

MAY 2010

THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

“Light Festival” An Easter Banner at St. Peter's

“Light Festival,” a seven-foot banner, was installed in the narthex of St. Peter's Church in Rockland on Easter Sunday. The piece was made by artists, John Bisignano and Annie Mahoney, both parishioners and frequent visitors to Central America which inspired the work.

Roman Catholic churches in Central America are fearless in creating displays. Neon light messages, brilliant, even gaudily costumed statues of saints and non-traditional banners of unexpected materials are common.

For their banner which represents the multi-layered meaning of spring, the vernal equinox, the Jewish Festival of Lights and the Christian resurrection, the artists strung small banners of fabric, mirrors, beads and feathers onto a large laddered frame.



New Traveling Communion Set Dedicated to Fern Spring on Easter

On Easter Sunday, a new Communion Set was dedicated in memory of Fern Spring. This kit will be used by Fr. Glenn and Lay Eucharistic Visitors, licensed to take Communion to the sick and shut ins of the Parish. The older kit was getting quite worn after well over 50 years of service.



The replacement of the Communion kit was the brainchild of Rhonda Hart and others joined her in helping to raise the funds for the purchase. The communion set is in a mahogany case and contains a gold lined chalice, a silver paten, a host box, crystal cruet and a tray for linens and stole. A plaque on the inside reads: “In Loving Memory of Fern Spring.”

Lucia Elder, receives the Communion Set on Sunday, May 2nd from Glenn Mahaffey. As a Lay Eucharistic Minister she will take communion this week to Judy Wiley. Rhonda Hart, head of the Altar Guild will maintain the set with the help of other members of the guild.

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

She seeks to work with people who are examining the roots of their spiritual life, looking for balance.

Gallery of The Spirit

ABOUT THIS CHILD

Several years ago my sister made this drawing for me while visiting Maine. She borrowed lilies from my garden and medallions from my jewelry box. Then she adorned the child with elaborate robes, and a crown and halo simply for her own enjoyment, it seems. It is typical of her work as a life-long professional artist.

Although the drawing presents many symbols, such as lilies, the cross-like medallion and the starfish, as well as an archetypal transcendent Infant, she did not choose to give it a title. So we are left to wonder. Who is this Child? What is the relationship between us?

I find myself asking these questions often and still have no answers, yet am drawn to examine all the details. I see wisdom and serenity. Natural beauty and something that can't be named. I am fascinated while being provoked out of my comfort zone.

As the sister of the artist, there is also the dynamic of our relationship—our long knowing of each other's secrets, sorrows and triumphs. The places where our spiritual journeys converge and the places where they diverge. Yet, after eight decades of loving sisterhood, we still surprise and delight one another like this.

For me, this drawing is both a joy in itself, and a reminder of the rich blessing of my sister.

Dorothy Nyman



The Anchor Society

At both services on Sunday, May 2nd, Jim Bowditch delivered the sermon bringing the discussion of the Anchor Society from last month's Rock to the congregation with ties to Scripture and his personal experience in planning his last gifts. Marilyn Smith and John Bird also spoke, eloquently and from the heart, about what had moved them to make plans for a gift to St. Peter's through the Anchor Society.

Below are John's comments.

A few years ago Mary Alice and I revised our wills with the help of our attorney. The subject of charitable bequests came up, which got the three of us talking about how institutions we care about have been blessed by the gifts of others.

This led Mary Alice and me to reflect on the St. Peter's capital campaign of a few years ago that led to all of the new and renewed spaces that have been such a blessing to our parish and to the many community groups that use our facilities. Raising the money to complete that project presented a formidable challenge. St. Peter's had never raised \$750,000 at one time in its history. Many people shared in our success, but perhaps the one person most responsible for meeting our goal was Halsey T. Adams, a man none of us in the parish ever knew, but whose bequest to the church turned into the single largest gift in our campaign, \$150,000.

The logical next step for us was to figure out how we could leave some money to our Church and a few other organizations while also providing support to our three children and their families. Our attorney, a giving person himself, helped us find a way to accomplish both objectives.

Mary Alice and I are thankful that through our bequests we will be able to invest in the future beyond our lifetime. And as we contemplate how important communities of faith are to our society, it makes us even more grateful and blessed to help St. Peter's in this way. That is why we are honored to be members of the Anchor Society.

