



Welcome Newcomers! We're so Glad You Came! We're thrilled to see you! As a matter of fact, we've been waiting for you!



"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

We believe that every person who comes to worship with us is a special gift from God. We are all better off from you being here amongst us. We want to express the love we know in Jesus Christ with one another. And we're excited to share it with you, and to grow together in our pilgrimage of faith. St. Mark's is a place for all people - no matter where you may be on the journey - and it won't take you long to discover that we are a vibrant and caring community of faith, journeying from different places and life-experiences, but who desire to grow together. We are a people ultimately, of faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, relationships are paramount – especially when we consider our baptismal covenant, "to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as our self." *Our doors are open to you!* If you have been praying, thinking, searching, church - shopping and hoping for a place to belong - we say ***"Welcome!"***

**Officers, Vestry and Staff
of St. Mark's Church**

The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane,
Bishop of Maine
The Rev. Ralph Moore, Celebrant
The Rev. Rebecca A. Grant, Dea.
The Rev. David W. Bustin, Dea.
Joseph Riddick, Senior Warden
Gary Mann, Junior Warden
Lynn Allerding, Treasurer

Vestry:

Connie McDonald (2012)
Tina Barden (2012)
Bernard Shaw (2012)
Nancy Finnegan (2013)
Stephen Graham (2013)
Vincent Tschamler (2013)
Jean Wright (2014)
Judy Brown (2014)
Cathy Williams (2014)

Staff:

Liz Parlett, Admin. Asst.
Christine Mitchell, Sexton

Editor, Mark of the Lion:

Tina Mann



Pastoral Care Number

Call the Pastoral Care number 207-649-7620 if you or a member of your household needs pastoral care. This phone is for pastoral emergencies and a member of the team will respond.



Notes from our Senior Warden
by Joe Riddick

During the season of Advent we are called upon to wait....to wait....to wait. It is a time of prayer and

reflection as we await the birth of the Christ Child.

This liturgical season teaches us an important practice of catching our breath, praying, reflecting, and anticipating what God is to go us.

Our church has been through an extended period of advent as we have prayed, reflected and discerned who God would provide as our new priest. I commend the vestry for their willingness to listen for God's call. The vestry used an appreciative inquiry model in deciding who God was sending our way. We focused on the positive aspects of the person and the gifts and ministry to be brought to us. Also, we spent considerable time in prayer listening for God to speak to us as a group.

The sense of God's speaking was evident to all members of the vestry when we met with the Very Rev. Stephen Foote. We were in the midst of interviews and honored each person with whom we met. After those meetings, when the vestry gathered, I queried them as to their choice and it was clear that God's hand was at work.

In this issue of the Mark of the Lion, Dean Foote has written an article to introduce himself to the congregation. The Dean will join us starting on January 1st for a two year period. Also, included in this issue is an article by the Rev. Dr. Ralph Moore who has led us in worship starting as supply clergy 18 months ago to taking the role of celebrant and preacher this fall. Again, the hand of God was at work in our communal life when Fr. Ralph came to preach the first Sunday in July, 2010.

During this period of Advent and Christmas we say good-bye to Fr. Ralph who will preach and celebrate

at our Christmas services and welcome Dean Foote on January 1.

God is good to the people of St. Mark's. Come let us adore him.



Dear St. Mark's, Augusta,

Late in 2005, about a year after I retired from the full-time position as the rector of St. Peter's, Rockland, I received a telephone call asking if I could be available as a "supply." I happened then to mention this to a friend who is not familiar with some of our curious church vocabulary. "Supply?" he asked. "Like, I go to Staples to pick up a supply of paper? Is that all priests are these days?" I scratched my head and ran to the dictionary to discover that the Latin root of the word means "to fill up." It is, in fact, an ancient secular term that refers to anyone who "fills in" when there is a temporary vacancy in a position. I felt better about assuming the label after that.

After my months of journeying as "supply" for St. Mark's I'm really enthusiastic about the Latin root's sense of "to fill up." It sounds more like what I have been privileged and blessed to experience: some rich moments of worship that we as a gathering community have felt "filled up" by. In our reformed traditions priests are not sufficient unto themselves. The sacraments happen only when "two or three gather together" in Christ's name. Ask any priest and she or he will affirm that it is simply wondrous when the Sunday celebrant can actually enter deeply into a "fulfilling" worship experience, all preoccupations of being the leader fading away because there is a sense of the whole community's energy and sincerity--a true fellowship of the Spirit. Well, this has been your gift to me, St. Mark's, and I'm very very grateful to you for it.

This phenomenon couldn't exist, of course, without

there being a commitment to ministry in the congregation that comes to worship. When I wrote my project thesis for my doctoral work at Episcopal Divinity School, it became clear as clear could be in the research that I was able to do that spiritual community is formed *only* as people *first* focus on their calling to serve, manifest, and act out God's mission in the world. *Then*, they come together for thanksgiving, prayer, forgiveness, and renewal. Having just finished a week of serving, their rest day begins the next week with community prayer, word, and sacrament, "holy food and drink of new and unending life" in God. This is the way I experience St. Mark's. An announcement time so rich in detail about helping those in need in the world makes my point. And the clincher is: everyone seems to know how to have a good laugh. Our finite mortal state requires that we be humble about it all, and there's a good portion of that, too.

