

# NOVEMBER 2006

# THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Produced by the Evangelism Commission

## St. Peter's celebrates the ordination of Lee Karker

On Sunday, October 22nd, before a congregation filling St. Peter's, the Rev. Lee Karker was ordained into the transitional diaconate of the Episcopal Church. The Right Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, Bishop of Maine, officiated at the ceremony.

The transitional diaconate is the order into which people destined for the priesthood are ordained; they remain "transitional" (as opposed to "permanent") deacons for approximately six months before their ordination to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church.

The Dr. Rev. Ralph Moore Jr., rector of St. Peter's, Rockland, gave the homily. The Rev. Kent Tarpley, rector of St. Margaret's, Belfast; Jane Karker of South Thomaston; Mary Meyers; Joe Patten, Sheila Seekins, and Billy Smith, all of Rockland presented Lee to the Bishop. The Rev. Richard Fisher of Rockport was the litanist and the Rev. Jake Thomas of Thomaston served as liturgical coordinator. The Rev. Isabel Polk of Rockland was the gospeler and bishop's chaplain.

Lee has a bachelor of arts in history from Eastern Nazarene College in Massachusetts and a master of arts in history from Boston University. He also has a master of divinity degree from Yale Divinity School.

Ordained as a minister in the Congregational Church (National Association of Congregational Christian Churches) in 1980, Lee has previously ministered at the Congregational Church of the Chimes in Los Angeles and the Rockland Congregational Church (from 1984 to 1994).

He was confirmed in the Episcopal Church at St. Peter's in 1995 and for three months last winter he served at St. Margaret's, Belfast, in a field placement. He has been executive director of the Methodist Conference Home since 1995.

Lee is the father of two: Danny, a junior at Hampshire College, and Leah, a sophomore at Wesleyan University.

During Communion, Danji Buck-Moore and a friend played the piano and saxophone—exciting jazz tunes! The reception in the Parish Hall after the ceremony was a feast with food and drink, wonderfully coordinated by Joanne Murphy. Many parishioners contributed by cooking, baking, and decorating. Doree Fisher created beautiful floral arrangements for the altar and in the parish hall, she artistically decorated the tables with fall flowers, leaves, gourds, and squash. What a splendid beginning of a new ministry!



*Dr. Rev. Ralph Moore, Jr., Rev. Lee Karker  
and The Right Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen,  
Bishop of Maine*

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

## **Mission at St. Peter's**

**A**t a recent adult forum held between Sunday morning services, a number of us discussed the needs of the Knox County Meals on Wheels program and talked about it as a potential cause to support. Two kinds of help are needed, money and volunteer drivers. For very little financial outlay an individual might sponsor a series of meals for a fixed time, for example. Or people can volunteer to deliver meals. Many of the recipients depend on this daily contact as their lifeline to the community, and it is easy to see Christ at work in this matter. Meals on Wheels is managed out of the Methodist Conference Home on Summer Street in Rockland by Steve Alley's wife, Lois Stackpole-Alley. Anyone interested in taking this idea further, talk to David Grima.

Another chance to help further our mission concerns the Loaves & Fishes weekend community lunch program at St. Peter's. We often use clean plastic containers in which unused food can be sent home with our guests. We are looking for help in obtaining clean containers such as those that hold yogurt or cream cheese, together with their lids. They can be left on the counter in the kitchen. Please also bear in mind that people who wish to help out with the program more directly can talk to Chris McLarty or David Grima.

At the same adult forum, Chris talked about how she has delivered medications to clinics and physicians in Kenya for about 20 years, during the safari trips that she leads in East Africa. The medications are donated by physicians here who receive them as free samples from pharmaceutical companies. If there are other physicians in the church who can help out in this way, they can talk to her about it.

Other people who have ideas about developing our parish's sense of mission are encouraged to talk to David, too, (594-8232 or [dgrima@courierpub.com](mailto:dgrima@courierpub.com).) There is no idea so strange that it cannot at least be mentioned!

*David Grima, Loaves & Fishes Coordinator*

## **Looking Back on Gallery of the Spirit's October Work**

**I**n case you missed the works on loan from Kay Brown for the Gallery of the Spirit during October, the following is a piece written by Kay describing these. Our appreciation to her for sharing the lovely paintings.

"The center work of 'The Madonna of the Clouds' by Raphael 1438-1520, was painted by Katherine Lois Carr then age 18 or 20 when a student at Georgia Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia. She was the mother of Josephine Rice (member of St. Peter's from 1937 to 74) and grandmother of Kay Brown. The Victorian walnut frame was designed to fit.

