

# THE SHAMROCK

NOVEMBER 2008



SAINT PATRICK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
The Rev. Emily Gibson, Interim Rector  
21 Holyoke Street  
Brewer, ME 04412-1905  
(207) 989-1308

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[stpatsbrewer@verizon.net](mailto:stpatsbrewer@verizon.net)

On the web at [www.stpatsbrewer.org](http://www.stpatsbrewer.org)

Mary Ann Perry, Organist

## St. Patrick's Vestry

Sue Elcik – *Senior Warden*

Peter Perry – *Junior Warden*

Lisa Chambers – *Clerk*

David Blethen – *Treasurer*

Penny Baker

Tom Copeland

Sandra Currier

Jane Harburger

Ralph Phipps

Lillian Rivers

## Diocesan Delegates

Harold "Brownie" Brown

Della Gleason

Bev Joy - Alternate

**St. Patrick's Parish mission is to love God  
and love each other.**



## **From Our Interim Rector**

To the faithful of St. Patrick's:

I have been with you as your Interim Rector now for about a month, and am glad that we are settling into this time of transition together. As I mentioned in the sermon on October 12, the timeline at the moment is for the Vestry to set goals for the transition period, which will be available for review by the congregation once completed. From that point, we will begin the process of discerning the goals we'd like to set as a parish family in terms of our life and ministry. This will take place in a day-long retreat before Lent, from which the Vestry will reflect and draft a parish purpose statement, and from which a committee will be formed to begin work on the parish profile. Once the Vestry and congregation reach consensus on a vision for St. Patrick's future, the Search Committee will be formed and begin its preliminary work with the Diocesan search consultant. In the meantime, we will continue to build on the important work of the

various ministries of St. Patrick's, including St. Patrick's Shared Ministry (SPSM), the Food Pantry and Outreach Committee, the Knitting Circle, the Healing Ministry, and, of course, the Holiday Fair. That's more than enough to fill the time for now, and I look forward to getting to know you better through all these activities. Please be sure to note that besides Sundays, I will usually spend Tuesdays and Wednesdays at St. Patrick's, with some variation on that schedule depending on the vagaries of my calendar to include attendance at events like Diocesan Convention, Clergy Retreat, and the like. I will try to publish in the newsletter when you can expect me to be in Brewer so that you will know when you can reach me at the office. You can always reach me online through my e-mail at: [stpatsbrewer.rector@gmail.com](mailto:stpatsbrewer.rector@gmail.com). In case of emergency, I can be reached at my home number of 326-8247. I am hoping that in various ways, whether through personal visits, lunch dates, committee meetings, or other venues, I can get to know each of you personally, and that you will feel comfortable to call on me when needed, or to bend my ear with a question, concern, or comment about the transition time.

What I'd like to share with you in this brief space are my initial impressions

of St. Patrick's, noting some things of which you may or may not be aware in your familiarity with the parish, but which I feel are significant. The first impression, and which struck me right away in the first Eucharist we shared on October 5, was the fact that you are deliberate and mindful in worship. I am used to congregations wanting to speed through the liturgy and I have tried to figure out how to slow things down, but at St. Patrick's I've noticed that I'm the one who needs to slow down in order to join in your prayerful tempo. I'm really grateful for that, especially in saying the Lord's Prayer. You listen to each other as you worship together, which makes for an atmosphere of reverence and respect. Another aspect of your life together that I appreciate is your response to one another when help is needed. This is another way you listen to one another, and then reach out to minister to each other's needs. SPSM is an outgrowth of the above elements, and along with the work of the Food Pantry and Outreach Committee, this help is extended out from St. Patrick's to the larger community. And that leads me to the last observation, which is your obvious enjoyment in working together on various projects, and your willingness to offer your time, talent, and treasure. Of such the Kingdom consists, and your generous offering of participation and support are the

backbone of both this parish and the ministry of the Diocese of Maine.

I feel blessed that you have invited me to spend this transition time with you, to help draw out and build on these gifts in the discernment process that will be taking place during the transition season well before a call is extended to the next Rector. As we go along, I hope you will share with me your reactions to all that is happening, so that there's plenty of give-and-take as we share this journey together.

