



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

Notes from the Senior Warden

In my last column I wrote about the success of the 2009 Country Fair, a timely topic since the *Pine Hill Press* followed soon after that event. However, I should also have written about our parish meeting on July 19 as not everyone could attend; frankly, I was so caught up in the excitement of the Fair that I simply overlooked the importance of reporting to you on the parish meeting.

We covered a variety of topics at the meeting and I will attempt to reconstruct here its agenda and the discussion which ensued.

As is often the case, money was a topic at the meeting. Treasurer Betsy Lee reported that we have several financial challenges facing us. The first is that pledge income is down and that we need to remind parishioners that the operation of the church depends on that income. Second, we need an additional unbudgeted \$1,000 to pay for the altar space alterations. Third, and most importantly, our current income projections and budget would not suffice to underwrite the expenses of having a rector, even at a half-time level.

In this regard, we learned that we would need approximately \$40,000 to support a half-time, part-time priest. Importantly, not only would we need to raise that sum for a half-time priest, we would need to be able to assure ourselves and a rector candidate that we are able to make a financial commitment of this size for the foreseeable future. This is a daunting challenge but one which could be addressed by a strategic plan and the growth of St. Giles parish which would meet its character.

With respect to a strategic plan, John Van Sicen announced that he has been in touch with the diocese to solicit expert assistance to help us develop such a plan.

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Report from the Fair

Once again the weather was sunny and warm for our fair. Many said the crowd was small and yet our finances tell us it was a very successful day. Our total was up from last year for many reasons. A major element was the careful, thoughtful planning of our chair Debbie King. A thorough inventory of supplies on hand cut our expenses tremendously this year. Thank you Debbie!

First to answer frequently asked questions:

- the auction was up from last year, raising \$2,110.00
- the chicken brought in \$1,169.00 even with fewer chickens bought and sold
- the raffle was \$428.00

Now for the breakdown:

Income	\$7,226.02
Expenses	\$887.40
Artists	\$291.20
Profit	\$6,047.42

Keeping with our tradition of giving 10% to outreach, \$604.74 goes into the Outreach Fund. That leaves \$5,442.68 going into the General Fund of the church. Our post fair meetings have included discussion of how to improve our annual fair. To that end there has been talk of using some of our income toward updating our fair structures: tents, tables and chairs. Much more on this will follow.

— Dotti Meyer

Sundae Sunday

Our Christian Exploration and Discovery program for children begins on Sunday September 13th. Once again we will be using the Rotation model in which children “rotate” through a series of workshops based on Biblical stories. Certain workshops will be broken down into two groups; pre-K through 1st grade and 2nd grade through 6th grade. Our theme for the month of September is “Jesus Was a Child Too”. We will be doing woodworking (Joseph was a

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From the Senior Warden

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John also restated his vision for more effective ministry teams which, in a nutshell, would meet three or four times a year on the same evening which would then be followed by a general session at which the teams would report on their activities. Moreover, contrary to past practice, an individual would only serve on one Ministry Team. (Want to sign up? See the large sheets on the door leading to Jewett Hall.)

It was also announced that we have ordered a box full of new *Books of Common Prayer* which can be dedicated "In Memory Of" or "In Thanksgiving For" on the donation of \$20 per dedicated volume. (want to participate? Sign up sheets are on the table to the left of the entrance inside Jewett Hall.)

We also received reports on the progress of the changes to the altar space. Thanks go to Dick Pickering, Ken Marden, Charlene Donahue and Betsy Lee for their leadership on this initiative.

Dotti Meyer gave a report on the progress of the planning for the Memorial Garden and the prospect of a columbarium wall at this site. Thank you, Dotti, for your hard work on this important matter.

We were given an update on the plans for Camp St. Giles which, as you know, successfully concluded this past Sunday. Thank you Meegan Burbank and Deb Lipton-Morin for your imagination and hard work which made this summer experience a valuable one for the kids who attended.