John and Mary Alice Bird

Wednesday 7:00 AM Eucharist

Every Wednesday morning at 7:00 AM a small group gathers in the chapel at St. Peter's for a contemplative Eucharist. We actually start with the ringing of the bell at 6:55.

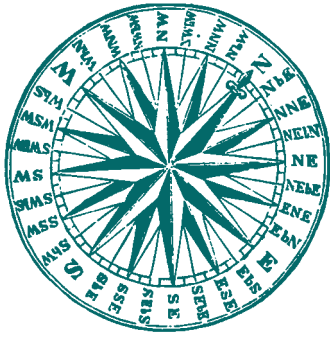
The service is a combination of readings, periods of silence and Taize chants concluding with Holy Eucharist based on the Iona liturgy. The service is usually over by 7:40 and some of the group often gathers for breakfast before moving on with the day.

It is a great way to start a Wednesday morning!

Lee Karker



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



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

Going, Going....soon to be gone!

Remember back in 2002 during the renovations, when the fire inspector told the Junior Warden that certain parts of our building were hazardous? One was the old back stair way to the undercroft. That was closed off and we passed inspection but the choir loft needed to go. We didn't have to do it immediately but we could no longer use it. Not that we have had a choir there for who knows how long, but occasionally we used it for overflow seating. John Snow and others are tackling the choir loft now too, along with the other projects to get our space in better order. The work is truly behind the scene—behind the wall and the old staircase. Advice has been sought from architect Chris Glass and others. When the walls to the old sacristy come down in a few weeks, we will have an open area between the sanctuary and the chapel. Many people have offered interesting ideas as to what this space could be used for, including a place for young children during the service, a site for a columbarium, or even an extension of the chapel. The Vestry agreed that we will live with the open space for a time as we ponder the next permanent step.



Plaster dust and wires in the old sacristy.

**1 CAN, 1 BOX, 1 JAR,
1 BOX OF DETERGENT/
TISSUE/BABY FOOD.**

**Anything else you can think
of—it all helps.**

**Just keep up the great work
you all are doing!**

AIO Food Pantry Still Needs You

I wish to say a big THANK YOU to those who help fill the red cart in the Narthex. It has been almost full to the top the past few weeks. It amazes me how fast the food supply at the Food Pantry diminishes. When Richard McKusic, Sr and I go to the Food Pantry on Saturday morning to clean, accept the donations of fresh foods, to weigh and put food in the refrigerator and freezer, the volume seems huge and yet the shelves go empty so fast due to the number of new people coming. Thank You goes to our Faith Community for their huge support in this much needed endeavor. Everywhere one turns there is a Food Pantry. It too is getting more and more clients in need. How can we as Christians continue to see our fellow men and women and children go hungry in this great country of ours? We must continue to help.

In Christ,
Love and prayers
Mary E. Hunter

Welcoming Bread Elves Exposed

Seven years ago a small group of bread bakers began the tradition of greeting visitors, newcomers and members who have been away for a while with a small loaf of homemade bread. The idea came from Marty Rogers who was greeted and welcomed at Calvary Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh, PA with a loaf of bread. She was attending her brother's church following the memorial service for her sister-in-law. She says, "Not only was I welcomed but I felt the love of that parish for me as well as for my brother. It was a very special moment for me. My own parish family had made me feel truly welcome and I thought that we at St. Peter's could also give this tangible sign of welcome to our visitors."

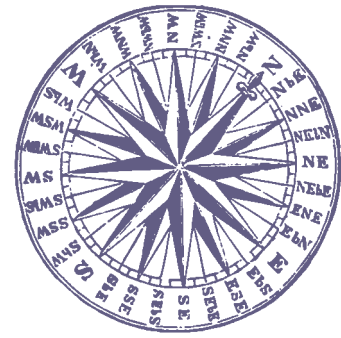
Over the years the following people have been faithful bread bakers: Jim Bowditch, Thom Buescher, Deborah Oliver, Ted and Jo Panyatoff, Vicky Lesmerises, Nelda McClellan, Amy Wilton, Gayle Curtis, Ellie Hutchinson, Marty Rogers, Bruce Davis, Linda Peterson, Marilyn Smith, Pam McGinnity and Langley Willauer. Chris McLarty designed our bread tags and the welcome card. Some people have moved away, gone back to school or become over committed with other jobs.

