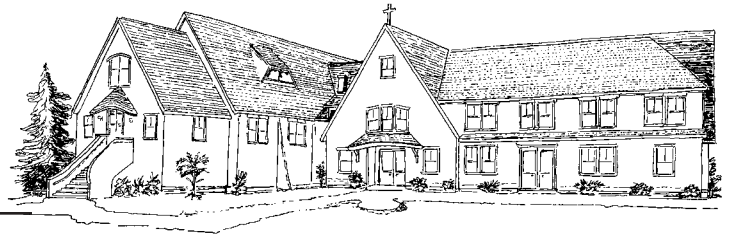


SEPTEMBER 2009

THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Episcopal General Convention tackles poverty, budget, sexuality issues

The Episcopal Church, proud of its history and determined in its methods, gathered for the 76th time in General Convention in Anaheim, CA, from July 8 to 17, and spoke with a clear voice.

Leading from opening addresses from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson, about 1,100 clergy and lay deputies and alternates and about 150 bishops focused on mission. They considered mission in a time of economic scarcity, mission to all the baptized, mission to the “least” among us.

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams visited for two days and engaged with a wide range of Episcopalians, from leaders to kids in a local church program.

As in recent conventions, this gathering addressed questions of human sexuality. While the interpretation and effects of its decision are varied, convention unambiguously stated that gay and lesbian people may be called to ordination at all levels. It also said that God’s call to ordination is a mystery that the church discerns through the process outlined in its Constitution and Canons.

The resolution also reaffirmed the Episcopal Church’s participation in the Anglican Communion, while noting that the communion and the Episcopal Church are not of one mind on this matter.

The convention acknowledged that times are changing, with same-gender marriage, civil unions and domestic partnerships legal or about to become legal in some states, and authorized the church to collect and develop resources for blessing same-gender couples.

It acknowledged economic reality by passing a budget that reflected lower givings by dioceses, hit with financial woes of their own. The decision resulted in the lay off of about 30 people out of a staff of 180 in New York and regional offices.

The budget did, however, recommit the church to the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals for social progress by reinstating a budget line for the work that supports Episcopal Relief and Development’s program partnership called NetsforLife®. It supplies insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria.

It also endorsed and provided money—though about 10 percent of what was requested—for a strategic vision aimed at evangelizing in fast-growing Hispanic/Latino communities.

The convention encouraged the art of storytelling, scheduling three “mission conversation” sessions during which people learned to tell their personal stories of faith in ways that call others to action.

As Christian churches continue to reach out to each other in this age of ecumenism, General Convention approved the expansion or affirmation of relationships with Moravians, Presbyterians, United Methodists, African Methodists and others.

As always, convention encompassed much more than legislation. The host diocese, Los Angeles, started building a habitat for humanity house at the convention site. It hosted a multimedia “emergent church” service and a U2charist featuring the music of rock groups U2. The Exhibit hall, with its varied and colorful booths featuring books, vestments, jewelry, carvings and a wide range of ministries, became a bazaar, a meeting place and a crossroads.

Perhaps the most vibrant parts of convention involved young people. Los Angeles hosted a lively children’s program for parents working long hours. Older counterparts, from teenagers to young adults, were seen on the floor of convention speaking to the issues, advocating for peace and justice and getting comfortable with leadership roles.

Let’s hope they were inspired enough to be back in three years, when the 77th General Convention meets in Indianapolis and again decides how this church will address its faith and its time.

— Solange De Santis for *Episcopal Life*

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

Our Changing Church

When I was growing up in the Episcopal Church, women were in the background. My brother served as an acolyte. I did not. I did sing in the choir and I attended youth group meetings, but aside from altar guild work, women were prohibited from any contact with holy things.

I don't recall that I wondered much about it; girls lived in a separate universe and most of the things boys were allowed to do were forbidden to us. The things the boys were doing always looked like more fun. I dropped out of Girl Scouts because the Boy Scouts were going on winter camping trips while all we ever did was work on badges for first aid and sewing.

Things began to change in the early 1970's. I was living in Erie, Pennsylvania then with my husband and my two daughters and we attended St. Paul's Cathedral. We knew they were working on a new prayer book because we were using a green book called *Services for Trial Use*. Some people complained about the bishop because he preached against the war in Vietnam. All the priests were men; all the readers were men, all the ushers were men. Men were in charge and women served at church suppers and ran the annual church fair.

We were in church every Sunday. I liked Dean Murray, partly because he spent his August vacations in Maine and when he returned in September I could count on some good Maine stories in his sermons. A friend and I decided we would like to serve on the vestry; the man we approached about it was aghast at the thought, partly because we were women and partly because we were young. Serve the church faithfully for 20 years or so, he advised us, and maybe then we could be consid-

ered for such a responsible post.