May God's blessing and help be the source of our life together, and, like St. Patrick, may we know ourselves to be surrounded and filled with all God's fullness as we seek to serve God's Kingdom at St. Patrick's and beyond.

Faithfully yours,  
Emily Gibson+

### **Emily+'s November Schedule at St. Patrick's**

Week of Nov. 2: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday

Week of Nov. 9: Sunday and Thursday  
(Clergy Retreat is Sunday afternoon to Tuesday afternoon)

Week of Nov. 16: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Week of Nov. 23: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday

## **Save the Date**

There will be a celebration of Emily+'s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on Friday, Dec. 5, beginning with Advent Evensong at Trinity Church, Castine, followed by dinner at the Manor Inn, Castine. More details to come...

## **From Our Wardens**

Dear all at St. Patrick's,

We are thankful and appreciative that The Reverend Emily Gibson has joined us as our Interim Pastor at St. Patrick's. We are looking forward to moving forward with Emily+'s guidance.

At the Vestry meeting on October 21 we began the process of setting goals for the transition period by making a list of the reasons why St. Patrick's is important to each of us on the Vestry. It was wonderful to see all those reasons written down on paper and to be able to reflect on why St. Patrick's is such a special place. We only began the process at this meeting and will continue to work on the goals in the coming weeks.

The SPSM Fair was awesome! Thank you to all who participated, made those great posters, defined what the different ministries are at St. Patrick's, and shared their "stories." We can't say enough about how important SPSM is to the future of St. Pat's. We all have to support this ministry and pitch in where we can.

It is that time of year again when you will soon be receiving a stewardship letter and pledge card from the Vestry. We are all feeling the financial burden of this economy... and so is St. Pat's. We ask you to prayerfully consider your pledge this year. Our treasurer uses all of our pledges to formulate a budget for the coming year. If you are a regular church-goer and have not pledged in the past, please consider pledging this year so that we can have a clearer picture of what our budget will look like.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our Holiday Fair on November 15! Come help and support our largest fundraiser of the year!

As always, thank you for your continued support. We will keep you posted on what's happening at St. Patrick's as it develops.

Yours in Christ,  
Sue Elcik and Pete Perry  
Sr. and Jr. Wardens



## **Outreach Committee**

The Outreach Committee has been very busy delivering funds to various agencies. The latest is giving money to the Brewer Community Service Council for fuel assistance. They have an organized effort to assist residents in Brewer and the surrounding towns. It is much better to have pooled resources than try to do it alone.

We will be giving Christmas gifts to the youth at the Youth Correction Facility through Mark Spahr. The in-gathering will be in December but you can start shopping now for:

- Winter hats and gloves (they only have boys now).
- Shampoo Alberto VO5 Strawberries and Cream or Sunkissed Raspberry. It has to be one of these two because they are required to have institutional safety data sheets for all chemicals, including shampoo.
- Decks of playing cards
- Candies
- Mark soon will give a list of specific board games to add to the list.

We will be helping the Brewer Community Service Council provide Thanksgiving baskets to needy families. We are asking for donations of canned vegetables, fruit, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, pie filling, pie shells or crust mix, and napkins. Look for a collection box soon at church!

We will be doing baskets at Christmas as well. We'd like to include hats, scarves and mittens for the children in those baskets. Please keep us in mind if you see a good sale or have the itch to do some knitting!

Speaking of knitting, our next **Knitting Circle** will be **Thursday Nov 20 at 7:00 p.m.** at the church. We continue to make Prayer Shawls for those in need--let Lisa Chambers know if you or someone you know would like one. We recently made another donation of booties and hats to EMMC's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

As mentioned in the Shared Ministry article, the Food Cupboard will be featured after both services on November 9. Stay and hear a little history, an update and exciting news for the future. Check out the food cupboard space, too. The next Stock-the-Shelves night for the Food Cupboard is Tuesday, Nov. 11.

