

# The Net Tender - August 2014

## St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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# The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

August 2014

## Is There Any Suffering Like My Suffering?

Last week, *The New York Times* published an essay by Dutch writer Arnon Grunberg under the title “The Problem with Collective Grief.” He was writing specifically about the world’s response to the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over Ukraine, but some of what he has to say resonates through our reactions to the endless series of catastrophes we read and hear about on a daily basis.



Grunberg argues that the constant claims on our emotions lead to a necessary numbing of our responses, a prioritizing of our empathy from those closest to us (did I personally know anyone on the plane?) to those we consider to be like us (were there any Americans on the plane?) outward to those whose suffering we acknowledge objectively (how terrible that all those people died!). This “seems to me not so much a sign of our inhumanity, but of our humanity. Were we to actually allow the world’s suffering to sink in, we would quickly become psychiatric cases.”

In a throwaway line, Grunberg says, “The sad thing about mourning is that it really is quite unshareable.” We may claim to feel one another’s pain, but in fact we cannot really, and sometimes our well-intentioned efforts to share someone else’s grief can backfire and cause more hurt. People who have lived through the unimaginable grief of losing a child will tell the rest of us that their grief is truly unimaginable: if we have not lived through it we cannot claim to understand it, and saying “I know how you feel” makes a mockery of the gulf between the grieving person and the rest of the world.



On a larger scale, our well-intentioned attempts at empathy can lead to a cheapening of compassion, a sense that by changing our Facebook photo or wearing an armband we are somehow doing something for the genuine victims of disaster, war, or oppression. Prayer on behalf of those who are suffering is always appropriate, but too often self-congratulation masquerades as prayer, the modern equivalent of the hypocrites Jesus describes as praying in the synagogues and street corners so that they can be seen by others (Mt 6:5).

There are reasons that other people’s grief may affect us. Your loss may stir up memories of my own loss, bringing a fresh ache to an old scar. Once I was in the hospital room of a dying man whose wife was quietly doing the hard work of saying goodbye to him. The whole time, the wife’s sister-in-law was loudly recounting her husband’s horrible death ten years prior. The situation was bringing up real pain for the sister-in-law, but truer compassion might have led her to realize that it was not comforting or helpful to the dying man’s wife.

Often, the incomprehensibility of others’ grief and suffering make us uncomfortable, so we try to put them in a context that we can understand: “This person’s child just died; she must feel like I did when my cat died.” This is an extreme example, of course, but the fact is that no two experiences of grief are commensurate.

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## A Simply Divine Luncheon

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

### Lecture and Demonstration

“Living a Healthy, Holy Life with Biblical Foods, Herbs and Spices”

by

Katie Barney Moose

Author of “New England’s Bounty” and “God’s Bounty”

followed by lunch in the undercroft

### MENU

*Chicken salad with fresh herbs and edible flowers*

*Divine dessert*

*Refreshing cool beverage, tea, and coffee*

All for a donation of \$12.50/person

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church

315 Main Street, Southwest Harbor

Please RSVP to Michele Daley, 244-3229  
[saints315@myfairpoint.net](mailto:saints315@myfairpoint.net)

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 September Net Tender is August 24

## QUIETSIDE FAIR WRAP-UP

*Bunny Watts*

To say "Thanks!" is but a platitude  
As a means of showing gratitude!  
To all who labored for weeks or days  
I give you my resounding praise.  
Be it in baskets, fine gifties, plants or pies  
Or silently bidding to win your prize  
YOUR efforts all day brought in the dough  
The total? Close to \$7,000 or so!  
As we close the books on two thousand fourteen  
We look to next year and find some who are keen  
To be in the parade with our very own float  
Volunteers needed: *St. John's Rocks!* is our quote!



## GARDEN PARTY

You are invited to a party on August 27, 5-7 PM in the back yard at St. Saviour's, to raise awareness and funding for the renovation of St. Saviour's Parish House as housing and program space for adults with disabilities. Local Solutions of Maine invites you to see plans and pictures of the renovation, to meet some of the potential residents, and to pledge our support for this exciting new community ministry.

