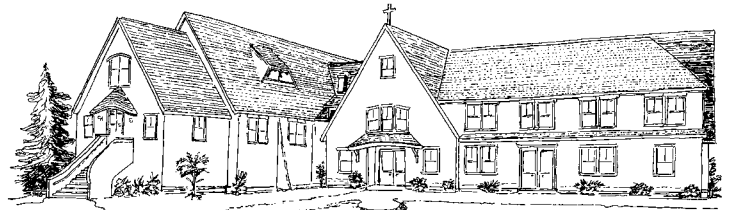


APRIL 2008

THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DIOCESE OF MAINE

*The Right Reverend Chilton R. Knudsen
Bishop of Maine*



March 26, 2008

God's People at St Peter's Episcopal Church
11 White Street
Rockland MAINE 04841



Easter Vigil reception

My Dear People:

Thank you all so much for your gracious hospitality and joyful participation in the Easter Vigil. It was a special blessing to gather together with you and with our brothers and sisters from St. Thomas' Camden and St. John Baptist, Thomaston.

Many of you commented about doing this again, and finding other ways to share ministry together as neighboring Episcopal churches. God bless your intentions! We make a powerful witness to the world when we join in worship and service with others outside the walls of our own congregation.

Thank you also for the wonderful cards and notes and gifts I received in my spectacular Easter basket! Your special gift of the "dove" scarf is beautiful and unique. We know, of course, how meaningful in Christian tradition is the symbol of the dove, and this is a wonderful gift. I'm deeply grateful.

My husband and son remind me to thank you for the candy in the Easter basket, which I generously shared with them at our family Easter dinner...even the Ferrero Rocher which I first thought I'd keep all to myself.

I will never forget our Great Vigil celebration of the Risen Christ. Thank you all for everything you did to make it so joyous. My prayers are with you as you continue your ministry in the days to come.

Yours ever in Christ,

+ Chilton

The Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen
Bishop of Maine

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
11 White St., Rockland ME 04841
207.594.8191
Fax 207.594.7766
www.stpetersrockland.org
stpeters@stpetersrockland.org



WINDOW OF THE SPIRIT *views into the souls of St. Peter's*

The A Team

The last diagnosis anyone wants to receive is one that starts with the “Big C.” As a hospital chaplain and a pastoral care person, I have sat by many people as the doctor said, “I’m sorry, but the biopsy shows that it is cancer. We can treat this.” Anyone reading this knows where it goes from there: sorrow, grief, and most of all, fear.

When my local doctor gave me the bad news I was on my way to a funeral for a close friend and mentor, who led me to my own ordination. Things did not seem hopeful or even real to me that day. My doctor said, “We really don’t know how to treat this. We are thinking of sending you to Lahey Clinic or Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Does it matter to you which?”

“Not a bit,” I said. “This has turned my life upside down and it won’t right itself until we’ve done what we have to do.” I couldn’t imagine how I was going to manage. After discussing it with my doctor, I chose to come to Lahey Clinic.

I live in a small city in Maine. It’s the sort of place where a 15-minute traffic jam usually means something bad has happened. And my doctor wanted to send me away and give my care to complete strangers. How frightening that can be!

My doctor worked overtime to have my medical records available so I could be in Burlington, Mass., for my appointment with Timothy Anderson, MD, an otolaryngologist at Lahey. From the first person I encountered, I was greeted and welcomed by people who seemed to care that I was there and that I got to where I needed to go.

When I saw Dr. Anderson, I said “Can my cheering team come with me?” They gladly crowded a few more chairs into the small room, so that we could all hear what was going to happen next. My cheering squad is made up of my husband, Ed, my sister, Margaret, and my daughters, Barbara and Adrienne. They have all walked part of this journey with me and they are beloved to me for their

willingness to bear some of that pain.

Dr. Anderson spelled out what it meant to be in his care, what would happen, and how. He gladly answered the myriad of questions that seemed to pop out of everyone’s mouth but mine. I was so overwhelmed I could hardly sit upright.

