



# ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Profile of Our Parish

2008

ESTABLISHED IN 1854 IN ROCKLAND, MAINE



## Welcome to St. Peter's

*Seeking to serve God's mission of restoring all people to unity with the Creator.  
The doors open wide: In the name of Jesus Christ, "Welcome."*

**S**t. Peter's has been a presence in Midcoast Maine for over 150 years. In that time it has evolved from a bastion of traditional Anglo-Catholic Episcopalianism into a proudly inclusive Episcopal parish.

In 2000 the members of St. Peter's undertook a serious study of who we were and what we saw as our ministry. (See comprehensive long-range planning report at [stpetersrockland.org](http://stpetersrockland.org).) The decision to continue investing our energies at our historic downtown location says much about who we are and how we see ourselves: a spiritual community with a sense of service to the people around us.

All of these activities occur in our recently expanded and upgraded spaces. A commercial kitchen was created to address the need for a serious outreach feeding ministry. The parish hall, with its labyrinth-patterned floor is a versatile meeting and activity space. Our new carpeted parlor is a welcoming venue for forums and study groups, and it serves as a nursery during church services. New offices, a vestry room and quiet library area are the new heart of activities that keep us vital.

St. Peter's is surrounded by the Rockland Recreation Center and public playground, the Rockland Public Library, the Knox Center for Long Term Care, and the Knox County Courthouse; and all this is one block away from Main Street and the Rockland Harbor.

Over the exit from the nave is a banner parishioners see  
as they go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

It says

*"Welcome to the Mission Field."*



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**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ♦ ROCKLAND, MAINE ♦ 1**

# WORSHIP

We believe that worship is the center of life at St. Peter's. We know this is what makes everything else we try to do happen. We pray well together and our services have a casual dignity in an environment of safety and warmth. Our care for each other and our community starts with loving God and our neighbors. We need to hear the Good News constantly and in ways that give us energy for our work in the world.



We have two Sunday morning services. The 8:00 service uses Rite I and is music free. The 10:30 (10:00 in the summer) service generally uses Rite II and has a variety of music provided by our organist and our guitarist-composer-choir director. A small but dedicated choir leads the congregational singing and performs quality music. Over the years we have enjoyed music written specifically for our services and a joyous combination of instrumentation and chants, sung psalms, and spirituals. Liturgies and music can change widely with the church calendar. We are open to Eucharistic settings of other Christian communities. Our 7:00 Wednesday morning Eucharist combines Taizé chants with liturgies developed by the Iona community. We love our festival seasons and go all out for Christmas and Easter, but we also enjoy the quiet seasons and the richness they offer.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

St. Peter's has a long tradition of using worship to widen our spiritual horizons and connect us to a variety of people in our community. St. Peter's has provided services with and for Rockland area families of Albanian Orthodox heritage, several of whom have been active parishioners for many years. Our fellowship with Native Americans among us is celebrated with drums, smudging and special prayers and chants at an annual service led by the Penobscot spiritual elder. We enjoy a Seder in our parish hall with the Adas Yoshuran Synagogue at Passover. The growing Latino community also finds a place here. This Epiphany we celebrated an evening Spanish/English Eucharist led by the diocese's Hispanic Ministries representative. When the Magi present their gifts here, the parish learns about the healing properties of frankincense and myrrh and are anointed with these fragrant oils. St. Peter's has a strong history of raising up candidates for Holy Orders, and we have celebrated three ordinations since 2003.



*Bishop Steve Charleston and parishioner Harold Willey after our Native American service*

Perhaps our most special service was fifty people traveling by chartered bus to York Harbor to celebrate a special Eucharist with our deacon who was there with her family while dying of cancer. We all said our good-byes and witnessed her being our deacon once more.



