

DECEMBER 2007
THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Stephen Lane to succeed Bishop Chilton Knudsen

By Heidi Shott, Diocesan Press Officer,
with additional reporting by Mary Frances Schjonberg,
Episcopal News Service

The Diocese of Maine has elected the Rev. Canon Stephen Lane, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., as the bishop coadjutor on the first ballot from a field of three candidates. The election took place during the 188th Annual Diocesan Convention October 26–27, 2007, at the Bangor Civic Center.

Lane, 58, canon for deployment and ministry development in the Diocese of Rochester, received 140 votes of 220 cast in the lay order and 96 of 124 cast in the clergy order. An election on that ballot required 111 in the lay order and 63 in the clergy order. Full ballot results and biographical information is available at www.bishopofmaine.org.

Under the canons of the Episcopal Church, a majority of the bishops exercising jurisdiction and diocesan Standing Committees must consent to Lane's ordination as bishop within 120 days of receiving the consent request.

As bishop coadjutor, Lane will serve with the Right Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, bishop of Maine, until her planned retirement in 2008 and will then succeed her as the 9th bishop of Maine.

As canon for deployment and ministry development in the Diocese of Rochester in New York, Lane is responsible for formation, ordination, and deployment of clergy, as well as social justice issues and the diocesan version of the Safe Church training program. Ordained in 1978, Lane has served in upstate New York in a number of congregations and diocesan staff roles. He also served for six years as a member of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Rochester, New York, and a Master of Divinity from Colgate-Rochester, Bexley Hall, Crozer seminaries, also in Rochester.

Upon accepting the post the bishop coadjutor-elect spoke over a speakerphone to those gathered at convention: "I'm very excited to be with all of you and to begin God's work together. Thanks for your trust in God and the discernment process. This is something we will do together." Lane continued, "I am humbled by the opportunity and thank the Search and Transition Committees for their care, and Debra and Linda for their companionship."

The Rev. Debra Kissinger, diocesan staff at the Diocese of Bethlehem, Penna., and the Rev. Linda Grenz, president of Leader Resources, were finalists in the search process with Lane.

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The Rev. Stephen Lane has been elected as bishop coadjutor and will become the 9th bishop of Maine in 2008. (Photo by Carolyn Lumbard)

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

A letter of greeting to the people of the diocese By the Rev. Steve Lane, Bishop Coadjutor-Elect

Dear Friends in Christ,
When Gretchen and I first received the results of the election, we were overwhelmed. We had not expected that the Spirit of God—or the people of Maine—would speak so clearly. We had joined you in a process of discernment trusting that God would show the way, but the election took our breaths away.

In the days since that sense of awe has been replaced by a growing excitement about joining you and sharing Christ's ministry with you. We plan to be among you in the spring shortly after Easter. We are working with Bishop Knudsen and the Transition Committee to put together a clear schedule for our arrival.

A number of you have reached out to us with words of welcome and encouragement. We are grateful for your kindness and support. We feel truly welcomed and are looking forward to being settled in Maine. For now, as we say hello to you, we are also saying good-bye to colleagues and friends we have known for years. So our days are a mixture of joy and sadness. And I'm working with the bishop of Rochester to transfer my duties to others as smoothly as possible. This is a time of transition for all of us. May we begin by trusting that the Spirit who has launched us on this journey will be with us on the road.

Peace,
Steve Lane

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Confessions of a 4-Week Seminarian

God's humor is everywhere. It is true that I went Cambridge unaccustomed to city life. I did walk down a street, looking up at street signs on the corner, and walk smack into the wall of a building. But such events are not the reasons that I left school. I'll try to explain it a bit more clearly to you.

First, the reason that I went to seminary was that an inner voice—if you could call it that—had been relentless in urging me to make a full-time, in-the-open, personal and professional commitment to serving God. Last year, Bishop Chilton had encouraged me to enter into a discernment process. With the help of people from St. Peter's and from neighboring churches, I began to see that study at seminary was a possibility.

Now for the reason I left seminary: I didn't imagine that there would be so much typing. My hands and wrists began to swell and ache. Years ago, when I worked in computers, I had typed so much that I lost almost all use of my right hand. I didn't want that to happen again. Not good for guitarists. So I decided I'd better take a break and start again at a slower rate, possibly at a school with less focus on writing papers.

Now, am I sad? Not at all. I smile, because honoring a commitment to serve God means accepting that things are going to unfold in God's own time. I return to Maine to find ample hours to pray, to chant, and to compose music—and to study at a more moderate pace. I am probably not the first to leave home to discover how precious home is. Such are the lessons I learn in the seminary of life.

Malcolm Brooks

Impressions from a Novice Conventioneer

I was honored to represent St Peter's as a delegate to our 188th Maine Diocesan convention October 26 and 27th. This was my first convention, so as a novice I did not know what to expect. As I walked into the Bangor Auditorium and found the large conference room filled to capacity, I immediately sensed the equally large and important role the Episcopal Church plays in the state of Maine. Our delegates and Lee Karker and Sheila Seekins joined St. Andrews Millinocket as we shared a table together. Nearby was St. John Baptist, Thomaston and St. Thomas' Camden. One of the fun parts of convention is meeting other church delegates from all over the state.