"The two companion paintings on either side are Roman "putti"—pre-Christian, copied at the House of the Vetti, Pompeii by artist, Giovanni Gallo and bought there when barely dry the summer of 1981. The red mats are as close to the famous Pompeiian red as possible. Our Lady does not seem to mind her pagan guardians."

## November Gallery of the Spirit: Sara and Her Flock

**S***ara and Her Flock* is the art work on display during the month of November. It is a gift to St. Peter's from Clare and Mark Raymond. The painting was originally a gift from Claire's mother, Florence Peacock. Claire's full name is Sarah-Claire. The Raymonds have given the painting to St. Peter's as an appropriate setting for sharing it.

For those of us shaky on Bible history, Sarah's story is told in Genesis, where we learn that not only is she the wife of Abraham, but also his niece and that she was beautiful, faithful to the point of deception, vindictive to servants who "outdid" her, and enjoyed a good laugh. And like Abraham — faithful to the word of God.

Early in the story, when Sarai and Abram (who become Sarah and Abraham much later) leave Harran "to search for the good life" in Egypt, Abram is afraid a powerful Egyptian will "bump him off" to take his beautiful wife. And so, they agree to pass her off as his sister. The "pharaoh" is indeed smitten and "invites her" into his "harem" and handsomely rewards her "brother." Obviously both Abraham and Sarah "endear" themselves, for when he learns the truth, instead of harming Abraham or confiscating his riches, he returns his wife and says "be gone." Once more, the Bible confounds us with the "tricksters" carrying forth God's plan.

For it is God's plan to make Abraham into a great nation with many descendents; a dilemma, however, since Sarah was well on her way to "old age." (post-menopausal, perhaps 40 — even though Genesis claims she was close to 90).

The important point is that Sarai believed the "promise" and consequently encouraged Abram to "bed" with her younger Egyptian servant Hagar, and thus Ishmael was conceived, indeed a child of Abram's body. But surprise, surprise, the Lord's plan was different from Sarai's and we have the haunting story of the ensuing conflict leading to the exile of Ishmael and Hagar.

And then comes the wonderful story of the Lord appearing to the 99-year-old Abram and sealing "my covenant between myself and you. . . and I will give you and your descendents after you the land in which you now are aliens, all the land of Canaan, and I will be God to your descendents." And what a lot of hope, mystery and conflict has swirled around these few lines from God, right down to today's world! God also changes Sarai's name from "Sarai" to "Sarah" ("mockery" to "princess") and endows her to be the "mother of nation and kings of many people shall spring from her." No small tribute for a woman of those times!

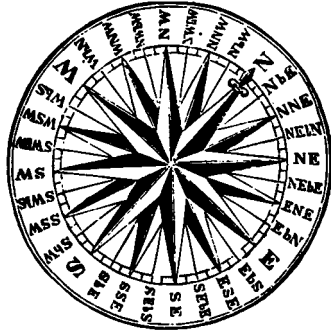
Shortly thereafter the Lord, in the guise of three strangers, arrives at Abraham's tent and predicts Sarah will have a son. On hearing this, Sarah (of course listening "at the key hole" laughs out loud — what 99-year-old woman wouldn't! And then denies it, when the Lord confronts her.

The *Women's Bible Commentary* edited by Carol Newson and Sharon Ringer notes that in the Biblical stories, it is the women who are the critical ancestor for the proper continuation of the promise. "Isaac must come from Sarah and no other woman. Abraham's seed is not enough to guarantee his status." Isaac is born within the promised year and thus begins the prophecy that leads to another miraculous, holy birth of a child to another woman, Mary — the mother of Jesus. A story foretold in the nuances of "Sara and Her Flock." So as we enjoy Claire and Mark's gift to St. Peter's, let's each reflect on the unfolding multiple stories in the painting that link Sarai and Sarah (and Sara) to our own lives of faith and promise.

Mary Alice Bird



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



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

## **Parish Directory Updating**

The Evangelism Commission is working on a new Parish Directory. It will be completed in two phases. Hopefully before Advent, you will have a new listing of parishioner's names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail. That is the first phase. The second phase involves a more thorough updating of the whole file that exists in the database of the church files. By now you should have received the short list of your data, made any corrections and returned it. If not, please contact a member of the Evangelism Commission. Another aspect of this project is to update the Parish Family Tree with photographs and install it in the Parish Hall. So smile when you see the camera focused on you!

