

The Net Tender - February 2015

## 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](mailto:saints315@myfairpoint.net) / [tim@mdi-episcopal.org](mailto:tim@mdi-episcopal.org)

Website: [www.saintsmdi.org](http://www.saintsmdi.org)

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

### Priest-in-Charge

Timothy Fleck

### Affiliate Priests

Vesta Kowalski

Jenny Reece

### 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 2015

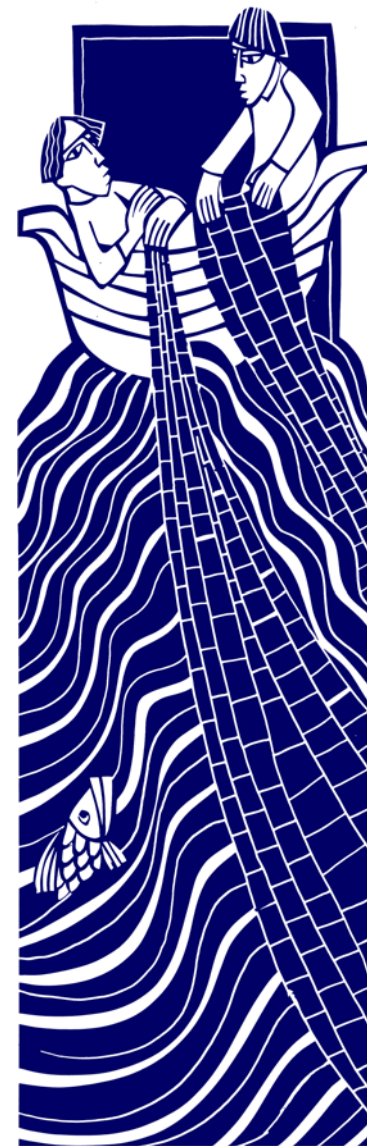
## AN INVITATION to an above-average Lent

On Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, one of his long-running shticks is the moral superiority of places that suffer through long, cold winters. Keillor never misses an opportunity to disparage southern California and other places that "don't have seasons," and his "News from Lake Wobegon" tends to judge those who spend winters in Florida or Arizona as slightly suspect. Winter builds character, according to this thinking, and avoiding it shows a lack of moral fiber.



The church year has its own seasons, and some traditions seem to treat Lent like February in Maine: something one chooses to suffer through, with the vague sense that the suffering itself is what makes it good for you. Of course, the winters we have nowadays are nothing like what we had back when I was a kid, and neither is Lent. Back then, we knew something about penitence!

Confession, repentance and penitence are all worthwhile things, but they are not all that Lent is about. Lent began in the early Church as a period of preparation before the great celebration of Easter; those who hoped to be baptized and join the church at the Great Vigil spent (at least) forty days in study, prayer, fasting, and self-examination. Remember that the church in those days was persecuted



or illegal in many places, so that one needed to think long and hard before taking the fateful step of presenting oneself for baptism. Remember also that the unbaptized left the room after the scripture readings and prayers: Holy Communion was a mystery only for those who had shown a serious commitment to follow Christ.

As Christianity became the established religion of the Empire, baptism became much more ubiquitous, and preparation for it less arduous. As time went on, however, an increased focus in the Western Church on human sinfulness led to a more mechanistic economy of sin. Penitence, the honest acknowledgement and turning away from one's sin, was replaced by Penance, self-inflicted punishment in exchange for the church's promise of absolution. Lent became a time of sometimes morbid self-mortification, on the assumption that God desires and approves of our suffering: that suffering, like cold winters, builds character.

In reaction against this sort of masochism, some Christian traditions have abandoned Lent altogether, or have reduced it to little more than the switching of green hangings for purple. But just as Garrison Keillor finds something unwholesome about year-round sunshine, I think there is something missing from a church year that doesn't include a season of study, prayer, fasting (in whatever form it takes), and self-examination. Identifying oneself as a Christian is perhaps not as risky as it was in the second century, but we still need to think long and hard about what it means to live out that commitment. We have the gift of being able to worship God publicly and frequently, but it is still worth spending time meditating on the holy mysteries of the Eucharist.

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## LET'S PREPARE FOR LENT



**Pancake Supper · Mardi Gras · Shrove Tuesday  
all rolled into one on February 17<sup>th</sup>!**

Once again the men (with subtle help from the Martha's Guild and other women) will be putting on this annual event at St. John's, sharing our space and kitchen with many from St. Saviour's and our local community. Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The maple syrup is at hand, the pancake dispenser ready to go. We are looking for volunteers to set-up, cook, serve and clean up.



