



Committee Explores Changes to Altar Area

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Parish Family,

As we begin to look ahead to a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent on November 30, it is a good time to reflect on the important ministries of the church associated with worship. Most are quite familiar to our community. Another is one that I hope will "pick up some steam" in the next year.

Lectors are those who are called to read Holy Scripture in the liturgy. Our tradition at St. Giles' is to have the first reader on Sunday morning read the passage from the Hebrew Scriptures and to lead us in the psalm. The second reader reads the Epistle. Formerly, this was a licensed ministry; it is no longer. My hope is that this ministry will increasingly be attractive to our young people.

Intercessors read the Prayers of the People and help us to speak to God about a whole host of concerns we bear in our hearts.

Servers carry the cross and assist Lee in the preparation of the altar.

Eucharistic Ministers were formerly titled Lay Eucharistic Ministers or LEMs. Their function is to administer the chalice during the Sunday Eucharist. We have many who do a fine job with great prayer and dedication. This continues to be a licensed ministry of the church. There will be special training for new Eucharistic Ministers on Sunday, November 23rd during Coffee Hour.

Eucharistic Visitors are those who are called to take the consecrated elements out from the church to the sick and shut-in. This, too, is a licensed ministry that also requires Safe Church Training because it involves being a representative of the church visiting in parishioner's homes. Safe Church Training is a short course having to do with appropriate and healthy

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Over the past few months a committee has been discussing potential changes to St. Giles altar to make it safer and more accessible.

The first question we addressed is WHY are we considering change?

1: Safety. People have been injured falling on the steps of the altar. Those who serve on the Altar Guild are often carrying items that make it difficult to see where to place one's feet. The priest, chalice bearers, deacon and other who serve have to be very aware of the multiple steps on the altar. Parishioners often are assisted getting to the rail or have stumbled going up or down. Little children have made missteps leaving the altar rail.

2: Accessibility. Everyone should be able to gather at God's table. The present altar configuration prevents those who can not handle steps from approaching the altar rail. The Episcopal church believes that God is within our midst and that we gather at His table for communion. Our sanctuary should reflect that understanding. Also our building sends messages and one message it should send is that it is accessible to all.

So the goal is to improve the safety and accessibility of St. Giles' altar while retaining its appearance and special features.

The second question is how can we reconfigure the altar to accomplish this goal?

There are currently four steps - or platforms - as part of the altar. Two plans have been proposed.

Plan 1: Remove the highest platform and the lowest one.

This would solve most of the issues. The step up behind the altar could be addressed with a change of flooring color. The second platform causes some problems with movement of servers during communion. The U-shaped rail impedes access to the umbray but this could be addressed by adding a gate at the side of the rail.

Plan 2: Remove all but one platform that would run across the entire front of the church. Reorient the altar rail so that it runs straight across the church.

Brings the communion table closer to the people. Eliminates all steps for communicants and reduces the

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Notes from The Senior Warden

As all of you know, the Community Supper on October 18 was a tremendous success. As I write this, Cathy Anderson's latest accounting shows that the supper netted \$3,000 for the Community Energy Fund. A hearty "thank you" and congratulations to Cathy and her committee of St.Gilesers: Trudi Hodgkins, Jill Huber, Charlene Donahue and Tom Eichler. As a result of their hard work and organizational skills, not to mention the rest of us enjoying a terrific spaghetti dinner, the high cost of staying warm this winter will be mitigated for a number of folks in Jefferson and Whitefield.

Besides the obvious, positive result of raising money for a good cause, this Community Dinner means of number of other things worth listing here:

- There is great potential for ecumenism in our community. In years past we have participated in cooperative efforts with St.Denis in Whitefield and First Baptist in Jefferson. But these have been ad hoc or inconsistent. With the multi-church effort so evident in the planning and execution of the Community Supper, I believe there is the beginning of a promise of future cooperation as we follow the endorsement of compassion common to our faith.
- St Giles' can-do spirit came to the fore in this endeavor. It should be remembered that the idea for this event came from a parish leadership retreat last May. At that time a community supper to raise funds to assist the less fortunate with heating costs and to regenerate connections with other churches was endorsed as a goal for the

Outreach Ministry Team. Cathy and her team put that endorsement into action with the successful result we saw on the 18th.

- Growth is evident at St.Giles. That is to say, we are not content with the status quo. Instead, we, that mighty army of St.Giles volunteers, is always ready to undertake another challenge.