As convention began, an intense spirit of anticipation filled the hall, as everyone awaited the balloting for bishop coadjutor elect. The election was preceded by a liturgy in preparation. This was my favorite part of the convention as we all worshiped the Lord, joining all of us across the state as one under God. The hymns and choir pieces helped to enliven the spirit in all of us. It is a powerful experience to worship in such a large group. I was pleased that the convention was not "all business", and that time is set aside for formal worship. The vote for bishop coadjutor elect followed. The vote was overwhelming for Stephen Lane on the first ballot. Some seemed shocked that the ballot didn't take 3 or 4 rounds of voting, as apparently can be the norm at convention. Most felt the Holy Spirit had clearly spoken for the Maine Diocese. Steve as he prefers to be called visited the Convention via audio link and he certainly was thrilled. He came across as very personable in his acceptance. As Bishop Knudsen reminded us, having been in the position herself, there are two grieving candidates, Linda Greutz and Debra Kissinger, who were not elected; so please keep them in prayers.

Lunch followed the election, and was a time to meet other delegates.

The afternoon and next morning was filled with the business of convention with voting on committee nominees and General Convention delegates and alternates. Sheila Seekins was elected an alternate.

We also discussed and voted on resolutions and the annual budget. We had a very busy day and a half.

I was impressed to learn how our church operates. I was pleased to see a democratic process to select our new bishop, and that St. Peter's had a representative role in the election process. I now understand how grass roots efforts can influence our church through the resolution process. The Diocese of Maine is large geographically, and plays a very large role in the communities it serves. The Episcopal Church plays an increasingly important role in many rural towns in Maine, where economies are suffering and people are in need.

Bishop Knudsen concluded the Convention with her closing address. Her remarks were very moving as she outlined how the Episcopal Church is moving ahead in Maine and some of the challenges that face our future. Her address can be viewed online at episcopalmaine.org. This is the new Diocese web address as the old web address will soon be retired. I encourage everyone to review her address titled "Challenges" as we look ahead to the challenges St. Peter's faces in the future as well.

I would like to thank my fellow delegates for mentoring me through the convention process, and to thank the congregation for electing me as a delegate.

Jim Curtis



WINDOW OF THE SPIRIT

Dates for your 2008 calendar

I would like to share with the congregation and vestry some important dates for 2008 announced at convention by Bishop Knudsen:

February or March: Stephen Lane will move to Maine.

April 1: He is placed on payroll.

May 3: Presiding Bishop is principal the co-consecrator with at least 2 other bishops at the ordination service where Stephen Lane becomes Bishop Co-Adjutor.

September 13: Stephen Lane becomes the episcopal authority in Maine, accepting the crosier.

September 30: Last day for Bishop Knudsen.

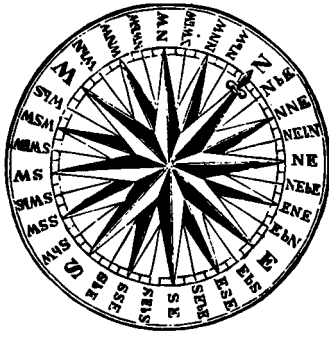
Early 2009: Bishop Knudsen will leave for Haiti for 6 months of service.

July 11: Deadline for certification of delegates for State Convention

August 15: Deadline for resolutions and nominations for the 189th Diocesan Convention

October 24 & 25: 189th Maine Diocesan Convention

Jim Curtis



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

Special thanks to the singers of St. Peter's, whose talent and dedication led to an acclaimed performance at the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service on Monday evening, November 19th, at the Rockland Congregational Church:

Mary Alice Bird
Barbara Brooks
Eve Hupper
Lucia Elder
Deb Merchant
Nora Willauer
John Bird
Rushmore DeNooyer
Elijah Hupper
Langley Willauer
Billy Smith

Long may you sing!
Malcolm Brooks

St. Peter's Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner filled with warmth and joy

Our church's Thanksgiving Day community dinner filled all of us who participated with the warmth and joy of enjoying delicious food in fellowship with friends and new acquaintances. Tracy and Tom Murphy, accompanied by their three young and helpful sons, Thomas, Timothy and Thaddeus, spearheaded the cooking and kitchen coordination for the third year in a row. St. Peter's recognizes its good fortune to have such culinary talent and experience on which to draw for this large food event. Surrounded by roasted turkeys, the best stuffing, potatoes, squash, turnip, peas, cider, cranberry and apple sauces, rolls and breads, pies and cookies, the Murphy's presented the Thanksgiving feast to more than 90 eager guests and volunteers. With the exception of a few items, all of the wonderful food was provided through generous donations of time and money from parishioners, and I am very thankful to each and every one of you who contributed to the bounty.

We received several gifts of food from outside the congregation as well. Four cooked turkeys were delivered from an anonymous source at almost 5pm Wednesday; many loaves of delicious breads, sandwiches, pastries, cookies and three pies were donated by the Atlantic Baking Company and the Market Basket; and donuts and bagels were donated by the Rockport Dunkin Donuts.