St Patrick's has a **Service of Prayer and Healing** one Friday evening per month, followed by a pot luck supper. Join us Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. This is an opportunity to gather to offer prayers for specific individuals and for ourselves in an informal setting. Some people name the specific prayer request aloud, while others choose to pray silently. The laying on of hands is offered to any who are interested in receiving this form of prayer.

Individuals only participate in the manner of prayer with which they are comfortable. Differences in style are respected. Leadership of the service alternates among lay volunteers who choose a service from the Book of Common Prayer or other Anglican sources for occasional services.

Sometimes we sing (i.e., if Mary Ann is there to lead us!). We always feel renewed, more at peace, and encouraged. There is wonderful fellowship and of course, true to St. Pat's style, wonderful sharing of food and stories. Talk to Pat Blethen or Mary Ann Perry for more information.

The Outreach would like to thank all of St. Pat's family for their generosity. Without everyone's support, we couldn't help all the people that we do.

Lisa Chambers and Mary Ann Perry

## **St. Patrick's Shared Ministry**

Much has been happening as the St. Pat's Shared Ministry group continues to connect our ministries at St. Pat's with the community. The group has encouraged everyone to notice specific ministries. Parishioners have been asked to prayerfully consider these ministries and ask, "Who is God calling to each ministry?" as all discern the gifts of the Spirit. What are the gifts of our members? What are our strengths? How do we uphold the gifts of all members as they exercise their ministry in the church and in the world? Several parishioners have shared their experiences of feeling the Spirit calling them to ministries.

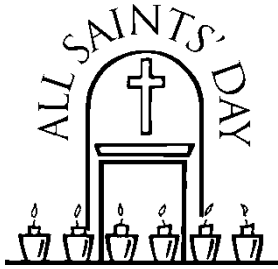
The next step is to learn about specific ministries in more detail. The first ministry to be shared will be that of the Brewer Christian Food Cupboard. Mary Ann Perry will explain the history of the Food Cupboard, show the behind-the-scenes operations and share some exciting news about the changes that have taken place and the future of the organization. You will be amazed at how much work and how many volunteers it takes for this ministry to continue. Stay a few minutes after each service on Nov. 9 to hear about it.

Watch the bulletin and December

Newsletter for the Altar Guild  
presentation date.

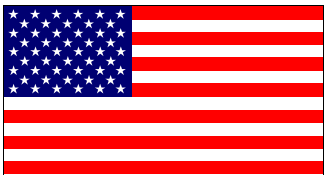
Come join the Shared Ministry group  
for their next meeting after the  
10:00 a.m. service on Nov. 30.

Pat Blethen



## November 2

If you wish to remember someone who  
has died during the year, please see  
Emily+, Sue Elcik or Pete Perry before  
mass.



## Honor Our Veterans

Veterans Day, which is November 11  
each year, is a holiday to honor  
America's veterans for their patriotism  
and willingness to serve and sacrifice  
for our nation's common good.

We are deeply indebted to all the men  
and women who served or are now  
serving our country! Thank you!



Nov. 2 Steve Blanchard  
Nov. 3 Cameron Lynch  
Nov. 9 Houston Cady  
Nov. 13 Nicole O'Clair  
Nov. 16 Mark E. Piper  
Nov. 18 Stephanie Tredwell  
Nov. 22 Peggy Day  
Nov. 27 Dan Buck

Nov. 18 Paul Smith &  
Bonnie Heyer  
Nov. 27 Pete & Mary Ann Perry

## Holiday Fair

### Saturday, November 15

The Holiday Fair will be here before  
we know it – Saturday, Nov. 15 from  
7:00-1:30 p.m. I truly appreciate all  
the help and support for this  
fundraiser. Please consider signing  
your name on the red poster board at  
church to help at one of the tables  
listed. We already have chairpeople  
but they need your help during the  
day.

Raffle: Rita has made the tickets and  
Emily+, our interim priest, has offered  
to oversee the table if no one else  
volunteers.

**Cookies:** Sandra Currier needs as many “yummy” homemade cookies as possible.

**Silent Auction:** If you have an antique or special item to donate, please see Mary Ann Perry as soon as possible as she would like to advertise the items.