There will be no charge for the event, but donations to cover expenses gratefully received, any money in excess of expenses will be split between the Martha's Guild and the Westside Food Pantry. Signup sheets will be out shortly. Please contact either the church office or me.

Ted Bromage (244-3227) or [ted@bromage.us](mailto:ted@bromage.us)

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 February 22



## An Invitation *(continued)*

In the tradition of study and preparation, this Lent St. Saviour and St. Andrew & John will be offering Sunday morning discussions of the fundamentals of our faith, using Archbishop Rowan Williams' book *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer*. Even if you were baptized long ago, I hope that conversations about these touchstones of our Christian life will feed your faith and build character with a minimum of suffering.

Self-examination and penitence are still appropriate as well. I would remind you that the Rite of Reconciliation (sacramental confession and absolution) can be a restorative, liberating practice. The two forms that begin on page 447 in our current Prayer Book are intended as a framework and a first step in a process of repentance, not as an act of self-abasement and penance. This ministry is always available by appointment, but Lent is a particularly appropriate time to lay aside those things that trouble us as we prepare to meet our risen Lord at Easter.

*Feedback? I hope you will call or e-mail me to continue the conversation.  
Yours in Christ's Peace, Tim*

## TUESDAYS IN LENT

Gather with other island Episcopalians for a quiet, contemplative service of Evening Prayer at 4:30, followed by a light supper.

February 24 at St. Mary's, Northeast Harbor  
March 3 at St. Saviour, Bar Harbor  
March 10 at St. John, Southwest Harbor  
March 17 at Church of Our Father, Hull's Cove  
March 24 at St. Mary's, Northeast Harbor

## THE LIGHTER SIDE...

### Bible Confusion

The little girl was sitting with her grandmother, who had presented her with her first little children's Bible, in an easy-to-read translation, when she was very young.

Now, a decade or so later, the elderly lady was ready to spend a few sweet moments handing down the big old family Bible, in the time-honored King James Version, to her only grandchild.

Understandably excited, the youngster was asking a number of questions, both about the family members whose births and deaths were recorded therein, and about various aspects of the Scriptures themselves.

Her grandmother was endeavoring to answer all the child's questions in terms she could understand, but the one that stopped her cold was this sincere inquiry:

"Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? Was it the Virgin Mary, or the King James virgin?"



### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes will be held  
Wednesday, February 18  
St. Saviour's Parish—8:30 a.m.  
St. John the Divine—12:30 p.m.



## NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

*Stephen Sampson*

February brings us this poem from Walt Whitman (1819 – 1892):

### *That Music Always Round Me*

That music always around me, unceasing, unbeginning, yet  
long untaught I did not hear,  
But now the chorus I hear and am elated,  
A tenor, strong, ascending with power and health, with glad  
notes of daybreak I hear,  
A soprano at intervals sailing buoyantly over the tops of  
immense waves,  
A transparent base shuddering lusciously under and through  
the universe,  
The triumphant tutti, the funereal wailings with sweet flutes  
and violins, all these I fill myself with,  
I hear not the volumes of sound merely, I am moved by the  
exquisite meanings,  
I listen to the different voices winding in and out, striving  
contending with fiery vehemence to excel each other in  
emotion;  
I do not think the performers know themselves – but now I  
think I begin to know them.

## ERD & BISHOP'S BLEND PARTNERSHIP ENDS



Dear Friends,

As you know, Episcopal Relief & Development and Pura Vida Coffee have had a long-standing partnership to offer Bishops Blend, a line of fair trade coffees to churches and individuals. A portion of each sale supported our life-saving work worldwide.

You may have been contacted by Pura Vida regarding the end of this partnership. Pura Vida stands ready to continue to sell its fair trade coffees to you; however, after January 31, 2015, no portion of these sales will benefit Episcopal Relief & Development.

In the very near future, Episcopal Relief & Development will announce exciting new opportunities to support our work through the purchase of a range of fair trade products.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and your commitment to our work. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ,  
*Sean McConnell*  
Director of Engagement, Episcopal Relief & Development  
212.518.0521

**Birthdays**  
**FEBRUARY**  
 3—Michael Shook  
 7—Andrew McMullan  
 19—Candace DaCosta  
 24—Michael DaCosta  
 28—Bob Theriault

**Wedding Anniversaries**  
**FEBRUARY**  
 4—Peggy and Eugene Walls  
 14—Glenn Milligan  
 Michele Daley

**FREE COMMUNITY POT LUCK VALENTINE SUPPER**

Tuesday, February 10 from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Parish Hall at St. Saviour’s Parish, 41 Mt. Desert Street, Bar Harbor, ME 04609. Any donations will benefit St. Saviour’s MDI Fire Fund which benefits fire victims on Mt. Desert Island. Checks may be made payable to St. Saviour’s Parish (note Fire Fund in the memo section) and sent to the address above. Bring a dish or dessert to share, your family, friends and neighbors for an evening of wonderful fellowship and food. St. Saviour’s is handicap accessible and **ALL are welcome!**



**MOVIE NIGHT AT ST. SAVIOUR’S**

Friday, February 13, 5pm. Bring your own snack or dinner as we watch *Fiddler on the Roof* and share great fellowship! Bring a cushion or a comfy chair, house slippers, whatever will maximize your comfort! All are welcome, so bring a friend!

