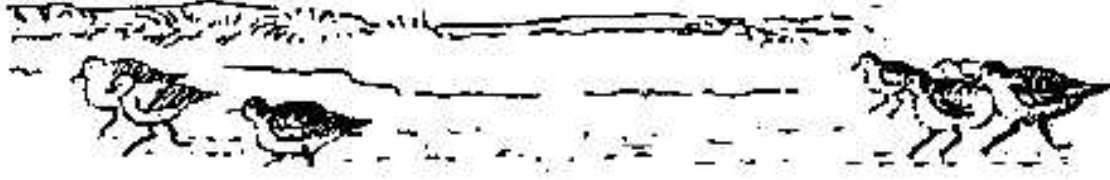


July 2005

The Sandpiper

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church



Have You Been Christ Lately?

Perhaps you are jolted by this question, or even offended.

Somewhere we are given the notion that “Christ” is Jesus’ last name, and to be even somewhat *like* him is presumptuous.

Christ is not a name, however, it is a title. Literally it means “anointed” – hence the word “to christen.”

To anoint someone is to give them an honorific title – kings, for example, are anointed. But anointing also means naming someone for a task. To be called Christ is to be commissioned – to be given a mission – to be sent on a quest (knights, too, by the way, are anointed).

If we think that our religious job is simply to do obeisance to Jesus, we are shirking our responsibility – and missing our opportunity. We are called to be touched by God just as deeply as Jesus is. We are called to know ourselves as God’s chosen and beloved. And we are sent into the world – moment by moment – to see what it might mean to be Christ.

You are indeed blessed.

- David

Attention Teens At Saint Nicholas

Please open up the evening of Monday, August 8th for Pizza With The Priest and a discussion of plans for the year!

Thanks, -David

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, we have entered into a lease agreement with Fiddleheads Center for the Arts for the upcoming school year. St. Nicholas and Fiddleheads should be a perfect fit, and the arrangement will generate extra income for our Church whose operating budget is being challenged by skyrocketing fuel costs, dramatically higher snow removal costs than budgeted, and increased salary obligations.

Two weekends ago, Linda Cohen and friends held a "yard sale for the yard" at St. Nicholas and it generated enough money to cover our lawn service for approximately nine weeks. Thank you Linda and everyone else who participated. We all know that summers are short in Maine, but (thank God) they are usually longer than nine weeks. So we are somewhat short of covering our summer maintenance costs. With this in mind, I would like to remind everyone that we have a beautiful building that is ideal for individuals or businesses that might planning a meeting this summer. So please spread the word. If you know of such an organization, please have them contact Gregg Frame for details. A template is available to send to a business or group that is looking for a space in the next two months.

Thank you all for your help.

Regards,
Don Martin

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church June 2005 Budget Overview

As outlined and approved during our November 2004 Annual Meeting, St. Nicholas budget deficit for 2005 was projected to be \$29,000. Our financial forecast anticipated the need to use a portion of our money market funds (\$58,000) to offset the cash shortfall, however, we have had to tap into that fund much sooner than expected. Since the annual meeting, the following events have occurred increasing the projected deficit by \$10,000 up to a new total of \$42,000: loss of one significant pledge member, clergy salary expenses increased, property maintenance budgeted \$3,200 for the 2005 year, has been spent (17 snowstorms), and heating costs.

The Bishop's Committee continues to actively look for ways to increase income and reduce expenses.

Income: Rental Income: The Rental Committee has successfully secured a tenant to lease the education wing from September 2005 through June 2006 for a total of \$11,000. We do anticipate some increased utilities expense as a result of the all day usage, but will use the rental income to offset these expenses.

Grant Application: St. Nicholas has just been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Diocese to help with operating expenses for the 2006 calendar year. We have received \$10,000 and \$6,000 in 2005 and 2003, respectively. While the Diocese

applauds our increased clergy presence and the completion of our building, advise future support at this level is unlikely.

Fundraising: Yard Sale to Care for our Yard: Our first annual yard sale was held on June 4, 2005. Total proceeds of just over \$600 will be used to offset the cost of property maintenance for the remaining year. This includes lawn mowing and snowplowing. Thank you Linda Cohen for coordinating this effort.

Annual Golf Tournament: Scheduled for Columbus Day, 2005 – Mark your calendars! Proceeds from the tournament will benefit St. Nicholas, with a percentage going to a local charitable organization (TBD). The tournament has historically generated \$3,500 in net proceeds.

There are many ways members can help meet our financial obligations and continue St. Nicholas' spiritual, and community involvement.

- Growth:** Talk to friends, family, and coworkers – share your St. Nicholas experience and invite them to join us for a visit and fellowship.
- Volunteer:** Give us your ideas! Give your time to one of our upcoming events! This is always something to do.
- Pledge:** Make a financial pledge or increase your existing pledge.
- Gift:** Make a one-time financial gift
- Building Fund** Accelerate your building donation – pay it before July 25th when our \$650,000 construction loan turns into a 30 year adjustable rate mortgage. The lower our principle, the lower our monthly payments.
- Planned Giving** Consider making St. Nicholas a benefactor of your Planned Giving arrangements.