I followed the doctor’s orders, had a tonsillectomy, and was referred to Gastroenterology and to Radiation Oncology for a consult with Joshua Garren, MD. We found Dr. Garren at what seemed to be the end of a corridor so long and erratic it might have come from a Jack Nicholson movie. But at the end of that corridor was a safety zone. Radiation Oncology has seen more of me than any single group in many years. From the volunteers to the nurses, my techies, the support staff and my doctor, no one has spent as much time or energy as this group has to see that I moved through my treatments with as little distress and pain as possible.

I said to my sister, “They love me, they call me dear.” She said, “I’m sure they say that to lots of people.”

Maybe they do. But people who are suffering often feel a burden to those in whom they entrust their care. Here is a group of people who make you feel as though you are the only one that they care about at the minute.

An informal support group forms as a result of the hospitality in the Radiation Oncology Department. Patients share stories, encourage each other, and count down the days together, cheering each little success and mourning each obstacle. They see other people receiving treatment and think maybe things won’t be quite as bad as when they first heard that “C” word.

John Wolff, MD, my medical oncologist, and Linda, my chemotherapy nurse, have also walked this path with me. They listened to me without judgment and dealt with my issues in a very compassionate way. Throughout this wild time in my life, I have been loved.

I love them all! They are my A team.

Isabel Polk

It is almost exactly one year since we learned about Isabel Polk's cancer diagnosis. Do you remember being frightened for her, being filled with anxiety? As we would expect, Isabel turned her situation into an opportunity to teach others in similar situations how to live with courage. She contributed to the Lahey Clinic's Winter 2008 newsletter "Rays of Hope" by writing about her story, reprinted with permission



The Lambeth Conference

Wednesday, July 16, 2008 – Monday, August 04, 2008

Location: Canterbury, England

The Lambeth Conference, one of the Instruments of Communion of the global Anglican Communion, will be held July 16-August 4 in Canterbury, England. It is convened every 10 years at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury and is an opportunity for the Anglican Communion's bishops to meet for worship, study and conversation. Archbishops, bishops, assistant and suffragan bishops within the Communion are invited. Also invited to attend are bishops from other churches 'in communion' with the Anglican Communion, bishops from United Churches, along with a number of ecumenical guests.

In addition to the more than 800 bishops who attend, their spouses are invited by the Archbishop of Canterbury's wife to a parallel gathering: the Spouses Conference.

For further information visit: <http://www.lambethconference.org>

Editor's Note: This information is taken from the National Church website. Some of you may have been reading about the debate and anger that Bishop Gene Robinson from New Hampshire has not been invited to participate in this conference. Much more information can be found at the website but I am including the following article for your reading. It is by Bishop Steven Charleston who preached here at St. Peter's, so it is a voice you may remember. This was published in The Daily Episcopalian April 2, 2008. As noted in the Sunday Forum 4/13/08, nothing that happens at the Lambeth Conference can affect The Episcopal Church. We are only bound to action taken by the delegates to our General Convention in 2009. Our bishops, Chilton Knudsen and Steve Lane, will both be attending the Lambeth Conference. Bishop Knudsen attended her first Lambeth Conference ten years ago.

The empty space in the photograph

By Steven Charleston

What do you know about Joseph Stalin? I ask that odd question because a momentary glance back to his era in the old Soviet Union gives us a useful image (or perhaps, the lack of one) to use in considering our situation in the Anglican Communion.

Stalin liked for people to disappear. Those he purged actually did vanish in a very real physical sense because he had them executed, but they also vanished from memory by being erased from public photographs.

This idea was nothing new. Egyptian pharaohs had been chiseling out the face of unpopular or discredited predecessors thousands of years before Joe Stalin took the hint. But by the age of mass media, the process had become more refined. Historic photographs that showed a line of leaders waving to the crowd were simply "doctored" by having the offending person erased. It worked very well, with only one small detail: it left an empty space in the photograph where someone used to be standing. In some instances this was hard to detect, but in many others, it was glaringly obvious. Like a kid who has lost a front tooth, the line up on the platform looked odd with one big empty space in the picket-fence perfection.

What's wrong with this picture? That became a sort of joke for Soviet watchers. You could tell, literally, who was in and out in Soviet politics by seeing who disappeared from the official photographs. The doctrine of erasing history like this seems ridiculous, of course, but it continues to be practiced under the rubric, "out of sight/out of mind".

