

Happy 25th
Birthday,

Pine Hill
Nursery School

Pine Hill press

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

Vol. 30, No. 6

June 2009



Parents and friends of this year's students at Pine Hill Nursery School pose outside St. Giles on May 21 after a birthday party celebrating PHNS's 25th birthday. About 70 gathered in Jewett Hall for hot dogs, chips, lemonade and a beautiful birthday cake.

To celebrate the 25th birthday of Pine Hill Nursery School, its director Dotti Meyer was asked by Fr. John to give the sermon on Sunday, May 24.

About a month ago, Father John asked me to give a talk about the history of Pine Hill Nursery School. I said sure I'd be happy to do that. So I started writing the history of Pine Hill as I know it.

It's a pretty straightforward story. The Jefferson Village School had used our undercroft for its Kindergarten classroom during the late 1970s and early 80s. When they moved over to the school itself the vestry started looking at how to utilize the space during the week. A task force from the vestry formed in the summer of 1984 under the leadership of Fr. Bill Murdoch. Flora Arnold, clerk, Harold Sonia, Jr. Warden and Tom Deschaine, Sr. Warden met initially. Tom Deschaine had many years of experience in the field of education as a teacher and a principal and suggested a preschool program to utilize the space. Harold Sonia's neigh-

bor Debby Cade who was teaching in a preschool in Waldoboro at that time was invited to join the task force to discuss this idea. Debby felt there was a need for a local program and agreed to be on the task force. Over the summer plans came together, a license was obtained, church members donated toys and bookshelves were built by Bob Ferrier and painted by Elizabeth Sinclair, advertising went out and Pine Hill Nursery School opened in September 1984 under the directorship of Debby Cade with Sue Barker as assistant teacher. Both were experienced teachers with college degrees in elementary education. This task force, which now included Rosa Sinclair, the church treasurer, and the two teachers, met monthly throughout the first year. It became obvious that the school was not generating enough money to sustain itself. The vestry voted to cover salaries as needed for at least two years in order to get the program established. It was felt that this was a necessary community service and that confidence in the program

Continued on page 5

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Parish Family,

Debbie King and I have become especially close since we learned that we would both be celebrating a birthday this summer that ends in a 0 (it begins with an even number!). As I get close to this important passage, I find that I am deeply reflective of the past and grateful for the future. Two insights I've had involve this wonderful experience you and I share called parish ministry.

Well over half my life has been spent serving in churches. They've been all types. I started as a choirboy wearing a high stiff collar, *a la* an English boy chorister. From so many pews and pulpits, my image of the parish is of a jewel. Some are scratched and tarnished and need to be polished as a result of wear or inattention. Others are bright showpieces. But most sit in their boxes ready to be picked up, embraced and given proper respect. When they are brought out from the back of the bureau, their beauty is rediscovered. They reappear on a neck, a finger or a lapel, and they draw adoring praise. Often the praise even gets transferred to the wearer, and everyone is the better. The jewel shines. Beauty is revealed. The world is a much better place. So many parishes I've known are jewels that have come out from the back of the bureau. They are communities of radiance. St. Giles' is that parish. Each of you is a jeweler's cut on that gem that fits together to make our community of faith a place of light and joy. This is the first of my decanal insights.

The second is very different. Growing up having a father who worked in New York City, I remember my mother taking me down into the bowels of the NYC subway system for the first time. She had taught me that a man always walked down the sidewalk on the side closest to the street so that a woman would be protected from a splash of water or mud. She also taught me about the third rail next to the far wall of the subway platform. "That is the third rail," she said. And then in her stark, dark way she continued, "If you touch it you will die." After all these many years, all of these decades, as I enter my seventh, I observe that there is a third rail in parish ministry. Time and time again I have seen a parish come close to the third rail. The third rail of parish life is that what we think we are about is about us. It is our agenda. It is organizing, with the best of intentions, around what we think we want to do for God's glory. Thank God we can see across the wide gulf from the subway platform and can be reminded that the third rail is there. And we know its power to destroy. The real message about all of this is that we are here to show forth God's glory, not our own. Most of the time we need to shed our own needs and prayerfully ask what God wants. I'm currently the search consultant for St. Margaret's in Belfast. They are getting ready to call a new rector. I know the Search Committee has worked hard and done a supremely good job. As they are getting close to making a final choice

on one candidate, I want to remind them of the reality of the third rail: it is not what they want or even the consensus they have achieved around one candidate. It is something very different. It is what God wants. It's always about what God wants, not what we want. That is what makes this enterprise we share called parish ministry so challenging and, oftentimes, so difficult. That is the third rail. Infinite prayer and discernment are required. Tremendous openness and vulnerability. Repeated giving of ourselves away to God and to each other. Sacrificial love.

