

The Net Tender - May 2014

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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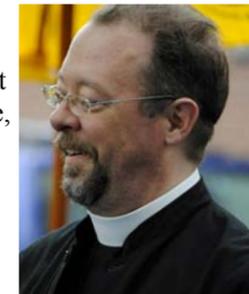
The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

May 2014

CREDO

Recently I was at an ecumenical clergy gathering where we were discussing the problems some of our members have with the Creed. I mentioned that I have some respect for those who have some scruple with an individual clause, but that I am amazed at the number of people who recite the Nicene Creed every week, but when asked, say something like, “Oh, we don’t really believe that anymore, do we?” A minister from a progressive denomination said proudly, “I won’t say the creed. That’s why I decided not to be ordained as an Episcopal priest. I consider myself a non-believer.” Putting aside the rather odd implication that one shops around for a church in which to be ordained, I have to wonder at the idea that one would serve as a pastor while identifying oneself as a non-believer, as much as that a parishioner would recite the Creed every week with the assumption that it doesn’t mean anything.



The Creeds are historical documents, in the sense that we know something about where and when they were composed, and in what historical context. The Creed we read every Sunday (p. 358 in the *Book of Common Prayer*) was drafted at the Council of Nicaea (today called Iznik, Turkey) in 325 AD, and adopted with considerable revision at the Council of Constantinople (Istanbul) in 381 AD. These Councils were convened by the Emperors Constantine and Theodosius, who invited all the Christian bishops in the Empire to come together and hammer out a clear statement of belief. This was important if Christianity was to be an Imperial religion: the Empire needed to know what the main stream of Christians believe.



However one thinks about the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Creeds were drafted by human beings in the midst of spiritual and political struggle. The goal of the Councils was to define orthodox belief, so by definition some ways of interpreting Christ were excluded and labeled heresy. Much has been made of this process of “silencing minority voices,” but one need not see a cynical conspiracy. This is the Church working out our answer to Jesus’ question to the Disciples: “Who do you say that I am?”

In fact, the largest part of the Creed, the second paragraph that talks about who Jesus is, treads a careful line to avoid foreclosing questions with easy answers: Jesus is eternally and cosmically God *and also* a human being who was born to a specific woman and who was killed under the administration of a specific Roman governor. The historic heresies are not excluded because they said something challenging about Jesus that the Church couldn’t handle. They are excluded because they say something that is too little, too easy: That Jesus was simply a good man and a good teacher, but not God (the Arians), or that the man that we know as Jesus was only some sort of spiritual projection of God, and thus not a human who suffered (the Gnostics and Docetists).

Some will say that “Jesus did not come to establish a Church.” That may be true, but the fact is that the Church is the historical human body, full of human limitations and weaknesses, that has been given the gift and the responsibility of maintaining and furthering the Good News that Jesus left us. The Creed is a statement of our corporate identity: we are people who try to follow Jesus, and this is what we as a community say about who Jesus is, who God is.

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THE REV. VESTA KOWALSKI TO SERVE AS AFFILIATE CLERGY

Tim and the vestries of St. Saviour and of St. Andrew & St. John are pleased to announce that we have made arrangements with The Rev. Vesta Kowalski and The Rev. Jennifer Reece to serve as Affiliated Clergy at our two parishes. This means that Vesta will typically be at St. Andrew & John on most Sundays when Tim is not here, and Jenny will be at St. Saviour on most Sundays when Tim is not there. In addition, both priests have agreed to serve a limited amount of additional time on weekdays to assist Tim with Christian Education, pastoral care and other ministries as necessary. Our intention is that all three priests constitute a team whose ministry is shared between the two parishes. We have committed to this arrangement through November 23, at which point all of us will evaluate how things are going and how best to proceed into Advent. Be sure to welcome Vesta at St. John on May 4 and Jenny at St. Saviour on May 11!



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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 June Net Tender is June 1



THE FLIGHT OF THE FLAMINGOES

Bunny Watts



I'll confess that the title is not entirely accurate but it struck my fancy and if it led YOU to read this then it's served the purpose!

The flamingoes WILL be gathering in Southwest Harbor on July 12 and St. John's will again be taking an active part in making the day a festive and financially profitable one. Here's where we stand so far:

Margot Haertel and her team will be selling lemonade and pies either by the slice or whole.

Dianne McMullen and trusty Basketeers will be assembling baskets for the very popular basket raffle. You have made wonderfully creative theme baskets: gardening, beach, reading, wine, toys, knitting...the list goes on! Think what would be fun and start assembling it now!

