

The Net Tender - June 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 / tim@mdi-episcopal.org

Website: 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

Editor

Anne Wetzel



The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

June 2015

THE GOVERNMENT

Now that St. Andrew & St. John has shifted the date of its annual meeting, both parishes will be meeting separately this month to attend to the business and government of our churches. The way we manage and govern ourselves in various churches is called “polity,” and is one of the things that differentiate different traditions and denominations, sometimes maddeningly. Many of us make assumptions about the way things are “supposed to” work based on our experience in other churches or in other organizations, but there are peculiarities in the way the Church works, and specifically in the way the Episcopal Church works.



Our name, Episcopal, implies that we are governed by Bishops, which is only partly true. What the name Episcopal does highlight, though, is that the fundamental unit of our church is the Diocese. This is very different from many other Protestant churches whose fundamental unit is the congregation. No matter what a deed may say, all property owned by Episcopal churches is in fact owned by the Diocese and held in trust for the use of the parish – recent court cases involving congregations who have chosen to leave the Episcopal Church have mostly upheld this interpretation. In Maine, the situation is even clearer: all property is “owned” by the Bishop himself as a one-person entity known as a “Corporate Sole” (I once asked Bishop Lane if this was anything like a flounder).



The governing body of the Diocese is the Convention, which meets annually for about two days. In the Diocese of Maine, our Convention typically meets in October. It is chaired by the Bishop and made up of all the clergy of the Diocese, as well as about 125 lay delegates from each parish or mission “in union with the Convention.” In Maine, delegations are based on the number of members (technically “communicants in good standing”) in the parish or mission; in many other dioceses, each congregation has the same number of delegates. For the other 363 days between conventions, the Diocese is governed by the Bishop with assistance from his staff, by the Standing Committee of six persons elected by Convention, and by the Diocesan Council of about twenty-five people elected from geographic Areas of the diocese or appointed by the Bishop (In case you didn’t know, we are in Area 2 – Washington and Hancock Counties – and are represented by the Rev. Claudia Smith of St. Francis, Blue Hill, and by Liz Graves of St. Saviour. I also serve currently as an appointed member at large).

While it is often the case that much of the ministry of the church is carried out at the parish level, parishes exist canonically as subsidiaries of the Diocese. The Diocese grants parishes the authority to manage themselves on a day-to-day basis, but the bishop decides important financial or legal matters as well as theological or liturgical issues. A parish cannot sell property or call a rector, nor can a rector use alternative worship materials or celebrate unauthorized rites, without the bishop’s approval.

A parish is governed locally by a Vestry and Wardens. Church and diocesan canons are remarkably silent on how Vestries and Wardens are to be chosen, but in most parishes they are elected. The Vestry is the legal corporation of the parish, and is responsible to conduct legal and financial affairs. The Rector is hired by the Vestry, and has authority over worship and music, over the use of the church building, and over all other personnel.

OUR SIGN IS BACK

This past winter was hard on a lot of mailboxes, road signs and also our St. John’s Episcopal Church sign just outside of Southwest Harbor. Thanks to Ted Bromage, who re-attached it (while remembering when he and Ron Rowland put it up 10-12 years ago). The sign for St. Andrew’s will be put in place in the near future.



PAROCHIAL REPORT STATISTICS

You know all those statistics we gather for the Parochial Report? This is one of the things that happens to them: They are compiled and published as the “Report of the Committee on the State of the Church.”

Those who are statistics lovers may be interested to see some of the Episcopal Church-wide trends, also broken down by province and diocese:

<https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/12702.pdf>

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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 July Net Tender is June 28

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WELCOMING OUR NEW CURATE THE REV. KATHLEEN E. KILLIAN

Kathleen+ is a cradle Episcopalian originally from Miami, Florida. Her first professional training is in dance, and she has had careers as a professional dancer, as a dance and music teacher, and as the owner of a yoga studio in Rhinebeck, New York. More recently she was trained as a Lay Chaplain through *Community of Hope*, a program of Benedictine pastoral spirituality, which led her toward a call to ordination. She graduated this spring from The General Theological Seminary in New York, and was/will be ordained to the Priesthood in Miami on May 30th.



Some of you may have met Kathleen+ when she visited MDI in April with her fiancé, The Rev. John Allison. Kathleen+ will be moving into the Dolliver House in Southwest Harbor in June, and will start work officially on July 1st. Her first Sunday as our Curate will be July 5th at St. Saviour and July 12th at St. Andrew and St. John, and there will be plenty of opportunity to get to know her at coffee hour.

As you may remember from the *May Voice / Net Tender*, Kathleen+ is joining our parishes as Curate under a two-year agreement, which may be extended for a third year if all parties agree. She will be serving us as Celebrant on alternate Sundays, as well as assisting with pastoral care, adult formation and all other aspects of priestly ministry. As part of the agreement, the parishes agree to support Kathleen's+ development and formation as a new priest.

So let us raise a glad alleluia and welcome to The Rev. Kathleen Killian!



