

The Net Tender - May 2015

## St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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### Editor

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# The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

May 2015

## THE CURE OF SOULS

Brothers and sisters, by now many of you will have heard that St. Saviour and St. Andrew & John have called a Curate. This is a rather old-fashioned word that tends to come up most often in crossword puzzles and Trollope novels, so saying that we have called a Curate may well raise more questions than it answers. I hope that I can answer some of them.



*Okay, smart guy, so what's a Curate?* The term Curate properly refers to someone who is responsible for the cure (we would say care) of souls. The position comes from the feudal past of the Church of England: a Rector or a Vicar was a priest who had been granted the responsibility for a parish and the right to collect its tithes. Many Rectors and Vicars, however, chose to subcontract out their parish responsibilities to a Curate for a fixed salary. The Rector functioned as a feudal landlord, while the Curate worked more like an employee.

We don't do things that way in the Episcopal Church (nor do they any longer in the Church of England). In our church, Curacy has come to refer to a position for a recent seminary graduate, where he or she can continue to learn for a few years under the mentorship of a more experienced priest.

*Is a Curate ordained?* Yes. Depending on the policies of particular dioceses, a Curate is either a transitional deacon (a person who has been ordained deacon, with the intention of being ordained priest within a short period of time) or a recently-ordained priest.

*Is a Curate paid?* Yes. Since part of the Curate's time is spent in gaining experience, however, diocesan guidelines allow Curates to be paid less than the published minimum rate for a full-time priest.

*How is a Curate different from an Assistant or Associate?* The Curate functions as an assistant to the Rector, but there is an expectation that the Parish and the Rector will invest time and energy into the continued formation of the Curate. A Curacy is also limited to a set period of time, typically two or three years, after which the Curate typically moves on to a permanent position.

*So why have we called a Curate now?* Over the past three years, we have moved from a model using a pool of local supply and visiting clergy to preside at worship on alternate Sundays, to a model where two priests, the Rev. Jenny Reece and the Rev. Vesta Kowalski, have served us on alternate Sundays and a few hours a week of additional Christian education and pastoral care. This model has worked well, and we thank Vesta+ and Jenny+ for their ministry among us, but in conversations with parishioners and in the results of last year's Mutual Study of Ministry, it has become clear that folks are looking for more clergy time and more consistency.

At the same time, our Diocese has been looking at how we raise up and prepare clergy. For the last several years, money that has been budgeted for the support of Curates has not been claimed because it was earmarked

## Easter Sunday at St. John the Divine



## Easter Basket Distribution



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specifically for candidates from Maine, and very few people are currently in that pipeline. This year the Diocesan Council has given Bishop Lane more flexibility in the use of that money, and he has agreed to subsidize a position shared between our Parishes.

*How can we afford another staff position?* We all know that budgets are very tight at both Parishes, and in fact the Curate's position will cost the Parishes somewhat more than Jenny+ and Vesta+ have. With support from the Diocese, however, and the availability of the Dolliver House in Southwest Harbor as housing, we have been able to call a full-time Curate for about half the cost of a second full-time priest. By comparison, Jenny+ and Vesta+ together have cost about a third of the cost of a second full-time priest.

*So, if we have two full-time clergy and two Parishes, why not just go back to one priest in each Parish?* First of all, the cost is significantly less, but that's not really the driving factor. More important, in my mind, is that both Parishes will experience the ministry of two different priests with different personalities, gifts, and styles. Furthermore, I think this is an opportunity for both Parishes to participate in the process of forming a new priest. This is itself a calling for us – a ministry that we can offer the wider church.

*How will the Curate's time be divided?* The intention is for the Curate to divide time equally between the Parishes, with the additional requirement that some time will need to be set aside for training and supervision with me and with lay leaders.

*What will the Parishes' responsibilities be?* An important part of this arrangement is that it is a learning opportunity for the Curate. This often includes more intentional feedback loops from the congregation, such as small groups that may offer responses to sermons. Most important, however, is a willingness on both sides to stay in open conversation about our ministry together.