**Food Court:** Breakfast will be served by our very own chef, Mark Spahr.

**Baskets/Crafts:** Since we are not having craft night, we are hoping people are making items or creating baskets. There are lots of small baskets at church to fill. Most popular are between \$5 - \$10. Penny Baker is in charge of this table.

**Country Kitchen:** Della Gleason is in charge of these tables and we hope to see many jams, canned goods, and baked goods such as pies, breads, cheese balls, etc.

**Wreaths:** Ellen Fisher is in charge of this table and is making dried wreaths and fresh green wreaths. Please see her if you have similar items you've made.

**Re-Gifting:** If you have any new gifts you would like to re-gift, please think of us. Ruth MacIlroy is in charge of this table.

**Pet Table:** Lisa Chambers is in charge of this table so please think of our pets

and new items to contribute or homemade pet food.

**Avon Collectibles:** Pete Perry is offering to take care of this table if John and Betty Buckingham are not here.

**Advertising:** Mike Dolley is handling radio/TV. Deb Carney has made posters. Please feel free to pick up posters at church to distribute.

**Money:** Mary Cady – Another big job and well done by Mary each year.

I would like to start setting up on Thursday, Nov. 13. If anyone is available during the day, please let me know. Again, thank you.

It takes all of us to make this day a success. You're great and I know we can do this. Thank you.

Jane Harburger  
jharburger@roadrunner.com

## The Spirituality and Practice of Peacemaking

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship-Maine Chapter is sponsoring a retreat Nov. 14 – 16, at the Living Water Spiritual Center in Winslow, Maine. Creating a Culture of Peace (CCP) is a national training program providing a holistic and practical foundation in spiritually-grounded active nonviolence. For further information contact Karen Rienert at 207-353-8446 or email: CCP@CarolHuntington.com

### Bible Quiz



Isaiah, a spokesman for God, looked for the Messiah to come from a certain family. He wrote: “A shoot shall

come out from the stump of \_\_\_\_\_, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord” (Isaiah 11:1-3, NRSV).

From whom did Isaiah say the Messiah would come?

- A. Adam
- B. Noah
- C. Samson
- D. Jesse

## THANKSGIVING GATHERING



*When you are with family and friends this holiday, let them know how thankful you are for them with this fun craft.*

#### What you need:

- Photos (group or individual) of each person
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Cardstock or construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Pencil
- Envelopes

#### What you do:

1. Collect photos of the people you'll be seeing. For group shots, make a copy for each person.
2. On the back of each picture, use a ruler and pencil to draw vertical and horizontal lines. Space the lines 1 inch apart to make a grid with 1-inch squares.
3. Starting in the top-right corner, number the squares beginning with 1. Number the top row across, then the second row and so on.
4. Cut out all the squares and put them in an envelope. Write the correct person's name on each envelope.
5. On the bottom of each piece of cardstock, write “*I thank my God every time I remember you, Philippians 1:3 (NIV).*” Then sign your name.
6. Give each person an envelope and a piece of cardstock. Instruct people to put the squares in order to reveal their picture. Tell them how many numbers go across and down.
7. For a special keepsake, have people glue their finished photos onto the cardstock.

Answer: D

## **DATES TO REMEMBER!**

**See inside for details on most of these events**

Nov. 2 All Saints Day

Nov. 2 Daylight Saving Time Ends. Turn your clock back 1 hour.

Nov. 4 Election Day

Nov. 7 Prayer and Healing Service and Pot Luck Supper

Nov. 11 Veterans Day

Nov. 11 Stock-the-Shelves of the Food Cupboard

Nov. 15 Holiday Fair

Nov. 20 Knitting Circle

Nov. 23 Articles are due for the December issue of **THE SHAMROCK**

Nov. 30 Shared Ministry Group Meeting

TBA Outreach Committee Meeting

Dec. 5 Celebration of Emily+'s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Ordination to the Priesthood

If you wish to be taken off our mailing list, please notify the church office. Thank you.