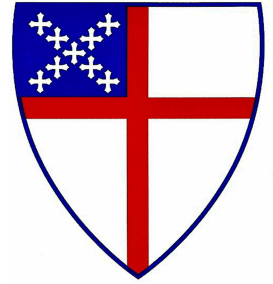




# Pine Hill Press



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The Newsletter of St. Giles' Episcopal Church, Jefferson, Maine

OCTOBER 2011

## A Message from the Priest in Charge

### Athletes of Faith

We all know that an athlete must live each day with discipline to be fit to perform at his or her best in sport or contest. To be "in training" means exercising properly, resting adequately, eating nutritious food and avoiding alcohol and recreational drugs.



Minute by minute decisions, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week make for physical fitness. We admire such dedication, don't we?

St. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth: "Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath [the laurel wreath of victory], but we an imperishable one." Those of us who are called to follow Jesus are called to be athletes of faith, to "press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus," as St. Paul wrote to the Philippians.

"Ascesis" is the Greek word for exercise or training, and this is the root of the term asceticism. Some of us may associate asceticism with practices of extreme fasting, wearing hair shirts, and punishing the body, practices we reject for good reasons. But we should remember that throughout Christian history faithful people have recognized the need to be in Christian training, to exercise faith, to keep spiritually fit. We do this for the sake of our own souls and for the sake of the church, the body of Christ in the world.

The life of faith is a 24/7 undertaking. God will touch all aspects of

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## Mission To Vermont

Christy Rousseau, Physician Assistant (PA) felt called, at both a personal and professional level, to take her career in a different direction. Her interests, both short and long term, led her to pursue so-called "field medicine" wherein medical personnel pitch a tent and provide emergency services in areas without the usual sophisticated equipment, materials and comfort that one takes for granted in an Emergency Room, similar to her workplace at Togus VA Medical Center.

After a lengthy application process, Christy was accepted as a team member of "Maine Task Force One", a group assembled under the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). MEMA deploys various teams to areas of need to provide relief and support, including medical services, following natural or man-made disasters.

When Tropical Storm Irene struck

Vermont with full force August 28, Christy's team of seven medically trained individuals was deployed to help. She saw this work as a mission to serve others and an opportunity for professional growth.

Christy said that her first impression was "jaw dropping". Upon arrival into the affected area she saw entire roads washed out, houses washed away, caved in rooftops in the fields. She was in awe as she viewed an area where an overflowing river had deposited one quarter to a half mile of silt and mud. The Vermont Department of Transportation had to replace a large washed out section of road with gravel to provide a throughway just for the team to get into the area.

From September 2 through September 5, her team, comprised of

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## Mission to Vermont

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two other PAs, two RNs and two paramedics, set up a clinic in the Rochester Elementary School with a couple of beds and equipment. The New Hampshire Task Force had been there the week before them, so that people in the area were aware of the clinic presence that was available 24/7. The team also provided outreach by walking or driving into smaller towns to assess folks' needs.

The team was busy. Sixteen patients were seen at the clinic. One woman needing medical flight evacuation due to anaphylaxis (severe shock due to allergic reaction). Others suffered broken bones and abrasions. Christy said that although there wasn't high volume, there was a high level of intensity. The Task Force gave out information about resources, provided masks to avoid their inhaling pollutants and advised people as to what they might anticipate by way of public health needs. She recalled the shock or panic experienced by folk when more rain was forecast. Thankfully, it didn't rain!

Christy particularly remembers an elderly gentleman who came to the clinic to get food as the team was eating its lunch outside. Although he was not physically in difficult straits, he'd suffered considerable emotional trauma. He described how he'd been plowing his field when he looked up to see water rushing toward him. In minutes, he was up to his neck in the water and



carried off in the current. He told them he'd "never been so scared" in his life. He felt helpless. He didn't know what to do. He floated by debris of all sorts including coffins that were unearthed from a nearby cemetery. He told them, "I saw things I shouldn't see." This gentleman came to the clinic every day, seemingly as a form of respite, a safe haven in which to connect with others.

The team observed entire households having been washed away. "Folks were literally shoveling out their houses," Christy said. She was struck by how extremely resilient and self-sufficient people seemed to be. She got the sense that people were not used to seeking attention for themselves. The

team continually encouraged them to visit no matter how large or small the problem seemed to be.