*What has the process been for calling this person?* Unlike a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, who is hired by and reports to the Vestry, a Curate is hired by and reports to the Rector. Technically, the Curate "extends and supports the Rector's ministry." Of course, the Vestry must authorize any expenditure, so I have worked with them to see how this position fits within our budgets. I have also solicited input from the Vestry on a position description, and from the wardens on particular candidates, but the nature of this position does not lend itself to hiring by committee. With the assistance of the Rev. Canon Michael Ambler, we have shared the position description with Episcopal and Lutheran seminaries as well as with diocesan transition ministers, and I have reviewed and interviewed candidates. Prior to the formal call, one candidate was invited to visit the Parishes in April and met with the wardens of both Parishes.

*Great. So who is this person? When do we get to meet him/her? When will he/she start?* Not so fast! We have issued a call to a very gifted person, and that person has accepted our call. While I am extremely excited and would love to gush on about this person, there are dozens of details to work out about starting dates, ordination dates, etc., and it would be inappropriate to share names and details before all parties have signed a letter of agreement. We hope that our new Curate will join us early this summer, and I expect that our relationship will be a source of growth and revelation on both sides.

I know that this will be a time of questions, of concerns, and perhaps of fears and worries. I hope that you will share all those with me, and I thank those who have already done so.

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



### THE LIGHTER SIDE...

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me." "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"



## NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

*Stephen Sampson*

One of the most important Christian hymns is 'A mighty fortress is our God' ('Ein feste Burg'), which was sung during the April 26 service at St. John's. Following is some information on the hymn, from 'The Hymnal 1982 Companion', Raymond Glover, general editor. This hymn, by Martin Luther (1483 - 1546) has apparently been the subject of numerous studies examining virtually every aspect of its text and melody. Nevertheless, there remains much uncertainty about many facets of the hymn. For example, there has been much discussion on when the hymn was written and first published. Current (at the time of the publication of 'The Hymnal 1982 Companion', in 1994) scholarly opinion is that it was written in about 1527 - 1528. Similarly, there has been controversy regarding whether the melody was an original composition by Luther or an adaptation by him of earlier material. Current scholarship (again, in about 1994) opines that 'Ein feste Burg' was probably freely written by Luther and that similarities between it and other sources are likely explained by the common use of particular compositional techniques and musical modes.



A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.



### FLOWER WORKSHOP

Vicki Fox demonstrated flower arranging for the Flower Guild on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.



**Birthdays**

**MAY**

9—Joan Bromage  
 11—Susannah Jones  
 19—Anne L. Welles  
 21—Stephen Sampson  
 26—Tim Fleck  
 26—Sam Felton  
 27—Dean Henry  
 27—Bill Voorhies  
 28—Fred Benson  
 29—Doris Walton

**Wedding Anniversaries**

**MAY**

7—John and Betsy Hewlett  
 19—Steve and Wanda Fernald

## APRIL VESTRY BULLETS

- ◆ MDI Holy Week services went well
- ◆ Services will begin at St. Andrew by the Lake on May 31 at 9:00 with a Jubilee Grand Opening to celebrate 100 years in existence
- ◆ Plans are also being explored to repair St. Andrew's steeple and refinish the basement
- ◆ Yard Sale to be held at St. Andrew on June 12-13
- ◆ New church voice mail system is being explored
- ◆ Annual meeting set for June 14
- ◆ Vesta will retire in May; search for a curate is ongoing
- ◆ Nominations for vestry and officer positions are sought
- ◆ Discussion about policies, procedures and by-laws
- ◆ Full audit is scheduled for this year
- ◆ Next meeting will be May 10



## ST. ANDREW JUBILEE

According to the *History of the Southern Mount Desert Mission* (1937), the first service was held at St. Andrew, Seal Cove, on January 2, 1915. Consequently, we are celebrating the Centennial Jubilee of St. Andrew this summer (I don't think any of us would have wanted to gather there on January 2, 2015).



The Jubilee begins with an all-parish service at St. Andrew on Sunday, May 31 at 9:00 AM, followed by a simple reception on the lawn (weather permitting). Speak with Chloe Hatcher (669-2801, [chloehatcher@gmail.com](mailto:chloehatcher@gmail.com)) if you'd like to help with refreshments. There will not be a service at St. John in Southwest Harbor on that day.