Marty Rogers and Steve Alley gave the kitchen the most thorough cleaning it has had in years in preparation for the festive event. The stainless steel gleamed when the Murphy's arrived Wednesday morning to begin cooking. Throughout the day on Wednesday and again all day Thursday, forty-five volunteers from the parish and the community at large arrived at the church to give their time to set up the dining room, prepare food, carve turkeys, wash dishes and pots and pans, serve the meal, beverages and desserts and to clean up the kitchen and hall afterwards. The Murphy's were there til the bitter end on Thursday evening.

I was moved by the outpouring of support for St. Peter's holiday feast and appreciated the opportunity to meet and speak with the many loving and giving individuals who make this holiday such a special occasion at our church. St. Peter's is truly fortunate to be a part of this community and I was thankful to be able to be a part of the effort. I would encourage all who can to participate next year. The effort is both rewarding and enjoyable, and if that is not enough, the food is the best.

Elizabeth Biddle, volunteer coordinator

Pastoral Visitor Training Program

Pen Bay Healthcare (PBH) is offering a training program to prepare volunteer lay persons from all area faith communities to provide pastoral care and companionship to individuals and those close to them who are experiencing the effects of illness, surgery, incapacitation, loss of independence, death and bereavement. Under the direction of the Reverend Laura Edwards, PBH pastoral care coordinator, the program will be held this winter on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. for 10 weeks beginning January 9 and ending March 12.

Participants will introduce themselves by sharing stories of their own spiritual journeys. The course will consist of presentations by Pen Bay Healthcare staff and area professionals on topics including the role of prayer, respecting personal boundaries, cultural and religious diversity

and understanding the concerns of patients at different stages of life, including the elderly and those with Alzheimer's disease. Various teaching tools designed to sharpen listening skills will be combined with regular weekly supervised visits to patients at Penobscot Bay Medical Center, the Knox Center for Long Term Care and Quarry Hill. "Patients and long-term-care residents sometimes feel lost, lonely, abandoned or scared," said Edwards. "Our Pastoral Visitors are trained to be a listening presence, and through this simple but genuine form of companionship, they provide much-needed support."

Pen Bay Healthcare orientation is required and will be scheduled at the participants' convenience on either January 7 and 8 or January 21 and 22.

Scholarships are available to cover the \$100 tuition cost of the course. Applications must be returned by Friday, November 9. For further information, contact Edwards at 596-8546 or e-mail ledwards@pen-bayhealthcare.org.

Stewardship Report

Thanks to all our generous members and friends who have completed and returned pledge cards for 2008. We are off to a good start. To date, we have received 61 pledges totaling \$111,372.00 which is 76.8% of the pledge goal of \$145,000. The lighthouse poster in the parish hall shows our progress weekly as pledges come in. If you have not yet made your pledge for the coming year, there is still time. Please prayerfully consider what you can do in support of God's work at St. Peter's. As our parish embarks on the search process to call a new rector, it is important to show potential candidates that we are committed and capable of strong financial support of the mission and ministry of St. Peter's.

Pledge cards are available from the office or in the narthex for any who did not receive one or have misplaced theirs. The Stewardship Commission hopes to have all pledges in by the end of December and will be making reminder calls after the holidays.

Also, thanks to all our parishioners and friends who have been keeping up with pledge payments during this current fiscal year which ends on December 31. Just a reminder that in order to receive tax credit for 2007 for charitable gifts, those gifts must be received before the end of the year. If any members find that adverse circumstances prevent completion of their 2007 pledge commitment, it would be helpful if they would let our parish secretary, Ferris Donoso, know so she can adjust the records accordingly. We also welcome additional gifts above and beyond 2007 pledged amounts to help St. Peter's with any shortfall in pledge income.

Liz Hunt
Stewardship Commission Chair

Sing-a-long of G.F. Handels "Messiah" at St. Peter's

On Monday December 10th we will again host the annual "Messiah" sing-a-long at St. Peter's. Brush-up will be at 6 pm and at 7 pm we will sing the Christmas portion of Handel's great oratorio, "Messiah."

Marion Gray will be conducting, and I will be at the Organ.

The soloists are Margaret Stanley-Small, Soprano; Rev. Juni Shepardson, Alto and this year, 2 students from the University of Southern Maine in Gorham, singing Tenor and Bass.

Last year, Dan Cyr, Baritone sang the Bass solos. He is a recent winner of the Lillian Nordica prize and is a fine singer.

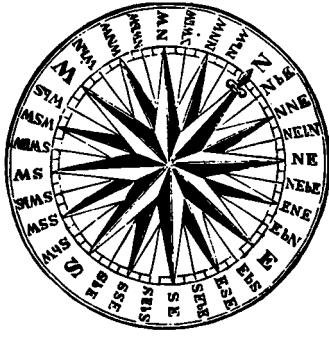
Our Tenor this year will be Jason Phillips who is in his 3rd year at USM and has just recently been cast as "Tamino" in USM's production of "Magic Flute." This will be Jason's first appearance with us.