But things were changing. I looked at the pictures of the eleven women ordained in Philadelphia and wondered how they came to do such a brave and audacious thing. Then a few women were allowed to read the lessons at St. Paul's. I decided to try. Terrified to stand up in front of all those people, nevertheless, I did. A few years later at another Episcopal church in Erie, there were women serving the chalice. One of them became a good friend. When she left that ministry to study for a Ph.D., I was privileged to take her place in the rotation. We had the new prayer book now and the chalice bearers led the prayers of the people. New music was being used at services. A friend who played the guitar led the singing at one of the local Catholic Churches which had a folk mass every Sunday.

Erie was heavily Catholic and much of the ferment going on in the religious community was led by the Catholic sisters – the Benedictine sisters, the sisters of Mercy and the sisters of St. Joseph. Many Episcopalians worked with the sisters on various ministries in the city, helping out at the soup kitchen, volunteering at the shelter for battered women, etc. Women in and out of the church were finding new ways to be in the world.

In 1981, with my mother and my two daughters I moved back to Maine. We attended St. John's at first but soon settled in at St. Peter's. When people asked me what I wanted to do, I said I wanted to serve the chalice. Oh, women can't do that here, they said. Women were doing some other things though. Women began to read lessons and serve as ushers. But no woman served at the altar.

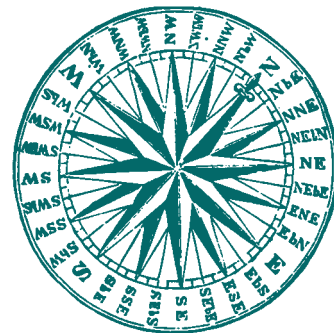
When Jim Nutter came, several of us spoke to him of our desire to serve the chalice. It took a while, but eventually three of us were licensed – Lucia Elder, Joanne Murphy, and me. They said I could be first to serve because I had been waiting the longest. We always made sure that there was a woman and a man serving together so that if someone did not want to receive from a woman, they could go to the side where the man was serving. Some people did not want to receive from any chalice bearer, male or female. They believed that only the priest should be serving communion.

Since I have been at St. Peter's we used to have a group of energetic boys who served faithfully as acolytes. But when these boys grew up and moved on with their lives, there were no vol-

unteers to replace them. A group of middle aged women volunteered and were trained as acolytes. To me this was a real gift for I was now able to do something that only the boys could do in my childhood.

Our group of acolytes and chalice bearers, women and men, is dedicated and enthusiastic, but small, not to mention aging. We need others to join us in this ministry. For those of us who serve, it is a great privilege. We invite others to come and join us.

— Midge Welch



New Pre-school program at St Peter's

Something new and exciting for St. Peter's congregation, we are planning a pre-school program to be housed in our church! The program will collaborate with the Toy Library, sharing equipment and referring children to each program.

Your local early childhood disabilities program, Child Development Services, has need of classroom space for children in the Rockland area so we requested at a Vestry Meeting to rent space at the church for a developmental pre-school program. Contained in the proposal was a description of the program and the service it will provide for children 3-5 years old. Some of the particulars are that it will operate Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the morning and offer learning opportunities for twelve children, some of whom have a disability. There will be a ratio of three staff for twelve children. Assisting the teachers part of the time will be an occupational or speech therapist. This classroom is being designed to focus on communication, motor, cognitive, adaptive and social/emotional skills in a play based environment. The classroom curriculum will include the use of indoor and outdoor space; the parlor and the new town playground afford a rich opportunity as a teaching environment. After the presentation and a rich discussion the Rector, Wardens and Vestry members agreed to the request.

The Child Development Services program is funded by Federal and State disability grants and we were able to apply for the President's stimulus money to fund the pre-school program. The grant has been approved by the Maine Department of Education so we can go forward with having the space inspected by DHHS child care licensing. A scheduled site visit for July 15th by DHHS will begin the licensing process. CDS is responsible for any cost incurred including insurance for the staff to operate in the church building.

CDS continues to meet with Fr. Glenn as we iron out details of this project. Our current task is to create a Memo of Understanding between St. Peter's and Child Development Services. The MOU will delineate who is responsible for what and guide us when questions arise. If you have any thoughts or questions please contact me or Fr. Glenn, we want you to have complete understanding of what is happening at your church.

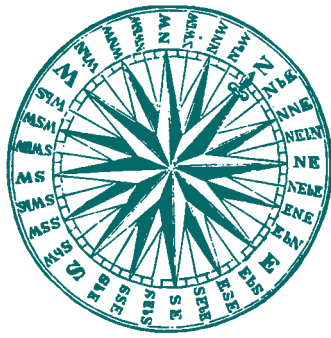
Jude Thomas

Executive Director, Child Development Services

WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together



Summer Time Ends
The second service
will return to its usual
time of 10:30 a.m.
on Sunday,
September 13th.



