

JANUARY 2010

THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Opportunities to help close to home and far away Rockland Teen Project

Although last fall's proposal to assist local teens through the development of a shelter didn't materialize, concerned community members are still trying to serve these needy and at-risk young people. A new program is taking root that is an outgrowth of the KITS (Knox Interfaith Teen Safe-Havens) teen shelter idea. Four area churches, the First Universalist Church, St. John Baptist in Thomaston, the Rockland Congregational Church and St. Peter's, are starting a program to provide meals for teenagers three nights a week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) at the First Universalist Church at 345 Broadway in Rockland. Each church is assigned one week in a four-week rotation. Judy Willey is the coordinator for St. Peter's.

St. Peter's first days will be February 1, 2 and 3.

What's needed? A main course for 10 people

A side dish or salad that can be assembled or prepared by the teens

Dessert and drinks

Food is to be delivered to the church at 5:15 pm. Initially the counselors from Breakwater will be servers and in charge of setting up and cleaning up. As the program gets established volunteers will be needed for this part also. Hopefully the program will expand to five days per week.

Judy says that already the program is helping desperate teens and their families. Because of their teen's involvement with the program, a family with four children learned of other services that were available and have been helped to make connections that kept them from becoming homeless.

Judy also says that people from St. Peter's can volunteer to help in any manner that works. If a group wants to get together for prepare the main dish, that's fine, or someone can do the shopping and others cook and others transport. Just call Judy at 594-9032 or speak with her at church to sign up.

Other dates are March 1, 2, & 3; March 29, 30, & 31; and April 26, 27 & 28.

St. Peter's week will be every 4th week.

Haitian Earthquake Relief

Since Haiti is our companion Diocese and many people around the Diocese have friends in Haiti, we encourage everyone to please keep the victims of the earthquake in your prayers. Bishop Steve Lane is encouraging people to send monetary donations to Episcopal Relief and Development as that is the quickest and most direct way to help. As communications begin to open up, Parishes will respond directly to specific Haitian communities, churches, hospitals or schools.

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori said in a statement on the earthquake, "Even under 'normal' circumstances, Haiti struggles to care for her 9 million people. I urge your concrete and immediate prayers in the form of contributions to Episcopal Relief and Development, who are already working with the Diocese of Haiti to send aid to where it is most needed."

Checks may be mailed to Episcopal Relief and Development
P. O. Box 7058
Merrifield, VA 22116-7058

Or go to the website online at www.er-d.org

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Traditional and Contemporary Icons Collected by Anita Wingert



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

I am a person who gives thanks for the blessings of Google Maps, and floor plans for museum visitors, and color-coded hallways in large hospitals. I am a visual observer, learner and absorber, and that is also true of my relationship with Spirit.

Whether it is the quietness of white walls and wooden pews in a colonial era church, or my suspended breath as I gaze up into a stunningly ornamented cathedral dome; I am transported out of the ordinary and narrow, into the wider and more profound parts of my relationship with God and creation through the visual.

Icons have been a part of that transporting, that enrichment of my spiritual life. Icons connect me to ancient stories and people of faith and to those devoted artists who write (i.e. paint or draw) these images and bring them to life for me.

Unlike most religious paintings, these images are particularly meant for us to look through, especially the eyes, to see and experience God within and behind them, in new and expansive ways.

My first meaningful introduction to icons was through the contemporary work of Robert Lentz, several of whose icons are displayed here. I found that his icons, and others like them, echoed my theology of a multi-faceted deity who is bonded to all of creation and all peoples, throughout

all time. The images gave me that visual connection that is so important to me, one that literally embodied more than just an intellectual concept or a written principle. There they were, staring back at me, challenging me with the reality of their divine expansive realness.

From there I came to appreciate the older, exquisite images of Orthodox Christianity's iconography. More formal, and created according to minutely prescribed requirements, they draw me down into them with their power. I am particularly intrigued and impressed by what they communicated about the different place that women such as Mary — Theotokos, Mother of God — and Mary of Magdala, have in Orthodox faith. Notice the images of Mary as teacher, surrounded by the Apostles and Disciples.