Please contact anyone on the Bishop's Committee or Rev. David Matson if you have any questions or would like to more information.

Building - Capital Campaign

It's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through our Capital Campaign. So far, we have collected about 70% of our total pledge commitments. For the past two years, we have been paying "interest only" on our construction loan. At the end of July, our loan will be converted to an adjustable rate, 30 year mortgage.

This is a great opportunity to further reduce our principle, before our mortgage payments begin. If anyone is in a position to make a new donation to the Capital Campaign or accelerate their existing pledge payments - and make them before July 25th, we can reduce our monthly mortgage. Donations can be made in the form of a check, payable to St. Nicholas Building Campaign, or through stock donations. There is no pressure to do this, only a great opportunity to affect future expenses for the next 30 years. I am always available to answer questions about the Capital Campaign at church or at home (934-4160). Timely payment of your pledge is the best way to positively impact our operating budget. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support of this long term commitment.

Vicki LaQuerre, Capital Campaign Treasurer

The Sandpiper has a long history of providing a space for expression of people's "Stories of Life and Faith." Paul Aliff's letters have appeared here recently, and the Sandpiper would welcome other submissions as well.

From Beyond Prison Walls Paul J. Aliff

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." That was one of the first Bible verses that most of us learned at a very early age. Oh, how true that verse is for men in prison. I have experienced it many times, but not quite to the extent that I did the other day. It was a typical Tuesday morning. I was away from my bunk area getting ready for my teaching job at the school. As I came back to my bunk there were two corrections officers there to do an inspection of my belongings. Now this is no big deal as it is a commonplace occurrence here, and I had nothing to hide. But as I opened my footlocker, there on the top of my belongings was a pack of Newport cigarettes. Now I don't smoke, and I live in a "No Smoking" dormitory where tobacco products are prohibited. To be caught with them is a serious contraband charge. Now I haven't had a violation of any kind since I've been in prison, and my goal is not to get one throughout my incarceration. I quickly came to one conclusion! The cigarettes had been planted there by the corrections officers in order to give me such a violation. I had left my footlocker unlocked which made me an easy target as it is well-known that such happenings occur here because each officer has a quota of monthly charges to reach. Of course, I denied that they were mine, but I knew that it was my word against the two officers, so I signed the papers without an argument.

The day passed on and naturally I was upset as I knew that in the evening I would have a in-house court appearance to face where I would receive my punishment. Then "out of the blue," just five minutes before I was scheduled to go to court, one of my students, a Black Muslim man who is not known for involvement with the Christian guys here, approached me and stated that he wished to go to court with me. He had not seen the officers place the cigarettes in my footlocker, but had seen them begin the inspection without me being present, which is a violation of my rights during the search process. In court, when he testified of what he had seen, the charges were immediately dropped and I retained my clean institutional record. Now this might not seem like a big deal to most people, but to me it was. The man that I least expected, who although one of my students had not always been on good terms with me because of our different beliefs, saw that I had an injustice done to me. When I asked him why he came forward and risked intimidation himself, he simply said "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

I learned two lessons that day; the first being to never leave my footlocker unlocked, and the second that no matter what the faith of a person is that if you treat your neighbor with respect, he/she too will treat you with respect. How often have you driven by a car that was broken down and said "poor guy," or not stood up for someone because you didn't want to get involved? Would you not wish for

someone to step forward for you in the same situation? Our situations may be different with me being in prison and you beyond prison walls, but the simple Bible verse "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," never changes as The Golden Rule. My friends, you remain in all my thoughts and prayers. God bless you!

Paul in Prison

PRISON MINISTRY

By Terry Foster

As many of you know, we have been helping Paul Aliff, a man who is incarcerated in a Virginia prison for a drug charge. Paul has turned his life around. He is pursuing seminary courses for ministerial licensing and writes an occasional article for "The Sandpiper". Recently the commissary in the prison stopped stocking greeting cards, much to the dismay of the prisoners. These men really enjoy sending cards to their relatives and friends for religious and other holidays. Upon a recent visit to the prison, the Chaplain made me aware of a program in which he can participate that provides greeting cards of all kinds (slightly flawed) at a cost of four cents each. Some of us are putting together a small fund to provide this Chaplain with the funds to participate in the card program. We hope to raise \$60 which is half of what the Chaplain said would cover the expense for two prisons for one year. Paul's home church in Virginia is considering raising the other \$60. If you would like to participate, please tender your gift to Terry Foster. Thank you!

HANDBELL RINGERS

By Terry Foster

Did you ever wish you could play in a handbell choir? Well, here may be your chance. Lynn Hanhiammi has a three-octave set of antique English handbells. Lynn has graciously offered to allow use of these handbells at St. Nicholas. Here's what will have to occur before we can move ahead. We would need:

#1 - Foam rubber (preferably about 4 inches thick) to cover two eight-foot tables. If anyone has such, we would welcome it. If not, we have to buy it.