Finally, your correspondent advised the group that the vestry, wardens and our priest-in-charge had engaged in a process called "mutual ministry review" this Spring. In this process, each of us on the vestry and Fr. Van Siclen were to write a list of what was working well and what we need to work on as a parish. Some of us wrote lengthy memos on this topic, but all were thoughtful and carefully written. Because there were so many reports, and because of the length of some, I prepared a synopsis of them which I reduced to three pages of "bullets" under eight topics. I have made numerous copies of this synopsis which I would be pleased to give to anyone who asks. In addition to this offer, and for those who don't want to read the synopsis, I list here some of its points, although they were selected somewhat arbitrarily and have been abbreviated.

What is Working Well?

- A. Liturgy and Music
 - Creative and different forms of worship services.
 - Having a communion hymn and integrating the use of other instruments in the service.
- B. Christian Exploration and Discovery
 - Program on world religions.
- C. Outreach

- Reaching out to the community through home heating assistance dinners.
- D. Vestry, Leadership and Building
 - Vestry communicates well, attendance is good, members are engaged and enthusiastic.
 - Pastoral leadership has been solid, propelling us forward to undertake new initiatives
 - We are shifting our focus from management to clarifying mission and growth.
- E. Volunteerism
 - Never a shortage of volunteers; everyone wants to help out.
- F. Spirit/Growth
 - There is an overall sense of well-being and hope here; there is a spiritual atmosphere to the place.
 - There are a lot of new and enthusiastic ideas and energy.
- G. Miscellaneous
 - *Pine Hill Press*, Pine Hill Nursery School, Memorial Garden, Camp St. Giles

What do we Need to Work on as a Parish?

- A. Liturgy and Music
 - Music that appeals to all age groups, especially teens and pre-teens.
 - Choir music at each service.
 - Revitalize the Seasonal Liturgy Committee so worship and music are planned ahead of time and information is available to the altar guild.
- B. Christian Exploration
 - Having Christian Exploration and Discovery at least two Sundays a month and putting the program on sound footing.
 - Sunday School must be active to attract young families.
- C. Outreach
 - Wants St. Giles to be the "go-to" church for various community involvements, a true resource for others.
 - We need community visibility and more parishioner participation in outreach.
 - Adopt a newcomer with personal follow-up.
- D. Vestry, Leadership and Building
 - We need to start working on a strategic plan
 - The Jr. Warden needs a corps of volunteers to address building needs
 - We need to: fix leak in the basement, trim trees in front, look at energy efficiency, have a functioning office for the priest in charge
- E. Volunteerism
 - Be mindful that volunteerism can backfire and burn people out; we should take stock and ask if we are asking too much of people.
 - The burden of work in the parish falls disproportionately on a few.

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A Note from the Priest in Charge

Dear Parish Family:

There is a piece of newsprint that has been hanging on the right hand door as you walk from the Narthex into Jewett Hall. It has been there about six weeks. It now has lots of names on it, about thirty-three when I last looked. I believe that these parishioners who have signed up to serve on a Ministry Team for the coming year will have a huge impact on how we do ministry in the short term. Here's why.

The Vestry conducted a Mutual Ministry Review in June. After we reflected on the feedback from the Vestry on "what is working well" and "what needs improvement," one strong attitude was lifted up. In the broad sense, I'd characterize the refrain in this way: we need to continue to care for each other; this church is built upon relationships with one another and, as with most churches, "too few do too much."

The proposal that we adopted to address these concerns is what I call, "Ministry Team Night." Here's how it can work. Each Ministry Team will have five members who have agreed to serve only on one of seven committees. No double-dipping! This program year (from September through the end of June), these MT's will meet on three evenings: fall, winter and spring. The meeting will look like this: gather in the church for prayer, announcements and questions for fifteen minutes; break up into MT's and meet for one hour in seven different spaces and return for fifteen minutes back to the church to share brief decisions and action items in the church. Adjourn with prayer.

The Vestry enthusiastically believes that this plan will advance our mission to serve Jesus Christ in Jefferson and Whitefield and beyond. The Vestry believes that this streamlined approach will order our behavior and, at the same time, allow us to care for and support one another. Another benefit is that Ministry Team Night will underscore the role of each member of the baptized to reflect on their ministry and use the church to help carry it out.

