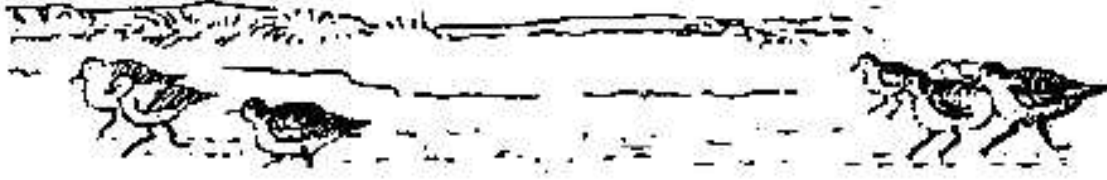


October 2004

The Sandpiper

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church



Call to Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 7th, 4 PM, with potluck feast. Please plan on attending! Please return your Annual Appeal and Time & Talent forms no later than Sunday, October 24th so the information can be used to create a 2005 budget and prepare for our annual meeting. Please contact Vicki LaQuerre at 934-4160 if you have any questions.

“Bible 101” Class

New offering this fall, open to all. Each class will consist of three parts: General information, Discussion of how we read and interpret, Commentary and discussion of a particular text. Please note that this class intends to cover a range of experience and insights -- we are all beginners when it comes to the Bible. It will not be necessary to attend all the scheduled classes (though that would be nice).

Classes are the following Mondays at 7:00 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church:
October 25th, November 1st, November 29th, and December 13th.

Christmas Eve Pageant

While it may seem early to think of this, we are hoping to have a children's pageant at our Christmas Eve service again. Last year's pageant coordinator, Paula Atkinson, is concentrating on Christkindlsmarkt this year, but would be happy to answer questions about what was done last year.

Anyone interested in making this happen please contact David Matson at church or snecc@gwi.net, or Cathy Bennett at cbennett@maine.rr.com. Thank you for considering this wonderful opportunity to help the kids put their talents to work on something they really enjoy!

Attention, middle schoolers!

The Diocese is sponsoring a weekend for youth, grades 6-8, based on the Harry Potter book "The Chamber of Secrets." Meet Harry and his cronies, and lots of neat kids from around Maine. The event is Friday, October 15, 6:30 PM till Sunday, October 17 2 PM at Grace Church, Bath. Cost is \$35 before 10/4, \$45 after (Scholarships available -don't let the cost get in the way!)

Nancy Nickerson is available to help with transportation, and has applications for the event. Contact her if interested at 878-2238.

Summer Sunday Morning Memories

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church has been my “home” church away from home, one Sunday in July for a number of years now. It may seem strange to talk about a “home” church one attends only one Sunday a year, but St. Nicholas does indeed feel like home.

For the last six years my wife and I, who are from Ottawa, Ontario have joined three of her sisters and a brother-in-law, who all live in the Quebec City area, at a rented house in Pine Point for one week in July. As an enthusiastic member of St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Ottawa, I sought out the local Episcopal Church the first year we came to Pine Point. At that time your parish was sharing the Congregational Church building on Route 9. Then I followed you to the renovated spa for a couple years. When I participated in your service last summer, I observed the earth moving equipment on the property, ready to dig the foundation for your new church building. It was indeed a pleasure this year to find the church completed and to see you all settled into your fine new building; its simple, elegant lines and great openness are most impressive.

From the very first time I attended one of your church services I have been struck by the warmth and hospitableness of the members of your parish. There is a simplicity and an informality in your service but there is also great dignity. The way you stand in a circle for the Eucharist has always reminded me of our unity in Christ, and to be included in that circle, even if it is for one brief Sunday service a year, seems to be a special privilege. It also leads me to think of the idea that all believers, no matter where they come from or where they are, are all part of the body of Christ. It has also struck me that, no matter what the physical surroundings for your worship service have been over these years, the spiritual experience is the same—at least it is for me.

Thank you for being such a warm, open-hearted, welcoming parish and providing good memories of meaningful religious and spiritual experiences.

John Zegers

Preble Street Resource Center Soup Kitchen

St Nicholas Church staffs lunch at the Preble Street Soup Kitchen on the 5th Sunday of any month (about 4 times a year.) This involves planning and cooking the meal, serving the meal, keeping a count of the attendance, and cleaning up afterwards.

This effort is staffed with volunteers from our congregation, and we all have a good time in the process. A photo of the “staff” at the last event can be seen in the coffee hour area.

