

JANUARY 2008
THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Peter's travels to York Harbor to honor Isabel Polk

by Sarah Reynolds

The last Sunday of 2007 was a special one for a few dozen members of St. Peter's. Around 40 of us boarded a bus at 10 a.m., and a few more took their own cars to St. George's Episcopal Church in York Harbor for a service in honor of our deacon, the Rev. Isabel Polk.

I was touched, though hardly surprised, at the number of people who were willing to spend an entire day to be present for Isabel at the service. But then Isabel has done so much for so many over the long years of her membership in St. Peter's, that there were plenty of people who wanted to express their gratitude and love for her.

The service itself, celebrated by Ted and Lee Karker, was satisfying in every way: it was uplifting, beautiful, powerful and real. When Isabel read the opening of the Gospel of John, "the light was in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it," her voice radiated strength. The sermon by St. George's Deacon Sudie Blanchard, which she had preached at an earlier service as well, was absolutely appropriate, urging us all to go out and spread the light of Christ. And Lucia Elder's singing of "The Lord's Prayer," accompanied by Billy Smith with signing by Vicky Lesmerises, was inspiring and beautiful.

The climax of the service came following the prayers of the people, when we all laid hands on Isabel as Ted prayed and anointed her for healing.



And then when we shared the peace, everyone spontaneously lined up to greet Isabel, and she gave a special blessing to each one, telling us how important we were to her, how special, how good. That benediction was the heart of the service, the moment that all of us will return to when we remember that day.

Continued on page 2



Deacon Sudie Blanchard assists as Isabel reads the Gospel.

Rev. Lee Karker and Rev. Ted Kanellakis concelebrated the Holy Eucharist with Deacon Sudie Blanchard assisting.

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

Isabel had yet other surprises in store for us, though. At the end of the service, she got up from her wheelchair and gave the dismissal, again in a strong, confident voice, and was greeted with applause and cheers. Marty Rogers had done a superb job of organizing a light supper, and all were well fed on corn chowder, cranberry salad, breads, cheese, crackers, baked goods, cider and more.

Father Ted, Deacon Sudie Blanchard, and Isabel and the others who organized the service also did a miraculous job of putting together a wonderful liturgy in just a few days. Deborah Oliver prepared a press release to spread the word of the event and Marty Rogers chartered the bus. A shawl, crocheted by Vicky Lesmerises and prayed over by all on the bus ride down, was presented to Isabel.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of this service, to see and hear my dear friend Isabel doing what she loves, proclaiming the word of God, and living it. It was, in the words of Bishop Knudsen, "a holy idea" to bring St. Peter's to its cherished deacon, and of course we all received immeasurably more than we gave.



Isabel converses with fellow Deacon, Deborah McKeon at the reception.

January 14, 2008

Dear Friends,

The event at St. George, York Harbor was awesome! Thank you's to Paige Blair and Sudie Blanchard are extended graciously. Thank you to those who organized it and to all who came. I really was surprised. The service was filled with the Holy Spirit.

This gave me the opportunity to say goodbye to many of you in person. Of course there are many more of you to say goodbye too and this will only happen in our hearts.

St. Peter's is a special place and as a congregation you are doing well as you continue in your search. It has been exciting to hear the progress you are making.

I have loved being your Deacon. Thank you for raising me up. For supporting me through the journey. It's been real.

"Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!"

Your Deacon,
Isabel

Making the Bread that becomes Life

by Vicky Lesmerises

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-27

As I stand before the package of wheat flour, I think: you were a seed in the ground. You had to die—to grow into wheat. Then death again to be ground into this flour which I will use to make the Communion Bread. It will go with the wine—days of grapes ripening in the sun—only to be crushed and squeezed—to become liquid—to wait in barrels and vats, then bottled, prayed over, received and taken, loved and believed in. Jesus body and blood. In Remembrance of Him.