Christy's big take-away? "There is so much more to do! With winter coming, there are only a couple of months to restore infrastructure and the rebuilding of roads." Like two ships passing in the night, her husband Kevin was deployed after her return with the Maine DOT contingent to the Emergency Operations Command Center (EOC) in Albany, NY and was there as this was being written. Would she go again? "Absolutely! My bag is packed. This is what we do!"

*—As told to Trudi Hodgkins*

I am happy to report that school is running smoothly and happily after a rough start. As some of you may know I had a two week window to find a new assistant. Jen St. Cyr received a last minute offer to work at Jefferson Village School and with apologies to me took it. She had hoped to work there next year and just couldn't say no to this opportunity. We wish her all the best.

I was very fortunate that Martha Tait stepped up and helped me open school on time and worked the first

## Pine Hill Nursery School

week with me. During that time I was interviewing and choosing a new assistant. I am pleased to share that I hired Janetta Jennings on a Sunday afternoon and she started work on Monday morning! We used that time to orient her to our program and then on Tuesday Martha came again to help make a smooth transition for the children.

The second change is that we have only 14 students this year compared to 24-25 the last three years. That means I have smaller classes which I love but also not enough students for a Monday class. So Pine Hill is only operating four days a week this year. As I said, it was a rough start but it feels like we are on track now and I am looking forward to a very rewarding year working with Janetta and our endearing children.

*—Dotti Meyer*

# What Does the Lord Require of You?"

"The Bible talks about how we are to give of ourselves in three different but related ways.

First: our need for a place of worship. There are over a thousand verses in the Hebrew Bible that refer to offerings at the worship place. The Levites (Numbers 3.11-13) were responsible for worship, and the rest of Israel bore the duty of supporting them.

Second: our need to give something of ourselves – the fruits of our effort – back to God, in recompense for falling short or in gratitude for receiving a great gift. In Numbers 5.6-10, the Israelites are given the opportunity to make restitution for a wrong; in Psalm 56.12, the Psalmist vows thank-offerings to God.

Third: our obligation to those less fortunate than ourselves – the poor, the sick, the stranger, and the oppressed. The Israelites made provision for the poor out of their own goods, by leaving crops to be gathered by those who owned no land; this is the basis of the Book of Ruth, where Ruth meets her future husband, Boaz, when he allows her to gather grain in his fields. Boaz is following the teaching in Leviticus 19.9-10, leaving some of his crops to be gathered by others.

The New Testament, far from abandoning such teaching, follows the path that the Hebrew Bible has set before us. Jesus paid the Temple tax for himself and Peter (Matthew 17.24-27). Early Christians provided their houses for the worshiping community (Acts 12.12). Jesus urges repentance (Mark 1.15); his followers praised God in the Temple

## On Stewardship

Many of you who know us well, know that our family is the center of our being. We have three children and seven grandchildren, all of whom we hold in our hearts with love and loyalty. St. Giles and the St. Giles family hold our hearts with love and our faith. St. Giles is truly a family bonded by our mutual faith in God, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit. As a family we worship together, talk together, laugh together, and help one another through the hard times and the joyful times.

Whenever we return from our winter away, it is with a sigh of relief that we are back with our St. Giles family. We have watched children grow into college aged adults, we have watched babies grow into toddlers we hardly recognize, we see new faces that we look forward to coming to know, we are relieved to see faces still with us. We are most grateful for the family of St. Giles.

— Dick and Jane Pickering

(Luke 24.53). Jesus exhorts the rich young man to give his wealth away (Mark 10.21). St. Paul collects money from his congregations for the poor of Jerusalem (Acts 11.29-30; 1 Corinthians 16.1-3).

At St. Giles', we continue this great tradition. We support our parish, which

provides weekly opportunities for us to remember that we are God's people, and to grow in grace and knowledge of our true calling. St. Giles' people also pray for healing, for ourselves and for others; study the Bible and the teachings of our faith; and gather to give thanks to God for great blessings, and to grieve together at times of loss. Our parish is available for us at need, and we make it available at other times, and for other people.

We are called to meet needs in our local communities, through donations to the food pantry, to our outreach ministries, and to our priest's discretionary fund. We also help other people in the Diocese, such as Native Americans. We give money to the national Episcopal Church for mission and outreach: the Church helps poverty-stricken people in the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Africa, among other places. And we participate in the worldwide Anglican Communion, which supports relief work and missionary activity in most countries of the world.