*Marty Rogers, Thom Buescher, & Deborah Oliver*

## **AIO Food Pantry Weighs In**

Area Interfaith Outreach—That is our local Food Pantry and St. Peter's faithful representative is Mary Hunter. At the second service on Sunday she often thanks us for the previous week's donations, telling us that we had 33, or 64 or 52 pounds of food for the pantry shelves. If your own pantry has nothing suitable for the Food Pantry (it's the ordinary things that truly nourish our bodies — canned soups, meats, fish, vegetables, stews, cereal, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, pasta that is really needed) cash or a check works fine too. The Food Pantry also gives vouchers to people in need so however you can help—Thanks so much! Please note that the offering at the Thanksgiving Service is designated for AIO.

## **Boy Scout helps St. Peter's and the Loaves & Fishes Program**



This past July, Joseph McKinley, of Rockport and a member of Troop 200 of the Boy Scouts of Camden and Rockport, supervised a project in the pantry of St. Peter's kitchen. To earn Scouting's highest award, the Eagle Scout badge, a young man must design a project, work with people to secure approval, raise funds, recruit people to do the work and direct the work crew to complete the project. Joseph was a member of the National Honor Society at Camden Hills Regional High School and a regular volunteer when the group took their turn preparing lunch for the Loaves & Fishes program. He was aware of the need for better shelving in the pantry for storing the cases of food that come from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for support of programs like Loaves and Fishes. Working with David Grima and others at St. Peter's, he planned the project and then carried it through to completion, meeting the needs of the parish and the program. The next time you

are in the undercroft or kitchen, take a look at the pantry space and see the improvement! Joseph is now a freshman at the University of Maine in Orono majoring in civil engineering. He will officially receive the Eagle Scout rank in ceremonies in December. Congratulations Joseph and many thanks!

# FORWARD WITH FAITH

This past June, we initiated a mini-campaign to raise up to \$150,000 to 1) pay off the \$100,000 building loan secured to complete the 2001-2 building renovations, 2) build a reserve fund for the transition period leading to the a new rector on the retirement of Ralph Moore in July 2007, and 3) contribute 10% of what is raised to the recent diocesan capital campaign. At that time, it was agreed to actively solicit funds from June through October so as not to interfere with the fall stewardship drive.

It now being mid-October, we are pleased to announce that close to \$130,000 has been committed to the fund through a combination of pledges from members and friends and a bequest which the vestry voted to allocate to the Forward with Faith Fund.

Although "officially" the solicitation period for the Forward with Faith Fund is closing (meaning, we will not be issuing appeal letters or personally asking for your support) – it is still possible to make a contribution to help us raise additional funds for this need. Call the office if you need a pledge form or send a letter with your gift or intention.

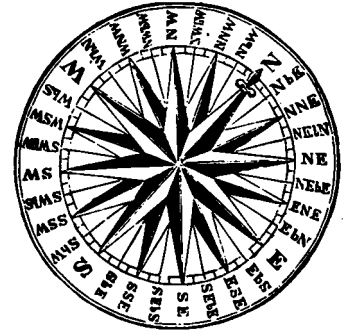
We know and appreciate that annual stewardship support and gifts for other special outreach or church or community projects have made it difficult for everyone to consider a gift to this fund – but at the same time we want to take this opportunity to thank the following persons for their support to help with these particular needs (as of 10/25/06)

*John and Mary Alice Bird, Co-Chairs of Forward with Faith Fund.*

## Thank You!

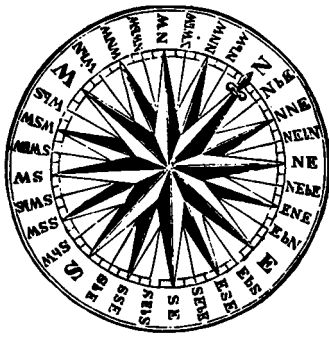
Christy and Joan Alex  
James and Patricia Algrant  
Anonymous  
Asger Bagge and Deborah Oliver  
John and Mary Alice Bird  
James and Felecity Bowditch  
Malcom and Barbara Brooks  
Katharine Brown  
Thomas and Clara Buescher  
Joyce Cannon  
John and Jane Chatfield  
Drs. Churck and Mara Crans  
Douglas Curtis Sr.  
Douglas and Ferolyn Curtis Jr.  
James and Gayle Curtis  
Bruce Davis  
Thomas Deford  
Richard and Doree Fisher  
Barbara Grossbaum  
Sharon Hanley  
Vicki Haskell  
Frances Hitchcock  
Maren Houghton  
Don and Liz Hunt  
Mary Hunter  
Spence & Anne Hurtt  
Albert and Eleanor Hutchinson

