

APRIL 2011

THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday, April 17th

8:00 a.m. – Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. – Procession of the Palms & Choral Eucharist

Wednesday, April 20th

7:00 a.m. Taize Eucharist

12:30 Healing Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 21st,

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist & stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 22nd

Noon – Stations of the Cross

5:30 pm – Good Friday Prayer Book Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April 23rd

5:30 p.m. Joint Easter Vigil at St. Thomas, Camden
(St. Thomas, Camden, St. Margaret's, Belfast, St. Peter's
and St. John Baptist, Thomaston churches)

Easter Sunday, April 24th

8:00 a.m. Lighting the New Fire & Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist (Rite II)



Vestry Seeks Member Feedback: Possible Parish Rectory

As a follow-up to the decision affirmed at the January 2011 Annual Meeting, the Vestry of St. Peter's has devoted time in February and March to further study and consider a solution for the housing needs of our clergy (current and future) that also provides a long term cost savings to the Parish. To aid our review, we are asking all individual members of the parish to respond to a brief set of questions about the pursuit of clergy housing at St. Peter's. The survey will be distributed at Sunday services during April. It will also be e-mailed as an attachment to all parish members who get their parish notices and the ROCK electronically.

Completed surveys should be returned as soon as possible and no later than April 30th. They can be dropped off on Sundays, or mailed to the Church Office, 10 White Street, Rockland ME 04841.

The Vestry also invites you to an additional informational meeting on Sunday May 15th at 9:15 between the two Sunday Services to gather feedback and comment (as necessary) on concerns raised in the collated survey responses. The Vestry will review all of the information gathered from parish members later in May and then convene a Special Parish Meeting to conclude this process in early June.

REMINDER: Each parish member completes this feedback form individually; we anticipate more than one form returned from most households.

Thom Buescher and Mary Alice Bird

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

The Art of the Spirit
Gallery exhibitions will
be highlighted in the next
issue of the Rock.

Be sure to look at Eve
Hupper's photo exhibit
this month.

Poems by Vicky Lesmerises

HOW IT WAS

In bleak street lighting
the knocked over pine
murdered by howling -
rage-filled wind, dies on
charcoal sheets of snow.
The half-moon wavers as
grieving clouds shuffle by.
Night blankets the tree.
Where roots forcibly ripped,
a blackened crevasse becomes
a graven open wound.
Stars stuck in the knowing
keep silent sentry as night gentles.

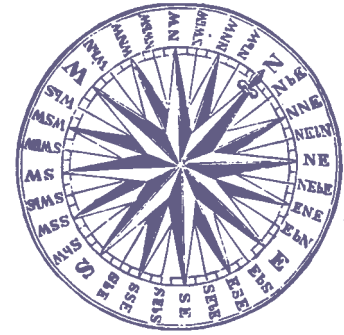
HOW IT IS

A livid tempered wind attacks
an elder pine enroute and
knocks it over completely
as it protects a smaller tree.
Fingered roots open - close grasping
desperately for earth but
encounters only emptied air.
Snow matted the tree,
the sun nursed.
Gone are the shaded summer
activities, favorite lean post
and birds nestled home.
Later men with chain saws will
sever chunks of memories
for needy fireplaces where
wood will forever burn.

(for you Dad)

Out of dormancy, the grieving
maple arose from sadness,
remembering in summer the
array of her sunburst leaves,
whispering to the frigid wind
nature's renewing sacred words.
Cardinals pecked the sound aloud
and clever squirrels carried it
to the browned snow - take heed!
Hearing this, the inclement sidewalk
in anger trembled, divorcing
the clinging ice and earth gratefully
began its glorious transformation.
There IS power in the WORD.

2011 Fellowship Calendar



WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together

April 24, Easter Sunday Special Coffee between the Services – If you can, add a special Easter “goody” to the coffee table; more importantly, come and share the celebration of Easter with fellow parishioners and friends.