In our stewardship and support of St. Giles', we are participating in a worldwide community of the people of God who "work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom," as our Book of Common Prayer says. And by doing so, we are able to carry out the Lord's requirement mentioned in the title: our call to "do justice, and love mercy, and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6.8).

— Don Kraus

## ECW News

In spite of our numbers dwindling we continue to meet the first Tuesday of the month. I was recently approached and asked about considering a different day for our meetings. This is definitely a possibility. The current group strongly favors daytime meetings, however the day of the week and the actual time are negotiable. If you have wished to join us but could not because of our meeting choice please speak to me. Our group is open to new members to enhance our meetings.

Our current schedule includes several bake sales featuring a different 'flavor' each month. Our first one, the Apple Bake Sale was a huge

success..thanks to all who helped by baking and purchasing. Our schedule for the rest of this year is as follows:

**October 16—Pumpkin Bake Sale**  
**November 20—Cranberry Bake Sale**  
**December 18—**  
**Christmas Cookie Bake Sale**

We welcome all bakers and shoppers to join us in these fund raising events. Proceeds from these sales purchase altar supplies, calendars, Day by Day booklets and weekly bulletin inserts. Thank you for your support.

—Dotti Meyer

## A Correction

In the last issue of *The Pine Hill Press*, the caption accompanying the photo of the birdbath in front of the church stated incorrectly that it was donated by the Marden family in memory of the late Judy Marden. In fact, the birdbath was donated to St. Giles in memory of Judy by her best friend, Suzanne Duckworth, of Charleston, SC. Sue wanted to make a meaningful donation in Judy's memory. It was her suggestion to purchase the birdbath for the garden since the last St. Giles project that Judy was able to participate in was helping with the replanting of the perennials that had wintered in Charlene Donahue's garden while the parish hall was under construction.

## To Keep in My Heart

"I want to ask you something", said my nephew Taylour. We were sitting and talking at the reception following his mother's memorial service. "Would you," he said, "be the officiant at Jenn's and my wedding?" "What—me?!" I was surprised and moved. And it took me just a moment to answer: "I'd be honored." Taylour is my brother's only son. I'd known him as a little boy; then I'd come to know him as an adult at the time of my brother's death. Through summer and holiday visits, I knew him and his fiancée, Jennifer, and I liked them both. We talked a bit about the wedding. They were to plan how they wanted it and were to write their own vows. "We can leave parts for you to say what ever you would like", said Taylour.

How do you become an officiant (in Massachusetts it's called a "Solemnizer")? It is not a fly-by-night affair— not in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, anyway. Soon, there arrived in the mail an official application for me to fill out in detail and send to the office of the governor. A letter of recommendation "attesting to my high standard of character" had to be separately sent. (I asked another nephew to do that and he responded splendidly). Then I received the official documents for my "One Day Marriage Designation"

The couple sent me by email an outline of their plan, which followed the general outline for a wedding: introduction, vows, exchange of rings and announcement of the marriage. I began to consider seriously what I wanted to say – about marriage and its meaning. They wanted "a ceremony centered in family and close friends"; they didn't want a specifically religious ceremony. I searched in poetry and in sermons about human relationships. I examined my own thoughts about the step they were taking, from my own experience and in seeing my own children's developing relationships as they led to marriage. I wrote an introduction which said, in part: "Here we have all come together to share in a very daring action. Two persons are saying "yes" to each other. In our uncertain world, the "yes" of marriage is daring. At the same time, it is exalting. For Jennifer and Taylour come here to express their faith in each other and their hope and pleasure in just doing together all the ordinary and the extraordinary things which make up the passages of our lives...."

Finally, I opened the Book of Common Prayer to the marriage service.



And there was what I needed: I selected some of the prayers following the marriage vows, and, placing them before the vows, used "may they" rather than a direct intercession, as, for example: "As Taylour and Jennifer say their vows, may they confirm that in their common life they will offer each other strength in time of need, counsel in perplexity, comfort in

sorrow and companionship in joy", and, "May they have the grace when they have hurt each other, to recognize that hurt and ask each other's forgiveness." ...and, finally, "May all who here witness these vows find their own lives strengthened and their own loyalties enriched." Thus, in that eloquent language, I found what were indeed prayers and which said what I thought needed to be said at a marriage. I sent my "words" off to Taylour and Jenn and they liked them very much.