Jane Jordan  
Ted and Susan Kanellakis  
Cindy Lucas  
Linda Mann  
Jo McAlary  
Thomas McBride  
William, Nelda and Kate McClellan  
Chris McLarty  
James and Lloyd Mitchell  
Ralph Moore and Bridget Buck  
Judy Mullins and Neil MacMillan  
Fred and JoAnne Murphy  
Margaret Neeson  
Ruth "Woofie" Parker  
Thomas and Barbara Putnam  
Sarah Reynolds  
Marjorie Roberts  
Paul and Martha Rogers  
Joanne Scott  
Billy and Joanne Smith  
Jack and Lyn Snow  
Patricia Snow  
Kristen Staples  
and Harold Van Lonkhuyzen  
Ion Vardavoulis  
Barbara Yatsevitch



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

**Alert! Alert! Alert!**  
**The envelopes for the  
Stewardship Pledge Cards  
have the wrong address!**  
**Mail to 11 White Street  
not the P.O. box.**  
**We used the old envelopes.**



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

## October Vestry Notes

The vestry met on October 19th. In a review of the finances, we found that we are about \$4,000 behind in pledge payments. Harold van Lonkhuyzen, chair of the Committee on The Reflection of Our Future, gave a report on the committee's progress to date. The report underscored the fact that St. Peter's capital reserve fund would be exhausted in three years if we didn't make some changes for the next two to three years during our interim period after the Rev. Ralph Moore retires. Some plans were offered and will be incorporated in the budget making process, such that a draft budget (and suggested changes at St. Peter's) will be made for the next vestry meeting on November 9th.

- The Thanksgiving Day meal at St. Peter's, has two key volunteers in the kitchen but is need of a coordinator for this event. Any suggestions should be made to Marty Rogers.
- The Evangelism Committee reported progress on making a new directory, and announced that Foyer groups had been formed and will be under way shortly. If anyone wishes to be included, they should contact Marty Rogers or Jim Bowditch.
- The Stewardship committee mapped out an autumn program where there would be a discussion on November 5th of a booklet sent out with all the pledge information, and that the ingathering (along with UTO) would take place on November 12th.
- Jim Bowditch announced for John Bird that we had raised just under \$80,000 so far in the Forward in Faith effort with 10% of what is raised to go to the One in Christ campaign for the Diocese. An additional \$44,000 was given as a bequest to St. Peter's — all allowing for the bank loan for the building renovations and expansion to be paid off.
- A nominating committee for the next vestry is being assembled (with two of three positions filled).
- Isabel reported on her activities for the past month, including attendance at a fine conference at Kanuga, North Carolina, where she met the new Presiding Bishop and had extensive discussions on empowering women in the church.
- A parishioner who is allergic to many fragrances asked for a fragrance free section in the back (pulpit side) so that people who have these allergies could sit there, where there is a window. Greeters will be informed to move late-comers to the other side — particularly if they are using perfumed products.

*Jim Bowditch*

## No Phew in these Pews!

That is a casual way to introduce a serious subject. In response to a request from a St. Peter's parishioner, the vestry approved a motion to designate the last three pews on the pulpit side as "scent-free." The parishioner — and no doubt others among the congregation and guests we welcome every week at St. Peter's—has a medical condition that is aggravated by exposure to chemical odors. What type of odors? Paint, perfume, hair spray, scented soap, air fresheners, after-shave, deodorant — basically anything that is man-made and fragrant.

This change follows an already established tradition of welcoming all people to our community of faith. We provide gluten-free bread for people with an intolerance to wheat, grape juice is available as an alternate to wine, and alcoholic beverages are not served nor is smoking allowed within St. Peter's except in ceremonial activities. Even at coffee hour and

our potluck meals, we are careful to alert others to some of the usual ingredients that cause allergic reactions, and invariably we learn of an allergy or sensitivity to a common ingredient.

So, if your favorite seat is one in the last three pews on the pulpit side, please continue to sit there only if you are respectful of the ban on aftershave, perfume, and other scented products that for some people is deadly.

## Diocese of Maine Convention Report

The 187th Convention of the Diocese of Maine was held at the Spectacular Event Center, Bangor. It was good to be in community with the other delegates, although the location reminded some of us of Wal-Mart at Christmas time.

Much of what was done was pretty routine — electing officers of the convention, introducing newly ordained and clergy new to the Diocese and passing budgets. Of note were a couple of resolutions, one on clergy salary, which attempts to move Maine from the bottom 20% of the Episcopal Church closer to the 50th percentile — the median in order to attract clergy to Maine in what is increasingly becoming a “buyers” market — that is, there are fewer clergy looking for positions, and more openings. Further, there is the fairness issue, since Maine has a very high cost of living and it’s tax structure is 2nd or 3rd highest in the nation. The resolution increasing clergy salary minimum levels passed.