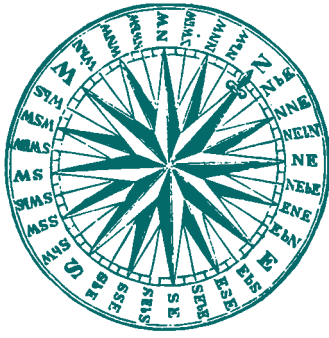
Now please don't make any quantum leaps of comparison between Stalinist Russia and the Anglican Communion, because that would be silly, but also please do think about this one, small, but important point: when the official photograph of the bishops at Lambeth is taken, will we notice the person who has been erased (in advance) from the picture?

And if we do, what does that tell us about the integrity of the institution that would do such a thing? I am not attempting to make any exaggerated points here beyond holding up an image of the assembled bishops and asking: "what's wrong with this picture?" Someone is missing.

As Anglicans, we should be ashamed that Gene Robinson has been disappeared from Lambeth, but we should keep that image always before us as a reminder: if it can happen to one, it can happen to all and to any. Gene was erased for pure politics, nothing more. His disappearance was designed to keep power in the hands of the status quo. His absence makes us all anxious, embarrassed and uncertain. Are we more secure now that we pretend one of us doesn't exist? Are we more credible before the masses? Have we fooled anyone out there who is watching? Not likely. We are no more successful at doing this than Joe Stalin or Ramses II. We make ourselves look like what we are: a vacant space where leadership ought to be.

At the very least, the rest of us who still get to smile for the camera should acknowledge that as we wave at the crowd.

The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, former Bishop of Alaska, is president and dean of Episcopal Divinity School, and keeper of the podcasting blog EDS's Stepping Stones. A citizen of the Choctaw Nation, Bishop Charleston is widely recognized as a leading proponent for justice issues and for spiritual renewal in the church.



Vestry Meeting Notes February 20, 2008

WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

Mark your Calendars

As Bishop Knudsen moves closer to retirement and Bishop Lane advances to fill her space, many special events are being planned. Please make a note of them. If you wish to attend any, please contact the parish office or Ted Kanellakis as some events need an invitation.

Saturday, May 3rd at 11 am
St. Luke's Cathedral Portland—
Consecration of Stephen Lane as
Bishop Coadjutor

Sunday, June 8th
Bishop Lane will celebrate the
Holy Eucharist at St. Peter's.
His first Homecoming visit to us!

RETIREMENT PARTIES FOR BISHOP KNUDSEN

Saturday, Aug 23rd
Kennebunk—St. David's

Friday, Sept 5th
Houlton—Church of the
Good Shepherd

Saturday, Sept 6th
Waterville—St. Mark's

Friday, Sept 13th
Portland—St. Luke's Cathedral

Saturday, Sept 13th
Portland—St. Luke's Cathedral
Bishop Lane's Investiture and Seating
as Diocesan Bishop

❖ **The Budget and Finance Commission** recommended that a short term committee be formed to make recommendations to the Vestry concerning budget management and endowment fund use. This was approved.

❖ Doug Curtis Sr. reported that expenses in 2008 may be less than last year when there were extensive repairs to the church. The cleaner who has been hired is working out well and Elijah Hupper, Lucia Elder's grandson, might be doing an Eagle Scout project that would help the church.

❖ **New/Old Business.** Coffee Hour foods will include fruits and vegetables for those who are gluten intolerant. Plans are underway to make the grounds of St. Peter's become smoke-free. Signs and ash cans will be placed at each end of the sidewalk. The Vestry recognized the extra work hours put in by the parish secretary with a letter of thanks and a donation of money. A request to house a French rowing team at the church was rejected as we have inadequate facilities. Approval was given for posting a parishioner's business services on the parish hall bulletin board. Plans were made for the Easter Vigil service and reception.

March 19, 2008

❖ **Evangelism Commission.** Tom Buescher received vestry approval for welcoming procedures and new name tags.

❖ **Ad Hoc Committee on Endowment.** Jim Bowditch reported that our endowment funds are projected to last for at least six years.

❖ **Deacon's Discretionary Fund.** Before Isabel Polk died, she asked Ted+ to place the funds in the rector's discretionary fund. The vestry approved closing the account and transferring the remaining amount to the rector's fund.

