

### St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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# The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

June 2014

## The Church Bully

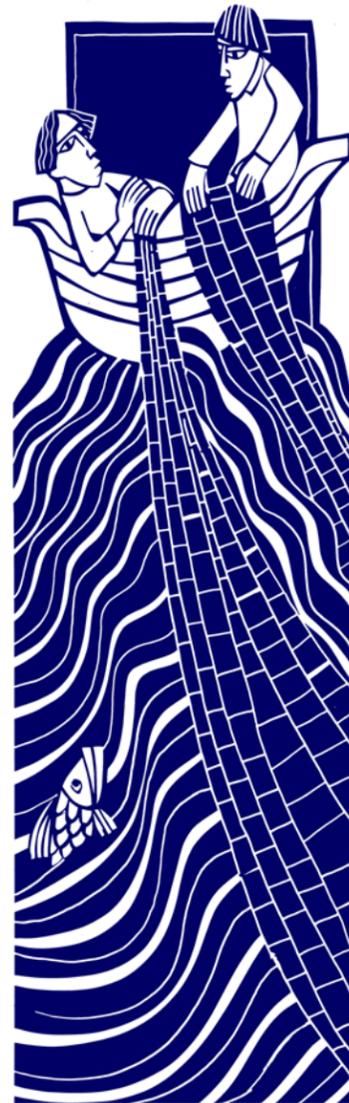
When I was a child, I knew and my friends knew what a bully was: A bully was a kid who beat up or threatened to beat up other kids. The quintessential bully who comes to mind is the yellow-eyed coonskin-capped Scut Farkus of “The Christmas Story,” terrorizing other kids apparently just for the thrill of it (or at least so it seemed to his victims). The idea of bullying someone online or adults bullying one another in the workplace would not have made sense to us kids.



Recently, though, the term “bullying” has expanded to include all sorts of manipulative behavior or speech, not necessarily threatening physical violence, but using intimidation and fear to get others to do what one wants. The fact that bullying has sometimes been overused to describe any sort of behavior that we don’t like or any kind of speech that hurts our feelings doesn’t change the truth that real bullying does take place. Thank goodness that we live and work together in the Church, a place where bullying could never happen, right?

Sadly, the church is not immune from bullies. In fact, our churchy instinct to be nice, to be pastoral, to give one another the benefit of the doubt creates a perfect habitat for bullying.

Physical abuse or threats are rare (although they happen), but there are other kinds of manipulation and intimidation. Let’s have a look at the natural history of some of our native church bullies:



*The Financial Bully:* This person lets it be known, either explicitly or tacitly, that his or her financial support for the church is contingent on getting his or her way. This is especially powerful if the parish is reliant on a small number of large givers, but can occur around even small sums of money. Ironically, someone perceived as a major financial supporter can be treated as a financial bully even if he or she is not: “We’d better not change that, because Mrs. van der Guilder might withdraw her pledge” – when Mrs. V has never indicated that she might do any such thing.

*The Long-Term Bully:* This person is similar to the financial bully, but the threat is not about withdrawing money but withdrawing long-term membership: “My family have been members of this church since it was founded, but I don’t know if I can stay here if you do X.”

*The Indispensable Bully:* This person has set himself up as the only person who knows how to do a particular ministry or meet a particular need. He or she may have others convinced that the church will not be able to function if he or she is not there, so you’d better not tick him or her off.

*The Knowledge Bully:* Similar to the Indispensable Bully, but using perceived superior knowledge as a weapon. Clergy are particularly prone to this kind of bullying (“I went to seminary, and I know what an epiclesis is, so just do what I say. You probably wouldn’t understand it, anyway.”), but it can also occur among those with any type of specialized knowledge that can be used to cow others: financial, liturgical, musical, or even knowledge of parish history.

## Pentecost Sunday—June 8—9:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 8, is Pentecost Sunday: the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the apostles and the traditional founding of the Church. St. Andrew & St. John will be gathering for a SINGLE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AT 9:00 a.m. with special guest musicians and Jazz-flavored music, followed by a festive brunch to celebrate the birthday of the Church as well as the 90th birthday of our beloved sister Susannah Jones. In lieu of gifts, Susannah has requested donations toward a tree to be planted in her name at St. John’s. This will also be our last chance to worship together before the opening of St. Andrew on June 15.



