

Pine Hill Press

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

April 2010



St. Giles' Country Fair is new again!

Believe it or not the St. Giles' Country Fair is a short three months away! Your Fair Committee has been hard at work since August 2009. We have had monthly planning meetings producing lots of creative ideas and laying the groundwork for what we know will be a very successful 2010 Country Fair. We have some new ideas that we believe will revitalize the fair in these tough economic times and still retain the historic charm and appeal of a beloved St. Giles' tradition.

Something new! This year we will be serving a Lobster Roll Luncheon (yum!) instead of having the traditional chicken barbecue. Several concerns went into making this decision. In a small parish it is difficult to recruit enough volunteers to take charge of the many facets of the Fair. For years we were fortunate that the Antononi family handled the entire chicken barbecue, recruiting their family and friends to fill

Save the date:
July 31, 2010

various roles. Then there was Bob's "secret sauce"! The Antononis decided to take a much deserved break from the barbecue business, which left us with many volunteer positions to fill and not enough people to fill them. Other considerations were the cost of chicken which has risen each year. There are also several other chicken barbecues happening around our fair date. So, we decided it was time to step out of our comfort zone and try something new! Many thanks to those of you from in and outside the parish who helped make the 2009 barbecue work. Be sure to check out our new Country Fair signs! Thanks to Bill McKeen our designer and to Dick Pickering and Ken

Marden for all their hard work!

Something new #2! We will be having entertainment this year during the fair. Pixie Lauer and friend, well known folk singers, will be performing following the auction. We may also have a wonderful clown/mime mingling with fair goers.

Something new #3 We are trying to make many small changes to help the fair run more efficiently with fewer people—easier access to our wonderful Heavenly Pies, more room to peruse our book selections, and some "other" exciting things that you will just have to come to the fair to experience!

Did you know that the proceeds from the fair are part of the St. Giles operating budget? Each year a certain percentage of fair profits are set aside for outreach and the rest goes toward the actual operating costs of the

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Country Fair

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church. What we made as a profit in 2009 is figured into the projected budget for 2010. The St. Giles' Fair is an important part of the fiscal health of the church.

What can you do to help?

1. Obviously, volunteer or say yes when asked. It is a wonderful day of fun and fellowship. We have our booth/committee chair people in place but they need lots of help. Contact Debbie King or Deb Lipton Morin to see where you are most needed or perhaps you have a certain area that is calling you!

2. You can make sure you attend the fair and encourage all your friends, neighbors and relatives to do the same. Spread the word! This is a community fair. Our outreach efforts benefit many area towns.

3. Think about your talents, resources, and areas of expertise. Donate them to the auction or raffle.

4. Approach people you know or do



Ken Marden models one of the new lobster Fair signs.

business with to donate items or services to the auction/raffle. Contact Deb Lipton Morin 226-3787 when you have an idea or donation.

5. If you are unable to work at or attend the fair there are lots of other

ways you can assist. There are many low cost items that could be donated prior to the fair thereby reducing our cost and increasing the profit. See Dotti Meyer for a list of those items. Distribution of fliers, making phone calls, copying, and making posters for fair day are just a few areas that can be taken care of pre-fair. We also need items for the Country Store, especially if you have a favorite craft to share.

6. Once again, our auction has been a BIG money maker so please search for items that you or people you know would like to donate. If you have any questions contact Cathey Sell 549-3513.

Remember to mark your calendars for July 31, 2010! Fair time is 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM with the auction from 10 to 12 (donuts and coffee available), hot dogs and fried onions on the grill by 9:30, and the lobster luncheon ready to "roll" by 12:00. Check your Pine Hill Press and the parish hall regularly for updates and information. Feel free to attend any of our fair meetings held the first Monday of the month, 7:00 PM at the church.

—Your St. Giles' Fair Committee

Camp St. Giles'

This year St. Giles' will be holding its second "Camp St. Giles'" in June, from the 26th through the 28th. This earlier date is an effort to meet the needs of more children and families before we all scatter for summer vacation. Our theme will be "God is the Captain of our Ship". As you might imagine, we will be learning about how to let God guide our decisions, and how important it is to have faith even when it seems like you are alone. JUST THINK of the "well" of water related Bible stories from which we will be able to "draw"! We are looking for volunteers of all types – hands on volunteers, people to go shopping for items, people to make food, organizers, word-spreaders...you name it! Please call Meegan Burbank at 549-3851 or

Dotti Meyer at 549-7452 to let us know how you can help!