For a moment I fear to touch the flour in my own brokenness and feelings of unworthiness. A prayer gets me going. With the start of the mixing is the beginning of a peaceful, creative holy quietness. Shared silence. I am thankful for each ingredient's life and death to come together to make this bread which will be holy. Life that comes out of so much death—amazing. Sometimes I wonder what needs to die in me and change so I can better serve others? I whisper for God to help me do so, to see and to understand.

Next comes the time of kneading. Gently, reverently, pushing—prodding. How is it God kneads me? And toward what goal? To be ready—but for what?

I roll the dough out, cutting the circles with a pan cover, then lightly cut the sign of the cross onto each offering. "Marked with the sign of the cross and sealed as Christ's forever" comes to mind as if these were my children as we are God's. The last change is to bake and rise a bit. Christ's body broken and risen.

All this done in an hour; a silent, holy hour with God in remembrance of His Son. I feel fed even without having eaten. Over time, my reading and the silences have grown to teach me wondrous things. I am so blessed with the honor of making the Communion Bread for my church family and for God for these few weeks. And some other time, I will get to do it all again.

Vicky is making the communion bread while Marilyn Smith is in Florida.— Ed.



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

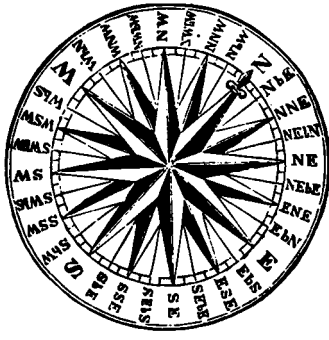
I BELIEVE IN CHILDREN
There is faith in their eyes,
Love in their touch and hope in
their attitude.

I thrill with them at life's joys,
Run with them through tall grasses
And bow with them in worship.

They are the fragile dreams of
yesterday,
Life's radiant reality today
And the vibrant stuff of tomorrow.
Yes, I believe in children.

— author unknown

Submitted by Vicky Lesmerises



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

Rock versus paper?

By the Evangelism Commission

Your Evangelism Commission is constantly considering how to make communication within St. Peter's as effective as possible. We've redesigned and reconfigured the Sunday leaflet and bulletin; with the Rock we've juggled duties, redesigned it for improved readability, and tried alternate publishing schedules. But effective communication also involves making communication more resource-effective, and that means good stewardship of our time and talent, staff time, paper, and postage.

One thing that remains a burden is the monthly printing, copying, labeling, and mailing of 200 copies of the Rock. Mailed at bulk rate, those 200 copies cost less than about 50 copies mailed at the first-class rate. Therefore, to reduce the cost of mailing the Rock, we would have to reduce the number mailed to about 50.

We've looked at how other churches distribute their newsletters: print only; Web only; e-mail only; or a combination of Web and e-mail. Considering the resources available at St. Peter's right now, and the fact that we already have in place the resources to create readable PDFs and post them on the Web, we'd like to try shifting the primary method of distribution from the U.S. Postal Service to the Web.

The benefits of Web distribution

Such a shift would reduce the burden on Ferris to make, fold, label, and mail so many photocopies. Instead, she'll do that with a limited number of copies for those who don't have e-mail or Web access. What the rest of us will get is a periodic e-mail from Ferris announcing that the latest issue has been posted on St. Peter's Website; the e-mail will include a link that will allow most e-mail programs to go directly to the issue on the Web.

You won't have to wait for the U.S. Postal Service to deliver the issue: once you've gotten Ferris's e-mail notice, you can go to the Rock online as often as you like, and print out all of it or as much of it as you want or need. Plus, you'll always know where to find it!

Letting the Rock evolve

Let's try this out and see how we do with it. As new resources become available through the Digital Faith Community initiative (see the February issue of the *Northeast*), there will be better and easier ways to "publish" the church newsletter, and you can be sure that we'll be ready to take advantage of whatever can help St. Peter's.

As always, the Evangelism Commission wants your feedback on this. Our ultimate concern is keeping up a newsletter and doing it as best we can to the end of keeping all of St. Peter's community informed, involved, and engaged, so let us know how we can best do that.

