

pine hill press

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

April 2008



**Cat in the Hat
Day at PHN**
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Notes from the Senior Warden

A Change of Season

The passage of time, the movement from season to season, always brings change. This is certainly as true at St. Giles as it is in the world around us. Thus, we are emerging from nature's season of dark and cold and the church's season of penance and reflection. The two go together well. What follows is a time of more light, warmer temperatures (well, almost), and the joyous celebration of the most important event in the Christian calendar. We welcome these annual changes as Christians and residents of a place where winter is a season to be reckoned with.

So too, at St. Giles we are approaching a change of "seasons." This winter we have lost two important parish members and observed the anniversary of the death of Bob Jewett, our beloved pastor. With mutual support and time we will begin to reconcile these losses while remembering the contributions that Arlene, Betty Ann and Father Bob made to our parish, their families, and our community at large.

The new or emerging "season" at St. Giles must include and honor this past while seeing the potential, indeed, the

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A Note from Our Priest in Charge

Dear Parish Family,

During this Holy Week as I write this, my mind turns to Spring with the arrival of the green shoots of the daffodils in one of our gardens, the start of another long season of baseball and opening day at Fenway Park and, most importantly, to the celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

In our home we are cleaning the house and preparing for Easter dinner. In addition, I have taken down the Christmas wreaths, a sure sign of things to come. But Easter is more than just one day of celebration. In referring to the season of Easter, the church refers to "the

great fifty days," fifty days from the celebration of the resurrection to the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

If Easter is more than a day, but is a season then there are some major implications for our faith. It is one thing to live through one twenty-four hour period, it is another to relate the message of this time span to a larger vision of life.

Many people have applied this to resurrection. Do we just celebrate the most significant event in human history or do we consider ourselves "resurrection people?"

The older one gets the more one has to confront death on a daily basis. It is very different to actively take

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Library Notes

This month I found myself choosing between two books that I have just finished reading. One is *From Science to God: A Physicist's Journey into the Mystery of Consciousness* by Peter Russell. The other is Carl Sagan's *The Varieties of Scientific Experience: A Personal View of the Search for God*. You are all probably familiar with other works of Sagan, the late, great astronomer and astrophysicist. He needs no introduction.

Peter Russell holds an honors degree in physics and experimental psychology from Cambridge University, as well as a post-graduate degree in computer science. He has also studied meditation and Eastern philosophy in India. He currently conducts research into the neurophysiology of meditation at the University of Bristol. This being a mercifully short book, only 130 pages, I opted for Russell. We'll save Sagan for another month.

Russell starts by telling us of his early fascination with science. "At sixteen," he says, "I was devouring Einstein, and marveling at the paradoxical world of quantum physics. I delved into the different theories of how the world began, and pondered the mysteries of space and time. I had a passion for knowing.... the laws and principles that govern the world."

He was equally fascinated by mathematics. "Most intriguing of all," he tells us, "was how the whole world of mathematics unfolded by the simple application of reason. It seemed to describe a preordained, universal truth that transcended matter, time and space. Mathematics depended on nothing, and yet everything depended on it. If you had asked me then if there was a God I would have pointed to mathematics."

In his third year at Cambridge, where Steven Hawkins was his supervisor, a new question had begun to occupy his mind. Out of pure mathematics you could make predictions about the behavior of an atom such as hydrogen, its physics and to some degree its chemistry. And so he wondered how hydrogen, the simplest atom, could have evolved into a creature like ourselves, one able to reflect on the immensity of the cosmos, able to be aware of itself. "How had the universe become conscious?"

He felt increasingly drawn to explore the field of mind and consciousness. Abandoning his study of mathematics, he switched to theoretical physics and experimental psychology. But after spending the better part of thirty years investigating the nature of consciousness, he came to realize that science has little to say about the inner world of mind, our thoughts, feelings, sensations, intuitions and dreams. "And when it comes to consciousness itself," he observes, "science falls curiously silent."

The time has come, he claims, for a new "paradigm shift," a new way of looking at the problem. The current world-view, the one we have inherited, started with Copernicus, and has led in our time to the field of quantum concepts. It is based on the assumption that the physical

world is the real world, and that space, time, matter and energy are the fundamental components of reality. But nothing in Western science predicts that any living thing should be conscious. Consciousness is of a fundamentally different type from anything composed of matter. Going back to Rene Descartes famous dictum. "Cognito, ergo sum," or "I think, therefore I am" he points to the paradox of consciousness. "Its existence," he says. "is undeniable, yet it remains totally inexplicable." He concludes that "Consciousness is one big anomaly.... We must develop a new world-view."

