



St. Giles' Episcopal Church, Jefferson, Maine  
[www.stgilesjefferson.org](http://www.stgilesjefferson.org)

Vol. 30, No. 1

January 2009

## Bishop Lane Visits, Meets with Vestry

### From the Priest in Charge

Dear Parish Family,

The liturgical seasons of Christmas and Epiphany carry an important message for our faith and how we share God's love with the world. As the shepherds and Wise Men depart and return to the familiar, they carry with them the Good News of Jesus' birth. Epiphany means manifestation. Something has changed. God has been revealed in human form. Now with Jesus the world can see God in new ways. And so, on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th and beyond, we ask ourselves a whole series of new questions.

For us at St. Giles', this liturgical season is joined with our Annual Meeting on January 11. The beginning of a new year seems to beg the question, "how will we manifest the Good News (that's what the word "gospel" means) to others?"

I recently had a conversation with a wise person of faith in which we agreed that all too often we assume that churches want to grow and are serious about sharing the good news. Many do not. We shouldn't assume that growth and proclamation are in the corporate DNA of a church.

But doesn't it seem quite apparent that St. Giles' cares about growth in a very real way? From the welcome of our greeting to someone who comes to worship for the first time to the extension of our outreach beyond ourselves into the community, our parishioners convey a willingness to share our faith with others. For that I am thrilled! For that you, too, should be very proud.

Whenever we are willing to connect our faith to the real needs of the world the mission of the Good News takes another step forward. It may not seem to be a big deal to us, but to someone else it can seem as if manna is falling from heaven. Think of those who

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Stephen Lane, the newly installed Episcopal Bishop of Maine, made his first visit to St. Giles' December 7. The Bishop celebrated the Eucharist with St. Giles' clergy and parishioners, joined with the parish in an extended coffee hour, and met after the service with the vestry.

At the vestry meeting, Bishop Lane said that while his predecessor, Bishop Chilton Knudson, asked the parish to wait three years after Father Bob Jewett's death before proceeding with the search for a permanent new priest-in-charge, Lane said he is "willing to consult on that matter." He said it wouldn't make sense for the parish to conduct a nationwide search for a part-time position. When vestry members noted that St. Giles' is growing beyond the "family size" parish of the recent past, Lane said the work load of a part-time priest in such a parish might present difficulties.

Bishop Lane indicated that he sees a need to revise the diocese's understanding of the role of deacons in the Church. That role is to take the Church out into the world, "to do something with our Christianity," he said. He objected to a tendency to see deacons as "junior priests," presiding at "Deacon's Masses" — a term he said is inaccurate — and also taking on pastoral care and administrative duties. This confuses the respective roles of deacon and priest, he said, roles that should be "collaborative and complementa-

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## Notes from The Senior Warden

**I**t's snowing (again!) as I write this on the morning of the second to last day of the year. These conditions, meteorological and temporal, bring several thoughts to mind.

The first of these is that snow and challenging weather are a very common phenomenon in Maine in the winter. Each of us have learned various skills and, more importantly, attitudes to deal with this aspect of living here. Some retreat, withdraw and go into a five-month survival mode. Others welcome winter with its opportunities for outdoor sports or to catch up on reading or other hobbies. In recent weeks it has become evident that folks at St.Giles apply a third approach to this season; that is, a happy adaptability to the challenges of bad weather. Exhibit One would be the cancellation of church and the annual ECW Christmas cookie sale on December 14 due to the ice storm. Consistent with this flexible can-do approach, the cookie sale went on the following week with all baked goods sold. Exhibit Two occurred the following Sunday when an impending nor'easter required the rescheduling of the Greening of the Church and supper from early evening to just after the morning service. Thanks to the leadership of Tim Badgely, George Jones, Meegan Burbank, Dotti Meyer and their lieutenants the event was a great success. The church was decorated for Christmas, everyone was well fed, and all got home safely. Exhibit Three was the Christmas Eve service in which sixty plus hearty souls braved the freezing rain, the fog, and the black ice to worship and celebrate the birth of Jesus at St.Giles. (Heroine of the evening was our intrepid minister of music, Valerie Chipman and her daughter Larissa, who travelled from Lisbon to Jefferson in the storm to be at church to lead the music that evening).

