

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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Music Director

Stephen Sampson

Parish Administrator

Michele Daley

Editor

Anne Wetzel



The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

April 2015

SUNDAY MORNING COMING DOWN

At church this last Sunday, some of us who arrived early got a lesson in the relevance of the church in popular culture.

This weekend was the twenty-fourth annual Great Harbor Shoot-out, a post-season basketball tournament that attracted eighty-two middle school and high school basketball teams to MDI and Trenton. 169 games were played at all levels in elementary, high school, and YMCA gyms, culminating in the finals at Pemetic Elementary School on Sunday (MDI Boys beat Brewer 79-77).

This is a wonderful event that draws lots of young people and families to MDI during a part of the year when we don't have many visitors. It develops sportsmanship and brings families and communities together to cheer on student-athletes. Overall a fun and positive weekend.

Of course, any student or family who were Christians and who were participating in the tournament could not, by definition, participate in Sunday worship. I'm afraid that this has become an old argument which the church has lost: whereas it would once have been unthinkable to schedule sporting or recrea-



tional events to conflict with church, it has more recently become the norm. Children are so tightly scheduled, the expectations of participation are so high, and the competition for court-time, ice-time or field-time is so great that Sunday morning is no longer sacrosanct.

I lament this change, but frankly our church's lament would be more credible if we had significant numbers of school-age kids active in our church on the other fifty-one Sundays a year. We live in a culture where religious observance is voluntary, and where society does not necessarily condemn those who do not go to church or temple. As Yogi Berra said, "If people don't want to come out to the ball park, nobody's gonna stop 'em" – In other words, people have to choose to come to church, and if they choose not to, well then we have to take some (most? all?) the responsibility for that. Further, if people didn't choose to go to sporting events, concerts, almost anything else on Sunday morning, schools and community organizations would stop scheduling them.

As I said, Sunday sports is an argument that has been going on for at least a generation, and which the church has lost. What saddened me more last Sunday morning was the people parking in St. John's parking lot for the ballgames at 8:30 on a Sunday morning. When Margot and I flagged them down and asked them to park elsewhere, they were friendly and cooperative (they're Mainers, after all). But the fact is that it had simply not occurred to them that a church might need its parking lot on Sunday morning. This wasn't just a matter of choosing to go to a basketball game instead of Sunday worship; it was a failure to imagine that anybody else might choose to go to church. These folks were not being anti-Christian or anti-religion. Frankly, they didn't even think enough about the church to be opposed to us.

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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 May Net Tender is April 26

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday-Saturday, March 30-April 4

8:00 AM – Morning Prayer at St. John's

Thursday, April 2, Maundy Thursday

5:30 PM – Holy Eucharist with foot washing at St. John's

Friday, April 3, Good Friday

7:00 PM – Solemn Liturgy at St. Saviour's

Saturday, April 4, Holy Saturday

7:00 PM – The Great Vigil of Easter at Church of Our Father

Sunday, April 5, Easter Day

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist at St. John's

10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist at St. Saviour's

Easter Monday, April 6

8:00 AM – Morning Prayer at St. John's



ALL ABOARD THE FLAMINGO EXPRESS!

Bunny Watts, Sr. Warden



Let's put away our snowshoes and Yak Tracks and picture a sunny July day...what's that coming down Main Street along with all the other parade participants? A St. John's float? And why not?

As the parade went by last summer there was considerable enthusiasm for St. Andrew & St. John being represented in some way. One possibility is the "St. John Rockers" with parishioners alternating sitting in rocking chairs and "rocking" to a lively tune. Another is to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of St. Andrew which we will be doing in various ways throughout the summer.



Ideas and volunteers are encouraged! Can we have the framework of a plan in place by next month: truck, trailer, someone to head up decorating? Let me know your thoughts...244-3699; bhgables@aol.com

ALSO: As that spring cleaning urge surfaces, please think about putting aside things for the tag sale at St. Andrew's which will be June 12 and 13. The last I knew the snow cover still prevented access to the basement door but once we get some more melting that door, which stays unlocked, will be ready to receive your "treasures."

The parade and festival will be Saturday, July 18. Plans for our usual events: the silent auction, boutique, basket raffle and garden booth will be discussed in the next Net Tender.

