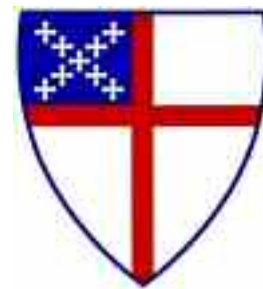




Pine Hill Press



Vol. 31, No. 3

The Newsletter of St. Giles' Episcopal Church, Jefferson, Maine

March 2010

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Parish Family:

Charlie Brown is alive and well! The much-loved Peanuts comic strip may no longer be running in the newspapers, but its favorite character, who was often described at the mirror of its creator Charles Schultz, seems to be around every corner these days. Charlie was a born pessimist. If a glass could be half empty, Charlie's would be. Yes, left and right and center, seem to be on shaky foundations in our domestic political world. We have too many wars. Our unemployment, especially in Maine, doesn't seem to get better. There are many reasons to be glum. Even Lent! It's Lent!!

But wait a minute. Isn't the church, in season and out, a place of hope? Don't we come to worship on Sunday with the expectation that we will discover the Living Christ? Isn't Good Friday good for a reason??

Just before Pam and I hop on a plane for our Official St. Giles' Snowbird Mission Trip to see the Diane and Ed Grant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Jane and Dick Pickering in Apalachicola, Florida, we have just finished a wonderful first Sunday of Advent. The worship was wonderful, especially Deacon Lee Burns' sermon. Many commented on the flow of worship by moving announcements to the end of the service. Coffee Hour was its usual upbeat self. And, at the end of the morning we had our second

(Continued on page 5)

March 14 Service Features Poetry and Dance

The lengthening of days, celebration of light and the Christian preparation of life in dance, music and the love of family and community will be celebrated at St. Giles as part of the service on Sunday, March 14. This is made possible by the Arlene Van Deventer Music Fund.

Shana Bloomstein, of Belfast, will interpret through dance, the morning's readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Shana will present her dramatic dance rendition of the story of the prodigal son along with a passage from the Joshua – where "disgrace" was "rolled away" and a new, vibrant direction of hope and family became the joyful center for home.

Shana Bloomstein is a performer, choreographer and yoga/dance instructor and mom! Originally from Freedom, ME, she began dancing in pre-school with Lisa Newcomb. Shana began dancing professionally as a teenager. She continued her studies of dance/education at Hampshire College, where she met choreographer Nia Love (American Fullbright Fellow). Shana was invited to join a dance theater group in New York City. She spent 4 years performing and training and traveling the world. Shana moved back to Maine 4 years ago.

In addition, the highly inventive contemporary quartet, "reVerse," will sing, speak old poems in a playful manner accompanying themselves using cello, mandolin, didgeridoo, musical saw and voice. The four musicians, Philip Carlsen, Ellen Bowman, Stanley and Elizabeth

(Continued on page 2)



Keach reach deep to capture the early creative instincts of place in musical sensations.

Phil Carlsen is a cellist and award-winning composer who has received commissions and performances from the Kennedy Center, American Composers Alliance, Portland Symphony Orchestra, Bossov Ballet Theater, and many other organizations. He teaches at the University of Maine at Farmington. Ellen Bowman uses musical improvisation as an essential therapeutic tool in her work with children and hospice patients. Stanley Keach is a nationally known Bluegrass songwriter who has had his songs near and at the top of national Bluegrass singles and CD charts, and has written songs for a professional Summer Theater production. Elizabeth Keach spontaneously started playing piano with both hands at the age of 2, and has since played five instruments and sung in Bluegrass, Folk, and Celtic bands and in churches.

Along with dance and music, Portland, Maine's first Poet Laureate, Martin Steingesser, with his partner Judy Tierney, will perform Gerard Manley Hopkins' poem "Pied Beauty." Martin will also recite and perform "Meeting Father," a composition of his own.

March 14th is the "hinge" Sunday in Lent. Of all the gospel parables, this gospel may be the one that most folks know and identify on a gut level. It is about forgiveness.

Auction News

It's March and you can't start the garden yet and most of the snow is gone. So this is a good time to start looking for items for the St. Giles Summer Auction. Old linens that you really don't want to hand wash and iron perhaps? That antique chair that breaks when your hefty neighbor sits on it? The oil painting of the lake? Grandma's box of handkerchiefs? Furniture in the barn?

I know most of us are tapped out so ask your neighbors and friends if they have some things to donate. Let's make this the most successful auction ever ! If it is large, call Cathey Sell (549-3513) and we will pick it up.

Thanks.