So, St. Mark's, you've kept me on my toes, refreshed me, and increased my joy. "How can I keep from singing." I thank every one of you. Joe, Rebecca, and David have been special collaborators, to each of whom I am fondly indebted in special ways. I am equally grateful to every other member of this fellowship. I am thankful for Alan's musical companionship. You're all good sports, full of wisdom, grace, and beauty. My prayers for the next new step in your adventure. Steve's a fine fellow; he was a fantastic help to me when I first came to Maine in 1996. May you all together discover new possibilities, shed old and unusable stuff, plant and grow and harvest the new creation in your midst, for the common good of Augusta. God's blessings, forever.....

Peace and love,

Ralph



Meet Dean Stephen Foote Transition Priest in Charge

Dean Foote's professional career has always been as an ordained person in the Episcopal Church.

Growing up in Connecticut, he was the third of four boys. After early ministry as curate at St. Paul's Church in Wallingford, CT, he has spent his ministry in the Diocese of Maine enjoying a wide variety of experience -- parish rector, archdeacon, cathedral dean, and now, (in retirement) interim ministry.

He describes himself as follows:

I am an extrovert and need and love a vibrant community context. I enjoy the variety and diversity of parish life. I am primarily a pastor and counselor in all of life's situations. I thrive on people-rapport and depend on good humor and shared leadership. My style is collaborative, but I am clear about my own responsibilities and leadership skills. My favorite parts of parish ministry include preaching, liturgy, counseling, teaching and leadership development in others.

I have found that interim ministry can be the best of all these worlds. I am particularly good with challenges and problem solving, and, after a careful look, and listening, I am not afraid to help make things happen. I depend on good process, review and evaluation of results and shared leadership. I seek and value clear goals. My decisions are based on listening and depend on the hearing of many voices.

Beyond church... I am an avid gardener, builder, woodworker, carver and designer. A specialty has been many active years working in Historic Preservation serving on the board of Greater Portland Landmarks and (statewide) Maine Preservation. I specialize in the area of adaptive reuse of redundant church space. (How we find new, creative use for unused church buildings.)

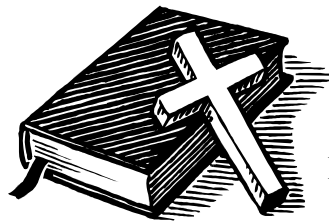
Sacred space and its care and design is of special importance. I am a certified Home Inspector. I designed our house in Bremen, and built all interior finish work. I love animals (dogs), children, and close friends. A dinner party with six friends is far more enjoyable for me than a reception with sixty. I continue to be a primary mentor for Joshua... a twenty-four year-old inmate at Maine State Prison. Eventually, I may expand this work to include some form of prison ministry. Interim parish ministry plays a huge role in my retirement by keeping my tools sharp and continuing active interaction with people. My partner of fifteen years, Jonathan, is fond of telling people "things go much better at home when Steve has an audience...our two dogs and I hear fewer homilies". I enjoy cooking, love food, I even "do" windows. Music fills my soul. And, while winter in Maine is always too long, I love the seasons and living in Maine and the mid-coast.

I would describe my theology as progressive. I am not interested in religion that replaces or forbids our good reason and common sense. I believe that God's powerful spirit is here and now and not something we wait for as a reward. God does not jump down from heaven to make things happen. Things happen, rather, when we realize the power of the Holy Spirit that is in creation and in each of us. I experience God as having a sense of humor and I love to laugh and hear laughter. Laughter is my canary in the mine... believing that we are called to enjoy life and one another and when this joy fails to be... I worry.

My style is not top-down, "Father knows best." I understand myself as a leader among leaders, and support shared ministry as a requirement of my own. I particularly enjoy part-time interim ministry because it fits well with other aspects of my active retirement. I believe parish ministry and life must address new realities in changing times, and that thinking new thoughts, and discarding old boxes may be essential if we are to expand to fill new space. My faith borrows from many traditions...A little Jewish, some Quaker, a pinch of Zen, Native

American, all supported by the three legged stool of Scripture-Tradition-Reason.

I love and seek the mysterious, paradoxical and idiosyncratic in everything and everyone and believe that is often the best aspect of who we are. I think God agrees... that's why he put all those things there.



Introductory Greetings
by Dean Foote

It is a wonderful part of my Advent preparation to anticipate our time together beginning in January. Discernment calls us all into an important time when we think carefully about who we are as well as who we are called to be. Parish Discernment is not a time for waiting but a time of growth and development and of getting the parish household in order. One way we will be introduced is to give deliberate thought to what we want to accomplish together in the next two years.