The planned Cinco de Mayo Latin “South of the Border” Family Pot Luck and Festivities has been cancelled as it appears a significant number of people will be “south of the Maine border” or elsewhere escaping “Mud Season.”

June 12: Parish Picnic at 5pm on the church grounds. Lobster as well as hamburgers and hotdogs will be served. More details will be announced in next month’s ROCK and in Sunday Bulletins.

The planned May 15 Parish Brunch has been cancelled. Instead, that date will be devoted to a Vestry hosted parish information meeting related to clergy housing and rectory plans.

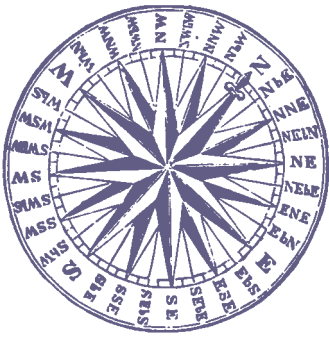
Although the Fellowship Commission originally announced that four quarterly Sunday brunches would be held following one joint Sunday service, after more reflection it was decided to have the brunches between the two services. August 14th and October 23rd are the next tentative dates for Parish Bunches.

The Fellowship Commission is planning a meeting of interested parishioners to discuss an effective way to share the responsibility for providing funeral receptions for parish families desiring this. Currently the commission is thinking about assigning a team of two or three to a one or two month period to be “on call” to facilitate a reception during the assigned period. Although St. Peter’s has only a few funerals during the year (actually only one in 2010), a system will help to respond to the need when it arises. A meeting will be held after the 10:30 service on May 15th to discuss plans for funeral receptions. If you are willing to be part of this gracious ministry or would like to join the newly formed Fellowship Commission, please contact a member of the commission.

Fellowship Commission Members:

Steve Alley,
Mary Alice Bird,
Glenn Mahaffey,
Tish Taylor,
and Jake Thomas

February 16, 2011

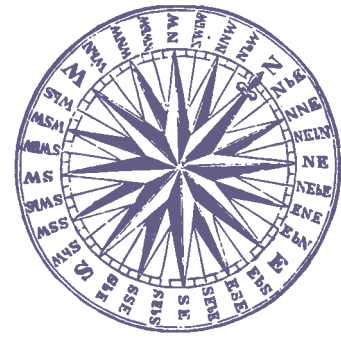


WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together

Vestry Notes

- **Review of Annual Meeting.** Columbarium: An ad hoc committee consisting of Thom Buescher, Glenn Mahaffey, and Mary Alice Bird will be formed. Thom has an appointment with a cabinet builder. An announcement about the committee will be included in the bulletin, along with a request for participation by a non-vestry parish member.
- **Budget for 2011.** A revised 2011 budget sheet will be placed in the Rock. Pledges are running behind; Liz Hunt will be sending out reminder letters regarding 2010 pledges. The budget was accepted.
- **Rectory.** Glenn said that the standing committee of the Diocese had approved the resolution passed at the annual meeting. The standing committee will also need to approve the purchase agreement and financing. There was much discussion about the process and communication on this subject and how the vestry should proceed to resolve it. It was agreed that housing is a need that impacts all clergy families, not just our present one but ones in the future. It also impacts all parish families as the entire congregation gives financial support to any arrangement. It was agreed that the wardens would develop a plan to be reviewed at the next vestry meeting.
- **Financial Reports.** The January report was accepted.
- **Rector's Report.** Current Children's Education Initiatives: There are 16 children in the children's program. The program is already planned until the end of the school year. If anyone has a passion that they would like to share with the children, please let Kirsten Staples know. Once a month, the children will be in church and once a month they will have an outside activity.
- **Chart of building cleaning.** The chart was distributed to the members. Glenn had asked for an estimate for cleaning the undercroft, bathrooms, and kitchen, which was \$75-100. Glenn will advertise for a person to work three hours on Saturday night for \$20 an hour. A blurb will be placed the bulletin asking for donations to help pay for cleaning.
- **Bequest Update and introduction of new bookkeeper.** Judy Lambert has started as bookkeeper. The changes recommended in the last audit have been made. A neighbor of the Hunt's has left our church four percent of her estate.
- **Annual Retreat.** April 9 was selected, with a tentative time of 9-12.
- **Committee on discernment of baptismal ministries.** David Grima said that the committee will change its name because of confusion regarding "discernment." The intent is to use our gifts to advance our mission. Members include David, Jim Bowditch, Marilyn Smith, Tish Taylor, and Mary Alice Bird. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26.
- **Plans of Fellowship Committee.** Mary Alice handed out a fellowship calendar for 2011. There was also a brief discussion of having an established procedure for receptions following funerals.
- **Vestry Concerns.** Kali Perkins is ill.

