

MARCH 2011

THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishop Steve Lane visits and baptizes

On January 23rd, Bishop Lane visited St. Peter's to celebrate Holy Eucharist with the people of St. Peter's and to baptize Heavenly Anne Marie Mahaffey. It was a day full of celebrations. The youth of the Sunday School sang the Shaker tune *Simple Gifts*, a wonderful and delicious reception was held in the Parish Hall and the Vestry held a special meeting with the Bishop in the new "soft space" beside the chapel.



Naomi, Fr. Glenn, Heavenly and Bishop Lane proceed to the font.



The Mahaffeys, Bishop Lane and Godparents Judy Mullins and Neil MacMillan



Jude Thomas, Marty Rogers, Micki Colquhoun and Tish Taylor coordinated the reception.



Parents and children from the Sunday School sing *Simple Gifts*.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
11 White St., Rockland ME 04841
207.594.8191
Fax 207.594.7766
www.stpetersrockland.org
stpeters@stpetersrockland.org



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



Gallery of The Spirit January features Fr. Glenn's Icon of St. Joseph

I have always felt close to St. Joseph. Perhaps it was because my father's name was Joseph? The Joseph from the Jewish scripture seems to find himself in places he never expected and had little control over. He worked at providing for people by the grace of God. St. Joseph had a similar role in the lives of Mary and Jesus, the holy family.

This Icon of St. Joseph was written by Mark Bayer in Oneonta, NY. Mr. Bayer is an Orthodox Christian iconographer, working in the High Byzantine and Old Russian styles. He was born in Leningrad and educated as a secular artist. Yet, his art was considered nonconformist in the Soviet Union at the time, so he immigrated to Jerusalem with his wife and son in 1973. He began his service of writing liturgical icons in 1980 and has received spiritual blessings to paint icons and teach iconography from Diodorus, Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem, as well as officials of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Melkite Church, and the Orthodox Church in America.

This Icon of Joseph has some stunning characteristics. It is used for prayer and is a window into the world beyond, where the past, present and future all exist at the same time. The gold in the icon is a symbol of the spiritual realm, while Joseph's feet are planted on terra firma. You may notice his robe is billowing; this is a symbol of the movement of the Holy Spirit blowing through his life. You may notice that the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus are in the mandala, a symbol of Jesus in Mary's womb. You will notice two turtle doves in Joseph's hand, which he offered in thanksgiving for the birth of a son as the Torah requires.

Joseph's hand is raised in blessing. Two angels, Michael and Gabriel, attend Joseph. One angel carries a lily, referring to his dream to take Mary as his wife. The other carries the shepherd's crozier and tablet, referring to the dream that instructed him to take Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod and his dream in Egypt to return with Jesus as a "new Moses" of Matthew's gospel.

Why is this icon so special to me? There are obvious connections on all kinds of different levels at different times in my life. Currently, I am pondering the new arrival in our life of Heavenly Anne Marie. This is the original name given by her mother, who had no idea that the Anne was believed to have been the mother of Mary. And of course, Heavenly came into our lives by a most curious route, one which Naomi and I had never anticipated. Joseph would understand, trying to live a life of faith, with the Spirit moving through, blowing us to where it wills.

Joseph made his plans, God changed the plans. Joseph worried, thought, prayed and followed, using the resources at his disposal to provide for those in his care, even as he found himself in places and circumstances that were not always familiar to him. Joseph is not remembered for words of wisdom, but for his listening. He followed what he heard in his dreams although he was certainly a pragmatist; he was a carpenter after all. Joseph is a common name and he fades into obscurity in the gospels. Yet, to me, his important and essential work is self evident.

Fr. Glenn

February features Mary Alice Bird's Curtain of Scarves

Scarves are my newest venture into the recycling of used clothing and textiles. These join an inventory of socks, hats, baby blankets, hats, bags and pins marketed through several shops, including Archipelago in Rockland. Each is a blend of textiles from reconstituted sweaters, skirts, dresses, or remnants. My "marketing name" (MABird) comes from my name and from visiting our daughter Sarah in Liberia in the 1980's — where "wiser" older women are referred to as "Ma X" — no doubt presumptuous, but expressive of my desire to put "foolish things" behind, now that I am in my 70's.

