



***The Episcopal Parish of  
Saint Mary AND Saint Jude  
Northeast Harbor & Seal Harbor, Maine***

***We are a spiritual home for all generations,  
engaged in the mission of God's love for the world.***

***2015 Annual Meeting  
Part I  
January 25, 2015***



## **Celtic Cross Award Recipients**



- 2009 - Kerry Kenney**  
**2010 - Lauri Fernald**  
**Claudine Catlin**  
**2011 - Kathy Suminsby**  
**2012 - Nancy Stanley**  
**2013 - Peter Vaux**  
**Lesley Horvath**  
**2014 - Jean Fernald**  
**2015 - Maude March**

**Parish of St. Mary and St. Jude  
2015 Annual Meeting Part I  
January 25, 2015  
Agenda**

Opening Prayer and Call to Order

Warden's Report - Maude March

Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Treasurer's Report - Lauri Fernald

Rector's Address and Discussion

Questions on Submitted Reports

Celtic Cross Award

## Rector's Report

I'm happy to report that my first year here at St. Mary and St. Jude has been a terrific one. As you may guess, much of my work this year has simply been getting to know the parish: its people, routines, history, strengths, and challenges. I was very thankful for the work of Caroline Hines, your wonderful Transitional Priest in Charge, who handed off a healthy parish and a well organized rector's office.

Some highlights in the life of the parish over the past year were:

- Continuing to host monthly house churches, which continue to be well attended and popular with young families
  - Hosting the Easter Vigil for all of the Episcopal churches on the island
  - Moving our Annual Meeting, part II, to June, in order to more fully include members of St. Jude's
  - Our Celebration of New Ministry, with a visitation by Bishop Lane and a wonderful dinner at the Neighborhood House
  - Installation of a media center in the parish hall, enabling committees to video teleconference with members "from away"
- Placing an entry in the annual Bar Harbor Bed Race, and winning the prize for best decorated bed

Beyond the usual challenges of getting to know a new parish, my most immediate concern upon arrival was the structural problem with the Parish Center building. Caroline had moved very quickly to plan renovations which would have taken place this past summer. She did this with good reason. The structural engineer had stated that there should be no more than 20 people upstairs until repairs were made. However, installation of a temporary beam had removed that limitation for a few years, so one of the first things I did was to slow down the project and cancel plans for the summer renovation. This would give us time to consider the larger picture: how does this building fit in with the mission and needs of the parish? What opportunities does renovation present? And how should it be designed? The vestry, buildings and grounds committee, and I have spent much time over the past year doing this work.

Another immediate concern was the financial condition of the parish. As you all know, annual giving has been decreasing over the past several years. In addition, many of our members have been giving the same amount year after year, although the cost of running the parish has increased naturally due to inflation. In the face of these two challenges, we have been spending down the Leadership Fund in order to balance the budget each year. The Fund will be depleted sometime within the next 2 years, at which point – if nothing changes – we will have to make some heartbreaking financial decisions.

Because of these two issues, one of our primary jobs this year was to conduct a feasibility study for a Capital Campaign. We contracted with Gary Friedmann and Associates to conduct the study, and given their findings, the vestry approved conducting a \$1.7M capital campaign. The campaign has two purposes: 1) To raise money for renovation of the parish center; and 2) to increase the Doane Endowment so we can increase our earnings enough to offset the budget deficits.

We had several staffing changes over the past year. Izaak Giberson resigned in order to devote more time to building his business. Ed Horvath has picked up some of his duties, we have hired Michele Braley to take care of snow removal, and we are using a lawn care service to take care of our landscaping needs. Peter Vaux has had some extended absences, and is preparing to resign fully this summer. We hired Lise Wallace to cover for Peter quite a bit over the past year, along with Linda Foster, who served as our summer organist at Saint Mary's by-the-Sea. Mike Wheeler has resigned from his summer duties at St. Jude's, and Bill Hague will now be serving there for both July and August.

It has been a rich and full year. I love working with all of you, and feel that this was certainly the right call for me. I look forward to our future together, and am confident that it will be one with many blessings.

Faithfully submitted,  
he Rev. Jane Cornman

## Warden's Report

As you all know, we have launched a Capital campaign to repair/renovate the Parish Center and, most importantly, to increase the endowment.

To be honest, I really didn't expect this to happen when I started out to be Senior Warden...did I know what I was getting into? I always thought really grown-up people ran Capital Campaigns and I'm still figuring out who I want to be when I grow up.