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

Education for Ministry

In September, St. Peter's will again be offering the Education for Ministry program. The aim is to help us to deepen our faith with knowledge of scripture, history and theology, coupled with theological reflection. It is to help us integrate our faith into how we live out our lives.

This year the group wished to meet at 2:30 on Sunday afternoon, and it worked well—but next year may see us move back to an early evening slot—depending on when the group can be there.

There are two mentors for the group: Jim Bowditch will be one, and Joanne Ryan (from St. Thomas') will be the other.

What has made this group a particularly rich experience this year is what people have brought to it, since we all seem to bring along what we've been doing and thinking to where we are at present. This year we had people with the following backgrounds: An Episcopalian with a Roman Catholic background; a Roman Catholic whose father was an Episcopal priest; a Congregationalist who came from Baptist and Roman Catholic roots; an Episcopalian who grew up Congregationalist and has a daughter who is a priest; an Episcopalian who has spent time in the Baptist, Lutheran and Methodist traditions, and an Episcopalian who came from a Plymouth Brethren background.

The pattern of the meetings are a theological reflection followed by a study of scripture, history or theology, depending on what year the participant is in. This year will follow theological reflection in paradoxes we face where we are perhaps called to do two separate things (and there is time for only one). At present, two of our folk are will be in year three, and three will be in year one. We agree to be a part of it one year at a time, and there are four years to cover. Some people do it without a break, others take a year off between years. Still others stop after one or two years.

Among those who have been in it and who could describe it are any of the mentors, John Bird, Vicki Lesmerises, Mickie McKeever, David Grima, Ann Snow, Lucia Elder, Chris McLarty (a former mentor at St. John Baptist), Midge Welch (a former mentor at St. Peter's), Marilyn Smith, Jane Chatfield, John Chatfield, Patt Algrant, Doug Curtis, Ollie Elliott, Don Hunt, Dorothy Nyman, Jude Thomas, Bruce Davis, George Jones, Doug Mayer, John Arrison & Judith Carter.

In short, one might describe EFM as polishing the lens of our faith so that we might live our lives as God, through his son, Jesus, would have us lead it.

— Jim Bowditch

Le Petit Noel St. Peter's Christmas Fair

Help brainstorm a date and details for the Christmas Fair. Sunday, September 13th, immediately following the second service, there will be a meeting in the Vestry Room to set a date for the Christmas Fair and discuss details. Please join the group if you have thoughts or are willing and able to assist with the planning of this special event.

*Many thanks,
Mary Alice Bird*

Musical Thoughts

Recently, our little regular “church quartet” (Lucia Elder, Billy Smith, and John and myself) met with Father Glenn to schedule our part of the music at St. Peter’s and to brainstorm ways to bring others into this ministry. In doing so, we recognize that “everyone enjoys special music” during a service, but that many people don’t have the inclination (for a variety of good reasons) to make a regular commitment to Sunday service singing. We know – for we have tried to recruit many of you to join us. At same time, we are not always available to sing on every Sunday (John and I are a good example, as we seem to be traveling more to visit our children and grandchildren).

But with so many talented musicians in our midst, we think there must be a way “to involve more people in our music ministry. And so, we have come up with the following “musical thoughts” – namely, to schedule short periods of particular music and invite those unable to make a long-term commitment to join us for these “special times.” And also, to work with Father Glenn and Bob Earle to encourage others to “organize their own talents” for other Sundays.

So, if any of the following music interests you, plan to join us at 9:15 a.m. on the scheduled Sundays. And together, we will rehearse the music to be shared in the service. Sunday mornings will be our only rehearsal time. Our aim is not to present a concert, but humbly to offer praise and thanks to God through singing.

Sundays, September 6, 13, and 20: contemporary Cursillo and Praise Music

Sundays, October 11 and 18: Music our Bishop has brought to the Diocese from the Lambeth Conference.

Sundays, December 6, 13, 20, and 27 (also Christmas services) : Advent and Christmas music from the Episcopal Hymnal 1982.

All other Sundays through December 2009: Individual music coordinated through Father Glenn. If you play an instrument, are a soloist, or part of a musical group that would enjoy sharing music– please contact Father Glenn. And if Father Glenn or one of us contacts you, we hope you will say “yes.”

It is often said that music is the language of the soul. How unfortunate, then, if we do not give ourselves permission to use this language – whether we sing with the voice of an angel or that of a small child. God will transform our offerings into the “beauty of holiness” so please join us in this ministry (and if you have questions, please speak with any one or all of us!)