Karen Craig and the Green Thumbs will preside over another glorious array of flowers and plants. To do that they will need help setting up and carrying things on Friday July 11. Can you give them a little time then? And, as our gardens slowly come to life see what perennials can be divided and set aside to be donated to the Garden Booth.

The Silent Auction. Letters will go out this week (see article else where about signing them) to local merchants and those who have donated in the past. Arrangements have been made for the big tent to be ready. Is there a service you would like to donate? Boat ride? Dinner party? Hours of child care or gardening? Let Michele or me know.

THIS IS A CHANGE! St. Andrew's will be the site of our tag sale! It will be held on Friday, June 13 and Saturday the 14th. This new location will attract buyers on that side of the island as well as the diehards who will go anywhere for a sale! PLUS we don't need to worry about the weather because there is ample space to set up in the basement and have the sale there.

WHAT THIS MEANS: there is a team working now to sort out what is currently in the basement and make room for donations. This should be completed by the middle of May at which time the basement will be available for your "stuff." We will be looking for people to sort and price the week before the sale. Those of you who have done it in the past, please try to keep some time free that week to work at St. Andrew's.

WHAT ELSE? When we see what's left after the tag sale we will determine whether it is worth taking that over to St. John's for what has been the Treasure Trove in the past. That requires boxing, carting, moving, setting up, etc. so we have to assess whether it is worth the time and energy involved.

AND: I need to step down as "Boutique Manager" and would happily give that task over to anyone interested. There are some things left from last year and more may appear so it could bring in some income. It is not difficult and is a pleasant relatively low pressure way to be involved. There are several people who have helped in the past who would probably be willing to do it again...but, typically, no one wants to be in charge. Any volunteers? Summer folks looking for your own special niche? Think about it!

The flamingoes are roosting for the night. Think summer, pies and baskets. think pink! Thanks in advance for all your ideas and help.

BLESSINGS FUND

Patsy Fogarty

Easter has come in all its joy, and spring is struggling to settle in. After this winter, what a blessing! Family members living away are planning their summer visits. Maybe there will even be a graduation, wedding, or new arrival. More blessings!



Won't you share the gifts in your life with your parish family? A special line in our annual revenue budget invites you to do just that. It's called "The Blessings Fund".

Please consider a contribution to the St Andrew and St John Blessings Fund to commemorate the blessings in your life. Thank you.

KNEISEL HALL CONCERT

Suzi and Bert Zbar

Mark your calendars! Suzi and Bert Zbar are sponsoring the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Concert at St. John's at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 31. The students who will be performing are a part of the Music Academy in Blue Hill. We hope everyone will plan to attend!

WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY CONCLUDES 2013-2014 DISTRIBUTION SEASON

Dean Henry and Susan Covino Buell, Co-Directors

The Westside Food Pantry shares its resources six months each year--our "distribution season." These six months coincide with the seasonal nature of employment on the west side of Mount Desert Island. From November through April local employment undergoes reductions and lay-offs. This is part of the "west side economic reality" which the Pantry helps address through its program of food voucher distribution. As the month of April closes, the Pantry closes its distribution operations and concentrates on replenishing its funds for the next November. Here is a summary overview of this distribution season.

When the Pantry opened last November the "head-of-household" voucher allocation was restored to its 2011 level (\$50 per household head and \$30 per additional household member). This restoration to 2011 levels was possible because of extra-fruitful fund-raising operations over the past two seasons. Heading into the 2013 season we anticipated the restored level would increase voucher costs by almost \$12,000 over the six month season and that estimation proved accurate.

Pantry Usage-at-a-glance	2013-14	2012-13	% chg
Dollar value of vouchers distributed:	\$102,040	\$89,870	13.5
Adults served (6 month total)	1,603	1,404	
Children served (6 month total)	632	679	
Total persons served (6 month total)	2,235	2,083	7.0
Total number of households served (6 months)	1,221	1,089	3.0
Total funds raised for operations (May 1 -- Apr 25):	\$105,150	\$98,580	6.2
Total funds available for operations (Apr 25):	\$57,414	\$55,271	3.8