*Bishop Chilton Knudsen and newly ordained Deacon Jeff Lewis and his wife Susan*

*This class was the largest single-parish confirmation celebrated by Bishop Knudsen.*



# PROGRAMS

## OUTREACH

**H**ospitality is a major part of our outreach. People of the community come and join us to keep things lively. Our team and teams from other churches, the synagogue, and service groups provide meals on Saturdays, Sundays and special holidays in our **Loaves & Fishes** feeding ministry. These noon meals for those in need of food or companionship began 20 years ago with tailgate sandwich service in our parking lot. The local **Toy Library** has used part of our space 13 years and provides a rich parenting program for young families and their children. Many **12-step programs** and **support groups** meet here several times a week. For the past twenty years we have provided weekly visitations and a monthly service for our neighbor, **The Knox Long Term Care Center**, a local nursing home.



*Our Loaves & Fishes cooks at work*

We host the annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** and the synagogue serves **Christmas** and **Easter Dinners** here, each of which serves almost 100 people. St. Peter's collects food and supplies for the **Area Interfaith Outreach** and emphasizes this in our Sunday service. We donate to **United Thank Offering** and **Episcopal Relief and Development**. We have sent school supplies to Costa Rica and our diocesan companion diocese of Haiti and many necessities to New Orleans for Katrina victims.

Events that fund our outreach include our annual Le Petit Noel Christmas Fair and the ECW Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon. We hold events in support of family or individual emergencies and special youth activities. We have plant and book sales, basket auction dinners, rummage sales and the occasional raffle. We collect bottle redemption money. We support the United Thank Offering by actually using those blue boxes.

## PASTORAL CARE AND COMMUNITY BUILDING



*Forever young at St. Peter's*

**W**e want someone who will be thrilled to take good pastoral care of us and not hesitate to challenge us when we need it. We want our spiritual life to grow from the heart out. We keep in touch and check in with each other. A number of people have been specially trained in a Calling and Caring program to discuss sensitive issues with parishioners. We cook for those among us who are ill or have new babies. We help with chores such as moving water-damaged books and putting a widow's garden to bed. We give rides, encouragement and hugs. We pray for each other. We bring Communion to shut-ins. We provided our deacon, who was diagnosed, treated and died from cancer this past

year, with prayer support, visiting, cards, e-mails and gifts. We know how to use a dish rag, a rake and a handkerchief.

We get to know each other through gatherings. St. Peter's social events include potluck suppers, foyer groups (our 5th year and counting), Easter Brunch, and fall breakfasts to begin the Sunday School season. Educational events include seminars, focus groups, book studies, adult forum discussions between Sunday services, evening study groups and the Education for Ministry program. Serving on the vestry, commissions, and other task forces lets us pool our talents and learn to work together. We eat together and rejoice at the slightest provocation.

## WELCOMING

Visitors and newcomers are welcomed to St. Peter's in several ways. If they attend a Sunday service, they are given a mini loaf of bread, made by our breadmakers, with a welcoming message that includes pertinent church information in case they want to come back. They are greeted in the narthex by clergy and our greeters. If they sign the guest book we follow up with a note. We invite everyone to join us at coffee hour, and someone is available to give a tour of the facility and introduce them to other parishioners.

## ART AND MUSIC



*Symbols of our patron saint are depicted in an antique painting.*

We explore art and music that bring a fresh perspective to our liturgy and meditation. Music is important enough that we share sanctuary space with a grand piano. We often wake ourselves up by dramatizing scripture or some bit of church business. We share our spiritual journeys through monthly sculpture, painting, photography and poetry exhibits in our Art of the Spirit Gallery. We host an annual area sing-along *Messiah* that includes professional soloists. We are also a venue for community recitals and musical events.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

St. Peter's children's program includes a Sunday morning church school and a nursery for infants and toddlers. The Sunday school has one class for all ages with one teacher and several parent volunteers leading Bible study, crafts and singing. The children participate in music and drama programs that are performed during holiday services.

There is a continuing series of adult forums that meets between the two services so both congregations can participate. Topics range far and wide and have been focused on books and local and world issues. We've had forums on health, wellness and aging issues; forgiveness; Islam; meditation; and spirituality. Some are led by the rector, some by parishioners and some by guests who have written books or interact with our world in ways we want to know about. There is usually a Lenten study group that meets in the evenings. We host one of the three active Education for Ministry groups in this area and have many graduates who will understand some esoteric things you might want to throw into your sermons. We have trained mentors among us. Over the years various Bible study classes have formed and informed themselves.