—Cathey Sell



Lenten Healing Service



There will be a service of prayer, music, laying on of hands healing, and Holy Eucharist at St. Giles' on Wednesday, March 10th at 6 P.M. Please consider attending this service as one of your Lenten activities – an opportunity to come closer to God in this special time in the church year. The service will be user-friendly for non-Episcopalians, and we'd love to have your friends join us!

We are planning other healing services after Easter and after Pentecost. Details to follow.

Dear Lenten Friends

By now, each of you has drawn a name. Please remember to pray for this person every day and send a card at least once a week. It can be a simple card, just saying that "I'm praying for you" and sign it - Your Lenten Friend. This is a secret for now. Disguise your hand writing if you think your friend may recognize your penmanship. I have put a basket in the Narthex for cards. You can mail your cards or drop them in the basket for your friend to pick up on Sundays.

At Easter, we will share the joy of discovering who you are. On Easter you will present your Lenten Friend with a special gift and a card with *your name* on it. (No longer a secret!) You can purchase a small gift like a plant or a packet of seeds, a book, write a poem, or make something special that only you can make. Be creative and have fun with this.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I believe that God smiles on us when we pray for one another. HE loves hearing from us.

Blessings for a holy Lent,
Lee

From the Senior Warden

A number of thoughtful questions were raised at our annual meeting and at our February vestry meeting about the development of a strategic plan for St. Giles. While the development of our strategic plan has not begun in earnest, perhaps I can answer here some preliminary questions about this initiative.

The first question about this process that is raised by some is "Why?" That is, "Why have a strategic plan?" From my perspective, I think the answer may be found by looking at our current situation. We are a vibrant and growing, (albeit modestly), parish that is working hard to meet a lot of expectations and dreams. We are blessed with an expanding core of people who want St. Giles to prosper and to attract more people to share in the blessings of the warm and supportive worshipping experience here. The question, then, is how do we get there? What do we need to do to grow?

As any successful business person would argue, you need a plan for growth and a vision of where you want to be. Of course, we could attempt to develop a strategic plan on our own. But, instead, we will have professional help with planning our future, thanks to diocesan support for our project. Thus, The Rev. David Robinson will lead us as we envision our future and develop this strategic plan. Among other tasks we'll undertake in this process is an examination of our current mission statement and, if appropriate, amend or replace it with one which truly reflects what we currently perceive as St. Giles' mission. To what ministry are we called at St. Giles? How do we articulate that? How do we incorporate the answers to these questions in a statement of our mission?

Once we have accomplished this important task, we will need to create a set of goals, plan for their completion, and evaluate our progress. This will

My synopsis of the February vestry meeting:

- We welcomed Colby Dill, Deb Lipton-Morin and Jimmy Brown to the vestry.
- Decided to retain the Rev. David Robinson as our parish consultant as we deliberate the adoption of a strategic plan. The plan is to be done by the October vestry meeting.
- Agreed that we would have an audit committee consisting of Colby Dill and Joe Gray.
- Reviewed plans for Ash Wednesday night service and supper.
- The next Fellowship dinner will be March 19 at 6:00. Parishioners and friends are invited.
- A new phone will be purchased to replace the old one
- Carolyn Gray has kindly agreed to produce an updated parish directory which will include a telephone tree.
- Approved an Outreach Ministry Team plan to bring food each week, perhaps to be part of the offertory
- Approved having the third session on Buddhism on June 6.

— John Atwood

undoubtedly entail collecting information and opinions from parish members, year round and seasonal. It will also involve an evaluation of what our greater community needs and a candid assessment of our resources and the gifts which we can offer to St. Giles as we look to grow with a plan. In sum, the development of a strategic plan is the thoughtful creation of a road map for our future.

How does this differ from a rector search? While a search does involve parish self-examination, it does not entail the development of a long term strategic plan for the parish. Once we develop our plan with its mission statement, and an articulation of goals and how they're to be accomplished, we will have the framework to assess the suitability of candidates for clergy leadership at St. Giles. Moreover, by virtue of the statements we will have made about ourselves, we will be communicating our expectations to potential candidates. In this regard, the development of a strategic plan should make

the search process shorter and more efficient.

When will we do this? The process will begin in a formal way at the vestry/leaders retreat on Saturday, March 13. By vestry resolution, we are to complete the process by October 14. Obviously we have a lot of work to do between now and then!

Who is The Rev. David Robinson? David is currently the rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Saco. He has extensive experience as a parish consultant and has conducted a myriad of courses and training for clergy and laity throughout the Northeast. He has met with John Van Siclen, Ken Marden and me once and the vestry once to discuss what he can offer St. Giles.