**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. Schedule of topics for February and March follows:

**February 4** – *What about the Bible?* We think about the Bible and use it and relate to it in very different ways. Let’s talk about them. (This session rescheduled from a January “snow day.”)

**February 11** – *Discipline?* Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are the traditional “Lenten disciplines.” What do we mean by the word? Are these helpful practices in our lives today? Have we developed personal ways of observing Lent that are more meaningful or useful?

**February 18 (Ash Wednesday)** – The Ash Wednesday liturgy will be celebrated at St. John’s at 1:30 p.m., in place of our discussion.

**February 25—March 18** – *Lent with the Lord’s Prayer.* We’ll talk about the various parts of this most familiar part of our Christian observance.

**February 25** – “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.”

**March 4** – “Give us today our daily bread.”

**March 11** – “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.”

**March 18** – “Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.”

**March 25** – *The Holy Week liturgies.* In preparation for this week when we spend so much time in church, we will look at the liturgies for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil, and discuss how (or if) they work together to express our faith.

**April 1** – No session on the eve of the Holy Week liturgies.

**SUMMARY OF 2014 TREASURER’S REPORT**

**2014 Highlights**

The operating deficit was \$3,641, \$6,324 less than the budgeted \$9,965 deficit.

Endowments increased 7% from \$935,876 to \$1,005,307.

The Building Reserve was increased by \$10,000 to a total of \$13,934

**2015 Budget**

The Vestry has approved a budget for 2015 with a deficit of \$16,146. \$8,216 increased endowment withdrawal was offset by additional clergy services, \$6,000 in lost income and extra utility costs due to the anticipated Doliver House vacancy, a full audit, and inflation. In addition, upcoming decisions on clergy may require additional funds and may result in an increased deficit.

In 2013, the Vestry resolved to establish a balanced budget over the next few years while funding deficits in the interim from our Operating Reserve, currently totaling \$73,430. This will be a significant challenge. Although our finances are strong in many ways, pledging and membership trends both here and almost everywhere else demand prudence with our resources.

**Recent Year Financial summary**

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
<b>ORDINARY INCOME</b>				
4010 · Contributions - Pledges	\$92,679	\$100,721	\$96,272	\$95,000
4020 · Non-Pledged Donations	\$9,589	\$11,179	\$12,778	\$12,000
4025 · Blessings Fund	\$1,125	\$1,665	\$1,000	\$1,500
4050 · Investment Income to Operations	\$16,107	\$22,838	\$30,369	\$38,966
5800 · Fundraising	\$16,350	\$16,455	\$13,893	\$14,000
Total Income	\$135,850	\$152,858	\$154,312	\$161,466
<b>ORDINARY EXPENSES</b>				
7000 · Outreach	\$5,600	\$5,300	\$3,181	\$2,500
7200 · Personnel	\$85,139	\$90,959	\$97,241	\$103,706
8000 · Other Expenses	\$10,603	\$5,628	\$7,359	\$11,555
8200 · Facility Operations	\$16,844	\$13,485	\$30,178	\$37,125
8650 · Assessments - Diocese of Maine	\$25,976	\$22,217	\$19,994	\$22,726
Total Expenses	\$144,162	\$137,589	\$157,953	\$177,612
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>-\$8,312</b>	<b>\$15,269</b>	<b>-\$3,641</b>	<b>-\$16,146</b>

More detailed financial information is available on the St. John website <<http://saintsmdi.org/>>

*Jim Vekasi*

Attachments (on web site—[www.saintsmdi.org/](http://www.saintsmdi.org/)):

12/31/2014 Account Balances

Detailed 2014 budget report

Approved 2015 Budget

## WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY RECITAL SERIES

Pianist, Masanobu Ikeyima filled St. John with his magnificent music, his humor and his welcoming spirit at the January 11<sup>th</sup> Westside Food Pantry Recital. Tomoko Ikeyima added to the gaiety by entertaining us with her one women honkey tonk band. The church was filled to capacity, and \$1593 was raised for our food pantry. Thank you Masanobu and Tomoko. I am very grateful, as well, to Dianne McMullan and Edie Stanwood. They worked tirelessly creating a lovely post recital reception for over 50 people.