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If you no longer wish to receive the Net Tender or prefer to receive it by e-mail, please call the church office.

Deadline for articles for July Net Tender is July 29

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## And a Seasonal Thought

Bunny Watts

Finally we can say these verses from the Song of Solomon with some confidence!

*For lo, the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone;  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of the singing of birds is come,  
And the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land;*

I'm not so sure about the rain but the rest of it rings true! I hope you enjoy this beautiful month with its promise of blooms and fresh produce and the lingering twilight.

## Invitation from Bob and Tim

Saturday, June 7, 3:00 – 5:30 pm

As a small thank-you to the members of St. Saviour's and St. Andrew & St. John for two wonderful years of ministry together, Tim and Bob invite you to join us for hors d'oeuvres at the Acadia Repertory Theatre (the old Masonic Hall), 1154 Main Street, Somesville. You don't need to bring anything other than your smiling selves.

## St. Andrew's Cleanup

Please join us on Saturday, June 7 at St. Andrew's to do the cleaning that will be needed to open St. Andrew by the Lake for worship on Sunday, June 15. You are welcome to come at any time, though most will be gathering at 9:00 a.m. Bring your rakes, cleaning supplies, and energy - we hope to see you there!!



## Wednesday Explorers

Vesta Kowalski

This new opportunity for discussion of what's on our minds begins on June 4 and continues every Wednesday from 10:00-11:30 in the Common Room, facilitated by Vesta Kowalski. Anyone is welcome to attend. Topics will be chosen by the group, and a different topic will be discussed each week, so you can feel free to come once, regularly, or occasionally when something sparks your interest – and you're welcome to bring friends who do not attend church.

June 4 – We will discuss the Gospel of Matthew, from which we will be hearing lessons through November, and perhaps reflect on how the lessons might generate sermon ideas. We will also choose topics for the next several weeks.

June 11 – Tentative topic (*which might be changed after the first meeting*): Prayer in our Personal Lives. Paul tells us to “be constant in prayer.” St. Francis is quoted as saying, “Pray always; if necessary, use words.” Anne Lamott, in her book of the same name, suggests the three basic prayers are: Help, Thanks, Wow! Using these ideas as starting points, we will discuss how prayer fits into our daily lives.

## St. John's Annual Yard Sale is ON!

This year the yard sale will be held at St. Andrew by the Lake, 1358 Tremont Road, Seal Cove Road, Friday and Saturday, June 13 and 14, 8:00-3:00. ITEMS ARE NEEDED NOW!! Bring them to St. Andrew's basement anytime. Barbara Campbell and Jayne Ashworth will be at St. Andrew by the Lake: June 9, from 9 a.m. – noon and June 12 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. If you would like assistance unloading your donations or would like to help with sorting and pricing and other setup, please join us on June 9<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for help on the days of the sale as well so please consider setting aside a couple of hours to come over - especially in the morning - and join the fun! Questions—call Barbara Campbell (244-9087) or Bunny Watts (244-3699).



## Notes from the Organ Bench

Stephen Sampson

The arrival of spring weather and the prospect of summer on the near horizon bring to mind the old ‘rota’ (or, ‘round’), titled ‘Sumer is Icumen In’. This music was written in Reading, England in about 1250 and is the earliest known example of canon and of six-part polyphony. But with respect to the seasons, the most significant aspect of the piece is the lyrics, which joyfully herald the arrival of summer.

Summer has come in,  
Loudly sing, Cuckoo!  
The seed grows  
And the meadow blooms  
And the wood springs anew,  
Sing, Cuckoo!

The ewe bleats after the lamb  
The cow lows after the calf.  
The bullock stirs,  
The stag farts,

Merrily sing, Cuckoo!  
Cuckoo, cuckoo,  
Well you sing, cuckoo;  
Don't ever you stop now,

Sing cuckoo now. Sing, Cuckoo.  
Sing Cuckoo. Sing cuckoo now!