## WEDNESDAY EXPLORERS

Wednesday Explorers is a weekly open discussion forum, facilitated by Vesta Kowalski, which meets in the St. John's Common Room from 10:00 to 11:30 on Wednesday mornings. There's a different topic each week; the topics are chosen by the group. Anyone is free to come once, occasionally, or regularly, and friends from outside the church community are welcome, too. Schedule of topics for August:

**August 6** – *S/he said what?* The second of our first-Wednesday open forums to discuss ideas from recent or past sermons that you found intriguing, irritating, inspiring, provocative, puzzling, peculiar . . . anything that made you want to talk back to the preacher.

**August 13** – *I believe in . . . what?* Having discussed our feelings about the Creed in July, this time we'll look at the words, talking about where it came from and discussing how its language does or does not convey our 21<sup>st</sup> century beliefs.

**August 20** – *Maturity and faith.* A recent unscientific poll in Japan suggested that as people age, their faith becomes stronger and their belief in the afterlife diminishes. What do we think?

**August 27** – *The one who sings prays twice.* We'll talk about how music and poetry work to convey ideas and feelings, and how the music in our liturgies – particularly the hymns – help or disrupt our experience of worship. If there's a particular hymn you love (or hate), we can talk about it.

*Note: Wednesday Explorers meets on Wednesday mornings from 10:00-11:30 during August, and will move to Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-3:00 beginning September 3.*

## JULY VESTRY BULLETS

- ◆ Report on Quietside Festival; 10% of proceeds will go to Hancock County Medical Mission.
- ◆ Possible St. John's float for next year's parade?
- ◆ Gen Mackenzie will research refugee aid through Episcopal Relief & Development
- ◆ Damage occurred at St. Andrew's when a tree blew down; all has been repaired.
- ◆ Haitian Art Show on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Saviour's. All churches are asked to participate
- ◆ Westside Food Pantry—Susan Buell has resigned from the board. Liz Erickson has volunteered to lead the annual appeal in the fall.
- ◆ Mutual Study of Ministry—letter was sent to congregation in June; parish meeting set for August 25<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Vestry Retreat set for September 26-27 at Seacoast Mission.

## NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

*Stephen Sampson*

A recent recital in the Westside Food Pantry Recital Series brought home the point that a musician's musical education never ends. On July 15, violinist Thomas Cooper presented a recital at St. John's, accompanied by me on the piano. Before I met Thomas, I figured that he would be an excellent musician, as his short biography included a great number of accomplishments for someone so young—this spring Thomas finished his freshman year at the Oberlin Conservatory, and already he has given numerous solo performances in renowned venues in Europe and the United States and has also been an accomplished chamber-music and orchestral musician. When he began to play at our first rehearsal, however, I quickly realized that I was in the presence of a truly exceptional musician, with respect to not only his ability to play his instrument so well but also to his complete involvement with the music, and his dedication to playing each phrase, and each note, musically, and in accordance with the composer's spirit and intention. Moreover, although Thomas was clearly confident, his most evident trait was his love of music, and his desire to share it with others.

Rehearsals with Thomas were real working sessions, and I learned a great deal about playing music expressively. Thomas had interesting ideas on how to bring out the emotion in a lyrical phrase; how to vary a repeated phrase so that each repetition is distinct and creates musical energy; and how to get the piano to sound more like an orchestra, when appropriate. The most significant lesson that I learned from Thomas, however, is that the most important quality of a performance is its spirit—it should always communicate the spirit that the composer intended. While I have long known this in theory, it is often difficult to keep it in mind when rehearsing or performing. This lesson came to the fore in the final movement of the Beethoven sonata (Opus 30, no. 3). The music moves along at a rapid clip, and should have a rippling, light effect as it moves from theme to theme and gathers energy toward the end. The piano part, however, is very difficult to play, and when we took the movement up to tempo ('as fast as you can play it'), many notes in the piano score fell by the wayside. When I stopped mid-movement and told Thomas that I simply could not play it at that tempo, he told me that it sounded great, as it conveyed the spirit of the music; although playing more slowly allowed me to play more of the notes, it did not convey the spirit that Beethoven had intended. So, my worries about not being able to play everything on the page vanished. My new goal was to be sure to play the important notes, have fun, and stay together with Thomas as we bounded through the music. And he was right; it worked. And a final word: keep your eyes out for this wonderful musician. I think that he has a bright future in sharing his passionate, eloquent performances with the world.



