

## St. Giles Team Finds Work, Satisfaction in Louisiana Stay

**T**he week in Slidell, Louisiana, was many things to the three St. Giles parishioners — David Mason, Raymond Anderson and Tom Eichler — who flew there October 28 for a week of rehabilitating homes damaged by hurricane Katrina in 2005. It was real and satisfying work, it was bonding with a wonderful group of co-volunteers from elsewhere in New England, it was camp-like living conditions but lots of good food, it was a renewed perspective on the astonishing extent of the storm damage in the New Orleans area, and, we have to confess, it was a wild Halloween night, which just happened to coincide with our scheduled dinner out in the French Quarter.



We stayed at the large Aldersgate Methodist church/school complex in Slidell, a suburban town about 20 miles north of central New Orleans, on the north side of Lake Pontchartrain. The parts of Slidell closest to the lake suffered major flooding when

Katrina hit, as the lake absorbed the tidal surge from the Gulf, but Aldersgate, farther away from the shore, was spared.

Our overall group of 22 from New England, organized by the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, divided into four teams for the week, with one team assigned to the kitchen. Each of the other

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### A Note From Jeff Lewis, Priest in Charge

**A**s most of you now know, I recently announced my decision to step down early in the new year as your priest in charge at St. Giles. I know many of you could not be there that morning, but have now heard the news thorough the grapevine. Some of you won't return to St. Giles until it is warm again, but wanted this chance to speak to all of you directly in the Pine Hill Press before I move on.

I came to St. Giles over a year ago because my friend Bob Jewett asked me to. We all know the story. It is still a little too close to tell without feeling its pain. Emergency is a good word for it. A serious issue emerged into our collective lives and as responsible peo-

ple - that is, people who are able to respond - we did. We helped our friend and we helped each other and we helped this church. In my first sermon at St. Giles, in Bob's virtual "pulpit" on the floor between the pews, I spoke about being in an open boat in the fog, in huge seas near a rocky lee shore with a new crew I did not know well - a true story. In the story it was time to come together to get the boat to a safe place.

That crew, by the way, did. And this crew did too. St. Giles has been through a lot in the last year, but we are in a safe harbor now. This does not mean that there are

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# Bits and Pieces from the Senior Warden

## *Arrow of St. Giles Award*

It's time again to nominate someone from the parish to receive the Arrow of St. Giles. This award was created by Bob Jewett and Bob Sinclair as a way to say thank you to one of the many hard working, active and dedicated members of our parish. This tradition gives us the opportunity to look around and see what kind of ministering has indeed been going on in our midst, either publicly or privately. This helps us all reflect, together and individually, on what has made St. Giles' Church strong and effective over the years and also what new spirit is moving in us today. As a final criteria we seek to identify the spiritual values and priorities underlying what recipients of this award have been doing....and to see how these values have helped up-build our congregation into the kind of community of believers and doers envisioned and fostered in olden days by St. Giles himself.

Please submit your nomination in writing with a paragraph or two explaining why you have chosen that person. Nominations can be sent/given to Jeff Lewis, Lee Burns, Dotti Meyer or Ken Marden (last year's winner). The winner will be chosen by this committee and announced at the Annual Meeting.

## *Annual meeting*

Just to give a heads up, the Annual Meeting will be held immediately after church on Sunday, January 13th. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Chairs of committees and Ministry Teams need to submit an annual report to this meeting. A slate of vestry officers and members will be presented for approval. Delegates and alternates to convention will also be elected. If you wish to serve at convention please talk to someone on the current vestry.

## *Looking Ahead*

Jeff Lewis, Lee Burns, John Van Sicen and I have been talking and meeting with Bishop Knudsen somewhat regularly to determine what will happen next here at St. Giles. Though we are saddened to lose Jeff as our priest, we completely understand the necessity of his decision. We must also recognize that we are not 'losing' Jeff completely. He will supply when needed, visit when possible and continue his loving relationship with St. Giles. As we work to find a new partner for our shared ministry here at St. Giles we will try to keep you all 'in the loop' giving updates as to our progress. In the meantime let's celebrate having Jeff with for the next six weeks!

— Dotti Meyer

## A Note from our Treasurer

Here is an update on parish finances. Expenses to date for 2007 are running close to \$2,000 more than income. The shortfall is mostly due to outstanding pledge payments. As of November 15th, there is a little more than \$3,500 in outstanding pledges. Remember folks when you pledge an amount per week, that is every week, not just the ones you are in church. I sent out accountings in early September, but if you want to know where you stand just give me a call at 207-563-2942.