❖ **Discernment Committee.** Jude Thomas reported on committee activities. (See report on page 6.) The diocese has received some letters of interest from potential candidates for rector.

❖ **Buildings and Grounds.** Doug Curtis, Sr. updated the vestry on a variety of activities that are in progress. An additional thermostat will be installed & also a new cigarette butt receptacle.

❖ The next meeting of the vestry is Wednesday, April 16, at 5 p.m.

Fundraising Work Group

In the last issue of The Rock we reported that this year's Plant Sale would be in May. At a planning meeting, the date of Saturday June 14th was selected as the best date. So please change your calendars. Now is the time to root cuttings from your house plants—so get on with that! Also needed soon are any pots and seedling containers you have left over in your basement or garage. Leave them outside the elevator by the Parish Office. This year, Jane Chatfield has suggested a new feature: annuals! She will be taking orders for plants, so please make your request known to her. We will include information in the Sunday leaflet similar to ordering Poinsettias at Christmas. In just a few more weeks the ground and plants will be ready at Chris McLarty's. Ready for harvesting!! LOTS of help is needed!! You do not have to be a highly skilled gardener to prepare compost for potting, dig plants, pot plants, label plants etc, etc. The digging time will be the last week of May or the two weeks prior to the sale. Please set aside some time to help. If you have garden accessories or books on gardening, we can sell those at the sale. The time is now to get ready. This important activity raises between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for our parish outreach. Please help make it a success. Contact Mary Alice Bird or Chris McLarty.



This gardening work should also inspire you for Spring Cleaning. The Tag Sale date will not be as previously announced. Planners felt that it was too complicated to hold this event on the day of the Lobster Festival parade—even though plenty of people are in town. We are still looking for two couples to lead this activity. We have planned to only do Tag Sales every other year—to allow you time to accumulate more items to contribute! So...as you clean out, set aside things that are in good, usable condition—but no clothing. Computers and TV's cost \$20 each to dispose of at town recycling centers—so unless yours is really good—it's not helping our cause if it doesn't sell.

Le Petit Noel will possibly be on the Saturday of the Rockland Festival of Lights. That date is the weekend of Thanksgiving and we need to have everyone's support to capitalize on the crowds in Rockland on that date. Please give us your thoughts on the date. We are looking for people to chair the Tag Sale and Le Petit Noel. Please contact a member of the Fundraising Work Group: Elizabeth Biddle, Linda Peterson or Marty Rogers regarding any of these activities.

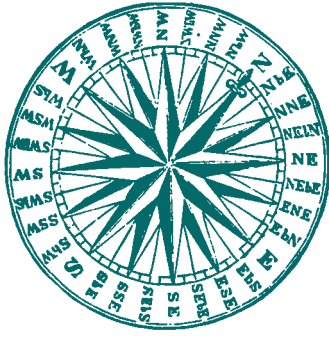
New Parish Directory

The NEW Parish Directory is available to members of St. Peter's. Copies were mailed in early April to those who had not picked up their copy at church. Of course, there are already corrections, additions and updates. Our apologies to those whose information is incorrect. We want to maintain the privacy of your contact information so we will not be publishing the corrections in The Rock as that is posted at our website. Our parish secretary will keep us as current as possible by emailing corrections to those who have email and having a print version in the Narthex and the church office for those who need that form. We depend on you to identify our errors! Please let us know.

Save the Date:
Saturday June 14th
for the return of
The Plant Sale

We need:
pots and flats
house plant babies
gardening books
garden tools
fancy containers
vases
suggestions for annuals
diggers and movers
shoppers

See insert in Sunday
bulletin for more info



WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together

Mother's Day Breakfast

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11th. To honor all mothers, the men of St. Peter's will host a breakfast between the first and second services.

All are invited!! Please contact Ted Kanellakis if you want to contribute to this breakfast.

Discernment Committee Report: Entering the exciting phase!