Now the only thing for the Vestry to do is to set the date for the first meeting. Stay tuned for the date for the fall meeting.

Sincerely and faithfully,
John

ECW Issues Challenge

The church women have been enjoying lunch together for a more relaxed meeting atmosphere. We will meet at Joan Dorman's on Tuesday, September 1st at 12:30. Because of the small parking area we will carpool from the church at 12:15. Please bring a bag lunch, Joan will provide drinks, and dessert will be shared.

At our August meeting we decided to issue a challenge to the congregation. The church needs more folding chairs for several of our events. (In fact we need both padded and plain chairs.) The cost of a padded folding chair is \$20. ECW will match each chair donation up to twenty chairs. That means we can purchase 40 new chairs if members of the congregation are willing to meet the challenge! If we surpass our goal the extra money donated will go towards plain chairs needed for the Country Fair. Anyone interested can send or give a check to me or Jean Miller our treasurer.

— Dotti Meyer

Phillip Gale Vollmer

Phillip Gale Vollmer of Dresden, previously of Topsham and Whitefield, passed away on August 1. He is survived by his wife Betty B. Vollmer; his five children, Scott H. Vollmer of Virginia Beach, VA, Mark M Vollmer of Brisbane, Australia, Karen E. Vollmer of Sand Point, ID, Nancy V. Wood of Virginia Beach, VA, and Dorothy G. Thow of Virginia Beach, VA; and his five stepchildren: Donald Cowing, of Georgetown, David Cowing of Woolwich, Pamela Freeman of Wiscasset, Beth Cowing Sawyer of Topsham, and Dan Cowing of Dresden. Phil is survived by his 17 grandchildren and his four great-grandchildren.

Phil was born in New York City in 1928. He grew up in Connecticut and attended the Kent School for Boys in Kent, CT. Phil was briefly involved in the electronics industry before his career in chain saws. His worked with Stihl Incorporated where he was the director of technical services. Phil retired to Maine where he met and married Betty Boughton Parsons in 1992. Phil worked with the Wiscasset Schools and volunteered at The Parkview Hospital.

Sundae Sunday

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carpenter, after all!), music and movement, and cooking for our three workshops. The month of October will focus on Jesus' baptism and our baptism too. In November we will learn about the calling of the twelve disciples.

To kick off our Sunday morning classes we will making (and eating!) ice cream sundaes after church on the 13th! Yum! We hope you can join us!

— Cathy Anderson

Lay Ministry for September 2009

September 6 14th after Pentecost

Readers: Tom Eichler & Jean Miller
 Chalice/Intercessor: John Atwood
 Oblationers: Ken Marden & Carolyn Gray
 Greeter: Kay Dale
 Server: Betsy Lee
 Nursery: Meegan Burbank
 Coffee: Jill Huber & Trudi Hodgkins
 Altar: N/A

September 13 15th after Pentecost

Readers: George Jones & Pam Van Sicen
 Chalice: Sidney Harvey
 Intercessor: Wendy Eichler
 Oblationers: Nancy Saulniers & Jean Miller
 Greeter: Cynthia White
 Server: Dotti Meyer
 Nursery: Laura Lee
 Coffee: Linda Brown & Debbie King
 Altar: N/A

September 20 16th after Pentecost

Readers: Jane Pickering & Liz Jones
 Chalice: Richard Pickering
 Intercessor: Catherine Anderson
 Oblationers: Jill Huber & George Jones
 Greeter: Dotti Meyer
 Server: Laura Lee
 Acolytes: Nicholas Huber & Emily Huber
 Nursery: Cathi Laweryson
 Coffee: Ken Marden & Charlene Donahue
 Altar: N/A

September 27 17th after Pentecost

Readers: Raymond Anderson & Trudi Hodgkins
 Chalice: Dotti Meyer
 Intercessor: Kay Dale
 Oblationers: Jane & Richard Pickering
 Greeter: George Jones
 Server: Jean Greenwood
 Nursery: Nancy Saulniers
 Coffee: Joe & Carolyn Gray
 Altar: N/A