March 16, 2011



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

- **Financial Report.** The report for January – February was approved.
- **Annual Retreat.** The retreat will be held on April 9 from 9 am to 1 pm probably at the Island Institute. Among the agenda items will be the Directives of Mutual Ministry and a review of the 2000 Strategic Plan and Vision. John Bird will help with his experience on this plan; Glenn will e-mail a synopsis of the plan to vestry members. Small groups will be organized in the parish to discuss vision and stewardship.
- **Columbarium.** A report prepared by Thom Buescher was distributed. The ad hoc committee including Mary Alice Bird and Tom Putnam will invite parish members to join the group. There will be an announcement in the Sunday bulletin. A motion was approved to accept the report and have Thom meet with Bill Faller, the cabinet maker, and proceed with the design.
- **Housing Committee.** Tom Putnam handed out recommendations from the wardens regarding a rectory. The recommendations include the use of a parish-wide survey. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the recommendations and the process for proceeding. The vestry voted to use a written survey to obtain responses from parishioners to guide the Housing Committee. The survey would be available in April. On May 15th, an informational meeting will be held between services to discuss survey results. A Parish Meeting will be held in June for a final vote on a housing plan.
- **Update on Committee on Discernment.** David Grima stated that there will be a meeting on March 21. David has sent material to committee members based on prior conversations.
- **Fellowship Committee.** Tish Taylor reported on some of the upcoming events, including Cinco de Mayo, Easter Egg Hunt and Reception between services, etc. The committee would like to have more participation by vestry members in the events. Vestry help is needed with clean-up on Easter; Pat Snow, John Snow, and David Grima volunteered. The Easter egg hunt will be for children. The Cinco de Mayo celebration will take place on May 1 and include a parish supper (See change for the Cinco De Mayo party in the Fellowship Report on Page 3.); the committee is looking for ideas. Olive Pierce, a noted photographer and new parishioner, has offered to do a presentation on Iraqi children; this may be done as an adult forum. The church picnic in June will be held here on church grounds. Work on standard procedures for funeral receptions is proceeding; a list of 12 people has expressed interest in providing a basic menu.
- **Rector's Report.** Glenn noted that there would be a special bulletin insert related to Japan; the national church is in touch with the archdiocese in Japan. The new cleaning person has started work; he is Herb Coburn. Youth Sunday will be held the fourth Sunday of each month; the next one is March 27. This year the Easter Vigil will be shared among the four local Episcopal churches and will take place at St. Thomas in Camden; if anyone is interested in reading, let Glenn know. There will be a Maundy Thursday service, two services on Good Friday, and Stations of the Cross for children on Palm Sunday (with positive messages.)
- **Vestry Concerns.** Prayers were asked for Elizabeth Biddle, Kali Perkins, and Fred Murphy. Thanksgiving was expressed for the service of Jane Chatfield and Dorothy Nyman.

Vestry Notes

The next meeting
of the vestry is
Wednesday, April 20, 2011
at 5:30 pm.

