



*Remember,
we're going
green!*

This is the last month that we will be mailing paper copies of *The Pine Hill Press* to those parishioners who have email. Beginning in January, you will be able to download your *Pine Hill Press* as a PDF attachment. The process is simple. You will receive an email from stgilesjefferson@gmail.com containing a link to the St. Giles' website (www.stgilesjefferson.org) where you can download the *Pine Hill Press*. You might want to add the above email address to your list of approved recipients so the PHP will arrive in your email in-box.

If you don't have email, or wish to continue receiving *The Pine Hill Press* in the mail, please let Carolyn Gray or myself know and we will send you a copy each month.

The "new" electronic *Pine Hill Press* will offer the opportunity for more timely delivery and the use of color images. I look forward to your comments and participation!

— George Jones

A Night Out with the Ministry Teams

Approximately 25 St. Gilesers defied the spectre of Friday the 13th and the darkness of a November evening to meet at our church to reinvigorate our ministry teams with updated statements of purpose, new plans, and the expectation of new members. The six ministry teams, **Exploration and Discovery**, (actually divided into two groups: Adult and Youth), **Building and Grounds**, **Outreach**, **Communications and Newcomers**, **Liturgy and Music**, and **Fellowship** each met separately at various places at church. Their meetings were to last an hour and each team was assigned the task of developing a statement of purpose, identifying key issues for the night's meeting, and naming a facilitator and a tentative date for its next meeting.

Later all the teams met together and reported out the results of their evening's work. It was clear that a lot of energy and a renewed sense of commitment accompanied these reports. Space here prohibits a full reproduction of the accounts from each team, but hopefully what appears below will give the reader an introduction to the renewed work of our ministry teams.

Outreach Ministry Team's Statement of Purpose is "...to provide practical support and spiritual comfort to those in need, locally and abroad." Its key issues are to involve St. Giles in outreach needs such as, for example, the ecumenical Community in Action Team as well as a broad variety of traditional and new initiatives such as our Backpacks for Kids

effort and, possibly, the "Cookies for Troops" and WABK "Love Fund" programs. Interested in helping with this team's work? Contact Trudi Hodgkins or Raymond Anderson.

The Fellowship Team's issues for the coming year will be to organize parish events such as a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, a summer picnic, and a return trip to a Sea Dogs' game, among other possibilities. Its statement of purpose is "...to focus on the social side of parish life, to foster participation in parish life, and to strengthen relationships and understanding within the parish family of St. Giles." Want to add joy to our parish life? Contact John Atwood or Carolyn Gray.

The renamed Communications and Newcomer Hospitality Team adopted as its purpose, "...to welcome and educate newcomers to the community of St. Giles and to communicate effectively all vital information to every parishioner." It developed an ambitious agenda which includes, among other things, creating a welcome packet for newcomers, developing a *Pine Hill Care and Share* bulletin board where services can be exchanged or people can post their needs, and updating the KJ and the LCN with weekly bulletins with information on who is preaching and what may be happening after church. Interested? Call Deb Lipton-Morin or Pam Van Sclen.

The purpose of the newly reorganized

A Note from the Priest in Charge

Dear Parish Family:

In my daily prayer time, I use a monthly, intercessory guide. This month the guide features several quotations from Mahatma Gandhi. They are beautiful. They touch my soul. As we are discovering in our Exploration and Discovery program for adults, there is a whole new world out there of spiritual insight in other religions that can inform and deepen our Christian faith. So it is with the great man from India.

All through November on Mondays, I have read these words, "It is good enough to talk of God whilst we are sitting here after a nice breakfast and looking forward to a nice luncheon, but how am I to talk of God to the millions who have to go without two meals a day? To them God can only appear as bread and butter." Thanksgiving is in a couple of days!

And then on Tuesdays there is this: "Like the bee gathering honey from the different flowers, the wise person accepts the essence of the different scriptures and sees only the good in all religions." Such wisdom in so few words!

