

The Net Tender - November 2014

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

November 2014



DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING: STAND THERE!

Bishop Lane's Address to Diocesan Convention last weekend is a great summary of the state and the future of the Church.

It's available to read at <http://episcopalmaine.org/images/2014bishopsaddress.pdf>, and within a few days you should be able to find a link at www.episcopalmaine.org to a video of the address.

A line from the bishop's speech that stuck with many of us who were there is a quote from Kentucky poet and environmentalist Wendell Berry: "To be patient in an emergency is a terrible trial."



Berry is talking about our human tendency to look at any given situation as a problem to solve, a question on which we need to impose answers. A farmer, Berry says, "The answers will come not from walking up to your farm and saying this is what I want and this is what I expect from you. You walk up and you say what do you need? ...And this can't be hurried." ("Moyers and Company," October 4, 2013 episode. © Public Affairs Television. Accessed at www.billmoyers.com, October 26, 2014).

We are a nation, perhaps even a species of fixers. We are problem solvers, builders, refiners and optimizers. And because human ingenuity does appear to have solved so many problems, it sometimes seems there is no problem we cannot solve, no lack we cannot fill, no process we cannot make more efficient. If it occasionally appears otherwise, that's just because we haven't tried hard enough.

We expect solutions, and we expect them quickly. We expect our leaders to react to any challenge within the news cycle. We are suspicious of leaders who step back and watch what's happening, and we are unforgiving of those who actually change their minds over time. Our insistence that our institutions don't just stand there, but do something – anything – has led us to reflexive reactions that are clearly counterproductive when seen in hindsight.

To be patient in an emergency is a terrible trial because it requires us to acknowledge the reality that we are not always in control – in fact, that what looks like our control is usually an illusion.

As Christians, we acknowledge that God is in control of all things. That all things will work out in God's time. That God will make good out of a bad situation. That is, we say the words; but we still often live our lives as though everything is up to us. We might be willing to trust God with simple stuff like making seeds sprout or keeping the stars in their courses, but for really important, difficult stuff, we feel that we need to get in there and do something.

Wherever we look today, including the Bishop's address, we hear that the church is changing, that it must change. We see that Sunday morning doesn't look like it did even twenty years ago. We see 150-year-old parishes closing in Maine and elsewhere. We see at least a generation of Anglo-Americans growing up with no

REMEMBER TO FALL BACK SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd

Unless you want to get to church early this Sunday, remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

The end of Daylight Saving Time can also mean the start of saving time, money and maybe even someone's life if you complete some home-maintenance chores. For the potential life-saving part, just make a point to check smoke-alarm batteries at the same time you change all your clocks.

How about replacing light bulbs? The shorter days mean more periods of evening darkness. Since you'll have stepladders out to reach smoke detectors and clocks, double up on safety (and energy savings) by checking for light bulbs and fixtures.

Fall and winter also mean cold and flu season. Why not take this week to check what medications and home remedies you have on hand? Got a thermometer? Cans of chicken-noodle soup? Be ready when you or a family member comes down with coughing, sneezing or fever.



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Deadline for articles for Dec/Jan Net Tender is November 30

religious formation and no experience of the historic church. A blog essay making the rounds of social media asks the provocative question, "Has the last Episcopalian been born?" and wonders why the church is not in greater panic.

There is no shortage of proposals for how to fix this problem: All we need to do is to make the church look and sound like it did fifty years ago, back when we had no problems (at least none that we could talk about in polite society). All we need to do is to throw overboard anything distinctive and challenging about the church, so that the world will like us. All we need is better music, newer music, older music, better buildings, no buildings, more technology, more authenticity, more transparency, more mystery. All we need to do is to try harder.

The season of Advent is approaching. Among other things, Advent is usually characterized as a season of watchful waiting, of anticipation, both of the Incarnation in Bethlehem and of the consummation of creation in the Kingdom of God. A season ideally observed by slowing down and doing less. I believe that our branch of the incarnate Church, and perhaps our entire culture, are in a season of anticipation, of bated breath, of watchful waiting to see what God is going to do next. It may look and feel like we are in the midst of an emergency: that is exactly why we need to be patient.