From the Rector



GLENN MAHAFFEY

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

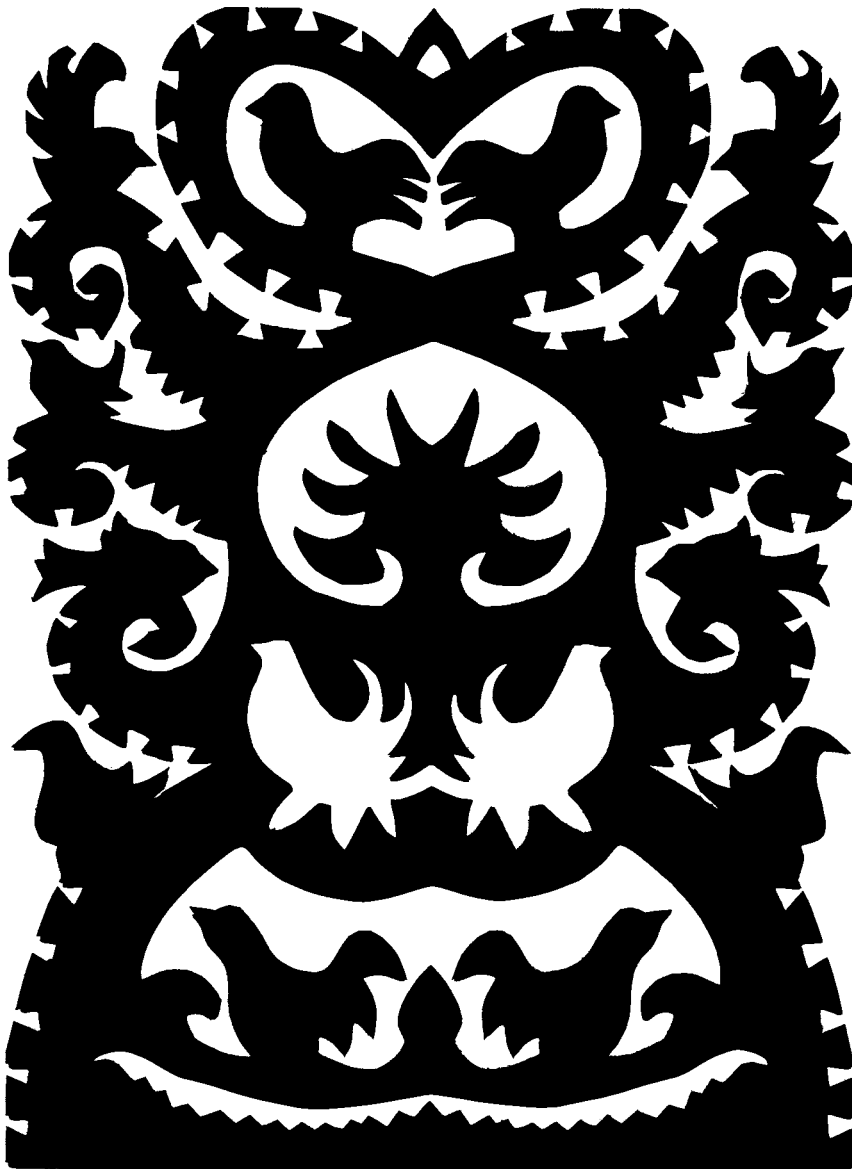
I would invite you to read Bishop Lane's observations from the House of Bishop's meeting last week (found on the Diocesan website). The Bishop lists several questions that are worth our consideration. One of the questions in particular brings current issues of the church into focus for me. It is a question that is relevant as Lent draws to a close and we arrive at Holy Week and Easter. The Bishop asks: How do we show others that we are more interested in them than we are in ourselves?