Anyone familiar with St. Giles would not be surprised at this history. We continually meet challenges of all types and adapt to them with solutions that mix practicality with good cheer.

The second thought of the morning is that we may close 2008 and view it as a successful year for St. Giles. The list of examples supporting this conclusion are many, but it is worth listing a few:

- The seamless transition of leadership from Jeff Lewis to John Van Sicken.
- A variety of successful events such as those described above and: the annual Country Fair, the Homecoming Dinner, the first special patronal service funded by the Arlene Van Deventer Memorial Music Fund, the public supper with other churches to raise funds for energy assistance, the dedication of Jewett Hall and the Memorial Garden.

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## Bishop Lane Visits St. Giles

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ry." Instead of celebrating a Deacon's Mass (which is actually a mass from reserved sacrament) he said, it would be appropriate simply to have Morning Prayer and a sermon.

Bishop Lane downplayed the importance of the much-publicized withdrawal of four dioceses from the Episcopal Church of the United States over the issues of clergy sexual orientation and gender. This is the latest of many controversies in the church over "who's in and who's out," he said. He said the four dioceses account for only five percent of Episcopal Church membership, and even within those dioceses many parishes are refusing to join in the separation. Lane pointed out that despite the recent news, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori says she thinks the divisiveness within the Church over sexual orientation has peaked. There will always be disagreement among Episcopal Church members on the question, Lane said, but the Church's tradition is that all come to the Eucharistic table together despite differences.

On other matters, the bishop said the worship space at St. Giles has good proportions and he likes the building, but the altar sits too high, and red is a bad color for an altar-space carpet because it inhibits depth perception. He expressed interest in and concern about the weaknesses of the Maine economy, and also discussed the large carbon footprint of Mainers relative to population size. He encouraged "going green" in parishes, and sponsoring such activities as energy fairs.

*— Tom Eichler*

## ECW News

The ECW is thrilled to report that the wreath decorating party was a success. Not only did everyone have fun, we also sold all our wreaths and sent a check for \$340 to the Community Energy Fund. Thanks to all who helped make this a wonderful afternoon.

At our last meeting we agreed to have a Jan./Feb. meeting on Tuesday January 27th at Kay Dale's house. We will meet at 12:30 with lunch in hand. Our next regular meeting will be the first Tuesday in March.

*— Dotti Meyer*

## Directory changes

Please make a note of these additions and corrections in our parish contacts list:

Don & Susan Krause  
Cell: 203-505-5318  
email: sueanddonkrause@aol.com  
George Van Deventer  
email: gvan@midcoast.com

Ray Morin & Deb Lipton-Morin  
email: deblipton@roadrunner.com  
raymorin@roadrunner.com

## Stopping by St. Giles' on a Snowy Morning

Following is Bishop Lane's account of his visit to St. Giles', as it appeared on his blog in the Maine Episcopal Diocese website. You can read more about his travels around Maine at: <http://www.bishopstephen.wordpress.com>

**S**unday marked our first visitation in snow. There was a beautiful light snow falling as we left Portland. The roads were wet - and the warning signs suggested that they were icy - but our travel to St. Giles', Jefferson was uneventful. We arrived at St. Giles' in time for a brief rehearsal before the service.



St. Giles' is a wood frame building constructed in the mid-1950's. It's deceptive in appearance being much larger inside than it appears outside. A beautiful addition, Jewett Hall, named after the former rector and built in 2004, provides space for larger gatherings, vestry meetings, and a weekday daycare center.

St. Giles' is in transition and hopes to move into calling a new rector in 2010. Interim Rector John Van Sicle and Deacon Lee Burns are working well together and providing solid leadership for the transition. The parish has strong ministries and is experiencing modest growth.