On the topic of challenges and growth, it is worth remembering that we are in our stewardship season - the time of year in which we consider how we return to God and his church a measure of our resources which, among other things, reflect His blessings on us. One might say that soliciting money now for our next budget would be a challenge; after all, we're in economic hard times, right? Truth is, the parishioners of St. Giles have never failed to meet a challenge, whether it be to organize a community supper to assist the less fortunate, or to fund the operations of their church. This is because, as members of a small church, we know what our needs are and understand our responsibility to keep this parish growing and vibrant.

Moreover, as a body of Christians, we understand that whether economic times are good or bad, we have much to be thankful for. So, in this stewardship season, let's ask ourselves, "What am I thankful for, and how will my response to those blessings grow the tiny part of God's Kingdom we know as St.Giles Church?"

—John Atwood

St. Giles' Family Wreath Decorating Party sponsored by ECW



*Sunday, November 30
Immediately after the service
We provide the wreath,
decorations and a bow plus...
Soup, sandwich, dessert
and a drink for the whole family!!!
All for \$10!!!!
Additional wreaths \$10 each.
Please mark your calendar, and join us
for a fun afternoon.*

Letter to the Editor

To the St. Giles Episcopal Church Community

On behalf of the staff and students of Whitefield Elementary School, I wish to thank you for your generous donation of school supplies. During these every difficult economic times as well as a tight education budget it is so nice to be a recipient of your kindness.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness and your generosity. You have helped numerous students who otherwise would have done without many of those supplies or whose families would have had to struggle to provide.

Thanks so much from all of us here at Whitefield Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Doris Masterson, School Secretary



Pets are a blessing!

On Sunday October 5, many cats, dogs and hamsters came to St. Giles to socialize and be blessed by Father John Van Siclen. Owners, pets and spectators alike were entertained by the antics of their four-legged friends. "Gilles (pronounced "Jilly", pictured at center below, with Betsy Lee) is St. Giles' namesake cat since she was found and adopted in the church parking lot.



Bits and Pieces...

On November 9th, the Sunday closest to Veteran's Day, those who have served in the military are encouraged to wear appropriate head gear and be recognized for their service to our country during the liturgy. In this small way, we give thanks to God for all those, and especially the members of this parish, who have served our country so faithfully.

Mark your calendar: The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane, Bishop of Maine, will make his first visit to St. Giles' on Sunday, December 7th, the Second Sunday of Advent. In addition to preaching and celebrating the Eucharist, Bishop Steve will be meeting with the Vestry and taking the clergy out to lunch following worship. Please make every effort to "swell the ranks" to welcome Bishop Steve and Gretchen Lane to St. Giles'.

—John Van Siclen

Diocesan Youths Plan 2009 Mission Trip to Jalonga, Dominican Republic

In the summer of 2009, Anna and Laura Lee along with 13 other students and 4 adults from churches throughout the Diocese of Maine will be traveling to Jalonga, a village in the Dominican Republic. This is part of an ongoing mission project to Jalonga that has already been served by two previous mission teams. They built and equipped a bakery that has provided 8-10 jobs and has cut the price of bread in half. Our next project is undefined as of now, but we plan to either help with water systems or new houses.

The previous two mission teams had very successful Vacation Bible School turnouts with up to a hundred children from the village and surrounding area. We will provide stories, healthy snacks and fun crafts in a safe and loving environment.

The team started meeting in May of 2008 and has been actively preparing by working on team building, spiritual growth and learning the Spanish language. We have also been fundraising for the trip by doing car washes, bottle drives, church suppers and publicity. The

total cost of our mission trip will be \$ 30,000 (\$2000 per participant) including the plane tickets, food for us and the children, the money for the work project and the crafts and games for the children. We will be paying for our own tickets and each dollar donated will go straight to the people in the Dominican Republic. We are looking forward to being with the Dominicans and can't wait to help them as much as possible.

The success in this mission completely depends on God's grace and providence. We would be very grateful for your prayers and support in this challenge. Please join us in our outreach mission to Jolonga and potentially receive a beautiful handmade quilt by attending a Dominican Dinner on November 15th at 6:00 at St. Giles. Traditional Dominican fare will be served, and a slide show from past trips will be shown. Any donation you feel compelled to give, will go straight to help the children of Jalonga and make their lives a little brighter. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. You will be in ours.

—Betsy Lee

Changes to Altar Area

number of times servers go up and down. Requires more adjustments but none are insurmountable.

Both plans will require the assistance of professionals to help in the exact "how". There are many smaller details that need to be addressed once a decision has been made on how to proceed. The altar rail, pulpit, lectern, pews, etc will remain with whatever alterations are needed.