There is a small fee of \$3.00 to help pay for costs (but feel free to give more). This has become a regular event at Christmas at St. Peter's and it is worth noting that it is the only Sing-a-long event in the area.

If you want to come and just listen, please do, and we can use some help in organizing chairs, setting up and greeters, and also to be a part of a joyous celebration of the majesty of Handel's music.

See you there!
Bob Earle
Musical Gratitude

Monday December 10th



Evangelism Commission Update Saving Money, Time & Trees

WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

Sunday School Out and About!

The Sunday School is planning a visit to the Knox Center and/or the Methodist Conference home during Advent to perform and bring holiday ornaments that we will make in Sunday school. If any one has any particular person who would appreciate a visit from our Sunday schoolers, please let Elizabeth Biddle know. Home 236-4941 or 29spear@mid-coast.com.

The BIG news from the Evangelism Commission is the proposed change in The Rock. At a report to the Vestry in November, plans were discussed to discontinue printing The Rock for the entire mailing list at St. Peter's. Instead, print copies would only be prepared for members who do not have internet access and for a supply for visitors in the narthex. Everyone who has internet access would be emailed a notice that the latest edition of The Rock is now available at the St. Peter's website: www.stpetersrockland.org. People can then go to our website and read the latest news as well as past issues. If your preference is to read a printed copy, you can print your own copy.

The primary reason for this change is to save money, time and trees. Our parish secretary, Ferris Donoso, will have much less work to do to print, assemble and mail the 200 plus copies of The Rock. Clearly this will save a lot of paper and some postage costs. We do not yet have an exact number of people to whom we would be mailing The Rock, but our estimate is that at least 60-70% of our parish have internet access. The way The Rock is prepared will remain the same—news items being submitted to Marty Rogers by the deadline date and then designed into the lovely newsletter you are accustomed to reading by Chris McLarty. That pdf file is then posted to the website by our ever faithful former parishioner Chris Stump who is able to do this from his home in Virginia. What a miracle this thing the internet! Another plus to this change is that the photos we use in The Rock will be clear and in color for those who read it online.

We do need your help to make this transition. Please email the Parish office to verify correct email address. We are taking a bold step with this change and recognize that, although it sounds straightforward, there will undoubtedly be bumps in the road and the plan may need rethinking. We won't know until we try and we hope that it will be an exciting improvement in how we communicate!

Other things the Evangelism Commission is continuing to work on is a new Parish Directory. We know this is very overdue but a copy of the member directory will be available shortly and can be picked up in the narthex. Name tags will make a come back. We need help to recognize each other by name—at least some of us do. Failing memories or being new to St. Peter's will not be an excuse for not being able to put a name to a face. Outdoor Episcopal Church signs will be replaced soon, following repair work. We wish to encourage people to remember to submit items for the Sunday insert of upcoming events and to read them. That will help keep you informed and reduce the repetition of announcements at the end of the service. We have a small amount of money in the budget for newspaper ads and will use that to advertize services for at least major church holidays. We will also evangelize using free resources such as online media outlets and press releases on special activities.

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

Our Discernment Prayer is Working!

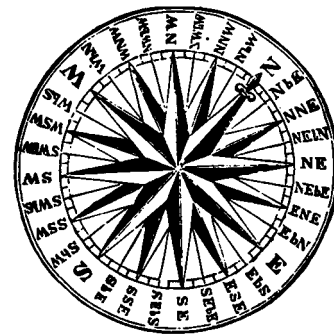
The Discernment Committee is pleased to report that real progress is being made in our journey to produce a PARISH PROFILE to aid St. Peter's search for our new Rector. Two sub-committees have been charged with the development of a series of Focus Group discussions and also the development of a Survey Form to be completed by all parishioners. The Focus Groups have met three times on Sundays: November 11th and 18th and two more sessions are scheduled for Sunday, December 2nd: 9:15AM and 12 noon. Those meetings have been very productive with good information being developed concerning who we are, what are our strengths and weaknesses, and what do we want St. Peter's to become.

The survey development sub-committee has completed the Survey Form and is ready to provide each parishioner with a copy along with instructions for completion. We need everyone's input so that the Parish Profile is truly representative. There will be an envelope addressed to each parish household that contains three items; (1) the Survey Form, (2) an envelope marked Survey: Confidential in which the completed Survey Form is to be placed, and (3) a second envelope addressed to St. Peter's with the sender's return address in which the first envelope is to be placed. These materials will be in the Narthex on Sunday, December 23rd and 30th. There will be additional survey forms along side these envelopes so that multiple members of the household will have an opportunity to express their individual views. All completed forms from a household can be placed in the return envelope. We request that as many parishioners as possible pick up their Survey Form envelope and additional survey forms on those Sundays. By doing this you will reduce St. Peter's postage costs because all unclaimed forms will be mailed to parishioners on Monday, December 31st.