We are now walking through the season of Advent, anticipating...and waiting...and wondering. What will happen? Will someone be coming? Will that One who is to come knock on our door? Will it be the door to our heart?

This is one of those years when the First Sunday of Advent falls on the Sunday right after Thanksgiving. It is as if we are just pushing our chairs back from the Thanksgiving table after the delicious piece of pumpkin pie with whipped cream and we are asked to "do a 360" into four weeks of deep inner work to avail ourselves of the divine mystery of Jesus' coming. This is not easy spiritual adjustment!

But we CAN do it! And that is where St. Giles' comes to our aid. We are a vital, visionary group of followers of Jesus who, Sunday after Sunday, open our hearts and, literally, stretch our muscles to be the disciples of Jesus out in the world. If you look and listen you can see this many times each Sunday in our church. It is the grace of God before us.

Good luck and good work to you as we continue our walk through Advent to the tiny stable of Bethlehem. And, thank you, Mr. Gandhi, for helping us along the way.

Sincerely and faithfully,
John

"The Light Shines in Darkness"

**A service of healing in Advent
Friday, December 18, 7:00 pm at St. Giles
Church**

The Christmas season — "the season to be jolly" — can be especially difficult for those of us who are burdened by grief, illness, worry, fear, depression or painful memories. Jesus is the light who shines in our darkness and who wants us to be healed. St. Giles' will hold a service of prayer, music, scripture, reflection and laying of hands healing on Friday, December 18th at 7:00 pm. A time of fellowship will follow the service.

Please come and bring your friends. This service will be "user friendly" for non-Episcopalians. We hope to reach our to the St. Giles' community and beyond with the good news of Christ, our light and our healer.

—Lee Burns and Susan Kraus

Christmas Caroling Caravan

On Sunday December 13th at 2:00 pm you are invited to join us in an afternoon of caroling to our homebound members, friends, and neighbors. We will gather at St. Giles to carpool and caravan around the community, arriving back at church no later than 4:00 pm. The Sunday School children will be baking mini-loaves of bread during Sunday School that morning to deliver along the way. If you know of folks who would enjoy a little Christmas music and cheer, please let Cathy Anderson know (549-5148) so we can plan for bread-baking and route planning.

A Night Out with the Ministry Teams

Continued from page 1

Liturgy and Music Ministry Team is "...to plan services for seasons efficiently and effectively." On its agenda is the Bishop's visit on January 30, promoting "affirmation" as the theme for Epiphany, and planning for Lent and Holy Week. Lee Burns and Jean Greenwood may be contacted if you are interested in the work of this team.

As noted, Exploration and Discovery can be looked at as two teams, one covering adult ed, the other, programs for kids. The group working on adult programs defined its purpose "...to learn about our own beliefs by exploring them in more depth and by comparing them to the beliefs of others." The team proposes, for example, that the comparative religion program continue in January with a series on Buddhism and that, in addition to the presentations themselves, an extra session be added to provide a chance for people to express their personal reactions as Christians to what they have been taught. The team also suggested that the adult ed programs on other religions be scheduled closer together to maintain their momentum and interest. If you want to know more about this team's plans, contact Cynthia White or Don Kraus. The youth side of Christian education is also full of plans, including the possibility of a repeat of Camp St.Giles. Please contact Meegan Burbank for more information.

The Building and Grounds Ministry Team adopted a purpose statement which commits them "...to be stewards of our building and grounds, maintaining a safe, attractive, 'green' facility." The team came up with a long list of projects to address its purpose, among which were to winterize the church building, perform an energy audit, revise the office area to make it into a study, and investigate and install better altar area lighting. This team has an ambitious agenda and will certainly need some help. Interested? Call Ken Marden, our Junior Warden.

In closing this report, I simply want to observe how impressed I was with the vigor and imagination of the group which met on November 13 to address all the possibilities we have to grow and flourish. We are blessed to be part of a church community which is committed to an exciting future.