St. Giles' future is so bright because there is something in the collective DNA of this place that reminds us of these two very different realities: the jewel and the third rail. I'm privileged to be here and I hope you feel the same and I'm very excited to cross over into a new decade praying and worshipping and serving Jesus in this place.

Sincerely and faithfully,

John

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

Notes from the Senior Warden

In reflecting on a topic for my column in this month's PHP, I eventually arrived at what should have been obvious to me for at the beginning of this thought process. That is, each of us has much to be grateful for at St. Giles. I have my own list; it's a long one, but because I'm sure our editor doesn't want to turn this whole issue of the PHP over to me, I'll need to abbreviate my list.

At the top of my list, is the energy and enthusiasm of the many in our parish who makes things happen. Consider these examples:

- On May 31, we will have a Pentecost celebration that will be remembered for many years. How did this happen? Our creative George Van Deventer, along with a large cast, including Valerie Chipman, put this program together and it was funded by the Arlene Van Deventer Fund to which many of you contributed.
- We are preparing for the annual Country Fair and I am grateful to the leadership of Debbie King, Betsy Lee and George Van Deventer who will be co-chairing this event. They are well underway in assuming the important role which Jane Pickering had for a number of years. As most of you know, the Fair is fun, our principle fund-raiser, and serves to reinforce our connection to the community.
- Shortly, we'll be making some important decisions about our altar space and how, if at all, it should be "altered". I am grateful for an open-minded parish which is willing to consider a change of this significance, for Charlene Donahue's leadership of the Altar Guild, Dick Pickering's preparedness to tackle this job, and John Van Sicken's support of a sound decision-making process to address this issue.
- Many of us tout St. Giles' welcoming atmosphere as one of its principal attractions. An important aspect of this feature of our church is coffee hour. Every week several volunteers make sure that we have coffee and delicious treats for all, including the little ones. Ever notice that almost everyone comes to coffee hour? As important, first-time visitors are welcomed to our church by the many of us who make an effort at coffee hour to welcome them. So, thank you to all who reinforce our warm and happy atmosphere by arranging coffee hour each week.
- I am thankful for Terry Berry's presence in our parish for the past several months and Lee Burns' opportunity for a brief sabbatical. They have given us an appreciation for the ministry which deacons provide and, while Lee will be missed acutely, we can look forward to her return after a summer off and the opportunity to enjoy her retirement.
- Stability in any organization, particularly a small one, is important. In our case our hard working vestry and particularly Betsy Lee and Ken Marden, our treasurer and Junior Warden, make sure that the ship stays afloat. As Senior Warden, I am thankful that these people are always there to address the day-to-day needs of the business of our parish.

- My list of reasons and people at St. Giles to be grateful for shouldn't end here; as I said before, the list could go on and on. Perhaps you have your own list and would like to identify someone whose ministry at St. Giles touches you or others. If so, tell him or her, or write a note, We all share in the blessings of this loving parish, so why not let others know of your gratitude for their work that makes this such a special place to worship?

— John Atwood

Mark Your Calendars!

The 55th Annual St. Giles
Country Fair and Chicken Barbeque.
Saturday, July 26
Country Fair 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Auction 10:00 am
Barbeque 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Raffle Drawing 2:00 pm

This year's Fair will be chaired by Debbie King, Betsy Lee and George VanDeventer.

Donations for the Auction, White Elephant, Books, Tools, and the General Store should be placed in the Nursery School Room in their designated areas after mid-June. Please do NOT put donations in the Glory Hole. Keep in mind that used electronics do not sell and present a disposal problem for us.