These forms should be completed and returned to St. Peter's no later than Tuesday, January 15, 2008. They can be placed in the Sunday collection basket on January 6th or 13th, taken to the Parish Office or mailed to St. Peter's. When an envelope is received, the submitting household will be recorded and the outer envelope then discarded. The inner envelope marked Survey: Confidential will be placed in the receptacle for all such envelopes and eventually opened for collation by members of the Discernment Committee.

Confidentiality is important to the success of the survey, as is the participation of each parish household. Please pick up your materials in the Narthex on either Sunday, December 23rd or 30th. The Discernment Committee members express their sincere gratitude to each parishioner for their input in this defining moment for St. Peter's future!

*Jude Thomas & Tom Putnam
Co-chairs, Discernment Committee*



WAYPOINTS
*activities and
notices on our
journey together*

From the Interim Pastor



When the Answer is No!

Some of the most important and profound theological journeys I have been taken on, have started with someone inviting me to answer a question that they were unable to answer on their own. One such question was posed to me recently by a life-long, deeply faithful, Christian woman, who asked why the answer to some of her prayer requests to God, were answered with a, “No”. She said that although she had requested healing or a cure for someone else, when it did not happen, she was left with the question. She assured me that she continued to have faith in God, but wondered about the answer, being “No”. I told her I would think and pray about it and hopefully have something to tell her.

I have thought and prayed about it and here are some thoughts that have been shared with me to share with anyone who cares to hear.

The first thing that came to me was that although the answer was “No” it had not diminished her faith. She still had trust in God even though she had not received the answer she had sought. Somehow the trust in God’s wisdom was intact. I might even venture to say it was more than intact. In my humble view it was strengthened. It is one thing to have continued faith in someone who agrees with our assessment and opinion, quite another to continue when one receives a contrary reply. That, I think takes more faith. Somehow the trust was tested and survived stronger.

We read evidence of this in many places in Holy Scripture, but here is one that was given to me to ponder. It is taken from the second letter of St.

Paul to the church in Corinth, Chapter 12. St. Paul eludes to his being blessed by special revelations from God, and then relates that although so blessed he has been given a ‘thorn’ to keep him humble. Scholars are not sure exactly what the ‘thorn’ referred to is, some say one that made his appearance less comely, such as Bell’s Palsy. I have heard it might have been a continuing case of chronic shingles. Of it, Paul says in verse 7, “and to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness”. Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles, says he asked three times for this to be taken away from him, to be healed and cured, but it was denied him. God’s grace, in Jesus Christ, he is told is sufficient. Paul then says in verse 9 and 10, “I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong”.

Have you ever heard the saying; ‘be careful what you pray for, you just might get it?’ Imagine for a moment, that whenever you prayed for an individual, they were cured. Every time, cured of whatever you asked. You now have a choice, keep the gift secret, and pray when asked, or take your gift and let the world know your gift. God always says “Yes” to you. Now think about what that would mean. How your life would be changed or if your imagination is anything like mine, how quickly it would be ended. The joy over your gift would soon become a curse. So if we do not want the gift completely, then should we just get it when we choose? Who is sitting in God’s place here, making the decisions for God?

Back to the question. Why does God say No? Answer, why do we say, No? Would such a gift be used wisely, would it not tempt us to be boastful of ourselves? We can begin to see the deeper ramifications, of getting our own way, always.

Instead, I believe my dear sister in Christ, gave the answer to her question, in stating that her faith was made stronger, since even when she did not get what she wanted, her faith was, not only left intact, but strengthened through being tested.

Now does this mean God always says, No? Of course not and we can all attest to the power of prayer. We have seen with our own eyes and ears and hearts, that God does love us and answers prayers with a wisdom we can only trust and look to help us in our journeys’ to fuller and deeper faith in God. These are special revelations, to us. Some may not see them or understand them, but that knowing is given to us to strengthen us when the answers are ‘Yes’, and even especially when the answers are, ‘No’. We are told to pray without ceasing and that in all things God will bring good those who trust in God’s grace.

Here also what St. Paul writes in the 8th Chapter of his letter to the church in Rome, which is held as particularly appropriate for reading in the Burial Office, “What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? ... For I

am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

In this season of Advent, a season of hopeful expectation, let us faithfully trust in God’s continuing love for us and all creation, given to all in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, trusting in God’s Yes! And also in God’s love for us even when the answer is No! A Blessed Advent and a Joyful Christmas is hoped for us all. Amen.

Ted Kanellakis+

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Sundays—December 2, 9, 16, and 23

8:00 am and 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist – Celebrations of Advent
expectation, waiting and hope

Wednesdays—December 5, 12, 19

7:00 am – Holy Eucharist – Chapel – Silences and Readings
Chants of the Taize Community (France)
Liturgy of the Iona Community (Scotland)

6:00 pm – Service of Prayer and Mediation with
Chants of the Taize Community (France)
Music by Billy Smith

Monday—December 24

4:30 pm – Family Christmas Eve Celebration of Holy Eucharist
Readings, Drama and Music presented by Valerie Wells and children, youth and adult members and friends of parish families
Candlelighting

11:00 pm – Festive Holy Eucharist
Readings and Special Music
Candlelighting

Tuesday—December 25—Christmas Day

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist – The Incarnation of God

Please bring non-perishable food items for the Area Interfaith Outreach food pantry. Non-designated offerings at the Christmas Eve services will be placed in discretionary funds for assistance of those in critical need.