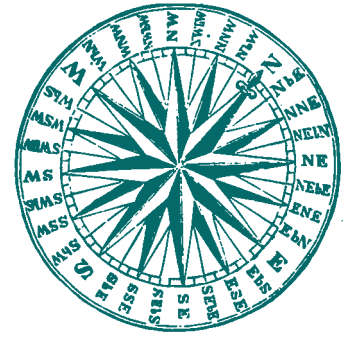
*Mary Alice Bird for the Choir Group:
Lucia Elder, Billy Smith, John and Mary Alice Bird.*

United Thank Offering

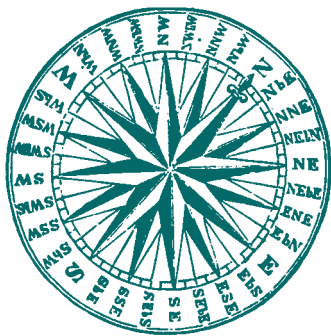
Every day we are constantly reminded of the blessings we share. Family, friends, clean air and water, smiles from a stranger, hugs from a loved one. Big blessings and little gifts come our way every day. We just have to notice.

Pass that gratitude on to those less fortunate, by counting your blessings with coins of thanks in your little blue UTO box.

Ellie Hutchinson, Parish UTO Coordinator



WAYPOINTS
*activities and
notices on our
journey together*



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

Congregational Meeting on September 20th after the 10:30 service to discuss St. Peter's participation in teen program

When the teen shelter closed last year, there was concern about providing safe overnight shelter for homeless teenagers in Rockland. A group of people interested in working on the overall outreach to youth on the streets formed and called itself YOCAT (Youth Oriented Community Action Team). One of the interests in this overall group was providing overnight shelter for homeless teens, which led to the development of a plan by Jack Carpenter called KITS (Knox Interfaith Teen Safe Havens). Jack contacted all of the local churches and asked for support to house homeless teenagers for one night in area churches.

As fall approaches, KITS is asking for serious commitments as to what nights churches might be available for housing homeless teenagers. If we choose to be a part of this ministry, the only nights that St. Peter's does not have 12-step groups meeting are Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays. The Vestry discussed this plan at their last meeting and chose to involve more members of the congregation in this discussion, since it would require a significant pool of volunteers to make the plan work.

The overall plan is for the Trekkers (a teen ministry in Knox County) bus to pick up any homeless teens at a location in Rockland and Thomaston every evening at 5:30 pm and transport them to the host shelter church for the night.

A host church would then provide dinner and a separate area for girls and boys to sleep. Each guest would sleep on air mattresses with bag sheets, pillow and blanket (which would be transported on the Trekker's bus).

Each evening the host shelter would provide one volunteer host church coordinator, who would represent the host church by overseeing church volunteers and having a list of people to call if there were any building issues. In addition to this volunteer coordinator, the host shelter would need other volunteers in the evening to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- check teens in
- make sure the teen's belongings are locked up
- provide dinner
- interact with teens until lights out at 10 pm

Volunteers would also be needed in the morning to:

- get teens up in morning and on the bus by 7:30 am
- provide a simple breakfast.
- See that the linens and towels from the prior night are taken to the laundry, washed and delivered to the next evening's site.

The church volunteers will work with two hired KITS staff, who work regularly with this teen population, who will be staying all night to supervise the teens between 5:30pm and 7:30am. On occasion, a host Church may be asked to provide one volunteer to stay all night to spell a staff person on a 3-4 hour wakeful watch. All volunteers would need to have a background screening and go through a two hour training prior to serving.

This plan would require up to four volunteers per night in addition to the paid KITS staff. Please discuss it among yourselves and with members of the Vestry, the Wardens, or Fr. Glenn. Think about if you would volunteer, how often and for what and please be realistic! We will have a brief congregational meeting after the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 20th, to discuss our thoughts on this ministry.

Since we will be having a congregational meeting to discuss this, the Vestry also wanted to take the opportunity to introduce a motion regarding vestry members serving concurrent terms, which will be made at the Annual Meeting in January to bring the Church Constitution and Bylaws into conformity with each other.

Vestry Notes

Editor's Note: Partly because The Rock has been on summer vacation, we have four meetings of the Vestry to report. Instead of giving you a condensed view of these important operations at St. Peter's, you have each month's report. I hope this gives you a clear understanding not only of the sequence of events but also the faithful dedication of our Vestry members as they oversee all the activities of the Parish.