On another note, your Vestry will be setting the budget for 2008 at the December meeting. We need your pledge cards returned in order to plan for the coming year. As of Nov 15th only 30 cards had been returned. That is 15 less than last year and so far the total amount pledged is 2/3 of what was pledged for 2007. As you all know, costs to run the parish are not going down, so if you have not returned a pledge card please do so quickly. If you have lost yours or never received one, let me know and we will send you a new one.

— Betsy Lee

## Communion Bread

Now that I have perfected the Communion bread recipe so that there are no crumbs, I'd really appreciate sharing this ministry with others. Making the bread for communion is an act of worship in itself. One of those behind the scene's ministry that brings joy and gladness to the heart. But, like many other tasks that we may find ourselves involved in every week, it is time consuming. You may have noticed that we occasionally have pita bread for communion, which is because I don't always have time to make bread. I'm asking you to please join me in the ministry of making bread for communion. It is truly an offering of the heart. Please speak with me about this if you are interested.

— Lee Burns

## Correction

The date of the Italian dinner was inadvertently left off the schedule of St. Giles Public Suppers in last month's issue. The dinner is planned for **Saturday, January 5, 2008.**

# Around the Parish

## Pine Hill Nursery School

A visitor to the PHNS in early November presented a colorful slide presentation about birds "Beaks, Feathers and Feet". No stranger to our class, Naturalist Joe Gray's program gave the students a new look at how different birds forage for food, are clothed and especially walk and climb.

## An Invasive Plant

St. Giles' harbors one of the state's listed invasive plants: the large shrub beside the office door, Burning Bush or Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*). The shrub provides colorful purplish blossoms in spring, green leaves in summer and turns shades of red as fall approaches — and as the leaves fall, thousands of scarlet 4-lobed fruits appear. Birds are attracted to and eat the red fruits, digesting the pulpy fruits and defecate the seeds in some distant place, spreading this invasive escapee that thrives in fertile woods and roadside soils.

## St. Giles' Fair

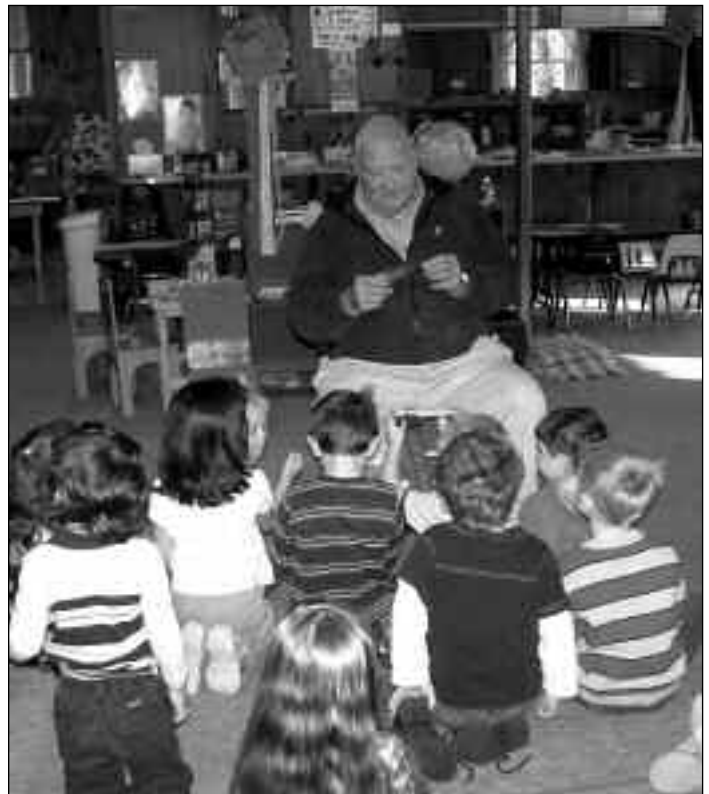
It's never too late to begin planning for the annual Country Fair and Chicken Barbecue on July 26, 2008. As you clean out closets, sort through a lifetime of collections and discarding that item you haven't used in three years — begin filling boxes labeled "St. Giles' Fair". Books, tools, furniture and craft items are all welcome additions to the Fair!

## Moving Away, But Not Far

After 28 years in their snug log home at Chimney Point, Joe and Carolyn Gray are now residents of #103 Schooner Cove in Damariscotta. Both have felt the need to "pull back a bit" to where others shovel snow, mow grass and carry wood. The address has changed but not their continued participation and attendance at St. Giles'. New address: Joe and Carolyn Gray, Schooner Cove #103, 35 Schooner Street, Damariscotta, ME 04543 (563-3578).