Our next date is Sunday, October 31st. Cooks (and pot scrubbers) need to arrive at 10:00. Servers should show up at 11:30 for an orientation and table assignment. Cleaners can arrive at 12:45. Each task takes about 90 minutes. If you are interested in helping out, you can talk to Jim or Paula Atkinson. Please let us know if you are planning on attending so we can keep a count (it is especially important to have enough servers!)

Thank you!

Dear Friends,

As I write, the Jewish calendar celebrates Rosh Hashana – the new year.

I think this time of year always feels like a new year in our calendar as well, with the return of Sunday School and the beginning of a new “program year.” And for us at Saint Nicholas, it is *very* much a new year – new building, new budget, new priest. It makes more sense to mark the new year now instead of in the middle of winter, doesn't it?

But what does it mean to begin a new year? It is traditionally a time to review the past, and resolve to make a fresh start. It is traditionally a time of repentance.

There's a loaded word! In our religious tradition, we may tend to think that repentance is all about realizing how bad we are and promising (in vain) to be good. But perhaps we could benefit from a closer look at the ancient scriptures. In Hebrew, the word translated “repent” means “to turn.” It is a verb of motion. That can mean turning from bad to good – but sometimes it just means changing direction. Sometimes the path we have been on *has* been good – but now it is time to move in another direction. Maybe the straight and narrow is really a long and winding road.

At Saint Nicholas I believe we are being called to turn. Not because we have been bad, but because God loves to see us change and grow. We are being entrusted with new responsibilities – and presented with new opportunities. This is a very exciting time for us, and I feel so blessed to be sharing it with you.

Happy New Year!

- David

The Sandpiper thanks:

- ❖ Cynthia Nye, our Warden, for three years of excellent service to St Nicholas Episcopal Church and the family of people who worship here.
- ❖ Don Martin, Tom Beidleman, Gregg Frame, Joan Seidel, Josh LaQuerre, and Vicki LaQuerre for their work on the St Nicholas Golf Tournament.
- ❖ Darcie Libby and Paula Atkinson for their commitment to bring Christkindlsmarkt back to St Nicholas Church, and to the committee chairs, Anna Horton, Linda Cohen, John Balicki, Pat Beidleman, Vicki LaQuerre, Kathie & Kelsey Sheehan, David Vardeman, Josh LaQuerre, Don Martin, Nancy Agan, Marcia Kapinos, Gregg Frame, Nancy Nickerson and Jim Atkinson for all the work they do.
- ❖ All those who participated in the clean-up day on September 5, and made the inside and outside look so nice.
- ❖ Renee Thresher for creating and providing the large print BCP service booklets.
- ❖ Pat Beidleman for her commitment to the collection and printing of the bulletins each week.

St. Nicholas Church Available for Special Events or Meetings.

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church is prepared to serve our church family and surrounding community by offering our building facilities for use by church members for family events, and for use by outside organizations. Currently, we provide free use of our building to non-profit groups such as the Girl Scouts, Maine Crafters Association, and Episcopal Diocese of Maine. The Bishop's Committee has approved for-profit use of the facilities for organizations and events in accordance with two procedural documents: Building Use Application and Building Use Agreement. These forms are available in the church office, and soon to be available to view and download on our website (www.stnicholas-me.org.) The Rev. David Matson is available to answer any questions regarding the use of St. Nicholas's facilities.

My Old Rusty Car From Paul (in prison in Virginia)

My first car was a 1947 Plymouth Mayflower Special Deluxe Sedan, a huge hunk of metal, but was my pride and joy. I bought it in 1971 so it was an antique and needed a lot of work. It required a complete new interior, an overhauled engine, brakes, an exhaust system, and a new paint job. I remember to this day all the hard work and hours that Dad and I put into it. Sanding the exterior, sliding underneath it, and leaning under the hood was all hard work. But as my father and I were both perfectionists, we wanted to make it not just drivable, but safe, and a car to be proud of. I'll never forget the first day I drove it out of the garage. To me it was the best car on the road!

So many of us are like my rusty old car. We are rusty in our hearts, need to rebuild our engines, and our interior lining is shabby too. Just as Dad and I brought new life into that old car, Christ gives each of us new life to rebuild our engine, cleanse our interior of sin, gives us new shocks to keep us from swaying from side to side, and a bright, shiny new paint job so that others will take notice of the Christian that we are, which comes from our inner being. He is our painter, refinisher, and engine rebuilders, and gives us the strength and guidance to shine among men and women. Just as my old car needed revitalizing, often even the best Christian needs to shake off the rust and fine-tune his/her engine to keep faith strong. My old car served me well, and as Christians, Christ commands us to serve others in His name.