MLR

May Vestry Meeting

- **Treasurer's Report.** Micki Colquhoun reported that the church's financial statement indicates that we are ahead on income (because of the bequest) and on expenses and that by the end of the year, it should all work out.
- **Buildings and Grounds.** Doug Curtis reported that the basement is drying up and that it has been sealed on the outside. He also discussed the dumpster, which uses up parking space; Doug will talk to the trash collector regarding substituting two trash cans for the dumpster and he will check into prices for trash cans. We may need to remove or trim the lilac bushes near the end of the parish hall. Glenn said that he had checked into an ignition for the stove and that we would need to obtain bids.
- **Celebrations.** Glenn asked if this should be a line item in the budget. Glenn offered thanks to the many parishioners who had helped with the "Celebration of New Ministry", including Marty and Paul Rogers, JoAnne Murphy, Jude Thomas, Chris McLarty, Steve Alley, Doree Fisher, Gail and Jim Curtis, Liz Hunt, Gretchen Lane, and Judy Willey. Suggestions were discussed as to how to improve events like this in the future: introduction of visiting clergy, preparation of participants, information to the congregation and housekeeping tasks. The block party for the new playground is planned for June. Glenn still does not have a specific date, but he does have the interest of the Recreation Center and the Library. JoAnne Murphy offered to help, as well as Judy Willey, John Chatfield, and Doug Curtis.
- **Proposal for Child Development Services (CDS) program.** Jude Thomas, who is the executive director of CDS, provided the proposal and a pamphlet. CDS serves children 3-5 years of age with special needs in Knox County, including the islands. CDS needs additional classroom space, starting in the fall. The proposal is for using the parlor and parish hall on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. There would be 12 children, eight with disabilities and four with normal development. The proposed monthly rent for St. Peter's is \$250. If a scheduling conflict arises, e.g. the Shrove Tuesday pancake luncheon, the school can be closed for the day. Glenn said that we would need a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Charles Packard asked about insurance coverage; Jude said that CDS would take care of this. A motion to proceed with the MOU was approved.
- **Youth Ministries.** Judy Willey announced that the first youth gathering will take place on May 31, and would include food and movies. Youth from St. Thomas and St. John Baptist are invited. Eve Hupper is helping Judy. Judy hopes to plan another event for the summer. Glenn and Judy have been attending meetings of a task force which is discussing the needs of youth that gather in this area. They expressed some level of frustration with how this task force is proceeding. Charles Packard mentioned that he had looked into free tutoring. Elizabeth Biddle wondered about securing a planning grant.
- **Old Sacristy/Choir Loft.** Glenn led the vestry on a tour of this area. After consultation with Chris Glass, Glen is proposing to take out the ceiling and walls to the left of the altar. This room is currently used for storage. Glenn has asked for an estimate from the company that installed the sprinkler system. We also would need estimates for the electrical work. A motion to pursue getting this information was approved.
- **Rector's Report.** Glenn said that he has some demographic information gathered for looking at the congregation twenty years from now. The Evangelism and Stewardship Committees are working on updating the parish directory. Glenn will be on a retreat on the third Wednesday of June.

June Vestry Meeting

- **Treasurer's Report.** Glenn reviewed the May 31, 2009 financial statement. The numbers under Employer Taxes will be reviewed. Glenn discussed a proposal from Pen Bay Oil to provide the church with oil for \$7,000 for the year or \$2.49/gallon monthly. A motion was approved to allow the wardens and the Treasurer to sign a monthly contract. St. Peter's uses telephone and related services from three different companies; Glenn found one who agreed to provide all services for \$200 monthly—a savings.
- **Buildings and Grounds.** Doug Curtis reported that the trash removal company had sent us four trash cans in place of the dumpster. We could save an additional \$4/month 1 or 2 fewer trash cans. Glenn has discussed the ignition for the stove with David Grima, who said that Loaves and Fishes might be able to cover the cost. The basement was still water-free. Steve Alley has cleaned up the space near the trash cans and trimmed the lilac bushes. In respect to the old sacristy walls, we are still waiting for an estimate from the sprinkler company. The vestry will review a definite plan for the old sacristy, after Glenn speaks with to John Snow, Steve Alley, Rhonda Hart, and others.

■ **Block Party.** Glenn said that the probable date for the opening of the playground is June 27. The Recreation Center will provide food. He noted that the wrought iron fence had not yet been installed.

■ **Update on Proposal for Child Development Services (CDS) program.** Jude Thomas has put in for a grant for stimulus money for staff and equipment. She has interviewed a candidate for teacher. Glenn met with a member of Jude's staff and they are working on a memorandum of understanding; an insurance certificate has been provided by CDS. We need a current fire inspection certificate; however, some work must be done first, including a magnet in a door and a crash door for the old church entrance. Jude has started the licensure process with the State. She will prepare an article related to the program for the Rock. Glenn noted that the proposed monthly rent was in line with parish guidelines.

■ **Youth Ministries.** Glenn reported that the May youth event did not take place, since there was no response from St. John Baptist or St. Thomas churches. Judy Willey is still hoping to have a summer event. He also said that Judy had brought up the problem of no community planning for program or staff at the last youth taskforce meeting at the library. St. Peter's will not allow use of our facilities until a plan and budget is developed and is approved by our vestry. Glenn noted that teenagers are not hanging out here as much as in the past; the Rockland police are checking on the playground. The library is closing its youth program. The next meeting of the taskforce is at St. Peter's.

