



Vol. 30, No. 11

November 2009

What It Means to Belong

Dear Parish Family,

One of the thorniest questions I am asked by parishioners is "How do I become a member in the Episcopal Church?" You'd think there would be an easy answer, right? Not so. The good news is that even though it is a challenge to answer this seemingly easy question, there is a big theological reward in the struggle.

Everything we know about membership in the church begins and ends with Holy Baptism. When we are baptized, the church tells us that we are fully members of the Body of Christ. Not partial members, but fully members.

All of this hits home at this time of year when we go about finding persons who feel called to exercise their baptismal ministry by serving on the Vestry. Why? Because the canons of the Diocese of Maine state that a Vestry member must be a confirmed member of the parish. Therein lies the theological struggle. Why should a person have to be con-

firmed to be on a Vestry if full membership comes with baptism? Because this bothers me so much, it is my intention to introduce a resolution at next year's 191st Convention of the Diocese of Maine that will suggest that we honor our baptismal theology by indicating the baptism is all that is necessary to serve on a Vestry. Between now and then I hope to build support for this resolution.

In a few months as the first of a two-part Annual Meeting, we will welcome our Bishop, Stephen Lane, to St. Giles' on Saturday afternoon, January 30, 2010. Please save the date. Bishop Steve will bless our new altar space and he will lead us in the rite of Confirmation. At long last Trudi Hodgkins will be confirmed. That's important so that we can honor the existing canons. She has been on the Vestry since last year's Annual Meeting.

While we still must work out the details, it will be a great honor to have Bishop Lane with us for a second visit.

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The Pine Hill Press is Going Green!

The Communications Ministry Team recently recommended to the Vestry that the *Pine Hill Press* be distributed electronically to members of the parish, beginning January 1, 2010.

What this means is that the *Pine Hill Press* will be sent to members of St. Giles' parish who have email as a PDF (portable document file) attachment that can be opened by any computer. You can then read it on-screen or print it out. If a person does not have email, or does not wish to receive their newsletter electronically, paper copies will still be mailed.

Benefits of this system are that the parish will save a considerable amount of money in printing and postage costs and the work needed to label and mail 100 copies a month. Electronic transmission also means a less constrictive deadline and will also enable the *Pine Hill Press* to feature color photos and graphics.

Try it and see! Issues of the *Pine Hill Press* have always been available on the St. Giles website: www.stgilesjefferson.org/pinehillpress.html. Go there and download a past issue.

This new system is voluntary. Please advise Carolyn Gray or George Jones if you wish to continue receiving the ^o in printed form.

— George Jones

Notes from The Senior Warden

Those of you who read my monthly column are used to my reference to the phrase we used in years past, namely, "Things are Happening at St. Giles." And, indeed they are. From our informal seminars on world religions to our efforts to revitalize the ministry teams, we are a busy, growing parish that is also experiencing change.

An exciting and important new development has been the addition of The Reverend Susan Kraus and her husband, Don, to our parish life. Susan has recently been our preacher and celebrant one Sunday a month and has been well received in that role by everyone. I'm pleased to say that this role will be enhanced and Susan will, effective December, 2009, be officiating at our services twice per month.

This happy development reflects a changing model of ministry throughout the Episcopal Church which is experiencing the concept of shared ministry; that is, the benefits of a diverse pastoral leadership. At St. Giles we've had an introduction to this approach with Lee Burns as our deacon in recent years. With Susan's arrival, we will be blessed with three ordained, committed and faithful leaders who will lead our services and provide the pastoral care and ministry services we require.

John Van Sicle will remain as our Priest in Charge, Susan's title will be Priest Associate, and Lee will continue to pursue the unique ministry of the diaconate. The three of them have met several times together as well as with the vestry and all have been pleased to learn that they share a common vision and common interests, particularly, for example, the ministry of healing.

By way of background, this process of change began in September when John advised the vestry that in response to the reflective experience of turning 60, and because of the increasing demands of Tidewater Way, he wanted to reassess the time he was committing to St. Giles. Accordingly, he proposed reducing his commitment on Sundays to two a month. Fortunately for our parish, his assessment of his circumstances coincided perfectly with

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ECW News

The November meeting of the ECW will be Tuesday, November 3rd, 12:30 at the church. Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert and drinks will be provided. We are having a work party to organize the two kitchens and assess supplies for the wreath making party.