It all started when we realized that the Parish Center has a major structural problem (several in fact). Caroline Hines spelled that out last year at this time. At the same time the Vestry realized that our endowment, generous as it is, isn't going to be able to support us long into the foreseeable future.

Instead of wailing and weeping, (Ok some of that did go on) the Vestry pulled up its collective socks and made some decisions.

We hired Martha Dudman of Gary Friedman Assoc. to conduct a feasibility study. The study revealed that we could probably raise \$2 million but it would be a stretch. The Vestry after much prayer and discussion decided that we needed \$1.7 million. This figure is bare bones, no extras included.

We felt it was enough to build up the Bishop Doane endowment which helps bridge the gap between annual expenses and annual giving.

Enough to repair this building: to redesign spaces more efficiently, fix wiring and other safety issues. Also to become a more comfortable welcoming space.

We formed a Capital Campaign Steering Committee: Myself as co-chair, (and I'm still hoping for another chair), Tanny Clark, Axie Diana John Favour, Jean Fernald, Lauri Fernald, Dick Habermann, Berno Hamilton, Jackie Lowe, Steve Mahoney, Martha Bucklin, Jane Cornman and as consultants and advisors, Linda Lewis and Arthur Keller.

We have had three meetings, getting things organized etc. and we already have a few advance commitments which is very heartening. We hope this will take about 2 years or sooner if we can.

There are a couple of really serious and grown-up things I want to impress upon you.

Most people don't like asking for money. I am not a fundraiser and have shied away from asking. But in this case, this is an issue that touches each one of us personally: spiritually and tangibly; importantly the people we live with and in our community, I have agreed to take this on as a chair. I am in it.

To be successful we all need to be committed. We can do this but it won't be easy.

We will be called to make some sacrifices and stretch our resources. I hope you will be in it too.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maude March

## **Buildings and Grounds**

Over the past year, Buildings and Grounds took a slight pause. Although countless hours were put into assessing our current building needs by Joe Renault and Caroline, we did not move forward with any projects for the Parish Center as we realized that many decisions needed to be made by the entire parish on where we were headed with our building. In addition, the arrival of a new rector and the resignation of Isaak caused us to step back and focus our energy on revitalizing our group.

Projects that were completed last year include:

The rectory was completely painted and a new carpet was installed in the family room before our new rector and her family moved in.

The landscaping project at St. Jude's was completed with the help of Arthur Keller, who oversaw the project.

Although our Parish Center project was on hiatus for most of the year, we picked the project back up again in November, and are currently in the middle of interviewing architects.

Buildings and Grounds continues to include; Joe Renault, Maude March and Tony Smith. New members are: Ed Horvath, Marsha Planting, Mark Middleton, Mike Rogers and Beth Renault.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Renault

## Stroud Fund Report

Board

Joe Renault

Lesley Horvath

Kathy Suminsby

Scott planting

Jackie Lowe

Phyllis Partridge

What a blessed year we have had! We were able to contribute to the rector's discretionary fund. She is able to sit and meet privately with people to determine what their needs are and if we are able to help in some way.

This year we were involved in two very large and ongoing projects, Island house trust, and Local Solutions. Both of these groups will and are continuing their work here in our community and it is exciting that we could be a part of it.

With the island housing gap loan contribution we are supporting families to live and work on our island. Two of the families come to our church, and the other family's neighborhood come to house church.

Local Solutions is a group building housing for young adults that age out of the school system who need to live in housing because of their mental and physical difficulties.

We were also able to give to island reader and writers. They bring authors in, they do reading and writing workshops over the island and outer islands.

This concludes mine and Kathy's time on the board. We have enjoyed working towards building our community in little ways through the generous donation of Dr. Stroud.

Respectfully, Lesley Horvath

## Music Report - 2014

I am grateful to Linda Foster and Lise Wallace for playing the organ while I was away in 2014. Linda played at St. Mary's by-the-Sea in July and August, while Lise played at St. Mary's chapel in May, at St. Mary's by-the-Sea in June and part of September, and at St. Jude's in July and August.

In January, I played for the Martin Luther King service at the Maine Sea Coast Mission.

In February, I was one of three organists providing a concert at St. John's in Southwest Harbor which was a fund-raiser for the Westside Food Pantry.