In my current life, gardening and the "resurrection" of used clothing and textiles are my creative outlets. For me, both are intuitive, not analytical dialogues. In the garden, my greatest satisfaction comes when the plants speak to me. The same is true when with the colors, texture, and the language of fabrics, and I find great joy in the "new things" that comes from these conversations. For me, these are holy moments.

When I "reflect" on these interests, interweaving threads surface. In my forties, I began gardening to connect with my deceased father. I realized this the first time I found myself mimicking him walking around the garden, talking to the plants. My father grew up on a Pennsylvania farm and always remained in touch with the earth. At the same time, he was a Christian who loved to ponder aloud the meaning of scripture. Throughout his life, his growth in spirituality inspired me.

In a different way, sewing is a way to be with my mother. She was a gifted seamstress, and from her I gained a delight in textiles — even though I have had to work hard to develop patience with sewing and sewing machines! Although it was our youngest daughter Sarah who inspired me to experiment with textile recycling (both of us love the mystery of restoring beauty to discarded objects), I know my mother is pleased and amused to see my patience evolving and a vintage Singer in my studio.

The beauty of common and useful things has always touched me as something holy. While I appreciate "fine art" and "elegant craftsmanship," I have always been drawn to the beauty of common, functional object — a paperclip, my 50 year old stainless colander, a simple ceramic chalice. Folk art attracts me, and the distinction some make between "arts" and "crafts" has always struck me as meaningless.

And then with gardening and recycling, there is the obvious connection that as I come closer to my own death, both witness to "resurrection" of the body — a mystery I don't ever expect to grasp in this life, but one that keeps inviting me into dialogue with the holy through the voices in my garden and among my fabrics.

Mary Alice Bird



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



Please contact Dorothy Nyman at 596-0363 if you would like to exhibit your creative art in the Gallery of The Spirit.



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



Photo by Amy Wilton

Kneelers, like stained glass windows, tell stories. In the work of creating this, I have learned the stories as well as finding peace and joy along the way.

A new Kneeler for St. Luke's Cathedral

I enjoy needlework in many forms: sewing, knitting, crocheting, embroidery and especially needlepoint or canvas embroidery. I switch back and forth usually keeping multiple projects underway. Some are complex and mentally challenging and others are simpler and relaxing giving me moments to clear my mind of busy-ness and focus more intently on listening either to music or speech. The complex projects force me to close out distractions around me. So both types actually bring me peace and at their conclusion a sense of accomplishment.

When I attended the Diocesan Convention in 2007, I learned of St. Luke's project to install needlepoint kneelers throughout the cathedral. The cathedral wants to have kneelers from each church and mission in the diocese. Mine is the first and so far the only one from St. Peter's.

The Cathedral Kneelers group puts a kit together with two needles, the red and gold yarn for the sides, and the canvas with the required information already painted on. That information is: the name of the church, the initials of the stitcher, the date of completion, and a code number that is used in a guide that contains written descriptions of all the kneelers. The stitchers can make any design they want on the top and of course they select and purchase the yarn for the design. Finishing my kneeler in 2008 was wildly optimistic and knowing how long it took me to do the one for St. Thomas in the 1980's, I cautioned the Cathedral Kneelers group that I might need more time. Don't ask me how many hours it has taken. I do not work on it when we travel. I take breaks to work on other projects and 2008 and 2009 were especially busy for me. It is thrilling that it is finally finished.

You will recognize the cross as part of the stained glass triptych window above the altar. The stunningly beautiful window is Tiffany glass and is called an Easter window because of the lilies bordering the center cross. Easter Lilies decorate many Christian churches and homes on Easter. They have a history and meaning tied to the Bible and a myth from the Middle Ages that makes them symbols of Jesus' resurrection for Christians today.

Though the Bible does not specifically mention Easter Lilies, it is full of images of flowers, some translated into English as "lily" even though they are different from the white lilies at Easter. The lily appears in the Old Testament in several places. The prophet Hosea specifically mentions the lily in a context foreshadowing Easter, when Yahweh promises that the repentant Israel will blossom as the lily (Hosea 14:5).