Our next mini bake sale will be Sunday, Nov. 22 featuring cranberry goodies just in time for sharing at Thanksgiving.

Memorial Garden Update

The Memorial Garden Committee is once again hopeful that a columbarium will be built soon. We are consulting with Norman Casas about this project and he is very enthusiastic. In spite of hitting ledge 'immediately' he is confident he can provide a solid waterproof structure for us. Our plan is to have this project completed before the frost is in the ground this winter.

Pine Hill Nursery School

The *good*, the *bad* and the *good* again! The first good news is that the children are wonderful, cooperative and eager to learn. We had a great visit to the Jefferson Fire Station with the older children on Friday, October 9th. One of our 'dads' Brian Campbell is a volunteer fireman so he showed us around and taught us all about safety. He was assisted by an old friend and former dad Paul Huber. Together they demonstrated and explained all the equipment a firefighter wears. Even though we watched Paul get dressed we were still a little scared of him. We also learned about *stop drop and roll* when former students John and Nick demonstrated the technique while their dads were explaining it to us. Thanks guys! Our own firefighter Callie Saulniers is visiting us at school on Wednesday Oct. 21 to be sure everyone learns fire safety. Thanks Callie!

Now the bad news. My assistant Candy Moody has decided she must leave us. I know this was a hard decision for her to make. With all the talk of the seasonal flu and the swine flu she has been concerned about her health because she is an at risk person. Then she developed an upper respiratory infection and missed a whole week of school. After 2 visits to the doctor, lots of medicine and careful thought she decided to follow her doctor's advice and quit her job. (In fact as I write this she has not yet recovered but is assured she does not have the flu) The children and I will really miss her.

But the good news is Jen St. Cyr has agreed to accept the job of assistant teacher. She has arranged for childcare and will now work with us every day instead of three days a week. We are thrilled at our good fortune. We will continue to assess our needs as to hiring another part time helper.

— Dotti Meyer



St. Giles'
Family Wreath
Decorating Party
Sunday November 29th
following the church service
 Wreaths are \$10.00
Decorations, bows, soup luncheon, fellowship are free!

Sunday, October 4 - Blessing of the Animals



From the Senior Warden

Continued from page 2

Susan Kraus' growing interest in and commitment to our parish.

Bottom line? John and Susan will "split" the Sundays of each month, John will continue as the pastoral leader of St. Giles, Lee will continue with her responsibilities as deacon, and Susan will undertake a share of St. Giles' pastoral duties. Indeed, this newsletter will publish a schedule as to when each of these leaders will be available for pastoral visits or other needs.

This is all certainly good news as our ministry expands and we prepare to consider a strategic plan for St. Giles in 2010. Thus, next year promises to be a year of advancement and I hope you will join me in welcoming Susan Kraus to the joint ministry of St. Giles as we move our parish forward.

—John Atwood

From the Priest in Charge

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He is a very good bishop and a wise shepherd who has a very easy laugh. Our Vestry leadership is working to bring the Bishop and the Diocese on board as supporters for our future growth and development. I'm quite sure that this Bishop's Visit will bear strong witness to the vitality between the Diocese and St. Giles'.

Finally, if you or someone you know would like to be confirmed or you wish to reaffirm your faith in a simple way before the Bishop, please let me know as soon as possible.

Sincerely and faithfully,

John VanSiclen

November Calendar

Sunday, November 1 - All Saints Day

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Monday, November 2

7:00 pm - Country Fair Committee meeting

Thursday, November 12

7:00 pm - Vestry Meeting

Friday, November 13

Ministry Team Night

Sunday, November 18

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, November 15

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, November 22

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, November 29

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
ECW sells Cranberry Goodies
following the service

Lay Ministry for November 2009

November 1 **All Saints Day**
 Readers: Trudi Hodgkins
 & Raymond Anderson
 Chalice/Intercessor: John Atwood
 Oblationers: Nancy Saulniers
 & Carolyn Gray
 Greeter: Dotti Meyer
 Server: Betsy Lee
 Nursery: Cathi Laweryson
 Coffee: Jill Huber & Linda Brown
 Altar: Tom & Wendy Eichler