My part-time ministry with you will involve a full day on Wednesday and Sunday and another half day from home. Pastoral matters may adjust or add time to this weekly pattern. While pastoral care is a shared ministry which is alive and well at St. Mark's, my primary ministry will be to tend the flock. For that to be effective I rely on your initiative if there are matters we could consider together. Counseling, visiting and routine parish calling will be a primary focus on Wednesdays. Group meetings and teaching will tuck in after church on Sundays. I also depend on phone calls and email communication...Foote@tidewater.net and these things do not 'bother' me at home. You all are the eyes and ears that will help me when there are pastoral needs in the flock or community. I welcome constructive cues and suggestions that help inform and direct my attention.

When there are parish issues and problems to be

addressed I am an eager participant as we seek to resolve them together. Conflict management is a healthy community task. I believe that resolution already lies in the family especially when we seek to know God's will by connecting our concerns to existing parish assets and strengths.

My primary focus will be to enlarge the health and joy that is the mark of faith and hope which already exists in St Mark's community. If we do not laugh and enjoy parish life together we must seek and resolve those things that prevent our joy. As newcomers visit St. Mark's, our joy and health in the Lord need to be a first impression.

As a practical matter I need to learn your names. Name tags on Sunday will help me to use your names as you receive the sacrament. I am looking forward to a wonderful time together as we enlarge the Episcopal household of faith at St. Mark's, Augusta.

Be well, do good works and, remember, you all are manger places being prepared for divine birth. Rejoice in the Lord always....again, I say Rejoice.



View from the Pew
by R. A. Bamforth

The Bishop of Maine, Steve Lane, will be with us at St. Mark's on February 26. Some of you took part in a mini-preparation series over a year ago looking toward Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation of Faith. If you or any others are intending to participate or wish to explore the possibility, I invite you to let me know. Shortly after the first of January, I will then introduce you to Steve Foote, our new priest-in-charge, and we can jointly make plans for this celebration of faith and commitment. There is nothing automatic about this, it is entirely a matter of your will and intention. Chances are that others from our neighboring parishes will also take part.

Confirmation is a celebration of mature renewal of Baptismal vows made before the bishop of the diocese who lays hands on your head and offers prayers for the Holy Spirit to reinforce your faith and discipleship.

Reception is for those who have already been Confirmed by a bishop in another branch of the catholic faith and choose to become part of the Episcopal Church.

Reaffirmation is for those already confirmed who wish to make a public renewal of their faith and ministry.

If you wish to participate, or have questions, please call or write to me as soon as possible so we can make your wishes known to our priest-in-charge.

The Rev. Richard A. Bamforth
P.O. Box 5068, Augusta ME 04332
207-626-0073
email: prbamforth@gmail.com

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
by Charles Wesley

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"





News from our Junior Warden *by Gary Mann*

As we come to an end of 2010 one reflects on their year whether personal, job or whatever. My reflection will be on Junior Warden for this past year. It's not that amazing things happened but it's more on the everyday comings and goings of St Mark's. Every month the Vestry comes together to plan and work on whatever is needed to keep "our house" open and moving forward.

I have been Junior Warden for the past two years and I have learned more than I ever thought possible on the grounds and the buildings of St Mark's. One thing I have learned is that in order to keep St. Mark's moving forward, there is always work to do. Once I learned the roles and responsibilities of junior warden, it has always been my intent to take this position and shape it into a role that could be worked by others while following some simple guiding rules: Do not try to fix things that are not broken, and if you have to fix something, fix it to improve it, so you will not have to fix it again for many, many years...if ever.

It is important that everyone take a role in St Mark's; and those who volunteered over this past year in the working, cleaning, gardening or even mowing the lawn, I have to say "thank you", because without your help we could not have managed.

Exterior Properties

- Fall leaf removal.
- Working with the Senior Warden, secured a contract with Ernie Shaw for snow removal. Met with Ernie Shaw to go over the specifics of snow cleanup and removal.
- Prepared the grounds for winter. Ensured that there is sand and salt available for use on the walkways.

Parish Hall

- Patched hole at skylight.

- Patched several holes in lower roof where it meets Great Hall wall.
- Caulked metal cap on chimney.
- Met with Augusta Fuel for service & repair of both air handler units.
- Met with G & E Roofing to inspect roof flashing as several leaks have been appearing.
- Met with electrician and had the circuit breaker repaired in Addie's Attic.
- Cut hole in floor & worked with Augusta Fuel to replace zone valve in Great Hall.
- Worked with Augusta Fuel to install a zone valve and thermostat in the food bank storage area
- Worked with electrician to repair building exhaust fan.
- Installed 2 programmable thermostats (1 upstairs, 1 downstairs).
- Elevator repaired and looked into having keys removed for easier operation.
- Contacted Steve's Appliance. Repaired refrigerator in Great Hall kitchen.

Church

- Replaced light bulbs that were burnt out.
- Repaired chapel entrance slate roof and made miscellaneous repairs to other areas of the roof.
- Set staging and installed approximately 50 feet of drip edge to the chapel roof edge and miscellaneous repairs to other areas of the roof.
- Both furnaces in church cleaned and serviced.

Rectory

- Periodic checks on the Rectory.