And so we herald the arrival of summer at St. John's with numerous musical events on the horizon, including: jazz musicians playing during a ‘Jazz Mass’ on Pentacost (June 8); and multiple Westside Food Pantry recitals. The Food Pantry recitals bring exciting performances by diverse musicians, but they are also, importantly, a critical means of raising funds for the Food Pantry and of raising awareness of it and the need for it in our community. Upcoming Food Pantry recitals include:

- ♦ Tuesday, June 17, a recital will be presented by organist and violist Permelia Sears, organist and pianist David Sears, and violinist Rebecca Sears. These three family members (Rebecca is the daughter of Permelia and David) will perform music from diverse eras in different instrumental combinations. Dr. and Mrs. Sears live in Dunstable, Massachusetts and spend a week on the Maine coast each year. They will be near here this summer.
- ♦ Sunday, July 6 will see a recital by violinist Amos Lawrence, accompanied by me on the piano and also featuring a piano solo by Lisa Lanza.
- ♦ In August, baritone Joshua Miller will present a recital, accompanied by me on the piano.
- ♦ An organ recital by a guest artist in July or August is in the planning stages.

We urge you to support the Food Pantry and hear beautiful music in doing so.

(Information on ‘Sumer is Icumen In’ is from the online versions of the Oxford Grove Music Encyclopedia the Columbia Encyclopedia.)

## Job Opening!!

Serendipity and the Bar Harbor Food Pantry are seeking an assistant to the Executive Director. The successful candidate should have experience managing a small staff, good communication skills, and some background in clothing retail. Strong organizational skills are essential. Position is 20 hours per week, pay negotiable depending on experience. Please send a letter of interest and work history to Kate Sebelin at PO Box 434, Bar Harbor, ME 04609 or email [bhpantry@gmail.com](mailto:bhpantry@gmail.com).

## Birthdays

### JUNE

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

## Wedding Anniversaries

### JUNE

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

## CPC Retreat

Joan Bromage

On a beautiful Saturday morning several members of the Congregational Pastoral Team gathered for a beautiful retreat. The Rev. Lynn Orville was our guide. Attending were Jayne Ashworth, Floy Ervin (St. John's vestry liaison), Diane Krueger, Sarah Flynn, Diane Phipps, Pamela Smith and myself. The rest of the team was with us in spirit. Responding to Bible passages and prayers from contemplatives of the past, we had much calm and thoughtful conversation about personal ways of centering ourselves in prayer, and the ways our prayer informs our lives. If you talk to anyone who was there, you'll hear that we each took different "Aha! moments" from these conversations with our friends. The morning concluded with lunch and an informal Eucharist.

We are glad to have Jenny Reece and Vesta Kowalski "on call" as well as Tim, and we on the team hope to hear from any of you with needs, concerns or question.

Jenny has scheduled a meeting of the team for Wednesday, June 25, at 5:30 p.m. in the Library at St. Saviour's. Jenny says that we will share a simple potluck supper along with our experiences in pastoral care over the last while, and do some planning for the future of our ministry. We look forward to this gathering.

## Vestry Bullets from May 14

Jayne Ashworth

- Single SASJ Service, June 8, at 9 a.m. —To celebrate Pentecost, Suzannah Jones 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and last Sunday before St. Andrew's opens.
- St. Andrew's Cleanup Day—June 7, 9:00 a.m. start time. Volunteers needed.
- Vestry Meeting Time to remain 6-8 p.m.; next meeting is June 19.
- Nominations - Completing Susan Buell's Term – Everyone in the Parish is eligible and qualified to serve on the Vestry. Someone who is willing to serve must be found. Person approached last month has prayerfully considered the opportunity and has declined. Other possible candidates were considered. Wardens and Tim to approach these people.
- Convention Delegates & Alternates (Oct 24 – 25, Presque Isle). Need two delegates and one alternate. Candidates being considered.
- Furnishings
  - \* Common Room – 10 Bentwood stackable chairs and 2 hardwood drop-leaf tables will be purchased.
  - \* Undercroft – 50 vinyl padded metal folding chairs will be purchased.
- Quietside Fair/Tag Sale
  - \*Tag Sale - St. Andrew's basement. June 13–14, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Need items – drop them off at St. Andrew's in the basement.
  - \*QSF – perking along, Boutique coordinator needed.
- Mutual Study of Ministry: Rita Redfield and Doris Walton working on report for Parish. Suggested we use fall/winter forums to look at individual areas for growth/change as well as celebrating what seems to be working.
- Budget Update—In good shape at present time. Need to check on Farmer's Market contracts.
- Guest welcoming/outreach needs attention.
- Need to make certain Fellowship times happen.
- Responsibilities of Vestry Member In Charge for Sundays to be defined.

