdom of God, the reconciliation of creation with its creator, and we constantly remind ourselves that progress toward that goal is not due to our own efforts, but to God working through us. With this cosmic goal on the horizon, we can fall into one of two easy traps: Since God is the one healing the broken world, we can decide that it is presumptuous for us to evaluate our own ministry in God's name, and that we should just keep doing what we have been doing and trust that God will turn it toward the good of the universe. Or we can become obsessed with measuring ourselves against short-term goals like worship attendance, pledges, or even laudable goals like numbers of people fed.

Ministry is not primarily measured by statistics, but neither is it so far above our heads that we cannot talk about the success or evolution of a particular ministry, a particular parish, even a particular minister in a particular place. Where we need to be careful is where we draw the line around that "particular." It is not helpful or fair to evaluate a small rural congregation or a struggling inner-city parish on the same yardstick as a wealthy suburban one. Neither does it make sense to do a standard employee evaluation for a pastor who is working hard with limited resources, perhaps with a congregation that does not support her.

Ministry is not one-way. Ministry is not even two-way. If it is working well, ministry is all-way, every one ministering to every other in God's name, with so much love and service zooming around that the whole thing crackles like an electrical storm.



Meteorologists can't put a whole storm under a microscope to study its strength and direction. And it's impossible to get a sense of the whole system from inside a whirlwind. Instead one takes individual readings of wind speed and temperature, sends up balloons and probes, looks at images stitched together from orbiting satellites, puts it all together with what we know about other storms to get an overall picture of where the system is going, whether it's getting stronger or weaker.

That's the kind of study process we're entering at St. Andrew & John. We have been engaging in collaborative ministry with St. Saviour for about twenty months now, and your contract with me and the Diocese requires that we enter into a Mutual Study of Ministry process at this point, to see what has been working well and what could work better. Your vestry will be sending up probes: interviewing a significant number of members of the congregation (almost a quarter) to hear which way the wind is blowing, and how hot or cold people are feeling about this system.

The key way in which this study differs from meteorology, though, is that we have the chance to change things in the next year and a half. If we discover things that could be done better, we have the opportunity to implement new ways of doing things, even to change the direction of the whole system.

This is not a review of my performance, or of yours. In fact, this process used to be known a "Mutual Ministry Review," but has recently been re-named to reflect the reality that this process has more to do with appreciatively studying what is going on than with assigning grades.

If you get a call from a vestry member over the next month asking you to participate, please try to take the time to meet with them, and please be as honest as you can in your conversation – individual identities will be kept confidential. And whether you are called or not, I hope that you will join in reading and discussing the results, as we discern together which way the Spirit is blowing at St. Andrew & John. If you are not called but would like to be part of the process please call me or Bunny Watts.

T. Um+

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NEW OFFICERS ELECTED JANUARY 19th

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 19, new members were elected to various positions on the Vestry. The current Vestry members are:

Senior Warden—Bunny Watts

Junior Warden—Rita Redfield

Treasurer—Liz Erickson

Assistant Treasurer—Jim Vekasi

Clerk—Jayne Ashworth

Vestry

Susan Buell

Gen Mackenzie

Marilyn Mays

Elaine Theriault

Floy Ervin

Chloe Hatcher

Associate Vestry

Diane Krueger

Doris Walton

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 March Net Tender is March 2

Birthdays

FEBRUARY

3—Michael Shook
 7—Andy McMullan
 19—Candace DaCosta
 23—Wesley DeCamp
 24—Michael DaCosta
 28—Bob Theriault

Wedding Anniversaries

FEBRUARY

4—Peggy and Eugene Walls
 14—Glenn Milligan/Michele Daley
 18—Elke and Thomas O'Donnell

VESTRY UPDATE

There was no Vestry Meeting in January. A joint meeting with the St. Saviour's Vestry was held on Sunday, January 12th. Heidi Shott, our Canon Missioner from the Diocese of Maine, introduced to the Mutual Study of Ministry (*see Tim's article*) that both parishes are presently undertaking. We will be looking at what is bearing fruit in our congregations and what could work better. If you are NOT called for an interview but would like to be part of the process please call Bunny or Tim.

Jayne Ashworth

SACRISTY UPDATE

Our thanks to Mary Vekasi, Paul and Margot Haertel, Ted and Joan Bromage, Dean Henry, Edie Stanwood and other able volunteers who have worked to give the Sacristy a much-needed new look. Our thanks also to Cheri Cushman and her crew from Ocean-side Wallpaper and Painting for their work.



