

MARCH 2010

# THE ROCK



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THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## Just So You Know: The Loaves & Fishes Story

*Editor's note:*

*Although most St. Peter's parishioners know about Loaves and Fishes, it is important to inform the community outside of the parish on a regular basis. I asked David Grima to prepare the following article for Village Soup. We plan to publish information and photos of the various teams about once a month.*

**L**oaves & Fishes is the weekend community lunch program at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on White Street in Rockland. We offer lunch to whoever shows up, at no cost. It is possible that some day more people might show up than we can actually feed, but after two decades we don't think this has happened yet.

On Saturday we serve lunch at 12:30 p.m., and on Sundays we serve at 1 p.m. We usually serve about 25 or 30 guests on Saturdays, and perhaps 35 or 40 on Sundays. A dinner is also served on Christmas Day and at Thanksgiving.

The whole thing got started in the 1980s at what was then called Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church on Union Street, just a few blocks away from St. Peter's. Some of the Methodists wanted to do something practical, and started serving an evening meal at their church. Some years later the Methodists sold their building, and this more or less was about the same time a few people at St. Peter's picked up on the idea of feeding people. Officially, our church did not take to the idea immediately, and so a few parishioners started serving soup and sandwiches from the trunk of a car in the parking lot. Those in charge of the church quickly experienced a change of heart, and so the program was allowed into our parish hall, and with the Methodists getting involved it became more organized.

Today the program is run, still on a strictly volunteer basis, by a number of groups who each take a turn during the month to provide one meal, either on a Saturday or a Sunday. These teams come from St. Peter's, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Rockland Congregational Church, Adas Yoshuron Synagogue, First Universalist Church, Nativity Lutheran Church, the National Honor Society at Camden Hills Regional High School, Youthlinks, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, and from friends of the program who are unaffiliated with any formal organization.

Four times a year we receive a delivery of food from the United States Department of Agriculture, which is used to prepare meals. And each team also provides additional food and resources in its own way. Some have arranged for local restaurants such as Primo's to serve lunch on occasion, and other solicit meals from their own congregations. This way, far more people get involved each year than could be easily counted.

From time to time, individuals and organizations make gifts of money to Loaves & Fishes. Employees at FMC in Rockland have often given us a generous yearly donation, for example. The people of St. Peter's also fund all the operational costs of using the parish hall, and pay for overheads such as utilities.

The program is overseen, although very loosely, by David Grima who is a parishioner at St. Peter's. He does not control the program, but prefers that each group runs things its own way. This seems to work more often than not. He can be reached at davidgrima@ymail.com, and general inquiries can be directed to him, although people seeking to volunteer should contact the individual churches or organizations separately. People who want to make donations to the program can do so via the church office.

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

Now Showing in the Gallery of The Spirit:

### The Beauty in the Mundane

By Ted Field

The words come with difficulty. To put words to, write or talk about matters spiritual is like placing fetters on something timeless and boundless. It seems sacrilegious to place the sacred in the mundane. It binds what is boundless. But, I have learned in my life's journey that the sacred appears in the mundane. What can be more mundane than a baby born of carpenter, venerated by shepherds in a stable?

The objects I have selected for this spot speak to my journey and the mysteries of life as life finds me.

Ted moved to Rockland in August 2009 coming full circle from his beginnings in Fairfield and Owls Head. He was schooled at Colby College, the University of Maine at Orono, and Cornell University where he earned his Ph.D. in development sociology. He was educated in his youth through his work in a hospital and on the shop floor in central Maine. His education was furthered as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Botswana before attending Cornell. His education continued with a series of consultancies and positions in nonprofit education in education program and evaluation.

His work took him to Washington, DC where he volunteered for an urban-based philharmonic society and as president for an international community development group. While in Washington, he travelled for work to Africa, Taiwan, and across the U.S. In Africa he evaluated programs in Senegal, Mali, Niger, Uganda, and Mozambique. For a brief period he worked in a refugee camp in Somalia. His last work in Washington was as Professor of Management at the University of Maryland University College. As an 11th generation Mainer, he decided in 2009 to bring his skills and experiences home. He has seen a bit of life and appreciates the many different ways that people live and make home.