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

Yours in Christ's Peace,

Tim

FORUM TOPIC—NOVEMBER 2 and 9

The Conversation or "the talk you've been avoiding with your loved ones."

Bunny Watts

Is your will up to date? Do you know where it is? Do your children know? Do you have a living will? Does it include advance directives? These are basic questions that most of us probably feel we have pretty well covered.

But how about these:

If you were told you had a limited time to live how would you choose to spend that time? (travel...quiet meditation...tying up loose ends...or?)

What about the process of dying concerns you the most? (pain...being a burden...or...?)

How seriously have you thought about end of life care?

Have you shared these thoughts and wishes with family members?

On November 2 and 9, Nan Miller and Cookie Horner will guide us through discussions of these and related questions. Their skilled leadership will help us consider issues that most of us would prefer to avoid but which are very real for all of us. There are huge benefits to both ourselves and our families if we do some serious preparation in advance of a crisis. Please plan to attend both sessions. Come in time to get your coffee and settle down so that the Forum can start promptly at 9:00. There is a lot to cover in just two 45 minute sessions.

BLESSING OF THE BEASTS—October 4



THANKSGIVING DINNER OFFERED TO COMMUNITY

Chloe Hatcher

The second annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held in the Undercroft following the Thanksgiving Day service. Reservations are appreciated but not required. Leave a message by calling the church office (207-244-3229) or sign up in the Undercroft. Last year we fed over 80 people and it was a joyous event!

If you would like to help in any way, please contact Dianne McMullan (207-244-4582) or Chloe Hatcher (207-244-4436). We will need pie bakers and will have a signup sheet in the Undercroft.



WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY

With Gratitude

Susan Covino Buell

Almost four years ago I volunteered to work with Dean Henry as co-chairs of the Westside Food Pantry committee.

Dean and I divided the tasks--Dean took on the endless administrative/bookkeeping job of keeping track of all donations. Working with our committee, he also organized and managed the distribution of vouchers on the twelve food pantry Sundays (from November through April every year). To give you an idea of the magnitude of this task, during the last food pantry season we gave out over \$108,000 worth of vouchers. During this period, we had over 2,200 requests for support. Because of the generosity of many of you and the wider community, we were able to share with ALL those who shared their need with us.

My task was fundraising. Each year to make this sharing possible, money must be found. Over the last few years we have been able to give out an average of over \$90,000 EACH YEAR. Working with our great food pantry committee, we have participated in many fundraising tasks. Most of you have received the yearly appeal letter (between 300 and 400 letters are sent every year). Other efforts include raffles, working with Harbor House Children's Center on "Touch a Truck", working with the Southwest Harbor Congregational Church on their spaghetti supper, and the "Westside Food Pantry Recital Series". These fundraisers and the publicity around them gave us opportunities to raise awareness of food insecurity in our community and the work of the Westside Food Pantry. Letters to the Editor, a quick radio interview, a homily at a local church, and an interview with high school students have offered additional opportunities for sharing.

I am humbled by the trust shown to us by those who are able to share their resources with us and by those who share their need with us on food pantry Sundays. And I have been privileged to work with Dean and the other gracious and hardworking members of the food pantry committee.

I have recently notified the committee and the vestry (the food pantry board) that I am resigning as co-chair. Working with our music director, Stephen Sampson and others, I will continue to coordinate the "Westside Food Pantry Recital Series".

Thank you all!

Birthdays



NOVEMBER

14—Winthrop Short
18—Ellen Gilmore
22—Kathryn Hiscock
25—Spencer Ervin
26—Michele Daley
29—Floy Ervin

Wedding Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

23—Bob and Elaine Theriault

ADVENT DISCUSSION SERIES: The O Antiphons

This year, on the four Sundays of Advent (November 30, December 7, 14, 21), Tim, Jenny, and Vesta will be leading discussions of the seven ancient titles for the coming Messiah which have been sung as antiphons to the Song of Mary at Evening Prayer in Advent since at least the sixth century. We perhaps know them best as they are paraphrased in Hymn 56, "O come, O Come Emmanuel." What did it mean for the early Church to call Christ by the name "Wisdom?" What does it mean for us? How about "Root of Jesse" or "Key of David?" Explorations of these questions will be during Forum time (9:00-9:45) at St. John, and after the 10:00 service (11:30-12:15) in the Parish Hall at St. Saviour, and will be led by the priest celebrant at each church. No advance reading is required; each conversation can stand alone, but attending all would be an enriching Advent discipline.

NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Stephen Sampson

The arrival of November brings thoughts of Thanksgiving, and so we give thanks to the Saint John's Singers who come to rehearsal, braving wind and rain and snow and roadwork, and to music in general. And in this spirit we share these lines from 'Song of the Lotos-Eaters' by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809 – 1892).

There is sweet music here that softer falls
Than petals from blown roses on the grass,
Or night-dews on still waters between walls
Of shadowy granite, in a gleaming pass;
Music that gentlier on the spirit lies,
Than tir'd eyelids upon tir'd eyes;
Music that brings sweet sleep down from the blissful skies.

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

Patsy Fogarty

Thanksgiving is a time for us to count our blessings. Please consider sharing your blessings with your parish family by making a contribution to our Blessings Fund.



VESTRY BULLETS

October 26, 2014

- Calendar of church year with orders of worship times throughout the seasons presented by Father Tim. Vestry expressed support for this schedule.
- Forum first two Sundays in November will be on "Last Wishes", presented by Nan Miller and Cookie Horner. See article elsewhere in Net Tender for more information.
- Transportation/outreach for those unable to attend church activities discussed.
- Video hookup for Undercroft for those times when sanctuary is full proposed and will be considered at a later date.
- Marilyn Mays is writing the Stewardship letter.
- Bishop Steve encouraging two-person team missioning walks and prayers.
- Weekly coffee house at Seacoast Mission this year.
- SASJ and St. Saviour's will work together to host January 2015.
- Given the great success of Food Pantry benefits last summer, the vestry discussed the possibility of scheduling concerts on a more regular timetable, coordinating with Arthur Russell Strings and Kneisel Hall, and marketing as a summer concert series. Bunny Watts, Chloe Hatcher and Tim+ will meet with Food Pantry leadership to see what can be done.
- Performance reviews for staff beginning.
- Finance Committee will have full audit done next year. Endowment and operating budget in good shape at present.
- Vesta+ has agreed to continue to serve us in her retirement while we make other arrangements for supplemental clergy coverage, but has asked that we plan to have those arrangements in place by summer 2015. Options are being considered.
- Vestry voted unanimously to pursue negotiations toward calling Tim as shared rector with St. Saviour.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

If you've noticed blue masking tape over the 10:00 service on St. John's sign, *don't panic*. Tim+ put it there for Marathon Sunday when we had only one service, but then discovered that the tape pulls off the printing when he tried to remove it. We have ordered new placards, which also include the change from 12:30 to Noon for the Thursday Service, and they will be here soon.

WEDNESDAY EXPLORERS

Wednesday Explorers is a weekly open discussion forum, facilitated by Vesta Kowalski, which meets in the St. John's Common Room from 1:30 to 3:00 on Wednesday afternoons. There's a different topic each week; the topics are suggested and chosen by the group. Anyone is free to come once, occasionally, or regularly, and friends from outside the church community are welcome, too. The schedule of topics for November and December follows (note that we will not meet on November 26, the day before Thanksgiving, nor on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve).

November 5 – How do we choose our charities? In a world full of needs – local, national, global – how do we make our individual decisions about where to invest the money that is one tangible way of loving our neighbors?

November 12 – "Church year is color coded." This entry in Robin Williams' list of top reasons to be an Episcopalian led to the suggestion that we discuss the church year, the reason for the colors, and perhaps the vestments and other trappings of Episcopal worship. Just what is it that keeps the altar guild so busy behind the scenes of our liturgical life?