#2 - We would need very soft cloth to cover the foam rubber (velvet is most appropriate)

#3 - We would need white gloves for ringers (for protection of the bells)

#4 - We would need music

#5 - We would need people who would like to try ringing handbells

We would need at least 10-12 people who can commit to two or three trial rehearsals. It would be great if those people could read music, but that would not be a pre-requisite. To be able to count, however, is essential. We would most likely ask that ringers be 12 or older, but we might relax that rule. No upper age limit is necessary. If you are 100 and can hold a bell, ring it, and count, then you are a good candidate for this experience. If you are interested, please tell me or Cathy Bennett. If you have an interest in contributing to the cost of the any of the above, please tender your gift to Cathy, also. The Worship Committee envisions the trial run to occur in the early fall.

Warden's Notes

Dear Friends,

Since Maine summers are so short and because I am behind in my deadline to The Sandpiper, I thought I would cheat a bit and look at some of the newsletter's past issues and perhaps get an inspiration for this month's column. Two prior "Warden's Notes" jumped out at me as being most relevant to where we are today at St. Nicholas. The first was Cynthia Nye's thoughts on a book entitled "Healthy Congregations" by Peter Steinke. In this book, which is now in the St. Nick Library, the author shows the similarities between personal health and congregational health. Cynthia summarizes a key point of Steinke when she notes that "a congregation's health, like an individual's health, is measured not by size but by vitality." Based on this criteria, I hereby declare St. Nicholas a "healthy congregation." Our church is enriched by the many members and friends who give of their time, resources and talents. Vitality is not lacking at St. Nicholas.

The second "notes" that I found relevant, was written by Frank Drigotas in the summer of 2000. At that time, Frank put out some "opportunities" that were available for people to "serve." He asked, "if not you, who? If not now, when?" This sounds pretty good to me so I'll follow his lead and list a few "opportunities" that presently exist, and which I hope you can all think of, and participate in, as the spirit moves you.

- **Treasurer:** An officer of the Bishop's Committee, the treasurer pays the bills, formulates a budget, and attends monthly B.C. meetings. Tom Beidleman is our current Treasurer, but due to a job change, Tom can no longer serve in this capacity. Unfortunately, we have not found a way to clone him. So please consider this position if you have any kind of financial background. You don't have to be a CPA to fill this position. If you have the interest, and are computer literate, Tom can train you for this vital task. The Treasurer position is the most pressing "opportunity" at this time in that Tom will most probably not be able to serve beyond July 15. Please call me (885-0261) if you are interested. I will be by the phone.
- **Stewardship Committee:** This is a new committee headed by The Rev. David Matson. A small group has met and has started to define their role, "incorporating prayer, theology, trust and exploration." The committee will be exploring St. Nick's assets, it's needs, and how to meet those needs, without losing sight that "God is more abundant than making ends meet." Please call David or myself for more information.
- **Facilities Committee:** Please contact Betsey Buckley or me if you are interested in, and, or have some expertise in building and grounds maintenance and would like to serve on this committee.
- **Nursery Coordinator:** Please contact David or myself if you are interested in this important position. The main function of this position is creating a coverage

schedule for the nursery every two to three months. Doesn't require a lot of time, but can be very rewarding.

- Golf Tournament Committee: This group is just beginning to organize and is looking forward to having another successful outing on Columbus Day, Monday, October 10. Once again, the money raised will go towards our operating budget (see May 2005 Budget Overview in this issue of the Sandpiper) and a local charity. If you would like to help in coordinating either the silent auction, raffle, sponsors, prizes, or registration, please contact Gregg Frame (gframe@tmfattorneys.com) or myself (dmarti3@maine.rr.com) and join us for some fun.

I'm sure that you are all thinking "enough already, after all, it is summer." I couldn't agree more. So I'll stop here and hope that everyone takes a look at this short list of "opportunities," evaluates their personal talents, and helps out where possible. As someone reminded me earlier today, "many hands make light work." This is why we are a "Healthy Congregation."

Have a great summer everyone.

Peace,
Don Martin

A day of celebration and Joy at St Nicholas Church

April 10, 2005

In a beautiful service presided over by Bishop Chilton Knudsen at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, we installed the Rev David Matson as Vicar and Received John Balicki as an Episcopal Priest!



**St. Nicholas
Episcopal
Church**

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

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

Vicar
Rev. David Matson

Office Phone:
(207) 883-9437

Warden
Don Martin
(207) 885-0261

www.stnicholas-me.org

A Look Ahead

- July 30th: (6 PM) Diocese of Maine Goes to the Seadogs
(Bishop will throw out first pitch) Tickets available
online at www.diomaine.org
- July 31st: Guest preacher and celebrant Nicole Janelle
(David on vacation)
- July 31st: Soup Kitchen Sunday
(Cooks and set-up @10:00, Servers @11:30,
Clean-up @1:00)
- August 7th: (5 PM) Potluck Picnic and Songfest at church
- August 8th: Teens Pizza with the Priest
- August 14th: Worship Committee after church
- August 15th: (6:30 PM) Bishop's Committee
- August 26th: Family Fun Night at St. Nick's
- Sept. 11th: Beach Baptism!
- Sept. 18th: First Day of Sunday School

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
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