Hi. Chris McLarty here with some filler for the newsletter. St. Peter's has a small and dedicated writing group that meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 4:30. These haiku are among some I brought to read this week. They are a tiny part of a body of work that has helped me deal with life after my husband's death. The inspiration for my haiku can come from any where. The phrase "map to heaven" grabbed me as I read *The Mercy Papers* by Robin Romm. Robin's mother was dying. She was uncomfortable with the various hospice workers who she felt acted like they had a map to heaven.

some people treat you  
like there's a map to heaven  
and you don't have it

I keep maps like that  
in the glove box of my heart  
and never use them

occasionally  
eyes closed, I 'll open one up  
just to refold it

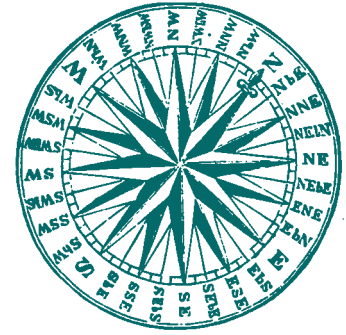
places uncharted  
that you can't get to from here  
interest me the most

imagination,  
that terra incognito,  
gets me where I go

if I want a guide  
all I have to do is pray  
God's my G.P.S.

# Vestry Notes

January 20th



**WAYPOINTS**  
*activities and  
notices on our  
journey together*

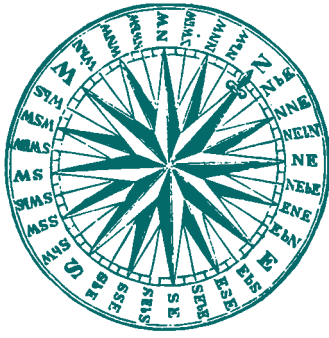
■ **Treasurer's Report.** Micki Colquhoun reported that for the first time in her memory we did not have to use money from the Endowment for 2009. She introduced the proposed budget for 2010, which was approved by the Vestry. Micki announced that our bookkeeper is leaving. In the interim, Jake Thomas will be helping out, including sending out donor statements.

■ **Buildings and Grounds.** Doug Curtis, Sr. reported on a number of maintenance issues that have been addressed. Steve Alley and JoAnne Murphy discussed kitchen cleaning activities. A committee is being established to help. David Grima's advice will be sought so coordination with Loaves and Fishes teams will take place. A Girl Scout troop is interested in helping with the soup kitchen. Glenn will ask the Saturday AA group to set up five tables for Sunday.

■ **Youth Update.** Glenn reported that dinner was being offered to teens three days a week at the Unitarian Universalist church. The first week three teens came the first day and none on the next two days. St. Peter's is responsible for providing meals for the first week in February. A cooperative effort pertaining to youth is being discussed with the Congregational church. Also, there will be a youth event in February at the Snow Bowl.

■ **Mutual Ministry Review.** Volunteers from the Vestry will interview selected parishioners using questions they selected from a list of 15 provided by Glenn. Micki and Glenn will compile the responses and present them at the next vestry meeting.

■ **New Business.** The Annual Meeting agenda was discussed. Glenn also reported on the possibility of teaming with St. John Baptist which has been supporting a school in Haiti; it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to come up with the money. Peter Jenks would like to restart trips to the school. Micki suggested having someone from St. John Baptist give a sermon regarding the school project. Billy offered an alternative for us to support the music/day school which is associated with the Port au Prince cathedral. Glenn also reported on activities of the four rectors from Camden, Thomaston, Rockland, and Belfast. Belfast has been working on Haiti and St. Thomas' will be partnering with them. On March 11, there will be a "Mission & Thin Red Line" meeting for the rectors, wardens, and finance people from the four parishes to discuss sharing resources before a crisis occurs. The idea is to develop a replicable model that can be followed by other areas.



## WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together

The next meeting of the vestry is  
Wednesday, March 17, 2010  
at 5:30 p.m.;  
bring food to share.

## Vestry Notes

February 17, 2010.

