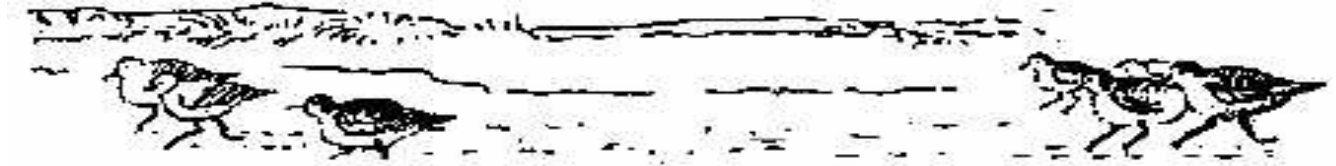


# The Sandpiper

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

October/November 2005



Dear Friends,

What is “church”?

Church can be difficult to define, so it may be a good idea to discuss it from time to time.

We have inherited a somewhat hierarchical model of church, developed over the centuries, but I think we find the foundation of church in *covenant*. In the Bible, God is always entering into covenants with people, and especially with entire communities. I think it would not be a stretch at all to say that God would like to be in covenant with the whole world.

A *covenant* is a mutual agreement – a two-way arrangement – a real relationship. Covenant involves promises by both parties, for the mutual benefit of each – and for a higher good that exceeds whatever each of the parties could accomplish alone. This means God needs us, just as we need God. And if we work together, we can re-create the world.

Among all of the institutions and outreach organizations of the world, church is unique. Because church is not just another opportunity to “help out.” Church gathers a community seeking to be transformed – and trusting that it has the power to transform the world. All of which is possible, with the help of God.

So in a covenant relationship, we make a human-sized step, and God makes a God-sized step in return. We act, but God empowers. We pray together, study together, and do our outreach together – and God sees to it that our efforts have results beyond us.

As we begin a new church year – with our annual meeting in November – remember that God needs your gifts and your leadership, your active participation, to create a life-changing covenant. For your sake, the world’s sake, and God’s sake as well.

Peace,  
David  
Warden's Notes:

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on some recent developments at St. Nicholas. I'm happy to report that the Treasurer's position has been filled. In fact, two people have stepped forward to fill this role. At its September meeting, the Bishop Committee appointed David Erb, CPA, as Treasurer, and Ralph Hillman as Assistant Treasurer. David now sits on the Bishop Committee, and will be nominated at the upcoming annual meeting. While Ralph is not an official Committee member, he is already hard at work doing the day to day things (like paying bills) that has been part of the Treasurer's responsibilities. I would like to thank both David and Ralph for their willingness to serve. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tom Beidleman for the many hours that he has devoted to this position. Tom's expertise, sound advice and professionalism have served St. Nicholas well. We wish Tom well with his new position at AAA and thank both he and Pat for their continuing support and input.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate, and thank Joe Harnden, as the new Editor of The Sandpiper. His enthusiasm will ensure the success of our Newsletter, which parishioners and our many friends look forward to receiving. Kudos also to the Atkinsons for keeping the Sandpiper afloat for at least the last two years, if not longer. Thank you Jim and Paula.

Thanks also to The Rev. Matson for putting together a core group of people who have met several times and have formed a Stewardship Committee. I'm sure that we will be hearing from this group very soon as October is traditionally the time for us to renew our pledges. Pledging is the financial backbone of St. Nicholas' operating budget. Please begin to give this some thought. If you are new to St. Nicholas and would like more information on pledging, please contact David, myself, or anyone on the Bishop's Committee. We would be happy to answer your questions.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to be your Warden this past year. You may remember that last year I agreed to take over the Warden's duties on a "temporary basis." I hope that you all agree that one year is really stretching the definition of "temporary. The Bishop's Committee is in the process of finding someone to fill this role, and I would encourage you to contact David or me if you are interested.