Clothing Bank Note

The Clothing Bank at Riverview Psychiatric Center in Augusta is in need of average-sized, adult winter boots and warm jackets for our clients, male and female. If you have such items and want to part with them, please bring to me at St. Giles and I will happily take them to Riverview. Thank you.

—Trudi Hodgkins

The Arrow of St. Giles Award

As most of you know, the highlight of each year's parish meeting is the announcement of the winner of the Arrow of St. Giles Award.

This award is given each year to that person who quietly and effectively works to support our parish activities. It is designed to recognize and say "thank you" to a faithful "servant" of St. Giles. Clergy, wardens and vestry are ineligible to receive the award.

Nominations must be in writing (e-mail would suffice), and should recite in some detail why that nominee should be the recipient of the award.

Nominations should be submitted confidentially to Fr. Van Siclen, Jean Miller (last year's winner of the award), or John Atwood who constitute the committee which will select the award recipient.

Please submit nominations by no later than January 10.

— John Atwood

United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering

Sunday, December 13

By practicing the discipline of daily prayers and thanksgiving you will be expressing the deepest faith in your thankfulness to God, for who you are, what you are able to achieve in your life and how you share your love.

The United Thank Offering is a long-standing tradition in the Episcopal Church. Placing "thankful coins" in the Blue Box is also a tradition, rich in spirituality and love. Every coin from every Blue Box and Blue Envelope is given away in grants. Every cent you give, representing your thankful prayers today, is the dream for tomorrow's life and gives hope to people all over the world.

Each member of your family can become a part by taking a few moments each day for prayer and thankfulness. Keep the Blue Box where everyone can see it each day, as a reminder.

— Carolyn Gray

From the Senior Warden

Recently I was reminded that as Senior Warden I ought to be reporting monthly to the parish on the actions the vestry took at its last meeting. Because the *Pine Hill Press* is the perfect medium for this endeavor, I will try to provide a column each month on vestry doings, albeit in an abbreviated form.

So, at its November meeting, the vestry:

—asked Betsy and Ken to determine the compatibility of their computer equipment for use in the office;

—John Van Siclen, John Atwood and Ken Marden will meet with Rev. David Robinson in early December to explore his interest in serving as our adviser/facilitator as we develop our strategic plan;

—agreed that vestry members will do follow-up calls to be sure every parish member got a pledge card and knew that in-gathering was Nov. 22;

—discussed consulting with our building contractor re: fixing the foundation leak at the library;

—Ken will talk with our driveway plowing contractor concerning our request to plow the snow back further

than in past years;

—John V.S. will explore the possibility of making our annual seminary gift to a deserving seminarian rather than to an individual seminary;

—Jean Greenwood will continue her work to place the dedication plates in the new Books of Common Prayer; it is anticipated that the books will be blessed on the 4th Sunday of Advent;

—Lee Burns will contact the diocese to research parish rules for columbaria;

—John V.S. and retiring vestry members will meet to discuss a process to select their replacements per the parish by-laws;

—John A. will write an article for the *Pine Hill Press*, soliciting nominations for the Arrow of St. Giles Award;

—The Treasurer's report showed that we are in fair financial condition although payment of pledges is not keeping up with the budget for that income line.

— *John Atwood*

ECW News

Our Chair Challenge is still on. We are seeking ten more chairs from you to reach our goal. How about a \$20 contribution to purchase a comfortable padded chair for meetings and dinners? The church will benefit from your donations which will be matched by ECW. At this point we are half way to our goal. You have bought ten chairs and we have matched them for a total of twenty new chairs for St. Giles'. Please help us complete our goal of forty new chairs. Checks can be mailed or given to Jean Miller, treasurer.

Our Annual Christmas Cookie Sale will be held immediately after church on Sunday, December 20th. We could use a few more cookie bakers to add variety to the assortment. Please call Dotti Meyer at 549-7452 if you are willing to help bake. Cookies will be packaged for sale on Saturday December 19th at 9:00 AM. Thanks for any help you can offer.