■ **By-Laws and Constitution.** John Chatfield handed out conflicting paragraphs from the by-laws and the constitution, related to service on the Vestry. Briefly, the by-law allows for a second consecutive three-year term on the vestry, whereas the constitution requires a one-year interval between terms. John will draw up new language for the constitution to allow for consecutive terms; he will coordinate this with Elizabeth Biddle. The change would need to be approved at the next annual meeting. Glenn will check on whether we actually need separate by-laws and a constitution.

■ **Diocesan Convention.** The delegates will be Jim Bowditch, Jim Curtis, Lucia Elder, Marilyn Smith, and Midge Welch. The alternates will be Doug Curtis, Sr., Billy Smith, Joanne Smith, and Jude Thomas.

■ **Ordinands.** Sheila Seekins was approved for Postulancy; we will continue to contribute towards her educational expenses. Malcolm Brooks was not approved. The vestry continues its support of him.

July Vestry Meeting

■ **Prayer.** Glenn asked for prayers from the vestry for Elizabeth Biddle who has been diagnosed with cancer and will be taking a leave of absence from some of her responsibilities, including the children's education program.

■ **Treasurer's Report.** Micki Colquhoun reported that if Forward with Faith and music funds can be used, then she projects that we will need to only use \$5000 from the Endowment for this fiscal year. The music fund has \$9000; a motion was made and approved that the remainder of Bob Earle's salary (approximately \$5000) for 2009 be paid using this fund. Micki said that the endowments have risen in value since the end of 2008. Paul Rogers is considering changing how we invest, e.g. moving more into bonds, for next year. P. G. Willey Oil is offering \$2.25 a gallon with a budget plan, which is 24 cents a gallon cheaper than Pen Bay Oil; we will accept the Willey offer. Micki has found a CPA who will conduct the annual audit for \$300, which she has offered to pay.

■ **Buildings and Grounds.** Doug Curtis reported that Pine Tree Waste has been contacted regarding reducing the number of trash cans. The State program that provides Angie Egan has offered the services of another person. Glenn will meet with the State HHS person to discuss. Judy Willey stated that she knew the person being offered. Glenn thanked Doug for supervising and for taking care of the paperwork. Glenn also mentioned that he was dividing the responsibilities that Jim Bowditch had taken on as head swabber in order to find parishioners to assist with the work. JoAnne Murphy has talked to a local school custodian about maintenance of the parish hall floor; he recommended a firm outside Augusta. The firm may also sell us a used scrubber for about \$500. Glen is expecting the estimate for moving the pipes in the old sacristy tomorrow. The next step are a building permit and removal of furniture. Glenn reported that the telephones and DSL lines had been converted; the cost should now be about \$200 a month, rather than the higher amount we had been paying.

■ **Block Party.** Glenn reported that there is still no date for the opening of the playground. A new bench and tree need to be installed.

■ **Update on Proposal for Child Development Services (CDS) program.** CDS checked out the building today. We finished our part of the Memorandum of Understanding and sent it to CDS. Jude Thomas has hired a teacher and everything seems to be on track.

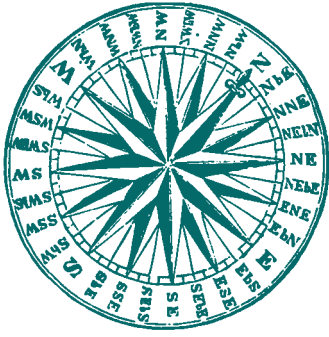
■ **Youth Ministries.** Judy Willey reported that two persons have volunteered to work at the Library's Teen Scene so that it can re-open in August. Anyone volunteering from the parish would be paired with an experienced person. Hopefully, success at the library will be a precursor to opening a drop-in center. She has notified St. John Baptist and St. Thomas of the opportunity to volunteer. Judy has also notified them of the children's food program at the South School. Glenn noted that Judy should be commended for getting the community youth program moving. Judy announced that a teen get-together was scheduled for August 9, with a cook-out and movie. She has invited the other two Episcopal churches and may involve other local churches. She will call youth from our parish.

- **Letter from Sheila Seekins.** Sheila requested \$200 towards ordination process costs (full cost is \$400), including a psychological evaluation and a background check. The vestry voted approval. The source of funds to support this and the \$1200 for coursework could be the endowment fund or through a special theological Sunday. This will be reviewed with Paul Rogers, Mac Deford, or Jake Thomas. Glenn will schedule a Theological Sunday for the fall.
- **Open Conversation.** Glenn has met with the choir regarding music for the fall. He is also working on Christian Education, including weekdays and special events, perhaps quarterly, which would be open to the community, on such topics as health care, arts and religion.