I really feel as if St. Nicholas is in a position to continue growing, without sacrificing the unique qualities that make it the warm and inviting place that it is. We have a permanent Vicar, the budget (though it's still in the red,) is looking better than it did a year ago, we have a tenant to help us defray the costs of our operating budget, and most importantly, we have a Congregation that cares and supports each other. In the last edition of The Sandpiper, I described St. Nicholas as a "healthy Congregation." I based this on the tremendous amount of energy and commitment that I have seen from everyone who is involved with our Church. I'm sure that the next Warden will agree with my "diagnosis."

Peace,  
Don Martin

## The Sandpiper:

I am really excited to be taking over the position as Editor of The Sandpiper. For now I will keep it largely the same but over time I would like to develop it into a monthly newsletter with some other minor changes. To do this I will need everyone's help, from taking pictures at events, to submitting articles. If you have something to share feel free to send it to me, this is OUR newsletter. It is a forum for us to share happenings in the community and our lives with fellow parishioners. Below you will find my contact information for submissions. The deadline for the next issue will be Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, for a release date of Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your cooperation and submissions, I am proud to be a member of St. Nick's and the new Editor of the Sandpiper. Note: If e-mailing your submission, please save it as a .rtf or .doc file and attach it to the e-mail or, copy and paste the text into the body of the e-mail.

Sincerely,  
Joe Harnden  
Phone: 233-5028

Submission Information:  
By e-mail: [jcharnden@maine.rr.com](mailto:jcharnden@maine.rr.com)  
By mail: 56 Ross Rd. #3  
Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064



## Remembering Jeffrey ferguson:

There probably are not many people at St. Nick's who do not have many wonderful memories of our late Deacon. She was such a part of the church that it is still hard not to think of her coming in the door at any time. We have decided that a beautiful Deacons Bench might be a fitting tribute to such an important person in our church family. It will be made of cherry and have a plaque on it that will read:

In Memory of  
The Rev. Jeffrey Ferguson  
Deacon at St. Nicholas  
1991-2004  
"Rest and be thankful"

The last line is inscribed on an old stone bench in Scotland which was Jeffrey's heritage, of which she was very proud. There is a jar with a picture of the bench on it in the coffee room and all contributions large and small are most welcome. The hope is to dedicate the bench on or near the anniversary of her passing in early November.

About Deacon formation:

While the folks of St. Nicholas' are well familiar with the role of a deacon from your experience with Jeffrey Ferguson, her formation process may have been a bit different from the current program. Here are the components of the Deacon Formation Program as it currently exists in the Diocese of Maine:

- 1) Educational sessions for all postulants and candidates on the second Saturday of every month. Those sessions are usually held at the Bangor Theological Seminary.
- 2) Education for Ministry or its equivalent. This is the meat of the theological education and includes study of Scripture, theology, ethics, Church history, and social responsibility. A number of folks in this congregation have taken the EFM course, and I wish I'd had that opportunity. Last year I worked in a private tutorial arrangement with David Matson. That was a very fruitful and enjoyable undertaking. This year, by virtue of having retired from my medical practice, I am auditing two courses at the Portland branch of BTS. One is a Scripture review (Genesis to Revelation in one semester!), and the other is on the Four Gospels. These two courses should serve well to give me the Scriptural underpinnings I need.
- 3) Clinical Pastoral Education or its equivalent. Approved, or accredited, CPE programs are required of clergy aspiring to hospital chaplaincy and are offered at hospitals around the country including two in Maine, Maine Medical Center and Central Maine Medical Center. I have elected the option of an Alternative Model, because I wanted my experience to be focused on hospice patients in home or nursing home settings. My program has been underway since March, along with four others, whose programs are very diverse indeed.
- 4) Mentored Practice. This is an opportunity to learn by doing, in a parish setting other than one's sponsoring parish. This is what I'm now doing at St. Nick's. The experience will involve some preaching, regular involvement in the Sunday Eucharist including learning to prepare the Eucharistic table, and a variety of other activities. I am really pleased to be back and have felt warmly welcomed back, after spending my summer weekends in Rangeley. I anticipate a rich

experience here and hope we will all learn together both to deepen our spiritual lives and to serve Christ and the world. Please pray for me, as I will for you.