All large items for the auction need to be approved by Cathy Sell, our auction chair, prior to delivery. So, clean out your attic, shed, closets, storage rooms, or whatever so that we can benefit our beloved St. Giles' Church with your "kindly used leftovers". Call Debbie King (549-7872), BetsyLee (563-2942), George Van Deventer (677-2840) or Cathy Sell (549-3513) with any questions.

This year's raffle grand prize is a sumptuous hand-made quilt by Lu Archer. There are other worthy items donated by members of St. Giles and area businesses.

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets may be purchased at church on Sundays, or through the mail by sending a check to Betsy Lee, or on the day of the fair. You do not need to be present to win!

More information will appear in the July Pine Hill Press. Our Fair and Barbeque are St. Giles' largest fund raiser; please participate. People are particularly needed for clean-up. The raffle tickets are now available in Jewett Hall - so, Sell, Sell, Sell!

A Letter from Our Deacon

Dear St. Giles' Family,

Since retiring from my vocation as a registered nurse caring for pediatric patients in the early years and then oncology patients most recently, I'm finding more time to focus on my spiritual and physical life. Much of my prayer time takes place while walking, gardening, or reclaiming a ledge or stone wall. God is 'so present' in creation and all that surrounds us each day.

In our church, this is the season of Pentecost. We celebrate the Feast of Pentecost as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and the beginning of their public proclamation of Jesus as the Christ. As a church we are called to explore the significance of the church itself as the sign of Christ's continuing presence and ongoing activity in the world. As followers of Christ, we are called to be an example of Christ's love and to share it with the world.

With all of this in mind, I have decided to take a three month Sabbath. No, it is not long enough, but I do hope to be refreshed and inspired on my return. I plan to spend some time on retreat at the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Cambridge. I would like to share with you part of a recent sermon by Br. Mark Brown, SSJE (he visited St. Giles last year). Br. Mark shares his experience of resurrection through the provocative practice of rest. In a world fraught with hyper-stimulation and activity, the practice of rest is decidedly counter cultural. These are his words:

"The Sabbath is, on one level, about stopping work, resting the body and mind for a day. As our Rule puts it, the day of rest is an essential component of our covenant with God [chapter 45]. And, according to our Rule, not only the week, but each day should have its moments of repose. And the longer rhythms of life should include extended periods of rest. As our Rule puts it, "we are called to bear witness to the world of the graciousness and wisdom of the Sabbath".

"But Colossians points us to the deeper reality of Sabbath, the deeper substance of Sabbath that is with us wherever we are, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From now and into all eternity. The Sabbath that is Christ himself, in whom we find our true rest.

"Resting in Christ is not wafting through life in a passive state. Repose in Christ may compel us to sit quietly at the master's feet at times. But repose in Christ can, paradoxically, compel us to all kinds of creative exertion. Christ is, after all, the creative Word of God, the One through whom all things come to be. Resting in him, we can be caught up in his creative work.

"And resting in Christ is not anesthesia and does not guarantee euphoria and bliss. It means real engagement with real life. Resting in Christ is no insulation from pain



or suffering or anger or fear or frustration. Resting in Christ, who is all compassion, can, in fact, put us in touch with the enormous suffering of the world. And compel us to action.

"As it happens, the more caught up we are in activity, the less we are consciously aware of our grounding in the life of Christ. The sense of rest, of repose in Christ is something we will find we need to reclaim, to re-establish. This is what the spiritual disciplines are about. This is what the Sabbath of time is about. The rest from work on the seventh day can be for us a time to reclaim our rest in Christ—a sense of which can begin to permeate our lives during the rest of the week."

I hope you take Br. Mark's words to heart and practice living your own Sabbath during this season of Pentecost.

With love, joy & blessings,
Lee

P.S. While I am away, Jean Greenwood will be supervising the Prayers of the People and maintaining the prayer list. So, if you have prayer needs, please speak to Jean.

Dotti Meyer Speaks on the History of the Pine Hill Nursery School

continued from page 1

continuing was required. The school held fundraisers and public suppers to buy supplies.