## The Church Bully (continued)

*The Emotional Bully:* As a church, we are called to respond pastorally to our brothers and sisters in need. This bully takes advantage of that by making it clear that he or she will fall apart emotionally if things don't go his or her way. This bully can also engage in all sorts of outrageous behavior, but need not be held accountable because he or she is perceived as emotionally fragile.

*The Angry Bully:* A particular type of Emotional Bully, relies on the fact that many church people cannot stand to see someone actually express anger, and will do anything to get him or her to calm down.

Have you experienced any of these types of bullying in church? This list is far from exhaustive. If you find yourself walking on eggshells around particular people or particular subjects, look around for the bully. If you experience someone engaging in behavior that would never be tolerated in another setting (insulting or belittling others, shutting down conversation, keeping secrets or having secret conversations about others, threats, emotional blackmail), you may be being bullied. If a group or person has been given the responsibility to carry out a task only to have their authority undercut, a bully may be at work.

Of course, it's one thing to identify bullying, but quite another to put a stop to it. In "The Christmas Story," Scut Farkus gets his comeuppance when his victim Ralphie flies into a berserk rage and pummels him bloody. While perhaps satisfying, this is not recommended (in fact, it is not even satisfying for Ralphie: he is so overwhelmed by his own rage that he bursts into tears and has to be taken home by his mom).

The element of truth in the story, though, is that bullies usually can't stand up to being challenged. Jesus gives us a pretty good plan for dealing with bullies in the church in Matthew 18:15-17:

*If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

If it feels like you are being bullied, call the bully on it. He or she may not even be aware that his or her behavior is bullying. Check yourself, though, to make sure that you are not functioning as an emotional bully yourself when you do this, using your own feelings of discomfort to get your way. Are you uncomfortable because you are being intimidated, or are you just frustrated that things are not going your way? Is someone threatening you, or are they simply pointing out how you have hurt them?

If that doesn't work, try taking a small group – ideally people who are trusted by the bully as well as by you. Again, though, make sure that you are not bullying in turn: "I've got this whole group of people here who back me up, so you'd better back down."

One hopes that bullying does not rise to the level of needing to be called out before the whole church, but when the behavior of one person or a small group threatens to sabotage the ministry of an entire congregation, it may be necessary to tell them in love that certain behaviors will not be tolerated, even in church. This is not a matter of saying that the church doesn't love them unless they straighten up (remember Jesus' attitude toward Gentiles and tax collectors?). This is a matter of being together in one Body, and working to make sure that every member of the Body has the opportunity to live up to the image and likeness of God in whom we were created.

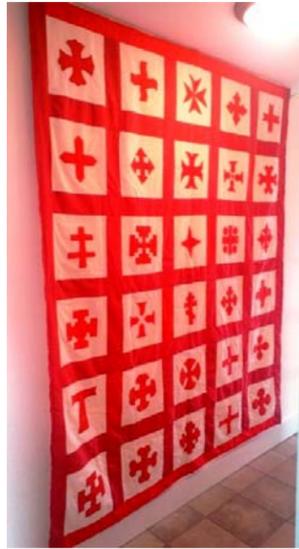
Feedback? I hope you will call or e-mail me to continue the conversation.

Yours in Christ's Peace,

Tim+

## St. Andrew by the Lake Opening

Sunday, June 15 will start the summer schedule with the 8:00 a.m. service at St. Andrew by the Lake, Seal Cove; and 10:00 a.m. at St. John the Divine, Southwest Harbor.



## St. John's Quilt

*Barbara Campbell*

Sometime in the early 1960's, the women of St. John gathered together to create a beautiful quilt made up of the many Crosses from around the world. My mother, no seamstress herself, either purchased the quilt or won it in a raffle. All I remember is that she was very pleased to have the quilt sewn by her friends and neighbors.