He goes on to contemplate the illusion of reality, quoting Edwin Schrodinger. "Every man's world picture is, and always remains, a construct of his mind, transcending space and time. This leads him to a concept of consciousness in terms of light, as so many of the mystics have attested. And so we come to God. "Let there be light," He commanded "And from this light," says Russell, "the whole creation was born," or more appropriately "is born, for light underlies everything that happens." That inner light, he believes, is where we touch God.

In the past, he reminds us, greater awareness of the true self was considered important for purely personal well-being. But today the game has changed. "It is now," he says, "imperative for our collective survival." Driven by our belief that our well-being depends on external conditions we have "misused our newfound powers, plundering and poisoning the planet. What are we to do?"

He lists the many questions that face us. Degradation of the environment forces us to examine our priorities. Political and economic crises that reveal the shortcomings of our self-centered thinking. We must start to ask ourselves what we really want. "Never before," he advises, "has the pressure for spiritual renaissance been so strong, and never have the possibilities for such a renaissance been so great." His solution is to share our realizations with others as widely as possible, through books, but also through personal conversations and lectures that help us find mutual support, and so bring about a new paradigm, the long-awaited bridge between science and spirit.

— Kay Dale

Card of Thanks

Betty Dill's family was and is deeply moved by the kindness and compassion showered upon us by the St. Giles family.

This is one of our many blessings.

*Thank you all,
Colby*

From Our Assistant Pastor

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

And the people say: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

I am writing this during Holy Week. I have just returned from the Chrism Eucharist with my fellow clergy and Bishop Knudsen. Let me tell you what this was like. We spent the morning hearing from a priest, a deacon and a lay person as they reflected on Our Baptismal Vocation and Chrismation. We had silent time for reflection after each presentation.

At 12:10 we celebrated the Chrism Eucharist in the Chapel at our Cathedral. About eighty of us packed into this space. Here, +Chilton is the Celebrant and preacher. The oil of unction and chrism is blessed. We renew our baptismal vows, our ordination vows and then share in the laying on of hands and chrismation. This is followed by the Peace and the Eucharist. We then gather around another table for lunch as we conclude our day. A full day, a profound Holy day indeed.

And now as you read this, we have experienced Easter! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Eastertide is here! Through Jesus, God reached out and touched us, His creation, His beloved. When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain that separated God from His people was torn in two from top to bottom. We are no longer separated from God in any way! God came again into our world! God burst through every expectation, every hope and fear, all imagination, all comprehension!! Easter happened!

I pray that we can put aside our human expectations and make room for God to 'burst' into our lives. I pray that we will live our life at St. Giles' with the knowledge that God is with us, God is in us and God expects us to go out and share the Resurrected Christ with the world!

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

— Lee Burns

*Please keep those listed below
in your hearts and in your prayers:*

Steve Botka
John Cudmore
Linda Gold
Gary Hatfield

Raymond Hayden
Dixon Kunzelmann
Mary Staab

From Our Priest in Charge

Continued from page 1

on new life and living hope and a personal commitment to transcending the culture of death with Jesus' example of life beyond the grave.

It is here that all this makes sense within the Christian community, in our case, St. Giles'. Over the last few weeks as Sunday at St. Giles' has become a regular part of my week, I have genuinely looked forward to the beautiful drive to Jefferson from South Bristol and all that awaits me when I arrive. St. Giles' is a place of hope because of your faith and the easy sense of joy that fills Sunday morning.

As we celebrate another Easter, both the day and the season, the responsibility of our faith requires us to ask ourselves how we will share this joy with others so that they may know the hope of Jesus Christ in their lives. I think we are ready to do this. I think we are ready to see this as our mission to share this joy in strong and clear ways. It is exciting to think of folks hearing about this joy and starting to come to our church because they seek this joy in their lives. In this way we become connected to the resurrection and we become "resurrection people."

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

— John Van Sicken

Use of Jewett Hall for Functions

Jewett Hall is available for use by local organizations such as Girl Scouts, Jefferson Historical Society and similar not-for-profit groups. We also welcome the use of this facility by persons holding special events such as bridal showers, wedding receptions, anniversaries, or other special occasions. It is imperative, however, to contact Ken Marden, Junior Warden, 549-4783 at least two weeks prior to any event so that the church can be unlocked, fees collected, event posted on the Jewett Hall calendar, and post event inspection scheduled.