ECW

The April meeting of ECW will be Tuesday, April 13th at Brigid Gibson-Griffin's home in Whitefield. We will carpool from the church at 12:10 if you need a ride.

Please bring a bag lunch, Brigid will provide dessert and drinks.

Pine Hill Nursery School

The children at Pine Hill have been having a wonderful time creating masterpieces of art using different mediums. We made drawings with only lines using markers, pictures using dot markers (like Bingo

markers). We experimented with color values using red, white and black paints, and texture using sugar, glue and paint. Then we copied Monet's Garden with watercolors and Van Gogh's Sunflowers with recycled cardboard, poster paint and real sunflower seeds. We are having so much fun we plan to continue through April creating art with leftover supplies and recyclable materials we've collected. We have a very artistic class!

Jen St. Cyr and I have agreed that we must cut back our class sizes for next year. The phone is ringing and we are filling up fast. If you have a youngster or know someone who is ready to attend preschool in the fall, please contact us soon. Our school year ends just before Memorial Day Weekend.

Dear Parish Family,

Jesus did well in math in elementary school! It is obvious that he not only understood how to put numbers together, but he also figured out the logic between numbers and people. In particular, he loved the number 12.

Ever since Pam and I returned home from a fantastic week visiting with the people of Trinity Church in Apalachicola, I have realized the simple wisdom of Jesus' arithmetic. Let me explain.

In a short period of time at the end of February, I had the opportunity to preach at two Sunday services, attend a dinner hosted by Dick and Jane Pickering in their home for the rector and vestry of Trinity, attend a Lenten supper and discussion group, visit at least three parishioners in their homes and spend a morning with Martha Harris, the inspiring rector of Trinity. The purpose of the trip in the first place was to float a trial balloon. Over a year ago, Dick Pickering and the Junior Warden of Trinity, Gary Ulrich, were painting the church (are we surprised??!). Gary made an innocent comment to Dick that went something like this: "Hey, Dick, you paint the church here and in Jefferson, Maine. What would you think about Trinity people coming up to Maine and St. Giles' people coming down here?" The light went

on...thanks to the vision Dick got from Gary. As we know so well in Maine, from small acorns, tall oaks grow!

I love the idea because it fits so closely with the simple arithmetic of the gospels. The statistics of the last decade prove beyond a doubt that nearly every parish church in the United States is losing people in the pews faster than new members are taking their place. I believe the simple reason is that we have lost clarity of our mission and we have not created

From the Priest in Charge

opportunities in which we lead our people to understand that money follows mission, rather than the other way around. Mission must come first if the local parish church will survive.

A mission relationship between St. Giles' and Trinity is the opportunity to send forth a dozen or so disciples so they can learn about the mission of Christ amid the hospitality of a different place. Jesus chose twelve and sent them out two by two. This Jefferson-Apalachicola partnership has the potential to be a teaching moment (or week) as the faithful are received with the love of Christ in either Maine or Florida and become the heart and hands of Jesus in a service project in each place. The sim-

ple math is that if the mission partnership can continue for at least three years with these mutual mission trips, by the end of three years each parish can have roughly thirty-six individuals who have had the hands-on experience of serving Jesus.

Because these are new concepts for many, I'd suggest that the first trip (which is proposed for late July and early August this year when the Trinity folks come to Maine) be exploratory. Let's do our best to create a model and wait to "sign-on" until after the first trip north is over. After all, it took Wilbur and Orville a while to get the first plane off the ground!

I know from knowing the people of St. Giles' and meeting lots of Trinity people in one week that there are huge amounts of faith, energy and leadership in both places. I also know that Jesus' simple model of sending out just twelve followers in groups of two transformed the world. That simple math is why we are here today and it gives me enormous hope in this upcoming season of Resurrection.

Sincerely and faithfully,

John

This article has also appeared in the monthly newsletter of Trinity, Apalachicola, "The Bay View."

United Thank Offering News Update

United Thank Offering Spring Ingathering – Sunday May 16th

The United Thank Offering awarded sixty-three grants this year, totaling \$2,065,472.43, twenty-eight within the US and thirty-five overseas. In a letter from Barbi Tinder, Convener of the Communications Committee for the United Thank Offering, she states there are more dollars requested than there are funds to distribute.

Every day there are prayers and blessings in our life that can be remem-

bered by placing money in the blue box. New in this electronic age is another way to contribute. Go to the Episcopal Church website, www.episcopalchurch.org, and click on the red button "Give to the Episcopal Church" and select UTO. You will be joining the "circle of thankful people" providing help in many parts of the world and at home.