Which ones have blessings for you today?
Enjoy . . .



Icon by Robert Lentz

St Peter's Writer's Group



WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together

Every other Wednesday afternoon (the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays) a group of St. Peterfolk meet to share the joy of writing. After we settle down, perhaps with a cup of hot tea, our paper and pens at hand, we sometimes place a random object in the middle of the table. For ten or fifteen minutes the only sound is the scratching of our pens or pencils as we attempt to capture the essence of that object on paper. Then we read aloud what we have written. Something as simple as a glass of water might be presented in an exquisite haiku, the opening paragraph of a story, or a meditation on thirst. The most amazing thing is how this simple exercise heightens our awareness of every person's unique perceptions. It helps us to see each other more clearly.

Recently I re-read my meditation on water written some months ago. It was stream-of-consciousness writing, as free of editing as I am able to be. Therefore, when the word 'water' brought up 'thirst' for me, I had written it at the top of my paper. There followed sentences about the opening lines in Genesis 'upon the face of the waters' and the symbol of our spiritual birth, how too much water drowns us, and too little kills us, yet it is essential to all life. I found myself intrigued enough to work some of these thoughts into the following poem.

THIRST

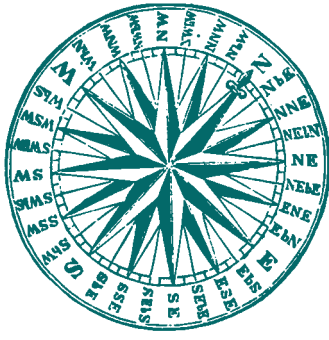
I want to see the Spirit
move across the face of
primal waters as the earth
is birthed. I want to hear
that voice in its intensity
speak to the sacred element
from which we emerged,
bound for life to its
trinity of water, ice, vapor.
I want to touch green
gifts rained from clouds
bathe in blue mirror lakes,
sing the carefree joy of brooks.
I want to understand the
sculptor's wisdom in rivers,
the silent mystery of floating in
my mother's womb, and in
salt blood and tears, taste
truth from that first ocean.

Dorothy Nyman '10



Sometimes we just bring pieces that we are currently working on to share with the group. It helps us keep working on those books and poems that have wanted attention for a long time. Maybe we will actually finish them! In any case we have respectful, encouraging listeners every time.

If you think you would enjoy being part of St. Peter's writing group, please join us! The next meeting will be 4:30, Wednesday, January 27th.



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

At the present time, while we are beginners, only a limited number of people will be able to post to our listing. However, your help is needed in creating material to post. Please think about all of our activities and write a story. Take a photo. Email those to me or Ferris and we will take care of the rest. If can't send an email write it down and give it to us in person or use the regular mail. We are all evangelists!

Marty Rogers
mlr@midcoast.com

More Places to Read about St. Peter's

The Evangelism Commission works to get the word out about the faith community at St. Peter's and our ministry. We have used all the usual methods: Sunday announcements, the weekly insert in the service program, telephone, newspapers, snail mail, e-mail, our website and newsletter, *The Rock*—now in print and at our website. We have recently started to use another tool. At Village Soup we now have an “enhanced listing.” When we have information we want to share with the community our news is posted on VillageSoup’s “front page” under Religion. It is very easy to use and gives us much more flexibility. Our listing connects to our website and we can track how many people are reading our posts and how many go to our website. I posted a story about the Labyrinth Walk and in two days had over 70 “hits” or people clicking on the story to read it. The description of St. Peter's has been read 687 times! The notice about Annual Meeting has had 59 hits in less than 3 days. Not everyone uses the internet, but increasingly more people use this resource to find information. We need to use the same tools.

So how do you find our stories? For the unfamiliar here is a click by click guide.

On the internet go to www.villagesoup.com

Click Visit Knox

You will be at the “Front Page” of the “paper”

Scroll down to the section titled Religion. The five most recently released stories will be on the “Front Page”. The older ones can be reached by clicking MORE at the end of the 5 Religion items.

You will be at All Religion—all the postings that have not been deleted because the posting date has ended. It is a standard 2 weeks unless we specify a longer time period.