August Vestry Meeting

- **Treasurer's Report.** Micki Colquhoun reported that the budget was in good shape and that the endowment had increased approximately \$25,000 from the end of 2008. The audit will be completed by the end of September. In the future, the cost of telephones should go down. Micki also suggested looking into the amount charged for service to the elevator.
- **Buildings and Grounds.** Glenn said that the used floor machine and supplies had been purchased. There are new towel dispensers in the bathrooms and all the supplies will come from a single company. He also noted that the sprinkler lines in the old sacristy will not need to be moved and that he and Steve Alley will work on the choir loft systematically.
- **By-Laws and Constitution.** John Chatfield handed out copies of each. He proposed a rewritten Article 5 for the Constitution, which will bring it in line with the By-Laws in respect to eligibility for a consecutive three-year term on the Vestry. The Vestry approved the revised Article 5 for presentation to the Parish.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Child Development Services (CDS) program.** Jude Thomas handed out the proposed MOU, which was approved by the Vestry. Jude said that drop-off for the children will be on the White Street side of the Church.
- **Youth Ministries.** Judy Willey reported that four persons from the church have volunteered to work at the library's teen scene so that hours can be extended. The volunteers will not be partnered with others; they will work alone. This will be tried for a month. Training and background checks must be completed. The youth group meeting did not take place; there was insufficient interest. Judy has talked to Peter Jenks who said that he is trying to organize a group to climb Mount Battie. YOCAT (Youth Oriented Community Action Team) is working on a mission statement. Judy also discussed a program to keep at-risk teens in their homes. She passed out a proposal from YOCAT regarding churches providing shelter for homeless teens in the colder months. It involves up to six adult volunteers to supervise teens and providing two meals. Prior to an open discussion with the Parish, the proposal will be published in The Rock and/or the Sunday Bulletin.
- **Fall Plans.** Glenn mentioned several possibilities for the children's education, including what we have had for the past few years with parent volunteers, having a combination of teaching in the Church Service with a related activity in the undercroft, or trying an after-school program. Glenn also discussed ideas for adult forums for the community; one related to the effect of PTSD on families. He also mentioned the possibility of involving our seven retired clergy in topics in which they have special interest or expertise.
- **Warden/Vestry Nominations.** John distributed a list of possible candidates drawn up by the Wardens; he asked for additional suggestions which can be e-mailed to him at jschat@worldnet.att.net. Three people are needed for the nominating committee. Marty Rogers is willing to serve.
- **Open Conversation.** Jude discussed planning for the Thanksgiving Dinner. JoAnne Murphy suggested a committee be formed of those with experience with these dinners and that the committee come back to the Vestry with recommendations. A question also came up regarding potential precautions for the H1N1 flu virus. Glenn raised the possibility of separate Communion cups; other suggestions involved bowing, rather than shaking hands at the Peace, and making hand sanitizers readily available. The meeting ended with prayers for family and friends.

The next meeting of the vestry is Wednesday, September 16, 2009.



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

Be a Part of the Block Party to Celebrate the Opening of the New Rockland Playground

When the Vestry held its retreat in February to work on what directions the Parish would take in the coming year, one of the ideas was to be a part of the life of the larger community of Rockland.

From that goal came the idea to pursue the idea of joining together St. Peter's, Rockland Recreation Center, Library and the Knox Home to have a block party for the dedication and opening of the new playground next to the Church.

Several dates have been proposed for this event but work was not yet complete. City officials and leaders at the Recreational Center have now decided that the best time to celebrate will be next June, 2010 after the major renovations to the Recreational Center have been completed.

All of the groups are enthusiastic about having a celebration together. Having a tent with music, food, and some fun activities on the day of dedication are all ideas that are in the works. Stay tuned...it will be an even grander celebration.

The AIO Food Pantry Update

Hello Church Family;

With so many out of work and the economy as it is, the Area Interfaith Outreach Food Pantry, has seen quite a few days with empty shelves. This is due partly because more people are showing up needing help, not only for food, but for food vouchers. The Pantry ladies are able to give out vouchers to those who are eligible to receive them according to established guidelines. We also are receiving fresh fruits/veggies and packaged goods that can be heated up in a microwave, if one has one, or on the stove. All this good food comes in on Saturday morning. Dick McKusic, Sr. and I arrive at the Food Pantry around 9:00 am to be ready to accept it from Steve Alley and his Elves from the Methodist Conference Home. We sort it and put in freezer or refrigerator. The Pantry is also receiving fresh fish when it is available through the Methodist Conference Home, and some of it is given out to those who arrive at the Pantry on Monday.

I wish to say a huge thank you to all who donate to the red cart in the Narthex or give me cash donations which I turn over to the Pantry. All of it makes a huge difference and is so very important to many members of our community.