SUMMER

SUNDAY MORNING COMING DOWN *(continued)*

For these folks, and for a majority of folks in our communities, the church is utterly irrelevant. Reading magazine articles or blog posts from militant atheists, one might think that we were in the middle of a culture war between forces arrayed for and against religion. But militant atheists are probably among the few people who actually give religion any thought on a regular basis.

As much as the church has tried to be "relevant" by focusing on social welfare ministries, we seem have become irrelevant in the very thing that sets us apart from every other social welfare agency: the regular worship of God in Jesus Christ, the breaking of bread and the prayers.

I wish I had the answer. There is no shortage of proposals for the way to bring Christianity and religion in general back into the center of western culture, and some of them are probably worthwhile. But the fact is, until people are called to something here that they cannot find anywhere else, a full church parking lot on Sunday morning may very likely mean there is a ballgame next door.

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

Yours in Christ's Peace,
Tim



MISSION FILLS NEW MANAGEMENT POST

Ann Cox Halkett has been appointed to the newly established position of project specialist/human resources generalist at the Maine Sea Coast Mission. Halkett will be responsible for the coordination, tracking and metric management of the mission's projects, goals and initiatives, and will provide personnel services to the mission's staff.

A Bar Harbor resident, Halkett comes to the Sea Coast Mission from the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, where she held the position of communications specialist. She also serves as chair of the board of trustees of the Abbe Museum. Halkett lived for 20 years and raised her family in Cherryfield, where the mission has its Downeast Campus and EdGE Youth Development Center. She was educated at Harvard College and the University of Pennsylvania.

Ann is also a member of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church and served as Junior Warden from 2010-2012.

MORE WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY RECITALS ON THE HORIZON--

Susan Buell

How lucky are we that so many musicians are eager to share their talent for our food pantry. Mark your calendars!



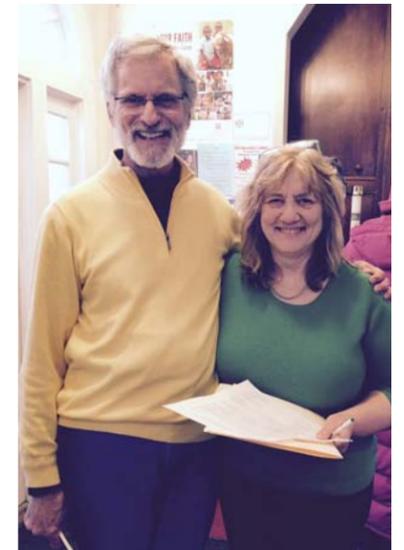
Friday, April 24th, 6:30: Manset musician, Ray Lambert will perform on a variety of harmonicas. Ray specializes in Quebecois dance music. He'll be accompanied on some of his tunes by Stephen Sampson.

Again this year, the Sears Family, musicians from the Boston area, will perform music for organ, piano and viola. Their performance will be in mid-June. The date and time is yet to be determined.

Monday, June 29th; 4:00pm; Acadia Halls concert. Musicians from the Acadia Trad School will perform. Unlike all the other recitals, proceeds will be split between the musicians and our food pantry. Organist Andrew Mead is performing in July.



On Friday, March 27th, we were lucky to hear harpist, Phoebe Durand and singers Pepin and Celeste Mittlehauser perform for the Westside Food Pantry. Their generous program included pieces from several centuries and reflected many styles of music. \$420 was raised for our food pantry. Once again we are grateful to the musicians who share their gifts with us so we can share with our neighbors.



Birthdays

APRIL

1—Sarah Flynn
 4—Sandy Alexander
 6—Margaret Fletcher
 8—Mary Parkman
 13—Susy Clark Ogden
 22—Diane Krueger
 22—Ezra Halkett
 25—Bunny Watts

Wedding Anniversaries

APRIL

19—Jim and Mary Vekasi

PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEETS

The Congregational Pastoral Care Team from St. John's and St. Saviour's will gather with The Rev. Jennifer Reece on Monday, April 13, from 3 to 5 p.m., in the Common Room at St. John. We'll share experiences, ideas, and fellowship. Please let us know of any needs for you or others, and of any other suggestions. St. John's volunteers are Joan Bromage, Alice Downs, Floy Ervin, Dean Henry, Dianne McMullan and Gen Mackenzie -- also, but out of town now, Jayne Ashworth and Diane Krueger. Grateful thanks to other parishioners who help out when needed!