Facts, figures, dollar signs, and percentage changes don't make for a clear picture of the Westside Food Pantry. The statistics demonstrate that the Pantry accomplished its work this season, and with continued effort will be in a position financially to serve the needs of our neighbors come November 2014. What is not indicated in these statistics however, is the spirit of sharing that is the full story of the Westside Food Pantry. It is the hearts and spirits of the people of the west side of this island that are touched by this sharing. Our neighbors who present their need and stand in line to be served by a faithful corps of volunteers, also serve. Their need for food assistance when shared with the Pantry serves those who seek to find outlets for their concern for others in volunteering and donating from their resources. Each person who comes to one of our distribution Sundays at Harbor House perhaps leaves a little more grateful than when they first arrived. Those who come and share their need for food assistance go home perhaps a bit more secure that they are with care regarded by their neighbor. Those who come to serve their neighbor with their time, care, and the Pantry's resources go home possibly a bit more grateful to have helped a neighbor and in so doing honored the dignity of their fellow human. And at a level removed from the actual distribution event itself are those who share their resources, talents, and compassion to help raise funds, solicit contributions, and to make donations to aid a west side neighbor. And this sharing not only includes those of us who live here in the neighborhood year-round, but also those who love this place from afar and want to remember their friends and neighbors who they share time with a part of the year. This is the spirit and dynamic of sharing--the story of the Westside Food Pantry--that makes this island a better place to live.

Finally, we want to offer continued thanks to the St. Andrew and St. John Priest-in-charge, Wardens, and Vestry for their support of the Pantry and its work. These persons constitute the Board of Directors of the Pantry and take responsibility for its presence in the west side community. The Westside Food Pantry is a viable community-wide organization that is endowed with an abundance of goodwill throughout the Island, among those who serve and are served, and reaches far beyond this place into the hearts and memories of our friends and part-time residents. And, it is St. Andrew and St. John who have created and nurtured the leadership and working volunteer base of the Westside Pantry and continue to take responsibility for its sharing mission!

With deep gratitude and appreciation for the abundant sharing that takes place here.

Birthdays

MAY

9—Joan Bromage
11—Susannah Jones
19—Anne L. Welles
26—Sam Felton
29—Doris Walton

Wedding Anniversaries

MAY

7—John & Betsy Hewlett
19—Steve & Wanda Fernald
22—Ken Cochrane & Rita Redfield

WHAT GOES AROUND

Dean Henry

Out of gratitude for the help she received this winter from local clergy to "keep from losing my house when I lost my job", a woman called me in late March to say she wanted to donate \$400 worth of bread to the Pantry for distribution to our neighbors. A new job, a first paycheck, a deal with a Brewer bakery to match her \$200, she and a friend drove Friday to Brewer to pick-up loaves of day-old bread. We distributed the bread to grateful neighbors on Sunday. Sharing just may stimulate sharing--you never know.

SIGNING PARTY

Bunny Watts

You are invited to a signing party! It will be held on May 1st at St. John's. Please drop by sometime during that day to write a brief note to a merchant



you know on the letter we are sending them to ask for their donation to the Silent Auction at the upcoming Quiet-side Festival. We hope to see you there!



VESTRY BULLETS

from 24 April 2014

Jayne Ashworth

- ◆ New directories are available in an eclectic not-quite-alphabetic order.
- ◆ St. Andrew Centennial is in 2015: Large banner being considered as a part of celebrating 100 years of ministry there.
- ◆ MARK YOUR CALENDARS
 - ⇒ May 1 - Silent Auction Letters Notes - Drop by St. John and pen a short note to a merchant you know!
 - ⇒ May 31, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., CPC retreat
 - ⇒ May 31, 9:00 a.m. - until finished - St. Andrew's Cleanup - come for some or all of it!
 - ⇒ June 7, 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m., Acadia Repertory Theater, Somesville, Bob and Tim Thank You
 - ⇒ June 13 and 14 (and prep earlier that week) - St. Andrew - Tag Sale (Need items to sell!)
 - ⇒ July 12 - Quietside Fair
- ◆ Vestry candidate to replace Susan Buell was proposed and a candidate is considering it.
- ◆ Vestry discussed the need for clear communication and leadership in Flower Guild and Altar Guild.
- ◆ May Vestry meeting will be on the third Thursday as usual, but movement of monthly Vestry Meeting date/time to be discussed.
- ◆ Affiliate Clergy - Vesta Kowalski being hired as affiliate priest. (See article on page 8)
- ◆ Arthur Russell Strings to raise big tent for their reception the week before the QSF and will leave it up for our use during QSF.
- ◆ Mutual Study of Ministry – have been told by Diocese that we are responsible for writing summary. Vestry to work on summary report and goals. Hope to have this information to Parish after next Vestry meeting.
- ◆ Rita Redfield showed people how to respond to a fire alarm.

WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Susan Covino Buell

1. MONDAY, MAY 5th—The Westside Food Pantry Recital series continues. We are privileged to host harpist Phoebe Durand and alto Amy Kurman who will perform works by Handel, Hindemith and others. 7:00pm at St John. Suggested donation-\$10. ALL PROCEEDS will go to our food pantry. A reception will follow in the undercroft.
2. Big thank yous to our friends at the Southwest Harbor Congregational Church for the "Best Spaghetti Supper Ever" which raised a record \$2300 for our food pantry. Thanks to Chloe and Scott Hatcher, Mark Cross, Stephen Sampson, Amy Foster, and Jayne Ashworth who joined me in set-up, clearing tables and washing dishes. And thank you to all of you who attended and who encouraged others to attend. It was a lovely evening of visiting and sharing.

NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Stephen Sampson

We have some exciting performances on the horizon at St. John's, with three recitals to benefit the West Side Food Pantry already scheduled for the coming months:

- harpist Phoebe Durant and alto Amy Kurman on Monday, May 5;
- violinist Amos Lawrence on Sunday, July 6; and
- baritone Joshua Miller on Friday, August 15

We anticipate hearing a lot of beautiful music from these excellent musicians.

With each of these three recitals being presented in a relatively familiar format—a soloist with piano accompaniment, two musicians performing together, or a solo instrumentalist—it is interesting to note that this type of recital would have been very unusual in 19th century Britain, a time and place where benefit recitals and other types of concerts were held frequently. Concert programs in the early 19th century were primarily of a miscellaneous nature, with most including both vocal and instrumental pieces. It was rare that a performer would play two or more selections of the same type of music in succession. An example of a typical program is seen in a benefit recital given in 1840 by Johann Cramer, a well-known pianist at the time. The program comprised 15 pieces, including the overture to Beethoven's opera 'Fidelio', several Italian opera selections, a Corelli trio, and four English songs. A predominant feature of recitals beginning in the early 1800s was the growing focus on operas, with instrumental fantasies on opera themes very popular. In the 1830s, a distinction between 'solo' and 'mixed' recitals emerged, but until the 1870s the 'mixed' recital was the more common of the two types. Today, most recitals of classical music are in the general 'solo' format, but we are increasingly seeing a mixture of musical styles and performers in concerts. But to bring this back to the West Side Food Pantry benefit recitals: we have some wonderful music ahead of us, and we hope to see you there.

(The historical information for this article is from 'The Piano in Nineteenth Century British Culture', edited by Therese Ellsworth and Susan Wollenberg and published in 2007 by Ashgate Publishing Company.)



EASTER BASKETS

Dean Henry

The Westside Food Pantry distributed approximately 124 Easter food baskets this year, including meat, on Saturday, April 19 from the SWH Fire Station. There were approximately 20 baskets left unclaimed, but the contents were consolidated and distributed at Sunday's distribution to our neighbors.

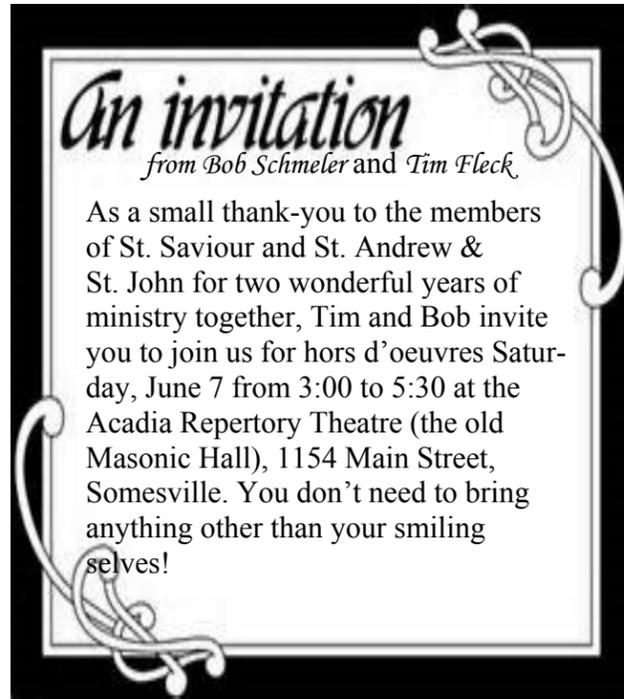
Thanks go to those who drove the baskets from Bar Harbor on Friday, and those who helped in the distribution on Saturday: Bob & Elaine Theriault, Alice Downs, Bill and Diane Krueger, Jayne Ashworth, Sandy & Eleanor Watts, Dean Henry, Carol Nelson, Dianne McMullen, Edie Stanwood, Edith Wells, Patsy Fogarty, and Barbara Campbell. Our thanks also to the people at St. Saviour's who coordinated the creation of the baskets.