See you next month!

(editor's note: Paul writes monthly, but the Sandpiper does not, so look for future correspondence on our website (www.stnicholas-me.org) in the Outreach section.)

DEACON'S MUSINGS

Whatever happened to *autumn*? Crisp air, blue skies, unlimited visibility, colorful chrysanthemums all spell *fall* to us nowadays. We talk about *autumn* leaves, but *fall colors*. When I looked up a definition of *autumn* Webster gave three: the period of September, October, and November or from the September equinox to the December solstice or a period of maturing or decline.

Although the day light grows less and night time lengthens, leaves fall from trees, and there is a chill in the air it is also, in these northern climes, a time of ripening of the harvest, gathering the plenty that God has given us through the longer and warmer daylight hours. So, yes, the light is declining as our earth tilts away from the sun, but it is certainly a time of maturing.

A look today at the children gathered from school in June makes us realize that they too are maturing. The pants are too short, the shoes too small, the bodies have changed and your funds are declining!

We are nearing the end of Pentecost the 25 week season in the church year of planting, growth, and harvest. We started with the exuberance of the presence of the Holy Spirit among the apostles and disciples; we move on to the solemnity and pensiveness of Advent. Pentecost, as well as our summer and fall, is a time of beauty, growth, and maturity. (Here at St. Nicholas we have seen all three this year.) Our lessons focus on the life of Jesus and his apostles and lead us to examine our lives, the presence of the Holy Spirit in them, and our response to this gift in our day-to-day lives.

Let's recover *autumn* which seems to me much more life-giving than *fall* which may reflect the falling leaves, the sleeping season, but seems to lead us to decline instead of to maturing.

Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

Haiti Hurricane Relief:
Episcopal Relief and Development is collecting funds for hurricane relief for Haiti. Checks should be made payable to "Episcopal Relief and Development" and send to 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017. The memo should note "Haiti Hurricane 2004".

The **St. Nicholas Book Club** will meet on Thursday, October 21, 7pm, at Scarborough Terrace. This month's book is *The Master Butchers' Singing Club* by Louise Erdrich. The novel tells the story of European immigrants and small-town life in North Dakota. Everyone is welcome. FMI, call Cathy Bennett at 883-3128

Dear Friends,

On November 7th, I will finish my third and final year as Warden of St. Nicholas. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the church in this way. The Bishop's Committee is now looking for someone to assume this leadership role. Please pray for us in this search.

For those new to the Episcopal Church, the terms *Warden* and *Bishop's Committee* may need explanation. The term *vestry* may be more familiar, and this is essentially a synonym for the Bishop's Committee. The Bishop's Committee works with the vicar and deacon to oversee the various responsibilities of the church: administrative, financial, and spiritual. The officers of the church—Warden, Treasurer, and Clerk—are selected by the Bishop's Committee and approved by the congregation at Annual Meeting, this year on November 7.

St. Nicholas has had many wonderful Wardens in its 16-year history. Each of us faced unique challenges and met them in unique ways, according to our personalities and skills. Most of us are still here, affirming the do-able-ness of the job. With your help, the new Warden, whomever he, she, or they may be, will continue just as successfully.

As I see it, the Bishop's Committee's priorities for next year include adapting to growth, building our budget to meet new expenses, and supporting our priest and other committees in their work. I think the new Warden's key tasks will be communication and facilitation in the areas of growth and stewardship. David is particularly interested in expanding our education programs and creating space for prayer and meditation. He wishes the Warden to be supportive of those goals—not to carry them out, but to listen and discuss possibilities.

This is an exciting time for a new Warden. St. Nick's is firmly planted and growing. David is invested in this church, and he's a good person to work with. As always, we have many talented people supporting the church's missions. We have more to learn and do—but may we always! There is fulfillment in the present and promise in the future.

Please read the Warden's job description included in this newsletter, and keep this need in your thoughts and prayers.

This will probably be my last newsletter message as Warden, so I will close by saying thank you. Thank you to each and every person in this church. Your love and contributions in tasks large and small have brought St. Nicholas to where we are today. Working alongside you is a joy and an inspiration.