- **Treasurer's Report.** Jake Thomas reviewed the financial statement. Pledges do not include three that were pre-paid in 2009. The rector's pension is on a quarterly plan and will be reflected in March.
- **Buildings and Grounds.** John Snow asked that anyone having any pertinent issues to please inform him.
- **Youth Update.** Judy Willey reported that the meal program has been ongoing for two months, although not many youth have taken advantage of it. The counselors have been able to identify several homeless youths. St. Peter's will be providing meals for March 1-3. Glenn mentioned the youth event at the Snow Bowl next week sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance.
- **Mutual Ministry Review.** Glenn reported that the interview notes had not yet been completed and compiled; he hoped that they would be ready for the retreat. Glenn explained that the purpose of the review is to take the temperature of the parish; it is not intended to be an assessment or evaluation. Tom Putnam asked that the list of four questions being asked of a sample of parishioners be mailed out to the new wardens and members of the vestry.
- **Vestry Retreat.** At the request of David Grima, future vestry meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. It was decided to have the retreat at the next scheduled vestry meeting and to have a potluck dinner.
- **Haiti Project.** Glenn reported that he had asked Peter Jenks for the name of someone who could speak about St. John Baptist's Haiti Project, which is a long-term commitment supporting a school. Deborah McKean was in charge of the project and she has spoken at St. Peter's in the past about Haiti. She will be asked to give a sermon at both Sunday services in the near future. Vestry members contributed numerous suggestions about possible projects but no decision was made about a specific initiative or whether to collaborate with other parishes. There was discussion about separating earthquake relief from ongoing mission needs in Haiti. Money has been collected at Billy's Thursday concerts and the ECW raised \$400 at the Pancake Luncheon. It was voted to donate funds raised to date for Haiti to ERD.
- **New Business.** A plan is being developed to clean out the clutter accumulating in various parts of the church. Parishioners will be notified so if they have specific information about items, appropriate action can be taken before anything is discarded. The vestry approved removing the lilac bush to allow more space for the trash dumpsters and parking and tidy up that area. A request from the Kitchen Committee for 2 cabinets (by the prep sink and by the microwave) was approved. Funds are available in the budget in the building repairs line. Tom Putnam will attend the March 11th meeting planned to develop a model of parish collaboration.



Dear brothers and sisters,

## From the Rector

**H**enri Nouwen, in his book *Reaching Out*, writes, “In our world full of strangers, estranged from their past, culture and country, from their neighbors, friends and family, from their deepest self and their God, we witness a painful search for a hospitable place where life can be lived without fear and where community can be found.” Being hospitable both as individuals and as a community is an important part of carrying out the mission of Jesus. So, in a real sense, the sign above the door going out of the church which says “welcome to the mission field” is only half true. The mission field is also *in the church*, at meetings, at worship, in the many different ways we serve the community in which we live. *The mission is not only “out there” it is “in here” as well, in our minds, in our message and in our interactions with each other.*

The Church is called to be a place and a people of sanctuary. The church is where the stranger in our midst can be refreshed so they have an opportunity to pause and reflect on their journey. The church is where a person can gather strength to begin another week of a life full of challenges. God is the one who gives us strength in several different ways: through our communion with Jesus lived out in our relationships with one another and our mutual commitment of prayer and support. We are participating in the Holy (*sanctus*) every time we express peace with one another. It has been my experience at St. Peter’s that we don’t take this for granted as we shake another person’s hand or embrace each other in Eucharist and say “the peace of the Lord be with you.” In being makers of peace, we are participating in the Holy One, who created us all and who loves and cares for each of us implicitly.

When we use the word peace we are referring to the Hebrew understanding of *shalom*. This word doesn’t refer to détente, is closer akin to “wholeness between God and one another.” If we are in *shalom*, we not only cease to present a danger to each other, we recognize that we are related to one another, we are brother and sister to all in this world and in the world to come. We often end the liturgy with the words “go in peace to love and serve the Lord” in fulfillment of our baptismal vows. We go out of the liturgy at one with the Creator, and through the creator, at one with the creation as well, as St. Francis would remind us in his prayer to brother sun and sister moon and all that God has created in life.

Jesus called his disciples to be *peace-makers*. To do this, we begin with the realities each of us has inside ourselves. What prejudices do we carry and where do they come from? What separates us from one another? How do we open our own hearts to one another and the world around us, so we can become more the person God created us to be and build the community God wants to build?

Acceptance of one another, not to mention love of one another, is a daunting task. This is why we do this as a community, not as mere individuals. We encourage one another, question one another, and discuss possibilities with one another. How we accomplish the task is up to each of us to figure out, taking into consideration our own insights and abilities. Yet, looking at such questions are the communal challenges of Lent. Thank God that in Lent there is always hope as we see the days grow longer, the weather grow warmer and the earth begin its resurrection into spring. As part of the God’s creation, we too can rejoice in the miraculous transformation of resurrection.

May God give us strength and hope on the journey,  
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  
Thom Buescher, 354.0608  
Tom Putnam, 594.2994  
John Snow, 596.6025, Junior Warden  
Micki Colquhoun, cell. 592.5992, Treasurer  
Linda Ames Mann, Clerk

### **Vestry members**

Stephen Alley, Mary Alice Bird, Jim Bowditch,  
David Grima, Ellie Hutchinson, Billy Smith,  
Marilyn Smith, Jude Thomas, and Judy Willey

### **THE ROCK**

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**You are welcome to contribute to our next newsletter.**

Submission deadline is noon Monday, March 22, 2010

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Return Service Requested

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# THE ROCK



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