By the time you read this, the Discernment Committee along with Advisor Rev. Mary Ann Taylor, will have met with St. Peter's Vestry, Bishop Chilton Knudsen, Bishop Coadjutor-Elect Stephen Lane and Vicki Wiederkehr, staff support from the Diocese. This occurred following a supper held in the Parish Hall provided and hosted by your Discernment Committee. Bishop Knudsen presided at the meeting. St. Peter's Parish Profile was reviewed and necessary corrections and additions were adopted. The Profile was then judged to represent the needs of St. Peter's, a parish in the Diocese of Maine.

This Profile has been sent to our Diocesan office in Portland; and a completed Parish/Institution Search Request form has been sent to the Church Deployment Office in New York City. The Profile will also be placed on St. Peter's website www.stpetersrockland.org; as will the results from our Parish Survey and Focus Group meetings. The Diocese will request a list of potential candidates for St. Peter's new rector from the national office; and then vet them.

Your Discernment Committee is now entering into its second phase: a very busy and important one. The candidates approved by the Diocese are reviewed. Telephone calls will be made to attractive candidates, and those who seem most appropriate will be selected to be visited in their home parish. (We have limited our search to candidates east of the Mississippi River in order to limit the distance that we will have to travel.) Following those personal interviews, several candidates will be invited (with their families) to visit St. Peter's in Mid-coast Maine: their potential new home! The Discernment Committee will then recommend a candidate to the Vestry; and the Vestry will make the final decision and call OUR NEW RECTOR to St. Peter's! We continue to be on target with the timeline we established last fall!

— Tom Putnam and Jude Thomas: Co-chairs, Discernment Committee

Historic Episcopal Churches

St. Peter's has been selected as Maine's representative in the Historic Episcopal Churches engagement calendar for 2009! Here's some background: The National Episcopal Historians and Archivists (NEHA) produces its engagement calendars to encourage interest in church history. Each features 53 churches with a photograph and vignette. NEHA sells these calendars and other publications to fund their work of teaching parish and diocesan archivists and historians what should be saved and how to save it. No featured church is obligated to buy—although obviously they hope the calendar will be welcome gifts and items for local fundraisers. The Evangelism Commission will be submitting the requested material by the end of April. Purchase your copy at Le Petit Noel!!

Help Needed to Build a Ramp

Parishioner Judy Willey urgently needs someone(s) to help in designing and creating a new ramp entrance to her home. Do you know the best materials and methods for such a project? Please contact Judy Willey at 594-9032.

Email Addresses Save St. Peter's Money

We have not yet reached our goal for print versions of THE ROCK. We want to reduce the number that are mailed to about 50. This is a very important cost saving measure for St. Peter's. It not only saves mailing costs but it also saves paper and is friendly for our environment. A big savings is in time—time that Ferris spends printing, assembling, labeling and taking to the post office—her time and energy.

Please help by giving us your email address. The way we have set this up is to send you a notice when the latest issue of THE ROCK is posted to the website. This means that you will not have a large sized email to download and you can go to www.stpetersrockland.org anytime to read it. We are including more color photos and the quality is much better so THE ROCK will be more exciting and inviting. If you are used holding a piece of paper to read, open THE ROCK, look at the photos, pick pages that you must print, and print them on a piece of paper that has been used on just one side.

New Name Tags Coming Soon

The name tags that were introduced prior to our building renovation “got lost in the shuffle”. They were on wooden racks in the old tiny vestibule—it was such a small space it could barely be called a narthex. When our grand new space was constructed, finding a good way to make name tags accessible became a job that was continually moved to the list for a later date.

The later date is now!! When we travelled to St. George's in York Harbor for the service for Isabel many of us noticed their name tag system and we almost simultaneously exclaimed, “That's it—that's what we should do!” The name tags are very readable, easy to put on and accessible. We obtained information from the parish secretary and the Evangelism Commission made a proposal to the Vestry in March which was approved.

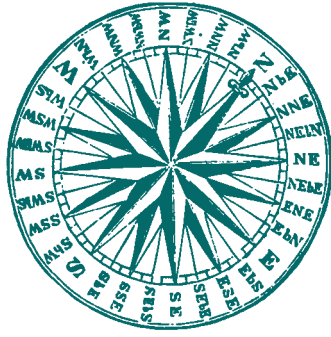
You can look at the name tags at the supplier's website: www.custom-id.com. At the bottom of the home page click on “churches” to see samples—especially the one for an Episcopal church. The name tags use a magnet clip—no elastic strings, no pins, no metal clips—all styles that have not been received favorably. The name tags are conveniently stored on a white metal board—St. George's uses two—18 inches x 24 inches. Our proposal is to have these in both the parish hall and in the narthex so you can leave your name tag in either place.