But bread making is an easy, peaceful, and meditative ministry. We all prepare the bread in our own way with our own favorite recipes. The bread is warm, soft and fragrant—delicious too! The six current bread-makers (Jim, Thom, Ellie, Marty, Gayle, & Marilyn) don't have a heavy burden—just a few hours once every six weeks. We would love to have you join this ministry! Please contact Marty Rogers at 236-8922 if you are interested.

Missing Pew a Good Thing

On one side of the nave we have three "unscented pews" especially for people who are sensitive to fragrances and now on the other side we have a "missing pew." So what's the story? Well, just one pew was removed and placed in the narthex (for now at least). Voila! Look at the new space! Baptisms around the font can now accommodate whole families! Someone in a wheelchair will have space to turn around and a baby stroller fits next to the rocking chair for parents with a little baby. The rocking chair next to the font is an interesting symbol of new life and elderly life, both next to the rock-solid message of baptism. In clearing out the old sacristy under the choir loft we also found a small altar or retable, once used somewhere in the church, which fits very well next to the font to provide a place for the ewer, chrism, shell and candle for a baptism. This retable is just one example of the reuse or cleaning out of many items which have been gathering dust in our closets for years.

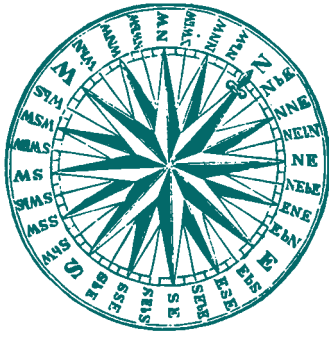
What will we think of next to make people feel welcome and "at home" at St. Peter's?



WAYPOINTS
*activities and
notices on our
journey together*



Naomi and Heavenly enjoy the comfort of a rocking chair in this "new" space.



WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together

Upcoming events in May and June

May 16th at 10:30 a Youth Service to honor our Sunday School

May 23rd, Pentecost, a Parish Picnic will follow the 10:30 service. Bring chips and a dish to pass.

June 6th, we will be welcoming Deborah McKean and John Arrison at the 8 & 10:30 services as well as the Adult Forum. They will give a presentation on Haiti and discuss the possibility a joint project between St. Peter's and St. John Baptist, Thomaston.

June 13th we change to Summer Hours. The second service will begin at 10 am.

Newcomers Party June 13th. Mark your calendar now and save the date! Sunday afternoon! Everyone is invited!



New Kitchen Cupboard

Our Junior Warden has been hard at work and the results are showing all around. A new double cupboard has been installed over the prep sink in the kitchen. What an improvement! All the spices, flour, sugar, oil and the rest of the stuff that used to be on the counter is now neatly stored and the counter can actually be used for prep space! THANKS, JOHN!

We have a group of people (Joanne Murphy, Steve Alley, Marty Rogers and Chris McLarty) working on the kitchen to assist in keeping it clean and in good repair for church activities as well as the ministry of Loaves and Fishes. Please also take note of the floor in the parish hall, cleaned and waxed thanks to John Snow and Rocky Judecki!

Editor's Absence

Many people in Maine go away in the winter or mud season. Some, strangely, go away in summer. Even more strangely these particular folks are sailors—leaving some of the best cruising ground in the world. That's us—Paul and Marty Rogers. We crossed the Atlantic in our sailboat in 2004 with Asger Bagge, and our son Chris and his friend Bryant. For the next five summers, we sailed in Northern Europe during May, June and July. In 2009 we stayed on the Maine coast while we addressed health concerns. Now this year we are able to return. We will be gone from May 17th to about August 14th. The Rock will be in good hands with Deborah Oliver filling in. Please send your material to her at her email: abinitio@midcoast.com. As much in advance as possible will help Deborah, Chris and Ferris.

The next Rock deadline will be Monday, June 7th. As usual there is no July issue. The deadline for the September issue will be August 23rd.

Thank you all and especially thank you Deborah, Chris and Ferris.