## Communication Committee

The Communication Committee, under the leadership of John Atwood, met Sunday November 4th to reorganize the production and distribution of the Pine Hill Press to ensure members receive their copy by mail the week before the new month begins. This action will alert those with duties the first Sunday and set the stage for the coming month. Your suggestions are always welcome.



## We Need More!

Yes, we need your contributions to your monthly newsletter, the Pine Hill Press. Where are our youth and what's happening, graduations, awards, successes, moving, trips, births, and those things to keep us informed ~ and don't forget to let us know if you change your e-mail, post office address or phone number. Send your events to the editor (at [geoinmaine@verizon.net](mailto:geoinmaine@verizon.net)) and address changes to Carolyn Gray 563-3578.

## Louisiana

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three teams was assigned to a particular house. Our team, which included a man from Portland, another from New Hampshire, and a couple from Rhode Island, quickly bonded, making the work a pleasure. Most of us had some experience working on home repair/remodeling projects, so we were able to do some real work, and had the satisfaction of making a visible difference during our five days on the job. David, just out of high school, demonstrated his advanced construction skills in building steps, railings and stair landings and putting up drywall. Raymond put to use the knowledge he's gained remodeling his own house, excelling in a variety of jobs, from installing insulation to rough carpentry and drywall installation. Tom focused on installing insulation, and, in a final burst of energy on Friday, joined with Read Saunders of Rhode Island to clean up a large trash heap in the house's front yard.

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## Acolyte Recognition

The Sunday before Thanksgiving is set aside, in St. Giles' tradition, for the recognizing and thanking of our acolytes and servers. This year we had the opportunity to honor and small but dedicated group.

Robby Antognoni was recognized for 8 years of service. He has ended his service and will receive his cross with the chain added in place of the black ribbon.

Robin Huntley completed 10 1/2 years of service and with her graduation last June has completed her service. She received her chain for 10 years of service last year, and will receive her cross when she comes home at Christmas.

For active service the following individuals were recognized: Serena and Brittni Parker - entering their fourth year of acolyting and receiving a blue ribbon; Laura Lee - entering her seventh year of service and remaining with the black ribbon; Anna Lee - entering her tenth year of service and remaining with the black ribbon. She will receive her chain next November; Devon Huntley - receiving the chain on her cross for completing ten years of service. Devon is a junior this year and will continue to serve for one more year.

Thank you to all for your reliability and dedication to the church service.

Thanks also go to Carolyn who carefully schedules them and to Jean Greenwood who has filled in as an adult server to help with the schedule conflicts of these three very active teens.

It is also terrific news that three young people have chosen to become acolytes. Richard Gross will be contacting them to arrange their training. They will be presented with their cross when they begin their service, engraved with their initials and the year they begin. Welcome!

—Diane Huntley

*Please keep those listed below in your hearts  
and in your prayers:*

Robert Chick	Kathy Landry
John & Anna Cudmore	Kathy Santerre
Beth Findlen	Barbara Seaman
William H. Floyd, Jr	Mary Staab
Gary Hartfield	Arlene VanDeventer
Raymond Hayden	Bob Walker
Bob & MaryAnn Hoy	Margaret Williams

Katherine, our Presiding Bishop  
Chilton, our Bishop  
Steve, our Bishop Coadjutor  
The Diocese of Haiti and Bishop Duracin

## A Note from Jeff Lewis

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not still some clouds on the horizon. There are. But I mean it when I say that St. Giles is in a safe place with a good crew.

As a little boy, I used to sit in church and look at the ceiling when other people were looking at the priest. I would imagine the ceiling of the church to be the bottom of a ship "floating" on the sky. I thought that this was my own idea, until I learned that it wasn't. It is an ancient image of the church and why so many church ceilings are intentionally designed to look like the ribs and planks of hulls. I know this now about St. Giles. This is a good ship. She has a great crew. She lies in a safe harbor now. And she will go to sea again.

No doubt about it.

In that spirit of Advent, I look forward to that adventure. Advent is the perfect season to focus on getting this ship and crew ready to go to sea again. Just a few things we are doing to get ready: We have switched to the Revised Common Lectionary (<http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary/>) to broaden our ecumenical connections to other churches and communities nearby and far away. On December 2 we will start sharing in this worship, and I will offer a readers training to offer some pointers for new and experienced readers. Our vestry is doing a wonderful job putting together a slate of leaders to be nominated for vestry and warden positions to carry St. Giles into the future. And with Bishop Chilton's help, we are putting together a plan for clerical and pastoral leadership that will be good and fitting for St. Giles at this chapter.