I joined the St. Saviour's Festival Choir for an April performance of Mozart's Missa Brevis and, in November, a choral evensong. I encourage others in this parish to join in future musical events sung by this choir. The Festival Choir is composed of the regular St. Saviour's choir significantly augmented by other singers from around the island.

In 2011, I and Susan Buell started a monthly series of Musical Evenings - informal get-togethers at various people's houses around in the island. Guest musician(s) offer their music during the first half of each evening and this is followed by communal singing. Stephen Sampson subsequently joined us in organizing these events. The Musical Evenings have remained very popular - we typically get between 25 and 40+ people attending and most months we see a few new faces. The series continued in 2014 - the list of musicians and hosts is shown, below. Because I am on MDI for a shorter period each year now, I have decided to withdraw as one of the organizers of these events. The series will continue in 2015, however, under the able leadership of Stephen and Susan. I extend my considerable gratitude to them both for all of the time and effort they continue to put into organizing this musical camaraderie.

In view of the fact that I now spend several months each year away from MDI, I have reluctantly decided that I must resign as organist in this parish. My last service as organist will be in May. I have been playing here for almost 14 years and have loved every minute of it. Playing the organ and directing the choir at St. Mary's by-the-Sea have been especially rewarding - the SMBTS choir is a group of enthusiastic, music-loving, folk who have been so wonderful to work with over the years. Playing for the Sunset Services became an indelible and very special part of my summers. Providing Sunday music at St. Mary's chapel has been a weekly joy (especially when we selected hymns that people know and managed to not insert too many "new" tunes!). Thank you to everyone who has made my time in the musical life of this parish so memorable for me. I will deeply miss not being part of it in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Vaux

**List of Musical Evenings in 2014, with guest musicians & hosts.**

**January:** Chris & Jim Gray (voice, guitar, percussion, pipes, Irish low whistle). Host: Linda Lewis (Somesville)

**February:** *(no meeting)*

**March:** Our first musical quiz night! Host: Sydney Roberts Rockefeller (Seal Harbor)

**April:** *(cancellation because of unforeseen circumstances)*

**May:** Chris Gray & Gus La Casse (fiddle, Irish whistle, Irish Uilleann pipes and the cajon). Hosts: Rita Redfield & Ken Cochrane (Somesville)

**June:** Jennifer Torrance (cello) & Stephen Sampson (piano). Hosts: Maude & John March (Seal Harbor)

**July:** Bob Myers (mandolin & voice). Hosts: Rita Redfield & Ken Cochrane (Somesville)

**September:** Marsha Lyons & Linda Foster (voice & guitar). Hosts: Dorothy & Jim Clunan (Mount Desert)

**October:** Bill Myers (cello) & Stephen Sampson (piano). Hosts: Jane Fenno-Vaux & Peter Vaux (Otter Creek)

**November:** Sydney Patten (piano). Hosts: Bill & Sydney Patten (Hall Quarry)

**December:** Holiday music sing-along. Hosts: Bill Dowling & Barbara Myers (NEH)

## House Church Report

House Church continues to go strong. What began a few years ago as three families worshipping in the chapel upstairs on a Saturday night has grown to include all ages of parishioners in attendance and as hosts. Our numbers are steady and the number of host families continue to expand. Eucharist takes place around the kitchen table, where we all gather much like an informal last supper. Everyone is welcome at HC, please come see what it's all about this year!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Renault

## Altar Guild Annual Report January 26, 2014

1 Members of the Altar Guild are: Kathy Suminsby, Karol Hagberg, Jackie Agnese, Elaine Fernald, Carolyn Drew, Phyllis Partridge, Beth Renault, Kerry Kenney and Nancy Nimick.

The members attend to the duties in St. Mary's by-the-Sea and St. Mary's Chapel and also St. Jude's Church in Seal Harbor. Some of these duties are washing and repairing the linens, polishing brass, ordering candles, communion wafers and wine, setting up the altar for communion and cleansing after and arranging flowers.

Also there are many extra duties we do at Christmas, Easter, Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms and special holidays.

BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2014		\$1,129.49
	Deposit	50.00
	Interest	3.32
	Disbursements	318.05
		-----
Balance Dec. 31, 2014		864.76

Respectfully,  
Jackie Agnese

## **Episcopal Church Women Report**

This past year the ECW tried something new, having meetings in the evening. We started this in the fall and the meetings have been well attended. We are going to continue this and also try having meetings after worship on Sunday morning.

