Do you hear the bells?

Vivos voco, I call the living,
Mortuos plango, I mourn the dead,
Festa decora, I adorn festivals,
Fulgura frango. I shatter the lightning.

Traditional Latin inscription on church bells

That folk may come to church in time, I chime;
When pleasure’s on the wing, I ring;
To speed the parting soul, I toll.

Inscription on the bell of an old village church in Devonshire

Bells in church buildings may seem perfectly obvious – but why? What is there about striking heavy bronze cups to make a loud sound that had anything to do with Christian faith or Christian community?

Christianity did not invent bells, of course. China developed bells, gongs, cymbals and singing bowls thousands of years ago; they were an important part of traditional Chinese religious practice, and were adopted by Buddhism and Hinduism. The penetrating, far reaching sound of the bells was often understood as carrying prayers to the ears of the gods and ancestors, as well as creating a meditative state of mind. When the ancient Egyptians learned how to smelt bronze, bells became a part of their religious practice, too; Moses may have carried this tradition out of Egypt and taught the Hebrew priests to sew bells to the hems of their robes, but the shofar, or ram’s-horn, was the traditional call to worship.

Christianity did not invent monasticism, either, but the disciplined daily schedule of prayer and silence in monastic communities made some sort of signaling system necessary. In the earliest Christian monasteries, monks were alerted by striking a resonant piece of wood called a semander, which is still traditional in many Orthodox traditions.

According to tradition, it was a bishop in Nola, near Naples, Italy, who first introduced bells into Christian worship around the year 400, both as a call to worship and as a way of calling attention to important parts of the service for congregations that could not see or hear much of what was going on. Bells caught on quickly, and by the early 600’s bells were so closely associated with the call to Christian prayer that Mohammed vetoed them for Muslim worship, establishing instead the tradition of the muezzin’s chanted call from a high minaret.

In the early Middle Ages, between the fall of the Roman empire and the slow development of Medieval European civilization, Christian monasteries functioned as outposts of culture and religious centers, especially outside cities. The sound of the bells calling the monks and nuns to prayer seven times a day was a connection between the cloister and the world outside; a Christian working in the fields or the kitchen could hear the bells and pause for a moment’s prayer in communion with the brothers and sisters.

Fast-forward to the English Reformation in the sixteenth century. Given the opportunity to develop a new prayer book for the independent English Church, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer turned to the monastic cycle of daily prayer, simplifying it for the use of Christians in all walks of life. The new Book of Common Prayer was anchored by the daily offices of Morning and Evening Prayer, to be prayed either in the parish church or at home. The parish church bell, like the monastery bell, became even more important as a way of calling the people together for prayer with their neighbors, whether in the same space or separated by distance. The voice of the bell became closely associated with the parish, such that people could readily pick out the sound of their own parish bells from others.
St. Saviour’s bells have been speaking to the people of Bar Harbor for over eighty years. Many have heard the quirky story of the bells’ donation and the reason for the “temporary” steel tower, but far more important than that story, I think, is the way that our bells have worked themselves into the sensory landscape of our community. Neighbors and tourists may grumble about being awakened, and nearby dogs may go on high alert, but the slow, sonorous voice of our bells is as much a part of downtown Bar Harbor as the smell of the sea at low tide. I particularly love the interplay of our bells and the firehouse horn at noon and nine: church and state, protectors of spirit and of body, letting us know that all is well in our little village.

Not all may recognize it, but our bells are a sort of witness to the people of Bar Harbor, residents and tourists. We no longer live in a society where everybody goes to church, and the bells are just a reminder to do what we are all doing anyway. The bells have become more like a voice of one crying in the wilderness: refusing to let the world forget that we owe our existence to God and our redemption to his son Jesus Christ. The bells are a song on the breeze, celebrating the fact that the Holy Spirit still speaks and that there are people who still listen. If even one or two people stop what they are doing and offer a few moments of prayer when our bells ring, how wonderful! The voice of the bells calls each of us to prayer, to relationship with God and God’s people. Do you hear the bells?