Our visit began with a festal Eucharist, including a sung creed and the lighting of a large Advent wreath. The wreath is suspended from the ceiling and has a reputation for being cranky, but on this Sunday was steadily lowered for lighting and raised again. Following the service we gathered in Jewett Hall for a reception. After the reception I met with the wardens, vestry and clergy for a lively conversation. Topics included St. Giles' transition, the roles and relationships of deacons and priests, full communion with the Methodists, and the state of relations in the Anglican Communion.

As I talked with the vestry of St. Giles', I was asked what I saw as the greatest challenges facing the diocese. My responses were, first, how we remain a community given the great distances, the cost of transportation, and our need to reduce our carbon footprint. I talked about the need to use new technology and to experiment with video conferencing, distance learning, etc. The second challenge facing us is how we negotiate the changing Maine economy and the resulting dislocations. I talked about not only parish budgets, but the difficulty in attracting clergy. Our time at St. Giles' ended with a lunch with the clergy and spouses.

I'm slowly filling in my mental map of the diocese. In the morning we arrived in Jefferson by way of 295 and Gardiner and in the afternoon departed by way of Damariscotta and Rt. 1. It feels good to venture off the main roads and to head out cross-country. The pine forests had a beautiful dusting of white snow which gave the countryside a magical appearance. More of God's gifts to us.

+Stephen

## Brett Donham to Present a History of Church Buildings

Noted architect Brett Donham, a resident of Alna, will return to St. Giles' on Sunday, February 1 to provide us an opportunity to walk through history and view church building design. This primer of church architecture, from primitive house church to grand cathedral, from Romanesque, to gothic to contemporary, can serve as a background as St. Giles' undertakes alternations to the chancel (the area inside the communion rail around the altar) in 2009. Brett's slide show will take place during coffee hour and will be followed by time for questions and answers. Please join us for this important opportunity.

## From the Senior Warden

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- The first vestry/leadership retreat in some years.
- The expectation that we will end 2008 in the black.
- Increased attendance.

Finally, as we look back on 2008 and its challenges and successes, it is important for me to thank this year's vestry for its hard work and also to acknowledge especially the dedication of Jimmy Brown who leaves the vestry after three years of service to our parish. His wisdom and wit will be missed.

As we begin 2009, it is my prayer that St. Giles will experience a year as fruitful and joyous as the one we now leave.

— John Atwood

# *Sights of the Season*



# Lay Ministry for January 2009

## Jan. 4 Second Sunday after Christmas

Readers: George Van Deventer  
and Catherine Anderson  
Chalice/Intercessor: Dotti Meyer  
Oblationers: Tom & Wendy Eichler  
Greeter: Trudi Hodgkins  
Server: Jean Greenwood  
Nursery: Cathi Laweryson  
Coffee: Linda/Jimmy Brown  
and Jill Huber  
Altar: Linda Pierpont

## Jan. 11 First after Epiphany

Readers: Jean Greenwood  
and Trudi Hodgkins  
Chalice: George Jones  
Intercessor: Wendy Eichler  
Oblationers: Linda Pierpont  
and Carolyn Gray  
Greeter: Tom Eichler  
Server: Anna Lee  
Nursery: Laura Lee  
Coffee: Ken Marden & Dotti Meyer  
Altar: Kay Dale & Cynthia White

## Jan. 18 Second after Epiphany

Readers: Ken Marden & Liz Jones  
Chalice: Pam Van Siclen  
Intercessor: Kay Liss  
Oblationers: Nancy Saulniers  
and Jill Huber  
Greeter: Kay Dale  
Server: Devon Huntley  
Acolytes: Roberta Anderson  
and Emily Huber  
Nursery: Meegan Burbank  
Coffee: Linda Pierpont  
and Charlene Donahue  
Altar: Jean Greenwood

## Jan. 25 Third after Epiphany

Readers: Sidney Harvey & Kay Dale  
Chalice: Tim Badgley  
Intercessor: Jean Miller  
Oblationers: Richard & Joanne Gross  
Greeter: Joe Gray  
Server: Laura Lee  
Nursery: Anna Lee  
Coffee: Betsy Lee  
and Brigid Gibson-Griffin  
Altar: Nancy Saulniers & Lamar Carroll

