

DECEMBER 2009

# THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**December 24th:**

**4:30 p.m.**

**Family Christmas Eve**

*celebration of Holy Eucharist,  
Readings, Drama and Music  
presented by the children  
with Candlelighting*

**11:00 p.m.**

**Festive Holy Eucharist**

*with Candlelighting*

**December 25th:**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Holy Eucharist**

*Please bring non-perishable  
food items for the Area Interfaith  
Outreach food pantry.*



about a family—how many people of what ages and interests—and you provide gifts and trimmings to the Salvation Army bought for that specific family. This is an especially heart-warming way to help.

So this year we are encouraging all of you to either give directly to Salvation Army—you can earmark your donation for the holiday program specifically—or to the Rector's Discretionary Fund as we will be giving the Salvation Army a contribution towards the program. If you want an excuse

*Continued on page 2*

## Le Petit Noel:

**Preparing for the Christmas Fair  
Saturday, December 5th 8 a.m. to Noon**



*Left to right: Liz Hunt, Susan Dumican, Mary Hunter, Marilyn Smith, Rhonda Hart and Lucia Elder*

## Helping Others at Christmas

Christmas is a time when we especially think of those who don't have the resources to celebrate this holiday with the meals and gifts that are so much a part of the season. St. Peter's always seeks to help, and in past years has given directly to as many families as we could. This year, however, the Salvation Army has a really organized and far-reaching program and it makes much more sense to support their efforts. They are much better equipped to assess folks' needs and serve the wider community efficiently than I am able to do from here in the St. Peter's office.

The Salvation Army will be providing Christmas food baskets and Christmas toys for children under the age of 16 to needy families. They also have a program through which you can "adopt" a family for Christmas. For this, the Salvation Army provides you with information

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
11 White St., Rockland ME 04841  
207.594.8191  
Fax 207.594.7766  
[www.stpetersrockland.org](http://www.stpetersrockland.org)  
[stpeters@stpetersrockland.org](mailto:stpeters@stpetersrockland.org)



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

to go toy shopping, you can even bring new toys to them or to St. Peter's to be given to the children.

The Salvation Army does an amazing job, year-round, serving those who need financial assistance and we are pleased to support their efforts to see needy families through the holiday season with the good will of their neighbors.

The Salvation Army can be reached at 594-5326 for more information and their address is 27 Payne Avenue, Route One, Rockland, ME 04841. A donation can also be made at any time to the Rector's Discretionary Fund—please write a separate check and put a note on the check saying it is for the Discretionary Fund and drop it in the collection plate or mail it to us at 11 White St., Rockland, Maine 04841. If you specifically want the gift to go to the Salvation Army, please note that too. And thanks for thinking ahead to what you might be able to do to contribute to happier holidays throughout our community!

*Ferris Donoso  
Parish Secretary*

## Gallery of The Spirit

*Editor's Note: I am a bit out of synch with photographs and write-ups of the art that has been on display in the Gallery of The Spirit. John Bisignano's art work appeared during the month of October. The description of Anne Hurtt's sketches was in the last issue of The Rock. Anne's work is currently on display.*

## Spirit of Creation

**T**o make art is my way of communicating the abundant beauty in the organizations and forms of nature. I try to make art that will bring pleasure and awaken keener observation of simple things around us. It is gratifying that my art also allows me to make philanthropic donations to causes that serve others.

John Bisignano  
October Exhibit



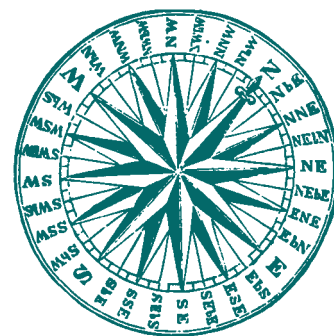
## Spiritual Journey

Anne Hurtt's artwork was on display for the month of November.

