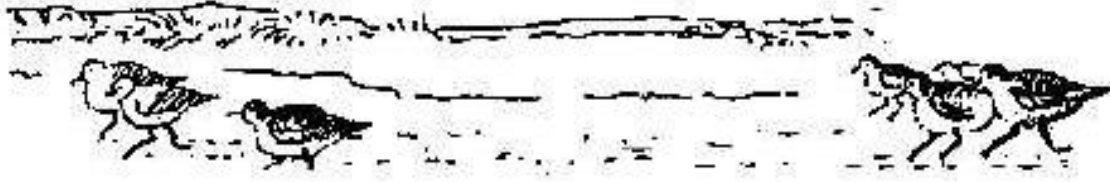


April 2005

# *The Sandpiper*

*St. Nicholas Episcopal Church*



## April 10<sup>th</sup> Celebration

April 10, 2005 will be a day of joy at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, Installing the Rev David Matson as Vicar and Receiving John Balicki as an Episcopal Priest!

Bishop Knudsen was invited to celebrate the Eucharist at 4:00 pm and during the Service to Receive a long time member of the congregation, John Balicki, as a priest in the Episcopal Church. We will all celebrate with John, his family, and friends on this momentous occasion.

There is now cause for a second celebration. One year ago, the Rev. David Matson came to St. Nicholas as our Priest-in-Charge, an interim position. It was announced at the Easter Service that the Bishop Committee has called the Rev. Matson to be St Nicholas Church's permanent Vicar and he has accepted the calling. Bishop Knudsen will sanctify this calling by Installing Father David at the April 10 Eucharist Service. This is a celebration for David and his family as well as the entire St Nicholas Church family!

## April 10<sup>th</sup> Invitation from John Balicki

I would like to invite everyone at St. Nicholas to a service led by Bishop Chilton Knudsen where I will be received as an Episcopal priest. This service will be in the context of the Holy Eucharist and be held at 4 PM at St. Nicholas on Sunday, April 10. A brief reception will follow.

Let me clarify what it means to be "received" as an Episcopal priest. Because I was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1983, I do not need to be ordained again. I only need to pledge to accept the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of this Church and then the Bishop will receive me as an Episcopal priest. I have spent the last two years preparing for this day by studying Anglican history and tradition and doing an internship this fall at Grace Church in Bath.

I want to thank everyone at St. Nicholas who has supported me in my journey over the years and who have encouraged me to become an Episcopal priest. Please join Karen, Caitlin, Casey and I for this happy day. For those not able to attend in person, please support me in a spirit of prayer.

John Balicki

## Warden's Notes

As I write these notes, I am reminded that it was just about one year ago that the Congregation took the long walk from the "tub shop" to our new, beautiful home. I say long because I think that that walk really started in Old Orchard Beach in 1988, by a core group of visionaries and activists who had the wisdom and foresight to see that an Episcopal Church was needed in the greater Scarborough area. A church that was both "welcoming and nurturing" to all who entered its doors. Thankfully, the Church's founders had the courage to take the first of this congregation's many "leaps of faith" and founded what is now St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, a place that "welcomes all, wherever they are in their personal and spiritual journeys."

Fast forward to March 2005 and observe what has happened. Many of the early founders are still with us, working diligently to minister to the Church and the Community's needs. What I find fascinating, and wonderful, is that they are working shoulder to shoulder with the many newcomers that have also found St. Nicholas to be a place where good things happen, where energy abounds, and where one can find the opportunity to minister in his or her own way to God and to his fellow man. In the past year, St. Nicholas has been blessed with many new members who have made a commitment not only to stay, but also to participate in all aspects of the congregation. They are Readers, Bishop Committee members, and Fellowship Committee members. Newcomers are involved in the Nursery and Sunday School, and they are also helping at the Soup Kitchen and the Essentials Pantry. Finally, many new faces were seen working at last year's golf tournament and at Christkindlsmarkt. Welcome to all of you. You have enriched the St. Nicholas experience for all of us.