In the New Testament, Jesus uses a metaphor with a lily during his Sermon on the Mount as he tells his listeners not to worry about life. He says, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these." (Matthew 6:28-29)

The kneeler design has been simplified by showing only a part of the two windows on either side of the cross. On the left is the monogram IHS. It is a very old Christian symbol, dating back to the first century. IHS is the abbreviation of the Greek name Jesus (Iasous). When portrayed in art, sometimes the artist will include a line above the hs to show it is an abbreviation as has been done in this stained glass window. On the right is another ancient Christian monogram. It is formed by superimposing the first two letters in the Greek spelling of the word Christ: (Greek—"xpiotoc") "chi" or Ch and "rho" or r in such a way to produce the monogram. Although not technically a cross, the Chi Rho invokes the crucifixion of Jesus as well as symbolizing his status as the Christ.

Marty Rogers

Revised from an earlier article

Alternatives to Violence Project

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), a program that teaches prisoners nonviolent ways to resolve conflicts, has recently begun to conduct workshops at the Maine State Prison in Warren, and is seeking volunteers. I was excited to learn about this, because I was a trainer for several years with an AVP group in Massachusetts.

AVP began in 1975 at Greenhaven Prison in New York State when a group of inmates asked local Quakers to help develop a program for new inmates to avoid violence in the prison. The result was a program, modified over time, that comprises three workshops, each of which is a 3-day weekend event. Such AVP workshops, led entirely by volunteers, have been conducted in over 100 prisons in this country and internationally.

People from the community who wish to become trainers start by taking part in the workshops as participants (although, unlike the inmate participants, they return to their homes at the end of each day). When they complete the three workshops they are eligible to become trainers. The same is true of the inmates, so both the trainer and the participant groups are a mix of prisoners and community volunteers.

Both trainers and inmates use their shared experience, interactive exercises, games, and role-playing to examine responses to situations in which injustice, prejudice, frustration, and anger can lead to aggressive behavior and violence. Evaluations of the program have shown that it can lower violence in prisons and in some cases has reduced recidivism. My own experience was rewarding both in the changes in behavior and attitudes that I observed in the participants (especially those who went on to become trainers) and in the insights the workshops provided into my own ways of dealing with conflict.

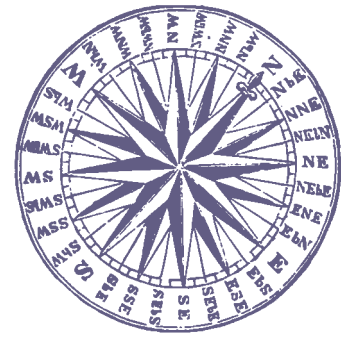
More information about the program is available from:

The AVP websites avpusa.org and avp-me.org

The Maine State coordinator of AVP, Sue Rudalevige (799-6454)

Annie Mahoney (596-0089) or Neil Macmillan (593-7079)

Neil Macmillan

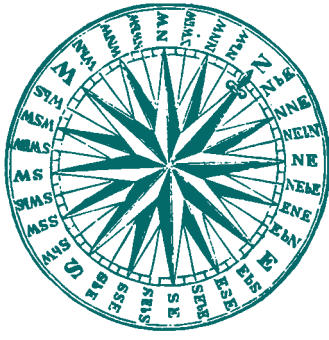


WAYPOINTS
*activities and
notices on our
journey together*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR PANCAKE LUNCHEON MARCH 8TH

**ECW sponsors annual shrove
Tuesday Pancake Lunch
Tuesday, March 8th
11:00 - 1:30 pm
St. Peter's Parish Hall**



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

How did we get here? St. Peter's and Buying a Rectory

It was obviously a surprise to some at the Annual Meeting that the Vestry of St. Peter's had already worked on a plan to attempt to purchase a Rectory. Some asked, how long has this discussion been going on and who have been involved? Have we considered other options for clergy housing? Why would we want to do this when churches have been selling Rectories? How would we pay for a Rectory when we are in a deficit position in our annual budget?