Rental and cleanup fees for organizations are as follows:

Local not-for-profit organizations

Rental Fee \$0 Refundable Cleanup Fee \$25

St. Giles member events or parties

Rental Fee \$25 Refundable Cleanup Fee \$25

All other organization events

Rental Fee \$50 Refundable Cleanup Fee \$25

Food events catered by St. Giles ECW will not be charged rental or cleanup fees, but the Junior Warden must still be notified in advance.

Jewett Hall will be inspected following each event and if satisfactorily cleaned, the \$25 cleanup fee will be refunded.



Every year the United Way Success by Six program sponsors a reading day with local preschools and daycares. Volunteer readers are sent to local centers to share a story with the children on or near March 2nd, Dr. Seuss' birthday. Our volunteer this year was Lisa Miller, our district State Representative. The children had painted paper bags to look like "Cat in the Hat" hats in anticipation of our visitor. Lisa eagerly donned a school hat and read "Horton Hatches the Egg." The children were enthralled.

We are always open to a guest reader. Our usual story time is 10:45 but we are very flexible. Just give us a call if you would like to visit and we will find a time that works for each of us.

— Dotti Meyer

Notes from the Senior Warden

Continued from page 1

necessity of change. In this regard, the vestry has established two committees which will address two significant issues in our parish. The first is the future of our music program. How do we find an organist? Is our organ satisfactory, do we retrofit, or (gulp!), do we need to buy a new one? How do we get a choir restarted?

The second issue is the condition and placement of the altar space. Some have observed that it is hazardous to navigate and awkward to approach at Communion. Do we change its elevation, move the rail, vary the carpet colors, or use ushers? A second committee will address these challenging questions.

Interested in joining one of these committees? Give me a call!

So, as we move from one season to another, we also contemplate changes at St. Giles. Know, however, that while the two initiatives contemplated by the Vestry will hopefully be seen as improvements, the constants at St. Giles will dominate. That is, we are a loving, vibrant, mutually supportive community devoted to worship at our Church in the Pines and to each other.

— John Atwood

Summary of the March Vestry meeting

In response to a number of incidents of people falling as they were stepping down from the altar, a committee is being formed to study how to make the altar platform safer. The committee also will look into ways to make more room around the altar so that distribution of communion goes more smoothly. The committee members will be John Atwood, Colby Dill, Charlene Donahue, Jean Greenwood, George Jones, Ken Marden, Dick Pickering and John Van Siclen.

A committee also is being formed to look at the feasibility of upgrading the church organ, or possibly buying a new or a used organ. Substitute organist Valerie Chipman will continue to play as needed. Carol Smith of St. Andrews Newcastle is scheduled to play one Sunday in early April. In looking for a permanent replacement for Arlene, we will be seeking not only someone who can play the organ, but who also can direct the choir. The music committee members will be Betsy Lee, Linda Pierpont, George Van Deventer and John Van Siclen.

Vestry members will participate in a one-day retreat at the Van Siclens' retreat center in Walpole, on a Saturday between late April and early June.

— Tom Eichler

Lay Ministers for April 2008

April 6th

Readers:: Tom Eichler & Kay Liss
 Chalice/Intercessor: Krystyn Paules
 Oblationers: Linda Pierpont & Charlene Donahue
 Greeter: Carolyn Gray
 Server: Laura Lee
 Nursery: Christy & Kevin Rousseau
 Coffee: Betsy Lee & Cynthia White
 Altar: Lamar Carroll & Nancy Saulniers

April 13th

Readers: George Jones & Charlene Donahue
 Chalice: Dotti Meyer
 Intercessor: Mij Bradford
 Oblationers: Richard & Joanne Gross
 Greeter: Trudi Hodgkins
 Server: Jean Greenwood
 Nursery: Annamarie Lee
 Coffee: Carolyn Gray & Debbie King
 Altar: Dotti Meyer

April 20th

Readers: George Van Deventer & Cynthia White
 Chalice: Jean Greenwood
 Intercessor: Ken Marden
 Oblationers: Jill Huber & George Jones
 Greeter: Jean Miller
 Server: Annamarie Lee
 Nursery: Meegan Burbank
 Coffee: Trudi Hodgkins & Linda Pierpont
 Altar: Cynthia White and Linda Pierpont