A second observation about this past year is worth noting. At last June's St. Nicholas Church Consecration, Bishop Knudsen prayed, "sanctify this place which we now dedicate to your service. Send us out from this place to serve the world in the name of Christ, the servant of all." I think that all St. Nickers can take pride in adhering to the Bishop's call. This was brought home to me at the January 9, 2005 Epiphany Sunday Service which was described as "Outreach Sunday." You may remember that on that Sunday David's sermon time was taken up by speakers from several of the ministries which St. Nicholas supports. Representatives from Project Grace, St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry, the Scarborough Food Pantry, Friendship House, Preble Street Soup Kitchen and the Root Cellar gave brief presentations to the congregation and described their missions, hopes and needs, and how we at St. Nicholas are helping, and how we can continue to help them meet their goals. Anyone who was at that service had to feel a lot of pride. As I later wrote to Cathy Bennett, who was instrumental in putting this program together, "one could sense a powerful spiritual bond between both the presenters and the congregation." It truly was a moving Service.

Those are my thoughts as we mark this one-year milestone. The new church building is beautiful, it is a wonderful place to worship in, and it is a tribute to all who worked (and are continuing to work) to make it happen. But as we have all said at various times, it's just a building. It's the founders, some of us who fall somewhere in between, and the newcomers worshiping and working side by side that defines St. Nicholas Episcopal Church.

Let us continue to look up to our weathervane for direction.

Peace,  
Don Martin

## New Songs

Lately I have been hearing folks say, "Let's sing some 'new' songs." That's great, but it isn't as easy as one might think. First of all, what new songs? Where do we get them? Suggestions would be helpful from church members. Secondly, how do they get printed for church use? Copyright laws govern a lot of what can and cannot be reprinted. In addition, printing songs/words can be time consuming and some cost is involved. And last, but not least, sometimes the songs we think sound nice may be theologically inappropriate for Episcopal churches. In other words, they may incorporate lyrics that don't correspond to our beliefs.

With the above said, there are some ways we can incorporate new songs. One way is to learn new ones out of our Episcopalian hymnal. There are so many there that we never touch because folks don't know them. So, we might need a "hymn sing" so that people can learn/practice the new songs, but there's a catch---people have to show up for the "hymn sing." Also, we could at some point investigate buying a book of new hymns that we could copy. This generally requires applying for permission to reprint and paying fees to do so. Remember also that an amount of time is given each week to try to select hymns that compliment the lessons for that day.

So, please don't think that requests for new songs are falling on deaf ears, it's just not as easy as one might think. Your ideas are appreciated! Thanks for listening.

Terry Foster, Church Musician



Did you know...

The electricity we use at St. Nick's is purchased through Maine Renewable Energy, as we are participants in Maine Interfaith Power and Light. This means that our electricity is generated through more environmentally friendly sources (biomass and hydro, vs. coal, oil, nuclear), and costs a little more than a penny extra/KWH as compared to standard supply. Many other churches do the same, and this is also available to individuals for their residences. FMI---Nancy Nickerson.

Dear Friends,

I was recently asked by one of you if Judas went to Hell.

Perhaps that's not the most pleasant question for the Easter season, but I do love questions like that. How would you answer it? How would you go about formulating a response? Why should it matter?

Let's start with the last of those questions first. It matters, because if we are not engaged in theological questions, we are in trouble. It won't do to simply accept others' answers - we bear a God-given responsibility to think, explore, and test. Unless we can own our theology, it will take us nowhere. This question about Judas and Hell may matter ultimately to poor Judas. But it also matters ultimately to us, because we are called to be involved.

So how might we go about answering such a question? Read scripture, read about scripture, just think about it, ask others what they think. We might be wise to define our terms - what do we even mean by "Hell," for example. Approaching an answer is far less important than engaging the question. The more we think about it, the more new questions open up. Try bringing the questions into prayer.

So what might you suggest for an answer? I'd love to hear what you think. Saint Nicholas is known for its spirit of inquiry, and we are so much the livelier for it. Thanks be to God.

- David

### St. Nick's Prayer Chain

If there is something or someone you want collectively prayed for, there is a group of people who will intentionally pray every day for a week. You can contact David Matson or Connie Dube (cdube@maine.rr.com) to get your prayer request going on the chain, or if you want to be included as a member of the chain, let one of us know.