Cheri Cushman

KATRINA'S DREAM...Letter from Helene Swanson

Dearest Friends,

It is the wee hours of morning as I go through my emails I count my blessings. Early this evening over a burger with our youngest son Harry, I caught him up on his responsibilities here in the San Francisco Bay area. Harry will be helping out running our Olof's Brothers Agape Liturgical Service, which serves the Anchor Outs of Richardson Bay, California, while I am on my walk. Katrina and William would be proud of him. The Coffee Service is provided through the generosity of the congregants of Christ Church Sausalito, but part of the funds we are raising cover other cost associated with that program. And we have big dreams for this ministry. Your prayers and support come most appreciated. Here is a clip from our Olof's Brothers Service last Saturday. Enjoy and Rejoice! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-5OTpgpR6E>

But I am not writing to you today to update you on all of our progress. Much has been made. I purchased my ticket to India today through the generous donations made thus far. And we still have a long way to go to cover our cost while I am in India, Harry is administering Olof's Brother, and then there is our Close the Death Chamber Candlelight Vigil. There is so much to share with you about all the good things that have begun to materialize since we announced my pilgrimage across our great country to promote the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. So please I ask you if you can spare a few dollars it is going towards Christian work and the full inclusion of women in society and our other social justice programs. Please visit our Indiegogo Fundraising Platform. For those who prefer the US Mail please feel free to send your donations to:

Rev. Kathryn A. Piccard
 Katrina's Dream
 68 Baldwin Street, #2
 Charlestown, MA 02129

Feel free to join us on our Facebook Event page to show that you are attending in spirit. Don't forget to invite your friends. Here's the link. <https://www.facebook.com/events/370467279764897/> I guess that's it for now. I cannot thank each and everyone of you enough for all the wonderful feedback and support. With your support and prayer We Will Pass the ERA!

Love and Light in Christ,

Sister Helene Swanson (& Brother William always)

2014 BUDGET

A summary of recent year actual spending and the Vestry approved 2014 budget is shown below:

2012 - 2014 Summary			
	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget
INCOME			
4010 · Contributions - Pledges	\$92,679	\$100,721	\$95,000
4020 · Non-Pledged Donations	\$9,389	\$11,179	\$10,000
4025 · Blessings Fund	\$1,125	\$1,665	\$1,500
4050 · Investment Income to Operations	\$16,107	\$22,837	\$30,750
5800 · Fundraising	\$16,350	\$16,455	\$14,000
4100 · Dedicated Gifts	\$4,044	\$8,797	\$3,336
Total Income	\$139,694	\$161,655	\$154,586
EXPENSES			
7100 · Outreach	\$7,586	\$10,222	\$6,486
7200 · Personnel	\$84,839	\$90,759	\$97,950
8000 · Other Expenses	\$11,034	\$5,828	\$9,860
8200 · Facility Operations	\$16,713	\$13,485	\$30,327
8650 · Assessments - Diocese of Maine	\$25,976	\$22,217	\$20,076
Total Expenses	\$146,148	\$142,511	\$164,699
NET INCOME	-\$6,454	\$19,144	-\$10,113

Thanks to help from Michael Shook, more detailed information on the 2014 budget can be found at: <http://mshook.webfactional.com/stastj/budget/2014%20budget%20St%20Andrew%20and%20St%20John.pdf> There's also a link in the left margin of the St. John website <http://saintsmidi.org> below the calendar.

Jim Vekasi

THOUGHTS FROM AFAR

For the last couple of years, the growing of our parish has been a much talked about subject. Ideas have been tossed about to attract more children as well as adults of different ages.

Recently I had a wonderful opportunity to work with a lovely lady who volunteered to help with the meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas. She moved to our community this summer and has been attending Church of Our Father. When I asked her why she had not chosen St. John's, she said that she had attended church but no one had even acknowledged her presence at coffee hour. She said that she had sat on the picnic table bench and watched almost 20 people chatting with one another but no one spoke to her. Not even the priest! When she went to COOF, they pulled her right into their midst.

Those of us in the kitchen just looked at each other and let out one big "wow"! We think of ourselves as friendly and I think we really are! But how easy it is to get wrapped up in talking with friends we haven't seen in a while. While looking to bring more folks in, let's not miss taking care of the ones who are already there. I encourage all of us be better ambassadors to growing our congregation by taking good care of our visitors.

Chloe Hatcher



WHY ENDOWMENT?

At the annual meeting on January 19, there was a lively discussion about our endowments following the report that the Sawyer House gift in 2012 and good market returns in 2013 had brought balances to new highs. Some questioned the need for endowments. I was somewhat shocked and very concerned because I believe that our endowments are critical to our survival as an organization. Here are some reasons why:



Provide operational funds. Our number of annual pledges continues to fall from 88 in 2006 to 48 in 2013. Our annual pledge income peaked in 2006 at \$113,000 and has hovered at \$90-\$100,000 per year since then. Without the sustainable 4% annual withdrawal from our endowments, we would not be able to operate at our current level. In 2013, endowments contributed \$22,837. This will increase to \$31,000 in 2014 and to a projected \$38,000 in 2015. (Because we use a three year average to calculate withdrawals, the large increases in 2012 and 2013 will take a few years to be reflected.) This increase is the brightest spot in our goal of eliminating chronic deficit budgets and achieving long term financial stability.