One resolution passed was to keep in conversation about Maine’s response to the Windsor report, to set up a study guide for our churches and inform the delegates to the next triennial convention.

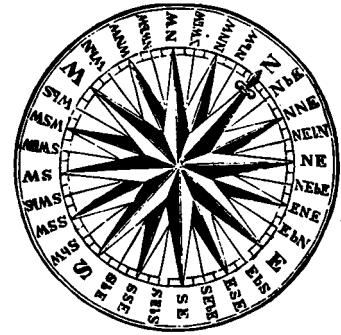
Special rules for the election of a coadjutor bishop were passed, as well as the annual diocesan budget — the Diocese is able to provide a lot of services to the congregations, and human resource costs are about 45% of the diocesan budget — well below many other dioceses and particularly our congregations, where personnel costs sometime run 70% of a congregation’s total budget.

However, the most interesting and exciting resolution that passed commits the Diocese of Maine to support the United Nations Millenium Development Goals, aimed at providing residents of third world countries the following support:

- 1) **eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- 2) **achieve universal primary education**
- 3) **promote gender equality and empower women**
- 4) **reduce child mortality**
- 5) **improve maternal health**
- 6) **combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
- 7) **ensure environmental stability**
- 8) **develop a global partnership for development.**

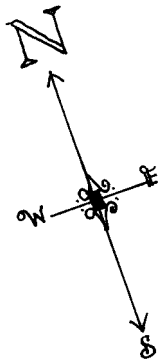
This resolution asks the Diocese to continue giving 0.7% of its budget to fund international development and challenges all congregations and Episcopalians in the Diocese of Maine to do the same — give 0.7% of their income toward international development. In a closely linked sermon the following Sunday, Ralph Moore, our rector, illustrated what kinds of monies could be raised if all Episcopalians in Maine did this — and all Episcopalians and all citizens. Truly staggering.

*Jim Bowditch*



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

## ON THE HORIZON upcoming events



## Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner Needs a Coordinator!

St. Peter's will again host the Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner. It is a free turkey dinner served at 1:30 pm on Thursday, November 23rd in our Parish Hall. It is open to anyone with a special invitation to those who would be alone on this significant occasion.

Last year I served as coordinator and was blessed to have the expertise of Tom and Tracy Murphy as "chefs!" These members of St. Peter's family have real life experience in the restaurant business and they are willing to fill this important role again this year. The other volunteers come from our membership and the community. It has never been a problem to recruit volunteers!! Sometimes we have had more than we need! But this year we need a Coordinator. I am unable to do it this year but have a very complete notebook on exactly what to do. Please contact one of the Wardens or me as soon as possible if you are willing to fill this critical role. It is not hard, it is just a few days of work with lots of joy and reward! Mary Rogers (236-8922 or mlr@mid-coast.com)

## Le Petit Noel Fair is December 9th

Little children may be counting the days til Christmas, and so are the St. Peter's elves who are working on the church fair, Le Petit Noel. This year we will be taking orders for poinsettias as well as balsam wreaths. Rhonda Hart purchases the gorgeous poinsettias that decorate the church from Longfellow's Greenhouses in Manchester. She is planning to order at least 100 plants, 25 for St. Peter's and the remainder for us to sell for the Le Petit Noel fundraiser. We hope you will contact a few of your friends and neighbors and boost our sales of this lovely plant. There is an order form enclosed with *THE ROCK* and plenty of extras in the narthex.

The Polar Department of Le Petit Noel is also taking orders for its specialty foods. Be sure to get just what you want by using the order form available later. You will be able to pick up your frozen gourmet delight on the day of the fair, December 9th! Anyone who is cooking for the Polar Department can pick up new pint and quart food containers at the Le Petit Noel display in the Narthex and Parish Hall.

The elves will be e-mailing or phoning you to see where you can help with the fair. Whether the help is in the form of baked goods, hand-made treasures, or time spent working before or during the Fair, we appreciate all of it. Money towards materials is always handy. Please also help by encouraging friends to come to the Fair for their Christmas shopping. Remember the proceeds of all this are for our community outreach programs.

## Foyer Groups are off to a great start

People interested in joining a Foyer Group enjoyed a delicious Potluck Dinner on Sunday, October 15th. This year we will have seven groups totaling 48 people!! Ralph and Bridget are not assigned to one group, as they have been in past years. Instead they will be guests to each group over the next six months. If you have not signed up for a group don't hesitate to ask to be included now — in past years we have added people to groups mid year — not a problem.

If you have any questions, please contact Marty Rogers at 236-8922 or mlr@midcoast.com.