*Sunday morning Christian formation activities are provided for children of all ages.*



*Easter Vigil reception for the three area Episcopal churches 2008*





## STEWARDSHIP

We believe that stewardship is about how we live our relationship with God through sharing of our time, talent and financial resources. We encourage proportional giving and support interactive programs to raise awareness of the meaning of stewardship. In 2007 we met our goal of \$130,000 for the first time, and have reached 98% of the goal of \$135,000 for 2008.

The loose offering one week per month goes into the rector's discretionary fund. When urgent needs arise, like fuel assistance in especially tough winters, we answer the appeal. We bring food every week for the local food pantry.

In addition to annual fund-raising, the parish conducted a highly successful capital campaign in 2003 to accomplish a major renovation of St. Peter's "campus." We raised over \$650,000. In 2006 we raised an additional \$125,000 in a special campaign to retire the mortgage, to make a special gift to a diocesan capital campaign and to help with the transition to our new rector.

## ST. PETER'S INCOME AND EXPENSES

REVENUES	2005	2006	2007
Pledges	\$123,869	\$122,344	\$130,395
Unrestricted Gifts	\$12,075	\$15,793	\$14,389
Kenyon Rectory Fund	\$5,269	\$5,886	\$5,046
Fundraising Account	\$17,472	\$10,973	\$1,470
Other	\$5,405	\$2,478	\$3,770
Total	\$164,090	\$157,474	\$152,130
EXPENSES	2005	2006	2007
Employee Costs	\$135,494	\$143,341	\$120,364
Administrative Costs	\$16,329	\$16,181	\$14,411
Worship, Ministry & Fellowship	\$2,665	\$3,980	\$2,265
Building Costs	\$18,636	\$16,891	\$18,906
Diocesan Assessment	\$37,183	\$35,616	\$34,933
Other	\$11,102	\$5,628	\$1,535
Total	\$221,409	\$221,637	\$192,414
Transfer from Endowment	\$54,750	\$69,250	\$36,356
Endowment Balance			\$202,608



## OPERATIONS

### WARDENS • VESTRY • ADMINISTRATION • COMMISSIONS

To do the work of the church we have senior and junior wardens chosen by the parish at our annual meeting. It has been our recent practice to have Co-senior Wardens, a structure supported and approved by the Bishop. The junior Warden has responsibility for our building and grounds. Vestry members are elected for three-year terms and serve on a rotating schedule. Vestries have an annual retreat to incorporate new members and set the goals for the coming year. There is a clerk of the vestry and of the annual meeting who is not a voting member of the vestry. Under our last rector we set up a series of commissions to do the work of the parish. They are Liturgy and Arts, Pastoral Care and Calling, Evangelism, Mission, Stewardship, Building and Grounds, Budget and Finance, and Christian Formation. A vestry member is assigned to each commission for oversight and communication back to the vestry. The rector chairs the vestry meetings and has regular sessions with the wardens. Nominations for new members are sought by a nominating committee composed of outgoing vestry members and two other church members.

We have a part-time church secretary with regular office hours and a professional bookkeeper.

## FINANCES

St. Peter's budget is just over \$200,000. We raise about 80% of the budget through our Stewardship campaign, interest from funds invested from selling the rectory and through special fund-raising events throughout the year. The balance of the budget comes from endowment money. Our small endowment is invested in Vanguard and Domini funds and is reviewed regularly by the finance commission. We also have used it in recent years as scholarships for candidates for Holy Orders. The challenge for the future is to increase giving so that St. Peter's can use endowment funds for mission and outreach.



*Placing crowns on our new construction*

## PROPERTY

We have parishioners who “adopt” cleaning or groundskeeping chores as their gift of time and talent and are we grateful for them. We would prefer to have the financial wherewithal to make adoption an option rather than a necessity and that our building have the respectful continual care a much-used building needs.

## COMMUNICATIONS

St. Peter's publishes a newsletter, *The Rock*, 10 times a year. In January 2008 we began posting *The Rock* on our website. Members without access to the Internet continue to receive a printed copy. We are encouraging greater use of the website as a source of information.