As a community service project the school fees were low. Therefore the salaries were too. Sue Barker left after that first year and Linda Wolverton came on board. Three years later Debby Cade left to teach at the Jefferson Village School and Linda Wolverton moved up to Director. She had several different assistants over the next two years and left in June of 1990. At this time the school was breaking even most years due to the flexibility of the staff to change the number of days the school was open as necessary, continued fundraising and low salaries.

This is when I came on board. The original guidelines for the nursery school stated that members of St. Giles could not work in the preschool. I was allowed to substitute during that first year. In Sept of 1985 I took a job teaching in another preschool that had opened in Whitefield. When the vestry was faced with hiring a new director in 1990, they reviewed the rules about church members being eligible and agreed to abandon that stipulation. I applied immediately, got the job and have been here ever since. I was blessed to work with Mary Clark for 14 years. Both of her children attended Pine Hill. Mary stayed until her daughter Rebecca was a sophomore in college and she needed "a real job." My next assistant was the mom of one of our students who just wanted to work a year, get her child into public school and go back to full time teaching herself. She was a high school Spanish teacher but was very comfortable with our youngsters. And what a bonus...we learned Spanish that year! Candy Moody has been my assistant for the last three years and no one is talking about retirement.

The school has had its ups and downs. Enrollment has varied year to year, some years operating only 3 days a week. This year we hired an additional teacher, Caroline Bond. Fundraising has often been needed for equipment, and now we are fundraising for St. Jude's. But the outreach mission to the community has never wavered.

When I think about the mission of Pine Hill Nursery School it reminds me of this woodcarving I got in Liberia which depicts Isaiah 49:15. "See! I will not forget you...I have carved you in the palm of my hand." This is me, my comfort, support, courage and strength. I want to share this feeling that I have of God's love with all His children. Being

the director of your preschool is an opportunity for me to do just that.

Pine Hill Nursery School is an outstretched hand to the children in our community. It is St. Giles' most consistent outreach program. We are not here to make money. Our mission is to provide a safe loving environment where young children can become prepared for public school.



Though the school resides in our church, we do not teach a religious curriculum. This is not what our small community wanted. But isn't the Golden Rule, which is taught in schools nationwide, the same as last week's Gospel Lesson where Jesus said "Love thy neighbor as thyself"? We strive to demonstrate Christian ideals and teach life truths by example, through our words, through our love and acceptance of all of our children while we are teaching them colors and shapes, letters and numbers. We have been very fortunate with our staff throughout Pine Hill's 25 years. Each and every one has believed in our mission of service and outreach.

Pine Hill has never turned away a family who wanted to attend but could not afford the tuition. My experience has been to

stand up on a Sunday morning and announce that I have need of scholarship money and by the end of coffee hour I have more donations than I need. Usually a family will choose the number of days they can afford. Occasionally we feel the child needs more experience and we invite the family to add a day or two free of charge. It's not about the money, it's the service.

One of the blessings for me being here so long is seeing my students grow up and succeed. Just a few weeks ago we saw an example right here. Two of Pine Hill's grads were chosen for a Junior Leadership Program in Washington D.C. At ten years old they are demonstrating responsibility, academic success, maturity, and leadership skills. Our own young people, Devon, Anna, Laura, Brian, Callie have all continuously shown growth in character, academics and life skills. As I read the newspaper I see names on honor rolls, pictures of sports and other achievements and college degrees. Can we dare to think those early years at Pine Hill had something to do with their success? I pray that it's true.

Another unexpected blessing is that the children teach the teachers every day. Their innocence, questioning and

Continued on page 6

Dotti Meyer Speaks on the History of the Pine Hill Nursery School

continued from page 5

example remind us constantly of God's dreams for us. I could give hundreds of examples but let me share just one. We have had several families enduring very difficult situations this year. One little girl in particular has been living in the midst of abuse, arrests, divorce and neglect. She craved affection and often just snuggled with Mrs. Moody or me for a minute, smiled and went off to play. She was the first to console and hug a child who was crying. She was there with a helping hand to a child who fell or was fighting with another. She shared her rewards with those who did not get one. At the end of the year as the children were sharing good things about each other, this is what they said about her: "She's a good friend," "She has a good heart," and each and every child said "we love her". It still chokes me up a bit to realize that children as young as 3 and 4 can ignore the exterior and recognize the inner qualities of another human being. As I learn from my students I am strengthened to continue sharing God's love for us all.