## Feb. 1 Fourth after Epiphany

Readers: Raymond Anderson  
and Cynthia White  
Chalice/Intercessor: Charlene Donahue  
Oblationers: Linda Pierpont  
and Ken Marden  
Greeter: George Van Deventer  
Server: Jean Greenwood  
Nursery: Laura Lee

## Prayer List

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

Sela Basso  
Caitlin Bazinet  
Cassie Dighton  
Douglas Henson  
Allyson Hogan  
Karen & Keith Kersnowski  
Ryan LeClair  
Judy Marden  
Margaret Pham  
Steven Sinclair  
Leon Tsomides  
Cynthia White

Coffee: Liz Jones & Carolyn Gray  
Altar: Dotti Meyer

## Family Days in January

4th — Debbie King & Family  
11th — Brian & Diane Huntley & Family  
18th — Cathi Laweryson & Family  
25th — Ricky & Kim Lash & Family

## Birthdays in January

1st — Elizabeth Sinclair  
2nd — Emily Rousseau  
3rd — Joe Gould  
3rd — Rachael Richmond  
3rd — Bob Meyer  
4th — Kay Dale  
12th — Rebecca Bills  
14th — Blair May  
15th — Anna Lee  
19th — Nathan Hargreaves

The Rev. John Van Siclen,  
Priest in Charge

The Rev. Leonetta Burns,  
Deacon/Assistant Pastor

Valerie Chipman, Minister of Music  
Carroll Smith, Organist

22nd — Cathey Sell  
22nd — Tim Badgley  
24th — Jean Miller  
24th — Mona Ridley  
28th — David Richmond

## Anniversaries in January

1st — Eric & Lyndia Gould  
11th — Brian & Diane Huntley

## Lessons For January

**Jan. 4 Second after Christmas**  
First Lesson Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 84  
Second Lesson Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a  
Gospel Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

**Jan. 11 First after Epiphany**  
First Lesson Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Second Lesson Acts 19:1-7  
Gospel Mark 1:4-11

**Jan. 18 Second after Epiphany**  
First Lesson 1 Samuel 3:1-10  
Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17  
Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
Gospel John 1:43-51

**Jan. 25 Third after Epiphany**  
First Lesson Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:6-14  
Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Gospel Mark 1:14-20

**Feb. 1 Fourth after Epiphany**  
First Lesson Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Gospel Mark 1:21-28

## Did You Know?

Every issue of *The Pine Hill Press* costs about one dollar to produce and mail. We are happy to share news of our parish with regulars and those who we have not seen in church in a long while. If you fall into the latter category, we do hope to see you soon! In the meantime, would you consider a contribution to offset the cost of producing this publication? Donations can be sent care of *The Pine Hill Press*, to the attention of our treasurer, Betsy Lee, St. Giles' Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 34, Jefferson, ME 04348.



## January Calendar

**Sunday, January 4**  
 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

**Thursday, January 8**  
 7:00 pm - Vestry meeting

**Sunday, January 11**  
 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist  
 Annual Parish Meeting follows  
 (Snow date: January 25)

**Sunday, January 18**  
 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, January 25**  
 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

**Friday, January 30**  
 5:00 pm - Family Pizza and Movie Night

## St. Giles' Episcopal Church

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  
*Junior Warden*  
 549-4783

Betsy Lee  
*Treasurer*  
 563-2942

Tom Eichler  
*Clerk*  
 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  
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## From the Priest in Charge

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will receive fuel assistance this winter from the money raised in the fall or the person who receives one of our prayer shawls and places it over their shoulders as they struggle through illness. Think of Cynthia White's gratitude to those who drove her to radiation treatments.

Someone once told me that eight in ten persons in any given community are not part of a church family. That is both a staggering number and a staggering opportunity. The season of Epiphany can give us a time in which to extend a welcome to those we know who fit into the category. An invitation and the offer of a ride and a little help figuring out which page to turn to in the Book of Common Prayer can turn into a life-changing experience.

May this new year become an opportunity for each of us to extend ourselves through the wonderful gift of faith that we have been given.

Sincerely and faithfully,  
 John