

CALL TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 30, 2005 10:00 AM

By this warrant, notice is given that St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Rockland, Maine, will meet for its Annual Parish Meeting following a 9:00 AM celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

1. To review reports of the parish ministry and mission in 2004;
2. To elect such Vestry members and officers as are needed;
3. To review and commit ourselves to the parish budget for 2005, as adopted and presented by the Vestry;
4. To treat such other business as may be appropriate and needed;
5. To pray that the Holy Spirit inspire, revive and direct all our doings as Christ's Body in this place at this time.

Child Care will be provided during the meeting. After the meeting we are invited to take our luncheon with the Loaves and Fishes community at 1:00 PM. (please make reservations through the parish office)

Sarah E. Reynolds, Clerk of the Parish

ADULT INQUIRERS' CLASS TO BEGIN IN JANUARY

—BUT WHEN???

Answering the call of several people for a regular group to learn more about the Episcopal Church, the Rector will initiate a series of weekly evening courses in January. This will be suitable for those new to the Episcopal Church and who desire to receive confirmation. It will also be fine for any who desire to refresh themselves in history, biblical study, theology and worship. There is only one problem: it is impossible to identify the perfect night of the week even for those who have indicated their desire. We'll have to make the hard choice during the first two weeks of January. If you are interested, please call the parish office with your choice—NOW.



Don't forget to come to the Annual Meeting!

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NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
White Street • P.O. Box 457 • Rockland, Maine 04841

THE ROCK





THE ROCK

NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

White Street • P.O. Box 457 • Rockland, Maine 04841 • 207-594-8191 • Fax: 207-594-7766

www.stpetersrockland.org

Vestry Nominating Committee at work

The Nominating Committee (Kay Brown, Thom Buescher, and Deborah Oliver) has been meeting since October and will be presenting the following slate at the 30 January 2005 Annual Parish Meeting:

Vestry (3-year terms): Kay Brown, Jim Curtis, Patricia Snow

Clerk: Sarah Reynolds (2-year term)
Diocesan Convention Delegates (Oct. 2005): John Bird, Thom Buescher, Marty Rogers, Billy Smith, Bruce Davis (alternate), Don Hunt (alternate), Liz Hunt (alternate), Sarah Reynolds (alternate)

Many thanks to these parishioners for saying "yes" to St. Peter's in this significant and tangible way. Although budget issues continue to be a concern, the 2005 vestry will also begin to develop plans concerning Ralph's retirement, which he has projected for 2007.

Despite the committee's efforts and a lot of prayer, notably missing from the current slate is the post of junior warden. If you are interested in putting forward your own name or someone else's, or would like more information about what being junior warden would entail, contact one of the committee members (Kay 594-5349; Thom 354-0608; Deborah 236-8503).



They whom we love
and lose
are no longer where
they were before.
They are now
wherever we are.

St. John Chrysostom

A "Comfortable Words" sympathy card. Contact Chris McLarty to order.

Le Petit Noel raises \$3,189 and many new friends

On December 11th St. Peter's was alive with people shopping for food, crafts, and gifts, posing for photos with family and Santa, and having breakfast with friends. Even Chico and the pony cart arrived with driver-elves Kim Peterson and Bridget Buck when the rain stopped and the skies cleared. The shopping was great and even better was the meeting and greeting of friends. The spirit and fellowship evident all morning made the whole place glow. Even more valuable than the \$3,000 raised by the event was the coming together and combined efforts on the part of so many.

Many thanks to the ECW, who reminded the rest of us to get the show on the road. They were ready with plans for a raffle and the creation of crafts. The rest revolved around an idea raised by Harold Van Lonkhuyzen. We took our basic Christmas fair to new levels by adding a new "polar department" to the baked-goods table; providing food labels to increase buyers' confidence; professional photographs; a kid- and family-friendly breakfast; and a corner for children to play games.