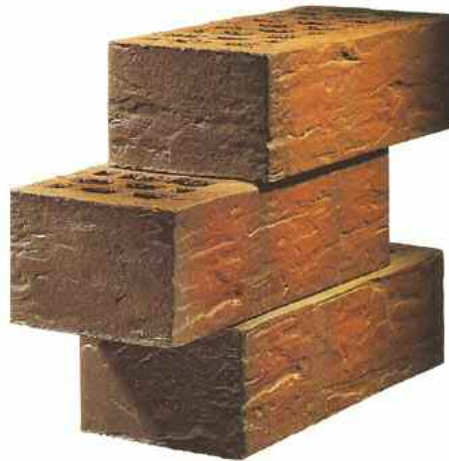
The wedding was in a lovely country setting, a green lawn with flowers surrounding. Two cousins played guitar music, Jennifer's brother read a poem, and the couple, visibly moved, said their vows to each other. In the love I have for these two people and in my own enhanced understanding of the sacred meaning of human commitments, it is a time to keep in my heart.

— Cynthia White

### "Buy a Brick" Campaign to Rebuild the Cathedral in Haiti

Bishop Lane has asked all the parishes of the diocese to support a national church effort to help rebuild Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In January 2010 the cathedral and the schools located on its grounds were destroyed by an earthquake. Bishop Duracin and the people of Haiti have asked for our help to rebuild this center of worship and education, so important to the people of the most populous diocese of The Episcopal Church.

The "Buy a Brick" Campaign is our church's response. If every Episcopalian in this country buys two bricks, for \$10 each, we will be able to meet the goal of support set by the Presiding Bishop. This campaign is being organized at the National



Church Center in New York, and safety measures are in place to insure that the money raised goes to the cathedral.

In our mission statement the people of St. Giles' Church express a commitment to "reaching out with love and active support to ... the wider community." This is an opportunity to make that love a reality, by

giving to help our sisters and brothers in Haiti raise up what was cast down, the cathedral they loved.

Please use the envelope in your pew marked "Buy a Brick Campaign" to make a donation, or give a check to St. Giles' Church with "Haiti Fund" in the memo line.

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.episcopalchurch.org/HaitiAppeal](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/HaitiAppeal)

# 2011 Fair Report

Thanks to the hard work, and dedication of our volunteers, the 57th St. Giles' Annual Country Fair and Lobster Luncheon was a huge success! This year 46 adults from our congregation volunteered their services in one way or another, 3 children from our church helped out on the day of the Fair, and 9 friends of St. Giles' played an active role to help make the Fair the best that it could be! From the beautifully designed posters back in June to fair clean up on July 30th, each Fair worker demonstrated their individual ministry and love for St. Giles'!

We are grateful to have had the support of many talented people in our midst. You all made it look easy when in reality it was your expertise, experience, and hard work that made everything come together on Fair Day.

Because of all the work involved in the Fair, the committee decided to break it up into two sections – the Lobster Luncheon along with buying and inventorying was Debbie King's bailiwick and the rest of the Fair was Deb Lipton-Morin's and Cathey Sell's responsibility.

We also had added support from the community and congregation this year in the form of donations for our auction and raffle. Many thanks to parishioners George Jones, Deb Lipton-Morin, Ken Marden and the Eichler family for their wonderful Time and Talent donations along with donations to the

raffle from Lu Archer, Bob Sinclair and Debbie King.