Community Service

- Worked at monthly community suppers setting up tables, cleaning up at the end and securing building.

Miscellaneous

- General maintenance of church buildings and properties.
- Attended Diocesan Convention as a Delegate.

- Attended Vestry meetings.
- Interviewed applicants for Transitional Priest in Charge.
- Open and Close Church when asked.
- Other miscellaneous duties as Junior Warden.

There are no tasks that only I can take credit for accomplishing. I always had help. Many from our congregation have helped on one or two tasks while others supported many tasks. You know who you are, you have been a blessing!

This is “Our Old House,” and I encourage everyone to care for it and share it with each other and our community. As always, please let me know when you see things that need attention. The best way to contact me is via phone at 441-5334 or email gmann@fairpoint.net. God's Blessings to everyone in the coming new year.



“And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: 'Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people, Unto you is born this day a Savior which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11



Augusta Food Bank
by Abbie Perry

We have been busy at the Food Bank over the past couple months.

November saw 52 new households requesting assistance, bringing the 2011 total to 473. I would expect that number to be above 500 by years end.

We have provided enough food to prepare 186,861 meals so far this year, and I wouldn't be surprised to see that total above 200,000 by the end of December. The number of people we serve continues to rise, and we need the support of all of you to continue to be able to provide what we can. We thank you for supporting the Augusta Food Bank.

This month and next, we are seeking empty egg cartons! We picked up 180 dozen eggs this week, but unfortunately they are not boxed! They are in "flats" of 2.5 dozen each, and needless to say, that doesn't make it very easy to distribute! So please bring empty eggs cartons to the Food Bank or leave with your congregational donations in the coming weeks.

There have been some wonderful food drives this month from local organizations, and we send a hearty thank you to all of those businesses and organizations. That being said, we are still looking for the following items: peanut butter, canned fruits and canned soups.

So, egg cartons, peanut butter, canned fruits & canned soups!

Thanks for all you do and thanks for passing the word on!

Have a happy healthy and safe holiday season.



Are you looking for a quiet place for rest and refreshment?

The Chapel at St. Mark's Home is available almost any hour of the day for drop-in visitors. You can sit quietly, read or look at the beautiful stained glass windows. Lorelei Robie has spent many quiet mornings in the chapel and has written a collection of stories about those chapel windows. A notebook of her stories is available in the chapel (front pew, on the right) and there is space for others to add more stories.





Addie's Attic
by Elmer Praul

Addie's Attic Free Clothing Bank continues to provide donated clothing for free to the needy of the Augusta area. We are open on

Monday from 1-3 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m.-noon and the first and third Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. We also are a source of supply to four other free clothing banks around Maine.

Our dedicated group of volunteers works very hard to sort and display the volume of clothing donated by generous members of the community. During the past quarter we have provided clothing and shoes to area needy on 1451 visits. This number demonstrates the level of need in our community for this type of ministry.

An ongoing need is for warm socks, particularly this time of year. We are seeking socks for both adults and children. Donations can be dropped off at either Addie's Attic or the church office.



Bread of Life Ministries
by Elmer Praul

Bread of Life Ministries continues to provide assistance to the homeless of Augusta by operating a soup kitchen on Water Street which it has done for many years. Bread of Life also provides shelter for the homeless and case management services to assist them in establishing and maintaining permanent housing, thus breaking the homeless cycle. The organization maintains several short term apartments and longer term housing in addition to the shelter.

Recently BOL has collaborated with the City of Augusta and the Veterans Administration at Togus to open a shelter program specifically for homeless veterans. This program makes use of a newly renovated facility on Hospital Street with both housing and meeting facilities. A recreation area is also being created in an unused garage.

In addition to the new veterans facility other facilities are being renovated with the assistance of architecture students at U Maine Augusta.

A new opportunity has just arisen for our Soup Kitchen to collaborate with The Good Shepard Food Bank in a matching challenge grant. Any funds raised between Feb. 1 and May 31 will be matched by the Food Bank. Please call our office at 626-3434 for details on how donations can be made.



Letter From The Exiles
by Marcia Butterfield

Allan and I are back in Kentucky for the winter. A Kentucky winter is about six weeks shorter than a Maine winter, which has some appeal. Although we do get about 10 snow accumulations per winter on average (by no means would you call them storms), Kentucky winters are largely wet and cold, so you would not like it much. Nevertheless, today it is frosty (19 degrees) here, and we have a fire in the fireplace big enough that I will not have to build it back up for a while. Which means we can spend a minute together.

The Winter Solstice is about a week away. Family in Maine has been marking the sun's precipitous decline since October. These are the folks who sit over their coffee and their bible (or in some cases the newspaper) at the same time and in the same chair every day. The solstice brings the big turnaround. It is not noticeable for a few days; but

shortly after December 21st the sun will rise and set a fraction farther north. Some of us judge the lengthening sunlight by a tree on the far side of the field or a place the light hits the wall of the breakfast nook. Here in Lexington I have a veritable solstice dial: a neighbor on the street behind me to the east built a miniature lighthouse on top of his garage. Bear in mind that there is nothing in the Commonwealth of Kentucky a Mainer would say qualifies as a “body of water.” I take this tiny wood working project as a singular sign of God’s affection and a reminder of Maine, my heart’s home, and a reminder of the lighthouse I see every day at my camp on Lake Cobbosseecontee.