How does each issue of the Rock wind up in my mailbox?

The process starts with the vestry and the Evangelism Commission deciding how many times a year the Rock should appear and what important church dates the issues should be timed to meet. Marty Rogers finalizes the schedule and announces it, reminding us by e-mail and phone calls, if necessary, about upcoming deadlines.

Sometimes an issue sprouts more or less organically, with submissions flying in from all quarters. Other times the Evangelism Commission develops a general outline of what articles it considers timely, and then solicits them from lay and clergy leaders and from parishioners.

Taking what might wind up being dozens of e-mails and hand-written copy, Marty compiles each issue into a single document that she relays to Chris McLarty, who works hard in a high-end page-layout program to tug and pull the text and images into the lovely pages you see in the final version. After final corrections are made, Chris converts the file into a PDF (portable document format), which enables anyone with a computer and the free Adobe Reader application to open the file.

Chris e-mails the PDF of the issue to Ferris Donoso in Rockland and to Chris Stump in Virginia. Our “remote” Webminister, Chris Stump posts the PDF to St. Peter’s Website (www.stpetersrockland.org). Back in Rockland, Ferris prints out the PDF and makes about 215 photocopies. She also prints out mailing labels from Church Windows, the church database. Each copy has to be folded, the labels double-checked and applied, and the copies arranged by zip code in a box for the post office. Ferris fills out a bulk-mailing form and takes the whole load to the Rockland Post Office, where it enters the mysterious and sometimes slow-moving stream of bulk mail.

The U.S. Postal Service gives itself 14 days to deliver bulk mail; individual post offices decide when to deliver, so if you live in Florida you might get your issue before someone who lives in Rockport.

If you received this edition of The Rock via the United States Postal Service, St. Peter’s does not have your email address. Please help us conserve our resources by sharing your email address with the church office. Please be assured that Directory information is available only to parishioners. When we send email to the entire parish list, we use a “blind copy” protocol to ensure your privacy.



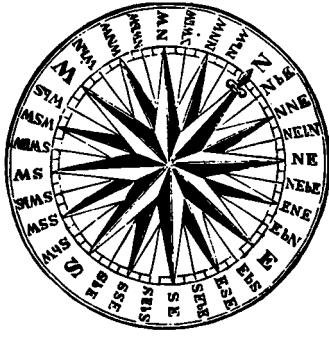
Read about Danji’s Adventures in Costa Rica

Danji Buck-Moore is spending the winter in Costa Rica. He is maintaining a “periodic blog” to which he writes stories of his adventures and observations. It has links to music, photos and videos. He is a wizard with all this communication technology so you feel he’s right here in Midcoast Maine telling you what it’s all about!

Go to www.danjibuckmoore.blogspot.com. You can post comments too—I’m sure he’d love to hear from you.

**If you received this
edition of The Rock via
the United States Postal
Service, St. Peter’s does
not have your email
address.**

**Please help us conserve
our resources by sharing
your email address with
the church office.**



WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together

**Annual
Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Luncheon**

**February 5, 2008
11 am to 1:30 pm**
**Sponsored by
St. Peter's Episcopal
Church Women**

Adults \$6.00

Children \$3.00

The best pancakes

with butter and maple syrup,

sausage, cookies and sherbet,

coffee, tea or milk!

Treasurer's Report St. Peter's and The Budget

The Finance and Budget Committee's proposed 2008 budget for St. Peter's was presented to the vestry at the December meeting. We are anticipating revenues of \$160,000, including pledge receipts of \$135,000. We're also expecting our fundraising events to net at least \$5,000. The balance of our revenues are expected to be received in the form of unrestricted donations. If we assume that our part-time interim pastor is with us for the full year, our operating expenses for 2008, including the diocesan assessment, will be \$162,000, for a positive result of \$2,000. If we are able to hire our permanent rector at the end of September, our operating expenses will be \$181,800, which will mean that we will be funding \$21,800 of our operating budget from our endowment. Looking ahead a bit, if we assume that our revenues stay constant at \$160,000 and that we have a permanent rector in 2009, our annual operating budget shortfall will be \$77,000. Our investment funds at the end of 2007 had a total of \$173,334.

