

The Net Tender - December 2015-January 2016

St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

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The Net Tender

Newsletter of St. Andrew & St. John Episcopal Church

December 2015-January 2016

GUNNING FOR PEACE IN ADVENT

During the last few weeks—during the seasons of giving thanks and anticipating the coming of Christ—I have had to briefly preempt my sermon to acknowledge the tragedies of the violent attacks in Paris, Colorado, and California. I haven't known exactly what to say—how do we witness to such atrocities? I do know that my own heart was and is heavy with the senseless loss and maiming of life, and that we suffer these losses collectively.

There are simply too many guns in America, guns meant to do one thing: to kill and maim human beings, guns that are readily accessible both legally and illegally. On Black Friday alone of this year 2015, in the wake of the Paris shootings, a record of some 175,000 background checks for the purchase of guns were made that day alone.



When I lived in Ireland, I was asked quite often if it really were true about the very high number and kinds of guns Americans could buy, own, carry, and use. This is not altogether an unusual question to Americans living abroad because there is a kind of folklore and fascination around the gun culture of the United States that remains a bit unbelievable. I would ask in return: is it really so difficult to obtain a gun in Ireland, to which the answer was also yes.

I do not have a lot of experience with guns, having only shot a gun once or twice. I particularly remember its loud sound and powerful kickback. I have never been shot either, though I have been the victim of violent crime during which I was held at gunpoint for a long while, my life threatened. The friend with me was handcuffed and pistol whipped in the head until unconscious, and I thought dead. We both survived, but neither of us ever wished we had had a gun at the time, nor did we think to buy one later for protection.

Violence is not just endemic to the United States; we live in a culture of violence, but then so does much of the world. Surely there are times that we must be violent, or when violence is instinctual such as in fighting back an attacker. Pacifism would say that violence begets violence, and that violent action does not heal violent assault. How do we challenge a culture of violence, and especially during Advent?

I was heartened to see the call from Bishop Lane to a Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath on Sunday, December 13. This sabbath is now in its third year, after the first sabbath was held at Washington National Cathedral in concert with Faiths United Against Gun Violence, now marked by churches across the country. The Bishops of the Episcopal Church have come together to claim common ground and public witness against gun violence, their site with ample resources found at <http://www.bishopsagainstgunviolence.org>.

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meRry
CHRISTMAS
and
happy
new year!

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 February Net Tender is January 31

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Gunning for Peace *(continued)*

Advent as a season anticipates and calls forth peace by calling us to turn—to repent—true repentance or metanoia in the Greek meaning literally to change one’s mind and turn around and reorient oneself, turning away from that which separates us from God, turning away from violence, hatred, and selfishness towards the Holy One and forgiveness. Repentance calls for an ongoing examination of our lives, values, and priorities, and in Advent, this examination is both reflective and urgent.

But rather than running into battle or running away, we need to stand ready and willing—embracing our inner urgency if you will—and turn inward, encountering all inside of us that confronts the Christ Child waiting to be born. What is hidden in the recesses of our consciousness, in the valleys low? Are we aware of the hills of vanity and pride upon which we stand in judgment? Where are the crooked rough ways that take us in a false direction? How are we mired down in ignorance, bias, and conditioning?

This is not a matter of achieving perfection in the sense of a moral code, but of becoming conscious, and becoming who we are created to be: people with a great capacity for love. We will only do this if we each consider, struggle with, and awaken not only to the light but to the shadow within us; for it is in the darkness of our flesh that Christ is cloistered, like a pearl inside its shell, a hidden numinous promise awaiting to emerge again and again in any humble manger of its holy choosing. It is not our business to determine how proficient, or really, how good we are; it is our business to keep “listening [deep] down the heart of things,” and digging ourselves wide open, emptied of the unconscious self, preparing the way for integrity and peace.

Each advance in individual consciousness affects the collective and precipitates the advent of the God, for we are one grace of God, embodied in our selves, lives, and world. For this, Christ came and is coming this Christmas, and to this Jesus calls us over and over again: keep awake, be aware, for the kingdom is at hand.

May it be so, soon and very soon.