With my gratitude, love, and prayers,

Cynthia

WARDEN'S JOB DESCRIPTION

Each Warden carries out the job in a unique way. These are the general responsibilities as I have experienced them.

- Pray for the church, and for wisdom and guidance in helping to oversee it.
- Attend services regularly and connect with members and visitors at coffee hour.
- Participate in some of the other activities of the church.

Meet 2 to 3 times a month with David to support him in his work and to talk over what's going on at St. Nicholas. Sometimes this can happen by phone.

WARDEN'S JOB DESCRIPTION (continued)

- Meet once a month with David, Jeffrey, and the Treasurer to prepare for the Bishop's Committee meeting. David writes and distributes the agenda.
- Attend and participate in the monthly Bishop's Committee meeting; lead it if David is away. Help in planning the Annual Meeting.
- Oversee some tasks and communicate with the Bishop's Committee by email when decisions need to be made between meetings.
- Be aware of and support the work of committees and task groups within the church. Usually, this means reading minutes and notes by email. Occasionally, a member may call you.
- Represent the congregation to the priest and the priest to the congregation. Keep your personal feelings separate from your role as warden.
- Communicate with the congregation on behalf of the Bishop's Committee. Typically, this means making occasional announcements and writing an article for the newsletter. Special circumstances could require special communication. On occasion, you might write a note of thanks or sympathy.
- Communicate with the diocese. Currently, this means reporting to the Standing Committee on our building and fundraising status. They request this report approximately quarterly and are very supportive of our work.
- Attend the Bishop's Committee retreat; help to choose a focus & hire a facilitator.

Please prayerfully consider who might be the right person to be our next Warden. Speak to David or to me if you are willing, want to talk about it, or think there is someone we should ask. We are praying that someone, or perhaps two people, will step forward soon. The church can carry on for a while without a Warden, if necessary, but it would be better to have a smooth transition.

In peace, Cynthia

St. Nicholas
Episcopal
Church

Upcoming Events Calendar

October

- 4 Bible 101 Class – 7PM at the Church
- 5 Preacher's Aid – Each Tuesday, 7PM at the Adams' house
- 11 St Nicholas Church Golf Outing:
7:30 Registration, 8:30 tee-off
12:30 lunch, raffle, and silent auction
- 15 Harry Potter weekend for middle-schoolers:
6:30PM, through October 17 2PM at Grace Church, Bath
- 17 Essentials Pantry packaging during coffee hour
- 19 Essentials Pantry distribution at Chestnut St. Church
- 21 Book Club at Scarborough Terrace, 7PM
- 25 Bible 101 Class – 7PM at the Church
- 31 No Church School today – family service
- 31 Preble Street Soup Kitchen staffing:
Cooks @ 10AM, Servers @ 11:30, Cleaners @ 12:45.

November

- 1 Bible 101 Class – 7PM at the Church
- 7 4PM Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner
- 29 Bible 101 Class – 7PM at the Church

December

- 11 Christkindlsmarkt – 2PM to 8PM

350 U.S. Route 1
P. O. Box 342
Scarborough, ME 04070-
0342

Sunday Service &
Church School
9:00 a.m.

Priest-in-Charge
Rev. David Matson

Office Phone:
(207) 883-9437

Deacon
Rev. Jeffrey Ferguson
(207) 282-3514
misjef@zwi.net

Warden
Cynthia Nye
(207) 934-1413

www.stnicholas-me.org

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
PO Box 342
Scarborough, ME 04074-0342



Christkindlsmarkt

"What is a Christkindlsmarkt" you might ask. It's an outdoor Christmas village market aglow in white twinkling lights. In Europe these fairs, which originated in the 1400's, can last a whole month! Ours will last from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Saturday December 11th. The flavor is decidedly German and Austrian with hearty foods like bratwurst, thick soups, and hot pretzels to tempt you. Spiced cider and cocoa smells mingle in the crisp air. European breads like stollen and delicacies prepared locally can be purchased at our bake table. Children's activities will be offered such as building snow globes, face painting and icing Christmas and ginger cookies. There will be a Kid's Table with bargains for young shoppers. Adult helpers will help them shop, wrap and label their presents. St. Nicholas will arrive in his 3rd century bishop's costume to tell stories of ancient times. He will give golden chocolate coins to children young and old. Photographer, Josh LaQuerre has offered to take pictures of good little children with St. Nick. If music interests you be prepared for local talent to show off their stuff. Songbooks might encourage the shy to join us in a rousing sing along. Did I mention the crafters? Several crafters will be offering a variety of locally made treasures. From darling whimsical ornaments of the season to finely polished silver jewelry. Haven't bought your Christmas tree? Waterhouse Farms will be on hand selling quality evergreens and tastefully decorated wreaths. St. Nicholas Church will be welcoming the greater community to our unique fair. This is also a wonderful opportunity to open our doors to the public and show off our new building!