Upcoming Recitals:

**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** - 6:30 at St John---Gouldsboro Soprano, Celeste Mittlehauser and Bar Harbor Harpist, Phoebe Durand

**Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>** - 4:00-5:00---St John hosts Cynthia MacLeod, Ward MacDonald and Chris Gray, musicians from the "Acadia Trad School", as part of the "Acadia Halls" festival

With gratitude,

*Susan Buell*

## THE MDI HOSPITAL WELLNESS TEAM

is offering a Diabetes Prevention Class that will begin on Wednesday, February 4 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at the MDI YMCA in Bar Harbor. The class is free and will meet weekly each Wednesday for 16 weeks and then once a month for six months. Hosted by a trained facilitator, the meetings offer a support system for participants to share their successes and manage their setbacks. For more information, or to sign up, contact MDI Hospital program coordinator Heather Lewis at 801-9008 or [heather.lewis@mdihospital.org](mailto:heather.lewis@mdihospital.org)

## PASTORAL CARE TEAM NEWS

A great group of volunteers from St. Andrew & St. John and St. Saviour's met with Jenny Reece and Fr. Tim on January 5<sup>th</sup> in the lovely library at St. Saviour's. It is always good to be together, sharing food, worship (an early Epiphany observance this time) and above all, talking of our experiences and thinking of ways in which we can best help our friends.

With the help of lots of parishioners, we hosted the two January *Coffee's On* at the Colket Center. These gatherings have been lots of fun for all--music, snacks and, above all, good visiting with new acquaintances. All are welcome! Various community groups have hosted--it's AARP's turn for the next one, on Tuesday, February 3.

Thank you to all the generous spirits in our parish who help out all around, quietly and faithfully.

The joint team will next meet on Monday, March 9, at St. John's. Please call Fr. Tim, Michele or Joan Bromage any time if you or someone you know might need some support -- an encouraging visit, a meal, a ride, etc.

## HOSPICE OF HANCOCK COUNTY



is offering a two week class called "Beginning the Conversation". It will explore and discuss all things that are associated with the end of life decisions, medical advanced directives and medical agents and

will discuss tools to help honor individual values and beliefs. Space is limited, pre-registration is required.

**Monday, February 9 and February 16** from 4 to 6PM at Collier's Seaport Village, 11 General Moore Way in Ellsworth. Contact FMI: 664-2488 or 667-7969

## COFFEE'S ON!

The Maine Sea Coast Mission cordially invites all MDI Senior Citizens to join them for Coffee, Conversation and Music the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Colket Center, 127 West Street, Bar Harbor. It's an enjoyable gathering in a beautiful place.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

### February 1, Epiphany 4

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28  
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

### February 8, Epiphany 5

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 147:1-12, 21c; Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39  
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

### February 15, Last Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 50:1-69; 2 Kings 2:1-12; 1 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9  
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

### February 18, Ash Wednesday

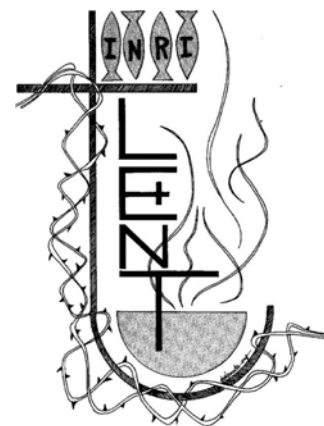
1:30 p.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 103; Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

### February 22, Lent 1

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 25:1-9; Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15  
The Rev. Timothy Fleck

### Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26

12:00 p.m. — Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer



## LENTEN DISCUSSION SERIES

Bishop Steve has invited the whole Diocese to share one book this Lent: *Being Christian* by Archbishop Rowan Williams. Tim, Vesta, and Jenny will be leading Sunday discussions on the four topics of this book (Baptism, February 22; The Bible, March 1; Eucharist, March 8; and Prayer, March 15), and we will figure out together what we want to discuss on the last two Sundays of Lent (March 22 and 29). We will be using Archbishop Williams' short book as a resource, but feel free to participate whether or not you've read it. It is available through Amazon, or if you'd like the church to order you a copy, please give Michele or Muffet \$10 and your name and email or phone number by February 11 to get the book by February 15.

## NET TENDER DELAYED

We apologize for the lateness of the newsletter this month. Between the snow storms and the copier breaking down...it was a challenge to get it printed, proofread, and mailed.