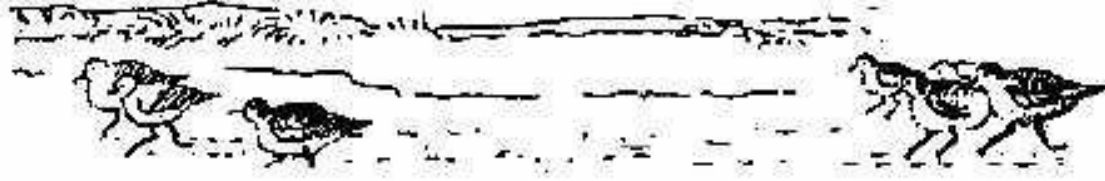


March 2009



PRAYER FOR LENT

Look upon us, O Lord, and let all the darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of your brightness. Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of your wisdom. All our desire is known by you; therefore, perfect what you have begun, and what your Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer. We seek your face. Turn your face to us and show us your glory. Then shall our longing be satisfied and our peace shall be perfect. Amen.

From a prayer of St. Augustine
(4th century)

WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES

Isn't it wonderful that St. Nicholas is the host church for this year's Lenten services for the Scarborough community? We have had excellent attendance and hope that you can join us at the remaining services.

The service starts each Wednesday at Noon until Easter. After the service there is a soup luncheon provided for all to enjoy.

Our day to host the luncheon and to provide soup is April 1.

Father Eckart will give the meditation.

EASTER FLOWERS

It's time again to remember your loved ones with Easter flowers! If you wish to donate to them, please contact Nancy Agan at 883-1561.

Checks should be made out to her. Also, if you wish to bring your own plant(s), please let her know with the name of whom you would like included in the memorial listing in the bulletin.

QUIET PLEASE!

Recently I was at Choral Evensong at St. Luke's---a most beautiful spot for worship and meditation. I very much needed quietness and serenity on that Sunday. As the notes of a beautiful Bach prelude began, I moved into a special place within myself. All of a sudden, that space vanished when a couple behind me began non-stop talking. They conversed throughout the prelude. I just couldn't again focus on meditating.

A wise one once said "the prelude is a veil dropped between the world and the worship experience." Be kind to others! Thanks!

Terry Foster

WHY ARE ALL THOSE CARS PARKED AT ST. NICK'S?

Have you ever wondered, "Wow, look at all the cars at St. Nick's; I wonder what's going on?" Well, you are not the only one! Often, as the contact person for building use, I get asked that question. Truth be told, our church is the meeting place to a number of local organizations. On our monthly calendar, which is posted on the Bolger Bulletin Board, you will see abbreviated notes as to when and where these groups meet. Long ago the Bishop's Committee approved the mission statement that, along with other goals, we encourage and make available to the community the use of our beautiful building. By the looks of it, Saint Nicholas is succeeding in this endeavor. Below is a list of all groups using the church at present:

Alcoholics Anonymous - We have two groups weekly---one, an all women's group, and another, an open group.

Girl Scouts Troop 118 - A picture of this group is posted on the bulletin board.

Blood Drives - Maine Medical and the American Red Cross use our facility. The next one is scheduled for July 29.

Friends of Scarborough Marsh - This environmental group seeks to protect the marsh.

Southern Maine Crafter's Guild -This is a group of highly-skilled craftspeople.

Scarborough Garden Club -This is a group of wonderful local gardeners.

Hospice of Southern Maine - They use our building for education programs on end-of-life issues and concerns.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors - This is a branch of Project Grace doing work around resources and needs in these troubled economic times.

Scarborough Public Library - They use our building for board meetings during their construction renovations.

St. Nick's is also available if you have a need as a church member. For a very modest donation, it's your church home, available for various activities like a birthday party, a reunion, a marriage, or an anniversary celebration.

One does not have to be a member to rent space at St. Nick's. For more information, take a look at our website at:

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

or e-mail me at Paula.Atkinson@juno.com.

NAME TAGS

With all the "new" people in church, it would be nice for the "old" people to wear their name tags. That helps us get to know our church family!!! Please try to remember to wear yours each week! Anyone who needs a new or replacement badge can currently contact me. I say, "currently" because I am hoping to pass this task on! It is a great way to go to know our new members and it is a relatively easy thing to do! However, I feel someone with more hand strength might find it easier to do than I do! Lesson provided! Thanks! Contact me at 883-1561 or e-mail me at nagan@maine.rr.com.

Nancy Agan

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

"Believe those who seek the truth. Doubt those who find it." (Andre Gide)
(this means those who think they have found ALL of it)

FROM OUR WARDEN

Winter is usually considered a time of dormant renewal. Not so at St. Nicholas! This has been a winter of renewed activity.