*Feedback? I hope you will call or e-mail me to continue the conversation.*

Yours in Christ, Tim

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**NOTES from your Flower Guild**

Did you know that the memorial flowers each week are determined by a calendar maintained in the Parish Office? Some Sundays you may recognize the name of the person(s) memorialized by the floral arrangements on the chancel altar and/or in the Chapel. Others less familiar, as in January and February, for example, are remembered because of Endowment Funds.

There are several openings on the calendar during the year. If anyone would like to donate flowers, you can do it one time only, or for a particular week every year, or remember a special day, such as an anniversary, birthday, birth of a child, baptism, graduation, etc.

The word “Guild” suggests a group of people, but at present and for the past 3+ years, Sue Blaisdell is the only one who either orders flowers or creates the arrangements each week, except during Lent and Advent. Volunteers are needed for this ministry to be fair to Sue.

As noted in Sue’s previous annual reports: "May I reiterate again that the altar flowers are usually arranged by local florists and simply placed in our brass vessels. It is true that some or all of the previous week’s blooms, if still thriving, have been rearranged and used in St. Mary’s Chapel for the 7:30 am service, or placed as a table centerpiece in the Parish Hall, but that is a personal choice. Also, the parish does have vases of beautiful silk flowers at our disposal, which are used on occasion".

If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Sue Blaisdell at 288-4092 or if you would like to know what dates are available for altar flower memorials, ask Muffet in the Parish Office.
To: The People of the Diocese of Maine  
Re: Healing the Church of Sexual Abuse and Misconduct

Dear Friends in Christ:
As you are well aware, the church is not immune to the sins that beset every human institution. The news frequently carries stories of improper and abusive behavior on the part of clergy, a great deal of which is coming to light in response to the activism of victims, the #MeToo movement. The Episcopal Church has made great strides over the last generation in educating clergy and lay leaders about the maintenance of personal boundaries and the responsibilities we share to protect the most vulnerable from harm. But we are not exempt from bad behavior. There are far too many instances of sexual misconduct in our church.

At last summer's General Convention, The Episcopal Church suspended for three years the statute of limitations for reporting and addressing sexual abuse and misconduct by clergy against adults. ..........to continue reading this letter, please click here.

Faithfully,
+Stephen T. Lane  
The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane  
Bishop of Maine

(There are copies of the full letter on the table in the Narthex and hard copies will go out to those who do not get this newsletter electronically.)

COME HOME FOR SUPPER!

MDI Episcopal Church collaboration continues with a new offering: **Come Home For Supper** at various parishioners homes during the year. You will be asked to bring an appetizer, side/salad dish or dessert plus BYO Beverage. Contact Diane Phipps with any questions at dphipps@65@gmail.com. Sign up sheets will appear in our Parish Hall as the dates come near. Saturday, March 2nd will be the first one!
The story of hymn-singing in English-speaking countries begins in early 18th century, with the works of the Congregationalist preacher and writer Isaac Watts. (It is true that the Hymnal 1982 does contain some English hymns which pre-date Watts, such as number 140 “Wilt thou forgive” by John Donne, or number 402 “Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing” by George Herbert — but in all those cases the poems were not intended by their authors to be sung, whereas Watts’ hymns were specifically intended for singing.) His influence on the evolution of congregational singing in Great Britain and America is so profound that he is widely known as “the father of English hymnody.” Until his poems appeared starting in 1706, only Psalms were sung in English and American churches, in metrical translations. (It was only in 1820 that the Church of England officially permitted the use of hymns in worship.)