There are simply so many people to thank for the success of the day—really all of St. Peter's as well as the many friends of St. Peter's—that I would be offering apologies in next month's ROCK for missing someone if I dared try to list each person by name.

The real end of the event is how we put these resources to use for God's work in our community at St. Peter's and Rockland and the towns around us, and giving thanks for our ability and generosity to raise the funds and friends. On behalf of the Le Petit Noel

committee, THANK YOU all.

(If you have any feedback about Le Petit Noel, the committee wants to hear from you!) Marty Rogers, Chris McLarty, Deborah Oliver, Mary Alice Bird, Cindy Lucas, Amy Wilton, Isabel Polk, Liz Hunt, Linda and Kim Peterson, Bridget Buck, and Marilyn Smith

CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMISSION NEWS

Our committee continues to plan for both the adult forum and children's program. We have a small but diverse and committed committee, and would welcome new members who may have an interest in seeing these programs grow. They are critical to helping us and our church develop and mature. We extend our sincere thanks to Don Hunt for his work in organizing the recent bottle drive, to Sheila Seekins for organizing the End of Life series, and to Chris McLarty, Dorothy Nyman, Sarah Reynolds, and Lucia Elder for the participation in the Advent Bible studies. Thanks need to be given as well to Doree Fisher, Susan Lewis, and Bridget Buck for the delightful adult fora on celebrating Advent and Epiphany with children.



P E A C E .

It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.

Author unknown but available on "Comfortable Words" cards. Contact Chris McLarty to order.

**Art and Poetry by Billy Smith
at Art of Spirit Gallery in January**

We've been holding up the Rock to give you the details on this exhibit but you'll just have to see it for yourself. —Ed.

Historical Feature

MURAL PAINTINGS, ST. PETER'S CHURCH, ROCKLAND
*Reprinted from THE NORTH EAST, vol. 58, no. 1 (July-Aug. 1930),
Camden, Me. Reprinted with permission of the Diocese of Maine.*

The parish of St. Peter's is rejoicing over the fact that the first six of the Mural Paintings that surround the Altar have been put in place.

The Church itself is a quaint little place nestled in the middle of the town and yet withdrawn from the rush of traffic. The Church cannot boast of being of any particular style but was the work of an eminent architect, (Mr. Stamford [sic] White of New York and Philadelphia). Some have suggested that it reminds them of churches seen in Northern Sweden. The interior is done in rough timber and plaster, the wall and ceiling timbers showing. The Altar is a typical English Altar done in red and gold damask.

Mrs. Esther Brock Bird who painted the murals has had extensive training and is eminently fitted to undertake a work of this sort.

Trained at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y. • Sixteen months in Germany—in Munich at the Von Dakskitz Schule. • With Maurice Blicke in Brussels in 1923. • Studied etching with late Arthur Dow at Columbia. • Studied mural painting with Arthur Coney, noted mural painter, at the New York Evening Industrial Art School; also with Albert Herter, mural and portrait painter, who was the creator of the tapestry cartoon for Charles Schwab of Bethlehem, Pa., and the Timkens House, Canton, Ohio; on these tapestry cartoons Mrs. Bird actual[ly] work[ed] with Mr. Herter. • Also has made extensive study of commercial art—posters, advertisements, packaging and label designs for boxes and containers, book illustrations, etc. • Taught while training with Frederick Keppel, and exhibited at Art Students League, chiefly architectural drawings and etchings. • Etchings have appeared in several of the leading monthly magazines. • Member of the National Arts Club, Brooklyn Society of Etchers, Philadelphia Print Club, Art Students League where she studied with Keppel.

The east wall on each side of the Altar is cut up into twelve panels which are

Continued on page 6



THE ROCK

NEWSLETTER OF

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Peter's Parish seeks to serve God's mission of restoring all people to unity with him.

We open wide our door and say, in the name of Jesus Christ, "Welcome."