Our list of local businesses that made generous contributions grew considerably thanks to a new idea (from our own Debbie King) implemented back in June. Instead of one person going around to the local businesses, this task was given to several volunteers based on the towns where they lived – Ken Marden, Linda Pierpont, Dick Pickering, Debbie King, Cynthia White, and Brigid Gibson-Griffin. We had a total of 30 business donations of which 22 were auctioned off, 6 went towards the raffle, 2 donated cash and 2 food donations. Berry & Berry Floral, Beth's Farm Market, C.B. Haskell Fuel Co., C.M. McCormick's Fuel Co., Country Corners Grocery, Damariscotta Lake Farm Restaurant, Debbie Norton's Cleaning Service, Elmer's Barn, Helen Caddie-Larcenia Therapeutic Massage, Holly Lynn Carlezon Hair & Nail Studio, J.C. Stone, Inc., Jefferson Market, Jennifer's Family Hair Care, Miller's Garage & Body Shop, Molly's Seafood, Nathan Northrup Construction, New Castle Publick House, North Whitefield Superette, Ron's Auto Electric, Sharon Turner Garden Design, Sheepscot General Store, Sheepscot Links Golf Course, Specialty Products, Tom Catchings Legends Lawn & Landscaping, Varney's Market and Deli, WW&F Railway Museum, and Well Tempered Kitchen all made donations

to the Fair.

The Lobster Luncheon went well again this year. A team of 16 or so people picked 150 lobsters and shucked 130 ears of corn on a beautiful Friday afternoon before the Fair. We all had fun and enjoyed the fellowship of working together. Many thanks to the team of Dick Crosman and Paul Fuller for offering to shuck the corn while cooking all the lobsters! With four pots going, they had it down to a science! Our servers, Erin King with her sister, Kelley and brother-in-law, Glenn Capen, did an excellent job of putting out a great product in a timely and friendly atmosphere. A special thank you to Debbie King for all of her behind-the-scenes work to make the lobster luncheon a huge success!

We also continued for the second year with entertainment and were blessed with the talents of singers and songwriters, Pixie Lauer and Dan Townsend. Their performance added yet another plus to our fair offerings and appeal! And then there was the weather – another glorious sunny day with a few clouds just when they were needed!

We had our post Fair meeting on Monday, September 26th, 2011 at 7 p.m. Thank you all for attending and for the ones that sent in their suggestions. These ideas will be posted in the Procedure Manual.

Because this is the church's largest







fundraiser, I thought you might all be interested in the final dollar amount:

The total income of \$7,196.75 minus the expenses (hot dog booth \$91.44 and lobster luncheon \$845.04) and (seed money of \$300) equals \$5960.27 of which 10% went directly to Outreach (\$596.03) leaving \$5364.24 to go into our church budget! Yahoo!

The St. Giles' Fair is the result of months of planning and the ministry of the Fair Committee. Again, many thanks to all of you who donate your time, money, and talent to support the Fair.

—Deb Lipton-Morin, Cathey Sell and Debbie King



## Recollection Of A Sept. 11 Memorial Service

As you know, several members of St. Giles' sing together in a barbershop chorus called Maine-ly Harmony. (Dotti, Carolyn, Martha and Cathy). We rehearse every Wednesday night at Togus VA in Augusta. Our group was asked to sing at a September 11, 2001 remembrance service in the Togus Chapel. We are always looking for ways to give back to the hospital and the veterans for allowing us to rehearse at their facility free of charge so of course we said yes. In spite of being a service at 11:30 on a weekday most of our chorus was able to attend. The chapel was not very crowded for this special memorial service and we were a bit surprised. However what we discovered was that the service was being piped into the hallways and day areas of the entire facility. A video was shown in all common rooms and taped

to be replayed as patients requested. No one was going to miss this event.

The guest speakers included John Libby, Head of the Army National Guard in Maine, the director of Togus, a Roman Catholic priest and the chief of the Chaplain Services at Togus. Each of these men gave recollections of that day ten years ago which included very similar themes yet different perspectives. There was mention of generational life changing events: Pearl Harbor, Vietnam and the Terrorist Attacks on September 11. Our chorus sang a medley of "God Bless America" and "This Is My Country" with more emotion than ever before. We had been so inspired.

And at the end of the service we sang a beautiful song "Rise Again." This was originally written by a Canadian immigrant telling the story of his family and the generations to come who would survive and carry on in spite of life's hardships along the way.

This particular song was heard repeatedly during the recovery period of Hurricane Katrina and many people thought it had been written for that disaster. It is a timeless message of hope through our children, our voices sharing songs and our faith in the repetition of our earth's cycles. After hearing the inspiring words of the speakers that day our chorus presented this song in tribute to the many heroes of September 11. What we got in return was overwhelmingly powerful. There was not a dry eye in our chorus or in the people assembled there in the chapel. We left the chapel hugging and sharing what an impact that song had on each of us during this particular service. We felt truly blessed to be a part of this memorial service and indeed this amazing country of ours. Our gift to the veterans turned out to be a huge gift to ourselves.