The man who started this revolution in English church music was born in 1674, the son of a schoolmaster who held such strong Congregationalist convictions that he was twice imprisoned for publicly proclaiming his opposition to the Episcopal establishment. Isaac the younger (his father was also named Isaac) was precocious child, learning Latin and Greek from the age of six, and Hebrew soon thereafter. He was also fond of rhyming, and would often converse in rhyming verse. Although promised financial to attend either Oxford or Cambridge University, Watts was unwilling to renounce his Non-Conformist belief as would have been required, and so instead studied at a private academy in London. He was first employed as a tutor in the home of the Hartopp family in Stoke Newington outside London. During his time in the Hartopp household he composed lessons in logic for the two sons which later formed the core of his book Logic, or the Right Use of Reason; this book became a standard text on logic, and was used for over a century at Oxford and Cambridge Universities and at Yale College in Connecticut. Soon thereafter he accepted to call to be a pastor and preacher for a large Congregationalist chapel in London.

After a few years it became clear that his fragile health made it necessary for him to have assistants for handling the day-to-day pastoral work. He was invited to reside at the home of Sir Thomas and Lady Mary Abney in Stoke Newington, and remained there thirty-six years, until his death in 1748.

He took care to follow the existing models, the various metrical Psalters. Thus, Hymns and Spiritual Songs is divided into three parts, of which the first part contains 150 hymns (the same as the number of Psalms), all of which are metrical paraphrases of passages of Scripture; his original printing of the volume includes references for all of the 150 hymns. Furthermore, they are — with only one exception — in the same three metrical patterns that were found in all the various English-language Psalters: Common Meter (8.6.8.6), Long Meter (8.8.6.8), and Short Meter (6.6.8.6). This meant that all of these hymns could be readily and easily sung by any congregation to the Psalm tunes that they would all have known. The last collection, Psalms of David Imitated, contains paraphrases of the entire Psalter, but modified to refer to the events of Jesus’ life and to the understanding we now have since the Resurrection. It is from this book especially that we have many of the hymns by Dr. Watts that have become well-beloved: “Joy to the World,” “O God, our help in ages past,” and “Jesus shall reign where’er the sun.” In our hymnal, in fact, there are more hymns by Watts than any other single author except Charles Wesley (16 by Watts, 19 by Wesley) — and Wesley himself stated that he could not have written what he did had he not had the example of Isaac Watts before him.

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Music Director
Free Meals in our community.

- **Second and Fourth Sundays**—4:30 at Bar Harbor Baptist Church. 46 Ledgelawn Ave., Bar Harbor. Childcare provided.

- **First Sunday** each month 11:30-12:30 Seaside UCC, 8 Main St., Seal Harbor (Jan - June) July - Dec 21 Summit Rd, Northeast Harbor.

- **Mondays** from 3-6 pm Everybody Eats Free Community Meal— in the Parish Hall of St. Dunstan’s Church, 134 State Street, Ellsworth.

- **Tuesdays** from 4-7 pm. Open Table MDI is a new community group working to provide free community meals on MDI. Bar Harbor Congregational Church, 29 Mt. Desert Street.

- **Wednesdays** from 3-6 pm – Welcome Table - First Congregational Church - 2 Church St., Ellsworth

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Coffee Hour Ministry

Coffee Hour after Sunday service works well when as many folks as are able take turns hosting. Get a partner & co-host to share the work. If you are new to hosting coffee hour, here are people who can help you with the details: contact Susan Blaisdell (sthomas2@roadrunner.com), or Pat Samuel (plsamuelbh@gmail.com, 610-2054). There is a sign-up sheet on the door of the kitchen in the Parish Hall.

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If you would like to help plan the Easter Dinner for 2019, see Eliza Vallette or email elizaos2002@yahoo.com
Love That Thought!

We have a new Suggestion Box beside the Parish Hall bulletin board.

There were several comments in the box when we met as a Vestry on January 16 for which we gave thanks and consideration. We have added a review of these comments to our regular Vestry items and will report back on our discussion each month, through Vestry minutes and this newsletter.

Several people suggested that services be held in the parish hall because the church is cold. Some work on the furnace is scheduled this week. Part of the problem is the timer that normally activates the heat early on Sundays is not working. This will be replaced. It was also decided that if the church is not adequately heated on a given Sunday, the service would then be held in the parish hall.