Micki Colquhoun, *Treasurer*

Stewardship Report: We're 90% there!

As we enter the New Year, we have received 80 pledges for 2008, totaling \$130,468. Thanks to all our members and friends who have made their pledge commitment in support of the ministry and mission of St. Peter's Church. If you have not yet made a pledge for 2008, please prayerfully consider this important step as part of your life in Christ. Pledge cards are available in the narthex and the parish office. Last year we had 81 pledges and reached our goal of \$130,000. This year, the Vestry set a goal of \$145,000 and we are at 90% of that goal.

Liz Hunt, *Stewardship Commission Chair*

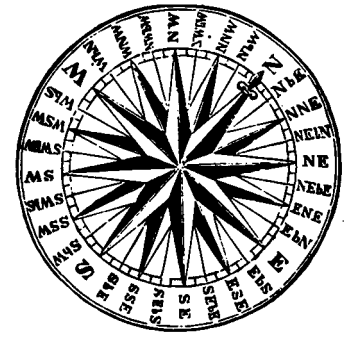
Vestry Action

The Vestry met twice in December.

- The proposed 2008 budget was presented by treasurer Micki Colquhoun, reviewed & approved.
- A Nominating Committee has been named: Jim Curtis, Pat Snow and Rhonda Hart.
- Kay Brown, Jim Curtis, and Pat Snow are outgoing Vestry members.
- The Vestry will prepare job descriptions for all salaried staff. Anyone interested in serving on the Vestry should contact a committee member. Nominations at the annual meeting are also acceptable, if the nominee has agreed to be a candidate.
- The table for serving food, coffee and juice will be moved to a location in the parish hall that allows Loaves and Fishes volunteers to have more space to set up the lunch.
- Elizabeth Biddle is the chair of a group, ParentWorks, that is seeking space at St. Peter's for its series of parenting classes. She will write a proposal for review by Ted and John Chatfield.

**The next meeting of the vestry is
Wednesday, January 16, at 5 p.m.
There will also be an executive meeting on January 10
from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

Christianity for the Rest of Us is the topic of our new book study



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

A Book Study group is beginning at St. Peter's and all are invited. The book is "Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith" published in 2006 by Diana Butler Bass. The group leaders will be Deborah Oliver, Marty Rogers and David Grima. They are struck by the book's richness and the possibilities for enriching our discernment process.

The 1st meeting was on Wednesday, January 16th at 7 pm in the parlor at St. Peter's. The Study Group will meet every other week, Wednesday nights, reading 1-2 chapters for each meeting. At the Adult Forum on the Sunday following, you can participate in a summary discussion of the book. Contact Marty Rogers at 236-8922 for copies of the book. We have a supply of new and used editions.

Here are some quotes from reviewers:

"This is the most important book of the decade about emerging Christianity and the renewal of mainline congregations."—Marcus Borg, author of "The Heart of Christianity."

"What a delightful, encouraging, and informative book! This book not only presents ten characteristics shared by vital, progressive congregations, it also situates these characteristics in the context of recent American religious history....Highly recommended!"—Brian McLaren, author of "The Secret Message of Jesus."

"Diana Butler Bass has debunked the myth that the only churches that are growing are Evangelical and Pentecostal...I recommend this well-researched and well-written book to all who care about the transformation of churches."—Jim Wallis, author of "God's Politics."

Diana Butler Bass is the author of "Strength for the Journey" and "The Practicing Congregation." She has served on the faculty at the University of California at Santa Barbara, Rhodes College, and the Virginia Theological Seminary, and from 1995 to 2000 she wrote a weekly column on religion for the New York Times syndicate. She is a popular speaker at retreats and workshops across the country and will be the keynote speaker for the annual Episcopal Communicator's Conference in Seattle this Spring.