Faithfully,  
Anne Hunter, Deacon Postulant

Christkindlsmarkt:

What is Christkindlsmarkt?

Saint Nicholas church has a celebration each year that honors our patron saint and celebrates the Christmas season. We call this Christkindlsmarkt. The name means "Christ Child Market." (continued on next page)

These festival markets originated in Austria and Germany around thirteen hundred. In Europe and now in North America these festivals can last up to a month starting in early December. Saint Nicholas known for his historic generosity is always at these events wandering through the crowded market giving treats and telling stories to children.

This year on Saturday December 10 we will hold our version of Christkindlsmarkt. (Each year we have an opportunity to hone our skills at recreating an authentic Austrian market atmosphere.) It will take place starting at lunchtime and run into the early evening. Your eyes will be delighted by the sparkle of Christmas lights and decorations. Your nose will be delighted by the smell of bratwurst, hearty stews, popcorn and mulled cider. Your ears will be delighted with live music, performances and caroling. Your arms can be filled with an array of locally crafted treasures. Your children can enjoy hands-on arts and craft making. You'll see the "Passing of St. Nicholas" with his procession of children and seafarers. You can also experience our much-loved hayride from church down Willowdale Street and back.

Last year for those that attended it was a magical experience. We had great fun bringing back our annual Christkindlsmarkt. For the church, it was a fun project to work on together and a great way to share with the community the celebration of Saint Nicholas.

### **Wanted: Volunteers for Christkindlsmarkt!!**

Volunteer Categories:

Bakers and Makers: To bake and create food items to sell

Chefs: Food prep, to manning grills and food machines and equipment

Performers: Musical and circus, etc...

Decorations: Night before and early set-up

St. Nick Helpers: Assisting with his activity schedule

Krafts for Kids: Demonstrating and assisting little ones

Kids Shop and Wrap: To help with collecting, selling, and wrapping items

Photographer's Assistants: Crowd control and organizing

Plus lots more opportunities. Please contact Paula Atkinson for more information:

[Paula.Atkinson@juno.com](mailto:Paula.Atkinson@juno.com) or call 883-0425

#### Raffle Table:

Donations of items ( new or gently used) or services are needed to raffle during the event. This could include handmade crafts, offers to bake a specialty or even cater a meal, an antique Christmas decoration, a product or service from your business?

Perhaps someone has other ideas or would like to co-chair with me?

Thank you,

Nancy Agan (883-1561)

#### Items Needed for Kids "Shop and Wrap" Table:

Our Kids "Shop & Wrap" table was a great success last year at Christkindlsmarkt .

Children shopped, selected and purchased gift items for \$1 or \$2, choose the wrapping paper and we wrapped their gifts. We are looking for donations of new or just-like-new items that children would enjoy giving to siblings, parents and friends. Some ideas are ornaments, candles, jewelry, books, tapes, CDs, toys, etc. We are also need wrapping paper, tape, bows, tissue paper & gift bags. Please keep us in mind when shopping or pulling out your decorations this year. Also, please consider working the tables for a few hours that day. It is so much fun watching the children choose their gifts!

Please call Vicki LaQuerre @ 934-4160 if you have questions or would like to help set up or work a shift. Thank you!

#### Annual Appeal

Fall is here and so is our Annual Appeal Drive. Our new financial team, David Erb as Treasurer and Ralph Hillman as Asst. Treasurer, are putting the 2006 Operating Budget together for the upcoming Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 6th.