I know that I am leaving St. Giles in a good place and in good hands. I would not leave now otherwise.

That being said, let me also say something true about my decision. It has not been an easy decision to make, but know that it is the right one. It is the right decision for me and my family and it is the right decision for St. Giles. The part that is not easy has to do with my old friend Bob and his friends in this church. His friends are now my friends too, and I will miss you all. In the purple glow of Advent, allow me to share my take on the Christian faith: It is not about heroics or magic or even miracles - not really. It is about real life - the magic reality of real life, and how to live our lives together and individually to the best or our ability God's help and a little help from our friends. This farewell is not a goodbye. I will see you in church, and I will see you outside.

Bless you all. Bless St. Giles.

Peace.

Jeff

# Lay Ministers for December

## December 2nd

### First Sunday of Advent

Readers: Ken Marden & Dotti Meyer  
 Chalice/Intercessor: Jean Greenwood  
 Oblationers: George Jones & Carolyn Gray  
 Greeter: Joe Gray  
 Server: Annamarie Lee  
 Nursery: Christy/Kevin Rousseau  
 Coffee: Linda Pierpont & Carolyn Gray  
 Altar: Trudi Hodgkins & Dotti Meyer

## December 9th

### Second Sunday of Advent

Readers: George Van Deventer  
 Catherine Anderson  
 Chalice: Charlene Donahue  
 Intercessor: Mij Bradford  
 Oblationers: The Anderson Family  
 Greeter: Tom Eichler  
 Server: Laura Lee  
 Nursery: Cathi Laweryson  
 Coffee: Dotti Meyer & Jill Huber  
 Altar: Anne Bills & James/Linda Brown

## December 16th

### Third Sunday of Advent

Readers: George Jones & Cynthia White  
 Chalice: Dotti Meyer  
 Intercessor: Kay Dale  
 Oblationers: Tom & Wendy Eichler  
 Greeter: Linda Pierpont  
 Server: Devon Huntley  
 Nursery: Meegan Burbank  
 Coffee: Betsy Lee & Cynthia White  
 Altar: Nancy S./Lamar C./Tom & Wendy E.

## December 23rd

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readers: Tom Eichler & Wendy Eichler  
 Chalice: Cliff Williams  
 Intercessor: Carolyn Gray  
 Oblationers: Ken Marden & Nancy Saulniers  
 Greeter: Cynthia White  
 Server: Jean Greenwood  
 Nursery: Rachael/David Richmond  
 Coffee: Richard & Joanne Gross  
 Altar: Jean G./Janice M./Linda P.

## December 24th

### Christmas Eve

Readers: Raymond Anderson & Kay Liss  
 Chalice: Jean Greenwood  
 Intercessor: Charlene Donahue  
 Oblationers: Richard & Joanne Gross  
 Greeter: George Jones  
 Server: Devon Huntley

## December 30th

### First Sunday after Christmas

Readers: Cliff Williams & Meegan Burbank  
 Chalice: John Atwood  
 Intercessor: Catherine Anderson  
 Oblationers: Charlene Donahue & George Jones  
 Greeter: Dotti Meyer  
 Server: Jean Greenwood  
 Nursery: Annamarie Lee  
 Coffee: Lyndia Gould & Nancy Saulniers  
 Altar: James & Linda Brown

## January 6th

### Second Sunday after Christmas

Readers: Ken Marden & Kay Dale  
 Chalice/Intercessor: Dotti Meyer  
 Oblationers: Tom & Wendy Eichler  
 Greeter: George Van Deventer  
 Server: Annamarie Lee  
 Nursery: Laura Lee  
 Coffee: Charlene Donahue;  
 Christy/KevinRousseau  
 Altar: Nancy Saulniers & Lamar Carroll

## Family Days for December

2nd Kay & Peter Liss  
 9th Judy & Ken Marden  
 16th Sue McKeen  
 23rd Dotti & Bob Meyer  
 30th Jean Miller

## Birthdays in December

3rd Callie Saulniers  
 6th Beverley Berry  
 8th Tom Eichler  
 11th Richard Gross  
 12th Ken Marden  
 15th Bill Olsen  
 18th Bob Saulniers  
 20th Gladys Buck  
 26th Carolyn Colby  
 27th Hope Lash  
 28th Eric Richmond