11 White Street • P.O. Box 457
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207-594-8191 • Fax: 207-594-7766
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www.stpetersrockland.org

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Tuesday – Thursday 8 AM to 4 PM

The Rev. Ralph Moore, Rector

Home: 596-0421

rector@stpetersrockland.org

Rev. Isabel Polk, Deacon

Home 596-0003

deacon@stpetersrockland.org

Deborah Watson, Administrative Secretary

Robert Earle, Organist

Malcolm Brooks, Choir Director

Garold Demmons, Sexton

ST. PETER'S VESTRY

SENIOR WARDENS:

John Bird 596-6276

Jim Bowditch 236-2272

JUNIOR WARDEN:

Deborah Oliver 236-8503

Mac Deford, Treasurer

MEMBERS:

Katherine Brown, Douglas Curtis, Sr.,

Bruce Davis, George Jones,

Linda Peterson, Joanne Smith,

Harold van Lonkhuyzen,

Christine Wohler

THE ROCK

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Deadline for THE ROCK

is the 20th of each month.

Letter from the Rector



Back in 1942, a white Baptist minister in Georgia decided to run his peanut farm according to his belief that there should be no separation of black and white workers. He went further than that. They organized a cooperative, a communal project, in which many families lived together in an inter-racial community. Clarence Jordan was ridiculed first of all by his Baptist clergy colleagues. And from time to time there was violence—houses set afire, farm machinery vandalized, people shot at. But Clarence Jordan explained why there would be no retreat. “Look,” he said, “In the Bible, Jesus’ people become a community. They call themselves the body of Christ. They face everything with the strength of God’s love. We’re set to do our Christian faith by making this community a flesh-and-blood testimony.”

They called their venture “Koinonia Farm,” and it’s still going today under its expanded name “Koinonia Partners.” (www.koinonia-partners.org) “Koinonia” is the Greek word in the Christian scriptures most commonly translated “fellowship” or “community.” For the early Christians it was the organizing principle of their church. In our baptism vows, when we promise to “continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,” it’s the early church’s “koinonia,” the especially-close bond of people in genuine communion with God and each other.

How often we use the word “community” today and how fantastically difficult it is to build it, achieve it, live in it. As church, we know that we are supposed to be a community, a sacrificial fellowship. And we, too, have difficulty finding our way to stronger bonds among ourselves so that others can see by what we do together that we are in reality Christ’s living body.

But we know that through the patience that God has with us and the compassion we have for each other we can improve and grow and form more of the “koinonia” we are called to be. I believe that 2004 has been for us a year of growing in this very concern. Our parish is served well by very sincere and committed people. Much of our work together is not like that of other organizations that we may have belonged to. We realize that we are responding to a call to discipleship, that a church is a spiritual reality well before it can be

treated as a worldly association. Thus, budgets and buildings and miscommunications and even conflicts do require attention. But more important is our prayer work. Through it we are motivated by the love Christ has for us and through which we can more lovingly work together and serve the whole congregation.

I make another plea this year, therefore. Please do all you can to participate in our parish annual meeting on Sunday, January 30, at 10:00 AM. We will have one celebration of Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM and the meeting will follow. We will choose vestry members and we will review our ministry and mission in 2004. We will also look carefully at our 2005 budget. Depending on the support we all give through our stewardship efforts, we will be able to continue and perhaps increase some of our programs. If we cannot identify such resources, we will have to provide for cuts in our program. This happens every year, but 2005 is different. Earlier this year we analyzed our income and expenditures for a five-year period, committed to lowering in a planned way our use of investment reserves. We do not want to exhaust them, so we must not depend on them as we have been doing. I believe the vestry and others in our commissions have done a conscientious job of planning. This should be a wonderful annual meeting, therefore, because we will have such a concrete way of experiencing our “koinonia” in action.

Clarence Jordan in Americus, Georgia, knew it would be a big struggle. His project grew and still flourishes. They were people of constant prayer, and they knew they could do it. We, too, faced by challenges far less threatening than theirs, know that we can support a flourishing ministry and mission. I believe this because I believe that we, too, are a prayerful parish.