The cost per badge (with shipping factored in) is \$6.00. This is not cheap but the quality is excellent. The Vestry recommends that a special collection be taken to pay for the name tags. If you can afford the price for your name tag, please send a check for that amount with “Name Tag” written in the memo line. If you can help with some extra, to help pay for name tags for others in the parish who are not able to pay for one, we welcome your generosity! If you are not able to afford this, just say a quiet thank you to the anonymous donors who are helping with this project. We collected funds to pay for the bus trip to York Harbor this way and discovered that all of our expenses were covered with a bit extra! We hope to do this in a similar fashion.

Name tags will have your first and last names. If you have a special preference for your name (for example Martha Rogers wants her tag to read Marty Rogers) please indicate that. Forms will be available in the Sunday insert or you can call or email the church office with your information.



WAYPOINTS
*activities and
notices on our
journey together*



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

Mother's Day Breakfast

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11th. To honor all mothers, the men of St. Peter's will host a breakfast between the first and second services.

All are invited!! Please contact Ted Kanellakis if you want to contribute to this breakfast.

Evangelism Commission Update

The Evangelism Commission continues to plug along on numerous projects. Some are advancing far enough that we can give you a report. See reports in this issue on the Parish Directory, Name Tags, & Email Addresses. Some items are projects that make a little more progress each month: Episcopal Church road signs around town, updating photographs of parishioners and installing a new photo family tree. Other projects just percolate along with only a little bit of oversight: Foyer Groups, Welcoming Bread, procedures used by Greeters, Oblationers, and Readers.

Three people have been the stalwart members of this commission for many years: Thom Buescher, Deborah Oliver and Marty Rogers. Deborah Oliver has decided to take a break from this assignment and we are very sad to lose her fantastic contributions. She has wonderful talents that have been extremely valuable to St. Peter's and the work of this commission. She will be greatly missed and we thank her with all our hearts. We are seeking new members. Your talents do not have to match Deborah's so please do not be shy about volunteering. I think the reports in this issue of *THE ROCK* will give you an idea of what we do. Our meetings are monthly, at about 3 pm on Tuesdays (to accommodate work schedules). Please contact either Thom or Marty if you would like to tackle Evangelism projects.

The next *ROCK* deadlines will be May 13th, June 24th and August 19th. Marty Rogers is looking for an interim editor for the May and June issues while she is on vacation. This work does not involve the artistry that makes the text in *THE ROCK* beautiful. That work is done by Chris McLarty.

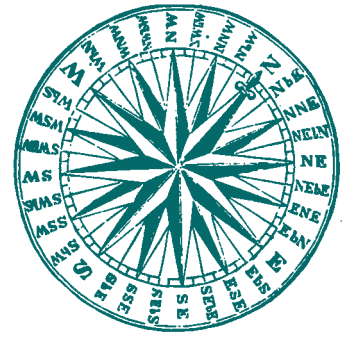
United Thank Offering—UTO

Spring is here to remind us how sweet life is—and reawaken our gratitude. UTO gives us a chance to pass on some of our blessings. The blue boxes will be here to go home with you on Sunday, April 20th and the ingathering will be on Sunday, May 18th.
Many thanks. — *Cindy Lucas*

Area Interfaith Outreach—AIO

It seems like there is more activity at the Loaves and Fishes meals lately. Many people in the kitchen and at the tables. We can work around that. With the weather warming up more parishioners are able to get to church and more food is being brought in for AIO. The need for your gifts is as great as ever. I have to say thank you to each and every one who brings food or makes a cash donation. One neighbor helping one person gives a Godly feeling inside. It doesn't have to be a bag full—just a couple cans or boxes, of this and that. Every little bit helps. Personal items are needed too because they can't be purchased with food stamps. The shelves need refilling continuously!! Please keep up your excellent work!
— *Mary E. Hunter*

How We Welcome Our Visitors on Sunday: A New Approach



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

We have a long tradition at St. Peter's of making our Sunday visitors feel welcome for our morning services. Knowing that we are often blessed not only with summer travelers, sailors, and vacationers, but also individuals seeking out a new church family, we have been intentional about greeting all. We assign parishioners to greet and follow-up with new folks who come to join us at our 8 am or 10:30 am services. We have offered small loaves of hand-made bread and a welcoming message for the past five years.