How much will it cost? How to pay for the renovation? These still need to be addressed once a plan is decided upon by the Priest and Vestry.

Parishioners' reflections on these ideas is sought. We are creating a model of the altar and computer altered photos to help envision how the altar will look. What are your concerns? There will be a display in Jewett Hall where you can provide your feedback or feel free to talk to Father John, Charlene Donahue - Altar Committee chair, Ken Marden, George Jones, Jean Greenwood, Dick Pickering or any member of the vestry.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Donahue

Operation Christmas Child

The Outreach Ministry Team would like to invite you to participate in this year's Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse. Many of you know this project as the "shoebox" Christmas gift program. The idea is simple. Take a shoebox (cardboard or clear plastic) and fill it with little gifts for a boy or girl- things like school supplies, small toys, hygiene items, hard candy and lollipops, t-shirts, sun-

glasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, flashlights w/ extra batteries. Include a note and a photo of yourself or your family if you'd like. Add a \$7.00 donation for each box to cover shipping. Then bring your box to church no later than November 16th so they will arrive at their destination in time for Christmas. For millions of children, Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes are a tangible expression of God's love and constant presence.

Brochures with more complete instructions and a donation envelope are available in the church narthex.

United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering: Nov. 23, 2008

From a letter from Robin Johnson, Maine Diocesan UTO Coordinator:

"There have been some changes in the UTO granting policy and criteria. Yearly offerings have dropped by over \$1.1 million since 2004 and there is just not enough to go around.

We can hope these changes are a short-term fix to a temporary problem."

This is a sad statement as there are so many worthy needs around the world and right here in America that have been met through this Offering.

Please consider participating in the Ingathering on November 23rd as part of your thanks to God for the blessings which we have all around us.

— Carolyn Gray

Lay Ministry for November 2008

Nov. 2 The Celebration of All Saints'

Readers: George Jones & Cynthia White
Chalice/Intercessor: Jean Greenwood
Oblationers: Trudi Hodgkins
& Carolyn Gray

Greeter: Jean Miller
Server: Laura Lee
Nursery: Meegan Burbank
Coffee: Nancy Saulniers
& Lyndia Gould
Altar: Cynthia White & Kay Dale

Nov. 9 Twenty-Sixth after Pentecost

Readers: Raymond Anderson
& Carolyn Gray
Chalice: Charlene Donahue
Intercessor: Ken Marden
Oblationers: Wendy & Tom Eichler
Greeter: Joe Gray
Server: Jean Greenwood
Nursery: Catherine Anderson
Coffee: Dotti Meyer & Jill Huber
Altar: Jean Greenwood & Linda Pierpont

Nov. 16 Twenty-Seventh after Pentecost

Readers: Kay Dale & Jean Miller
Chalice: Dotti Meyer
Intercessor: Trudi Hodgkins
Oblationers: George Jones
& Nancy Saulniers
Greeter: Cynthia White
Server: Anna Lee
Nursery: Kevin/Christy Rousseau
Coffee: Linda Pierpont & Ken Marden
Altar: Tom & Wendy Eichler

Nov. 23 The Last Sunday after Pentecost

Readers: Tom Eichler
& Catherine Anderson
Chalice: John Atwood
Intercessor: Wendy Eichler
Oblationers: Jean Miller & Ken Marden
Greeter: Linda Pierpont
Server: Devon Huntley
Acolytes: Emily Huber
& Roberta Anderson
Nursery: Cathi Laweryson
Coffee: Charlene Donahue
& Cynthia White
Altar: Nancy Saulniers & Lamar Carroll

Nov. 30 The First Sunday of Advent

Readers: George Van Deventer
& Linda Pierpont
Chalice: Charlene Donahue
Intercessor: Meegan Burbank
Oblationers: Richar & JoanneGross
Greeter: Kay Dale
Server: Devon Huntley
Nursery: David/Rachael Richmond
Coffee: Betsy Lee & Linda/Jimmy Brown
Altar: Anne Bills

Prayer List

*Please keep these people and their families
in your hearts and prayers:*

Sela Basso
Steve Botka
James Capper
Richard Chick
John Cudmore
Jim Funk
Rick Gribbin
Dane Hannum
Judy Marden
Margaret Pham
Tim Pickering
Konnor Scofield
Steven Sinclair
Brooks Skinner
Clarence Sutherland
Leon Tsomides
Keith Walker

Dec. 7 The Second Sunday of Advent

Readers: Ken Marden & Kay Liss
Chalice/Intercessor: Jean Greenwood
Oblationers: The Anderson Family
Greeter: Tom/Wendy Eichler
Server: Laura Lee
Nursery: Anna Lee
Coffee: Richard/Joanne Gross
& Carolyn Gray