Another suggestion was that it is difficult to hear speakers in the church. We will try speaking clearly and also have anyone making announcements do so from the front using the microphone.

The clock in the parish hall is three minutes slow and needs resetting. This has been done.

Please keep those notes coming. The Vestry loves to know what you want us to know. Is there something that needs to be fixed? Were you moved by something in our community? Do you have an idea or a complaint? Anything goes into the suggestion box. We don’t need to know your name – that’s optional.

Thanks. – Your Vestry.
Milestones we celebrate at St. Saviour’s!

Birthday Greetings
February 1  Geoffrey Schuller
February 10  Diane Zito
February 11  Marsha Lyons
February 12  Allan Pappas
February 13  Mary-Ellen Sharp
February 14  Gail Leiser
February 15  Pat Buccello
February 21  Susan Blaisdell
February 24  Joshua Bloom
February 27  Pauline Johnson
February 28  Scott Allen

Eucharist on Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel
In a simple, non-musical service, we commemorate saints and seasons using the church’s published calendar, as well as focusing on healing for ourselves and for the world.

Scripture Readings  Year C

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Psalm</th>
<th>1st Reading</th>
<th>2nd Reading</th>
<th>Gospel</th>
<th>Celebrant/Preacher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jeremiah 17:5-10</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 15:12-20</td>
<td>Luke 6:17-26</td>
<td>Rev. Timothy Fleck</td>
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2019 Bar Harbor Community Progressive Dinner
March on Mt. Desert Street!  Tuesday, March 5th.
This year’s theme is Mardi Gras!

5:15 - 5:30  Conners Emerson students @ The Abbe Museum
5:30 - 6:00  Hors D’Ouevres @ YWCA
6:00 -6:30  Salad @ St. Saviour's Parish Hall*
6:30 - 7:00  Soup @ Jesup Library
7:00 - 7:30  Dessert @ Congregational Church

A neighborhood night of fun and free to all, rain, snow or shine!
*Sign up for salads is in the Parish Hall and click <here> for some great salad suggestions thanks to Carmen! Last year there were about 100 folks!
Our Outreach is Global

Each month in the Voice, we plan to profile different groups that you support through your support for St. Saviour’s.

In addition to special fundraising events for specific causes and groups, each year, our Parish sets aside a set amount of income towards organizations that serve our mission.

Some of the ministries we support just across the street; others connect us to the world.

Two of these are Children International and Plan USA. We are supporting two children through these programs.

Children International has a goal of ending poverty, one child at a time. You can learn more here: https://www.children.org/. St. Saviour’s has long sponsored children through CI. Many of us signed up individually after Tim+ invited their representative to preach one Sunday years ago. Our child in Little Rock, Arkansas has been Makijah Lesha, but we will have a new child in 2019.

Plan International USA is quite similar to Children International. Plan International USA is part of a global network that refuses to believe in the helplessness of children. In partnership with donors, children, and communities, Plan works in more than 50 developing countries to end the cycle of poverty. You can learn more at http://www.planusa.org. Our sponsored child in Haiti is Jean Labonte Elie

Sponsoring children around the world is a great Episcopalian tradition. The late President George H.W. Bush was a secret sponsor of a child in the Philippines for many years, too. There were several articles about this last December, including this https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-46618576.

If you have ideas of other non-profit organizations you’d like St. Saviour’s Parish to consider, please let your Outreach committee members know or put it in the Suggestion Box. These are: Carmen Greene, Debbie Parlee, Wayne Parlee, John Stewart, Carolyn Reed, Janie Whitney, Geoff Schuller, Sue Blaisdell, Linda Foster, Gail Leiser, Sandy Paine, Marsha Lyons.
Notes from the December and January Vestry meetings

It’s the dead of Winter but there’s plenty keeping our Parish busy. Here’s a recap of our some topics covered in the last two Vestry meetings. This is mostly based on Linda Foster’s minutes, but I’ve chosen to elaborate here and there.