Marty Rogers

Dear brothers and sisters,

Last month in my letter in the Rock, I encouraged you all to provide some feedback about how you viewed the importance of various programs in the Diocese. In their quest for information, the Diocese had us fill out an on-line questionnaire, as well as sending a number of questions to the Parishes, asking for our responses. Questions such as “describe a story of the Church at its best and describe what some ministries may look like in the future.” One of the questions was “what are the mission priorities of the church?” As you might imagine, this drew a number of varying responses from members of our Adult Forum as well as the Vestry. Yet, one response was particularly insightful, perhaps because it is so foundational. I think it was David Grima who said in one of our discussions that the mission priority (or business) of the church is to teach the Gospel as a means of reconciling God and human beings.

The purpose, business or mission of the church is to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this is the bedrock of every thing we do as a “church”. We teach “through the skin” that Jesus taught us to feed the hungry by serving at Loaves and Fishes. We teach the command of Jesus to “love one another” as we minister to those who are ill or provide assistance or counsel to those who are struggling to manage the challenges of life. As Mary Alice Bird pointed out, we must not forget that we are a witness to God in a secular world. With all this in mind, first and foremost, the business of the church is to teach. We teach children, we teach adults, we teach those who have never heard the stories of our faith, and we teach those who may know the basics but are hungry for more in-depth knowledge.

With the flooding of the undercroft six weeks ago, it came to my attention how important this mission of teaching the gospel is, and how casually we often address it. Let me back up a bit for those who have not heard the story of the spring flooding. During one of the major rains a month or so ago, we had an issue with water seepage in the basement, which saturated the carpet in the larger Sunday school room. The carpet had to be removed due to the odor which was infiltrating the rest of the building as mold began to grow. We had to move our Sunday school classes on Sunday morning into the parlor and parish hall until the end of the school year.

The Sunday school being upstairs instead of in the undercroft has posed some challenges and the teachers have worked hard at managing the transition. In a letter from one of the Sunday school classes, they asked when they would be able to return to their classroom because they felt dislocated from their customary space. I understand how they feel; just think if we were to have to worship in the parish hall instead of the church. I’m quite sure the Vestry and I would be hearing some commentary from the congregation!

As I visited the Sunday school classes last Sunday while Jim Bowditch was preaching at 10:30, I recognized how few resources we really use to educate our children. We don’t hold this ministry up as one of the most important things we can do as the church, giving our children a foundation in the faith. Knowing that the early years are the most formative times in a child’s life is the very reason we have Sunday school for even the smallest of children rather than “child care” or simply babysitting. How quickly very young children absorb information around them that is a foundation they rely on the rest of their lives: where and with whom they feel comfortable, music that soothes them or excites them, stories they just “grow up with” and are a part of their lives.

Sunday school for kids is important. If we want to minister to young families, it is a necessity. How can we give education the attention it deserves? Perhaps first and foremost, we see how education is the purpose



GLENN MAHAFFEY

Continued on page 8

for the church's existence. What we see as important can be seen in our budget and in the energy and time we use to find and encourage people who have a passion for working with kids. I commend Kirsten Staples and Naomi Mahaffey this year, who have led the classes with the help of other volunteers and parents: Elizabeth and Joe Biddle; Eve Hupper; Laura Hunt; Amy Wilton and Lyn Snow. We will be ending the year with a Youth service at 10:30 on May 16 and a Pentecost cookout following the 10:30 service on May 23rd. I hope everyone will attend and show their appreciation for the work the teachers and kids have done this year. I also hope when the fall comes around and we talk about education, people will remember to volunteer their time, effort and money to see that this foundational piece of our mission as a church is met.

Kids are only one part of the mission of education, later this year we will also honor some members who have been doing some serious study through EFM. This summer I will also begin a class preparing people for confirmation, which is open not only to those who want to join the church and be confirmed when the Bishop visits, but also to anyone who is already confirmed who wants a "refresher" course to learn about the Episcopal Church as we now exist in 2010.

I look forward to seeing you in Church and in classes!
Glenn+

Vestry Minutes

■ **Treasurer's Report.** The March financial report was approved.