Faithfully,

Mother Kathleen

VESTRY BULLETS—November 15

- ♦ Rita reported on property work done by professionals and it was agreed to consider using them in the future.
- ♦ Gen Mackenzie will co-chair Flower Committee with Ginny Agar.
- ♦ Advent Forums will be led by Tim and Kathleen and will be a study of *From Holy Days to Holidays: A Benedictine Walk through Advent*, by O.S.B. Albert Holtz.
- ♦ A Community Thanksgiving service will be held on November 24 at St. Saviour’s Parish.
- ♦ A Potluck Supper will be held on December 7 with music by Kelly Farm Five.
- ♦ 2016 Budget was presented.
- ♦ No salary increases will be made for lay staff in 2016.
- ♦ Annual appeal letters were signed, stuffed, and stamped.

THE LIGHTER SIDE...

At a Church Nativity Play:

Two children are dressed as Mary and Joseph, and they are on their way to the inn at Bethlehem. Meanwhile on the other side of the stage, a lad in a shepherd’s outfit is on a mobile phone. He is calling the inn to make a reservation.



A great time was had by all who attended the Potluck Dinner on Monday, December 7th at St. John’s in the undercroft.

ACCHHOA



Thanks to the Kelly Farm Five for providing foot stamping, good music!

Birthdays

DECEMBER

3—Ginny Agar
4—Vicky Vendrell
12—Scott Hatcher

JANUARY

8—Carl Storage
13—Rod Lucas
20—Peggy Walls
28—Bill Baker
31—Sally Clark

Wedding Anniversaries

JANUARY

22—Paul and Margot Haertel

QUIET TIME

While the world tells us that there are a million things to do, especially this time of year, the Church invites us to a time of reflection and anticipation during Advent. In that spirit, Tim+ and Kathleen+ are committing to some quiet time each week during this season: Monday mornings from 10-noon, and Thursday afternoons from 2:30-4:30. We will still be in the office and are always available for emergencies, but during these times we would ask for your consideration. In the same spirit, we also encourage you to think about ways you might set aside some quiet time for yourself during this Advent season.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS/WREATHS

A sign up sheet for donations to the Christmas flower/wreath fund is in the undercroft. All contributions are gratefully accepted. No minimum! Folks should list the names of people they want remembered or honored. These names will be listed in the Christmas bulletin.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY

For the four Sundays of Advent, Tim and Kathleen invite you to a discussion of *From Holidays to Holy Days: A Benedictine Walk through Advent* by Albert Holz, OSB. The author, a Benedictine monk who lives in the center of downtown Newark, New Jersey, invites the reader to join him on his daily walks as he points out dozens of often-unnoticed connections between our holidays and the spiritual meaning of Advent and Christmas. Rather than criticizing trappings of the holiday season, this book looks at them from the viewpoint of Christian contemplation, once aptly described as “a long, loving look at the real.”



HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY GENE WALL



ADVENT ALTAR FRONTAL

Anne Wetzel

We have had parishioners express interest in the history of our Advent altar frontal. This altar frontal represents Mount Desert Island and its seven Episcopal church buildings shown as lamps. I called Alice Downs for its history as the work was created by her mother, Marguerite Downs. The story: when Marguerite's husband Norton Downs died in 1985, she told George Price that she wanted to give to St. John's something in his memory and what would he like for the church. George Price requested an altar frontal and a matching stole, using Sarum blue, and using as a symbol a lamp for each of the seven Episcopal church buildings, as St. John the Divine saw seven lamps burning before the throne in his revelation (Revelation 4:5). This altar frontal is used by us during Advent each year.

50 YEARS AGO

Excerpts from Vestry meetings in 1965:

January: Fr. Glendinning suggested the possibility of building a new cabinet to properly house the funeral pall and church linens. It was moved to build said cabinet in return for the mahogany cabinet presently there and a limit of \$35 to be put on materials. It was moved and voted to have Charles Bennett repaint the sacristy, including the present new cabinet and the proposed new cabinet when built.

February: Fr. G. gave the background leading up to the final decision of the women for the lights in the undercroft. They now wish for the Vestry to make the final selection....A section of a letter written to E. Trundy by Fr. Thatcher...set forth his desire to donate a stained glass window to St. Johns dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. Further consideration of this request will be made later....Fr. G. reported having found a used pipe organ, through a friend, which could be of interest to the church.

March: The pew screens will be ready the week of March 22.