Scroll down to articles for St. Peter's. When possible a photo will be alongside the headline.

Click on the headline and read the story. At the bottom of every story we submit is our “banner”. Clicking on it takes the reader to our website.

If a person is searching for information about Religion at the Village Soup website St. Peter's can be found another way.

Follow steps 1 & 2.

At the top of the front page, click on bizSearch

Then you will see Search by Business Category

Scroll down to Religion and click on it

It will say Results 1-10 of 88. The first page has the first ten enhanced listings of religious organizations. They are in alphabetical order. (Churches that do not have an “enhanced listing” just have their name there—when you click on it-nothing happens.)

Scroll down to the Next Page button. Click on it.

St. Peter's is the second listing. Click on it and you will see an exterior photo of St. Peter's, a Google map to find us, and a description of St. Peter's. On the right hand side of this page are the Briefs that we have posted—our “press releases”. Clicking on any of those Briefs will let you read the story unless it is old and has been archived. “Offers” are things we post that are for sale. If we have a plant sale or a tag sale or Le Petit Noel, it would be in the “Offers” section.

All items that we post to Village Soup go to the links for Knox and Waldo and are also published in the print edition of the *Herald Gazette* and the *Republican Journal*.

News from AIO

Hello Everyone,

So many people in our area are not working and need the help of the Food Pantries especially ours here in Rockland. We do give out vouchers. More clients are coming to the Food Pantry for help. Our community's response is wonderful with their donations of food and money which helps provide vouchers. If a person is not sure they are eligible to get help all they need to do is call the Food Pantry on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. The phone number is 596 -1043. If you know anyone who needs help, give them this information and encourage them to call the Food Pantry. It is not shameful to need help, but it is a shame if someone needs help and is afraid to ask. There but for the GRACE of GOD go I.

Thank you all for your donations throughout out the years. On behalf of our A I O Food Pantry, the clients and the volunteers who serve those in need, we all say it cannot be done alone. We are all linked to one another, through the Grace of God.

Peace and Love,
Mary E. Hunter

Please look at the poster on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for the upcoming Pies on Parade hosted by the Historic Inns of Rockland. Many others have joined in and is a fun time that supports The food Pantry.

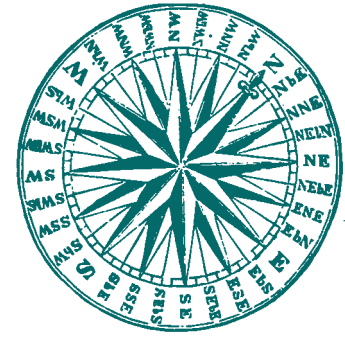
Congratulations Jeff!

Congratulations to the Rev. Jeff Lewis, the new Chaplain at Salisbury School in Salisbury, CT. Jeff was ordained to the priesthood at St. Peer's in 2006 by Bishop Knudsen and served at St. Mark's, Waterville (2005-2006) and St. Giles, Jefferson (2006-2008).



Some of last year's Pancake Luncheon diners enjoying this seasonal treat.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR PANCAKE LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 16TH



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon

February 16th, 2010
11 am to 1:30 p.m.
Sponsored by
St. Peter's Episcopal
Church Women

Adults \$6.00

Children \$3.00

The best pancakes

with butter and maple syrup,

sausage, cookies and sherbet,

coffee, tea or milk!



Vestry Notes

December 16th

The next meeting of the vestry is Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