An insert in the Sunday service leaflet contains short-term announcements, birthdays and anniversaries, and prayer requests. Brief announcements are made at the end of Sunday services if they have not been included in the insert. We also use mail, e-mail and telephone calls. We try to be good stewards of our resources.

## WHAT'S WORKING WELL

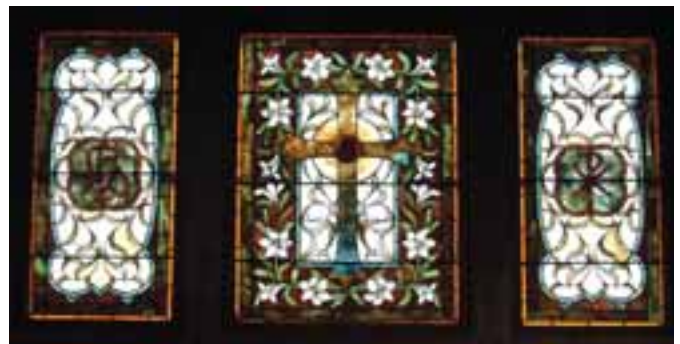
**W**e can run St. Peter's ourselves but we can't lead it. We have a network of commissions to do the work of the parish. Some are consistently well led and active. Some are fatigued or on sabbatical. We will keep the place perking along until our new rector discerns spots for your special enthusiasms and skills.

Services and events continue smoothly because we have been well trained by our past rector to not be dependent on a "father-knows-best" priest. We love our church and are dedicated to seeing it engage in the activities that keep it alive. All the guilds and personnel do their jobs with good humor and a minimum of fuss. Here's a list of our strengths:

- ❖ **WORSHIP:** Most of all, what is working well is the faith of our community, which has been well shepherded by spirit-filled clergy and laity.
- ❖ **LOAVES & FISHES:** Weekend and holiday noon meal program for those in need. This is ecumenical and community building; other churches and civic groups are also involved.
- ❖ **AREA INTERFAITH OUTREACH DONATIONS:** Food donations to the community food pantry are better than ever. Goal of 100 lbs/week often met.
- ❖ **TOY LIBRARY:** Open in the parlor on Thursdays and Fridays; aids new mothers and fathers in parenting.
- ❖ **VENUE FOR SELF-HELP ACTIVITIES:** Includes recovery from addiction to drugs, alcohol; and the counseling of relatives.
- ❖ **FLOWER AND ALTAR GUILDS:** Dedicated and dependable.
- ❖ **STEWARDSHIP:** Run by a talented group of parishioners who work to educate all parishioners about the needs and desires of the parish. Each year the goal is elevated and each year the income increases. The parishioners support our programs because they know what they are and they care.
- ❖ **BREAD BAKERS:** Bake loaves for the Eucharist at the 10:30 AM Sunday service; and also mini loaves to present to new visitors or returning parishioners at both 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services as a sign of welcome and fellowship.

When you get here we'll be here for you. We know the way we have done things will change to incorporate your vision of where we should be headed in our life in Christ. And that's the way it should be.

*This Tiffany window casts its warm glow from the wall behind the Altar.*



# WHAT NEEDS SPECIAL ATTENTION

Okay, we need some help:



- ❖ Ministering more vigorously and effectively to the needs of the community around us
- ❖ Invigorating Christian Formation
- ❖ Welcoming new members, especially families with children
- ❖ Finding a creative way to engage with kids who are literally on our doorstep
  
- ❖ Expanding programs for children and youth
- ❖ Strengthening our choral program for adults and youth
- ❖ Assuring that our building is well cared for to serve its mission
- ❖ Growing our financial resources

Having said the above, we also know:

*The most important characteristic of a new rector is the ability to be a team leader of faith.*

— anonymous survey answer



*St. Peter's has been a nurturing spiritual home for generations of Midcoast Maine Episcopalians who have shown their gratitude in ways that continue to enrich our atmosphere of joyful worship.*

# EXPECTATIONS OF OUR NEW RECTOR

Where the parish needs your skills and Herculean efforts:

- ❖ We would love a rector who has sincere attentiveness to our struggles, our pastoral needs, and our spiritual growth. Life and death are hard, and we all need help and hope from someone who will give listening your best shot. We will gladly listen to you if you will listen to us. We are thirsty for new ideas and enthusiastic leadership. We can take direction, spiritual and otherwise (when carefully delivered).
- ❖ We need preaching that is fabulous, relevant, intellectual but not over our generally-well-educated heads, Bible scholarly (we can stand Greek references), heartfelt, original, theologically sound and reflective, honest, humble and uplifting.
- ❖ Our building is not finished and our choir loft has been declared unsafe. The parts that were left when we ran out of renovation money are still derelict. Having parishioners in lieu of a real sexton has not been an unqualified success and dispirits the hardest workers. Competent parishioners need spiritual encouragement, and reinforcements need to be inspired to volunteer.
- ❖ We have made a point of being in the middle of things but often keep our distance. We have an untapped opportunity for involvement and service in many areas. We need help engaging our world. Like most parishes, pastoral encouragement of this embodiment of Christ will be an ongoing task. The perennially competent require spiritual food to renew and continue their enthusiasm. Martha and Mary are Siamese twins in our universe. You've heard it before, but a parishioner answered the survey by wanting someone who could comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable. Comfortable words and cattle prods for Jesus!

**A**s our rector you'd find bright and engaged people of all sorts and conditions who seek a spirituality that requires an active intellect to complement their caring hearts. We love to laugh but we are not afraid to share our tears. We learned how to do this especially from our last rector of eleven years who retired but never seemed to tire.

Worship is central to us and where we will meet for nourishment. We are hungry for spiritual food and attentive pastoral care. Win us there and we will walk through fire to work with you to accomplish what God has in store for us.

St. Peter's is a parish that acts on the idea that the love of God is inclusive. That gives us a wide door and a desire to care for and support each other on our journeys without questioning the joy out of every step, or thinking our spiritual map is the only valid one. We are praying that we find someone to be with us on our venture into joy.

By now you probably know if St. Peter's, Rockland might be the right parish for you. If you think you are right for us, please contact the Diocese of Maine and tell them so.

Vicki Wiederkehr, Canon to the Ordinary  
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*Our new rector  
must be honest,  
humble, believable.  
In the end, must  
question us,  
call us, disturb us  
and inspire us.*

— anonymous answer to the  
who-we-want question

## WHO WE ARE NOW THE PEOPLE OF ST. PETER'S

Our parishioners and friends come to us from a 20-mile radius of Rockland. Our parochial report lists 265 communicants and 104 pledging units whose pledges total \$130,000. Detailed parish survey results used in creating our profile are at our website ([stpetersrockland.org](http://stpetersrockland.org)).

## TO WHET YOUR APPETITE

Why we love life in Midcoast Maine is shown in text and photos at our website ([stpetersrockland.org](http://stpetersrockland.org)) and further revealed in these websites below:

Our diocese: [episcopalmaine.org](http://episcopalmaine.org)

The great state of Maine: [www.state.me.us](http://www.state.me.us)

Rockland Chamber of Commerce: [www.therealmaine.com](http://www.therealmaine.com)

Camden Chamber of Commerce: [www.camdenme.org](http://www.camdenme.org)

Local newspapers: [www.maineoastnow.com](http://www.maineoastnow.com) and [knox.villagesoup.com](http://knox.villagesoup.com)

## DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co-chairs:

Tom Putnam, MD, retired pediatric surgeon

Jude Thomas, director of early intervention program

Members:

John Bird, retired leadership and management consultant

Lucia Elder, RN

Anne Hurtt, retired teacher and school psychologist

Chris McLarty, graphic designer, jeweler, poet, safari leader

Dorothy Nyman, retired professional counselor, pianist, writer

Martha Rogers, RN, retired home care executive

Marilyn Smith, accountant and rental property owner

Judy Willey, payroll specialist and billing coordinator

Amy Wilton, professional photographer, teacher

*Let's share the load!*

*It's not the job of the rector  
to be all things to all people.*

*I want a happy rector who is  
striving to love God and see  
his/her flock's full potential.*

*The whole church body  
can be active.*

— anonymous survey comment