HUNTING FOR HOPE

Alice Downs

How do we explain to our young people the eternal truth that love wins? That hope wins! One local family decided to show this Easter truth in action to their grandchildren in place of the usual family Easter egg hunt. They sent the kids on a scavenger hunt all around the High Road field in search of the necessary food stuffs for the weekly Westside Food Pantry/Harbor House backpack program. Per and Bos found soup under a porch and cereal inside a stalled minivan. Juice packs were found inside Grandfather's sugar shack and raisins and snacks were discovered behind an old oak tree. Following clue after clue the running and laughing children found enough food to pack all the backpacks full of one week's worth of backpack meals. The week's backpacks were filled, though, with more than raisins and cereal and granola bars. At the end of the scavenger hunt they were filled with hope and love, and two more young lives learned that if we all partner with the Easter Bunny then love will win!



CREDO (continued)

The community part is key. Some of you may have heard an interview last Sunday (4/27) with the late Yale professor Jaroslav Pelikan on the National Public Radio talk show, "On Being." Pelikan highlights the fact that the Nicene Creed is composed in the first-person plural: "We believe..." This is not only a statement of group identity (something of which individualistic Westerners are suspicious), but also a statement of continuity – through history and through our own lifetimes. Pelikan says,

To know that in the Philippines this morning this was the creed that was recited at mass and to know that the Emperor Justinian in the 6th century and Thomas Aquinas in the 13th, and my late father and grandfather all affirmed this. It's 'we' all of us together.... My faith and my faith life, like that of everyone else, fluctuates. There are ups and downs and hot spots and cold spots and boredom and ennui and all the rest can be there. And so I'm not asked of a Sunday morning as of 9:20, what do you believe? And then you sit down with a 3x5 index card and say, "Now, let's see. What do I believe today?" No, that's not what they're asking me. They're asking me, "Are you a member of a community which now for millennium and a half has said, 'We believe in one God.'" And so that's what I affirm when I sing it.

(The full broadcast and transcript of this program is available at <http://www.onbeing.org/program/need-creeds/211>)

The Creeds are ultimately not checklists of propositions to which we give intellectual assent, or to which we pledge allegiance, as are some of the Lutheran and Calvinist Confessions. The point of the Creed is not to differentiate ourselves from other Christian traditions (we have plenty of ways of doing that), but to affirm that in spite of differences we are all part of one tradition (the one holy catholic and apostolic Church), however diversely lived and expressed in different times, places and cultures, that covenants to wrestle with these holy mysteries.

Nor, do I believe, is the Creed a litmus test for salvation. I do not believe that God judges us on whether we believe the right things about God or about anything else (but of course, I could be wrong in that belief!). When scripture and tradition talk about belief in Christ, about faith in Christ, I hear that as a call to be *faithful to Christ*, to *keep faith* in our relationship with God, and to trust that God will remain faithful to us.

So why bother with the Creed? Do we really believe this stuff anymore? Is it more intellectually defensible to stand silent while others recite it? I defer to St. Augustine, as quoted by Professor Pelikan: "We have said this not in order to say something, but in order not to remain altogether silent."

Tim+

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY

Third Sunday of Easter—May 4

7:30 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist
Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 11

Good Shepherd Sunday

7:30 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 18

7:30 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 25

Rogation Sunday

7:30 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 66:7-18; Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Seventh Sunday of Easter, June 1

7:30 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36; Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Thursdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

12:30 p.m. — Holy Eucharist

EASTER BRUNCH THANK YOU

Chloe Hatcher



Thank you to everyone who helped make our Easter Brunch a great success. Dianne, Barbara, Patsy, Elaine, Sandy, Rita, Bob, Scott, Jayne and anyone I may have missed, and especially Ted, who not only contributed his delicious monkey bread, but also all the accompanying lighting and sound effects! Together we fed between 50-60 people from our congregation and the community. **BRAVO!**

