



*St. Giles'
Greening of the Church
and
Parish Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 21st
4:00 p.m.*

*Greening of the Church and
Special Program for Children
5:30 p.m.*

*Christmas Dinner
prepared by
Meegan Burbank and company*

Christmas Carol Sing

*St. Luke Christmas Story
read by Fr. Van Siclen*

**A Blessed
Christmas
to all!**

From the Priest in Charge

Dear Parish Family,

By the time you receive this, Thanksgiving will have passed and we will be in the active preparation mode for Christmas. The Christian church is a bit strange when it comes to Christmas. Rather than join the crowd, the witness of the church stands alone from all around it. Apart from all of the jolly sounds and seasonal rush, the church says, "come within." Come within and be quiet. Take a huge step and enter your own heart. Be on the lookout. Watch. Listen. There is much more than the eye or the ear can behold.

It is all a mystery. Why would the Holy One choose to come into a world of such chaos and disorder? Why would Jesus, the Holy One of God, make a home in this place? Would Jesus choose to come to our church? Would Jesus care to be with someone...who doesn't even go to church? What's the point??

Believers have been asking these same questions since Jesus' ascension when they understood that his return wouldn't be in the flesh, but in the Spirit. His return would be in the human heart. It would be a return that broke through the boundaries of time and space. So his return could happen in 34 A.D. or 2008 A.D...or both...or at all times.

When we come to the very quiet season of Advent, these four short weeks after Thanksgiving leading up to Christmas at the shortest time of the year, we prepare ourselves through prayer and worship so that we can be ready to step into the mystery of the Living Word which has become human flesh through the timeless birth of Jesus Christ.

May his birth this year of our Lord 2008 find you ready to welcome him and may his arrival cause you to welcome him into your home, especially the home within, with joy and delight and profound thanks.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you!

John

Notes from The Senior Warden

A few weeks ago, Deacon Lee Burns observed in her sermon that we are in a time to think about the transfer from one season to another and, because we live in Maine, we also need to be in a state of readiness, especially for the demands of winter. She's right, of course, and, although it is not yet winter as the calendar goes, the signs of its arrival are unmistakable. This morning it was 13 degrees, there's shell ice on the mud flats, and snow is predicted for the mountains.

Some greet this seasonal transition with foreboding. For certain, less daylight, ice on the roads, increased energy costs, among other changes, do add some inconvenience to our lives. One can take a different approach, however, and look on the marked change of seasons typical of where we live as a time of blessing and celebration. After all, as winter approaches, so does Advent and Christmas which represent times of anticipation and then joy at the birth of the Savior. We will observe the former as our liturgy teaches us and the latter with the exciting service on Christmas Eve which draws so many from the community to our little church.

As a parish we can also look to a variety of blessings and reasons to celebrate as we close out 2008 and enter a new year. Let me list just a few.

First, the stewardship campaign this year was a success. We have more pledging "units" this year than last and we anticipate that the sums pledged will equal or exceed last year's total - quite an accomplishment in such uncertain economic times. Thanks to all of you, we can begin formulating a 2009 budget with confidence.

Second, church attendance is up and Christian Discovery (aka Sunday School) is thriving. (Thank you Raymond Anderson and teachers!).

Third, we have stable, responsive, and caring clergy leadership whom we can count as our leaders and our friends.

Fourth, Outreach is vigorously exploring ways our parish can assist the many who are struggling in these challenging times.

Actually, I could continue this list with more entries, but the point is that while the sun may not shine here now as it did in July, there is ample light and warmth in and around our parish and its activities. So, as the seasons change and we approach the challenges of winter, let's remember that we have much to be grateful for at St. Giles.

Merry Christmas to All!

—John Atwood

United Thank Offering - 2008

Thank you for your support. In 2008 UTO awarded 17 international grants and 70 domestic grants for a total of \$2,401,906.70.

Just a few outstanding grants as follows:

- Maine - Lewiston, Trinity Jubilee Center
- \$10,610.00 to fund the salary for a Refugee Outreach Coordinator for a growing Somali refugee population.
- Alabama - Moody, Bakers on Wheels Bread Oven: \$5,500.00 for a convection oven customized for bakers in wheelchairs, to empower them by expanding their volunteer ministry of baking bread and donating to the homeless, friendless, sick, hungry and disabled in two counties - 77% of which are women and children.
- Diocese of Delhi, North India \$59,622.81 to build a vocational training center in Kalimpong to combat cross-border and internal trafficking of women and children in Eastern Himalaya. Estimates are that in 2008 over 27 million people will be enslaved worldwide, and nearly 20 million will be women and children.

Summary of other grants in the United States:

- Equipment and administrative costs for community food pantries, soup kitchens
- Bi-lingual ministries to youth and adults and other youth programs
- Handicapped accessible construction

Educational resources

- Social Services and health ministries for low-income families
- Life skills and anger management facilitators for prison inmates and their families
- Infra-structure repairs due to age or disasters such as Hurricane Katrina
- Transportation for children and seniors
- Support summer camp opportunities
- Job-skill training and counseling for low-income women with child care provided

Summary of other grants internationally.

- Build classrooms and other gathering places for educational training centers
- Purchase seeds and tools for a garden project to improve agricultural production and health
- Vehicles to provide access to remote areas
- Repair of aging or damaged facilities

Kudos to Charlene

Congratulations to Charlene Donahue, the new President of the Maine Entomological Society, a group of 132 men and women dedicated to learning more about Maine's fabulous insect population.