Prayer List

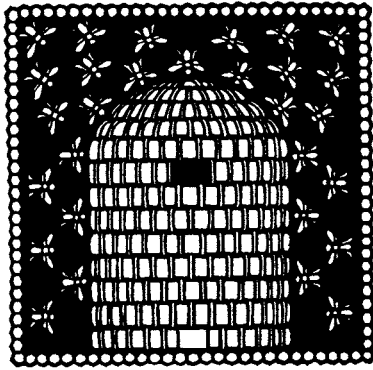
Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

The Sunday School Christmas pageant

The young people in St. Peter’s Sunday School program are busily preparing their annual Christmas pageant. Without giving away too many surprises, they are rehearsing a song, a nativity play and some vocal solos. All of this will take place on December 24th at the family Holy Eucharist service in the late afternoon.

Valerie Wells, coordinator of Children’s Ministries

THE BEEHIVE *items of interest*



Down East Singer's DECEMBER FEAST MUSIC Concert Features Respighi's Laud of the Nativity

Four of our fellow parishioners will be performing in this year's concerts at the Rockport Opera House. Jane Chatfield, Anne Hurt, Chris McLarty and Dorothy Nyman invite you to come enjoy some wonderful music including a work by Gordon Bok, a rousing gospel piece, and moving selections from the Greek Orthodox tradition. They will be accompanied by an excellent orchestra made up of local musicians and will include songs sung by singers from both the Riley and Ashwood schools.

Rockport Opera House

Saturday, December 15th at 7:30
Sunday, December 16th at 2:30

Send Eve to China

A Benefit Supper for Eve Hupper (Lucia Elder's granddaughter) will be held on Friday, December 7th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at St. Peter's Parish Hall. Eve is raising funds to be a People to People Student Ambassador to China in July, 2008. She must raise \$7,000 which will cover all expenses excluding personal spending money. Eve is a freshman at Rockland District High School and was nominated by a teacher for this opportunity to be an ambassador. She will visit China for 17 days and will visit five cities.

Fish Chowder, biscuits, and assorted desserts will be served. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and door prizes. Only \$6.50 admission!
Please lend your support.

Pray continually

In the calmness of the morning
I come before your face;
Thinking, a little nervously,
Of all that may take place;
But now, for all I have to say,
And all I have to do,
In simple trust and gratitude,
I give this day to you.

As I go about my duties,
Proceeding through the day,
I make sure, every now and then,
To pause awhile and pray.
So, in whatever circumstance,
In all I have to do,
Silently and in confidence
I share this day with you.

Then, with all that has taken place,
Draws near the close of day,
When I can gather up my thoughts
And come aside to pray.
There, as I wait before your face,
And quietly think things through,
In praise and trust and thankfulness,
I find my rest in you.

By Peter Milford and submitted by Susan Kanellakis

Diocesan Email & Website Changes

Please note these website and staff email address changes for the Diocese of Maine. The "diomaine" domain is retiring. From now on, the website will be www.episcopalmaine.org and staff members who previously had a "diomaine" email address will now be at "episcopalmaine.org." For a complete staff directory, please visit www.episcopalmaine.org/page.html?pageId=59.

Vestry Minutes

St. Peter's Church

November 14, 2007

◆ **Updates.** Ted reported briefly on the Diocesan retreat for clergy held in Bar Harbor.

◆ **Minutes.** The October 10, 2007 minutes were approved.

◆ **Treasurer's Report.** John Chatfield provided copies of the treasurer's report and the draft budget for 2008. Vestry members noted that the Budget and Finance Committee had recommended \$130,000 in pledges for the 2008 budget, which did not match the target of \$145,000. So far, Liz Hunt has reported 43 pledges for \$83,482, which is in line with last year at this time. Ted has still not received any discretionary funds. JoAnne Murphy will check into deposits for the discretionary funds and for the Forward with Faith funds. Ted noted that check-signing needs to be simplified; currently, every check has to be co-signed by a warden. JoAnne recommended a special meeting with Budget and Finance be scheduled. Jude Thomas reported that she still does not have a credit card for Discernment Committee purchases. Ted suggested that since the Budget and Finance Committee cannot provide the Vestry with financial reports prior to the vestry meeting, perhaps vestry meetings should be changed to the third Wednesday of each month. John further suggested that meetings start earlier, e.g. 5:00. Billy Smith asked about pay for the new priest. Jude responded that first the audit of the church books would have to take place (this has been arranged with St. John Baptist Church) and then determination needs to be made whether St. Peter's is a type 2 or type 3 church (which depends on attendance, pledges, etc.). JoAnne tentatively scheduled a mini-meeting with Micki Colquhoun on December 12.