· Budget

The Vestry approved the 2019 budget. It features small bonuses and/or raises for our terrific three-person operation, Father Tim+, Muffet, and Dr. Daniel. Further details are available in the Vestry minutes. Muffet our Parish Administrator, and Sarah Flood, our Treasurer, will be happy to share with you the complete budget. As part of this process, we looked at where we are today compared to 10 years ago – it is quite amazing to see how we’ve managed to work our way back into our means.

· Stewardship

We’ve had good participation in our annual pledge campaign, for which we are grateful. So far, we’ve received 50 pledges with a combined commitment of $91,829 toward our goal of $99,000. We expect several other pledges to come in towards the summer. If you are not yet a pledger, it’s never too late. Forms are available on the tables in the Church and from the front office.

· Developments at St. Mary and St. Jude

The parishioners have chosen to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Rev Jane Cornman and the parish. Jane+ left at the end of January and an Interim will be assigned.

· Stained glass window maintenance

An expert from Willet-Hauser, a stained glass specialist is coming soon to assess our windows. They are based in the Midwest, but they have another project in Bangor and can visit here when they are working there.

· New Committee Proposal

Vestryperson Pat Samuel proposed a new committee called Music Program Support Committee which would coordinate with and support Daniel in planning and providing special musical events, such as the summer organ series. This committee would organize receptions, make sure the church is clean and welcoming, provide ushers and document activities. A motion was made and seconded to form a music program support committee. It was passed unanimously.

Our discussions about the Suggestion Box and the Island Partnership are covered elsewhere in this month’s Voice.

I hope you have a safe, warm, and peaceful rest of February.

- Jim Vallette, Sr. Warden
Some wonderful photos by Sierra Bloom and Jim Vallette of Christmas 2018 at St. Saviour’s!

Our sanctuary—beautiful as it is every year with the efforts of Sue Blaisdell and everyone who helped “green the church.”
Fun making Advent Calendars, thanks to Pat Samuel! Ruth Westphal, Sue Blaisdell, Gretchen Westphal, Pat Samuel and Mary Jane Whitney, pictured above, all produced works worthy of our admiration!
MDI COFFEE’ HOUSE!
All MDI residents are welcome to Coffee, Conversation and Music the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the YWCA 36 Mt. Desert Street, Bar Harbor. This program is sponsored by Island Connections, so if you would like more information, please call 288-4457!

MDI Episcopal Church Partnership Planning

One question that I’ve heard people asking is, “who will be our priests whenever Tim+ goes”? The plan, to which all three of our partner churches’ vestries and rectors have agreed, is that Mother Kathleen Killian and Father John Allison will serve, jointly and equally, all three official partner parishes: St. Saviour’s, Church of Our Father, and St. John’s and St. Andrews. (St. Mary’s is an observer, but not an official partner.)

Kathleen+ and John+ are well known to regular worshipers at St. Saviour's, as they serve at our Wednesday and Sunday services many times a year already as part of our monthly island clergy rotations. We are blessed to have all of these great rectors serving our community.

We are continuing to prepare for this eventuality, with actions both mundane (drafting up letters of agreement, figuring out what needs to be fixed up in our Rectory) and profound. Our top priority is to deepen our relationships with each other as branches of the same tree, while maintaining our individual parish identities.

There are many signs that the partnership’s roots are healthy and growing.

There is an upwelling of desire to increase our All-Parish Sundays, at least outside of Summer. We don’t know what the exact rotation of services will be quite yet: that’s something for the island clergy to figure out and facilitate discussion about. But it sure is uplifting when we are all together in the dead of Winter!

We are reinstating the Home for Supper series, beginning on March 2. Thanks to our shared services, there’s a much better chance that we’ll know each other already!

The Diocese of Maine has been very supportive of our island partnership and Canon Michael Ambler will be meeting with us this month to check in our progress.