How can you help? Keep St. Giles in your prayers. Seek discernment for what is best for our parish and our community. Respond thoughtfully to requests for your opinions. Support this effort to move St. Giles forward!

— John Atwood

The Pine Hill Press is the monthly newsletter of St. Giles' Episcopal Church, P. O. Box 34, Jefferson, ME 04348 (www.stgilesjeferson.org) 207 549-3158. The Rev. John Van Siclen, Priest in Charge 644-1132; The Rev. Leonetta Burns, Deacon; The Rev. Susan Kraus, Priest Associate; Valerie Chipman, Minister of Music. Vestry: John Atwood, Senior Warden, 586-5557; Ken Marden, Junior Warden, 549-4783; Betsy Lee, Treasurer, 563-2942; Tom Eichler, Clerk, 549-3869; Jimmy Brown (2012); Colby Dill (2012); Trudi Hodgkins (2012); George Jones (2011); Debbie King (2012); Deb Lipton-Morin (2013).

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

Ministry for March 2010

Reminder: If you cannot fulfill your ministerial duties on the date specified, it is your responsibility to find a substitute.

March 7 Third In Lent

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Susan Kraus
 Readers: Charlene Donahue & Meegan Burbank
 Chalice/Intercessor: John Atwood
 Oblationers: The Anderson Family
 Greeter: Kay Dale
 Server: Betsy Lee
 Nursery: Laura Lee
 Coffee: Nancy Saulniers & Lyndia Gould
 Altar: Dotti Meyer

March 14 Fourth in Lent

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. John Van Siclen
 Readers: Liz Jones & Trudi Hodgkins
 Chalice: Sidney Harvey
 Intercessor: Jean Miller
 Oblationers: Jill Huber and Nancy Saulniers
 Greeter: Tom Eichler
 Server: Laura Lee
 Nursery: Catherine Anderson
 Coffee: Joe & Carolyn Gray
 Altar: Linda Pierpont

March 21 Fifth in Lent

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Susan Kraus
 Readers: Dotti Meyer & Cynthia White
 Chalice: Pam Van Siclen
 Intercessor: George Jones
 Oblationers: Tom & Wendy Eichler
 Greeter: Trudi Hodgkins
 Server: Jean Greenwood
 Nursery: Meegan Burbank
 Coffee: Debbie King & Linda Brown
 Altar: Nancy Saulniers

March 28 Sunday of the Passion

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. John Van Siclen
 Readers: Tom Eichler & Wendy Eichler
 Chalice: Jean Greenwood
 Intercessor: Sidney Harvey
 Oblationers: Richard & Joanne Gross
 Greeter: Dotti Meyer
 Server: Betsy Lee
 Coffee: Ken Marden & Cynthia White
 Altar: Jean Greenwood

April 1 Maundy Thursday

Celebrant: Rev. John Van Siclen
 Preacher: Rev. Lee Burns
 Readers: George Jones and Pam Van Siclen
 Chalice: George Jones
 Altar: Dotti Meyer

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.

April 2 Good Friday

Readers: Charlene Donahue and Carolyn Gray
 Chalice: Charlene Donahue
 Altar: Dotti Meyer

April 3 Holy Saturday

Celebrant: Rev. John Van Siclen
 Preacher: Rev. Susan Kraus
 Readers: Jean Greenwood Sidney Harvey Raymond Anderson Catherine Anderson
 Chalice: John Atwood
 Intercessor: Trudi Hodgkins
 Oblationers: George Jones and Ken Marden
 Greeter: Carolyn Gray
 Server: Laura Lee
 Altar: Dotti Meyer

April 4 Sunday of the Resurrection

Celebrant: Rev. Susan Kraus
 Preacher: Rev. John Van Siclen
 Readers: Ken Marden & Kay Liss
 Chalice/Intercessor: George Jones
 Oblationers: Trudi Hodgkins & Jill Huber
 Greeter: Cynthia White
 Server: Jean Greenwood
 Acolytes: Nicholas Huber & Emily Huber
 Nursery: Kevin/Christy Rousseau
 Easter Brunch: ECW
 Altar: Charlene Donahue

Birthdays in March

2nd—Zachary Anderson, Wendy Eichler
 7th—Richard Pickering
 16th—Jill Huber
 25th—Gabriel Laweryson
 25th—Margaret Williams
 30th—Maggie Atwood