AIO update

by Mary Hunter

I know you are aware of this but I just want to emphasize that times are tough for so many in our community! Please bring anything you can for the Area Interfaith Outreach Food Pantry cart. I say to myself, "There but for the Grace of God, go I." Anything you have—boxes of corn muffin mix, chili, spam, little hams, peanut butter, jelly, jams, toilet tissue, personal items, soap, shampoo—all help. There are so many things can't be purchased with food stamps.

The AIO Food Pantry could also use some help. Two men go to the Good Shepherd Food Bank warehouse in Lewiston to get food supplies for our local food pantry. They load it into their vehicles and then unload it when they get back to Rockland. It is here in Rockland where they could use help unloading. The time is between 3:00 and 4:00 pm. Please call the Food Pantry at 596-1043 during the hours they are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9:30 and Noon. Either Judy, Marti, Jane or Alice can tell you what help they need and when.

Thank you for supporting the mission of the AIO Food Pantry—"NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS."

Again I say a special thank you to Linda Mann for all the work she does taking the food we donate each week to the Pantry.

What wonderful blessings we have with such generous members in our parish community!

From the Interim Pastor's Perch



It seemed to me a good idea to use the word perch this month. As I sit at my computer at home during this latest Nor' Easter snowstorm, and pray for words to communicate that which will be helpful, I am led to think about my time during each week at St. Peter's. The word perch came to mind when I thought of the Rector's Office that I presently occupy when I am working at the church. It is on the second floor of the new edition and I get a bird's eye view of the playground and much of the parking lot behind the Community Building adjacent to the church. I can also look out further toward the Court House across Limerock Street and since it has southern exposure, it is usually bright (on sunny days) and warm, sometimes hot because of the solar energy streaming through the windows. From this warm sunny perch I see people, familiar and not, traversing the parking lot and park. I watch children play, in nicer weather and people picnicking or young people gathering in their own social communities.

One rather interesting thing I have noticed is that none of the multitudes of people who frequent the playground, young, middle aged and old, nor the people parking their vehicles or leaving parking spots or just walking, look up at the second floor. In this way although I am present and in my capacity as Interim Pastor available for whatever is needed of me, I am a spectator, unnoticed and making no impact on those below. Not that I am complaining, if everyone noticed I was there perhaps their actions would be inhibited and they could not just be themselves. Another thought crosses my mind; I probably would not get much administrative work done if everyone was aware of my presence in the office.

Last week my wife Susan and I stopped by St. Peter's late in the afternoon since I needed to pick up something from my office. As we were leaving the parking lot our eyes were drawn to some movement up a nearby tree by the parking spaces facing the Library. It was a large bird with wings spread just stopping almost in mid air to land on an upper branch. Since I was behind the wheel my initial view was compromised. I thought it was a hawk, but Susan said, it is an owl. And she was right. It was a large owl, now sitting on the branch, undetected by all but we two humans, probably not by the possible subjects that might become the bird's dinner. From the owl's vantage point it was gazing out and surveying the grounds for any movement. It sat there quietly and still, looking wise and yet ready for action at any moment.

I was once told that if you don't know the answer to something, keeping quiet will either make others think you do or at least they will not be able to be sure you do not. So perhaps that is where the owl gets its reputation. But like all creation it is majestic.

I bring all this before you to say that serving as an Interim Pastor, is a bit like being perched up on a tree viewing matters of the parish, seemingly undetected while in the midst of it. There is always much more going on than most of us realize. The Interim position allows the possibility of looking at the parish from within and without at the same time. What sometimes is so obvious because it has always been there or always been done a certain way, can virtually go unobserved. Writers of books always have others look at their work with, 'fresh eyes' to see what they continue to pass over because it is so familiar.

Some of my observations at St. Peter's show willingness by some to truly be involved and work at making a difference. The wardens and vestry members are working to make the transition from one rector to another a productive time. The Discernment Committee they have chosen, is dedicated to this work. Their consultant, the Rev. Canon Mary Ann Taylor is highly capable and experienced as well as sensitive to feelings.