For the past two months the Evangelism Commission has been reflecting on the varied practices about welcoming that we have slipped into. We have listened to comments and feedback from visitors from summer through the fall. We have examined how other parishes offer this ministry. We have decided it is time to refocus HOW we welcome visitors so that they feel both comfortable and truly welcomed. We also want to assure that the same welcoming practice is followed at BOTH services.

During the Community Announcements near the close of the services, we will welcome visitors in general, thanking them for joining us that day, and encouraging them to sign our Parish Guest Book in the narthex. At the end of the service, the Reader will greet them, offer them a loaf of our handmade 'welcoming bread', and direct them to the parish hall after they meet the Rector. We will not be asking visitors to stand and introduce themselves or greet them with a round of applause. We believe that a more personal and direct contact from an individual/greeter will be graciously received and accepted. Thanks for your participation in this new approach!

Thom Buescher, Marty Rogers, and Deborah Oliver: Evangelism Commission

Rector's Office Seeks Nice Desk

Sunny, generous, well-built rector's office seeks a sturdy, attractive, average-sized, wooden desk worthy of St. Peter's for mutually satisfying work. (Second-hand is a possibility and would be willing to refinish for the right desk.) Please respond to Senior Warden, JoAnne Murphy at 594-4023.

Grief Support Group

The Rev. Laura M. Edwards, Pastoral Care Coordinator, PenBay Healthcare Hospice Chaplain has supplied this information about a very important and needed service in our community. A drop-in monthly meeting for adults suffering the recent loss of a loved one is offered and sponsored by Coastal Family Hospice Volunteers. The meetings are held upstairs in the Community Room at Breakwater Bookland and Café on Commercial Street (Route 1) in Rockland. The meetings are the first Wednesday of the month from 6 – 7:30 pm and are free. No pre-registration is necessary.

For more information, call CFHV at 593-9355

From the Interim Pastor's Perch



A Profile From the Interim Pastor

We are at the point in the Parish's Discernment Process for calling a new priest, where a Profile of the Parish is being finalized in order to present the blessings at St. Peter's Church to those who will be interested in applying for the position of Rector.

The word profile, which has some variances in meaning, draws attention to an outline, usually a side view of the head. It also can be a picture or biographical outline of an object; according to the *Random House Dictionary*.

The dictionary definition brought me to think of teenage years, when we are usually less confident about ourselves and going through the gawky stages of growth. I remember looking into a three-sided mirror in a department store and for the first time saw my profile. I was taken aback because, I noticed my nose was bigger than I had thought and my forehead was slanted backward with heavy bone structure above my eyes. I had never seen myself from this perspective and I must say, this did nothing for my confidence.

However, profiles are not static and as time went on I became less concerned about my profile and more about who I was and who I was becoming in life. In time I thought less about it and gained confidence from those in my life who cared about me, not just my looks.

The Profile of St. Peter's has been put together from the perspectives of our parishioners. So there is honest input from a wide range of people, giving a more or less objective view of what the parish is about. It describes our buildings, our sense of and participation in the local mission of our Church in our community and further afield. It attempts to put forth our strengths and areas needing attention, as honestly as we, who love St. Peter's are able to offer.

I applaud the Discernment Committee for their dedicated work and their commitment of time and talents to this work. I think the Profile is an honest example of who we think we are. That is a good thing. We develop confidence from the perspectives of others who, having our best interests at heart encourages us to grow into fuller maturity.

I have also learned in my life experience that sometimes I have gotten the most help in discerning myself from those less close to me who were more willing to speak their opinions which made me momentarily uncomfortable. However, when I took time to process those perspectives they became invaluable in helping me to see myself even more clearly.