These are all insightful questions. The discussion of how to provide for clergy housing grew out of a frustration in not being able to find reasonably priced long term rentals in the Rockland area housing market. Currently the Mahaffey's rent the Methodist Parsonage, which was only intended to be a stopgap until they sold their house in New York and has since turned into long term housing. With the advent of a new daughter in the house, the Mahaffey's began looking for an affordable long-term rental house in the area that was a bit larger, and were unable to find a rental that suited their needs. Fr. Glenn shared this issue with the wardens and eventually with the Vestry in May of 2010.

The Vestry began going out and looking for long-term rentals and were unsuccessful in finding a solution. With the relatively depressed price of housing, the idea came up that perhaps this might be an opportunity for the future by buying property as a Rectory. This idea was based on three realities: 1) The Midcoast is unusual in Maine in that seasonal rentals abound rather than long term rentals. 2) A Rector would have a hard time purchasing a home on current and future levels of compensation. 3) In the long run, a Rectory could be cost effective for the Parish, since the Parish would not have to come up with cash every month to pay a housing allowance.

In May the Vestry appointed a housing committee with John Snow as the chair. Serving on the committee were Jim Bowditch, Tish Taylor, John Bird, Doree Fisher, Micki Colquhoun, Fr. Glenn, and John Chatfield, and later Steve Alley. This committee looked at a number of properties, collected information on the housing needs of Fr. Glenn and researched various ideas regarding financing of a house.

The question was posed to Fr. Glenn if he would be interested in purchasing his own home with some assistance on a down payment, or some other arrangement. Fr. Glenn declined this offer, explaining that he was hesitant to go back into the housing market, especially when the annual budget of St. Peter's has been in a deficit position for many years and has borrowed heavily from the endowment which is now at a level that will only last another five years at the current rate of use. With this in mind, the committee looked at rentals, lease to buy, and owner financed homes. After investigating finance options with the bank, it was found that St. Peter's could not hold a normal 30 year mortgage, since it was a business it could only get a 15 year business loan, which would make monthly payments much higher.

This committee continued to work throughout the summer and the fall and came up with the idea of creating a private Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) made up of a few investors from the parish, who would each contribute \$25,000 to the LLC to form a total of \$175,000 that could be loaned to St. Peter's to add to the \$75,000 in the housing investment fund currently held in the Diocese. These funds could then provide money to purchase a property for a Rectory. The LLC would like to have the money repaid in six years at 5% interest, which could be accomplished by a capital fund campaign in the parish over the next six years. A housing report was presented to the Vestry and was approved in

October. The idea was presented to the Bishop for his input. The Bishop came and met with the Wardens and Rector and members of the housing committee and felt the plan had merit and recommended it be taken to the Annual Meeting for approval. If the Parish Annual Meeting approved, the plan would then be presented to the Standing Committee of the Diocese for approval. Once the Standing Committee approved of the idea, it would go back to the parish to look for a specific property.

Once a property was selected, the LLC formed, and the financing put together, it would all be presented to the Standing Committee for approval. The intention was to keep the amount of the "mortgage" as small as possible, so that the mortgage, taxes, and all other costs of the Rectory could be covered by the budgeted amount we were currently paying Fr. Glenn as a housing allowance. So, the intention was to stay within current budget amounts.

Since the discussion at the Annual Meeting, which the Vestry discussed at their February meeting, there have been some new developments. One is that the Vestry will work more diligently at bringing the parish up to speed on discussions that have already taken place and providing opportunities for any future discussion with members of the parish. Secondly, Fr. Glenn voluntarily removed himself from these discussions so the parish can consider what is best for the ongoing life of St. Peter's, without the circumstances of Fr. Glenn being germane to the discussion.

If parishioners have questions about the process or the current development on this issue, please contact John Snow or other members housing subcommittee or a member of the Vestry. All of the Wardens and Vestry members, with their phone numbers and email addresses are listed on the bottom of the announcement page in each week's bulletin.

Vestry Notes

December 15, 2010

■ **Financial Reports.** Pledges are now running ahead and the budget is looking good. The treasurer's report was accepted. Jim Bowditch stated that \$102,000 has been pledged so far for 2011; Liz Hunt is predicting a final total of about \$142,000. Second notices had been mailed to those who had not sent in a pledge.

Glenn Mahaffey said that in the 2011 proposed budget some line items had been combined.