*Anne Hurtt and her sketches  
from English cathedrals.*



## Looking Back—Views of Sundays in November



The service at 10:30 am on Sunday November 15th was a Children's Celebration honoring our children. The scripture readings and psalms were from a special text The Message of the Lord for Today. The children had been learning hymns that they then taught to the congregation: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise Ye The Lord", "You've Got to Move When the Spirit Says Move" and "King Jesus is All". The concluding hymn was #4 "I want to Walk as a Child of the Light." The children and parents presented the "sermon" on the theme 'you must be a child to enter the Kingdom of God.'



Left to right: Naomi Mahaffey & Heavenly, Samuel & Nathaniel Von Lonkhuyzen, Rebecca, Xiara & Joe Cox, Elizabeth Von Lonkhuyzen, Kirsten Staples & Sarah Von Lonkhuyzen. In front with guitar, Rev. Glenn Mahaffey.

## WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together

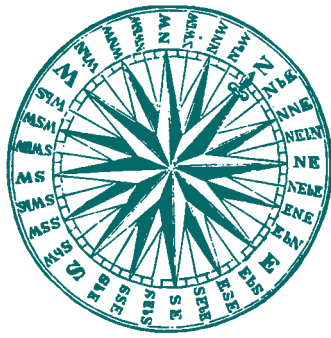


Woman in fake fur coat  
Naomi Mahaffey

The service at 10:30 am on Sunday, November 22nd was the annual special tribute to American Indians. The service started with a smudging ceremony and drumming. Arnie Neptune, spiritual leader of the Penobscot Nation at Indian Island, Maine gave a talk on lessons from history and then led the special prayers of the seven directions from the Wabanaki tradition. A talking stick was passed through the congregation for questions and thanksgivings.



Left to right: June Neptune, Harold Willey whose heritage includes Penobscot Nation of Maine and Abenaki Nation of Vermont and Eastern Canada, Arnold Neptune, Frank Basta, member of the Yakima Nation of Washington and Glenn Mahaffey.



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

**There will be two opportunities in Advent to walk the Labyrinth in the Parish Hall led by The Rev. Anita Wingert.**

**She will lead a program from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the last two Sundays of Advent, December 13th and 20th.**

**Anita's program is open to those who are new to the labyrinth as well as those who are experienced. Please join us!**

## **The 190th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Maine—Part 2**

**L**ast month, I reported on the business of convention: the 2010 budget, and resolutions. This month I will focus on Bishop Lane's Convention Address. In the afternoon of October 23rd, Bishop Lane addressed the Convention. I will paraphrase and quote highlights of this.

He begins that the Episcopal Diocese of Maine has been in existence for 190 years "and to last 190 years, such an organization would have had to demonstrate a capacity for flexibility, the ability to adapt to changing times and circumstances, things have changed a lot since 1819, and yet the Episcopal Diocese of Maine is still here, still providing ministry to the people of Maine."

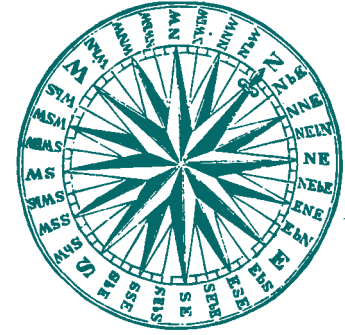
"Our long history gives me hope as I take this opportunity to begin a conversation with you, the leaders of the Diocese, that I expect will continue over the next several years. I want to begin today a conversation about how the Diocese of Maine will become the Episcopal Church for the 21st century." The Episcopal Church as we know it today was shaped by the economic and demographic trends that followed World War II and continued through the early 1980's." Maine's resource based economy of paper, shoes, potatoes and fishing were thriving.

The good days began to change in the 1970's. Family income began falling and "stay-at-home Moms, the backbone of the Episcopal Church programs, went to work. Today nearly every able bodied family member works in order to keep up with the bills, and many are forced to work more than one job. Real income, adjusted for inflation, continues to fall." The Maine resource based economy changed due to world competition, overfishing, and the recent crash of lobster markets. Decent jobs are hard to find in Maine these days and "young people often have to go elsewhere to find one." The Episcopal Church in Maine has been able to fair well through these times doing "what we think we should: worship, education, youth ministry and community service."

