



St. Giles' Episcopal Church, Jefferson, Maine
www.stgilesjefferson.org

Vol. 30, No. 5

May 2009

Bread, Wine and Water: Improving Safety and Function in Our Church

Beginning about a year ago, following many gifts to St. Giles' in memory of Betty Ann Dill, the Vestry voted to move forward on alterations to the altar area. The reason for this decision is both surprising and simple. At least two parishioners had the unfortunate experience of walking out of the door from the Sacristy into the church, tripping over the step by the pulpit, falling and... breaking bones. In addition, the three steps up to the altar from inside the chancel (the area inside the altar rail) has also proved precarious for clergy and Eucharistic Ministers, many of whom wear bifocal glasses. Your Vestry's overwhelming decision was that the time had come to make St. Giles' a safer space!

There were several meetings beginning last summer and continuing into the new year. Some were group sessions aimed at redesign options. One other, on a Sunday morning hosted Alna architect Brett Donham who presented a very informative presentation on the history of church architecture.

Over this time, three different options have emerged and at

its April meeting, the Vestry voted to move ahead to alter the altar area this summer. Former Junior Warden Dick Pickering has stepped up to be the Clerk of the Works for this important project. Following another Vestry meeting on April 26th, it was agreed that we will have a special presentation on Sunday, June 7 to decide which of the three plans (or renditions thereof) we should choose.

On the three middle Sundays of May during announcements, I will explain each of the three plans: **Bread, Wine and Water**. These is nothing extra special about the plans other than they sound a heck of a lot better than X, Y and Z!

Here, in brief, are the three plans. Keep in mind that when you enter the church there are four steps up to the altar.

Bread: This plan removes the top two steps. In doing so, it takes away the troublesome two steps that give clergy and Eucharistic Ministers the shivers and creates more space inside the altar rail. It does not remove the step outside the Sacristy that resulted in the broken bones. Without this step removed, the altar rail would not be accessible to those in wheel chairs. Two additional suggestions to this plan would be to widen the center opening of the altar rail to enable two clergy to pass through at the same time and create an opening at the end where the altar rail meets the wall so that the clergy would have access to the Reserved Sacrament by the Sacristy door.

Wine: This plan removes the top three steps. It replaces the current altar rail with two right angles with a horizontal rail that goes from one end of the chancel to the other. With one step up from the ground floor of the church, this plan pushes that step back beyond the entry of the Sacristy and makes that step the kneeler space. Aside from greater accessibility to the communion rail and removal of all troublesome steps (out of the Sacristy and around the altar space), the major benefit of this plan is to create a much greater sense of openness inside the communion rail.

Water: This plan is basically the same as Wine, with three other changes. In order to create more space ahead of the communion rail in the Wine plan, this plan removes the kneeler in front of the first pew. Since the pulpit and the lectern become detached from the first step as a result of the Wine plan, the second change would be to place locking wheels under the pulpit and a broader base under the lectern so that these two pieces of

Interfaith Seder at St. Giles



St. Giles parishioners had a chance to experience an instructed Seder led by Karen Filler (left), a member of Beth Israel Congregation in Bath. The elements of the Passover meal, symbolize the exodus of the Jews from Egypt. Paul Fuller and George Jones prepared a meal of lamb, rice and "mac and cheese" for the kids.

Notes from the Senior Warden

We once had St. Giles bumper stickers which read, "Things are Happening at St. Giles!" We should get them back, because we have had a busy winter and will have an even busier summer.

On May 24, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Pine Hill Nursery School and recognize Dotti Meyer's 20th year as its director. This happy event will be in addition to our traditional Mother's Day breakfast on May 10 to which Tim Badgely and the Fellowship Ministry Team will be adding some new innovations. (We need men to wait on tables). Most importantly, on Sunday, May 31, we will have a special Pentecost service enhanced with poetry and special music afforded by the Arlene Van Deventer Memorial Fund.

On June 7, the parish is invited to a post-service meeting with architect Brett Donham to explore and, hopefully, come to a consensus as to plans for improving our altar space. In June, we will also recognize our students in Christian Discovery (Sunday School) and celebrate Father's Day on the appointed Sunday. Importantly also, we will honor Anna-Marie Lee and Devon Huntley for their years as servers and acolytes.

July will also be a busy month as Father Van Siclen is planning a reprise of last year's Independence Day service on July 5. The following Sunday, July 12, the parish of St. Giles will be invading Hadlock Field to cheer on the Sea

Dogs, (see Kevin Rousseau for tickets). After the service on July 19, we will have a brief mid-year meeting of the parish. The following Saturday, July 25, of course, is the annual St. Giles Country Fair which is not only our principal fundraiser, it's also a lot of fun! (volunteers needed). The next day, Sunday, July 26, logistics and weather permitting, we hope to have an outdoor service at which the Memorial Garden will be rededicated,

August will see a continuation of parish ventures with two post-service sessions on the sources of our faith called, "Episcopal 101". Finally, on August 30, we will celebrate St. Giles Day.

