

NOVEMBER 2008

THE ROCK

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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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
Valerie Wells, Coordinator of Children's Ministries
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, Ferolyn Curtis, Jim Curtis,
Spencer Hurtt, Ellie Hutchinson, Thomas McBride, Marge
Roberts, Billy Smith, Pat Snow, Jude Thomas, Midge Welch

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St. Peter's Evangelism Commission
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Please e-mail submissions to Marty @ mlr@midcoast.com
You are welcome to contribute material for our next newsletter;
submission deadline is noon Tuesday, November 25.
Mailing Date for this issue: Monday November 3

WAYPOINTS

activities and notices on our journey together

The Diocesan Convention

By Jim Bowditch

The 189th Diocese of Maine convention took place in Bangor on October 24 and 25, 2008. It marked the new episcopate of the Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane as the diocesan bishop. Sitting at round tables at the Bangor Civic Center, the convention heard the bishop discuss his entry into the diocese as an occasion in which he really felt cared for, from finding people to keep his home in good repair, new health care professionals—and the round of parties that marked his succession from the Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen.

Early in the bishop's address, there was a call for some strategic planning for our life together as a diocese, and he indicated that he would be setting up some groups to help with pieces of strategic planning. He continued on with a discussion about the Lambeth Conference, and said what was significant was that the "blow-up of the Anglican Communion" didn't happen, and there were mixed views about the wisdom of an Anglican covenant and continued work on the Windsor report. Any "covenant" was perceived to be disrespectful of local decision making. The most significant positive outcome were the Bible studies—one hour and a half each day for 16 days with very mixed groups called Indaba groups after a particular form of Bible study in Africa. The Indaba groups were a "wonderful" conversation as each bishop came to better understand others' contexts—and what "drove" other bishops to take the positions they did. Bishops came to terms with their positions, Canada was not happy about being lumped with the United States—their challenge is about relevance. In short, the Lambeth Conference was a rich experience that created some space for all of the participants.

The legislative portion of the convention saw the budgets being passed without dissent, as were the new guidelines for clergy compensation and lay compensation. The diocesan assessment percentage went down fractionally from 16.90% to 16.85%. What was more likely to drive changes in assessment were the 2007 normal operating income of each individual congregation.

Virtually all of the elections for people running for office were uncontested, something that Bishop Lane remarked that he would like to see some "life" come into the elections. Two other resolutions that passed make the first Sunday in Lent, Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday; and second, that elections for episcopal offices (bishops) be nondiscriminatory—allowing for anyone in good standing as a priest to be elected, without regard to sexual orientation.

And then there were the other fun parts; the dinner for missionary activities of the Diocesan Youth Group, put on by the Youth Group, one of the best events surrounding convention; the Cathedral Shop where various religious items can be purchased, and the Bangor Theological Seminary bookstore, as well as countless other groups presenting their ministries to the convention members.

Your delegates this year were Sheila Seekins, Midge Welch, Lucia Elder, Marilyn Smith, and Jim Bowditch. Glenn Mahaffey+, our new rector, attended with us and kept us all in good humor. It was a very good convention.

Elijah Elder Hupper: Eagle Scout in the Making

Jake Thomas introduced Elijah's project to the congregation on Sunday October 26. Elijah doesn't need much introduction—he's the one in the choir who keeps getting taller! As part of the project he must submit to his Boy Scout leaders, he will be organizing the Community Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by St. Peter's. This is his first appeal for volunteers:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER!!

The date: Thursday, November 27

Please sign up for helping to work in the kitchen, serving, setting up tables, and donating food and/or money.

Sign-up sheets will be posted in the parish hall, or call Elijah at 691-2851.

Thank you for your support! It's going to be great!

Deep and Abiding Thanks

By Ted Kanellakis

Dear Ones at St. Peter's,

I want to express my deep and heartfelt thanks for the kindnesses you all showed in so many meaningful and profound ways to me, as I served as your pastor during the interim period, and to my wife Susan. I thank God for your loving support.

All that love and caring came to a wonderful high point as you prepared a party for us on Sunday, October 19 in the parish hall. We were surrounded by your sweet embraces and words of caring, from the children to venerable parishioners. We were fed with delicious food and given generous gifts besides what you gave to our hearts, joy. As I said at that time, we are deeply blessed to be members of St. Peter's and to have you all as our fellow servants on our journey. We love you all.