### Is There Any Suffering Like My Suffering? (continued from page 1)

So, what are we to do when a friend suffers a great loss? What are we to say? Usually saying nothing is best, as being present in silence says more than words. But sometimes it's helpful to acknowledge the loss and the feelings of grief, to say, "I see that you are suffering, and it is terrible." This is what the narrator of the Book of Lamentations begs from God and from us: "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow."

Of course, God knows her sorrow in ways that we cannot, and knows all of our sorrows in ways that others cannot. God not only created humankind with all its grief and pain, but God chose to be born as a human being, to experience firsthand in the flesh all to which flesh is heir. I may not be able to feel your pain, but there is no pain which is unknown to God.

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

*Yours in Christ's Peace,*

*Tim*

**Birthdays**  
**AUGUST**  
 20—Dianne McMullan  
 27—Books Saltsman  
 29—Elaine Theriault  
 30—Rita Redfield  
 31—Peter Obbard

**Wedding Anniversaries**  
**AUGUST**  
 13—Ted and Joan Bromage  
 25—Chris Peterson and Vanessa Pinkham

## UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS FOR THE WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY

*Susan Buell*

The Westside Food Pantry Recital Series continues in August with performances by talented young professional musicians.

**August 15<sup>th</sup>**, Friday-7:00pm at St John, Southwest Harbor native, baritone Joshua Miller, accompanied on the piano by Stephen Sampson, perform "Songs of Travel" by Vaughn Williams, selections from the classical opera repertoire and pieces from Gilbert and Sullivan comic operettas.

**August 21<sup>st</sup>**, Thursday-4:00pm at St John, organist Sarah Johnson will perform. Sarah studies with Kevin Birch, organist and music director at St John's Catholic Church in Bangor.

Suggested donation at each recital is \$15. ALL proceeds go to our food pantry. Receptions will follow hosted by our Martha's.

In July we enjoyed two recitals for our food pantry. Amos Lawrence, accompanied by Stephen Sampson, and pianist Lisa Lanza performed on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Violinist Thomas Cooper, also accompanied by Stephen, performed on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

These recitals are wonderful opportunities to hear beautiful music in our lovely church. The recitals raise funds for the food pantry and give us the opportunity to spread the word about food insecurity on the Island. We are very thankful for the gifts of time and talent from all of the musicians who make the recitals possible.



## SONOGEE SERVICES

*Michael Shook*

St. John's helps to provide worship at Sonogee. We are scheduled for:

- \* 10:30am Sunday, October 5
- \* 10:30am Sunday, December 28

Please mark your calendars for these dates and contact Michael Shook ([mshook@gmail.com](mailto:mshook@gmail.com)) to learn more about this ministry.

## HAITIAN ART SALE

**Saturday, August 2, at St. Saviour's, 9am -3pm.**

The MDI Episcopal Haiti Outreach committee is sponsoring the sale to benefit Episcopal Schools in Northern Haiti. Art items will include paintings as well as silk scarves, Haitian flags, children's shirts, small wooden animals, black iron work, painted iron work, and other miscellaneous items. Refreshments (donation only) will also be available including rice and beans, tropical baked goods, iced coffee and lemonade. Singing Rooster Haitian coffee will be available for sale. Donations and proceeds from coffee sales will go toward a computer for Jean-Gardy Saint Vil, a recent Haitian Graduate from Quisqueya University in Port au Prince. Jean-Gardy's college was sponsored by Maine Episcopalians.