## Anniversaries in December

23rd Leslie & Sean McCormick  
 31st Jean Greenwood & Michael Gunter

*The Rev. Jeffrey C. Lewis, Priest in Charge*  
*The Rev. John Van Siclen, Pastoral Associate*  
*The Rev. Leonetta Burns, Deacon*  
*Arlene Van Deventer, Organist & Choir Director*

## Lessons for December

### Dec. 2nd

### First Sunday of Advent

First Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5  
 Psalm 122  
 Second Lesson Romans 13:8-14  
 Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

### Dec. 9th

### Second Sunday of Advent

First Lesson Isaiah 11:1-10  
 Psalm 72:1-8  
 Second Lesson Romans 15:4-13  
 Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

### Dec. 16th

### Third Sunday of Advent

First Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10  
 Psalm 146:4-9  
 Second Lesson James 5:7-10  
 Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

### Dec. 23rd

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Lesson Isaiah 7:10-17  
 Psalm 24:1-7  
 Second Lesson Romans 1:1-7  
 Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

### Dec. 24th

### Christmas Eve

First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7  
 Psalm 96:1-4,11-12  
 Second Lesson Titus 2:11-14  
 Gospel Luke 2:1-14

### Dec. 30th

### First Sunday after Christmas

First Lesson Isaiah 61:10--62:3  
 Psalm 147:13-21  
 Second Lesson Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7  
 Gospel John 1:1-18

## Directory changes and additions:

Carolyn Colby  
 email: jcolby@roadrunner.com

Barbara "Ditto" Freeman  
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 Damariscotta ME 04543

Tim Badgeley  
 Box 251  
 Round Pound ME 04564

# pine hill press

Monthly newsletter of  
St. Giles' Episcopal Church  
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691-2754

The Rev. John Van Siclen, *Pastoral Associate*  
644-1132

The Rev. Leonetta Burns, *Deacon*  
622-6811

## Officers

Dotti Meyer, *Senior Warden*  
549-7452

## Vestry

Richard Pickering,  
*Junior Warden*  
549-3266

Ken Marden,  
*Clerk*  
549-4783

Betsy Lee,  
*Treasurer*  
563-2942

*Class 2008*  
Donna Antognoni  
Anne Bills

*Class 2009*  
John Atwood  
Jim Brown

*Class 2010*  
Jean Greenwood  
Kevin Rousseau

*Copy deadline: Third Sunday of each month*  
George Jones, *Editor*  
832-7412  
geoinmaine@verizon.net

## ECW Notes

Thanks to all who baked and purchased goodies at our Pumpkin Bake Sale and Cranberry Bake Sale.

On December 16, after church, we will have our annual Christmas Cookie Sale. If anyone would like to contribute some of their favorite Christmas cookies, please have them at the church by the afternoon of Friday, December 14, at which time we will be packaging them for the sale.

Thank you all.

—Jean Miller

## December Calendar

<b>Sunday, December 2</b>	9:30 am - Holy Eucharist Training for readers following service
<b>Sunday, December 9</b>	9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
<b>Sunday, December 16</b>	9:30 am - Holy Eucharist Newsletter deadline!
<b>Sunday, December 23</b>	9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
<b>Monday, December 24</b>	7:00 pm - Christmas Eve service

## Louisiana

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The owner of the house, Joanne, is a partially handicapped woman, looking to be in her 50s, widowed this past spring, currently living in temporary quarters with two 20-something sons. She brought us a big box of home-cooked shrimp and sweet corn our last day of work. Her house is interesting, one of many built along a road running through a bayou / wetland area, all about 12 feet above ground on posts. Joanne said the water rose to about two feet inside the first floor of the house, and the roof was blown off.

On Thursday afternoon we were taken on a tour of the devastated areas. Driving through them gives you a new sense of how extensive the damage was — and is, since recovery in the areas seriously submerged in the storm is spotty at best. The levees have been rebuilt and strengthened, but they're the same height as before. The famous Lower Ninth Ward, hit harder than any other area and now largely a wasteland, is located in a below-sea level area that would be high risk no matter how good the levees, which probably is why the people living there were pretty exclusively poor blacks.

The recovery operation based at Aldersgate, Northshore Disaster Recovery, Inc., deserves enormous credit for the work it has been managing since the hurricane. The leader of the operation, Dale Kimball, reported that the group so far has restored 500 homes, with major backing from the United Methodist Committee on Relief and support from many other organizations.

You might detect in the photo of our team at the end of our last workday our sense of contentment over the week's experience.

— Tom Eichler