QUIETSIDE FESTIVAL JULY 18



YES it's going to happen. Are you planning on:

- ◆ What Pies and Cookies to bake
- ◆ What to donate for the Silent Auction
- ◆ What to put in your Raffle Basket
- ◆ What to donate for the Boutique
- ◆ Helping set up
- ◆ Helping clean up
- ◆ Helping sell lemonade
- ◆ Helping sell tickets for the basket raffle
- ◆ Helping sell boutique items



Call the church office (244-3229) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.



THANK YOU

Jayne Ashworth

My thanks to the St. Andrew and St. John community for their thoughts and prayers for my Mom, Emily Frazier, and for me and my extended family these past months. Mom died peacefully in North Carolina on May 21, 2015.

NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Stephen Sampson

On Sunday, May 24, we had a very lively Pentecost Jazz Service at St. John, with guest musicians Brian Booher, Chris Booher, and Will Miller whooping it up on trumpet, drums, and bass, respectively, with Stephen at the piano. The repertoire covered a range of popular and jazz tunes, as well as a rousing rendition of "That Old Time Religion". It was wonderful to have some new musicians (new to us) playing during the service, and some musical diversity. This was also a reminder of the importance of strong music programs in schools, as Chris and Will are high school students who participate in musical activities at Mount Desert Island High School, and their enthusiasm, skill, and experience is due in part to the strong music program at the school. We plan to have high school students play at St. John in the future, so.....stay tuned.



A CLEAN ST. ANDREWS

Karen Craig

Many thanks to Sue Newman, Ellen Gilmore and Ann Benson for their help getting St. Andrews ready for the season. While there, we found the light switches (well hidden), all the doors in and out, learned about the many joys of the **Swiffer** and the need for a different vacuum cleaner.

Hopefully, someone is upgrading and has a light one to donate. The windows now shine, the dust is gone for the moment and the view to the pond is still fantastic. My thanks to all for making this work.



Birthdays

JUNE

11—Ted Bromage
 11—John Hewlett
 15—Mary Vekasi
 22—Betty Whittlesey
 24—Ted Fletcher
 25—Jim Vekasi

Wedding Anniversaries

JUNE

7—Dana and Kathryn Hiscock
 9—Scott and Chloe Hatcher
 27—Bill and Diane Krueger
 30—Sam and Mary Lawrence

WESTSIDE FOOD PANTRY RECITAL SERIES

After the May hiatus we have planned a summer of musical magic at St. John.

Tuesday, June 16th at 7:00pm--the Sears family, from the Boston area, return to share their musical gifts for our food pantry. David, Permelia and Rebecca Sears will play pieces from the Romantic period. Their performance includes a organ solo, a piano solo, four hand piano, and a violin and piano duet. Amy Chaney Beach, Scott Joplin and Arthur Foote are a few of the American composers represented in their program. European composers include Franz Liszt, César Frank and Leon Boellemann. Suggested donation-\$15. ALL proceeds go to the Westside Food Pantry.

This will be a lovely evening of music. Please plan to join us and please help spread the word!



MDI EPISCOPAL T-SHIRTS

How to be just like the cool kids! Get your limited-edition "Episcopal Churches of MDI" T-shirt. Ocean Blue heavy cotton with red, white and blue printing. Available in size S-XXL while supplies last! Sixteen dollars, payable to The Rector's Discretionary Fund. See Tim, Michele or Muffet for details.



CENTENNIAL JUBILEE AT ST. ANDREW BY-THE-LAKE SUNDAY, MAY 31st



DEAR FRIENDS,

I have decided to resign as the co-chair of the Flower Guild. I am also resigning as a member of the Flower Guild after serving for 21 years.

During the last few years, Ginny [Agar] and I have served as co-chairs. I am grateful for the strong friendship she and I have created, which is a wonderful outcome of our working together.

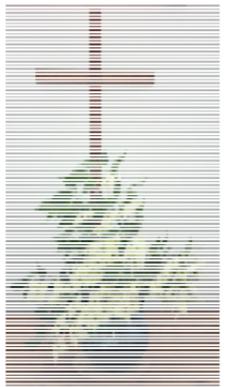
I started "doing" the flowers in July, 1994. George Price asked me to substitute for Barbara Sawyer, who was having heart surgery. I had no training or experience arranging flowers. George knew how much I appreciated all the varied arrangements that others did at St John. I loved watching the seasons change on the altar, where the arrangements echoed the seasonal changes in nature. So I learned by doing and by watching.

Over the years I've worked with talented and gracious "flower people": George and Harriet Price, Barbara Sawyer, Penny Place, Susannah Jones, Susan Plimpton and now all of you. Believe me, I have enjoyed and learned from every arrangement. During these years of observing and creating, I've learned that flower arranging is an art form--a form of sculpture--a three-dimensional design in space. At St. John, we have seen hundreds of variations.