April: Fr. G. said he has several substitute organist lined up and will work this out with Irma....It has been requested that the church sponsor a Explorer Scout Troop. We have to give our name, a place to meet and one person to take charge. No action was taken; to be discussed with Harbor House...There was discussion of this list of repairs and improvements submitted by the building committee. — Repair the knees on the canopy over the front door; Repair the railing on the front porch and paint the front of the church.

May: Alberta Willey will serve as an assistant organist if needed...Fr. G. agreed to find a boy to take care of the lawn for the summer.

June: It was moved to permit Harbor House the use of the church basement for their summer program.

July: Harold Townsend reported that \$5000 had been given in memory of William Johnston.

August: It was reported that the summer fair grossed \$1440 and that some of the bills have yet to be paid so it cannot yet be determined what the net profit will be....It was moved to increase the rectors salary to \$4500.

September: The church fair has netted \$1114.18.

October: Fr. G. reported that Miss Manning is donating religious books to the church library. He asked that the Vestry consider making an annual appropriation to be used for the purchase of more books to build up the library.

November: Voted to have some carpenters cut the Altar so that it might be moved on special occasions, and to have about six inches added to the platform.

December: The annual meeting will be held January 17.

COMMUNITY CAROLING

on the Village Green in Bar Harbor
Sunday December 20th
4:00 p.m.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 13, at 4:00 PM, St. Saviour's will continue its long tradition of offering a *Festival of Lessons and Carols* in anticipation of Christmas. This traditional worship service for the season of Advent developed in England in the



nineteenth century and has become a favorite in Anglican and Episcopal churches throughout the world. It follows a simple format, with scripture readings telling of God's love for humanity and the promise of the coming.

St. Saviour's Festival Choir is made up of the parish's regular choir with the addition of numerous additional singers from throughout the area, and will be directed by Andrea Horner, Interim Music Director of St. Saviour's Church, and accompanied by Robin Ann Barron, Organist and Music Director of Bar Harbor Congregational Church.

The Rev. Tim Fleck, Rector of St. Saviour's, says, "In a time when it is easy to be distracted by commercial glitter, this service is a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas, that God became a human being for the sake of humanity. I hope that everyone will feel welcome to come and participate in this beautiful service.

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Stephen Sampson

With music in the air this season, we bring a poem of music:

The Harp the Monarch Minstrel Swept

Lord Byron (1788–1824)

1

The harp the monarch minstrel swept,
The King of men, the loved of Heaven,
Which Music hallow'd while she wept
O'er tones her heart of hearts had given,
Redoubled be her tears, its chords are riven!
It soften'd men of iron mould,
It gave them virtues not their own;
No ear so dull, no soul so cold,
That felt not, fired not to the tone,
Till David's lyre grew mightier than his throne!

2

It told the triumphs of our King,
It wafted glory to our God;
It made our gladden'd valleys ring,
The cedars bow, the mountains nod;
Its sound aspired to heaven and there abode!
Since then, though heard on earth no more,
Devotion and her daughter Love
Still bid the bursting spirit soar
To sounds that seem as from above,
In dreams that day's broad light can not remove.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

December 13, Advent 3

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist
Canticle 9; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
The Rev. Kathleen Killian

December 20, Advent 4

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist
Canticle 3 or 15; Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55
The Rev. Timothy Fleck

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Psalm 96; Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

4:00 p.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. John

The Rev. Kathleen Killian

4:00 p.m. — Family Eucharist at St. Saviour

The Rev. Timothy Fleck

10:00 p.m. — Choral Eucharist at St. Saviour

The Revs. Timothy Fleck & Kathleen Killian

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day

Psalm 97; Isaiah 62:6-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20

10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at St. John

The Rev. Kathleen Killian

10:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist at St. Saviour

The Rev. Timothy Fleck

December 27, Christmas 1

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 147; Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7; John 1:1-18

The Rev. Kathleen Killian

January 3, Christmas 2

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 84; Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

The Rev. Timothy Fleck

January 10, Christmas The Baptism of Christ

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 29; Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Rev. Kathleen Killian

January 17, Epiphany 2

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 36:5-10; Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

The Rev. Timothy Fleck

January 24, Epiphany 3

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 19; Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

January 31, Epiphany 4

9:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

Psalm 71:1-6; Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

The Rev. Timothy Fleck

Thursdays at 12:00 p.m.—Holy Eucharist

December 10 (Thomas Merton)

December 17 (Dorothy Sayers)

No service on December 24 or January 31