



The Sandpiper

The Newsletter of Saint Nicholas Episcopal Church

Scarborough, Maine

November 2017

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, November 5: Guest musician Max Richardson, trumpeter, plays.

Thursday, November 9, 6:30 PM: Bishop's Committee meeting. All welcome.

Sunday, November 19: Ingathering of 2018 pledges. Bring your card to place on the altar.

Sunday, November 26: Our Vicar returns from his sabbatical leave. Come and welcome him back.

Sunday, December 3: Soloist Max Solely enhances our worship.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION by Nancy Nickerson & John Sutton

Three of us Saint Nickers, Nancy Agan, Nancy Nickerson, and John Sutton, were privileged to represent our fine church at the 198th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, held in Bangor on October 28. We joined approximately 230 other laity and clergy and enjoyed the day for multiple reasons. The theme of the convention was *Jesus Is Here, Right Here, Right Now*. We recited this inspiring statement several times during the meeting. The socializing and networking were truly worthwhile. It was enlightening and energizing to learn what is happening around the diocese and to join with this large group in three worship opportunities. Each included the Lord's Prayer and beautiful music. We heard about Summer Finale, an all-ages week-long event at Camp Bishopwood last summer, and about the recent work of Episcopal Relief and Development. We learned that Saint Barnabas Church in Augusta is closing its doors and joining Saint Matthew's in Hallowell to become the new community of Saints Barnabas and Matthew. We voted in several diocesan officers and committee and council members. We voted on seven resolutions. Most were procedural, and helped the Diocese move forward in conducting business. One of these dealt with the process by which a new bishop for Maine, who will take office in June 2019, will be followed. The diocesan budget was adopted and minimum clergy salaries approved. Two of the resolutions generated discussion, and different opinions were expressed in a respectful and orderly manner. One of these concerned a salary increase for lay diocesan employees, and one urged that we support rights and fair treatment for children in the Holy Land. We were well fed, in body and spirit. We highly encourage any of you to consider volunteering to be a delegate to next fall's convention, which is slated to take place in Portland on October 27, 2018.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP CHAIR, CYNTHIA NYE

It's stewardship season! So far, we have heard wonderful messages in church from Anna Hamilton and Rod Dixon about why they love and support Saint Nick's. Soon we will hear from Carol Brown and Randi and Jude Hogan. Thank you all for sharing your thoughts with us! Thank you also to Vicki LaQuerre for the bulletin insert that explains our financial status and need. (See below.) We hope everyone will do what they can to help

support our church home. The annual appeal letter with pledge card was mailed in October. If you haven't received yours and would like one, please call the church office or pick one up on Sunday. Ingathering Sunday will be November 19. We hope you will be present to bring your pledge envelope to the altar during the service. If you can't attend, please mail or deliver it to be included in the ingathering. As always, love and thanks to all who worship at Saint Nick's!

STEWARDSHIP NOTES by John Sutton

When we make our financial pledges to our church, they are a covenant we make with God. Our pledges are in the main private. The treasurer collects the pledge cards and works with the information they provide. Although the “counters” see the gifts made each Sunday, if they are like me, we do not make special note of who gives what amount. The names of pledgers and their payments are not posted for public perusal anywhere. Nevertheless, it seems to me that, as we decide what to pledge, we can be helped, perhaps even inspired, by looking at the ranges of the pledges made to God and Saint Nick’s for 2017. The pledge campaign for 2017 produced 43 pledges totaling \$84,322, an average pledge of \$1961 per year or \$347.71 per week. The breakdown looks like this:

<u>Range</u>	<u>Number of pledges in this range</u>
\$120-520	5
\$550-750	6
\$780-900	4
\$1040-1400	10
\$1500-2000	5
\$2080-2600	6
\$3000-4000	5
\$10,000 & above	2

Once again, the pledges we make are our own business. We pledge according to our ability—and in response to the blessings God gives each of us. I suggest that as we decide what to pledge we use the information above to help us decide. Prayer can also help us in our pledging to do our very best for God and our congregation.