To me, the heart of this question is about humility, putting our own personal needs and agendas on the back burner long enough to hear what another person has to say. This is a major key to being able to listen to another person. When we listen instead of doing all of the talking ourselves, we find ourselves on our way to forming a relationship with others. We may not end up with a close relationship (most relationships are casual at best), yet an interaction with another human being is fertile ground for the Holy Spirit to work. When interactions go well it creates a synergy, in which both parties feel valued and part of something bigger than themselves. Whether we are talking about having conversations with young people or people of different faith communities or even people in our own geographical community or congregation, humility and listening are major keys to entering into dynamic relationships which seems to me to be at the center of Christian ministry.

We say in our baptismal vows that (with God's help) we will "respect the dignity of every human being". I think we fulfill that vow when we put ourselves aside and listen to another person. We listen to people we value and valuing someone is showing respect. We can even value people with opposite points of view, which can be very useful when it forces us to articulate what we think. Often we don't listen to others because as human beings we make internal judgments very quickly, literally in the blink of an eye. Lent, Holy Week and Easter form an appropriate season to question our motives and snap judgments, attempting to define our own prejudices. Where does our point of view come from and how does it influence who we listen to and ultimately who we value? Is God calling us to transcend our own narrowness of mind and open ourselves by listening to those who at one time we would not have considered worthy of our effort to hear?

In the Bishop's article he mentions the ongoing concerns about "institutional survival". Is the question of institutional survival also connected with the importance of listening? Perhaps the institutions that will survive in the future are those who listen to the world in which they live so they can relate to that world. How essential it is that the community of faith (the church) hear and take seriously the voices of those who form the society in which we live! As people of faith, we trust that the Spirit of God is moving in the world. The world around the community of faith is not an "enemy" we need to be protected from, it is the larger framework in which our life of faith takes place. So we listen to the young (however you choose to define that term), we listen to those who have no voice in our larger society, we listen to the many voices in our world. We come to the conversation from our perspective as Christians, witnesses of our belief that God listens, God cares, and God acts as the old realities of life are reformatted and become new life in the world. In this way we are relevant and continue to be an important part of God's life giving creative process in our world, as people of resurrection, continuing to be transformed in a life that can never die.

In Christ,
Glenn+



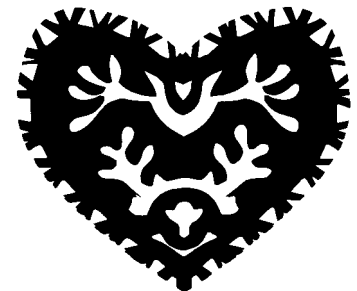
WAYPOINTS
*activities and
notices on our
journey together*

You never know what past proficiencies you might unearth while searching for things you've lost. I turned my studio upside down not long ago looking for the long-unused tools I'd carefully stored for myself and hidden from myself. I was tired of snow vistas. I had a new project in mind that needed colors. Plenty of them and the brighter the better.

What I found tucked away in a box were a score of Polish paper cuts done by me so long ago it was a shock to see them. Wow, look what I did —and did them enough to get pretty good.

I'm sure we all have things like this that we did with earnestness in our early days that have been eclipsed by new enthusiasms. Some of mine are spiritual things that could use a good dusting off and reconsidering. What a perfect season we have for doing just that.

*Chris McLarty
just filling space*



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

Worship

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

Office hours

Monday–Friday 9 AM to 12 PM
The Rev. Glenn Mahaffey, Rector
(home 593.9003, rector@stpetersrockland.org)
Kate Jones, Parish Administrative Assistant
(stpeters@stpetersrockland.org)
Robert Earle, Organist
The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane, Bishop of Maine

Officers

Senior Wardens
Thom Buescher, 354.0608
Tom Putnam, 594.2994
John Snow, 596.6025, Junior Warden
Tish Taylor, 596.0115 Treasurer
Linda Ames Mann, Clerk

Vestry members

Stephen Alley, Mary Alice Bird, David Grima,
Anne Mahoney, Joanne Smith, Marilyn Smith,
Pat Snow, Ron Staschak, Tish Taylor, and Judy Willey

THE ROCK

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