As the long shadows shorten and the brighter days arrive, paradoxically the winter storms will strengthen and the temperatures drop further still. Strange isn’t it? As things get harder, they are actually getting brighter, better. A metaphor for old age? For injury? Hardship? For our parish? Can God set a table in the wilderness? No less likely than God building a lighthouse on a garage in Kentucky. Enjoy your hearty stew and root vegetables because the deep rest and lengthening nights are over. Find your own solstice dial and mark the longer days. We are moving on to something new.

The coldest days may be ahead, but it is morning in the Cosmos. The sun is rising farther north across the field, farther north in the breakfast nook, farther north in the stained glass window of our sanctuary. Even though I am not there, I can see it with you. A new light is coming into us.

Be well, St. Mark’s; God’s peace is with you.



**Bishop Stephen T. Lane’s testimony
on proposed budget cuts in Maine**

December 14, 2011

Good day Senator Rosen, Representative Flood and members of the Joint Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

I am Stephen T. Lane, Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Maine. On behalf of the members of our 65 congregations and our other communities of faith across the state, I encourage you to resist budget cuts that undermine the lives, dignity and rights of poor and vulnerable people in the State of Maine. As people of faith who take the example and teachings of Jesus to heart, we believe that our the budget is not simply a balance sheet of income and expenses but a moral document that reflects the values of the people who fund it and benefit from it. The moral measure of this debate is how the most needy among us - “the least of these” - fare in our society.

Those Mainers who will be most affected by the cuts proposed - low-income children, the elderly, the disabled, those newly arrived to our shores - do not have powerful voices so we, as people of faith, have the obligation to help them to be heard and to join with others to insist that programs that provide for the basic supports of a stable life be maintained. But we don’t see this as the work of the government alone. Episcopalians in Maine take very seriously our responsibility to partner with government, other churches, and community organizations to make strong the social fabric of our local communities. In addition to caring for the spiritual well-being of those in need, all across the state we are engaged in feeding and clothing people and keeping them

warm. We assist those looking for jobs and those who struggle with homelessness. We offer children safe and active spaces to go after school and in the summertime.

While we are engaging in loving our neighbors, the challenges that low-income people face around childcare, transportation, housing, medical needs, and employment are often beyond the scope of what we can do. We believe a civil society such as ours has the responsibility to protect the most vulnerable among us and provide a framework to assist them in achieving stable and successful lives.

If enacted, the proposed cuts: to eliminate MaineCare coverage for working parents and childless adults, prescription drug and health care assistance to the elderly and people with disabilities, cuts to Head Start and the Child Care Subsidy program as well as the drastic cuts proposed to support those with mental illness - these cuts will fray the safety net for thousands of Mainers. But that won't make their problems go away. Our emergency services, hospitals, and law-enforcement agencies will be pressed even harder for costlier intervention even as their own resources are diminished.

The people of faith in Maine are committed to continuing to love and serve our neighbors in new and creative ways. This is what we have always done. In the Episcopal Church we are asked at our baptism and as each new member is baptized: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? The response to both questions is: "I will, with God's help."

That is my hope and prayer for each of you. May you be graced with the wisdom and strength to serve all people in Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns with you today.

Because Bishop Steve was unable to attend the hearing, Heidi Shott, Canon for Communications and Social Justice, presented this testimony in his stead.



Youth and Young Adult Events

Awakening, the winter middle school event will take place February 3-5, 2012 at St. Ann's, Windham! The prep is scheduled for the weekend of January 20-21st. We'll be putting the Awakening application and more information about the weekend here soon. For other general middle school info click [here](#).

TEC, the winter high school event is coming in March 2012! Leadership training will take place the weekend of March 2-4, 2012 with the event March 23-25th. Application and information coming soon.

Nightwatch is coming!!! High Schoolers will travel to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City for the weekend of April 27-29, 2012. How awesome is that!

Emmaus House, located in the heart of Portland's arts district, near St. Luke's Cathedral, is an intentional Christian community for young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 who will live together with a commitment to one another and to the wider community. Beyond regular commitments to work or school, residents will participate in the spiritual life of the house, offer welcome and ministry to other young adults, be involved in justice and service, and have fun.

Greater Portland Area Youth Group meets every month for everyone in grades 6-12. There's fun, food, games and music. It's usually at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Windham Center and River Roads, Windham. Contact Kim Wallace 899-7670 or Kimberley512@msn.com for more information.

Young Adults are invited to visit The Crossing in Boston: Are you a young adult interested in seeing an amazing worship and Christian community? Then visit The Crossing in Boston on a Thursday evening. Arrive at 5:30. Share their 6pm worship and community which ends around 7:30. We have money in the budget to reimburse you for gas and tolls. For reimbursement, just email me (Jane) at youth@episcopalmaine.org. This is important!!!!