The Stewardship Commission and the Evangelism Committee work hard at development of resources, financial and human. I am grateful for the work of the Altar Guild and musicians of voice and instrument. Then there are all who volunteer to keep both the buildings and the ministries functioning.

In all this, it is the task of the Interim Pastor to provide for the liturgical and pastoral needs of the congregation. She or he is called to be the one who both observes and listens with new eyes and ears and then adds voice to help all the parish members not only see what is truly in our midst, but to take action for the spiritual health of all. In this way the new relationship hoped for on the horizon can be entered into with a clearer awareness of mutual responsibilities necessary for the work God calls us to accomplish in a loving community.

We have celebrated a season of hopeful expectation in Advent, and one of the beginnings of hope-filled joy in Christmastide, and now we are in a season of God revealing God's self in the life and ministry of his Son Jesus, our Lord. These and all seasons, focus in a variety of ways that help call for us to continue to live our daily lives but, with the added dimension of looking up regularly, to help us see within the familiar, also the uniqueness which God provides for those called to see Christ in others as well as to behold the Christ within.

When we value the importance of all the wonderful pieces of the mosaic that make up God's plan for the world, with new eyes and hearts, our transitions whatever they may be will be guided by the One who not only observes all, but participates with us in the Good News we have been given to share with the world.

A Blessed Epiphany season is hoped for us all. Amen.
TK+



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

Writing poetry as a source of spiritual strength

by Judith-Victoria Willey

Last spring I was reading a *Daily Guidepost* devotional by a young girl that had recently graduated from college. In her biography there was a special phrase that she used to describe her expected walk with God – “Joy in the Journey”.

I was asked to do a talk for Cursillo weekends and really needed a theme to share with those wanting to find a closer walk with God. The word “Joy in the Journey” jumped off the page at me, and became my theme. It also became part of my daily thoughts about my walk with God. I needed to find Joy in my Journey.

I shared this with the Discernment Committee, and these words “Joy in the Journey” are now part of our discernment prayer for our walk to find a new Rector. It really says it all so well.

Joy for the Season happened December 5th, last year, while I was waiting for Harold at the YMCA. I was reflecting on this past year and realized that I had found many areas that had Joy in the Journey. Then it stuck me, how the birth of Jesus really brought Joy into our dark world. I got to thinking about the area of the world where He was born, and how He has affected our world ever since. From that came Joy for the Season. My wish is that all who read it will feel the Joy that is all around them, and the Joy of Jesus in their hearts and lives.

Joy for The Season

On a hill far away – on a cold winters night –
Our fate was set – by the cry of a wee child.
He came so that we might know True Love –
So that we might learn how to share True Love.

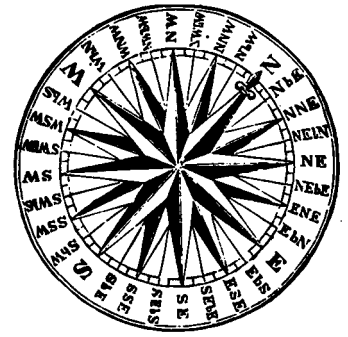
His Star is still burning to this day –
To help us find our way to True Love –
To have a chance of sharing that Pure Love with all
So that we can grow in Love and Joy.

On that hill far away – Joy came to our world.
It made us better – gave us an example –
A chance to see how life should be –
To embrace us and show us what Joy is –
Tis the Season for Joy.

Wrap yourself in the True Love and Joy that was given for all –
Listen to the cry and cooing of a Small Child –
And know that True Love and Joy are here –
To make our life better and better –
JOY TO ALL.