I will go out on a limb here and say that perhaps the process used in Episcopal Churches' Discernment Process as we have received it could benefit from incorporating into it an intentional investigation of the opinions of those less connected with a parish's life. Allowing this could have an important bearing on self-assessment. I will make that suggestion within the Interim Training Program from which I continue to receive help in becoming a better Interim Pastor. If it is beneficial to us as individuals it could also be that to a community.

My wife Susan and I came here to worship and live our life within a church community at St. Peter's because of the spirit of love being lived out here is so many precious ways. We feel very blessed to be part of the Church at St. Peter's among God-gifted brothers and sisters in Christ who are infinitely more than a profile in a three way mirror.

Amen TK+



THE PEBBLE

Easter and Beyond

The Sunday School children participated in the Easter Sunday service with readings and songs they had prepared for the occasion. After a couple of weeks rest, Sunday school is back in session and will continue through the end of the school year. Traditionally Sunday School has not met during the summer.

As several of our children are getting older and maturing, the teachers are realizing that we need to develop a youth program to offer activities more appropriate for their ages. Perhaps during the summer we can organize a few activities to form this group. Any one interested in participating, whether a full-time resident or a summer visitor, should contact Valerie Wells or Elizabeth Biddle through the Church office.

Summary of the Law

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and the great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus's New Commandment:
Love one another as Christ loved us.

Leading Disciple Describes 'Most Important Teaching': The New Covenant

The following is an interview with John, a leading follower of Jesus of Nazareth.

It has been several weeks since the death of Jesus on the hill called Golgotha. Stories have spread through the region about the mysterious events that began three days after Jesus's burial. Many believe that Jesus has risen from the dead. They are calling him the Christ, the Anointed One.

John, one of the leading disciples of Jesus, declined to talk about the so-called "resurrection." He said only that he believed it to be true, and that he had seen the risen Lord several times.

We asked John what he thought was Jesus's most important teaching. He began, "The last night we were with Jesus, he said, 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

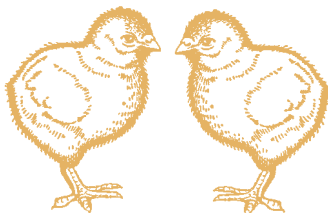
"As Jesus spoke these words, I recalled what had happened just the day before. Jesus was walking in the temple and teaching many things. The chief priests and the scribes were constantly challenging him by asking difficult questions."

John continued, "One of the scribes, who overheard Jesus' good answer to an impossible question, asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?'

"Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'"

John continued, "We all recognized these two commandments Jesus quoted. They are from Jewish law. But this was the first time we had heard anyone put them together this way, as 'first' and 'second.' As Jesus spoke to us on that last night, we knew he was telling us to keep these commandments by loving God and one another.

Shortly after our brief interview, John left with Simon Peter to go to Galilee. Several others were with them, and they said they were going fishing.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church seeks to serve God's mission of restoring all people to unity with him. We open wide our doors and say, in the name of Jesus Christ, "Welcome."

Worship

Sunday 8:00 and 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 7:00 AM Taizé Holy Eucharist

Office hours

Monday–Friday 9 AM to 12 P.M.

The Rev. Ted Kanellakis, Interim Rector
(cell 975-0521, rector@stpetersrockland.org)

Ferris Donoso, Parish Secretary
(stpeters@stpetersrockland.org)

Robert Earle, Organist

Malcolm Brooks, Composer and Choir Director
Valerie Wells, Coordinator of Children's Ministries
The Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, Bishop of Maine
The Rev. Stephen Lane, Bishop Coadjutor-elect

Officers

Senior Wardens

John Chatfield, jschat@worldnet.att.net, 236.2187

JoAnne Murphy, 594.4023

Doug Curtis Sr., 594.7191, Junior Warden

Micki Colquhoun, cell. 592.5992, Treasurer

Linda Ames Mann, Clerk

Vestry members

Elizabeth Biddle, Jim Bowditch, Ferolyn Curtis,
Spencer Hurtt, Ellie Hutchinson, Thomas McBride,
Marge Roberts, Billy Smith, Jude Thomas, Midge Welch

THE ROCK

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**You are welcome to contribute to our next newsletter.
Submission deadline is Tuesday Noon, May 13th.**



Mailed Monday, April 21st

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