

The Franciscan

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St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, Blue Hill, Maine

July 2007

*Into thy hands
we commend the
spirits of all those
who fear change
more than they
fear thee, who put
the law above
justice, and order
above love. And
help us this day to
do some work of
peace for thee.*

Alan Paton



Celebrating Mary Ann!

On Sunday, July 15, the last day on which the Rev. Cn. Mary Ann Taylor will be our priest-in-charge, there will be a gala celebration of her time with us. To show our appreciation of her, her wisdom, her compassion, and her smile, we will worship, eat, talk, and sing, beginning at 10:00 am. After the service we will gather in the Community Room for lunch and entertainment.

Suzanne Decrow is coordinating the luncheon. Please sign up downstairs, indicating what you plan to bring and how many of you there will be. The wardens are planning the entertainment, which will include steel drums and original songs.

There will be no eight o'clock service that day.

It's Fair Time!

There are just three weeks left before the eighteenth annual St. Francis Fair on Saturday, July 21! Everyone is busy and there is so much more to do. Chairman Julie Wang reminds us that the one and only meeting of the Fair team - that's all activity chairmen and any others who are interested - will be on **Monday, July 2**, at 10:00 am. at the Fairgrounds. At that time all locations will be finalized, questions answered, problems solved, and posters distributed. If you have not already done so, sign up to work at one of the booths. Many volunteers are needed. Also, Julie and By hope you will sign up to attend the after-the-Fair celebration at their Brooklin home at 6:00 pm. on Fair evening. They would like to know how many people to expect. See pages 4, 5, and 9 for very important Fair information.

Heidi Bissell, July 8

Harry Bissell's granddaughter Heidi will be at St. Francis on Sunday, July 8. During coffee hour after the 10:00 service, she will talk about her work and travels.

After graduating from the University of Florida, Heidi spent two Peace Corps years in Poland. After earning a master's degree in animal nutrition she took care of baby pandas at the Memphis Zoo and volunteered with the Heifer Project. Now working on a Ph.D., she has just returned from Tibet where she set up a project involving an exotic breed of monkeys. This promises to be an interesting and lively presentation for all ages to enjoy.

A Letter from Mary Ann

Dear Friends,

Taking Maine Home -- a workshop that will be offered here this summer. It's an intriguing title, a seductive idea, putting the gifts of summer into a bottle and uncorking it slowly during cold winter months, a day at a time.

Taking St. Francis by the Sea Home - that's my work right now. Bottling up the gifts you have given me and uncorking the bottle slowly, a day at a time.

The gifts I cherish most?

--Your refusal to take me or yourselves too seriously. Priest-in-Charge can be a heady title but you never let it go to my head. You have kept me grounded, kept me laughing at my own foibles, and kept me rejoicing in our common condition.

--Your delight in worship. You have been willing to find new ways to speak ancient truths. You always bring a sense of the sacred to our common life, and have shown me what it means to be God's Holy People.

--Your compassion. You were with Carter and me as we mourned the death of our dog and the loss of dear friends. You never minimized our pain but quietly told us that you knew our grief. You do the same for each other over and over again. You give so generously to those in need.

But most of all, I shall miss just being part of you, just resting where I have belonged. I shall miss Wednesday Scholars and lunches and meeting in Tradewinds and sharing good or not so good news. Didn't matter. I shall miss Vestry meetings and music and the choir and *Franciscan* deadlines and Sharon and Barnabas and Splash and my Sleeve Dog and the Holy Mowers and....

My heart will stay with you. I know that your song will continue to be *Alleluia!* as you grown into new ways of being church, being people and priest together. I shall uncork the bottle slowly, take a whiff whenever I need reminding of God's gracious goodness.

But, oh, how I will miss you!

Love,

Mary Ann+



Guest in the Sanctuary

On Sundays July 22 and 29, we will welcome the Rev. Larry Estey as celebrant and preacher at both services. Father Estey, who retired from St. Brendan the Navigator last year, is well known to many of us through diocesan activities and as a neighbor on the peninsula.