Lay Ministry for December 2008

December 7 Second Sunday of Advent

Readers: Ken Marden & Kay Liss
 Chalice/Intercessor: Jean Greenwood
 Oblationers: Raymond
 and Catherine Anderson
 Greeter: Tom Eichler
 Server: Laura Lee
 Acolytes: Emily Huber
 & Roberta Anderson
 Nursery: Meegan Burbank
 Coffee: ECW
 Altar: Dotti Meyer

December 14 Third Sunday of Advent

Readers: Raymond Anderson
 & Jean Miller
 Chalice: Charlene Donahue
 Intercessor: Trudi Hodgkins
 Oblationers: Jill Huber & Linda Pierpont
 Greeter: George Jones
 Server: Jean Greenwood
 Nursery: Laura Lee
 Coffee: Anne Bills & Carolyn Gray
 Altar: Cynthia White & Kay Dale

December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readers: Tom Eichler & Wendy Eichler
 Chalice: Sidney Harvey
 Intercessor: Kay Dale
 Oblationers: Nancy Saulniers
 & George Jones
 Greeter: Joe Gray
 Server: Devon Huntley
 Nursery: Cathi Laweryson
 Coffee: Debbie King & Trudi Hodgkins
 Altar: Jean Greenwood

December 24 Eve of the Nativity

Readers: George Jones
 & Trudi Hodgkins
 Chalice: John Atwood
 Intercessor: Linda Pierpont
 Oblationers: Richard & Joanne Gross
 Greeter: Wendy Eichler
 Server: Anna Lee
 Acolytes: As available
 Altar: Dotti Meyer

Dec. 28 First Sunday after Christmas

Readers: Pam Van Siclen
 & Meegan Burbank
 Chalice: George Jones
 Intercessor: Carolyn Gray
 Oblationers: Charlene Donahue
 & Ken Marden
 Greeter: George Van Deventer
 Server: Laura Lee
 Nursery: Kevin/Christy Rousseau
 Coffee: Lyndia Gould & Nancy Saulniers
 Altar: Tom & Wendy Eichler

Prayer List

*Please keep these people and their families
 in your hearts and prayers:*

Sela Basso
 Steve Botka
 James Capper
 Richard Chick
 John Cudmore
 Jim Funk
 Rick Gribbin
 Dane Hannum
 Judy Marden
 Margaret Pham
 Konnor Scofield
 Steven Sinclair
 Brooks Skinner
 Clarence Sutherland
 Leon Tsomides
 Keith Walker
 Cynthia White

Jan. 4 Second Sunday after Christmas

Readers: George Van Deventer
 & Catherine Anderson
 Chalice/Intercessor: Dotti Meyer
 Oblationers: Tom & Wendy Eichler
 Greeter: Trudi Hodgkins
 Server: Jean Greenwood
 Nursery: Anna Lee
 Coffee: Linda/Jimmy Brown
 & Jill Huber
 Altar: Linda Pierpont

Family Days in December

7th—Jean Greenwood, Janice Milligan,
 Mike Gunter
 14th—Richard & Joanne Gross
 21st—Robert & Fran Hargreaves
 28th —Trudi Hodgkins

The Rev. John Van Siclen,
 Priest in Charge

The Rev. Leonetta Burns,
 Deacon/Assistant Pastor

Valerie Chipman, Minister of Music
 Carroll Smith, Organist

Birthdays in December

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

Anniversaries in December

23rd—Sean & Leslie McCormick
 31st—Jean Greenwood/Michael Gunter

Lessons For December

December 7	Second of Advent
First Lesson	Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm	85:1-2,8-13
Second Lesson	2 Peter 3:8-15a
Gospel	Mark 1:1-8

December 14 Third of Advent

First Lesson	Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11
Psalm	126
Second Lesson	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel	John 1:6-8,19-28

December 21 Fourth of Advent

First Lesson	2 Samuel 7:1-11,16
Psalm	89:1-4,19-26
Second Lesson	Romans 16:25-27
Gospel	Luke 1:26-38

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 28 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 4 Second after Christmas

First Lesson	Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm	84
Second Lesson	Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a
Gospel	Matthew 2:13-15,19-23



December Calendar

Tuesday, December 2: 12:30 pm
ECW at Linda Brown's home

Sunday, December 7: 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
Bishop Lane visits

Thursday, December 11: 7:00 pm - Vestry meeting

Sunday, December 14: 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
ECW Christmas Cookie Sale follows service

Sunday, December 21
9:30 am - Holy Eucharist
4:00 pm - Greening of the Church
5:30 pm - Christmas Dinner

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

Sunday, December 28: 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist

St. Giles' Episcopal Church

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

Remembering Pearl Harbor

The cry rang out throughout the nation for four long years. Many of us have a firm recollection of where we were on Sunday, December 7, 1941, the day Japan attacked the United States. In my mind, it is as clear today as it was then.

This day 67 years ago began World War II in the Pacific. The cost was tremendous, in both lives and resources, as are current conflicts. We live in a troubled world and the unexpected can happen at any time. Therefore, we must remember the past or suffer consequences in the future. Pray for those who have lost their lives in the defense of this nation, pray for those who suffer in mind and body as a result of their participation, pray for protection of men and women serving in our military today, pray for the wounded and recovering, and pray for world peace in our time.

- Joe Gray

ECW News

The December meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 2nd at Linda Brown's home. We will carpool from the church at 12:00. Please bring a bag lunch.

We will meet Saturday Dec. 13th at 9 :00 to assemble Christmas Cookie baskets. Please bring cookies and Christmas containers to the church. The Christmas Cookie Sale will be Sunday Dec. 14th right after church.