Other News

Are there new people teaching or leading grades 6 – 12 at your church? If so, could you please give us their e-mails? That way, we can do more to support them in their ministry to teens.

Co-Chairs for Diocesan Youth Council for the 2011/2012 school year are: Kim Wallace from St. Ann's in Windham, and Wayne Franklin from St. Peter's in Portland. Other names to be added soon:)

Did you know that all Diocesan youth events are open to everyone, regardless of what church they attend or whether they're part of any church at all? You can always bring a friend.

Did you know that there is financial aid available for all youth and young adult events? Ask your church or the Youth Missioner. No one has ever been left out because of inability to pay.

Safe Church Training is for adults who work with teens or children. To find dates and locations on the web at www.episcopalmaine.org



National & International Diocesan Scene

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Holy Trinity Cathedral

by The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg

The season of Advent in the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti is pregnant with possibilities for its Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince as a vision for a new building at the heart of the diocese is starting to take shape.

A request for architectural proposals is slated to be released “in the very near future,” the Rev. John A. Runkle, consulting project manager to the Rebuild Our Church in Haiti team working on cathedral reconstruction, recently told Episcopal News Service.

“The cathedral is going to be a very profound symbol of hope, of inspiration, of refuge, of stability, of returning to some positive state of being for so many people in Port-au-Prince,” said Runkle, who was appointed to the position earlier in the fall.

Runkle, who once was the conservator at Washington National Cathedral, is a licensed architect and has frequently worked on projects involving architectural and cultural landmarks.

At Haiti Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin’s request, the cathedral is to be the first major post-quake diocesan reconstruction project. The Rebuild Our Church in Haiti fundraising campaign to aid that work was formally launched on the first anniversary of the quake.

Terri Mathes of the Episcopal Church Foundation, who is managing the campaign, recently told the church’s Executive Council that the effort “has created a sense of community in dioceses and across dioceses that perhaps were not so plugged in with each other on a particular issue before.” She called

the rate of participation across the church “phenomenal.”

Donald Romanik, ECF president, told the council that “this campaign has given people in the pews and in dioceses fundraising tools, raised up some leadership and has and will continue to raise dollars.” Both he and Mathes predicted that the structure and the skills that have been developed during the campaign thus far will serve the church in future endeavors, in addition to prompting a widespread conversation about funding the church’s mission and ministry.

Mathes later told ENS that the campaign is not prepared to release information about the amount of money raised.

“We’ve been advised against publishing an actual number because it poses security threats to the people working in Haiti,” she said. “Fundraising has gone very well and there is a substantial amount available to start the architectural and construction planning. We’ll need substantially more to actually finish the cathedral.”

Official rebuilding cost estimates will be based on plans submitted by the architect or architects chosen in the bidding process.

“Everybody has a vision, everybody has a desire to create a new cathedral and part of the hard work we’ve been doing over the past couple of months is trying to get everybody’s vision and desires harnessed and get everyone on the same page so that we are unified in how to go forward,” said Runkle. “That takes work, that takes conversation, that takes a lot of listening and being in dialogue with each other.”

Already some ideas seem clear. The building itself ought to reflect the beauty of the Haitian culture, Runkle said. In addition, the three surviving religious murals of the 14 that once filled the cathedral’s interior will be incorporated into the new design.

The world-renowned murals depicting biblical stories in Haitian motifs, crafted by some of the best-known Haitian painters of the 20th century, were added to the 1920s-era Gothic Revival-style cathedral in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Other paintings and woodcarvings also adorned the inside of the building.

Those sorts of artistic embellishments in the old cathedral were for Haitians “a form of worship – an expression of devotion to God – and definitely need to be part of the new worship space,” Runkle said. “Exactly how we’re going to do that, I don’t know.”

It will be important that the architect or architects chosen have experience working in Haiti or the Caribbean to ensure that they understand the country’s artistic culture as well as the working environment, he said, adding that there has been talk of a possible partnership between Haitian and U.S. firms.

Befitting Holy Trinity’s status as a focal point in Port-au-Prince, Runkle said, it is hoped that the new building would be able to be “a safe haven, a refuge, a place that can provide help and assistance if other things around it cannot do that” during some future emergency. The building could do that by being hurricane- and earthquake-resistant, and able to generate its own electricity, filter water and have telecommunications capability during an emergency, he suggested.

There is also the hope that the building will be environmentally sensitive. It could include as much material as possible that can be recycled from the destroyed building, use indigenous materials when possible, consider installing solar panels and investigate how to capture and use rainwater, according to Runkle. He said there are hopes the building will be environmentally sustainable and a model for new construction in Haiti.

Runkle said the word on the street is that construction in Haiti “is just going to explode in the very near future” and some are worried that “people who need the work most – the Haitian people – could get excluded” if international contractors

bring in their own workers. Thus, down the road when a request for proposals for a general contractor is developed, Runkle said, he expects that it will include a requirement that Haitian laborers, skilled craftspeople and artists will be employed.