November 8 **23rd after Pentecost**
 Readers: Pam Van Sicen & Kay Dale
 Chalice: Sidney Harvey
 Intercessor: Carolyn Gray
 Oblationers: Tom & Wendy Eichler
 Greeter: Jean Miller
 Server: Dotti Meyer
 Nursery: Catherine Anderson
 Coffee: Debbie King & Nancy Saulniers
 Altar: Jean Greenwood

November 15 **24th after Pentecost**
 Readers: George Jones & Cynthia White
 Chalice: Dotti Meyer
 Intercessor: Liz Jones
 Oblationers: The Anderson Family
 Greeter: Tom Eichler
 Server: Laura Lee
 Nursery: Nancy Saulniers
 Coffee: Ken Marden
 & Charlene Donahue
 Altar: Kay Dale & Cynthia White

November 22 **Last Sunday**
 after Pentecost
 Readers: Wendy Eichler & Jean Miller
 Chalice: Charlene Donahue
 Intercessor: Tom Eichler
 Oblationers: Jill Huber & Ken Marden
 Greeter: George Jones
 Server: Jean Greenwood
 Nursery: Kevin/Christy Rousseau
 Coffee: Liz Jones & Jean Miller
 Altar: Jean Greenwood

November 29 **First of Advent**
 Readers: Meegan Burbank & Kay Liss
 Chalice: Jean Greenwood
 Intercessor: Cynthia White
 Oblationers: Jean Miller & George Jones
 Greeter: Trudi Hodgkins
 Server: Betsy Lee
 Acolytes: Nicholas & Emily Huber
 Nursery: Meegan Burbank
 Coffee: Joe & Carolyn Gray
 Altar: Dotti Meyer

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:

Mij & Bob Bradford
Vickie Emery
Bob Ferrier
Jim Hilton
Beverly Knoblock
Judy Marden
The Marsh family
Phyllis Miller
Jane Pickering
Ailine Saulniers
Steven Sinclair
Jo Steneck
Sargent Aron Silton
The Brandon-Twite family
Rena Wynn

December 6 **Second of Advent**
 Readers: Catherine Anderson
 & Carolyn Gray
 Chalice/Intercessor: Pam Van Sicen
 Oblationers: Richard & Joanne Gross
 Greeter: Joe Gray
 Server: Laura Lee
 Nursery: Cathi Laweryson
 Coffee: Dotti Meyer & Cynthia White
 Altar: Tom & Wendy Eichler

Birthdays in November
 6th—Diane Huntley
 7th—Gwenda Capper
 11th—Joe Gray
 15th Jerre Colby
 17th—Alan Hargreaves
 18th—Robert Ferrier & Nancy Saulniers
 19th—Kevin Rousseau

The Rev. John Van Sicen,
 Priest in Charge

The Rev. Susan Karus
 Priest Associate

The Rev. Leonetta Burns, Deacon

Valerie Chipman,
 Minister of Music

21st—Dotti Meyer & Aowyn Burbank
 22nd—Brian Mason
 27th—Liz Jones & David Mason
 30th—Kelley King

Anniversaries in November
 7th—Brian & Rosa Redonnett
 11th—Malcolm & Mona Ridley

Family Days for November
 1st—Lamar Carroll
 8th—Paul & Jill Huber and Family
 15th—Blair May
 22nd—Jerre & Carolyn Colby & Family
 29th—Kay Dale and Family—

Lessons For November
November 1 **All Saints Day**
 First Lesson Wisdom 3:1-9
 Psalm 24
 Second Lesson Revelation 21:1-6a
 Gospel John 11:32-44

November 8 **23rd after Pentecost**
 First Lesson Ruth 3:1-5;4:13-17
 Psalm 127
 Second Lesson Hebrews 9:24-28
 Gospel Mark 12:38-44

November 15 **24h after Pentecost**
 First Lesson 1 Samuel 1:4-20
 Psalm 1 Samuel 2:1-10 or 16
 Second Lesson Hebrews 10:11-14,19-25
 Gospel Mark 13:1-8

November 22 **Last Sunday**
 after Pentecost
 First Lesson 2 Samuel 23:1-7
 Psalm 132:1-13 or 93
 Second Lesson Revelation 1:4b-8
 Gospel John 18:33-37

November 29 **First of Advent**
 First Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16
 Psalm 25:1-9
 Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

December 6 **Second of Advent**
 First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
 Gospel Mark 13:24-37

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. Susan Kraus, *Priest Associate*

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