## Children's Ministry rocks the ark

By the time you read this, you may still be smiling and cheering for our young children, from 5 years to 13, and the adult readers following their terrific musical on Sunday, October 29th during the second service. These children have been working on the Reader's Theater presentation of *Noah Built the Ark*, with songs excerpted from *God's Trombone* by James Weldon Johnson. The songs were "Who Built the Ark" and "A to Z with Noah".

If you missed this wonderful example of how the children are learning in St. Peter's Christian Formation program, the next opportunity will be on Christmas Eve at the late afternoon family service. The Christmas program will involve these children, older teens and adults.

*Valerie Wells, Coordinator of Children's Ministries*

Dear Friends,

On the fourth Sunday of October the gospel portion we read was Mark's report of a conversation among the disciples that's still hard to figure out (Look it up: Mark 10:35-45.) The Zebedee brothers, James and John, actually ask Jesus for special status. They want to sit in the prime positions to the right and left of Jesus whenever he is lifted up in glory. Wow! Power problems in the ranks! Why would anyone in Jesus' group feel the need for more recognition? We have only to consider how we ourselves act to find the answer to this. When any of us believes that there is not enough of something in our lives, not enough money or power or some other form of material security, then there is a strong pull to perceive everything with what one writer calls "a mindset of scarcity." The Zebedee brothers, insecure about the future, feel that they need more concrete assurance that they'll be taken care of. Not understanding Jesus' view that the abundance of God's love and grace are all that are needed for him and his people to serve others, they suffer mindsets of scarcity—there won't be enough for them.

St. Peter's Stewardship Commission has put into our hands a striking and refreshing little booklet entitled, "From Scarcity to Abundance," written by Mark Beckwith, parish priest (recently elected to become bishop of the Diocese of Newark). He starts right off by recalling the textbook for the first economics course he took in college; its title was Economics: The Science of Scarcity. He points out that basic to our economic system is the concept that such forces as supply and demand, interest rates, money valuation, inflation and market values are all areas that must be manipulated in order to overcome scarcity. The mentality of such a viewpoint in economics is that there is not now enough wealth and that more must somehow be produced. Over the centuries this has become an ideology—even a theology, really—leading to assumptions about the value of human life itself—that is, that a person is inadequate and of lesser value if he/she does not have the power to get more wealth and dispense worth. And this, he asserts, has worked its way into church teaching. Lack of wealth reveals unworthiness. The lower classes live in more sinfulness than those in positions of power. Thus, a "mentality of scarcity" becomes a natural way to view everything. "I/we don't have enough" becomes the common way to describe normal reality among the general population in which most of us live.

A fascinating claim that Beckwith makes is that the decline in membership among the mainstream churches during the last two decades is much less due to changing demographics and the ups and downs of doctrinal disputes than it is the result of people turning away from institutions that reinforce, or at least never challenge, negative thinking about individual worth. Instead, people are reminded constantly how bad things are and how hard life is in the face of emotional and material scarcity. We can partially test this notion by turning to the statistics about the consumer patterns of young people. A market survey of the group defined by ages 8-21 (this is a group?) shows consumer spending in 2005 at \$172 billion; an average of 17 hours per week spent on line through computers; \$22 billion spent just on line. These young people certainly show no signs of feeling unworthy or inadequate or suffering from a mentality of scarcity! Nor are they rushing into our churches! We do find them in the huge congregations of the fastest-growing evangelical and Pentecostal movements, most of whom balance a big emphasis on sinfulness with a theology of material success as a reward for faithfulness.

Well, ours is not that bleak a story. Since the 1970s the mainstream churches have slowly but surely grown away from the "mentality of

## From the Rector



### INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

**NOVEMBER 20, 7:00 pm**

Nativity Lutheran Church,  
Old County Road, Rockport

**A**s happens every year, folks from the various congregations in the inter-faith community will gather on the Monday evening before Thanksgiving for music, readings and prayer. This year we'll assemble in the brand-new sanctuary of Nativity Lutheran Church. Mimi Bornstein, director of music of First Universalist-Unitarian Church, Rockland, will again lead the music. All of us are urged to share this celebration. It's always joyful, and it's wonderful to be together in this way. Offerings of food and money for the Area Interfaith Outreach food pantry are urged to be generous.