Honor the wishes of donors. Some endowments are legally restricted to one use. For example, our St. Andrews endowment is restricted to St. Andrews operations and will be withdrawn if we no longer use St. Andrews for church services. However, most of our endowment gifts were given without restrictions, but with the expectation that we would continue to manage the funds for long term sustainability.

Allow for emergencies and stability. If we were ever to encounter a major financial crisis, non-sustainable use of endowment funds for a short time could provide an alternative to closing our doors. In addition, endowment withdrawals are more predictable than donations and fundraisers and provide a relatively stable portion of our income.

I think of our endowment as I do our personal retirement funds. If we spend too much, we run out of money and cannot provide for ourselves. If we spend too little, we may miss opportunities. St. John's current 4% withdrawal rate is a value broadly accepted by non-profits that gives us a good chance of retaining buying power over the very long term.

For all these reasons, I believe that our endowments are critically important to our financial survival, second only to member pledges. I encourage you to consider current gifts and bequests to enhance our endowments. In my view, this is the most important step we can take to help ensure that St. John's will be there for future generations.

Jim Vekasi

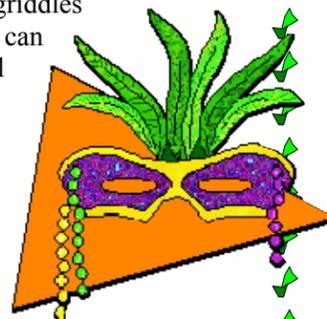
SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



In the dark ages (*at least three years ago*) we had a tradition of the men of the parish (*and draftees*) putting on a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We'd like to revive the affair on March 4th and experience the joy of our new kitchen, so wonderfully stewarded by our Martha's Guild. In the historic kitchen we had two stovetop griddles and at least one or two electric griddles. With our new stove top we can handle two large griddles and we've acquired a new Presto Electrical Griddle, 50% larger than our stove top ones. Look for an invitation soon to warm yourself by the griddles, serve, set-up or clean-up. It won't be as "intimate" as in the past, but it should be easier and a lot

more fun. Considering volunteering? Jump the gun and contact Ted Bromage at 244-3227. This event will be free (*donations accepted*) and open to the entire Southwest Harbor community. Any proceeds that exceed expenses will be donated to the Westside Food Pantry.

Ted Bromage



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

The Presentation—February 2

7:30 & 10:00 — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 84; Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

The Rev. Persis Williams

Epiphany 5—February 9

7:30 & 10:00 — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 58:1-9a; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

The Rev. Lynn Orville

Epiphany 6—February 16

7:30 & 10:00 — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 119:1-8; Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20; Matthew 5:21-37

The Rev. Lynn Orville

Epiphany 7—February 23

7:30 & 10:00 — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 119:33-40; Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18;

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

The Rev. Tim Fleck

SERVICES AT SONOGEE

I received the schedule for Sonogee services for the first half of 2014 from Jack Drake and I pass it on to mark on your calendars. Jack has St. John's down for 10:30am, Sunday, April 20 (Easter, Food Pantry & first Sunday of school vacation week). Let me know if you'd like to participate. I note that it's a Food Pantry Sunday but that should not be a problem. The Sonogee service should be over by 11:00 am.

Michael Shook

(The dates are also on the online St. Andrew & St. John calendar located here: <http://tinyurl.com/saintsmidi-schedule>)

ST. JOHN'S FLOWER GUILD

Current members are Chloe Hatcher, Floy Ervin, Betsy Hewlett, Ellen Gilmore, Gen McKenzie and John Ritsko with Ginny Agar and Susan Buell serving as co-chairs. This is a very creative and hard-working group! Following



the long parish tradition we try to use natural materials from gardens, roadsides, woods and beaches. We often clip branches from the beautiful winterberry, holly, lilac, forsythia, boxwood, viburnum and smoke bushes growing in our churchyard. We also try very hard to reflect the liturgical season in our decorating. For example during Lent and Advent, which are times of quiet and reflection, we do not bring bright colors into the church. However, bright colors are used during the Easter and Christmas seasons of celebration and all



during the summer and fall. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve in this way. All are welcome to join us!"

Susan Buell

JANUARY FORUM

Early in January members were given a wonderful lecture by Katharine Thompson accompanied by beautiful slides of the Holy Land. The trip in November was organized by Bob Schmeler and Jerusalem Tours, Inc. and covered many of the early Greek and Roman archeological sites. The group came away with a real feeling of what it was like to be living in that area two thousand years ago.

Anne Wetzel