So, fasten your seatbelts - no lazy, hazy days of summer at St. Giles!

— John Atwood

New Books of Common Prayer Coming to a Pew Near You

Over the coming weeks, you will notice that we have replaced the well worn Books of Common Prayer in the pews with 50 brand new copies. As part of this initiative, we will be offering St. Giles community members a chance to dedicate a copy in memory or honor of a loved one. Simply write a check for \$20 with "BCP book drive" in the memo line and make it out to St. Giles. Of course, you are more than welcome to dedicate more than one copy. Not only will your donation cover the cost of the book but a label dedicating the copy to your designated honoree will be placed on the inside cover.

— Kevin Rousseau

St. Giles' Episcopal Church

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our mission is to bring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ, through worship, education ministry and service.

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

The Rev. Leonetta Burns, Deacon
622-6811

Vestry

John Atwood, Senior Warden
586-5557

Ken Marden
Junior Warden
549-4783

Betsy Lee
Treasurer
563-2942

Tom Eichler
Clerk
549-3869

Debbie King
(2010)
549-7872

Jean Greenwood
(2010)
549-4704

Linda Pierpont
(2011)
549-4663

Trudi Hodgkins
(2012)
549-3941

Kevin Rousseau
(2010)
549-4902

George Jones
(2011)
832-7412

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



Christy and Kevin Rousseau with son Jacob, left, enjoy Easter brunch with Meegan Burbank and her daughter Alwyn.

Lay Ministry for May 2009

May 3rd **Fourth of Easter**
 Readers: Jean Miller & Carolyn Gray
 Chalice/Intercessor: Charlene Donahue
 Oblationers: George Jones & Linda Pierpont
 Greeter: Wendy Eichler
 Server: Anna Lee
 Nursery: Kevin/Christy Rousseau
 Coffee: Jill Huber & Linda Brown
 Altar: Kay Dale & Cynthia White

May 10th **Fifth of Easter**
 Readers: Sidney Harvey & Tom Eichler
 Chalice: George Jones
 Intercessor: Dotti Meyer
 Oblationers: Richard & Joanne Gross
 Greeter: Carolyn Gray
 Server: Devon Huntley
 Nursery: Anna Lee
 Coffee: Ken Marden
 (Mother's Day Brunch)
 Altar: Jean Greenwood

May 17th **Sixth of Easter**
 Readers: Jean Greenwood & Catherine Anderson
 Chalice: John Atwood
 Intercessor: Trudi Hodgkins
 Oblationers: Jean Miller & Nancy Saulniers
 Greeter: George Jones
 Server: Laura Lee
 Acolytes: Roberta Anderson & Emily Huber
 Nursery: Meegan Burbank
 Coffee: Linda Pierpont & Cynthia White
 Altar: Dotti Meyer

May 24th **Seventh of Easter**
 Readers: Raymond Anderson & Pam Van Siclen
 Chalice: Sidney Harvey
 Intercessor: Ken Marden
 Oblationers: Carolyn Gray & Jill Huber
 Greeter: Carolyn Gray
 Server: Anna Lee
 Nursery: Laura Lee
 Coffee: Charlene Donahue & Betsy Lee
 Altar: Nancy Saulniers & Lamar Carroll

May 31st **Day of Pentecost**
 Readers: George Van Deventer & Liz Jones
 Chalice: Jane Pickering
 Intercessor: George Jones
 Oblationers: Tom & Wendy Eichler
 Greeter: Dotti Meyer
 Server: Devon Huntley
 Nursery: Catherine Anderson
 Coffee: Brigid Griffith & Jean Miller
 Altar: Tom & Wendy Eichler

Prayer List

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

Mij & Bob Bradford
Sally Brun
Richard Chick
the Cohen family
David Dixon
Bob Ferrier
Dixon Kunzelmann
Judy Marden
Blair May
Jim Nelson
Margaret Pham
Betty Ross
Joe Russano
Steven Sinclair
Mary Staab
Leon Tsomides
Josey & Ian

June 7th **First after Pentecost**
 Readers: Charlene Donahue & Liz Jones
 Chalice/Intercessor: Richard Pickering
 Oblationers: The Anderson Family
 Greeter: Tom Eichler
 Server: Laura Lee
 Nursery: Cathi Laweryson
 Coffee: Trudi Hodgkins & Carolyn Gray
 Altar: Linda Pierpont