November 19 – Is doubt a part of faith? Most of us have at some point in our lives taken a "vacation" from church, and often returned with a more mature faith. What do we doubt? How do we balance faith and doubt in our daily lives?

December 3 – Are our children our future or our present? As the average age of church members increases, we keep trying to figure out how to involve young people in the life of the church. What are appropriate roles for young people? When should they be involved in the processes of decision-making? Is there a conflict between maintaining the forms of worship that are important to the older generation and inspiring a younger generation to be active in church affairs?

December 10 – How did we come to faith? We often find ourselves lamenting that the coming generations are not receiving the religious background that we did, and therefore don't have the foundation for faith that we do. Is that true? Does our faith stem from Sunday School, personal experience, continuing education? Have we taken many different paths to faith?

December 17 – How do we cast out fear? It is increasingly clear that as a nation as well as individuals, we make many of our decisions based on fear. What is it that we fear? How might we live a life without fear? Does our faith help?

CONGREGATIONAL PASTORAL CARE CONTINUES

Joan Bromage

Members of the Congregational Pastoral Care Team from St. John's and St. Saviour's met with The Rev. Jenny Reece at St. John's on Monday, September 29, at 5:30 p.m. We ate, prayed, and caught up with each other, talking about visits made, visits we might make, and suggestions about how we can best help our friends.

As always, we'd welcome any comments or offers of help from parishioners about this ministry--please share them with Fr. Tim, Jenny Reece, Vesta Kowalski, Wardens or Vestry or anyone on the team – we'll soon post an up to date list at each church. And have a fresh look at our wonderful pew cards – do you know anyone who might need some friendly help?? We are blessed with parishioners who are always ready with generous help where it's needed. Thank you one and all.

EVENSONG – November 2

In honor of All Saints Day, St. Saviour's Episcopal Parish in Bar Harbor will present a service of Evensong on Sunday, November 2nd at 4:00 pm. This Anglican form of sung Evening Prayer will feature the St. Saviour's Festival Choir, conducted by Julia Morris-Myers. Music will include works by Geraint Lewis and American composers Robert Powell and Craig Phillips.

A wine and cheese reception in the Parish Hall will follow the service. St. Saviour's is handicap-accessible and all are welcome. Donations will be accepted for the Rector's Discretionary Fund, which provides immediate help for food, rent, heat, prescriptions and other needs. For more information please call the church at 288-

BARRY POLLARD

Joan Bromage

Barry Pollard, our parishioner and long-time friend has moved from Birch Bay to Woodlands of Brewer. Lee Marville, who took her there, says that she received a warm welcome and joined right in with a singing group in process!

Her new address is: Memory Care of Brewer, 53 Colonial Circle, Brewer ME 04412. *(It is off Chamberlain Street, which runs behind Tim Horton's and that shopping center.)*

MAINE DIOCESAN CONVENTION—OCTOBER 24-25



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

All Saints Day, November 2

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 34:1-10, 22; Revelation 7:9-17; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Pentecost 22, November 9

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Pentecost 23, November 16

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 123; Judges 4:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Pentecost 24, November 23

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

The Rev. Tim Fleck

Thanksgiving Day, November 27

11:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine

Psalm 65; Deuteronomy 8:7-18; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19

The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

Advent 1, November 30

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18; Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

The Rev. Tim Fleck and Elizabeth Graves

Thursdays, November 13, 20

12:00 p.m. — Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Tim Fleck

HAVE YOU BEEN TO OUR THURSDAY SERVICE?

A small loyal band meets Thursdays at midday for a quiet Holy Eucharist and conversation about the saints of our calendar (with a good deal of church history and theology thrown in). The regulars find this a welcome break in the week, a chance to gather in a small informal group, and an opportunity to hear about Christ incarnated in the lives of those who have gone before. After a short break, the Thursday Eucharist will return November 13 at noon, half an hour earlier to allow folks to get to The Common Good for lunch.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Chloe Hatcher

Join Dianne McMullan in the Undercroft on Sunday, November 30 at 5:30 p.m. for a fun evening of Advent Wreath making! Delicious soup and sandwiches will be provided! There will be more details to follow.