Bring your blue box or a check on Sunday May 16th and join us in this effort to expand this mission. We

encourage daily prayers, offerings and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings.

For more information see the UTO 2009 Grants list on the table in Jewett Hall.

— Carolyn Gray for UTO

Study on Buddhism begins April 25th

The first of three meetings about Buddhism will open on Sunday April 25th in Jewett Hall immediately after coffee hour. Titled "What is Buddhism?" it will include presentation and discussion of history and some key ideas in Buddhism. Tom Eichler and Cynthia White will share some personal stories of experiences with Buddhism and will be joined by guest Doris Balant, member of a Zen buddhist group in Augusta.

Background material in the form of two booklets, collections of Buddhist teachings and history, compiled by Cynthia White, will be available several Sundays in advance in copies to be taken home. Books about Buddhism to peruse and borrow will also be available.

On Sunday, May 2nd, the second meeting "What is Meditation?" will offer explanation, instruction and guided meditation by Bill Barry, Director of the Buddhist Shambala Center in Brunswick.

On Sunday, June 6th, the last session addresses the question: "What can

The vestry, parish leaders, a few interested parishioners, and Fr. Van Siclen met with the Rev. David Robinson on March 13 for a retreat which would be focused on beginning a strategic plan for St. Giles.

We began the day with a reflection on the gospel lesson found at Luke 5:36-38. It served as an inspiration for new beginnings. With that concept in mind, we addressed the need for, and the language of, a mission statement for St. Giles. We were challenged to come up with text which would call "forth the best that the church can be." The statement would need to be "grounded, affirmative and memorable." It proved to be a challenging assignment to put into a few words what we represent St. Giles to be, and, after a spirited discussion, we came up with, "St. Giles Episcopal Church is a



Easter Sunday

Buddhism mean to Christians?". Ms. Balant and Mr. Barry will join us. And, since Buddhists enjoy an occasional feast, our discussion will be followed by a luncheon featuring recipes from a Zen Buddhist monastery and retreat center,

prepared and served by the Exploration & Discovery ministry team.

— Cynthia White

Vestry Retreat

Christ-centered community with a beautiful, vibrant worship, reaching out with love and active support to each other and the wider community." This mission statement will be subject to community discussion within the parish in which the question will be how we live out the tenets of our mission statement.

Our next assignment was to come up with a list of goals for the parish and then rank them. The list was a long one: create a program of youth ministry for the larger community; enhance the music program (including choir, instrumental music, and contemporary music to appeal to young people and fami-

lies); build on church special services with music, word and drama; establish a "clothing shelf" to serve the community; strengthen Christian education for children; increase the number of community events; establish a regular adult Bible study program; and bring five new families into the parish.

Later, we were asked to list our dreams for the future of our parish. This assignment, too, resulted in a long list: increase the number of young families; increase interaction with the wider community; recognition of St. Giles as a caring force in the larger community; establish a permanent choir; search for a new permanent priest; continue adult Bible study, and invite people outside the parish to participate.

— John Atwood

Bible Study



"Why does God allow suffering?", "Wisdom: Where can it be found?" These were some of the questions explored during the Lenten Bible study, hosted by Don Kraus, which met twice weekly for four sessions. Don lent a learned and enlightened approach to Bible study which was appreciated by the enthusiastic groups which attended. A survey was commissioned to discern when the best time for another series of study would be. Thank you, Don for a marvelous series!

Vestry notes

The vestry met on March 11 and took up a light agenda with the following results:

John Van Siclen reported on his and Pam's trip to Louisiana and Florida where they visited the Grants and the Pickerings. He introduced us to the concept of partnering with the Episcopal Church in Apalachicola with exchange visits, perhaps annually. He will explore this idea further.

We reviewed the plans for the vestry/leadership retreat to be held on March 13.

John Atwood was to prepare surveys for adult Bible education and Healing Services to be distributed on Sundays March 21 and 28.

John V. S. will select a night in June for the ministry teams to meet. He will also make an informal, pastor to pastor, contact with the minister at Water of Life Lutheran Church, consistent with the joint communion we share with the Lutheran Church.

Ken Marden and Betsy Lee will contact Alan Johnston about resurfacing the driveway. [Ken arranged this in record time and the driveway has been regraded!]

George Jones has installed a new phone in the office.