Glenn discussed endowment funds that were restricted to theological education by the vestry, not the donor. Jim suggested supporting Theological Education Sunday and involving the congregation more. Mary Alice Bird suggested that the amount for theological education be based on the number of persons seeking to be priests or deacons. Jim developed a motion that included determining the needs of the seminarians for financial support in time for the budget process for the following year, budgeting an amount consistent with the needs of the seminarians and unrestricted funding for a seminary of our choosing, and holding Theological Education Sunday each year. The motion was approved. Mary Alice made a motion for the investment fund to be undesignated for theological education; this motion was also approved.

The housing allowance for Glenn for 2011 will be \$24,000, which was designated by the vestry, out of the total clergy compensation of \$81,000.

Glenn reported that the 2009 audit had been completed. The treasurer is responsible for carrying out recommendations. A small ad hoc committee was formed to assist: Bill McClellan, chair, Tom Putnam,



WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together

Vestry Notes

Vestry Notes

Mary Alice, along with Micki Colquhoun and possibly Kate Jones. A motion to accept the audit report and the ad hoc committee was approved by the vestry.

■ **Nomination Committee.** Tom Putnam reported the recommendations and the vestry accepted: Candidates for the vestry: Anne Mahoney, Catharine McCann, and Ron Staschak. Convention delegates: Jim Curtis, Lucia Elder, Scott Fletcher (alternate), Anne Hurtt (alternate), Vicky Lesmerises (alternate), Joanne Smith, Marilyn Smith, and Gregory Snow.

■ **Rector's Report.** Glenn provided general information on columbariums. A rough rendering will be prepared to present to the parish. Glenn and John Snow will prepare a proposal.

■ **Clergy Housing Committee.** John reported that the meeting with the Bishop had taken place. The proposal will be brought up before the congregation in January and will go to the Diocesan standing committee in February. The opportunity to invest will be available to everyone in the congregation. Glenn said that the first task was to meet with Terry Riemer in the Diocesan office.

■ **Vestry Concerns.** Concerns and prayers were offered for a number of ill parishioners.

January 19, 2011

■ **Financial Reports.** Micki Colquhoun presented the corrected November report (an error in the pledge line), which was accepted. The revised 2011 budget has a deficit of \$47,000. However, we may receive a bequest of approximately \$40,000. Micki is working with the new bookkeeper to improve procedures, e.g. reminding persons of unpaid pledges. There will be an appeal to bridge the gap at the annual meeting. Micki will present the proposed budget; senior wardens will point out the shortfall. A motion to accept the budget for presentation at the annual meeting was passed.

■ **Annual Meeting.** The church service will be at 9:30 a.m. There has been a change in nominations: Catherine McCann withdrew as a candidate for vestry and Anne Hurtt withdrew as an alternate delegate to the convention. Also, Bill McClellan withdrew from the treasurer position. Joanne Smith will replace Catherine and Tish Taylor will replace Bill. The vestry approved a change in the signature card, giving Tish the authority (and removing Micki) to sign on all St. Peter's bank accounts. Glenn Mahaffey recommended that most reports at the annual meeting be presented as written. There will be two main issues to be discussed at the meeting. Thom will discuss the columbarium and John Snow will talk about clergy housing, including the history, what the vestry is thinking, the Kenyon fund, and a capital campaign. Amy Wilton has also asked to speak regarding church school. Thom noted that there will need to be a resolution for the parish to vote on regarding housing. Steve Alley and his helpers will take care of the food for the annual meeting. The vestry will furnish the food for the Bishop's reception. Jim Bowditch provided two drafts of possible resolutions for the annual meeting: (1) That the congregation of St. Peter's Church Rockland support bridge financing for six years to purchase or build a rectory for St. Peter's; (2) That St. Peter's begin the planning stage in 2011 for a capital campaign to begin in 2012 to pay for a rectory. These resolutions were approved by the vestry to be presented at the annual meeting.

■ **Rector's Report.** Glenn said that the Bishop will arrive on Sunday about 8:45 a.m. The Baptismal service will be at 9:30 a.m., followed by a reception. The Bishop would like to meet with the vestry at 11:30 a.m. Glenn circulated a handout with notes for a vestry visit from the Diocese. The wardens will discuss the mutual ministry review; Thom handed out a sheet on Guiding Vision and Goals and noted that the

meeting will take place in the new “soft space.” Glenn announced that Judy Lambert had taken over as bookkeeper from Jake Thomas and that recommendations for written procedures had been followed up.