I am so grateful for our lives as I return to my place in the congregation and am able to worship beside Susan and among you all, our loving fellow parishioners. We are overjoyed to have Glenn as our wonderful new rector and pastor and his dear wife Naomi, to continue our journey together in Christ, at St. Peter's, to the Glory of God.

I can only say; Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen.

Contributions to the Food Pantry

By Mary Hunter

A big thanks to everyone who brought foodstuffs to be delivered to the food pantry by Linda Mann. She has graciously been doing this delivery for quite some time now. I can't express my thanks to her enough. I do appreciate it very much. With things getting rougher as time goes on in our economy food and extra things will be hard to come by so the food pantry will be needed in an increasing way by more people.

I want to add my personal welcome to our new rector, Glenn, and his wife, Naomi. It is another added part of our parish life. I am anxious to meet them, and to have Ted and Susan sitting in our pews among us again. We are soooooo lucky to have such wonderful priests with us.

First Day on the Job!

By Marty and Paul Rogers

Glenn's first day at work as St. Peter's new rector was Monday, October 20, and he indeed jumped right in! Paul was in day surgery at PenBay Hospital that morning and Glenn was there with support, love, and prayers. This was Glenn's first visit to PenBay, although I did drive him around the hospital campus when he and Naomi came for their visit to Rockland the last week of August. As Paul begins treatment for bladder cancer, we want to tell you how appreciative we are of *your* prayers, support, and love. As Glenn said in his sermon on October 26, he came to St. Peter's because of the love in our parish. We are truly feeling that and thank you all. And thank you, Glenn!

First-Responder Support

By Ted Kanellakis

We know what first responders are. We think of them as police, fire, and emergency medical personnel who are the first to be notified of emergencies, to which they respond before anyone else. I would suggest to you an additional first responder.

At St. Peter's the first to be notified of emergency needs and problems from the community is our rector, either directly, or as is often the case through notification by our parish secretary. His response usually requires assistance of a monetary nature. It is often for food, clothing, lodging or heating fuel. These emergency needs are addressed through St. Peter's Rector's Discretionary Fund.

As we know this fund is supported by contributions. The loose offering (that not designated as pledges or not otherwise identifiable) from the collection on the first Sunday of each month. Also through donations to St. Peter's Episcopal Church, specifically designated or checks with memos marked "Rector's Discretionary Fund." These can be sent at any time or put in the regular collection, not only on the first, but any Sunday.

Having served at St. Peter's as interim pastor, I personally know how important that fund is for offering emergency assistance to those who have dire needs. It is a wonderful way for parishioners to help the needy in the community through Christ's ministry at St. Peter's. I have witnessed the joy expressed by those helped in this way.

I also know how hard it is to have to say to someone in need, that we are unable to help, since the need is greater than the assistance available.

Grateful beyond words to those who have and continue to regularly support this most important outreach ministry, administered through our rector, I appeal to you for your support, assured of their concurrence.

As suggesting a way of doing this, Susan and I have decided to both increase our pledge this year, and have made a commitment to additionally offer regular support to the Rector's Discretionary Fund at St. Peter's. I ask you to join us, so that our "first responder," our rector, Glenn, may offer the love and caring help of our parishioners in tangible ways to those who call for help. I know you will respond generously to this call.

Stewardship News

The fall stewardship program at St. Peter's began on October 19. Jim Bowditch's sermon and a delightful clown pantomime act by Vicky Lesmerises inspired us to think about how we are truly blessed by all God has given us. Pledge packets were distributed after the service and mailed to those not in attendance. The following Sunday, October 26, we welcomed our new rector, Reverend Glenn Mahaffey and his wife, Naomi. It was a glorious occasion. November 2 is our celebration of All Saints Sunday with remembrances of those who are no longer with us.

Sunday, November 9, marks the ingathering of pledges for 2009. On that day we celebrate the financial commitments made by members and friends of St. Peter's. The St. Peter's Players, under the direction of Annie Mahoney will present a stewardship drama at both services.

Your financial support is vital to the ministry of St. Peter's and enables us to carry out God's work in our parish and community and beyond. Please prayerfully consider your pledge. Pledge cards may be placed in the offering during Sunday services or mailed to the church office. The timely return of your pledge card will help our parish leaders in their planning of the budget for 2009.