As in the past we held a casserole sale, once in July and August. This was our only fund raiser. We would like to thank Carter's Real Estate for letting us hold this sale on their lawn. The sale netted \$1,655.00, giving us a balance of \$2493.09. No funds were distributed in 2014.

Many thanks to Jean Fernald who chairs the Event and the Outreach committee, and Janet Stratton, Martha Bucklin, and Sheila Smallidge for all they do to make the Angel Tree a success.

This year we have new co-presidents. We are thankful to have Janet Stratton and Martha Bucklin as our presidents.

All women are welcome to attend and participate in our meetings and activities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyllis Partridge

## **Sunday School Report**

Sunday School continues to transition as our children grow and fewer young children attend. The limited number of youngsters in our parish are stretched between being acolytes and attending Sunday school. Our numbers have decreased this year as sports and activities continue to creep into our Sunday mornings making it difficult for young families. This past summer we were very fortunate that Jane's mother taught at St. Mary's by-the-Sea. Joe and I are the only volunteers for Sunday School teachers from September to May. I cannot teach every Sunday if I am to participate in services as a reader and chalice. There were many Sundays last year where lessons were prepared and no children were there to teach. Jane has begun conversations with other parishes about a combined youth group as our children continue to grow. Our new media set up in the parish hall has set our wheels spinning a bit about finding other parishes to Skype with during Sunday School. With change comes growth and we hope that our program grows in whatever direction that may be.

Respectfully Submitted, Beth Renault

## **Angel Tree Annual Report**

Our Parish family once again worked with Mount Desert Elementary School Nurse, Wanda Fernald, to help children have a nicer Christmas. By way of the Angel Tree committee, and the generosity of our parishioners, we provided winter and other essential clothing and footwear for the children of **four**, Mount Desert families (**seven children**). Also provided were some non-essential but much appreciated toys, books, and even support for a child to continue music lessons during a family's financially challenging time.

Sheila Smallidge, Janet Stratton, and Beth Renault gave of their time and talents to help make this program work.

Thank you to all who gave of their time, talents, and/or treasures in support of this truly worthwhile project.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Bucklin

## **Ice Cream Socials Summer 2014**

The very popular ice cream socials were once again a Main Street attraction in Northeast Harbor for 9 Thursday afternoons from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm during July and August. Sponsored by the Parish of St. Mary and St. Jude with ice cream donated by Teresa Clark of The Dockside Restaurant with some NHH back up, the tent in front of the Great Harbor Museum was a favorite stop of passersby. Conservatively, over 800 cones were served; probably 10-11 large tubs of ice cream and a multitude of jimmies were consumed.

Manned by many faithful volunteers, who by now are ice cream dipping experts, the afternoons run smoothly if not tidily. The cones were "free" but patrons were given the opportunity to make donations to the island food pantries. \$1074.32 was turned over to the church for distribution to the two island food banks.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who participated, especially Sandy Norman and "team" Frazer. The set up and take down of the tent and table was a joy this summer thanks to the efficient help of SMSJ Sexton Ed Horvath. Everyone agrees that it is a lot of fun and, happily, takes very little time and effort.

Axie Diana

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry 2014 Annual Report**

The St. Mary and St. Jude Prayer Shawl Ministry enjoyed another banner year in 2014. We gave away 37 “regular” shawls and another 8 baptismal shawls. Of these, eight were donated to the MDI Hospital Breast Cancer Unit and another eight to the Maine Seacoast Mission. Now that Douglas Cornman is affiliated with the Maine Seacoast Mission, we expect a significant increase in that number in 2015. The balance of 28 shawls were given to parishioners and friends of St. Mary and St. Jude.

We have about ten knitters from both the year-round and summer communities and would certainly welcome more. We now meet weekly year round instead of bi-weekly heretofore. Our meetings take place on Thursday mornings from 10-12 in the winter and from 9-11 in the summer.

Even if you don’t knit, we would appreciate your support and involvement. Please give us names of people who would benefit from having one of our shawls. They mean so much to recipients as my husband and I can tell you from personal experience.

The second way you can help us would be to donate cash so we can purchase yarn. The average shawl costs about \$15 and we spent over \$600 last year alone for the donated shawls. Just send a check made out to St. Mary’s and put Prayer Shawl Ministry on the memo line. We would be most grateful.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Prayer Shawl Knitters,  
Claudine Catlin

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