Mom said the quilt was for me – but I was too young (age 6) to have it on my bed. It was “packed away” for safekeeping in the attic (and promptly forgotten). Twenty years later, I was rummaging through the trunk and came across my quilt! I was about to put it on my bed when I realized that while my black dog would look beautiful on the quilt, that the black hair and claws would not do much for the quilt. So, back in the trunk . . .

Tim mentioned that he was looking for appropriate items to go in our new addition to soften the noise and make it welcoming. A bell went off in my head! Back to the attic. Dig through the trunk, and finally get the quilt out!

After 50+ years, it seems so appropriate that the quilt has come home. It is a beautiful piece of work, created by the women of St. John, and should be at St. John for all of us to enjoy.

## Remembering Jeremiah's Legacy

*Patsy Fogarty*

Last fall, we began an initiative to assure the future of our parish by growing our endowment through bequests. We called this initiative “Jeremiah’s Legacy” to commemorate Jeremiah’s call on his people to invest in real estate to prepare for the coming of the kingdom God had promised to them. We designated a key to be our symbol, a sign of our faith and of the door to our future.

A number of you have indicated that you have already included St. Andrew and St. John in your estate plan. Others of you have also made a bequest privately. Whichever you chose, we are deeply grateful for your investment in this parish for the benefit of future generations.

Today our parish is benefitting from the gifts of those who have gone before us. The draw from our endowment, which by policy is set is 4%, is currently contributing more than 19% of this year’s annual budget. Over time, as we continue to accomplish what we see as doing God’s work in our community, our parish expenses will inevitably rise. We need to follow the example of those who have so generously left provision for us by providing for those who come after us.

Please prayerfully consider asking your attorney to add a bequest to St. Andrew and St. John to your estate plan. If you would like further guidance in this endeavor, you may call Spencer Ervin. Once the bequest is made, please notify the parish. We will honor your privacy but celebrate your faith in our future.

## Ezra Graduates

*Ann Cox Halkett*

Ezra with Bob and Elaine Theriault after his graduation on May 17 from the University of Maine at Machias, where he majored in interdepartmental fine arts. He won the Drama Award for 2013-14. We have been so grateful for the enormous support of the St. John community and were thrilled that Bob and Elaine attended the ceremony.



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

### The Day of Pentecost, June 8

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 104:25-35, 37; Acts 2:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23

The Rev. Tim Fleck

### Trinity Sunday, June 15

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

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

Psalm 8; Genesis 1:1-2, 4a; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

### Pentecost 2, June 22

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

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

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Genesis 21:8-21; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

The Rev. Tim Fleck

### Pentecost 3, June 29

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

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

Psalm 13; Genesis 22:1-14; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

The Rev. Vesta Kowalski and Liz Graves

### Thursdays, June 5, 12, 19, 26

12:30 p.m. — Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Tim Fleck

## Vicki Wiederkehr's Retirement

Dear Friends in Christ:

As most of you know by now, Canon Vicki Wiederkehr will be stepping down from her diocesan ministry at the end of June. Vicki has ministered to us with compassion and skill for more than seventeen years, and we will celebrate her ministry on Saturday, June 21, 2014, at St. Mark's Church in Waterville. Worship will begin at 11AM followed by a simple reception in the parish hall.

I want to invite any and all who wish to join in the celebration. In order to make proper arrangements for hospitality and food, the favor of a reply is requested by June 14, 2014. I know that Saturdays in June are very busy, so if you are not able to be present, I ask you to remember Vicki in thought and prayer during this time of transition.

In lieu of gifts, Vicki has requested that donations be made to the Frederick B. Wolf Fund for the Continuing Education of the Laity. The education of lay leadership for ministry is one of Vicki's enduring passions. If you would like to make a donation (tax-deductible), please make your check payable to "Diocese of Maine Wolf Fund" and send it to: The Episcopal Diocese of Maine Attn: B. Martin, 143 State Street, Portland, ME 04101.

Please know that cards and notes are welcome and can be sent to: Vicki Wiederkehr, 31 Peary Drive, Brunswick, ME 04011.

Faithfully, Bishop Steve

RSVP: Diocesan Office — 772-1953 or [bmartin@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:bmartin@episcopalmaine.org)