◆ **Committee Reports.** Marty Rogers reviewed the Fundraising Work Group recommendations for 2008. Marty asked for a vestry representative to participate in the work group; Elizabeth Biddle volunteered. Marty also reported on the Evangelism Commission. A new directory will be printed by Thanksgiving; it will include a "change form;" all changes will be listed in the Rock. The Commission also looked into putting the Rock on the church website and only printing enough copies for parishioners without access to the web; this would save staff time and postage. The St. Peter's church sign at Fern Spring's will be replaced over Thanksgiving. Because of limited funds, the only newspaper ads placed will be for Christmas and Holy Week services. Vestry members then discussed the number of community announcements during services and agreed that items in the bulletin should not have to be repeated.

◆ **Discernment Committee.** Jude reported that Mary Ann Taylor had reminded them that everything they do in committee is open to the parish, except for names of candidates. Jude said that two subcommittees had been formed: one for the parish survey and one for focus groups. The first focus group was held last Sunday and 12 attended. Each focus group has a facilitator and a scribe. There are four areas discussed: 10 year vision, St. Peter's strengths, room for improvement, and what do parishioners personally need from the church. Ted recommended that the four areas be published in the Rock. Jude also noted that the survey had been drafted and that responses would be anonymous.

◆ **Buildings and Grounds.** Doug Curtis reported that he was still working with the volunteers. Doug went to the Career Center but found no interest in helping with cleaning. He has identified an acquaintance that is willing to work for \$15 an hour. Doug also has someone who will help with the floor waxing. He has worked out the costs of hiring and supplies. Ted noted that with the considerable growth of the physical plant, the church could not totally depend on volunteers. Doug had received a draft plan for adding a porch roof over the rear door; the cost would be about \$2300. JoAnne recommended tabling this plan for now.

◆ **New/Old Business.** Elizabeth said that she still needed pies, a turkey, and cash for the Thanksgiving dinner and assistance with clean-up. She also noted that she had called several churches to gauge interest in joint purchasing of oil; there was some interest.

Members Present: Elizabeth Biddle, Kay Brown, John Chatfield, Doug Curtis, Sr., Spence Hurtt, Ted+, Tom McBride, JoAnne Murphy, Billy Smith, Pat Snow, Jude Thomas

Members Absent: Micki Colquhoun, Ferolyn Curtis, Jim Curtis, Ellie Hutchinson, Isabel Polk

Guest: Marty Rogers

JoAnne Murphy chaired the meeting.

Ted said a prayer.

The next meeting of the vestry is Wednesday, December 19, at 5 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Linda Ames Mann



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

Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem

by Maya Angelou

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now. It is louder.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.
We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.
Peace.
Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,
Implore you, to stay a while with us.
So we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion and see community.

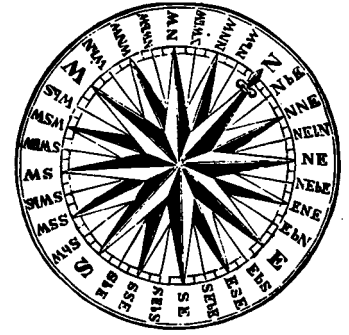
It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

Maya Angelou is an American poet, memoirist and professor.

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From ERD Now

A publication of Episcopal Relief and Development
Volume 4, Number 5 – December 2007



“The Youngest Victims: Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission What Your Parish Can Do

World AIDS Day is December 1, 2007. This year's theme—
“Leadership”—celebrates people around the world who have led the
fight against HIV/AIDS.

Effective leadership has been a proven factor in the success of
HIV/AIDS initiatives and efforts. Leaders are not just those at the
highest level of influence in the international sphere, though such
individuals are vitally needed. To stop AIDS, leaders must step forth
from all levels:

in families, communities, faith institutions and countries around the
world.

The World AIDS Day Campaign suggests that:

*“Leaders are distinguished by their action, innovation and
vision; their personal example and engagement of others; and
their perseverance in the face of obstacles and challenges.”*

We agree. Episcopal Relief and Development has been privileged to
support and nurture such individuals and groups in communities
around the world. We have seen firsthand how effective grassroots lead-
ership and compassionate action transforms lives. Our new Preventing
Mother-to-Child Transmission program in Zambia is a wonderful exam-
ple.

Here are some ways your parish can take the lead in your sphere of influence:

- ▼ On World AIDS Day, remember those who are leading HIV/AIDS
programs, both locally and around the world.
- ▼ Pray for pregnant HIV-positive women and their newborns.
- ▼ Spread awareness about the impact of Preventing Mother-to-Child
Transmission and how supporting Episcopal Relief and
Development's program will save children's lives.
- ▼ Take a special offering for Episcopal Relief and Development's
HIV/AIDS programs.

For more information about Episcopal Relief and Development's
programs, visit our Web site: www.er-d.org.

WAYPOINTS
*activities and
notices on our
journey together*

**Episcopal Relief
and Development
is a way the people
of St. Peter's
can make a difference
in the world.**

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.

note new office hours

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

The Rev. Isabel Polk, Deacon
(home 596.0003; deacon@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

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, Katherine Brown, Ferolyn Curtis, Jim Curtis, Spencer Hurtt, Ellie Hutchinson, Thomas McBride, Billy Smith, Pat Snow, Jude Thomas

THE ROCK

Published seasonally by

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Please e-mail submissions to Marty @ mlr@midcoast.com

You are welcome to contribute to our next newsletter.