God’s joy and Christ’s peace,

Ralph

2005 Stewardship Update

Many thanks to all who have made their stewardship commitment for the new year. As of January 4th, 82 pledges totaling \$117,027 have been received for 2005. This is 92% of the 2005 pledge goal of \$127,000. There have been 20 pledge increases and 7 new pledgers. If you have not yet made your pledge for 2005, please prayerfully consider what you can give to do God's work at St. Peter's. We need \$9,973 in additional pledges to reach our goal. Please help us fill the chalice on our 2005 stewardship poster displayed in the parish hall. All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

A 2004 Stewardship Reminder

\$123,000 has been pledged for 2004, including the 13th Month Appeal. That is 98% of the \$125,500 needed in the current year for pledge income. We hope to meet the 2004 goal and here is how you can help. If you are able to make an additional contribution toward your 2004 pledge and have not yet done so, please consider what you can do for St. Peter's. Also, this is a reminder that St. Peter's fiscal year ends as of December 31. We hope all parishioners will make every effort to fulfill their 2004 pledge commitment. If you have any questions about your 2004 pledge status, please call Deb Watson, Administrative Secretary, at 594-8191.

Adult Forum Schedule

Jan. 16: Liturgical service-presented by Liturgy and Arts Commission

Jan. 23: Self Care-presented by Pastoral Care and Calling

Feb 6-Mar 13: Centering Prayer-presented by Wednesday Night Prayer Group

Training and refresher for Greeters and Oblationers

What is a "Greeter" or an "Oblationer"? Some of us take the Sunday leaflets home and others leave them behind in the pews. They seem to disappear magically. The ones in your home we can't help you find, but the ones left in the pew are attended to by Greeters and Oblationers. It is probably the least important of the tasks they do, but keeping things neat and tidy is very necessary. The really important tasks are taking the gifts to the altar, helping parishioners to Communion, welcoming newcomers and visitors to St. Peter's at the beginning and end of services, and helping them find the elevator, restrooms, the children's program, and the parish hall for coffee hour. These activities are all important liturgically, socially, communally, practically, and spiritually.

If you already volunteer for these tasks at either service or would like to find out what is involved, this is your chance: Training will be offered for both oblationers and greeters at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, 9 January. Pamphlets with a checklist of the responsibilities and details will be available. If you would like to, but cannot attend the training session, please contact Marty Rogers at 236.8922 or mlr@midcoast.com. We all say we want St. Peter's be welcoming to guests. This is how you can put that intention into action.

Children's Program Reborn!

Thanks to Elizabeth Biddle and Marty Rogers, a children's program for kids 4-8 (approximately) will be offered every Sunday, 10:30-11:30, from Feb. 6 to Mar. 27. Nursery for younger children will also continue. If any adults are able to help, please contact Elizabeth or Marty. We hope to have a full program up and running for next fall, and need help in organizing it. Please contact Sheila Seekins, Don Hunt, Bruce Davis, or Harold Van Lonkhuyzen if you can help.