Lessons for March

March 7	Third in Lent
First Lesson	Exodus 3:1-5
Psalm	63:1-8
Second Lesson	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Gospel	Luke 13:1-9

March 14 Fourth in Lent

First Lesson Joshua 5:9-12
 Psalm 32
 Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Gospel Luke 9:28-36

March 21 Fifth in Lent

First Lesson Isaiah 43:16-21
 Psalm 126
 Second Lesson Philippians 3:4b-14
 Gospel John 12:1-8

March 28 Palm Sunday

First Lesson Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16 or 22:1-11
 Second Lesson Philippians 2:5-11
 Gospel Luke 22:14—23:56

April 4 Easter Sunday

First Lesson Acts 10: 34-43
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
 Gospel: John 20:1-18

Family Days for March

7th—Debbie King & Family
 14th—Cathi Laweryson & Family
 21st—Ricky & Kim Lash & Family
 28th—Betsy Lee & Family

Prayer List

We hold in prayer:

Sick or convalescent:	Home-bound or with Chronic illness
Bill Comiski	Mij & Bob Bradford
Dorothy Coulter	Bob Ferrier
Heidi Kokmeyer	Alice Hayden
Lisa Lee	Douglas Henson
Mary Ann Lounsbury	Judy Marden
Cullen McReynolds	Betty Ross
Elaine Shakley	Rena Wynn
Mary Staab	
Brad Tait	
Our brothers and-sisters in Haiti	In the Armed Services:
	Our service men and women

March Events

**Holy Eucharist
each Sunday at 9:30 am**

Wednesday, March 10
6:00 pm - Service of Healing

Thursday, March 11
7:00 pm - Vestry meeting

Monday and Tuesday, March 8-9
6:00 pm - Lenten Bible study group

Friday, March 19
6:00 pm - International Dinner

Saturday, March 27
10:00 am - Lenten Retreat at
Tidewater Way

Holy Week and Easter At A Glance

- † Saturday, March 27:** Quiet Day at Tidewater Way (Pam and John's retreat center) in South Bristol; 10:00 – 3:p.m. Lunch provided.
- † Sunday, March 28:** Palm Sunday: The Blessing of the Palms, Procession, The Reading of the Passion Gospel according to Luke and the Holy Eucharist; 9:30 a.m.
- † Thursday, April 1:** Maundy Thursday: The Footwashing and Last Supper followed by the Stripping of the Altar; 7:00 p.m.
- † Friday, April 2:** Good Friday: The Stations of the Cross; 5:00 p.m.
- † Saturday, April 3:** The Great Vigil of Easter with the first Eucharist of Easter; 8:00 p.m., with reception following in the Library
- † Sunday, April 4:** The Holy Eucharist followed by the Easter Brunch in Jewett Hall; 9:30 a.m.
- † Sunday, April 11th:** The Second Sunday of Easter (also Flower Sunday...a great St. Giles' tradition!); 9:30 a.m.

A Lenten Retreat at Tidewater Way

What is the Triumphal Entry?

Why do we call it "Good" Friday?

Why does the church make such a fuss about The Easter Vigil?

You are invited to reflect on these and other questions on a late Lenten Retreat at Tidewater Way in South Bristol.

Retreat leaders John Van Siclen and Don Kraus will look at each of the great days of Holy Week and Easter and ask the questions: What happened? and What does it mean?

The retreat will take place on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided at a cost of \$5.00.

Please check the Tidewater Way website (www.tidewater-way.org) for directions or go to Mapquest. The land address is: 93 Tidewater Way, South Bristol, ME 04568.

There will be a sign-up sheet for the retreat in Jewett Hall and John and Don are available to answer your questions.

From the Priest in Charge

Continued from page 1

seasonal (winter) meeting of the Ministry Teams.

Just like the first meeting in October, seven ministry teams met to do the work of the church. It can be said that St. Giles' is a bottom-up organization in which the voice and hard work of the people is the true leadership. While it is wonderful that the Ministry Teams have almost an hour to work within their own groups, the high point is when everyone gathers in the church to hear summaries of the seven groups. It is inspiring. There are surprises. There are new ideas. Change is in the air, but it is not change which brings fear, but change that motivates and nudges us forward into compassionate service.

A personal thank-you from me to every one of the 30+ people who participated on February 21. At our next Vestry meeting in March, we will set the date for the spring meeting of the MT's. It will probably be in late June when "the snowbirds" return from the south.

Charlie Brown may be alive in some places, but he certainly wasn't in evidence at St. Giles' on The First Sunday in Lent, February 21, 2010!

Sincerely and faithfully,

John