Submission deadline is noon January 15th.



Mailed November 30, 2007

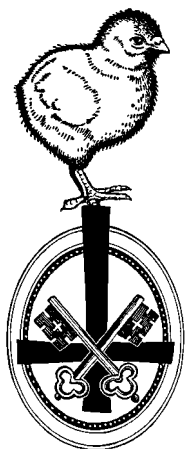
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THE ROCK



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THE PEBBLE

To the Children: The Christmas Spirit In Advent

There should be no doubt in any one's mind that Advent is the most exciting season of the church calendar in Sunday School. The expectation of the coming of Jesus that so coincidentally and happily coincides with Santa Claus's arrival makes the joy of the season all that more understandable to children. Last year, my then six year old learned that there was no relation between Jesus and Santa Claus. No, Santa Claus was not born on the same day as Jesus, nor is he another son of God or a brother to Jesus. The other day my now seven year old summarized her understanding of the situation to me this way, "Momma, Santa Claus takes on Jesus' spirit, the way it was meant to be, not the way it has become."

Among all the gift buying, making and giving, and food preparation, serving and eating, there are a few things that children can be encouraged to do to bring the spirit of Christmas a little closer to their hearts.

- ☆ Make a cup of hot chocolate for your mother or father or both, and sit down at the table with them while they enjoy it.
- ☆ Decide not to argue with a brother or sister for the whole day, or longer.
- ☆ Create a card that says, "I love you," and share it with a grandparent, parent, other relative or neighbor.
- ☆ Read a holiday story to a younger child you know.
- ☆ Take a toy, or several, you no longer use that is in good condition, and give it to a shelter where homeless children stay.
- ☆ Do your household chores, do your homework, and practice your musical instruments without being asked.

Talk with your family to decide on a new tradition that will help all of you to focus on Advent as a time of quiet reflection. Perhaps it would be, if you do not already, to spend one night a week doing something as a family. You might read a Christmas story aloud together, listen and sing to recordings of Christmas carols, or play a game together.

Adapted from Covenant Times, Episcopal Children's Curriculum, Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

Timid new faces in Sunday School?

I have heard from a couple of parents that certain children are hesitant to attend Sunday School these days because they would be new to the class and do not know what is going on. On the one hand, I find that comment rewarding in that I take it to mean that the children who attend regularly have formed a cohesive group and routine, and the children have gained a body of knowledge so they are comfortable with our study and activities. On the other hand I am, of course, regretful to hear that any child would feel excluded, and would like to try to remedy that situation.

We would like very much to have new children's faces and new energy in the Sunday School and would encourage all parents who are interested in having their children attend to call me so that we can discuss how to ease new or rejoining students into the Sunday School routine. I have an idea and would love the opportunity to try it out on the next children who join us. Please call Elizabeth Biddle, 236-4941 or 29spear@midcoast.com.

Visitor from Galilee Surprises Elizabeth and Shares News Delivered by an Angel

Dateline: A City in Judah, about 6 BCE

An older citizen named Elizabeth was surprised yesterday by the arrival of a relative from Galilee. The visitor is a young woman named Mary, who has just learned she will have a baby. We understand she is planning to stay here about three months. Elizabeth herself has been pregnant for some time. We talked with Mary who explained the reason for this sudden, unplanned visit.

"I live in Nazareth, a small town in Galilee, with my family. I am engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. Joseph is a car-

penter in Nazareth and we plan to be married soon.

"A few days ago, I was working in the shed near the garden when a wonderful light filled the room. Suddenly there was the angel Gabriel standing in front of me.

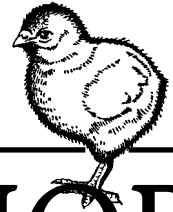
"The angel spoke to me in a gentle voice, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.' He then told me many things that would concern the child.

"But I was still confused. I said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I have done nothing to become pregnant?'

"The angel reassured me that this would be the work of the Holy Spirit so that the child who is to be born will be holy, the Son of God.

"He also told me that Elizabeth is going to have a son. I knew then the meaning of the angel's message that nothing is impossible for God. So I responded with my whole heart, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'"

As soon as the angel left, Mary said, she quickly made arrangements to come here and to spend some time with Elizabeth and her husband, Zechariah.



From Luke 1:30 and Psalm 40:8

Gabriel Speaks!

ANNUNCIATION											
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An _____ of the Lord appeared to Mary. 2. "... the child to be _____ will be holy ..." 3. Mary and Joseph lived in a town called _____. 4. "The Holy Spirit will come _____ you." 5. "How can this be, since I am a _____?" 6. "He will reign over the house of _____ forever." 7. The angel _____ was sent by God. 8. The virgin's name was _____. 9. "The power of the _____ will overshadow you." 10. Nazareth was in _____. 11. Mary was betrothed to _____. 12. Mary's child will be the _____ of God. 											

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