Thank you for the opportunity.



United Thank Offering

Folks at St. Giles offer daily thanks and prayers and put an offering in the "Blue Box" joining others in supporting this mission of the Episcopal Church. Then we bring our offerings to church twice a year on Ingathering Days. It is then sent to our Diocesan Coordinator who records our local offering and forwards it to the national UTO office in New York.

100% of the collected offering is granted once a year to special needs of people all over the world through an application process. UTO committee expenses are supported through earned income from dedicated funds.

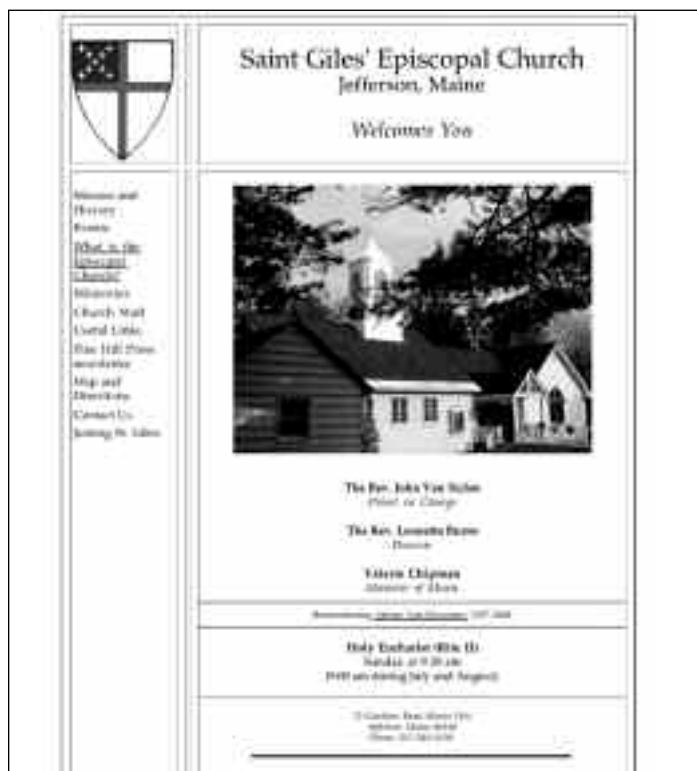
To begin participating in this ministry, pick up a "Blue Box" and start any time.

— Carolyn Gray, St. Giles UTO

Website News

The St.Giles website, (www.StGilesJefferson.org) is an informational resource for the entire parish. Did you know that you can download present and past issues of The Pine Hill Press? This is helpful if you have misplaced your copy and wonder if you might be doing the coffee hour on Sunday. (www.stgilesjefferson.org/pinehillpress.html) Want to find out what the readings in the lectionary are? Visit www.stgilesjefferson.org/links.html and click on "Lectionary".

In the near future the website is going to feature parish photos — photos of people and events at St. Giles that did



The home page of St. Giles' website.

not make it into the Pine Hill Press. They will also be in color and of a better resolution than is possible in the Pine Hill Press. Watch the home page of the website for the link to Parish Photos.

Lay Ministry for June 2009

June 7th First after Pentecost

Readers: Charlene Donahue & Kay Liss
 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

June 14th Second after Pentecost

Readers: Trudi Hodgkins & Wendy Eichler
 Chalice: Charlene Donahue
 Intercessor: Kay Dale
 Oblationers: George Jones & Linda Pierpont
 Greeter: Jean Miller
 Server: Anna Lee
 Nursery: Kevin/Christy Rousseau
 Coffee: Lyndia Gould & Nancy Saulniers
 Altar: Jane Pickering

June 21st Third after Pentecost

Readers: George Jones & Sidney Harvey
 Chalice: Dotti Meyer
 Intercessor: Jean Greenwood
 Oblationers: Jane & Richard Pickering
 Greeter: Trudi Hodgkins
 Server: Devon Huntley
 Acolytes: Roberta Anderson & Emily Huber
 Nursery: Meegan Burbank
 Coffee: Father's Day Brunch ECW
 Altar: Cynthia White & Kay Dale