Vestry Notes for December

- Present: The Rev. Ralph Moore, Jim Bowditch, Kay Brown, Doug Curtis Sr., Bruce Davis, George Jones, Deborah Oliver, Linda Peterson, the Rev. Isabel Polk, Sarah Reynolds, Harold Van Lonkhuyzen
- Visitors: Thom Buescher, Liz Hunt, Tom Putnam, Marty Rogers and Jude Thomas
- The next Vestry meeting will be January 13, at 7 p.m.
- Ralph has been asked to serve on the Rockland Library Council. At his request, the vestry approved the donation of a copy of the video Invisible to the library.
- In order to reach out to our community while it is considering allowing a methadone clinic, St. Peter's will offer a series of four evenings on addictions during January. The series will be open to the public. Dates and times to be announced.
- So far this year, we have raised \$7655 of the \$8000 budgeted to be raised, with the possibility of a little more coming in from Le Petit Noel. Our fund-raising committee is considering some exciting ideas for next year – now is the time to get involved by talking to Marty Rogers or Deborah Oliver.
- The **Budget and Finance Commission** reports that an inventory and appraisal of church property has recently been completed.
- The **Stewardship Commission** reports that 82 pledges have been received so far for 2005, with an average of \$1500 per pledge for the year.
- The **Pastoral Care and Calling Commission** will sponsor an adult forum at 9:15 A.M. on January 23 on self-care.
- The **Christian Formation Commission** has scheduled forums through Easter, and has identified two possible candidates for children's formation coordinator.
- The **Evangelism Commission** reports that there will be a new parish directory early in the new year based on our current database.

The **Nominating Committee** is urgently seeking people interested in serving as junior warden. Please see Deborah Oliver, Kay Brown or Thom Buescher if you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone. The vestry has approved a budget for 2005. We hope the entire parish will enthusiastically support the goals it embodies.



Thanks to Jim Bowditch for photographing these panels for the Rock on a moments notice—not an easy job.

to be filled with Mural Paintings. When they are completed it will be a sanctuary indeed, fulfilling a need in American life, that is, the inspiration that comes from religious art. Especially is this need felt in New England, where until late years ecclesiastical and religious art as an inspiration to the common people has been practically unknown outside the large cities. The Church, however, throughout the ages has employed all the arts to that new life and doctrine, hence the great treasure houses of religious art in the English and continental cathedrals and churches, and now in America we are getting past a frontier stage and we are building great cathedrals such as St. Peter & Paul in Washington and St. John the Divine in New York City, and churches are being made more resplendent year by year. Of course, it is understood that ecclesiastical art is purposeful and either is to teach some doctrine or stimulate devotion.

The artist, who is a parishioner of the parish, has caught this spirit and done her work in true medieval style in producing purposeful and devotional art. Of course I do not mean to confuse this idea with the style of the pictures for they are quite modern throughout.

The twelve panels of the east wall are divided into groups of three, that is there are three on each side of the Altar on a level with it, and three on each side above the Dorsal. Those on the level with the Altar are filled with paintings of Saints who have lived in this world, and those above are the heavenly hosts. A suggested title for the group is the words of the Preface, "Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy Holy name."

The Saints chosen to fill the four lower panels are the four evangelists, Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, who were the great messengers and writers of our Lord's life and have always played an important part in Christian art, because the writers of the Gospels are considered the pillars of the Church; and then the patron saint of the Church, St. Peter and his companion and associate, St. Paul, they too have always been depicted in Christian art because of their prominence in the early church's life.

The upper panels are to be filled with the archangels, Michael, Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael, and other angels. As the angels are the messengers of God to man and the archangel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin that she was to be the mother of God, so in turn the Apostles and Evangelists take up the good news and bring it to us.

Don't you just love the tone of this writing! —Ed.



VEGETABLE MINISTRY THANK YOU

Even the cold, wet spring which delayed many gardens did not dampen the enthusiastic support for New Hope for Women. Special thanks to Ellie Hutchinson, Midge Welch, Marilyn Smith, and Chris McLarty for contributions from their gardens. Many thanks for all those who bought vegetables, the proceeds of which totalled \$125.00. The staff at New Hope were very grateful for such support from the community to further their work, especially the programs in area schools which aim to break the cycle of family violence. I thank you also for supporting this ministry year after year.

— Lucia Elder

New Year's Resolutions for Stewardship

When making your resolutions for the new year, please consider the following:

1. making a pledge for 2005 if you have not already done so
2. completing your 2004 pledge payments
3. trying to keep current in 2005 with regular pledge payments
4. giving a little more than what you usually give or pledge when you are able

St. Peter's relies on all of us to do God's work in our community and beyond. With a little extra effort, we can all make it happen.