— *Dotti Meyer*

Pine Hill Nursery School

As many of you know I am going to be 'out' for the next two months. The children were visibly upset hearing the news but I know Jen St. Cyr will handle things well. I have to say honestly, "thank God for Jen." She signed on to be an extra pair of hands three days a week. Then when Mrs. Moody needed to retire, Jen stepped into a full time position as my assistant. Now she is taking over in my absence

to keep the school running. We have set up a schedule with experienced moms, past teachers and a day care provider with a long history with Pine Hill to assist Jen daily. We also have a volunteer sheet asking moms to play and read with the children. So far we have December covered and will soon set up a calendar for January. I am hoping to visit at school mid-January and be back at work in February. Please keep us all in your prayers.

— *Dotti Meyer*

About the Prayer List

It has been some time since information about our Prayer List has appeared in print. This is a quick overview of how it comes into being.

If you have a loved one or family member whom you would like us to be praying for, then please contact me and I'll add their name/s to our prayer list. You can call me at 622-6811 or email me at LwbDidache@aol.com.

Also, I appreciate a follow up report from you. How is your loved one doing? Are they stable, improved or chronic? I need to know when to take them off the prayer list. I purge the list about every four to six weeks. Usually, healing of an acute episode has occurred during this time.

Our prayer list tends to be for acute conditions; like a sudden heart attack, a surgical procedure, a diagnosis of cancer, or an accident. We all have loved ones with chronic conditions and naturally we want to pray for them as well. If this becomes a priority, I will create two lists.

I'm happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

— *Lee Burns*

St. Giles' Recycling Efforts

A hearty "Thank-you" to those who take the time to think about and perform recycling, especially when dealing with used coffee grounds! To help clarify for those who might be curious, the current list of items that are "recycle worthy" are:

- All card board - flattened
- Tin foil – rolled into ball, tin pie plates, etc.
- Glass, clear and colored (except tumblers, for some reason)
- Coffee grounds w/o filters (for composting)
- Newspaper and magazines (may go together)
- #2 plastic, clear and colored
- *clear plastics #s 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7: (no colored, including white, allowed.)
- *Rigid plastics: e.g., old plastic toys such as Playschool, buckets, landscape trays, laundry baskets (and those darned plastic packages that we can't open without a jackhammer!)
- All mixed paper (must be clean, no tissues, plastic, candy or food wrappers)

I will try to provide extra containers for items 1 through 4, if I can find a place to put them that's handy. For now, all of these items can be put in current kitchen containers, as labeled, with the exception of mixed paper (including Sunday programs) that goes into receptacle to left of table in narthex.

*The really good news is that the Jefferson/Nobleboro Transfer Station is engaged in a trial with Waldoboro for Lincoln County Recycling (LCR) in Wiscasset. LCR placed an additional container at the Transfer Station to collect all clear and rigid plastics as defined in # 7 and 8. This will reduce by even larger amounts the debris dumped into the waste stream, and, of course, our Lincoln County will benefit. Profit for recyclables has gradually been improving as compared to a few months ago when breaking even was about all one could hope for. Just keeping them out of the waste stream, however, is a huge benefit for our planet. Mr. Perry Waltz, manager of the Transfer Station in Nobleboro, reminded us that yellow "Planet Aid" containers were placed there last year to collect clothing and shoes for third world countries. While this is a for-profit entity (not the Station's), it still keeps these items from being tossed into the waste stream.

— Trudi Hodgkins

Outreach Ministry Team 2009

This Christmas season, St. Giles' will be sharing the bounty that is our good fortune to have by linking with the Positive Matters Foundation and its Family Holiday Wishes Program for Lincoln County. This program helps to provide gifts, warm clothing and food for those folk, especially children, who are struggling in our county. This program helped provide for over 1300 children and their families here in Lincoln County during the last three years.