June 28th Fourth after Pentecost

Readers: Ken Marden & Meegan Burbank
 Chalice: Pam Van Siclen
 Intercessor: Jean Miller
 Oblationers: Richard & Joanne Gross
 Greeter: Kay Dale
 Server: Dotti Meyer
 Nursery: Catherine Anderson
 Coffee: Debbie King & Jill Huber
 Altar: Jean Greenwood

July 5th Fifth after Pentecost

Readers: George Van Deventer & Jean Miller
 Chalice/Intercessor: John Atwood
 Oblationers: Charlene Donahue & Nancy Saulniers
 Greeter: Linda Pierpont
 Server: Devon Huntley
 Nursery: Cathi Laweryson
 Coffee: Cynthia White & Betsy Lee
 Altar: Dotti Meyer

Prayer List

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

Mij & Bob Bradford

Sally Brun
 Cohen family
 Dixon family
 Bob Ferrier

Douglas Henson

Josey & Ian
 Kunzelmann family
 Judy Marden
 Blair May
 Jim Nelson
 Betty Ross
 Steven Sinclair
 Rena Wynn

Family Days in June

7th — Valerie Chipman
 14th — Bridgid Griffith
 21st — Sidney Harvey
 28th — Elizabeth Henson

Birthdays in June

1st — Mike Gunter
 4th — April Boucher
 4th — Roberta Anderson
 5th — Lindsey Laweryson
 7th — Robert Bill
 7th — Krystyn Paules
 8th — Lewis Sell
 11th — Eric Gould
 15th — Linda Pierpont
 18th — Emily Huber
 22nd — Olivia Richmond
 25th — Jimmy Brown
 27th — Robin Lewis
 28th — Robin Huntley
 29th — Debbie King
 July 4 — Tristan Lewis

Anniversaries in June

3rd — Bob & Lee Burns
 5th — Kevin & Christy Rousseau
 7th — Tom & Wendy Eichler
 11th — Cliff & Margaret Williams
 11th — Ken & Judy Marden
 12th — Richard & Joanne Gross
 14th — Bob & Nancy Saulniers
 19th — Joe & Carolyn Gray
 23rd — John & Maggie Atwood
 25th — David & Rachael Richmond
 26th — Jerre & Carolyn Colby
 July 1 — Ricky & Kim Lash
 July 3 — Bob & Dotti Meyer

Lessons for June

June 7th	First after Pentecost
First Lesson	Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm	29
Second Lesson	Romans 8:12-17
Gospel	John 3:1-17

June 14th	Second after Pentecost
First Lesson	1 Samuel 15:34—16:13
Psalm	20 or 92:1-4,11-14
Second Lesson	2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Gospel	Mark 4:26-34

June 21st	Third after Pentecost
First Lesson	1 Samuel 17:32-49
Psalm	9:9-20
Second Lesson	2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Gospel	Mark 4:35-41

June 28th	Fourth after Pentecost
First Lesson	2 Samuel 1:1,7-27
Psalm	130
Second Lesson	2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Gospel	Mark 5:21-43

July 5	Fifth after Pentecost
First Lesson	II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm	48
Second Lesson	II Corinthians 12:2-10
Gospel	Mark 6:1-13

The Rev. John Van Siclen,
 Priest in Charge

The Rev. Leonetta Burns, Deacon

Valerie Chipman,
 Minister of Music

June Calendar

Sunday, June 7

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
Altar meeting follows

Thursday, June 11

7:00 pm - Vestry meeting

Sunday, June 14

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
7:00 pm - Country Fair Committee meeting

Sunday, June 21

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, June 28

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist



In the palm of God's hand

The photo at left cannot do justice to the very real nest in the tall juniper in the Memorial Garden outside Jewett Hall. This shot was taken from the wooden walkway, looking directly down into the nest. Next time you are at St. Giles, take a look, although with luck the eggs should hatch soon.

The Bird's Nest

*I know a place, in the ivy on a tree
Where a bird's nest is and the eggs are three
And the bird is brown, and the eggs are blue
And the twigs are old but the moss is new
And I go quite near, though I think I should have heard
The sound of me watching, if I had been a bird*

— John Drinkwater (1882-1937)