Discernment Committee Report

Tom Putnam and Jude Thomas, Co-Chairs



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

The Discernment Committee completed the tasks of holding Focus Groups and designing and distributing the Parish Surveys. Many people in our church participated in the focus groups by contributing answers to our questions as well as generating other topics of interest. The groups sparkled with energy as participants spoke freely about their wants, needs and concerns for St. Peter's. Many were interested in expanding our programming for youth in the church. They also spoke about wanting a new Rector to have gifts in the areas of communication, leadership, community involvement, pastoral care, with an emphasis on preaching and to act as a spiritual director for our congregation. Some of the comments were "challenge us to examine our faith and live it out" and "a new Rector will want to do this particular ministry here at St. Peter's" and "to provide for spiritual growth along with biblical teaching." The comments from parishioners, written on flip chart paper, can be found in the Vestry room. It's interesting to read the comments of people who care enough about our church to talk about not just preserving what we have, but willingly gave their views of what we need to accomplish for the future of St. Peter's.

We on the Discernment Committee are so looking forward to opening the envelopes to read how you all answered the questions on the Parish Survey. Linda Mann our Vestry clerk with a professional background in statistical analysis is going to guide us in analyzing the information so that we can include it as part of the Parish Profile. Other work we are doing in preparation for the Profile is gathering digital photos of parishioners, worshiping, learning and enjoying fellowship. Topics to be included in the Profile will be decided upon at our next meeting. As you can see, we are an active, focused committee.

Despite some snow storms on meeting days we are right on target for meeting our timelines. The next deadlines we have set for ourselves is February 15th to have the survey data tabulated and by March 15th to have written the Parish Profile. If you have not yet completed a survey, please contact either of us and we can assist you.

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 P.M.

note new office hours

The Rev. Ted Kanellakis, Interim Rector
(cell 975-0521, rector@stpetersrockland.org)

The Rev. Isabel Polk, Deacon
(home 596.0003; deacon@stpetersrockland.org)

Ferris Donoso, Parish Secretary

(stpeters@stpetersrockland.org)

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 Chatfield, jschat@worldnet.att.net, 236.2187

JoAnne Murphy, 594.4023

Doug Curtis Sr., 594.7191, Junior Warden

Micki Colquhoun, cell. 592.5992, Treasurer

Linda Ames Mann, Clerk

Vestry members

Elizabeth Biddle, Katherine Brown, Ferolyn Curtis, Jim Curtis, Spencer Hurtt, Ellie Hutchinson, Thomas McBride, Billy Smith, Pat Snow, Jude Thomas

THE ROCK

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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 Tuesday February 19th.



Mailed January 18th

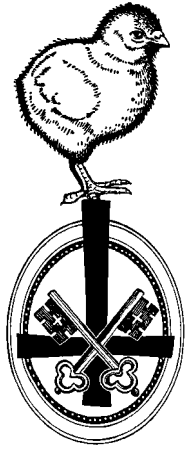
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**“(Jesus) said to him,
‘Get up and go on your way,
your faith has made
you well.’”**

Luke 17:19

The following stories in the life of Jesus appear only in the Gospels, in the chapters that are cited here. Look up the stories, then try to memorize where to find them.

Changing Water into Wine.
John, Chapter 2

Calming the Sea.
Matthew, Ch.8;
Mark, Ch.4;
Luke, Ch.8

Feeding the Five Thousand.
Matthew, Ch.14;
Mark, Ch.6;
Luke, Ch.9;
John, Ch.6

“Jesus said...‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’” John 11:25-26a

THE PEBBLE

Miracles of Jesus’s Healing Power:

The Cleansing of the Ten Lepers

Jerusalem, around 25 CE

When Jesus, the Rabbi, arrived in this city yesterday, some of his followers reported a miraculous healing that occurred as they traveled here. Following is the story pieced together by a staff writer:

“Our group was entering a village in the region between Samaria and Galilee when ten lepers approached us. We knew they had the disease because of the way they were dressed. Also, they carried the usual rattles to warn people of their presence.

“As we approached, these lepers should have moved away and shouted, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ This is required by law. Instead, they moved closer but kept a safe distance. They said, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!’”

“When Jesus saw them, he took pity on them, and sent them to the priests. As they hurried away, they were healed! They shouted for joy and ran toward the synagogue even faster.

“That is, everyone ran away except for one man. When he realized that he had been truly healed, he came running back and shouted, ‘Praise be to God! Praise be to God on high!’ When he reached Jesus, he threw himself on the ground and declared his thanks.