— Dotti Meyer

## Bible Corner

# The Book of Job

In the tradition of wisdom writing in the Old Testament, the Book of Job holds a very high place. In the last issue of The Pine Hill Press, we saw that one characteristic theme of the wisdom teaching in the Bible is that right action – action that follows in the moral teaching of the Torah – can lead to the good life, one of honor, comfort, and prosperity. And, in fact, that is where the character Job starts out: he is wealthy, respected, upright, and reverent towards God.

Nonetheless, following on a kind of dispute between God and “the Adversary” or “Satan” in the heavenly court, Job is made to suffer. And the rest of the book is a poetical account of his argument with others, and ultimately with God, about whether he deserved what had befallen him. In language that is in some places a daring and provocative indictment of God, Job pleads his case, maintaining until the end that, whatever he did or failed to do in his life, he did not deserve the fate that has overtaken him. The words of Job are so vehe-

ment that some later copyists may have tried to soften them by inserting extra lines to modify the argument, or by changing some of the wording to make it less offensive to the conventional religious view. Job does, after all, maintain that God is a tyrant who cannot be made to answer for his actions.

Job’s friends, his dialogue partners (or opponents), are as shocked at Job’s language as the first readers of the book may have been. And at the end of the book, God enters the dialogue with poetry as wild as Job’s – and refuses to answer the question. So readers are left to figure out for themselves what they really think about suffering, the prosperity of the wicked, and how life can be unfair.

Starting on Tuesday evening,

October 11, our weeknight Bible study will look at the Book of Job and savor its arguments and its poetry. And we will have an additional task. I have agreed to write a book about Job for Skylight Paths Publishing Company, part of a series of books that they are bringing out to reintroduce classic writings to modern audiences. “The Book of Job: Annotated and Explained” will provide the full text (in a new translation), a lengthy introduction, and notes on each chapter.

For those who are willing to join in this Bible study, and help me refine explanations of the difficulties and glories of the Book of Job, the reward – in addition to studying a classic of world literature – will be to receive a free copy of the book, when it is published in the second half of 2012.

I hope you will join me in exploring this wonderful book of the Bible, which we rarely hear in church but which is one of the high points of all the literature in the Bible itself.

—Don Kraus

## Why I Joined St Giles’

When I joined Saint Giles, I was going through a difficult time and I couldn’t explain why or how I ended up there.

When most of my supportive friends moved on to big universities in fun and interesting places, I felt alone and left out. I continually asked myself why my hard work for twelve years didn’t get me where I had planned to be. Many people shared their sympathy and tried to make me feel better, but it seldom did more than make me smile for the moment and later the same negative feelings would pop up into my mind again. It took a lot of thinking and some inspiration to understand my situation. I thought back to the words repeated over and over by a mentor and dear friend of mine. “Everything happens for a reason,”



she’d say. “It’s obvious that the plans you had for yourself just weren’t how you were supposed to find your way.” Granted it was hard to believe in at first because it was too heart breaking at the time. In time, it made me think about destiny and God’s plan. Maybe he is trying to make me understand something, or maybe he is testing my strength and my will to do what I love. Whatever God’s plan is for me, I want to have faith in it and reflect on how I am keeping an open heart and mind to any doors that God presents to me. We all need a moment every once in awhile to get away from our ever busy lives to sit and reflect in order to make some sense and peace of mind of what is going on around us. That is what Saint Giles Church offers to me.

—Christine McCormick

## From the Priest in Charge

*Continued from page 1*

our lives, all our time, all our relationships, all our hearts, if we allow God to do so. God waits for us to open the doors.

Consider what you might take on as spiritual exercise. Do you pray every day? Do you come to church regularly? Do you give generously of your money, your time, and the gifts God has given you to build up the church and relieve human suffering? Do you hold your tongue instead of gossiping? Do you encourage one another through difficulties? Do you treat your own body with honor, as a temple of the Holy Spirit? Do you honor one another, seeing every person as God’s beloved child? Where might God be calling you to change your habits, of body, mind, and spirit?

God invites us to be athletes of faith, people so on fire with love for God that we will open our hearts and lives to God 24/7, with joy and in hope.

—Susan+