We guarantee a delightful alternative to mall shopping!

Christkindlsmarkt Kid's Table

Vicki LaQuerre and Cathy Bennett are co-chairs of the popular "Kid's Table" this year at Christkindlsmarkt.

The table will be where children can purchase small gifts for their families and friends. Nothing will cost over a dollar - we're hoping to have church members donate any "gently used" items that might be appropriate for this. Examples are costume jewelry, toys, books, gifts that you've received but never really liked (a scented candle, scarf, ornament, figurine), anything handcrafted, - use your imagination! In years past, people have baked dog biscuits and made catnip mice for gifts for our family pets.

People staffing this table will help the children shop, and then we will wrap and tag their gift for them. Kids have really enjoyed being able to have gifts from this table to give to their family members.

Donations of any of the following would be greatly appreciated: gently used items like costume jewelry, ornaments, books, small toys, handmade items, items for pets, candles, kitchen gadgets, scarves. Wrapping table items needed include tape, wrapping paper, scissors (for use the day of event- labeled with your name so they can be returned) ribbon or bows, tissue paper, gift bags, gift tags. Indoor/outdoor mini- white lights for decorations would also be appreciated.

For more info contact Vicki LaQuerre (934-4160) or Cathy Bennett (883-3128).

2004 St Nicholas Church Golf Tournament

Bishop Chilton Knudson and our own Reverend David Matson headline a list of "celebrated" golfers as the St Nick's Golf Tournament returns this Columbus Day at Nonesuch Golf Course. A morning of golf is followed at 12:30 by a lunch, raffle and silent auction. The proceeds will benefit our Building Campaign and Project Grace.

The Hole-in-one prize is a 2005 Land Rover from Land Rover Scarborough!

See below for a list of the prizes and auction items donated to date.

We thank our Gold Sponsors:

North East Insurance Company and **The Rt Rev Chilton R. Knudson**,

and our hole sponsors:

Advance Technology

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Demont & Associates

Pat's Pizza

Sudzie Auto Wash

Hannaford Supermarket

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The Current

Nonesuch Golf Course

The St Nicholas Golf Tournament prizes and auction items include:

- ❖ Golf for three with Josiah Adams at Prouts Neck CC
- ❖ ½ hour golf lesson with Jim Fairbanks - Head Pro at Nonesuch
- ❖ ½ hour golf lesson with Scott Mayer, 2004 Maine PGA Teacher of the Year
- ❖ A round of golf at Boothbay CC from Dick Harris
- ❖ A Round of golf for two at Fox Ridge
- ❖ A Callaway putter from Tom & Marion Gagnon
- ❖ Golf for 4 with carts (use before 10/31) at Lake Winnepesaukee Golf Club
- ❖ A package of burp cloths by Maisey Mae Designs
- ❖ Two gift certificates for a free personal training session with Barry Tripp of Tripp's Fitness Academy at Lifestyle Fitness Center in Scarborough
- ❖ One month membership at Lifestyle Fitness Center
- ❖ Haircut at Epiphany c/o Roland Champagne - \$20.00 value
- ❖ \$50.00 gift certificate to Joseph's By The Sea c/o Hazel Davis
- ❖ \$25.00 sandwich gift certificate from Vaughn St. Market. Portland
- ❖ 1 Corned Beef or Pastrami special per month for 1 year from David Rosen's Full Belly Deli.
- ❖ A \$100 Gift Certificate for Duraclean Fabric Specialists from Tom Dube
- ❖ A 1 hour scenic flight in a Piper Cub out of Biddeford from David & Vicki LaQuerre
- ❖ Art work by The Rev. David Matson
- ❖ Assorted beverages by National Distributors of South Portland
- ❖ A gift certificate from Romeo's Pizza
- ❖ A Whale Watch on ODYSSEY for 2 adults next summer from Jeffrey Ferguson
- ❖ 4 tickets to a 2005 Sea Dogs game from The Portland Sea Dogs