FROM OUR TREASURER

Friends,

As we enter into the fall and winter months and consider our 2018 pledge commitments to Saint. Nick’s, the Bishop's Committee continues to make efforts to ensure all members are fully aware of our financial situation.

Our most recent cash flow statement is posted on the Boldger Board, which is updated each month just after each BC meeting. Please check it out at coffee hour and ask any BC member questions or convey your concerns.

The Sandpiper Children’s Center continues to experience a significant shortfall in student enrollment and, therefore, is unable to remit their monthly rent to Saint Nick’s consistently until enrollment is increased. This revenue stream is significant to us and may require an accelerated use of our limited savings, which now stand at \$30,000.

In September, Saco & Biddeford Savings Bank agreed to modify our existing mortgage, resulting in a fixed rate for five years, extending the life of the loan, and reducing our monthly payment by about \$800. The Diocese picked up the \$500 closing costs We are so blessed to have this partner in our church life.

Based on past years' cash demands, our savings could be completely depleted by the end of 2018. An early spring fundraising campaign is being considered to pump up our savings. We welcome and encourage any and all input, ideas and feedback as we walk through this journey together in Christ.

On behalf of your Bishop's Committee,

Vicki LaQuerre

PS. As we round into November, we are blessed to have a variety of supply clergy filling in during our vicar's sabbatical leave these past few months. The call to sponsor an "Adopt-A-Priest" Sunday has been overwhelming! Thanks to one and all for both financial and welcoming support of this hearty group of clergy who offer their time and blessings for our church community.

SANDPIPER CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS by Lorna Kerbel

Sandpiper had their Halloween party a day late due to the power outage, but a good time was had by all the children, teachers and adult helpers.

In getting ready for NAEYC's accreditation visit we had blinds installed on the windows in the hallway and the door fixed between David's office and the classroom for four-year-olds. NAEYC will be here before the end of November. Marlene and I will let everyone know the minute they approve us. Pray that we pass inspection.

We will have two more fund raisers this year. The card sale we had last year will be done again. It is a wonderful way to start your Christmas shopping and support Sandpiper. For example, I got four \$25 gift cards from LL Bean, earning Sandpiper \$15. We will also have a wreath and poinsettia sale. There will be sign-up sheets available in church on Sunday mornings. Call Lorna Kerbel if you have any questions.



BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING by John Sutton, Clerk

At their meeting on October 12, the Committee...

- learned that the Sandpiper Children's Center is unable to pay its rent for November and December. This situation will go away when new children enroll in January. Progress on NAECY certification for the Children's Center continues.
- learned that Nancy Agan has assumed the position of building use coordinator. Several organizations are interested in using our space, for a fee.
- reviewed several maintenance projects that need attention. We will apply for a grant from the Diocese to help cover their cost.
- learned that the Saint Nick's mortgage has been reworked, saving us \$800 per month. Our income is experiencing its usual seasonable dip.
- discussed the need for fund raising, perhaps a special campaign next spring.
- noted that the Community Garden has been a success; planning for the Harvest Fest continues; the residents of Logan Place, where we serve dinner every six weeks, like us.

A GRACE FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

For this earth and your guidance to use its resources rightly, we pray;

Give us grateful hearts.

For the leaders of the world, this nation, our state, our community, we pray;

Give us grateful hearts.

For farmers, ranchers, growers, packers, processors and drivers, we pray;

Give us grateful hearts.

For our friends and loved ones present, absent from us, or departed, we pray;

Give us grateful hearts.

For those who have prepared this feast for our partaking, we pray;

Give us grateful hearts.

For the homeless, helpless, poor, weak, jobless, and our enemies, we pray;

Turn our gratitude into love and action.

And to you, Master of the Feast, Creator and Source of Abundance and Love, we ask you to bless this food for our use and joy, strengthening us to do your will at all times and in all places through Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