*Continued on pages 10 & 11*

## From the Rector



scarcity” that has hung like a pall over them. The Book of Common Prayer that we use (1979) emphasizes the eucharist as the regular normative experience of our worship, a festive banquet, a celebration of the abundance of God’s grace. And in learning good habits of stewardship, more congregations are embracing with more enthusiasm the process of sharing material wealth as a positive opportunity for giving one’s gifts “proportionately.” This means that we give not out of guilt and not just to raise budgets. Rather, we give back a proportion of what we have (the tithe, 10%, being an ancient biblical goal) to serve others out of our gratitude for what we have been given. This marks the big difference between the mentality of scarcity and the mentality of abundance. Mark Beckwith re-tells the story of Jesus and the disciples faced with 5,000 people as the day is ending and the crowd is getting hungry. I urge you to look at the way he diagrams the difference between the disciples’ scarcity mindsets and Jesus’ abundance mindset. Simply put, it comes down to their bewilderment over how they are ever going to find enough to provide for the people and Jesus telling them just to make an inventory of what they already have and start sharing it. That which seems to the disciples too too risky from a scarcity point of view appears from an abundance point of view to be simply the sharing of what already has been received. This is a huge and wonderful way of life for us to remember and constantly seek to grow into!

And now, here we are in St. Peter’s pondering this pamphlet by Mark Beckwith and looking at our future and the present needs of the ministries that we support. There are certainly lots of needs and we are constantly in a deficit situation, and many of us grumble about not having enough and not wanting to be asked to give even more. This is a wonderful moment, however, to look at ourselves and our parish freshly from the point of view of the abundance mindset.

For example, in the six-month period between January and June, 2006, in addition to our on-going commitments to our annual pledges to support the parish budget and our pledges to our capital campaign, there were several energetic outbursts of sharing. There was an ingathering for the United Thank Offering: over \$600. A gift was given to Jeff Lewis when he was ordained priest: over \$600. A member of the congregation, Don Mandell, announced on a couple of Sundays that he would participate in a walk to support the foundation working on autism in Maine: \$500. The Shrove Tuesday pancake luncheon offered by Episcopal Church Women netted about \$600 for Meals on Wheels; the rector turned 70 and a gift for his summer trip to Europe was made: \$3,000. Now—just there—that’s \$5,300 of spontaneous generosity! And we can find other examples during this same period that would increase this total that was given outside of our regular stewardship commitments. And we must include, also, hundreds of pounds of food given for the Area Interfaith Outreach food pantry. And more time shared, and more of everything, and more.... In most languages, this is called abundance!

Please do not think that this has not been noticed by others, in particular those who partake of the mission and ministry that we support. One person recently put it this way: “If only the people of St. Pete’s knew how many people come together here out of their spiritual hunger, they’d be amazed.” (When I shared this remark at a Vestry meeting many of the members were touched by the affection in calling us “St. Pete’s.”) And when we “do the numbers” about the activities in our facilities we discover a lot more about abundance. In a typical week, Sunday through Monday, between 350 and 400 people come into St. Peter’s. Each Loaves and Fishes meal on a Saturday and Sunday brings an average of 40-50 people, those served and those serving. Each gathering on a Thursday and a Friday of the Toy Library brings an average of 40 people, parents and children. Meetings of community groups take place every night, several consisting of 8-12 persons, two of them much larger. There are music lessons offered, a Youthlinks meal preparation group, and usually one to three St. Peter’s activities. And, finally, on Sundays, for worship, we are about 110 people, on average. This conservatively adds up to 350-400 people! (It’s probably more than that!) In other words, every three months are fed, in one way or other, 5000 people!

The one parish budget that pays personnel costs, operating costs and also sends a share away to the larger community and church, makes all of this possible. We’re just about to cancel out the debt remaining on our capital campaign obligations. This is huge. These very fine facilities cost just under \$800,000 to put into their present condition. This burden is about to be lifted off our shoulders. We have been sharing a huge abundance that we’ve been given. And this is so because of the enthusiasm among St. Peter’s people to give ever-more-generous proportions of their resources for the needs of a suffering world. Viewed in such concrete terms, how could anyone speak of scarcity?

As we look into the future, we will realize also that there is much more for us to do in the way of understanding this complicated mission and ministry and then more of us participating in the weekly work to support it. Stewardship often is understood only in terms of money. But people and buildings and programs need hearts and minds and bodies, the energy and skill that we have to share in pastoral, social and other areas of our faith community. That can be a big part of our 2007 growth as a parish.

Mark Beckwith closes his article with two points that we can ponder as we move on into the year the lies ahead of us. First of all, he speaks about prayer. He makes an unusual definition of prayer. As we pray for things that concern us and especially as we pray for others, he says that “we contribute the divine presence that resides in us” to those from whom we pray. I think it is extremely powerful and helpful to speak of prayer with such concrete clarity. Defined as he has done, all of our intentions and hopes and yearnings are experienced as the first steps of prayer. We understand ourselves as having received an inner abundance of God’s love, spiritual strengths, gifts that we have been given even in our souls. So, because God already resides in us, we are giving this richness to others beginning at that very instant when the thoughts and prayers of our hearts turn toward them.