Family Days in May

3rd — Brad & Martha Tait
 10th — The Sinclair Family
 Rosa, Bob & Elizabeth
 17th — Cynthia White
 24th — Cliff & Margaret Williams
 31st — John & Pam Van Siclen

The Rev. John Van Siclen,
 Priest in Charge

The Rev. Leonetta Burns, Deacon

Valerie Chipman, Minister of Music

Birthdays in May
 5th — Laura Lee
 7th — Christy Rousseau
 10th — Lucilla Archer
 12th — Catherine Anderson
 17th — Erin King
 18th — Caroline Bills
 19th — Ed Grant
 20th — Lamar Carroll
 21st — Lyndia Gould
 21st — Amber Saulniers
 22nd — Robert Buck
 26th — Nicholas Huber
 28th — Kaylee Antognoni

Anniversaries May
 26th — Raymond & Catherine Anderson
 28th — Brad & Martha Tait

Lessons For May

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| May 3rd | Fourth of Easter |
| First Lesson | Acts 4:5-12 |
| Psalm | 23 |
| Second Lesson | 1 John 3:16-24 |
| Gospel | John 10:11-18 |

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| May 10th | Fifth of Easter |
| First Lesson | Acts 8:26-40 |
| Psalm | 22:24-30 |
| Second Lesson | 1 John 4:7-21 |
| Gospel | John 15:1-8 |

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| May 17th | Sixth of Easter |
| First Lesson | Acts 10:44-48 |
| Psalm | 98 |
| Second Lesson | 1 John 5:1-6 |
| Gospel | John 15:9-17 |

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| May 24th | Seventh of Easter |
| First Lesson | Acts 1:15-17,21-26 |
| Psalm | 1 |
| Second Lesson | 1 John 5:9-13 |
| Gospel | John 17:6-19 |

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| May 31st | Day of Pentecost |
| First Lesson | Acts 2:1-21 |
| Psalm | 104 |
| Second Lesson | Romans 8:22-27 |
| Gospel | John 15:26-27;16:4b-15 |

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| June 7 | Trinity Sunday |
| First Lesson | Isaiah 6:1-8 |
| Psalm | 29 |
| Second Lesson | Romans 8:12-17 |
| Gospel | John 3:1-17 |

May Calendar

Sunday, May 3

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
Mother's Day brunch follows

Sunday, May 10

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, May 14

7:00 pm - Vestry meeting

Sunday, May 17

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 24

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 31

Pentecost Sunday
9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
with performances by the Praise Dancers

Bread, Wine and Water

Continued from page 1

furniture could be moved when the church is used for gatherings other than worship. Finally, two pews on both sides would be shortened to create a "cut-out" in the center of the nave at the approximate place where the gospel is read. The primary use of the space would be for persons in wheelchairs, who would not have to remain at the back of the church during worship, but who could be in the center of the congregation. In addition, this space could serve as a location for a casket at a funeral.

Please come to church on Sunday, June 7 at 9:30 a.m. I can't stress that enough. We want everyone to be a part of this process! Architect Brett Donham will facilitate this meeting and walk us through a process in order to reach a final decision so that the work may begin. By the way, Brett's firm has a very informative website where some of his designs of churches can be viewed (www.donhamandsweeney.com). With a shortened service on June 7, we will move into a town hall type forum for our discussion and—I promise—we will be finished by 11:45...or else...! Finally, special thanks should go to Charlene Donahue, the head of the altar committee and to George Jones and Paul Fuller, who constructed the scale model of the chancel that appears in Jewett Hall.

—John Van Siclen

The Role of the Bishop

The office of Bishop is one of three ordained ministries in the Episcopal Church, the others being priest and deacon. A bishop is at the same time both a priest and a deacon. A bishop's previous ordinations are not removed, they are added to. The bishop is our personal messenger of Jesus. Bishops ordain priests and deacons. The bishop presides at services of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation. The bishop blesses altars and fonts, and chalices, patens and church bells. The bishop could be said to be the president of the diocese, if the Diocese of Maine were a business. In Maine, our Bishop is Stephen Lane. In order to fulfill his duties to the diocese, he needs to be a person of vision and leadership.

Priests share with the bishop in overseeing the local church; to proclaim the gospel; to administer the sacraments. The priest works directly with the people under the supervision and guidance of the bishop. In most cases, we get our spiritual help from our parish priest.

Deacons exercise "a special ministry of servanthood." He or she work for the bishop, serving all people, especially those in need. Deacons read the Gospel, set the table during the Eucharist and dismiss the people at the end of service.

This is a synopsis of the roles. Terry Berry, our postulate for the diaconate, is available to answer questions or recommend publications that go into greater detail as to the roles of bishops, priest and deacons.

— Terry Berry