There are quite a few new individuals as well as new families at St. Nick's, so we are planning a "Newcomer's Breakfast" in the very new future. This is an opportunity to hear more about how St. Nick's works and how folks can take an active part. If you are new to our congregation and have not received a "Newcomer's Packet", please let me know. Also, be sure that you have filled out a yellow address card and have put your name in for a name tag.

Sunday School is going strong---sounds of children's voices on Sunday morning are a welcomed song. The excitement coming from our three classrooms is tremendous and a tribute to our wonderful Sunday School teachers. Thank you all!!

A variety of new programs has something for most everyone. Examples are: Women's Group, Senior Group, Bible Study, Dream Group, and a new discussion group looking at today's issues. Let us know if there is something else that you may be interested in and want to see happen at St. Nick's.

The annual Community Lenten Services are under way each Wednesday at Noon. St. Nick's is the host for these services. Eckart will be the preacher on April 1. Help is needed that day. We need someone to set up for about 70 people (I will be leading this effort at 7:30pm on Tuesday night, March 31). We also need two people to come in at 11am on April 1st to plug in the coffee and tea pots and set out the cream and butter. Also, these individuals need to be available to help others bring in the soup, set everything up, and clean up afterwards. Our day to provide soup is April 1. Please let me know if you can provide soup.

We also have been keeping up with our outreach activities. Community groups are using our building. (See Paula Atkinson's

article to see a listing of who these groups are). You will be interested in knowing that Project Grace will be using our meeting space for their new expansion of services---Neighbors Helping Neighbors. During local renovations of our community library, there have been group meetings at St. Nick's. We welcome these groups! We also had a Diaper Drive and Soap Drive for the Essential's Pantry and we participated in Souper Bowl Sunday. We are a sponsor of "Chocolate Lover's Fling" to support Sexual Assault Services of Southern Maine.

March 29th is "Fifth Sunday". Please consider joining a group of us who will be serving lunch at the Preble Street Soup Kitchen. For more information, contact Paula Atkinson.

Lastly I would like to update you on the rental of space at St. Nicholas. We had a potential renter. This did not work out for several reasons. What it did do is make us stop and re-look at the situation. St. Nick's is at a turning point, what our parents may have called "growing pains". We are right "in-between"---small enough to need the money, but big enough to need the space!! Therefore, the Bishop's Committee will be discerning our next steps. We will keep you updated.

Spring will be here before we know it!! The days are getting longer and the sounds of birds fill the morning air. Stay tuned for our Spring activities.

In love and prayer,
Donna

CURRENT ISSUES DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting of the discussion group on current issues will be Tuesday March 10 from 7-8:30pm. Again it will be held at the home of Shelton Brooks, K-225, at Piper Shores on Route #77. The continuing topic is "How can religious beliefs help refocus American ideals? Please join us!

SOUP KITCHEN HELP NEEDED!

Would you volunteer on the last Sunday of this month---March 29th at 11:40am at St. Luke's Soup Kitchen in Portland? We will train you to wait on tables in 10 minutes. The benefits are priceless!

St. Nick's participates every time we have 5 Sundays in a month, like this month! Six people from St. Nick's are needed to wait on tables and at least two to clean up. It takes about 1 1/4 hours if you wait on tables and about the same amount of time to clean up.

One day a St. Nick's volunteer observed to another, "I think I saw Jesus today" and the other St. Nick's volunteer said quickly that she too had seen Jesus a few times.

We often see ourselves in tougher times when we look into the eyes of the diners at Wayside Kitchen. We wonder "How'd they get here?" We see their dignity and potential as we give a helping hand. Please consider this important outreach. Call Paula Atkinson at 883-0425.

DON MARTIN GOLF CLASSIC

The Don Martin Golf Classic will again take place before long! Mark the date---Friday, May 29!

OFFICE HELP NEEDED

Do you have three hours a week to donate to St. Nicholas? We need a person to join our staff from 9am-Noon on Mondays. No experience is necessary, just willingness to answer the phone, greet visitors, and do light clerical tasks. If you can help, please contact Cathy at cbennett@maine.rr.com or by telephone at 883-3128.

SPECIAL SERVICE AT ST. LUKE'S

On Tuesday, April 11, at 7pm, a unique service will be held at the cathedral---"The Easter Vigil", featuring a dramatic lighting of the Paschal fire symbolizing the light of Christ. The Light moves to worshipper's candles. Consider going to this beautiful service as part of your Easter celebration.

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