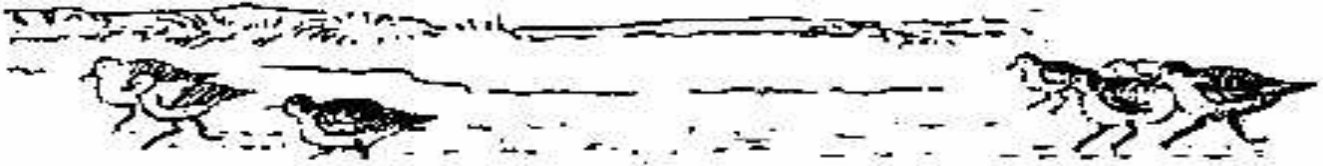
As part of that process, we ask every member consider their financial commitment to St. Nicholas for the upcoming year. Please watch your mail for the Appeal request. Kindly submit completed pledge cards no later than October 23rd in the pre-addressed envelopes. If you haven't received your packet by October 15th, please contact Vicki LaQuerre at 934-4160 or extra packets will be available at church.

#### Capital Campaign Rolling On!

Several months ago, we asked anyone who was able to accelerate payments on their pledge commitments to please do so. We received \$50,000 in accelerated payments in three months! We were able to significantly lower our monthly mortgage payments, which began in August 2006. Thank you!

#### Soup kitchen:

St. Nick's will be responsible for the Prebble Street Wayside Kitchen on Sunday, October 30, please mark your calendars! It takes about 30 volunteers from St. Nick's to serve 200+ meals, and our turn occurs any time there are five Sundays in a month. For more information call Paula or Jim Atkinson- 883-0425 or Paula.Atkinson@juno.com



#### Annual St. Nick's Golf Tournament:

Despite concerns about the weather, 65 golfers participated in the 9th Annual St. Nicholas Golf Tournament, to benefit the Preble Street Food Pantry, The Tanzanian Education Fund, and the St. Nicholas Operating Budget. With a torrential downpour for the 48 hours prior to the event, it looked like the event would not be held. However, the weather held for the 6 hour window necessary to hold the event! The tournament, held at Nonesuch River Golf Course in Scarborough, featured prizes on all Par 3's, including a new car! Unfortunately, no one was able to cash in, but a good time was had by all. The First Place Winners were Aaron Pratt, Peter Senger, Steve DeCastro and Gregg Frame, with a score of 12 under par while Second Place was won by Team Kerbel. After the Golf Tournament, the golfers, volunteers, and other guests gathered for a celebratory lunch and awards ceremony, as well as the raffle giveaway and a live auction. Among the items that garnered large bids at the live auction were a weekend in Manhattan, golf at Lake Winnepesaukee and Prout's Neck, and a Ski Package.

Although the full amount has yet to be calculated, it appears that the Tournament raised over \$4000 for the various charities. A special thanks to the Golf Committee of Don Martin, Barbara Martin, Ralph Hillman, Pam Hillman, Vicki LaQuerre, Jim Atkinson and Gregg Frame for all their hard work. In addition, there were several members of the Church who volunteered at the event. Finally, the big moneymaker at an event like this is not the golf, but the raffle and auction items. Many thanks to those of you who donated items or bid on the raffle or auction items.

We look forward to seeing you on the links next year for the 10th Annual Tournament!!!



Sam Lacasse (second from right) and his team at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament.

St. Nicholas  
Episcopal  
Church

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

Sunday Service &  
Church School  
9:00 am

**Priest-in-Charge:**  
Rev. David Matson

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

**Warden:**  
Don Martin

**Upcoming events:**

October:

- October 16<sup>th</sup>: Worship Committee Meeting
- October 17<sup>th</sup>: Bishop's Committee Meeting
- October 18<sup>th</sup>: Bible Study Cancelled
- October 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>: Diocesan Convention in Bangor
- October 23<sup>rd</sup>: Deacon's Mass
- October 30<sup>th</sup>: Soup Kitchen

November:

- November 6<sup>th</sup>: All Saints Sunday- Family Service
- November 6<sup>th</sup>: Annual Meeting

December:

- December 10<sup>th</sup>: Christkindlsmarkt

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 342  
Scarborough, ME 04070-0342  
[www.stnicholas-me.org](http://www.stnicholas-me.org)