■ **Building and Grounds.** John Snow reported that one kitchen cabinet had been installed and two more would be installed shortly. The lilac bushes affecting the trash collection have been removed. Gail Curtis has suggested that another lilac bush by the chapel also be removed. John will ask her for a suggested replacement. The floor in the parish hall has been cleaned and waxed. The rug in the undercroft was removed after a flood in that part of the Undercroft. There is a problem with glue residue. John will try using a floor sander at Steve Alley's suggestion. If this does not work, we will need to get estimates from a professional. The choir loft removal is proceeding. John needs to next talk with the fire and security people.

■ **Mutual Ministry Review.** Thom Buescher provided a hand-out on the next steps identified to proceed in the four areas of attracting newcomers; valuing the St. Peter's experience; strengthening ministry and health, and giving/sustaining our "life." Thom asked if the parish commissions should be involved in looking at some of these issues. Jude Thomas mentioned getting newcomers involved in church activities. Mary Alice Bird noted that we must be sensitive to the differences among people. Judy Willey suggested listing new members in the bulletin. Tom Putnam discussed having a packet of information to hand out to newcomers. Thom emphasized that there were two issues — welcoming newcomers and attracting newcomers. John mentioned improving the website by adding sermons; Mary Alice suggested adding brief clips. Glenn noted that there are 18 new "units" (single people and families) in the parish in the past 12 months. The new directory is completed and will be printed and distributed.

Vestry Minutes

**The next meeting of the vestry is
Wednesday, May 19, 2010
at 5:30 pm.**

■ **Diocesan Questions.** Glenn asked who from the vestry would like to attend the meeting on May 2 to be held at St. Thomas'. The intent is for leaders of the parish to go. David Grima, Thom, and Glenn will attend; also, Glenn will e-mail the Diocesan delegates to find out if any of them are interested in attending. The topic under discussion is mission and strategy. Some responses came from the last Adult Forum. Examples include everything beyond the sanctuary, teach the Gospel, love neighbors, build ourselves, love God, witness to Gospel in secular world, good news to people who cannot do for themselves. Other ideas discussed included the organizations that use our facilities, the workplace, Rock City Coffee Shop, etc.

■ **Parish Commissions.** Glenn said that each vestry member should serve on at least one commission. Mary Alice volunteered to serve as liaison to those currently involved in outreach. Thom asked that preferences for commissions be e-mailed to him or Tom, with a copy to Glenn. Jude said that she was interested in looking into having a Pastoral Care and Eucharistic Visitor commission. Midge Welch also expressed an interest, but noted that her job limits how much she can participate. Jude will talk to the persons currently involved in this work. The ad hoc kitchen committee (Steve Alley, Joanne Murphy, Chris McLarty, and Marty Rogers) has been working on improving the kitchen. David noted that the Loaves and Fishes program has a system for handling the food on the shelving.

■ **Canons on Ministry.** Glenn distributed folders to each vestry member of copies of Title III on Ministry. He suggested that members pay particular attention to the sections on Aspirant for Diaconate and Postulate for the Priesthood. Sheila Seekins will be addressing the vestry at the next meeting. The vestry voted to support her ministry.

■ **Eliza Steele Day.** Glenn asked if anyone were interested in participating in the planning for the block party to be held June 12. Marilyn Smith volunteered, and Steve Alley also expressed an interest.

■ **Filling of Elizabeth Biddle's Unexpired Vestry Term.** Glenn noted that there were two years left in her term and that the vestry can appoint a replacement. Thom suggested putting an announcement in the Sunday bulletin and asking for recommendations to be e-mailed. The requirements for serving on the vestry include being a member of the parish for one year, being baptized, and being a pledging member.

■ **Rector's Report.** Glenn announced that Ferris Donoso would be leaving in June to take a full-time job. If anyone knows of any candidates for parish secretary, please let him know. This is a part-time job (15 hours a week) paying \$12 an hour. Vestry members suggested that the job description be updated and that the Employment Office be used. Glenn talked to Deborah McKean regarding the mission to Haiti; she recommended someone from Belfast to make a presentation to us.

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, Marilyn Smith,
Jude Thomas, Midge Welch, and Judy Willey

THE ROCK

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You are welcome to contribute to our next newsletter.

Submission deadline is noon Monday, June 7, 2010
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