Secondly, this will help us “live out the cycle of abundance” that we sometimes call “the practice of financial stewardship.” Checking out our own habits of consumption, our priorities, our indulgence and waste, and our visions and hopes for the world, we increasingly experience ourselves as stewards of each moment, each item, each commitment, as precious and potentially life-giving for ourselves and others. “In the practice of prayer and of financial giving out of a sense of abundance, we continue the process of creation. In effect, we become co-creators, in that we take what has been given to us and pass it on.”

I pray that each one of us will take time to read *From Scarcity to Abundance* by Mark Beckwith. There are extra copies available through the parish office. I rejoice over how much evidence we can actually see and touch of how the life we share through St. Peter’s gives witness to the God of abundance in the center of Rockland. The Zebedee brothers, by the way, grew mightily away from their insecurity and scarcity mindsets into mature and courageous members of the Twelve. If they could do it, any one of us can, too. I pray that during the coming weeks we will be blessed in fresh ways by the wonder of this, and by the courage and joy that Christ’s people receive as they serve others in this way. To experience what I have of it already has been the most amazing gift I could ever have desired to receive.

Blessings to you all of the vitality of the Spirit, the peace of God and the love of Christ,

*Ralph*

Dear St. Peter’s Friends:

My ordination to the transitional diaconate on Sunday, October 22nd, was a wonderful and deeply meaningful experience for me. I have been asked many times since that day if I feel any different. My first inclination was to say, “Well, not really.” But that is not strictly true. While I cannot describe any personal change that has come over me, I know that this experience cannot have left me unchanged. The bishop’s hands were laid on my head (and not lightly), prayers were said invoking the power of the Holy Spirit to move in my life. Those present declared their agreement with the step that was being taken and pledged their support. How could I not be changed?

I am grateful to all who participated in this occasion in any way. My thanks to all who took on various roles in the service, to those who put together the party in the parish hall afterward and those who showed their support by coming out to the service on a Sunday evening. Thank you also for the very generous gift certificate to Almy’s, distributors of what Ralph referred to as the “funny clothes” that clergy get to wear.

I am deeply appreciative of all of the support and encouragement I have received from all of you during my journey toward ordination as a transitional deacon. It has been a long walk but it has not been a lonely one. Some of you served on a discernment committee that encouraged me to move forward. Those of you who have served on the vestry in the last several years have written a number of supportive letters to the bishop and the Committee on Holy Orders. Many of you have inquired from time to time about my progress — what it meant to be a “seeker in discernment”, a “postulant” or a “candidate for holy orders”. Some of you have become more impatient with the process than I have! But most of all, any of you who have attended worship at St. Peter’s at any time in the past few years have prayed for me, and that has always been very moving for me.

I look forward to the next six months as a deacon at St. Peter’s.

Yours in Christ,

Lee Karker

St. Peter's Episcopal Church seeks to serve God's mission of restoring all people to unity with him. We open wide our doors and say, in the name of Jesus Christ, "Welcome."

### Worship

Sunday 8:00 and 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
Wednesday 7:00 AM Taizé Holy Eucharist

### Office hours

Tuesday–Thursday 8 AM to 4 PM

The Rev. Ralph Moore, Rector  
(home 596-0421, rector@stpetersrockland.org)

The Rev. Isabel Polk, Deacon  
(home 596-0003; deacon@stpetersrockland.org)

Deborah Watson, Administrative Secretary

Robert Earle, Organist

Malcolm Brooks, Composer and Choir Director

Valerie Wells, Coordinator of Children's Ministries

**The Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, Bishop of Maine**

### Officers

Senior Wardens

John Bird 596-6276

Jim Bowditch 236-2272

JoAnne Murphy, Junior Warden, 594-4023

Mac Deford, Treasurer

Jake Thomas, Assistant Treasurer

Linda Mann, Clerk

### Vestry members

Elizabeth Biddle, Katherine Brown, Ferolyn Curtis,  
Jim Curtis, Bruce Davis, Spencer Hurtt, Thomas O'Brien,  
Joanne Smith, Pat Snow, Harold van Lonkhuyzen

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Please e-mail submissions to Marty @ mlr@midcoast.com

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

**Submission deadline is noon November 19th.**



Mailed November 2, 2006

**P**lease remember that the United Thank Offering ingather-  
ing is 5 November, and bring your boxes or envelopes to  
Church that Sunday. Many thanks for your generosity.  
*Cindy Lucas, UTO Coordinator*

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