April 27th

Readers: Raymond Anderson & Trudi Hodgkins
 Chalice: John Atwood
 Intercessor: Linda Pierpont
 Oblationers: Tom Eichler & Jean Miller
 Greeter: George Van Deventer
 Server: Devon Huntley
 Nursery: Catherine Anderson
 Coffee: Jill Huber & Anne Bills
 Altar:

May 4th

Readers: Ken Marden & Kay Dale
 Chalice/Intercessor: Charlene Donahue
 Oblationers: The Anderson Family
 Greeter: Carolyn Gray
 Server: Laura Lee
 Nursery: Cathi Laweryson
 Coffee: Jean Miller & Dotti Meyer
 Altar:

Third Sunday of Easter

Tom Eichler & Kay Liss
 Krystyn Paules
 Linda Pierpont & Charlene Donahue
 Carolyn Gray
 Laura Lee
 Christy & Kevin Rousseau
 Betsy Lee & Cynthia White
 Lamar Carroll & Nancy Saulniers

Fourth Sunday of Easter

George Jones & Charlene Donahue
 Dotti Meyer
 Mij Bradford
 Richard & Joanne Gross
 Trudi Hodgkins
 Jean Greenwood
 Annamarie Lee
 Carolyn Gray & Debbie King
 Dotti Meyer

Fifth Sunday of Easter

George Van Deventer & Cynthia White
 Jean Greenwood
 Ken Marden
 Jill Huber & George Jones
 Jean Miller
 Annamarie Lee
 Meegan Burbank
 Trudi Hodgkins & Linda Pierpont
 Cynthia White and Linda Pierpont

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Raymond Anderson & Trudi Hodgkins
 John Atwood
 Linda Pierpont
 Tom Eichler & Jean Miller
 George Van Deventer
 Devon Huntley
 Catherine Anderson
 Jill Huber & Anne Bills

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ken Marden & Kay Dale
 Charlene Donahue
 The Anderson Family
 Carolyn Gray
 Laura Lee
 Cathi Laweryson
 Jean Miller & Dotti Meyer

Family Days in April

6th — Cynthia White
 13th — Margaret & Cliff Williams
 20th — Raymond & Catherine Anderson & Family
 27th — Robert & Donna Antognoni

Birthdays in April

5th — Bob Hargreaves
 9th — Donna Antognoni
 10th — Brian Mason
 18th — George Jones
 19th — Bob Antognoni
 25th — Diane Grant
 30th — Bob Sinclair

Anniversaries in April

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

Lessons For April

April 6th

First Lesson
 Psalm
 Second Lesson
 Gospel

April 13th

First Lesson
 Psalm
 Second Lesson
 Gospel

April 20th

First Lesson
 Psalm
 Second Lesson
 Gospel

April 27th

First Lesson
 Psalm
 Second Lesson
 Gospel

Third of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 116:1-3,10-17
 1 Peter 1:17-23
 Luke 24:13-35

Fourth of Easter

Acts 2:42-47
 23
 1 Peter 2:19-25
 John 10:1-10

Fifth of Easter

Acts 7:55-60
 31:1-5,15-16
 1 Peter 2:2-10
 John 14:1-14

Sixth of Easter

Acts 17:22-31
 66:7-18
 1 Peter 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21

The Rev. John Van Siclen, Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Leonetta Burns, Deacon / Assistant Pastor

pine hill press

Monthly newsletter of
St. Giles' Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 34, Jefferson, ME 04348-0034
549-3158

The Rev. John Van Siclen, *Priest in Charge*
644-1132

The Rev. Leonetta Burns, *Deacon/Assistant Pastor*
622-6811

Officers

John Atwood, *Senior Warden*
586-5557

Vestry

Ken Marden
Junior Warden
549-4783

Betsy Lee
Treasurer
563-2942

Tom Eichler
Clerk
549-3869

Debbie King
(2009)
549-7872

Jean Greenwood
(2010)
549-4704

Linda Pierpont
(2011)
549-4663

James Brown
(2009)
549-3913

Kevin Rousseau
(2010)
549-4902

George Jones
(2011)
832-7412

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

April Calendar

Sunday, April 6
9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, April 10
7:00 pm - Vestry meeting

Sunday, April 13
9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 20
9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
Newsletter deadline!

Sunday, April 27
9:30 am - Holy Eucharist