Here at St. Giles, we will place a "Giving Tree" in Jewett hall w/ gift tags that will include the gender and age of a child for whom a gift of under \$30 may be purchased. As well, one can give "generic gifts", e.g., matchbox toys, Barbie dolls and board games. Individuals can also give money. Cynthia Simonds, Director of the program, states, "We are often running out at the last minute to shop for unfulfilled wish tags. We provide a family meal for around \$40 and warm clothing for many. Money and/or volunteered time are always welcomed."

Checks may be made out to "Programs Matter Foundation" and designated for a specific need (such as food, clothing) if the donor so wishes. Program Matters Foundation is a 501C tax-exempt non-profit and your gift is tax deductible.

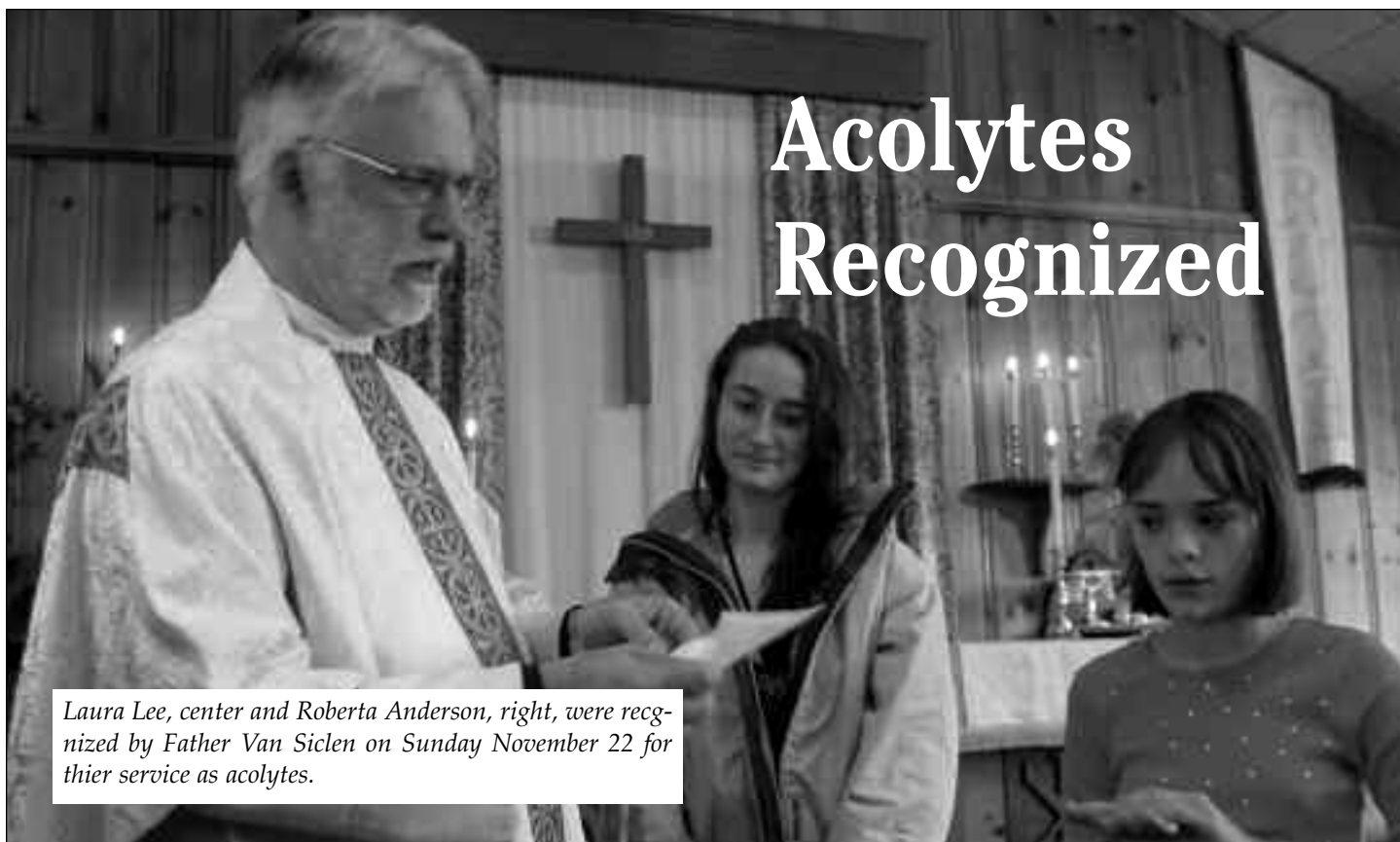
Because we were late getting our Christmas plans assembled, we have exactly two weeks to shop for and return here with a gift, as the deadline for collections is Sunday, Dec. 13. But, since we all know we can get a lot accomplished in a short period of time when determined, we can get it done with dispatch and then focus on other things to also enjoy! "Tis the season!"