Family Days in November

2nd — Colby Dill
9th — Bob Ferrier
16th — Roberta Giampetruzzi
23rd — Eric & Lyndia Gould & Family
30th — Joe & Carolyn Gray

Birthdays in November

6th — Diane Huntley
7th — Gwenda Capper
11th — Joe Gray
15th — Jerre Colby
17th — Alan Hargreaves & Doris Miete
18th — Bob Ferrier & Nancy Saulniers
19th — Kevin Rousseau
21st — Dotti Meyer
22nd — Brian Huntley
27th — David Mason

Anniversaries in November

7th — Brian & Rosa Redonnett
11th — Malcolm & Mona Ridley

Lessons For November

Nov 2 Celebration of All Saints'
First Lesson Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10,22
Second Lesson: I John 3:1-4
Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

Nov. 9 Twenty-Sixth after Pentecost

First Lesson Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25
or Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 78:1-7
Second Lesson I Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

Nov 16 Twenty-Seventh after Pentecost

First Lesson Judges 4:1-7
or Zephaniah 1:7,12-18
Psalm 123 or 90:1-8,12
Second Lesson 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

Nov 23 The Last after Pentecost

First Lesson Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24
Psalm 100 or 95:1-7a
Second Lesson Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

Nov 30 The First of Advent

First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7,16-18
Second Lesson I Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel Mark 13:24-37

News from the Pine Hill Nursery School

We held a Trike-a-thon to raise funds for St. Jude's Children's research Hospital. After learning about bicycle safety for a week we headed for the playground to ride. It was a beautiful sunny day, perfect for a half hour of riding. We even got our picture in the Lincoln County News. The children raised funds for St. Jude's.

On October 20, Callie Saulniers brought her fire fighter uniform and equipment and shared lots of good safety tips with the children. She put on her outfit slowly, piece by piece, with lots of reassurance, and talked to the children so they could hear her 'distorted' voice. It was a valuable lesson. Then the best part, she let the kids try on her jacket, helmet, and mask. THANK YOU Callie!

pine hill press
 Monthly newsletter of
 St. Giles' Episcopal Church
 P.O. Box 34, Jefferson, ME 04348-0034
 549-3158

The Rev. John Van Siclen, *Priest in Charge*
 644-1132

The Rev. Leonetta Burns, *Deacon/Assistant Pastor*
 622-6811

Officers

John Atwood, *Senior Warden*
 586-5557

Vestry

Ken Marden <i>Junior Warden</i> 549-4783	Betsy Lee <i>Treasurer</i> 563-2942	Tom Eichler <i>Clerk</i> 549-3869
Debbie King (2009) 549-7872	Jean Greenwood (2010) 549-4704	Linda Pierpont (2011) 549-4663
James Brown (2009) 549-3913	Kevin Rousseau (2010) 549-4902	George Jones (2011) 832-7412

Newsletter deadline: Third Sunday of every month
 George Jones, Editor
 geoinmaine@verizon.net

From the Priest-in-Charge

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boundaries. Since my arrival at St. Giles', I have heard a preference for having the clergy bring communion to those who are unable to come to church. While I am familiar with this sentiment, it does not reflect the current understanding of the mission of the church in which all the baptized participate. I would like to have us have a much stronger relationship on a regular basis to our sick and shut-ins and monthly communions really should be the norm. How wonderful it would be for those who love St. Giles' and can't be with us on Sunday morning to be joined with us in this Eucharistic fellowship! Much like our Prayer Shawl Ministry, this Eucharistic ministry is filled with the Holy Spirit.

Lee and I would like to meet with anyone who has any interest in any of these ministries and those who are continuing to serve on Sunday, November 16 during Coffee Hour. Please come if you are just curious! And if you are interested in any of these ministries and can't be in church on November 16th, please let either Lee or me know of your interest. As more and more people come to "look us over" and explore joining our community, these significant ministries begin to show others that there is real spiritual depth at St. Giles' Church.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you!

John Van Siclen
 Priest in Charge

November Calendar

Sunday, November 2: 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, November 9: 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, November 13: 7:00 pm - Vestry meeting

Sunday, November 16: 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
Newsletter deadline!

Sunday, November 30: 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
 ECW Wreath Decorating Party after service

Save the Date!

Parish Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 21

*A good time of fellowship and wonderful food
 prepared by Meegan Burbank and Company.*

Christmas Carol sing

A reading of the Christmas story

by Rev. John Van Siclen

Sponsored by the Fellowship ministry team