I have loved our parish's decades-long tradition of using natural materials on the altar. Looking for interesting pieces of driftwood or birch bark or straw at the shore has enriched many walks. I've learned to see and appreciate the many shades of brown, green and gray. And I've learned to employ the restrictions of the material I collected to discover my design. I have been honored to create altar arrangements for funerals of beloved members of our community. I remember especially Joe Trask, Vonnie Bell, Peter Welles, Marilyn Dolliver, David Gilmore, Tibby Russell and Penny Longmaid. Often working with others, I tried to make altar arrangements that represented something about their interests or personality.

Doing the flowers for all these years has been a source of great joy, a meditation, a spiritual experience and a form of artistic expression. I am grateful for the gift I was given.

my best,
 Susan Buell



YARD SALE at ST. ANDREW

Come join us at the Second Annual Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale at St. Andrew's on Friday June 12 and Saturday June 13 from 8:00-3:00. We have an exceptional array of wonderful treasures: kitchenware, gardening equipment, furniture, housewares and many other treats. We can guarantee that there are fine items that you never knew you needed. You may even find something you regretted donating and want to buy back.

This year, we are going to try something new with "Make an Offer" for many of our smaller items while the rest will be priced in the traditional manner.

If you would like to help organize and set up or work the days of the sale, please let me know. It will take many hands to make the Yard Sale a success. It is also a lot fun!

Barbara Campbell
244-9087



THE GOVERNMENT *(continued)*

While the annual meeting is an important time to get together and discuss the business of the church, most decision-making belongs to the Vestry and Wardens. Often, the only required business of the annual meeting is to elect Vestry members and delegates to diocesan convention. In addition, it is common to hear the budget and other reports; the annual meeting does not approve these, but only acknowledges them.

Moving the other direction from the Diocese, The Episcopal Church is made up of 109 dioceses, most of them in the United States. The governing body of the Episcopal Church is the General Convention which meets every three years, and comprises the House of Bishops, which includes all bishops, and the House of Deputies, which includes lay and clergy deputies elected from every diocese. The House of Bishops is chaired by the Presiding Bishop, who is elected to a nine-year term by the other bishops. The Presiding Bishop has little actual authority other than the power of speaking as a public voice of the Episcopal Church. Our current Presiding Bishop is the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, but a new PB will be elected when General Convention meets this month in Salt Lake City. The House of Deputies is chaired by the President of the House of Deputies, currently the Rev. Gay Jennings.

Between meetings of the General Convention, the work of the church is managed by the Executive Council, who is responsible to the General Convention and charged with carrying out the programs and policies of the General Convention. Additionally, there are many Standing Committees responsible for specific portfolios, as well as paid staff running things like Church Publishing, Episcopal Relief and Development, and the Church Pension Fund. Currently the offices of the Episcopal Church are housed at the Church Center at 815 Second Avenue in Manhattan, although there is always much conversation about moving into cheaper real estate.

Beyond the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion is made up of most of the independent churches around the world who are historically linked to the Church of England, and who are "in communion" with the Archbishop of Canterbury (currently the Most Reverend Justin Welby). There is currently considerable conversation worldwide about whether the Anglican Communion is a loose federation bound by common history, or something more like a single worldwide church with the authority to discipline or even eject member churches. In any case, right now the Archbishop of Canterbury does not have authority outside his own territory in England, and the Anglican Communion functions mainly in meetings of Primates (the heads of geographic member churches) and the Lambeth Council, a decennial meeting of all Communion bishops at Lambeth Palace in England.

Here endeth the Church Civics lesson. All this may seem impossibly remote from doing the work of the Gospel in our own lives, but the fact is that the way we choose to organize and govern ourselves shapes the way we are able to do ministry, and even in some cases the ways we think about God. Church governance is ridiculously human – thankfully, we serve a God who says that is all right.

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

June 7, Pentecost 2

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by-the-Lake
10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 138; 1 Samuel 8:4-20; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
The Rev. Jennifer Reece

June 14, Pentecost 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 20; 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; 2 Corinthians 5:6-13; Mark 4:26-34
The Rev. Timothy Fleck

June 21, Pentecost 4

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by-the-Lake
10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 9:9-20; 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49;
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41
The Rev. Jennifer Reece

June 28, Pentecost 5

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew by-the-Lake
10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John the Divine
Psalm 130; 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43
The Rev. Timothy Fleck

Thursdays, June 4, 11, 18, 25

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

ANNUAL MEETING, PART TWO

Sunday, June 14, 2015

At an official Parish Meeting on August 25, 2014, we passed two resolutions amending our Bylaws to move our Annual Parish Meeting from January to June, to allow seasonal members voting rights at that meeting, and to allow seasonal Vestry members voting rights on the Vestry. Since any change to the Bylaws requires passage by a majority of those present at two successive Parish Meetings, we took these resolutions up at our regularly scheduled Parish Meeting on January 11, 2015. After hearing reports on ministries and on the budget, we voted on these two resolutions. The meeting then went into recess and will reconvene on Sunday, June 14, 2015 for Part Two of the Annual Meeting. At this meeting we will conduct elections and all other business.

Reports from the various committees, priest, vestry, treasurer, etc.
are due on Monday, June 8th.