**Set up** for tents and tables will be **Friday August 1 from 5-7 pm if you can help?** [Bring bake sale items that night or before 9am on Saturday] Contact folks: Diane Phipps (664-3204), Marti Torbeck (522-8710), Linda Lewis (244-0005)

**On Sunday, August 3, following the 10am service at St. Saviour's** members of the mission team who traveled to Haiti in November 2013 will present a program and show slides of their time teaching at Institution Univers in Ouanaminthe Haiti, and Cap Haitien where they met the new Suffragan Bishop and visited Episcopal parishes and schools.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SPECIAL PARISH MEETING (AMENDED)

In accordance with Article V, Paragraph 4 of the Constitution and Bylaws of St. Andrew and St. John Episcopal Church (as adopted January 28, 2007), notice is hereby given of a **Special Parish Meeting to be held MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 5:30 PM AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.**

The subject matter of the meeting is two proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Proposal #1: Paragraph 8 of Article IV (Wardens, Vestry, Officers, and Delegates to Diocesan Convention) shall be amended as follows:

4.8 Following the annual meeting the rector and wardens (or the wardens if there is no rector) shall appoint for a three-year term as an associate member of the vestry a person who worships at St. Andrew and St. John, but who is in residence for less than half a year. A person so appointed shall only serve while in residence for less than a half-year. An associate member of the vestry may participate and vote in all meetings of the vestry ~~but is not entitled to vote unless a member of the parish.~~ Upon completion of a full three-year term, an associate member of the vestry shall not be eligible for reappointment until after an interval of one year

*The intent of the first proposed change is to extend voting rights to associate members of the vestry, with the larger aim of giving greater representation to seasonal worshippers.*

Proposal #2: The first two paragraphs of Article V (Parish Meetings) shall be amended as follows:

5.1 Right of voting shall extend to persons who are at least fifteen years of age and who have, during three of the previous three twelve months, been stated worshippers in this church and stated contributors to its support. Twenty members of the parish shall constitute a quorum at any meeting; and, a quorum being present, a majority shall control.

5.2 The annual meeting of the parish shall take place on ~~the third Sunday in January or on such other date in January~~ June as the wardens and vestry shall determine.



*The intent of the second proposed change is to move the Annual Parish Meeting to June, with the hope that it will allow more of our seasonal worshippers to participate. The change to the voting requirements is intended to make it clear that seasonal worshippers may vote if they have been faithful in the last year.*

*This change would not change the fiscal or budget year of the parish. It is anticipated that the budget adopted by the Vestry would be presented at a Parish Meeting in January called for that purpose.*

*Any change to the constitution and Bylaws requires the vote of a majority of members present at two successive meetings of the parish. This is the first proposal of these changes; if they are accepted at the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, they will be proposed again at the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for January 18, 2015. If accepted then, the Annual Meeting would be placed in recess until a Sunday in June, 2015, at which point elections would be held and other parish business would be conducted as usual.*

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THE QUIETSIDE FAIR A SUCCESS

**BASKETS:** A really big and special Thank You to all the Basket makers for this year's Quietside Fair. We made over \$2200 on 34 spectacular baskets! Thanks to Michele, Bob and Elaine, Vesta, Jayne, Margot and Paul, Eden, Anne Wetzel, Linda Ramsdell, Marilyn, Doris, Candace, Anna Welles, Patsy, Judy Obbard, Susan O. and Susan B., Barbara, Rebecca, Dottie, Sarah and Pamela, Betsy, Sue, Ella and Joan Bromage, Alice, Edie, Mary M. and Jean, Wanda and Peggy and Karen. Special thanks to the "stagers" Barbara and Betsy. Peace, *Dianne*.