*Much love in Christ,
Mary E. Hunter*

A letter from Valerie Wells in New York

Hi, Mary Alice. I saw a senior citizen group perform yesterday. They are called the Life Long Theatre Troupe and they were wonderful. The performance place was the Community Room of the Ithaca Public Library. The room was packed. Apparently these ladies had been seen before and have a following. They first did some theatre exercises for warm-up and invited the audience to take part if they wanted to. Then they each did a story based on their own lives to the emphasis and sound effects of the group. It was all very inspiring and empowering. I am not attending school, yet, but am, instead, planning to start work soon. My loan didn't come through for the first semester so that set me back for the year. However, I am no longer heartbroken but am looking forward to this next year. Already I am connecting with theatre camp for the Summer and teaching assistance and after school programming for the Winter. I just took a Civil Service test this morning and I can't believe I thought it was fun. I miss Maine and all of you very much. Take care. I did get the news about Fern which, of course, makes me quite sad. . . . Take care.

Valerie

Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter's,

From the Rector

When the Normans conquered Britain, one of the ways that they changed the direction of English culture was to build their stone churches on top of the Celtic churches, which were normally constructed with wood. The Normans knew that architecture had a profound bearing on how people saw their world and their role in that world.

In both the Roman and Episcopal churches, one of the major changes which took place at roughly the same time was a change in architecture. We remember during the era of the "new" prayer book, altars were moved out from the walls. Under Vatican II, some Roman churches which had been built to showcase the sanctuary and altar at one end of the church, ended up in the "round" as an altar was brought to the center of the nave. One of the major points of this architectural change was to move the focal point from the Priest praying on behalf of the people, to the mass taking place in the midst of the people. The Eucharist was not just the work of the priest but was the work of the whole faith community gathered. In many churches the Baptismal font was also moved near a main entrance to the nave, so that people were reminded that through their baptism, they were fully initiated into Christ's body and called to be ministers in Jesus' name.



Another profound change in both the Roman and Episcopal traditions revolved around language and the liturgy. The Roman tradition went from Latin to the vernacular of the people, making what was being done much more understandable to the people in the pew. In the Episcopal Church, not only was there now an option to use current English in addition to the formal language which became known as Rite I, but an even larger change took place in the interactive participation between Priest and congregation. It was not just the Priest who read the lessons, lead prayers and served the sacrament, these ministries were shared by non-ordained ministers as well.

These changes in architecture and liturgy changed our theology, emphasizing the importance of the community gathered rather than just a Priest being present. This "new" configuration resembled the church in the first century, prior to the evolution of theology which put such emphasis on hierarchical ordained ministry. The church is still trying to live into these changes and live out the belief that "ministry" is the role of every baptized member and not solely the role of "ordained" ministers.

We haven't "arrived", but we have come a long way! More and more of the non-ordained people of God are hearing the Spirit of God calling them to use a gift they have been given and to fulfill a ministry they have a passion for: a ministry of serving food at Loaves and Fishes or cooking food for someone who is ill, a ministry to coordinate a schedule or serve in cleaning the church. A ministry of reading a lesson on Sunday morning, or working with Sunday School, or sharing a talent in music in church on a Sunday morning or at the nursing home on a Sunday afternoon or performing a concert on a Tuesday afternoon to make people more aware of a cause like teenage homelessness. A ministry of visiting the sick or praying as part of a group or as an individual, or even sharing in an educational endeavor.

Changes in architecture, language and liturgy, point us toward seeing ourselves as a living church which God has formed, with gifts God has given to do ministry as God leads us. It seems to me that the direction God gives us comes out of the intersection between the needs in the struggles of the world around us, the needs within our family of faith, the gifts God has made evident in our community of faith, and the passion in us that is created by the call to live out the Gospel message.

The only thing that we need as a church to be alive and relevant is willingness. When we are willing to take seriously the vows of our baptism, the church and priest become partners in ministry, with both the priest and the people each having their own particular strengths and responsibilities. Each must be willing to share what God has given them in an effort to live into our Lord's prayer, that the kingdom of God may come as a reality on earth as it is in heaven.

I am reminded of Annie's play this past summer. There are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit that inspires each one. There are a variety of services but the same Lord. The scripture does not say that only one person is called to be the teacher, pastor, prophet, and worker; instead, some are called to one ministry and some are called to another ministry. The church is a team effort, not simply hiring a pro to do the work. Annie's play was also very accurate in pointing out that I am a prisoner of hope. How silly and naive of me to think that people would be moved by the Spirit of God to be willing to offer their time, energy, expertise, money and passion to do ministry, without being forced or brow beat into doing it! Silly as it may seem, I am a prisoner of hope and believe that God will bring us to understand and will motivate us to be the community we are called to be, fulfilling our ministries together to the glory of God. We are one part of a much larger mosaic, what is our role? May God grant us grace and empower us to be willing ministers of our Lord, Jesus Christ. See you in Church!

Glenn+

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 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Summer)
10:30 AM beginning September 13th
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

Elizabeth Biddle, Jim Bowditch, Ellie Hutchinson,
Charles Packard, 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.
Submission deadline is noon Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009
Mailing Date for this issue: Monday, August 31, 2009



**Remember Fall hours begin September 13th.
The second service will begin 30 minutes later—
at 10:30 a.m.**

Return Service Requested

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