"Many of our congregations are smaller, to be sure, sometimes much smaller, and, we've had to be very creative about financing. The Diocese now makes grants-in-aid to more than half the congregations. Nine new congregations asked for grants during budget year 2009. We are fully habituated, as Episcopalians, to a parish life of constant struggle, stretching every penny, and recirculating money." "We know that we are in the midst of massive change both economically and culturally. We know that 1959 will never come again. We know that the economies that built and supported our communities are gone or going. We know that the things that we keep trying to do are not really working, haven't worked for a long time... but we keep wishing it weren't so and keep trying to make them work. We keep thinking that if we could only do it right, then we'd get back on top of things, and our congregations would flourish again."

"What we're trying to do, what we're really good at, is what folks who study change call Technical Change. What we're always trying to do is tweak the system, tweak the budget, so it works a little better, a little more efficiently. We're always trying to build a better mouse trap or give our selves a little more breathing room. We're trying to make the old system work as well as it can work."

"But what if things have changed so much that the system itself no longer will serve? What if we've squeezed every penny out of every dollar? What if, instead of tweaking the system, we have to adapt to the change? What if we have to build a new system? What if we have to learn a new way to be church? That work is called Adaptive Change." "I think the answer to our questions is beyond a technical fix. I think we need to be a new church."



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

Bishop Lane convened a conference this spring with clergy and lay leaders to discuss the Diocesan Development Plan. Out of these two days came a definition for what Episcopalians need to be a church. “What is that minimum, the base line, for being the Episcopal Church? The answer was: worship according to the Book of Common Prayer, and mission. We are after all the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church. That’s the bottom line, that’s the minimum we need to be who we are. The question they raised for me is, how are we going to see to it that these things, worship and mission, continue in the 21st century? What will we do to secure the next 190 years? That’s the question I bring to you today.”

“What I challenge you to begin at this Convention is a process that will help us adapt to our changing times and be a church adapted to the life and culture of the 21st century. I’m not suggesting that we should change our core beliefs or change the message Jesus gave us. Rather, I’m inviting you to begin a process that answers the questions of what we will do and how we will do it. How will we be church in this world? How will we connect with the people of the 21st century? I’m asking you to be part of Adaptive Change.”

“We haven’t been asked for a while to answer such hard questions and to do it together. Technical fixes take technical expertise, but not a lot of thinkers. What we will need now are a lot of thinkers. All of us need to be engaged. You are the experts about your own communities. The answers we come to together will be much better, and our total commitment to any solution is required if it is to work. We need to build our capacity to work together, to think hard, to make hard choices if we are to adapt to a new world. So today we begin a process; an urgent and important process that will last several years. The process will require the participation of every congregation and the willingness on our parts to try some new things, to experiment, perhaps to endure some false starts and failures. It may mean some new configurations of congregations. It may mean—probably does mean—solutions I can’t imagine. The urgency is real. As your bishop I am in conversation with several congregations who can no longer afford their budgets or their buildings, which are facing literal bankruptcy.”

“Following the convention I will appoint two study groups to begin work on the questions I’ve raised in this address. The first group will study our Mission Strategy and consider how we will be the Episcopal Church in every place for everybody. Particularly, the group will study the question of how we will continue to support congregations and what the budget process will be for such support. I’ve asked the Rev. Patricia Robertson, rector of St. Mary and St. Jude, Northeast Harbor, to chair this study group. The second study group will look at the issue of Mission Priorities. What are the ministries to which we as a diocese are truly committed? What are we willing to pay for? What are the priorities for such spending in relation to other commitments and our mission strategy? What new work should we consider? I’ve asked the Rev. Tim Higgins, rector of St Ann’s, Windham, to chair this study group. Each group will have approximately ten members. The two groups will need to be in touch with a large number of you and to consult with congregations and diocesan program staff. I’m asking the groups to report to next year’s Convention and to provide opportunities for discussion before the Convention. We’ll decide then what we need to do next.”

