

## **2015 Senior Warden's Report**

2015 has been a season of growth for all of us at All Saints. The Sunday attendance is slowly growing and All Saints is becoming more visual and active in the community of Skowhegan.

2015 was a year of solid growth for All Saints. The mean attendance for Sunday services has steadily risen. We are above 20 people each Sunday for the first time in my 12 years here. This can be attributed directly and indirectly to Bill's leadership. The Sunday services are much more relevant to how we live our lives. He is able to make attending church both a spiritual and practical experience. A testament to this is the fact that we had 90+% pledge commitment from our congregation. This has been unheard of at AS.

Because of the energy that BBW has infused in the congregation there are many more activities happening at All Saints that bring people into our building, and make them much aware of who we are and where we are. In addition to the some long time traditional groups such as "The Turtle", "Tuesday Night Bible Study", "AA", the "Monday Bridge Club", The "Over the River" Bell Ringers are calling us home. They use our building for rehearsals each Tuesday and performed several times last year. Each performance brings many new people into our building. Stitches is a crafts group that meets every other Wednesday for experienced and beginning crafters. "Revels With a Cause" is filling the church one night a month for some wonderful performances and to raise money for various causes. The "Rotary" has its breakfast at All Saints every other Tuesday. This brings in many new people to our building and is a regular fundraiser for us. It is important to realize none of this could happen without the energy and time of many AS volunteers.

During 2015 the vestry was very adamant that our priest start acting like a half time priest. As a result of this conversation Bill now works three weeks a month and takes one off. An unintended positive of this has been the monthly Morning Prayer service. It has given many members the opportunity to take part in leading the service with many positive results. Also Bill has been able to realize some of the reasons that he retired from full time ministry.

An arts committee was started this past year. A new and improved branding for All Saints has come out of it, and they are planning for more inclusion of the arts in All Saints going forward. This group is also planning on new signage for our church. A fundraising committee also started up this past year. Their first large project is the Rotary breakfasts every other Tuesday.

In conclusion I see All Saints as going against the norm and growing into a larger and stronger church that is becoming well known in our communities. It has been a pleasure and an honor for me to be part of this as your warden. As you know I will be retiring from my teaching job, and Cindy and I will be relocating back to Vermont. I will be staying on as warden until this summer. I would like to use some of this time to find a replacement.

Jim Willis  
Warden