— Trudi Hodgkins

2009 Pledges

There is only one month to go for 2009. If you are unsure where you stand on your pledge payments, please contact Betsy (betsy@kieve.org or 563-2942) for an update. Remember if you pay by the week, there are 52 weeks in the year whether you attend church or not. We would like to have all payments mailed by Sunday, December 27 so that there is time to deposit and close the books by the end of the year. This time frame also goes for any bills you have to submit for reimbursement.

— Betsy Lee



Acolytes Recognized

Laura Lee, center and Roberta Anderson, right, were recognized by Father Van Siclen on Sunday November 22 for their service as acolytes.

Exploration/Discovery Needs You! Sunday, December 13th

St. Giles' Exploration/Discovery Team invites the congregation to join in and help us plan adult programs for the coming year. In our recent meeting, talking of our own varied questions, wonderings, needs and visions, we decided that we couldn't create adult programs without hearing what our fellow parishioners want. So, on December 13th, after church and well supplied with coffee and snacks, please come to hear and discuss thoughts and ideas with each other. It seems appropriate to call this meeting in Advent, a time of preparation and expectation. See you there! For questions and comments, feel free to call or email team members Frank Cannarelli, Kay Dale, Don Kraus, Kay Liss and Cynthia White.

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

The Rev. Susan Kraus, *Priest Associate*

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

Ministry for December 2009

December 6 Second of Advent

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Susan Kraus
 Readers: Catherine Anderson
 & Carolyn Gray
 Chalice/Intercessor: Pam Van Siclen
 Oblationers: Richard & Joanne Gross
 Greeter: Joe Gray
 Server: Laura Lee
 Nursery: Cathi Laweryson
 Coffee: Jean Miller & Cynthia White
 Altar: Tom & Wendy Eichler

December 13 Third of Advent

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Susan Kraus
 Readers: Liz Jones & Sidney Harvey
 Chalice: George Jones
 Intercessor: Meegan Burbank
 Oblationers: Jill Huber
 & Nancy Saulniers
 Greeter: Cynthia White
 Server: Jean Greenwood
 Acolytes: Roberta Anderson
 & Gilbert Burbank
 Nursery: Catherine Anderson
 Coffee: Debbie King & Brigid Griffin
 Altar: Linda Pierpont

December 20 Fourth of Advent

Celebrant: Rev. John Van Siclen
 Preacher: Rev. Lee Burns
 Readers: Ken Marden & Cynthia White
 Chalice: John Atwood
 Intercessor: Kay Liss
 Oblationers: The Anderson Family
 Greeter: Kay Dale
 Server: Betsy Lee
 Nursery: Nancy Saulniers
 Coffee: Jill Huber & Trudi Hodgkins
 Altar: Kay Dale & Cynthia White

December 24 Christmas Eve

Celebrant: Rev. John Van Siclen
 Preacher: Rev. Susan Kraus
 Readers: Raymond Anderson
 & Trudi Hodgkins
 Chalice: Sidney Harvey
 Intercessor: Ken Marden
 Oblationers: Tom & Wendy Eichler
 Greeter: George Jones
 Server: Laura Lee
 Acolytes: Emily Huber
 & Nicholas Huber
 Altar: Jean Greenwood