**SILENT AUCTION:** Thanks go to all who made the auction net \$3400 this year. A special thanks go to Tom and Sue Hodge, Ted Bromage, and Bunny and Sandy Watts who solicited the businesses in and around MDI for certificates and items to put up for bid and to Michele Daley, Dean Henry and Anne Wetzel who greeted and signed up the bidders. There were 64 items donated from the following members, friends and businesses:

**Members and Friends:** Bob Stanwood; Don Whalen; Anne Wetzel; Glenn Milligan; Rod Lucas; Sandy and Bunny Watts; Peggy Engel; Susannah Jones

**Businesses:** Ellsworth Chainsaw, Inc.; Mt. Desert Islander; Northeast Harbor Golf Club; Acadia Shops; Westside Florist; Seal Cove Auto Museum; National Park Canoe & Kayak Rental; Carroll Drug Store; Causeway Golf Club; Hairworks; Frank Pierson Optician LLC; Acadia Air Tours; Hamilton Marine; A.C. Parsons Landscaping; J&B Atlantic Company; Rooster Brother; Darling's; Acadia Repertory Theatre; Aquaterra Adventures; Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company; Bar Harbor Bank & Trust; Salisbury Garden Center; West Marine; Hinckley Yachts; Under the Dogwood Tree; Quilt'n Fabric, Ellsworth Builder's Supply; Southwest Cycle; Rebecca; Stanley Subaru

**Restaurants:** Finn's, Milagro, Galyn's, Looking Glass, Top of the Hill, Seafood Ketch, Jay Dub's, Rich's Take Out, Maine-ly Delights, McKinley Market, Brandon & Laura's, SIPS, Quietside Ice Cream Shop, Cleonice, Second Wind Tapas Bar, Café 2-Eat A Pita, C.H. Rich Company, Mother's Kitchen

**PLANTS:** Donors included Sharon Carroll, Miller Gardens, Beatrix Farrand Society, Islands Gardening Garden Center, Rockefeller Greenhouse, A.C. Parsons and members and friends of the church. Three plants were included in the raffle and winners were Dianne McMullan, Ann DeGolyer and Danielle Davis. Thanks also to workers Elaine Theriault, Marilyn Mays, Doris Walton, Ann Benson and Karen Craig.

**PIES AND COOKIES:** Over two dozen people donated pies and cookies for sale; Margot Haertel, John and Dottie Ritsko, Ella Bromage, Patsy Fogarty and Ella Bromage helped sell out all the goodies!



**LEMONADE:** Edie and Bob Stanwood sold lemonade with help from Sandy Watts, Patsy Fogarty, Glenn Milligan and Margaret Fletcher.

**BOUTIQUE:** Mel Shaw and Neela Zinsser monitored the sale of china, jewelry and other unique items.

**MUSIC:** Thanks to Jim Vekasi, Fred Benson, Ruth Grierson, Ed Damm and Annie Damm for providing music in the morning from the church steps. People were dancing and tapping their feet along with the beat!



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

### Pentecost 8, August 3

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by the Lake  
10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 17:1-7, 16; Genesis 32:22-31;  
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21  
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

### Pentecost 9, August 10

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by the Lake  
10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28;  
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33  
The Rev. Tim Fleck

### Pentecost 10, August 17

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by the Lake  
10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 133; Genesis 45:1-15;  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28  
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

### Pentecost 11, August 24

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by the Lake  
10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 124; Exodus 1:8-2:10;  
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20  
The Rev. Tim Fleck

### Pentecost 12, August 31

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by the Lake  
10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Exodus 3:1-15;  
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28  
The Rev. Jennifer Reece

**SET UP AND TEAR DOWN:** A huge thanks go to Ted Bromage, Paul Haertel, and others who put up and took down tables, lemonade and pie stands, silent auction boards, etc. and to John and Betsy Hewlett who erected and removed the tent over the silent auction area.

**BOTTOM LINE: \$9,393.65** (includes Fair and the Yard Sale in June)