St. Andrew will once again host the parish Yard Sale on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Speak with Barbara Campbell (664-3330, [barbara@mansetmdi.com](mailto:barbara@mansetmdi.com)) if you'd like to help, or if you have merchandise to donate.

Over the course of the summer, we hope to have more celebrations and commemorations as well as the regular Sunday 8:00 worship that so many of us love. If you haven't worshipped at St. Andrew with Eloise the Reed Organ, you're missing something special.

If you have an idea for an event or activity for the St. Andrew Centennial Jubilee, speak to Tim+ or to your friendly neighborhood Vestry member.

Almighty God, who didst give such grace to thine apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of thy Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give unto us, who are called by thy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## WANTED: USED THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY BOOKS IN USABLE CONDITION

Are you cleaning out your library? Dr. Francois Akoa-Mongo would like to speak to you! After receiving his M.Div from Bangor Theological Seminary in 1974, Dr. Akoa-Mongo proceeded to earn a PhD in Education from the University of Maine-Orono. Affiliated with the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon, he lives in Maine but regularly travels back to Africa.

Currently, Dr. Akoa-Mongo is seeking to build up the library collection of the Institut de Theologie Protestante Dager, a Protestant seminary that offers Bachelor of Theology degrees, by collecting books on its behalf. All students and professors at the Institut read and understand English, and they seek books in the following areas:

Christian Theology; Sociology of Religion; Homiletics; Languages; Dictionaries; Lexicons

According to Dr. Akoa-Mongo, "anything that contributes to the training of today's ministers and church administrators will be welcome." If you have any books to donate, you may contact Dr. Akoa-Mongo at [akoamon-go@gmail.com](mailto:akoamon-go@gmail.com). In an ideal world, all donated books would be shipped directly to the school; Dr. Akoa-Mongo will send you the address. If international shipping is cost prohibitive, he is willing to have books shipped directly to him and take them to Africa on his next visit.

## MUSIC IN THE SANCTUARY

"The Westside Food Pantry Recital Series" has provided very special opportunities for us to share our love of music with the wider community. Last Friday's performance was our twenty-first recital!

Harmonica player Ray Lambert and our Stephen Sampson, brought us together to listen to traditional Quebecois jigs, reels and waltzes and a beautiful rendition of Camille Saint Saens's classic, "The Swan". The audience beamed in appreciation of Ray and Stephen's jaunty tunes, craned their necks to catch Ray's foot stomping, and were close to tears listening to the very moving Saint Saens. Our thanks to Ray and Stephen for sharing their exceptional musical gifts. \$350 was donated to the Westside Food Pantry, new people were introduced to our work, and we left with a new appreciation of what the harmonica can do in the hands of an excellent musician.

Thank you, as well, to Barbara Campbell, Ginny Agar and Dean Henry for their help.

Gratefully, *Susan Buell*

## PREPARING FOR THE FLAMINGO FESTIVAL



It's time to start planning for the big event on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.

- \* Will there be a St. John's float?
- \* What sort of "theme" will you use for your raffle Basket?
- \* What items can you donate to the Silent Auction?
- \* Who's going to pour lemonade?
- \* What kind of pies and cookies will you bake?
- \* Do you have items for the Boutique?
- \* What plants can you bring?
- \* Whose going to set up, work the fair, and clean up?



## COME TOUCH A TRUCK!

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 10AM-2PM at the former Lowe's parking lot behind Darling's Auto Mall in Ellsworth. Harbor House Community Service Center and the Westside Food Pantry are teaming up again to present the annual TOUCH-A-TRUCK event, a fun-filled family event to benefit both the Food Pantry and the Harbor House Children's Center. Admission to Touch-a-Truck is \$5.00 per person or \$20 per family. Come see the inside and outside of more than 50 vehicles! Earthmovers, excavators, diggers, rescue vehicles, fire trucks, 18-wheeler, limousine, ambulance, snow plow, cherry picker, dump truck, bulldozer and many more humongous vehicles!



## LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN!

As a matter of hospitality, I would ask that we all pay attention to keeping our worship space tidy and ready for visitors. Please return Prayer Books, Hymnals, *Wonder Love & Praise*, and EOW Folders to the pew racks where they came from – they have a tendency to migrate and pile up in the back – and please don't leave bulletins, concert programs, or used Kleenexes (yuck) in the pew for someone else to find. It takes each of us just a few seconds to pick up after ourselves, but significant time and work for a few of us to clean up after everybody. Thanks!

## ERD OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL

Episcopal Relief & Development is working with the ecumenical ACT Alliance in Nepal and local partners in northern India and southwest China regarding urgent needs and assessment efforts following the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck near Kathmandu on the morning of April 25.



The earthquake was centered east of Nepal's capital, near the town of Pokhara, though the initial quake and subsequent aftershocks were felt as far away as Pakistan, more than 800 miles away. The death toll reported late April 27 exceeds 3,900, including 17 who died in an avalanche on Mt. Everest, with the number expected to rise over the coming days. Due to the rough terrain and isolated nature of communities in Nepal and across the Himalayas, search and rescue efforts are being carried out on foot and by helicopter. Communications are still down across wide areas of the region, further hampering assessment and rescue efforts.

"The mountain communities that we suspect are in most need of help are also the hardest to get to, accessible only by foot under normal circumstances," said Nagulan Nesiah, Episcopal Relief & Development's Senior Program Officer for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction. "Getting assessment teams there to gather information will be a challenge, as will transporting the relief supplies that are needed so urgently."

Responding to immediate needs for food, clean water and shelter, as well as the need for accurate information through on-the-ground assessment, Episcopal Relief & Development will support ACT Alliance efforts implemented through a partner office in Kathmandu. The ACT Alliance works in coordination with major international groups such as UN OCHA to maximize efficiency and impact of aid, mobilizing local networks to reach remote areas.

Episcopal Relief & Development is in contact with the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia regarding support for the work of the Deanery of Nepal, which is part of the Diocese of Singapore. The organization may also support other partners in the region including CASA, the humanitarian arm of the National Council of Churches in India, and the Amity Foundation, an independent Christian organization in China.

"It is a frightening time, with so many homes and buildings already destroyed and the threat of aftershocks causing others to collapse," said Abigail Nelson, Episcopal Relief & Development's Senior Vice President of Programs. "People need spiritual support as they try to keep their families safe, or find and save those who are missing. We urge prayers for all those impacted by the quake, and for those who are bringing relief, support and encouragement to people in need."

Please donate to the [Nepal Earthquake Response Fund](#) to enable Episcopal Relief & Development to support its partners' emergency relief efforts and on-the-ground assessment in the region.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY

### May 3, Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 22:24-30; Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8  
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski

### May 10, Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 98; Acts 10:44-48; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17  
The Rev. Timothy Fleck

### May 17, Seventh Sunday of Easter

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 1; Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19  
The Rev. Jennifer Reece

### May 24, The Day of Pentecost

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine  
Psalm 104:25-35, 37; Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15  
The Rev. Jennifer Reece

### May 31, Trinity Sunday

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by the Lake  
Psalm 29; Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17  
The Rev. Timothy Fleck

### Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28

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

## YARD SALE at ST. ANDREW

The second annual St. Andrew Yard Sale will take place on Friday June 12 and Saturday June 13 from 8:00-3:00, rain or shine. For those of you who spent your winter clearing out your closets and cupboards during the never ending snow-storms, this is a chance for you to drop off these treasures for us to sell. The basement is open and ready to receive. Please no clothing or electronics.

If you would like to help set up or work at the Sale, please let me know. It is a lot of fun and you get to see lots of friends. As an added incentive, you also get an early bird peek at the great stuff for sale.

Thank you,  
*Barbara Campbell*



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Margaret B. Fletcher graduates from Chatham Hall on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Floy Ervin will be returning to her alma mater and attending the graduation. After a summer on Mount Desert Island, Margaret will be starting at Wheaton College in Norton Massachusetts in the fall. She remains grateful for the support of her friends at St Andrew & St. John.