“No one else returned. Jesus seemed puzzled by this. He asked, ‘Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’ (We learned afterward that the man who returned was a Samaritan.)

One of the Nine Explains. After talking with witnesses to the healing of the lepers, a reporter encountered one of the nine who had left the scene without giving thanks.

When asked why he had left so quickly without turning back, the man replied, “I had been ill for so long and banished from the city. I had not seen my family for many years. When Jesus told us to go to the priest, I simply followed the others.

“I really did not think anything had changed until I was halfway to the synagogue. Then I realized I could feel my feet again. When we reached the home of the priest and he declared us clean, I finally believed that a miracle had happened. I fell to my knees then and thanked God. I also realized that I had not thanked the very one who healed me and I was ashamed.”

Catherine of Sienna Served the Sick

Catherine was a young woman who lived in Italy in the 14th century. The youngest of 24 children, she was determined to work for God and became a nun at the age of sixteen.

She belonged to the Third Order of St. Dominic, which meant that she did not live in a convent. Instead, she lived and worked among the people.

Catherine spent many hours working with the poor and in hospitals, taking care of the sick. According to one story, she cared for an old woman who was dying of leprosy, when no one else would go near the sick woman. As a result, Catherine also contracted leprosy. The legend says Catherine’s leprosy was miraculously cured at the old woman’s funeral.

Disease of Leprosy Is Now Treatable

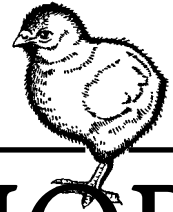
Leprosy, in ancient times, referred to many different skin diseases. Some of these were probably rashes, eczema (dry, scaly patches on the skin) or loss of pigmentation (vitiligo).

True leprosy, now called Hansen's disease, was identified in 1871 by a man named Gerard Hansen. It is a chronic, infectious disease that affects the skin and the nerve endings and is caused by a bacteria.

Persons who had leprosy were declared unclean and banished from society. They were required to dress differently and to shake a rattle or call out "unclean" to passersby. Their clothes were usually rags that others discarded. Bandages were wrapped around their feet and hands because of the lesions. Persons diagnosed with leprosy often died from exposure or starvation rather than the disease itself.

For many centuries, the only means of preventing the spread of the disease was to isolate the victims. Lepers were diagnosed by a priest who had learned to recognize the symptoms.

Because all skin diseases were initially considered leprosy, rituals were established to allow those who were cured, or whose rash cleared up, to return to the community. The priest could, therefore, declare a person clean or unclean. That is why Jesus said to the lepers he healed, "Go and show yourselves to the priest."



Christians Reach Out to Help Others

Many members of the Episcopal Church give time and energy to helping people who are ill or need physical care. Churches all across the United States have developed ministries to reach out to the homeless and less fortunate, through food pantries and clothes closets. Churches also sponsor homeless shelters, safe houses for women who are abused and day care centers for low-income families.

Most churches recruit from their membership for people to visit hospitals and nursing homes, take food to shut-ins and reach out to people who simply need friendship.

Other churches are reaching out to immigrants who may need assistance in finding housing, getting a job and attaining legal status. The church members do not stop there, however. They continue to offer support to families and individuals as they get used to living in this culture.

How is your church helping others? Do you know what other churches in your area are doing to help others less fortunate than us? Think about what are doing to help others who are sick or in need.

All of these things are articles adapted from Covenant Times, Episcopal Children's Curriculum, Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing, copyright 1993.

The story is based on Luke 17:19 and John 11:25-26a.

The Healing of the Lepers

Use the code below to find the hidden message from the story of Jesus' healing of the ten lepers.



A	○	H	●	O	☆
B	✕	I	✱	P	\$
C	□	J	?	Q	:
D	∞	K	—	R	I
E	○	L	→	S	▲
F	◆	M	■	T	➡
G	⊗	N	!	U	+

The puzzle answer is, "Your faith has made you well."