October 4 18th after Pentecost

Readers: Ken Marden & Sidney Harvey
 Chalice/Intercessor: Charlene Donahue
 Oblationers: Tom & Wendy Eichler
 Greeter: Joe Gray
 Server: Betsy Lee
 Nursery: Catherine Anderson
 Coffee: Dotti Meyer & Jean Miller
 Altar: N/A

Prayer List

We pray for those whose lives are closely touched by ours who are in any kind of need or trouble. We pray especially for:

Gladys Buck
 Christine Guerette
 Kay Dale
 Bob and Mij Bradford
 Judy Marden
 Steven Sinclair
 Phyllis Miller
 Bob Ferrier
 Douglas Henson
 Blair May
 Jim Nelson
 Betty Ross
 Vickie Emery
 Mini Chazen
 Amy & Lennie Mullen
 Jo Steneck
 Linda Henderson
 Trudi Hodgkins
 Aline Saulniers
 Bill Comiski
 Ann Hanyen
 Owen Delormier

Birthdays in September

1st Brad Tait
 2nd Leonetta Burns
 8th George Van Deventer
 10th Louis Sinclair, Jr.
 15th Kay Liss
 19th Linda Brown
 19th Ricky Lash
 19th Peter Liss
 22nd Melissa Bills

Anniversaries in September

8th James & Gwenda Capper
 17th Peter & Kay Liss
 19th Paul & Jill Huber
 27th Frank & Lynn Canarelli

Family Days for September

6th Bob & Mij Bradford
 13th Meegan Burbank & Family
 20th Jimmy & Linda Brown
 27th George Jones

Lessons For September

September 6 14th after Pentecost
 First Lesson Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23
 Psalm 125 or 146
 Second Lesson James 2:1-10,14-16
 Gospel Mark 7:24-37

September 13 15th after Pentecost
 First Lesson Proverbs 1:20-33
 Psalm 19
 Second Lesson James 3:1-12
 Gospel Mark 8:27-38

September 20 16th after Pentecost
 First Lesson Proverbs 31:10-31
 Psalm 1 or 54
 Second Lesson James 3:13-4:3,7-8a
 Gospel Mark 9:30-37

September 27 17th after Pentecost
 First Lesson Esther 7:1-6,9-10; 9:20-22
 Psalm 124 or 19:7-14
 Second Lesson James 5:13-20
 Gospel Mark 9:38-50

October 4 18th after Pentecost
 First Lesson Job 1:1, 2:1-10
 Psalm 26
 Second Lesson Genesis 2:18-24
 Gospel Mark 10:2-16

Devon is off to college!

Devon Huntley graduated from Kents Hill School on June 6th, outside on one of the very few sunny days in June. She received the Community Service Award and the Ella and William Morse Award for Excellence in Vocal Performance during the Awards Ceremony held on Friday evening. At graduation she was the recipient of the Luther and Lydia Sampson Award given in honor of the school's founders to a member of the graduating class who has excelled in academics and extracurricular activities. In late July she passed her 24th and final ice dance test, the Westminster Waltz. This earned her a Gold Medal in Ice Dance which in the skating world is a significant accomplishment. Devon is headed to American University in Washington, DC.

September Calendar

Sunday, September 6
 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, September 10
 7:00 pm - Vestry Meeting

Sunday, September 13
 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, September 20
 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
 Parish meeting follows

Sunday, September 27
 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

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
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From the Senior Warden

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F. Spirit/Growth

- We need spiritual development in that we do not discuss what we believe or why we believe it. We need a forum for this.
- There is an assumption that growth to a larger size parish is good, but we are not at the place where the demands of a larger ministry are met by more congregants to share the workload.

G. Misc.

- Bringing back inactive members, creating programs to entice young families, getting the message out as to who we are.

Want to know more about the thinking of parish leadership? Let me give you a copy of the synopsis of their reports.

— John Atwood