“I recently had a conversation with some folks who are feeling that they failed as a church community. If they hadn’t failed, then they would not be in the situation they find themselves in. I said to them,

**Down East Singers**  
*presents*  
*the*  
**Rachmaninoff**  
**Vespers**  
**Friday, December 11,**  
**2009 at 7:30 p.m.**

Second Congregational Church  
252 Main Street, Warren

**Sunday, December**  
**13, at 2:30 p.m.**  
First Congregational Church  
55 Elm Street, Camden

*Admission \$15; under 18 admitted free*  
*Purchase tickets at the door or online.*

*Visa/MasterCard accepted*  
[www.downeastsingers.org](http://www.downeastsingers.org)

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# Convention Report

## CONVENTION REPORT CONTINUED



**“We have not failed.  
The world has changed.”**

and I say to you now, we have not failed. The world has changed. We are busier now than we have ever been, not because we are lazy or inefficient, but because it takes everybody every minute to maintain our standard of living. The world has changed. People are not failing to come to church because they don't believe in God or don't care, but because they're trying to balance all the things they need to do to care for their families. The world has changed. The Anglican style of prayer and hymnody that we love doesn't always speak to folks raised on the internet and MTV. The world has changed. The world has changed.”

“We have not failed, but we need to adapt to the change. I'm full of hope at our capacity to change. We've done it many times in 190 years. God goes with us on this journey. If the heartbeat of the church is mission, then the heartbeat of mission is God. God invites us to share her good news with the world and promises not to leave us comfortless, but to send her spirit to lead us. The tiny band of disciples who ran from the cross founded the church that is now the largest religion on earth. The difficulties we face in Maine, though great, are not any greater than realities facing Christians across the globe. In fact, in our struggles we may be getting a glimpse of what most Christian people face every day in this world. That glimpse, that new understanding, can change us.”

“So I'm not worried. The word which has gone out from God's mouth will not return empty but will succeed in the purpose for which God sent it. I believe we have the capacity and the faith to address the questions a new world has placed before us. God will be with us every step of the way. I call you to prayer and I call you to action, to be the people God has created you to be—his people in every part of Maine.”

After his address, Bishop Lane divided the delegates and clergy into small groups of 10-15 people to discuss reactions to his message. After 45 minutes, the highlights from the groups were shared with all attendees. The reaction of each group was very similar. The honesty of the Bishop's address and willingness to put the economic and spiritual challenges confronting the Diocese out for open discussion was welcomed by all. Many were shocked to hear that some congregations are on the brink of financial collapse. All agreed the process put forward is both necessary and timely. Many suggested the church needs to be open to all types of worship and mission possibilities, such as Saturday worship for some congregations, more use of visual and internet media to capture young people, etc. All felt a sense of hope that the Episcopal Diocese of Maine can rise to the challenge as we all work to become the Episcopal Church of the 21st Century. Through Christ and the hand of God, the Diocese will be a viable and relevant spiritual and community presence in Maine. The work will be difficult and lengthy as the church is defined in new and challenging ways. During the next twelve months, the congregation of St Peter's will be asked for input and ideas to help with these challenges.

My report is a summary of the Bishop's address. To fully appreciate what he had to say, visit the web site of the Diocese. ([www.episcopal-maine.org](http://www.episcopal-maine.org))

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Curtis*

## Stewardship News

Many thanks to all the faithful stewards who have made their pledges/gift intentions for 2010. As of November 23, we have received 72 pledges totaling \$135,000 toward the 2010 pledge goal of \$140,000.

We are now seeking to finish up our stewardship campaign for 2010 before the end of this year so that our parish leaders can complete the budget planning for next year. The piggy bank poster in the narthex is tracking our progress.