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:

Jane Pickering
 Bob Ferrier
 Mij & Bob Bradford
 Steven Sinclair (brother of Bob Sinclair)
 Judy Marden (wife of Ken Marden)
 Jo Steneck (friend of John Atwood)
 Sargent Aron Silton
 (friend of Jean Greenwood)
 The Brandon-Twite family
 (friends of Jean Greenwood)
 Rena Wynn (friend of Trudi Hodgkins)

The Marsh family (friends of Diane Grant)
 Jim Hilton (Jefferson Selectman)
 Keith West
 Tamara Cooper
 Alice Hayden (mother of Nancy Saulniers)
 Dotti Meyer
 Mona Ridley
 Peter Kenny (relative of Kay Dale)
 Douglas Henson (son of Elizabeth Henson)
 Betty Ross (mother of Wendy Eichler)
 Rev. Jacob Fles

December 27 First after Christmas

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. John Van Siclen
 Readers: Meegan Burbank & Kay Liss
 Chalice: Charlene Donahue
 Intercessor: Kay Dale
 Oblationers: George Jones
 & Carolyn Gray
 Greeter: Tom Eichler
 Server: Jean Greenwood
 Nursery: Kevin/Christy Rousseau
 Coffee: Betsy Lee & Linda Brown

January 3 Second after Christmas

Celebrant/Preacher: tba
 Readers: Tom Eichler & Wendy Eichler
 Chalice/Intercessor: Jean Greenwood
 Oblationers: Charlene Donahue
 & Ken Marden
 Greeter: Carolyn Gray
 Server: Betsy Lee
 Nursery: Meegan Burbank
 Coffee: Nancy Saulniers
 & Lyndia Gould

Birthdays in December

3rd—Callie Saulniers
 6th—Beverley Berry
 8th—Tom Eichler
 11th—Richard Gross
 12th—Ken Marden
 15th—Chris King
 18th—Bob Saulniers
 20th—Gladys Buck
 26th—Carolyn Colby
 27th—Hope Lash
 28th—Eric Richmond
 31st—Cathi Laweryson

Family Days for December

6th—Charlene Donahue & Family
 13th—Tom & Wendy Eichler
 20th—Frank & Lynn Canarelli
 27th—Colby Dill

Lessons For December

December 6 Second of Advent
 First Lesson Baruch 5:1-9
 Psalm Canticle 4 or 16
 Second Lesson Philippians 1:3-11
 Gospel Luke 3:1-6

December 13 Third of Advent
 First Lesson Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Psalm Canticle 9
 Second Lesson Philippians 4:4-7
 Gospel Luke 3:7-18

December 20 Fourth of Advent
 First Lesson Micah 5:2-5a
 Psalm 80:1-7 or Canticle 3 or 15
 Second Lesson Hebrews 10:5-10
 Gospel Luke 1:39-45

December 24 Eve of the Nativity
 First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Second Lesson Titus 2:11-14
 Gospel Luke 2:1-14

December 27 First after Christmas
 First Lesson Isaiah 61:10—62:3
 Psalm 147
 Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
 Gospel: John 1:1-18

January 3 Second after Christmas
 First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14
 Psalm: 147:12-20
 Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14
 Gospel: John 1:(1-9), 10-18



The monthly newsletter of
St. Giles' Episcopal Church

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207 549-3158

The Rev. John Van Siclen, Priest in Charge

The Rev. Leonetta Burns, Deacon

The Rev. Susan Kraus, Priest Associate

Valerie Chipman, Minister of Music

A Blessed Christmas to all!

Holy Eucharist Sunday at 9:30 am (year round)

Thursday, December 10 - 7:00 pm - Vestry meeting

Sunday, December 13 - United Thank Offering
Christian Exploration and Discovery meeting, immediately after the service

Friday, December 18 - 7:00 pm - A service of healing in Advent

Sunday, December 20 - Greening of the Church, immediately after the service

Thursday, December 24 - 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service