Other ideas are in the works, like developing a shared island directory, uniting our individual newsletters, and increasing our island-wide outreach efforts.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of this, please do let me or any of your vestry members know. If that’s not something you are comfortable with, you can drop a note, anonymously if you’d like, in our Suggestion Box.

Thanks!

Jim Vallette
Carmen’s Corner! 2019  
(pictured left: Carmen and Eva Davis off on an adventure a few years ago!)

"America the Beautiful" is an American patriotic song. The lyrics were written by Katharine Lee Bates, (1895) and the music was composed by church organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward at Grace Episcopal Church in Newark, New Jersey. The two never met.

The Bible reveals 3 body prayer positions and we, Christians, must always position our bodies in positions to honor God according to an article at The Christian Truth Center website.

- Kneeling: Daniel 6:10; Luke 22:41; Acts 20:30; Matt 17:14 and more
- Standing: Mark 11:25
- Bowing: John 19:30; Deuteronomy 5:9

I shudder to think some of us are wondering why some of our prayers have not been answered only to read this and find maybe we've been 'doing it' wrong all along.

For me, I figure any way I position myself, if I pray with intention no matter how convoluted my words may flow, I will have succeeded in making my prayer a sacred connection.

I asked various people where they find strength or what they think of spirituality for them. As responses come in, I will share. Here are two responses.

“I gain my strength from the earth around me. When I need help, I turn to nature, whether it is the water, the woods, a garden, my animals. It all helps to ground me and gives my strength, peace, and serenity.”

And from another:

“I turn to God for everything! If I’m hurting or sick, driving, frightened, or worried about my family and friends! He is my strength and has always been there for me. God is awesome! A true power in my life!”

Submitted by Carmen Greene

Prayer List
We pray for Jennifer Hofert, Ellie Batchelder, Geoff Schuller, Nancy (Place) Camerario, Haji Avila, Gretchen Westphal, Betsy & Jack Drake, Ruth Westphal, Sarah Cleaves, Kathy and Robin, Barbara Dube, Nicholas, Linda Carman, Ted Tibbetts, Bradley Seavey, Janet Flood, Rachel, Kendra Riley, Bob Frazier, Gretchen Lane, Mimi, George Swanson, Charlie, Sarah B., Dickie, Barbara Purtell, Alex, Tristram Colket, Anne Cleaves and Pauline Hartin. (Please let Muffet in the office know of any updates.)

Reaching out from St. Saviour’s!

The next Outreach meeting will be on Wednesday, March 6 at 4:30 pm in the Rectory Library. Everyone is the Outreach Committee at St. Saviour’s, so come find out what is coming up and see how you can help. Perhaps you have some suggestions.

As you do your shopping, consider putting an extra jar of peanut butter, a can of soup, tuna, chicken or vegetables in your cart for the Bar Harbor Food Pantry box at the back of the church. The need is still great!
Weekly Services
Morning Prayer
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 am
in the Rectory Library

Holy Eucharist
Sundays at 10:00 am
Wednesday at Noon in the Chapel

Contemplative Prayer
Fridays at 12 noon in the Rectory Library

The mission of St. Saviour's Parish of Bar Harbor is to put Jesus Christ first in our lives, to spread the Good News of salvation through worship, education and ministry, building on the gifts and heritage of our congregation, and to provide a welcoming atmosphere of love and compassion.

The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Right Reverend Stephen Lane, Bishop of the Diocese of Maine
The Rev. Tim Fleck, Rector Tim@mdi-episcopal.org
Dr. Daniel Pyle, Music Director
Margaret Stewart, Parish Administrator

St. Saviour’s uses 100% gluten free bread and de-alcoholized wine.
The Sanctuary and Parish Hall are handicap accessible

Senior Warden: Jim Vallette; Junior Warden: Wayne Parlee; Treasurer: Sarah Flood; Clerk: Linda Foster;
Vestry Members: Dan Gatti, Lee Garrett, Pat Samuel, Tammy Bloom,
Seasonal: Diane Zito.