If you have not yet made a pledge for 2010, please try to do so as soon as possible. During these challenging economic times, it is more important than ever to give as generously as you can to St. Peter's. We are committed to our mission to be a beacon of hope, making a difference in our community.

In order to remain a strong and vibrant parish, we need the support of all our members and are counting on you to help. Please give prayerful consideration to what you can pledge for the coming year. Pledge cards are available in the narthex or at the parish office. In addition to monetary support, your gifts of time and talent are also valued.

*Liz Hunt, Stewardship Chair*

## This year's annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner was a huge success!

We had all of the eighty places at the tables filled and sent out approximately thirty-five meals. We also had twenty-nine volunteers on Thanksgiving Day. In addition, six people helped set up on Wednesday and more cleaned up on Friday. The relaxed atmosphere and spirit of fun made the tasks light and the work accomplished quickly. The food was absolutely delicious and enjoyed by all. We had gluten and dairy free options in addition to the regular menu.

Special thanks to the following for their generous donations:

The Atlantic Bakery

The Brown Bag

The Pastry Garden

Rock City Books and Coffee

The Rockland Hannaford Supermarket

And many members of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and the community at large

I am very grateful for the many saints who gave of their time, talent and treasure to make this year's dinner such a wonderful celebration and truly something to be thankful for.

*Lucia Elder, Coordinator*



## News from AIO

Hello Everyone,

What a wonderful Service today, November 22nd! I find such Spiritual feelings when Arne Neptune comes and gives the Native American view of God, the higher being. They cherish the Mother Earth and all it entails. My grandmother and grandfather, on mum's side, were Spiritualists, and I learned early to love the earth and all its beauty and to love thy neighbor. So I try to be a good person to all I meet, no matter their situation in life, for "there but for the Grace of God go I."

Thank you everyone for bringing food to put in the Red Cart for AIO. It is so needed! With your help many will not go hungry.

God Bless you all!

Love and Peace,

*Mary E. Hunter*



## Vestry Notes

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

### United Thank Offering

The Fall ingathering of contributions to UTO have totaled \$316.97 to date. If you still have coins in your Blue Box or are planning to make a contribution it is not too late. Just remember to put "UTO" in the memo section of your check.

Many thanks!

*Ellie Hutchinson*



## November 18th

- **Treasurer's Report.** Micki Colquhoun reported that the parish may need to use the endowment funds in December. She will have Laura send pledge statements as of November 30. A motion to allow Micki to draw down an amount sufficient to cover expenses for the next three months from the endowment fund was approved by the Vestry. Micki shared a copy of the audit summary from Judy Lambert, who has offered to do the audit again next year. Micki recommended against changing the reporting status to accrual, as the audit summary suggested. She also explained how Jim Bowditch acts as a check on bank reconciliations and on the Loaves and Fishes account, and how computer files are backed up.
- **Buildings and Grounds.** Doug Curtis said that the refinishing and staining on the White Street side had been completed and that the steps were being stained. Steve Alley fixed the latches on the windows near the altar.
- **Warden/Vestry Nominations.** John Chatfield reported that the nomination committee was talking to several potential candidates for the Vestry and Wardens.
- **Stewardship.** Glenn stated that a follow-up reminder letter would be sent out on December 10. The draft budget for 2010 should be ready for the December Vestry meeting.
- **Youth Update.** Glenn said that the Congregational Church arrangement for housing the teens in November fell through because of zoning and building codes. Judy Willey said that there was not much support from the city of Rockland. Glenn noted that the Breakwater facility (a 16-bed unit) typically had two or three teenagers stay two or three times a week.
- **Thanksgiving Dinner.** Glenn reported that Lucia Elder was coordinating the dinner, and that Colleen Elder was running the kitchen.
- **Support for Parishioners going into Holy Orders.** Two Vestry members are needed to help with Jane Chatfield's (candidate for Diaconate) discernment committee. Billy Smith and Jude Thomas volunteered. Glenn also discussed the changes in vestry responsibilities regarding the ordination and functioning of bishops, priests, and deacons under the new Title III canon. Vestries will need to approve candidates by a two-thirds majority, rather than simply saying that they found no impediment to ordination. Bishops will not be able to overturn the non-certification of candidates.
- **Open Conversation.** The Vestry welcomed Steve Alley (who was appointed by the Rector to fill the unexpired term of Charles Packard). The process of welcoming new members of the parish was discussed and suggestions made to improve introductions to the congregation. Jude Thomas informed the Vestry of a bill to move services to developmentally disabled children from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services and Billy Smith asked for ideas on how the Parish could help. Prayers were offered for Judy Willey and her family, Deb Watson, Joanne Scott, Elizabeth Biddle, and others.