## Youth Mission Trip Update

Plans continue to take shape for the Youth Team traveling to the Dominican Republic in July. Rory and Nancy Nickerson from St. Nicholas, and 11 other teens and 3 adults from other Episcopal churches in Maine comprise the team. We will be meeting on April 8 and 9 at St. Patrick's in Brewer to work on learning more about the Dominican culture, and fine tuning our Spanish (which is very rough at best!). We have one more prep weekend in May, and then we head from New York City to Santo Domingo on July 1. Our tasks for one week will be to help build a bakery in an impoverished village and run a Vacation Bible School for school-age children there. This locale and work have been arranged in conjunction with the Episcopal diocese in the Dominican Republic. We will also take 2 days to decompress/ relax before returning to the United States. We plan to make presentations to churches once we are back, since so many – especially all of you! - have demonstrated interest in and support for this venture.

Over the past several weeks St. Nickers have been very generous with their purchase of hot cocoa mix and baking cocoa, to benefit small farmers in the DR, as well as our trip fundraising efforts. Also, the returnable bottles have been a growing and welcome contribution. This has yielded close to \$150 for our trip to date. A huge "thank you" from Rory, Nancy, and the entire mission team.

## From Inside Prison Walls

Stevie can't read. Aurielo can't write. Tommy cannot add, subtract, or multiply, and Alonzo is struggling with the alphabet. These are but just a few of the men that I help teach at the prison school. Some of these men are white, some black, others Hispanic, varying in ages from 20-65. These men have never experienced the educational opportunities that most of us take for granted, but most are determined to learn. Eight hours a day our common goal is to learn so that these men can read a letter from home, write a letter, or upon release, fill in a job application. Indeed, these men have a lot in common, as an education, even in the simplest of terms, is a struggle for a man in prison.

There is also another common factor among these men that I spend my day helping. After their day at school and a dinner of beans, rice, or potatoes, I see these same men each and every evening at chapel and church services. It is remarkable that even though they may not be able to read or write, they can quickly recite a scripture from the Bible or not miss a word from a favorite hymn. They quickly take in the Word of God and never miss a note in singing their praises to Him. These examples of God's downtrodden children, and those of you in much better conditions, share in common the same desire to worship our Lord.

If you are sitting in your home reading this and think you have nothing in common with a man in prison, perhaps you really do. Men here may not have had the same opportunities in life as you have had. But as we are all God's children, we have in common the need and desire to worship and serve God. Have you read the Bible recently? Parents, have you read it to your children?

See you next month! God bless you!

PAUL IN PRISON

**St. Nicholas  
Episcopal  
Church**

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04070-0342

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

**Vicar**

Rev. David Matson

**Office Phone:**  
(207) 883-9437

**Warden**

Don Martin

[www.stnicholas-me.org](http://www.stnicholas-me.org)

## Upcoming Events

St. Nicholas Youth Group will be attending the Portland Pirates game on Sunday, April 3, at 4:00 p.m. There are still several tickets available. There will be at least 3 adult chaperones, and the definition of "youth" is if parents feel comfortable leaving children with a large group at a game like this, then you are welcome to come along. FMI contact Gregg Frame at 671-0758 (cell)

The next book club meeting is on Thursday, April 7 at 7pm at Scarborough Terrace. We'll be reading The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini, a novel about Afghanistan. Please join us!

Sunday, April 10, 2005 will be a milestone for St. Nicholas, the Rev. David Matson, and John Balicki. May we all participate in this happy occasion!

St Nicholas Church will prepare and serve lunch at the Preble Street Resource Center on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. We need Assistant Cooks and Setup Crew at 10AM, Servers at 11:30, and Cleanup Crew (especially appreciated!) at 12:45.

It's not too early to start planning - Christkindlsmarkt 2005 will be held: Saturday December 10th from 12:00 noon until 6:30 pm. The next planning meeting is May 15<sup>th</sup> after church for all interested. Experience not required! FMI contact Paula Atkinson.

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