— John Atwood



The Pine Hill Press is the monthly newsletter of St. Giles' Episcopal Church, P. O. Box 34, Jefferson, ME 04348 (www.stgilesjefferson.org) 207 549-3158. The Rev. John Van Siclen, Priest in Charge 644-1132; The Rev. Leonetta Burns, Deacon 622-6811; The Rev. Susan Kraus, Priest Associate, 203-505-5318; 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 (2013); 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 April 2010

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

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: Emily Huber
 Acolytes: Nicholas Huber
 & Gilbert Burbank
 Nursery: Kevin/Christy Rousseau
 Easter Brunch: ECW
 Altar: Charlene Donahue

April 11 Second of Easter

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. John Van Siclen
 Readers: George Jones & Liz Jones
 Chalice: Dotti Meyer
 Intercessor: Wendy Eichler
 Oblationers: Nancy Saulniers
 & Carolyn Gray
 Greeter: Carolyn Gray
 Server: Betsy Lee
 Nursery: Catherine Anderson
 Coffee: Charlene Donahue & Trudi
 Hodgkins
 Altar: Cynthia White & Kay Dale

April 18 Third of Easter

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Susan Kraus
 Readers: Jean Greenwood
 & Carolyn Gray
 Chalice: Pam Van Siclen
 Intercessor: Trudi Hodgkins
 Oblationers: The Anderson Family
 Greeter: George Jones
 Server: Laura Lee
 Acolytes: Nicholas Huber & Emily Huber
 Nursery: Cathi Laweryson
 Coffee: Brigid Griffin & Jill Huber
 Altar: Tom & Wendy Eichler

April 25 Fourth of Easter

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Susan Kraus
 Readers: Raymond Anderson
 & Jean Miller
 Chalice: Jean Greenwood
 Intercessor: George Jones
 Oblationers: Charlene Donahue
 & Ken Marden
 Greeter: Tom Eichler
 Server: Roberta Anderson
 Acolytes: Gilbert Burbank
 & Zachary Anderson
 Nursery: Laura Lee
 Coffee: Nancy Saulniers
 & Lyndia Gould
 Altar: Linda Pierpont

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.

May 2 Fifth of Easter

Celebrant:/Preacher: Rev. Susan Kraus
 Readers: Catherine Anderson
 & Cynthia White
 Chalice/Intercessor: John Atwood
 Oblationers: Tom & Wendy Eichler
 Greeter: Kay Dale
 Server: Jean Greenwood
 Acolytes: Nicholas Huber
 & Gilbert Burbank
 Nursery: Meegan Burbank
 Coffee: Jean Miller & Betsy Lee
 Altar: Nancy Saulniers

Family Days for April

11th—Ken & Judy Marden
 18th—Sue McKeen
 25th—Bob & Dotti Meyer

Prayer List

We hold in prayer:

Sick/ convalescent	Home-bound Chronic illness
Jill Allen	Mij & Bob Bradford
Brooke Elizabeth Becker	Dorothy Coulter
Paul Bond	Bob Ferrier
Bill Comiski	Alice Hayden
Heidi Kokmeyer	Judy Marden
Lisa Lee	Betty Ross
Mary Ann Lounsbury	Rena Wynn
Cullen McReynolds	Armed services:
John Ohta	Mike Sprague
Elaine Shakley	In memory of
Rosa Sinclair	Brooke Elizabeth Becker
Mary Staab	Dorothy Coulter
Jennie St. Amand	
Brad Tait	
Rev. Ralph Tucker	
Michael Gunter	
Norman Burr	
Michael Duckworth	
Margaret Ellis	

Birthdays in April

5th—Bob Hargreaves
 10th—Brian Mason
 12th—Rhiana Jones
 16th—Heidi Kokmeyer
 18th—Carol Doele
 18th—George Jones
 25th—Diane Grant
 26th—Brendon Jones
 30th—Bob Sinclair

Anniversaries in April

9th—Ed & Diane Grant
 14th—Bob & Mij Bradford

Lessons for April

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

April 11 Second of Easter

First Lesson Acts 5:27-32
 Psalm 118:14-29
 Second Lesson Revelation 1:4-8
 Gospel: John 20:19-31

April 18 Third of Easter

First Lesson Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)
 Psalm 30
 Second Lesson Revelation 5:11-14
 Gospel: John 21:1-19

April 25 Fourth of Easter

First Lesson Acts 9:36-43
 Psalm 23
 Second Lesson Revelation 7:9-17
 Gospel: John 10:22-30

May 2 Fifth of Easter

First Lesson Acts 11:1-18
 Psalm 148
 Second Lesson Revelation 21:1-6
 Gospel: John 13: 31-35

April Events

Sunday - 11

Mother's Day Brunch
 follows service

Sunday - 25

Program on Buddhist begins
 following service