- **Treasurer's Report** Micki Colquhoun reported good news. The expected shortfall of \$65,000 is actually only \$20,000. The Vestry acted on a housing stipend for the rector for 2010 and a salary increase to bring his salary in line with Diocesan standards. Additional financial needs for music activities, elevator maintenance and employee insurance are being studied. The Diocesan assessment for 2010 will be down \$25,324.
- **Warden/Vestry Nominations** John Chatfield reported on the slate of candidates to be voted at the Annual Meeting. Mary Alice Bird, Marilyn Smith, and David Grima as vestry members. The Senior Wardens will be Thom Buescher and Tom Putnam. John Snow as Junior Warden. Lucia Elder, Doug Curtis Sr, Jim Curtis and Midge Welch as Delegates to Diocesan Convention. Jim Bowditch and Jude Thomas as alternates. A replacement for Marge Roberts will be voted at the Annual Meeting and would serve a one-year term.
- **Buildings and Grounds** Doug Curtis said that plastic coverings on most of the stained windows had been done. The shrubbery by the parish hall has outgrown the winter covers; this will be fixed. Other additional maintenance issues are in progress. A plan for regular kitchen maintenance is being developed by JoAnne Murphy and Steve Alley.
- **Stewardship** Jim Bowditch reported that the stewardship campaign had exceeded its goal of \$140,000. The Anchor Society for planned giving will be reexamined.
- **Youth Update** Judy Willey said that although the housing proposal for homeless youth had not worked out, work is proceeding on having dinner available five times a week for teens.
- **Hospital/Home Communion Kit** Rhonda Hart has requested a new hospital/home communion kit costing \$800 because the old one is in bad repair. JoAnne Murphy discussed raising money for a new one and vestry members suggested it be a memorial gift for Fern Spring. The motion passed and the proposal will be presented in January.
- **Retreat Date** A tentative date is February 13 for the annual Vestry Retreat.
- **Annual Meeting** The meeting will occur on January 24. The single service will be at 9 a.m., followed by brunch at 10 a.m., and the meeting in the sanctuary around 11 a.m.
- **Mutual Ministry Review** Glenn & the vestry discussed ways to accomplish this. The discussion will continue at the Retreat.

Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter's,

From the Rector

Why do horrible things happen to people who seem to have so little to begin with? Haiti was still recovering from the hurricanes in 2008 and now hit by a devastating earthquake and aftershocks. The poorest country in our hemisphere, it would seem Haiti has big enough problems on its shoulders without the additional pressures of these natural disasters.

I have been asked by many people, what can we do? Immediately, we can pray for the victims as well as for those assisting the victims. We can give to Episcopal Relief and Development. One hundred percent of the money that goes to ER-D is channeled to those who are in need, there is no overhead expense, as there is in so many other relief organizations.

Since Haiti is our companion Diocese, we also have a unique opportunity to be personally involved in supporting the ongoing efforts over the long term. St. John Baptist in Thomaston has a long standing relationship with a school in Fiervil, Haiti. They send \$7,000 a year to support teachers in this community school. This does not cover the whole cost of the teachers and there are always more needs than St. John's has resources to cover. Could we, as a parish, form a partnership with St. John's to support the school in Fiervil? The Vestry will discuss the possibilities.

No doubt, there will be other opportunities to help in Haiti. There will be groups that are formed to travel to Haiti to give hands on assistance, similar to what happened after Katrina. They will be many opportunities to participate in these groups in a variety of ways. The Vestry and I will keep you updated on possibilities as they come about.

In the midst of the tragedy in Haiti, I read the news report of a statement made by Pat Robertson that this earthquake hit Haiti because this tiny island nation had made a "pact with the devil." What rubbish! Obviously, Mr. Robertson doesn't know the faithful people who form our companion diocese. Faithful people who, even though the Cathedral and Bishop's residence were flattened, refused to be evacuated, but stayed to minister and give hope to their brothers and sisters in crisis.

Let us join with the congregation at the National Cathedral who prayed for Haiti during an evening service: "Surround Haiti and her people with your loving embrace that they may be supported by the world in the work of rescue and recovery; comforted as they grieve; strengthened as they bury their dead; healed as they tend their wounds; restored in faith and the hope of things unseen; and transformed through newness of life."

In Christ's mercy,
Glenn



GLENN MAHAFFEY

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 PM
The Rev. Glenn Mahaffey, Rector
(home 593-9003, rector@stpetersrockland.org)
Ferris Donoso, Parish Secretary
(stpeters@stpetersrockland.org)
Robert Earle, Organist
The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane, 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

Stephen Alley, Elizabeth Biddle, Jim Bowditch,
Ellie Hutchinson, Marge Roberts, Billy Smith,
Jude Thomas, Midge Welch and Judy Willey

THE ROCK

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You are welcome to contribute to our next newsletter.

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