We are also grateful to all who give generously of their time and talent in support of our parish. These gifts are evident in so many areas: our worship services, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and shut-ins, the cleaning, painting and maintenance of our building and grounds, those who work with our children and youth, adult education, hospitality and the offering of prayers for all who are in need of our care and the many other important tasks that are needed for our church. As you plan for the coming year, please consider not only your monetary contributions but also what other gifts you can offer St. Peter's.

Thank you for your generosity!

Liz Hunt, Stewardship Chair

September Vestry Meeting

By Linda Ames Mann

Report from Evangelism Commission. Thom Buescher reported on disseminating introductory information on our new rector, Glenn Mahaffey, via the website and the *Courier*, and distributing fuller information shortly before Glenn arrives. He will start working here on October 20. He and his wife, Naomi, will be renting the parsonage at Aldersgate Methodist.

Report from Stewardship Commission. Jim Bowditch reported that updated information on pledges will be mailed to parishioners soon.

Transition Committee. The Committee will introduce Glenn to area clergy, the hospital, to the police chief, and the fire chief. Other suggestions are being sought. A series of small dinner parties to introduce Glenn and Naomi is being considered.

Treasurer's Report. Micki Colquhoun reported on the draft letter of agreement with Glenn Mahaffey. Other content discussed. Pledge income is coming in slowly.

Discernment Committee. Jude Thomas reported that the committee had notified the parish of the selection of Glenn Mahaffey and that the committee had celebrated its success with a dinner at Amalfi's.

Open Conversation. Website updates will be referred to the Evangelism Commission. Ted+ suggested having the Sunday bulletin placed on the website.

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

Editor's Note: Minutes of the October 15 meeting of the vestry were not ready by press time.

The Pebble

for the Sunday-schoolers

From Elizabeth Biddle

Ghosts and Ghouls Meet Saints and Souls

A Story of Halloween and All Saint's Day

While children roam the streets in costumes demanding treats or tricks and their parents anxiously monitor the bags of sugar coming back to their houses, the international and multi-cultural significance of the back to back celebrations of Halloween and All Saints Day and All Souls Day is often lost on us. This year as we sort and trade and candy over the days following the Big Night, we can all enjoy and entertain with stories of the ancient rites and traditions.

The term *Halloween* is shortened from *All Hallows' Even*, as it is the eve of All Hallows' Day, now also known as All Saints' Day. It was a day of religious festivities in various Northern European Pagan traditions, until Popes Gregory III and Gregory IV moved the old Christian feast of All Saint's Day from May 13 to November 1. November 2 used to be All Souls' Day, but in the Anglican Church the festival has been combined with All Saints' Day. All Saints and All Souls Days were special days set aside for commemoration of the dead. In the many cultural and religious celebrations of these traditions, the souls of the living and the dead mingle on earth.

Halloween is very popular in Ireland, where it originated, and is known as Samhain Night. An agricultural festival at the end of the harvest season, large communal bonfires would be lit on Samhain to ward off evil spirits of dead who were revisiting the earth. Halloween was the night that the division between the living and the other world was blurred so spirits of the dead and inhabitants of the underworld were able to walk free on earth. To blend in with the spirits was important, and the custom of dressing as spirits or otherworldly creature was born. Children began going door to door requesting fruit and nuts for the festival.

In Europe, on All Soul's Eve, families stayed up late, and ate little "soul cakes." At the stroke of midnight, there was a silence in the household, lit with many candles, to guide the souls back to visit their earthly homes. In England at the beginning of the 20th century, children went door-to-door "souling," singing songs for cakes and honey.

Halloween did not become popular in the United States until the 19th century, after the Puritan tradition forbidding celebration of these days was eroded. Jack-o'-lanterns were originally carved from turnips or beets. Irish immigrants resorted to carving pumpkins in this country when they brought the festival across the ocean with them during the potato famine of 1845-49. Halloween has become an international festival largely because of the commercialization of the event in the United States.

Remember, when you are out mixing with the spirits of your dear departed ones this year, to wish them a pleasant return to our world and remember how much they have meant to you. Sing a souling song as variation on trick or treat and enjoy sharing your treats with your family in this world.