Dear brothers and sisters at St. Peter's,

## From the Rector

There is an old Christian song that uses Isaiah 40:31 as its text. "Those that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength, they shall mount up on wings as the eagles. They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint, teach me Lord, teach me Lord to wait." As we enter the season of Advent, we are entering a season of learning how to wait.

The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus* which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*, a word that refers to the second coming of Christ. The season of Advent has a dual meaning as we wait in joyful expectation of the birth of Jesus at Christmas as well as wait for the second coming of Christ. The key word here is, of course, wait.

We live in a culture that has very little respect for the concept of waiting. One must make things happen and waiting is considered a waste of valuable time. Our lives move so rapidly and some people grow very anxious if they are forced to wait. Yet, waiting can be a blessing, a time for reflection about who we are, where we are going, and how we find this grace of God that haunts our lives. (I thank Ted Loder for the image of the haunt of grace.)

If we keep up a fast pace, we may not have to wait and subsequently reflect upon our lives. Moving through life at the speed of sound can help us avoid the anxiety and even fear that reflection may bring. What, if upon reflection, we find that we are headed in a dangerous direction and we need to change? What if we discover the grace of God and it unsettles our comfortable existence, disturbing the certainties about life that we have come to believe in and depend upon? Many of us have devised ways to occupy ourselves even when we are forced to wait. A book works nicely, or a crossword or Sudoku puzzle, or for some people it is knitting or even taking out the laptop for a quick romp!

How do we learn to wait? I think we can begin by paying attention to our breathing. Take a moment this Advent season and listen to your own breathing. Is it usually deep and slow and rich or is it more often shallow, rapid and poor? Breath is life according to both the Old and New Testament scriptures. How does our breathing pattern compare with the pattern of our life? If we can squeeze this one little reflection into our busy pre-Christmas lives, we can begin our first lesson in learning how to wait. Then as the prophet Isaiah points out we can renew our strength and soar with the eagles, instead of always being resigned to wandering around with the turkeys. (I'm not sure Isaiah put the turkey part in just those words.) This issue of learning to wait also brings us to the other concept that helps defines Advent . . . hope. Come and join us and let us wait and hope together.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

*Glenn+*



GLENN MAHAFFEY

*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)  
Ferris Donoso, Parish Secretary  
(stpeters@stpetersrockland.org)  
Robert Earle, Organist  
The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane, Bishop of Maine

### **Officers**

Senior Wardens  
John Chatfield, jschat@worldnet.att.net, 236.2187  
JoAnne Murphy, 594.4023  
Doug Curtis Sr., 594.7191, Junior Warden  
Micki Colquhoun, cell. 592.5992, Treasurer  
Linda Ames Mann, Clerk

### **Vestry members**

Stephen Alley, Elizabeth Biddle, Jim Bowditch,  
Ellie Hutchinson, Marge Roberts, Billy Smith,  
Jude Thomas, Midge Welch and Judy Willey

### **THE ROCK**

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Thom Buescher (354-0608)  
Marty Rogers (236-8922)  
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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 Tuesday, January 19, 2010  
Mailing Date for this issue: Monday, Dec. 7, 2009



Return Service Requested

NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
11 White Street • Rockland, Maine 04841

# THE ROCK



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