FROM THE ORGAN BENCH...

Stephen Sampson

With spring officially here, and spring weather hinted at, the time seems right for a spring poem. Hence,

Spring Quiet

by Christina Rossetti (1830 - 1894)

Gone were but the Winter,
 Come were but the Spring,
 I would go to a covert
 Where the birds sing;

Where in the whitethorn
 Singeth a thrush,
 And a robin sings
 In the holly-bush.

Full of fresh scents
 Are the budding boughs
 Arching high over
 A cool green house:

Full of sweet scents,
 And whispering air
 Which sayeth softly:
 "We spread no snare;

"Here dwell in safety,
 Here dwell alone,
 With a clear stream
 And a mossy stone.

"Here the sun shineth
 Most shadily;
 Here is heard an echo
 Of the far sea,
 Though far off it be."



EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT



As Easter approaches, we turn our focus to the third pillar of the Lenten season – almsgiving. By giving unto others, we help those in need while showing our gratitude for all God has given us.

So tell us, what is your reason for giving this Lent?

- I want to provide a community with basic necessities
- I want to keep mothers and their babies healthy
- I want to send a stable source of food and income
- I want to help children learn to read

Charity is an important part of Lent, but sending *Gifts for Life* is an opportunity to do *even more* – because these are gifts that grow over time... They offer individuals, families and communities the chance to improve their lives in truly lasting ways. *And in this season of growth and rebirth, there's no better way to express our faith.* Honor God's great gifts to us this Easter by helping people in need.

SHARON DAYANA SALAZAR



Through *Children, Incorporated*, we continue to support Sharon Dayana Salazar, who is now 14 years old. She lives with her mother, grandmother and two brothers in Tejarcillo, Costa Rica. Sharon is finishing eighth grade and is able to attend school just a few blocks from her home. She enjoys history, music and art. Our sponsorship as a congregation helps make things a little better for Sharon. St. John will send the sponsoring organization a check for a year's sponsorship this month with the understanding that several members of the congregation will share in this endeavor. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the undercroft. If you would like to participate, please sign your name by the month(s) you choose, and **write a check to St. John's church** for \$28. Please note on your check *Outreach: Child Sponsorship*.

MARCH 22nd VESTRY BULLETS

- Curate Position description finalized and has been circulated among seminaries and church offices.
- Bishop Lane has committed \$20,000 per year for two years to support this position.
- Annual meeting set for June 14.
- Nominating Committee formed.
- St. Andrew will open May 31st.
- Fr. Tim signs new rector's contract.

SIMPLE COOKING, SIMPLY

On four Monday afternoons in March, James Lindquist, Chef/ Owner of Red Sky Restaurant, presented four sessions on how to prepare everyday meals for families or singles, **simply**. The public was invited at no charge. The event was sponsored by the Westside Food Pantry and was held in St. John's kitchen. Following each session those attending got to eat what James prepared. Thanks, James!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

April 5, Easter Sunday

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18
The Rev. Timothy Fleck

Monday, April 6

8:00 a.m. — Morning Prayer

April 12, Second Sunday of Easter

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 133; Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
The Rev. Timothy Fleck

April 19, Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 4; Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

April 26, Fourth Sunday of Easter

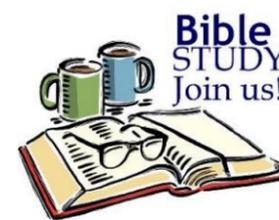
8:00 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 23; Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
The Rev. Priscilla Hukki

Pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Ellsworth

Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

12:00 p.m. — Holy Eucharist
The Rev. Timothy Fleck

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP...



meets on a monthly basis. The group focuses on selected Bible readings and discuss how these passages affect our lives and our relationships with others. The group meets on the second Wednesday of every month and our next meeting will take place at **10:00 am on April 8, 2015 at St. Mary's Chapel, Northeast Harbor**. Meeting locations alternate among Church of our Father, St. Mary's, St. Saviour's and St. John's Episcopal churches. For more information, contact Ward MacKenzie by phone at 244-7313 or at mackenziegw@earthlink.net

THE LIGHTER SIDE...More Fun Yelling

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."
"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit and listen."