“We want to make sure that the Haitian people are building their cathedral,” he said.

In addition to all of these goals, there are three key components that must be spelled out in the architectural RFP, Runkle said. They are a legal description of the land involved; a description of the “functional needs” to be served by the building such as amount of seating in the worship space, the diocesan functions that need to be accommodated, musical requirements and meeting space needs; and what he called a realistic budget.

The Holy Trinity complex once housed Holy Trinity Music School, Holy Trinity Professional School, primary and secondary schools, and a convent of the Sisters of St. Margaret, as well as the cathedral building. Discussions are underway about temporarily relocating the schools, Runkle said, but the goal is to return them to the cathedral site. That effort, and its funding, will be separate from the cathedral construction.

The educational part of the cathedral campus is emblematic of “gospel of wholeness” that Duracin has said the diocese has preached and practiced since its founding in 1861, serving Haitians’ physical and emotional needs as well as their spiritual ones.

That ministry continues even after the earthquake. The diocese’s relief and development office known as Centre Diocesain de Developpement et de Secours, in partnership with Episcopal Relief & Development, continues to serve the entire country in education, health care, environmental protection, food assistance, microcredit and short-term emergency assistance.

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**Music, both familiar and new,
sets tone for Advent and Christmas**

by Sharon Sheridan

As inevitable as Advent wreaths and Christmas pageants, music fills Episcopal churches throughout the holiday season. Congregations embrace services of Lessons and Carols and performances of Handel’s “Messiah” as choir directors seek to provide a balance of the beloved and familiar with new works illuminating the miracle of the Incarnation.

Unlike in shopping malls – and some other denominations – the music of December is not Christmas carols but Advent hymns during the four weeks before the Nativity.

This was a new experience after growing up Methodist, recalled Marilyn Keiser, music professor emeritus of Indiana University and music director at Trinity Episcopal Church, Bloomington, Indiana.

“That was a change for me, or at least a learning experience,” she said. “We really wait to sing Christmas carols and Christmas music until Christmas Eve. But there are so many wonderful themes in Advent.”

The Advent hymns match the lectionary, with ones such as “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist Cries” and “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying” to accompany readings about John the Baptist and settings of the Magnificat and “The Angel Gabriel” to follow this year’s Advent 4 Gospel of the Annunciation, she said.

“The music of Advent is so rich,” she said. “I think it’s my favorite liturgical season.”

During Advent, “we have quieter music during Communion,” she said. “We sometimes have had the psalms sung, plainsong, in the back of the church – with handbells. Just things to kind of give a quieter feel to the service, more contemplative.

“I really appreciate that, with all the hubbub around the commercial aspects of Christmas. And I think that’s one of the really nice things about the music of Advent. Although much of it is still joyous – ‘Prepare the Way, O Zion’ and things like that – there also are more contemplative hymns: ‘Creator of the Stars of Night’; ‘O Come, O Come Emmanuel.’”

The latter stems from the monastic tradition.

Monks and nuns chant the psalter in a set order during daily services in a rhythm that doesn’t change with the seasons. But the antiphons before and after the psalms and canticles do change, explained Brother Scott Borden, prior at Holy Cross Monastery, an Anglican Benedictine community in West Park, New York. “So at the beginning of Advent, we switch to a whole different set of antiphons, and they’re meant to call us into the Advent season in various ways.”

Probably the best known of these are the “O Antiphons” for the Magnificat in the days leading up to Christmas, he said. “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” is written using those antiphons.

“There are many, many settings of them. They’ve inspired composers over the years,” he said. “I think they’re set probably in every language where the Christian church is present. ... They take seven names that Isaiah uses to refer to God: Emmanuel, Wisdom, Root of Jesse, Key of David ... We’re looking at this incarnational event of Christmas, and this is what’s being incarnated. These are the names of God coming out of the Jewish tradition, where you couldn’t say the name of God.”

Jazz musician Isaac Everett once composed an instrumental arrangement of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” for concertina, oboe, guitar, flute, drum set and didgeridu. A similar version appears on his first album, “Rotation.” As minister of liturgical arts at The Crossing, an emerging church meeting at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, he often composes music for amateur musicians in the congregation to play during worship.

“Even if you can only get three notes out, I’ll write something for you,” he said. “We’re honoring the gifts that are in this community ... For me as a musician and composer, it’s one of the most rewarding ministries – helping people play music who either haven’t been given the space to do it or have kind of forgotten their love of it or don’t believe they have the ability to do it.”

Lord, make me an instrument of Your Peace

attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

Lord make me an instrument of Your peace:

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon,

Where there is doubt, faith,

Where there is despair, hope,

Where there is darkness, light,

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled, as to console;

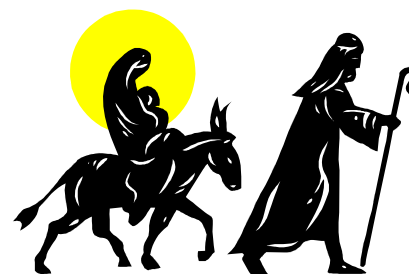
To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved, as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Parish News

Events Calendar



Engagement

Gary and Tina Mann of East Winthrop have announced the engagement of their son, Jacob Mann to Marsha Reynolds, daughter of Rev. Stephen and Tammy Reynolds of Portland, ME. Marsha is

employed at Seaside Nursing & Retirement Home of Portland. Jacob is employed at Pizza Hut of South Portland. A July 2012 wedding is planned.