From Valerie Wells

We've run into a wall with our attempts at the Godly Play format for Sunday School. The preparation is very time consuming for our mutual busy lives. Hopefully, we can start it again at some future time. For the present, we will return to our former Sunday School format. The Christmas Eve programming is underway and promises to be as inspiring as the previous ones we've done. Of course, all volunteer help is gratefully accepted. If you can help, please call me or Elizabeth Biddle. Thank you.

Vestry Nominating Committee Begins Work

By John Chatfield

St. Peter's annual meeting is just a mere three months away—actually slightly less than that. With holidays between now and then, getting a head start on identifying and nominating new candidates for the vestry means beginning now. A committee is being formed and you will be hearing from us. Please do call me if you are interested in serving on the vestry or would like to be a delegate to next year's diocesan convention. If you would like to suggest someone, let me know that too and the committee will follow up.

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

A Look at the Effects of Domestic Violence

By Ellie Hutchinson

The gallery of the spirit has pictures and poems from those who may often be the silent victims of domestic violence. Children, living in a home where violence is perpetrated, suffer multiple effects, even when they are not the direct targets.

“It seems so dark and lonely when he is around, like a blanket is pulled over the world,” writes 14-year-old Megan.

Children living with domestic violence can suffer a wide range of effects, from failure to thrive, to failing grades, to making poor choices in their own relationships. Some carry the scars into adulthood in a variety of mental and emotional problems, which curtail or cripple attempts at happy, productive lives. The cost of this is immeasurable.

None of this makes the headlines or the opening clip on the evening news; only the worst possible outcomes receive attention. There have already been 24 homicides in Maine in 2008, 15 attributed to domestic (intimate partner) violence (source: Maine Department of Public Safety).

Domestic violence is an epidemic of fear, pain, and sadness affecting us all, directly or indirectly. No child should dread being home or feel fear for themselves or a parent. No 12-year-old should ever again write, as Sara did, “I always live in terror and fear. Sometimes the end feels very near.”

What will it take to stop the abuse? Each one of us needs to stand up and take a stand against violence in the home. We are a community of faith, with a mission of service; together we can make a difference. We have too. This is too important.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Shouldn't it be every day, every month?

From the Rector

By Glenn Mahaffey

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Change is in the air! The natural world around us reminds us that change is happening with the falling of the leaves. Advertisements remind us that a time of change is upon us in the form of an election. We are witnessing changes in the financial markets. Some people are facing the challenge of difficult changes in their health or relationships and others face changes in various personal circumstances in life. Changes produce anxiety and sometimes outright fear. How do we deal with fear? The First Epistle of John speaks to this as it states that "*perfect love casts out fear*" (I John 4:18).

The only *perfect love* I am aware of is God. How does God cast away fear? The answer may not be as startling as we might imagine. God certainly gives us the ability to acquire knowledge, to learn about the things we fear, taking away some of the mystery which fear often feeds on. God gives imagination and creativity, a part of God's own nature, to find answers to the things we fear. God gives us strength and encouragement, imbuing us with hope and courage to continue the journey of walking through the "*shadow of death.*"

God has the power to cast away fear, no doubt. Yet, in my experience God doesn't usually just take away the circumstances that create fear in us, so we can reestablish the predictability of our routines. Some like to believe that this is what a life of faith is about, used as "opiate" to say that the reality doesn't really exist or that we can hide from it until it goes away.

Yet, what do we do when the tools that God provides don't seem to be enough to meet the challenges which fear presents? In these circumstances, we remember the words of St. Paul that "*my [God's] grace is sufficient for you for power is made perfect in weakness*" (2 Corinthians 12:9). In those times of life when we are powerless, we need to take on the challenge to open ourselves to God in meditation and prayer and experience a relationship with the ultimate creator of all things, *perfect love*. This relationship with *perfect love* is an internal reality which the Spirit leads us to, following the example of Jesus. Meditation and prayer "*strengthens the inner human being*" so that we can accept those things we cannot change and we can use our courage, endurance, and skills to change the things we can.

Finally, God gives us a gift to deal with fear that is truly wondrous, the gift of one another, the Church. We do not have to be alone in our fears. We do not have to be alone in our struggles. We can share our lives and draw off others' strengths, faith, and insights. Grace upon grace abounds in God's kingdom of change!

God's peace be with us in all the seasons of change!

Glenn+

Don't worry: the "real" *Rock*, with Chris McLarty's skilled layout, will return next month!