Ordination of Heather Blais

Invitation

Come celebrate the ordination of this former youth event participant and leader to the priesthood. Reception will follow.

When: December 17 at 4 p.m.

Where: Grace Episcopal Church, Bath

December

- 17 1-4 p.m. Outreach Ministry
- 18 9 a.m. Worship Holy Eucharist – *Advent IV*
10 a.m. Greening of the Church
2 p.m. Focus on John Class
- 24 2:30 p.m. Worship Holy Eucharist –
Christmas Eve
- 25 9 a.m. Worship Holy Eucharist – *Christmas Day*

January 2012

- 1 9 a.m. Worship – *Service of Lessons and Carols*
2 p.m. Focus on John Class
- 7 1-4 p.m. Outreach Ministry
- 8 9 a.m. Worship Holy Eucharist
- 15 9 a.m. Worship Holy Eucharist
- 21 1-4 p.m. Outreach Ministry
- 22 9 a.m. Worship Holy Eucharist
- Annual Meeting**
- 29 9 a.m. Worship Holy Eucharist
(Snow Date – Annual Mtg.)



Parish Celebrations

December

- 5 – Nancy Finnegan (birthday)
- 26 – Gwen and Peter White (anniversary)
- 31 – Eva Sherwood (birthday)

January

- 2 – Kimberly Wilson (birthday)
- 2 – Nancy Finnegan & Jim Melcher (anniversary)
- 7 – Father Richard Bamforth (birthday)
- 8 – Fred Paganucci (birthday)
- 10 – Skip Ernst (birthday)
- 14 – Allan Butterfield (birthday)
- 22 – Tina Mann (birthday)

February

- 1 – Joe Riddick (birthday)
- 3 – Jim Melcher (birthday)
- 12 – Jane & John Robertson (anniversary)
- 20 – Sue Smith (birthday)

**St. Mark's likes to celebrate events. If you have an event that you would like listed (birthday, anniversary, confirmation, baptism, etc.) Please contact Tina Mann to have it listed on our Parish calendar.*

Prayer List



St. Mark's is a praying church. We love to pray for people . . . *Please pray for those who have requested our prayers:*

John Melcher, Barbara Nowland, Phil, Erin, Mike Smith, Walt Ernst, Alison, Jeff Miller, Kathy Cummings, Elaine, Chris, Kiera Grace, Ruth, Frank, Pauline, Ted, Walter Christie, Terry & Claudia, Mathew & Elizabeth, Ken & Brea, Tina Mann, Cheryl & Alex, Bill, Alice, Sharon, Glen, Sue & Louis Dussault, Jane & Family, Ruth Jones, Phil Judd, Meg Mason, Sue Smith, Al, Jim, Richard Raymond, Russ & Susan Bushnell, Milli Bushnell.

In Remembrance

Margaret May Kroneman Schneider of Manchester, formerly of Westwood, N.J., passed away Dec. 4, 2011, at MaineGeneral Rehabilitation and Nursing Care at Gray Birch Drive, Augusta. Margaret was born to Ester and William Kroneman on July 12, 1922, in East Orange, N.J., and grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., where she graduated from Bay Ridge High School in 1938. She attended Brooklyn College and was married to Charles Stephen Schneider in 1942. After the war they settled in Westwood, N.J., where they raised 10 children. Margaret returned to college to pursue a nursing

degree at Rockland Community College and then received her BSN from Dominican College in 1967. She worked as a registered nurse at Pascack Valley Hospital in Westwood for more than 25 years before retiring to Manchester.

Margaret was an active parishioner at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Augusta.

She loved cats, being outdoors and gardening. She adored her husband and was totally dedicated to her family.

Margaret was predeceased by her husband of 62 years; her eldest son, Charles William; and an infant son, Arthur Lowell. She is survived by nine children, Constance Dioszeghy of Cornwall, N.Y., Stephen Schneider of Claremont, Calif., Geraldine Schneider of Poland, Margaret Iaconetti of East Stroudsburg, Penn., Frances Rohr of Boxford, Mass., John Schneider of Township of Washington, N.J., Christopher Schneider of Warren, Daniel Schneider of Presque Isle, and Thomas Schneider of Walpole, Mass. She also is survived by 26 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

At Margaret's request, there will be no visiting hours. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Augusta. In lieu of flowers, donations in Margaret's memory may be made to HealthReach Hospice and Volunteers of Kennebec Valley, P.O. Box 828, Waterville, ME, 04903-0828 (give.mainegeneral.org) or to Kennebec Valley Humane Society, 10 Pet Haven Ln., Augusta, ME 04330 (www.pethavenlane.org/kvhs/support.htm).