■ **Building & Grounds.** John reported no new business. Steve expressed concern about cleanliness in the kitchen and storeroom. Glenn stated that it is the church’s responsibility to keep the kitchen clean, not the Loaves and Fishes teams. He could ask for advice from other churches. Glenn feels that there is a strong need for a cleaner for about three hours a week.

■ **Vestry Concerns.** Thanks were given to the three departing vestry members – Jim Bowditch, Jude Thomas, and Midge Welch.

159th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT MINUTES St. Peter’s Church January 30, 2011

Father Glenn led with prayers for the Diocese and for the annual meeting. Father Glenn called the meeting to order. The nomination of the clerk was approved.

The minutes of the 2010 meeting were approved.

■ **Vestry Nominations** – Tom Putnam reported from the Nominating Committee (Tom, Marty Rogers, and Midge Welch) that the nominations for vestry are Joanne Smith, Ron Staschak, and Anne Mahoney. In addition, six delegates and alternates (Jim Curtis, Lucia Elder, Scott Fletcher, Vicky Lesmerises, Greg Snow, and Marilyn Smith) for the annual convention were named. Lucia pointed out that four delegates were needed and so Vicky and Greg were changed from alternates to delegates. The nominations were accepted. Tom thanked the retiring vestry members: Midge Welch, Jim Bowditch, and Jude Thomas for their service. Glenn announced that Tish Taylor was replacing Micki Colquhoun as treasurer.

■ **Rector’s Report** – Presented by title.

■ **Senior Warden’s Report** – Presented by title.

■ **Junior Warden’s Report** – Presented by title.

■ **Lay Readers’ Report** – Presented by title

■ **Treasurer’s Report** – The 2010 report was accepted. The proposed 2011 budget was discussed. Parishioners questioned some of the line items; it was pointed out that some of the items have been combined. Thom Buescher stated that we are about \$47,000 short in operating funds and that we will need to transfer funds in 2011 from the endowment funds. Ted Kanellakis asked if the endowment funds transferred in 2010 had been replaced by a gift. Paul Rogers responded that \$35,000 had been taken out in 2010 and that it could be replaced but has not been at this time. Jake Thomas noted that 2010 was a good year financially. Glenn said that we are expecting a bequest of about \$45,000 – 50,000 in 2011. Mary Alice Bird remarked that this was a good reminder to the parish to leave bequests for the church. Vicky Lesmerises (and Marilyn Smith concurred) said that the net fundraising amount was incorrect. Glenn suggested that the budget be corrected and sent to the parish. Thom asked that the 2010 report be approved and that the 2011 budget be tabled; this was approved.

■ **Endowment Fund** – Paul Rogers noted that there is an error in the report. Under Fund 2010 Return, the final percentage should be 13.69.

■ **Stewardship** – Liz Hunt reported that pledges for 2011 are lower than in 2010. John Bird thanked Liz for her years of service.

■ **Evangelism** – Marty Rogers asked that parishioners make any needed corrections to the parish directory. The next deadline for the Rock is February 22. Please provide the church office with your e-mail addresses to save on postage.

Vestry Minutes

■ **Organist's Report** – Bob Earle said that he had neglected to thank Scott Dyer in his report. He has no plans to move the organ downstairs but would like to turn it around to face the altar. Bob invited comments and questions on the music.

■ **Education for Ministry Report** – Presented by title.

■ **United Thank Offering** – Presented by title.

■ **Columbarium** – Thom Buescher presented a slide show on a safe secure sacred space for a columbarium. Jim Algrant asked regarding sharing of spaces. Rhonda Hart expressed her support of a columbarium. Ted Kanellakis said he would prefer no doors over the drawers. John Bird moved that the vestry continue its work on the columbarium; the motion was passed.

■ **Clergy Housing** – John Snow gave background on the creation of a housing committee, including the current inadequate and unstable living arrangements for Glenn, Naomi, and Heavenly. St. Peter's used to have a rectory, but in the 1970s there was a move away from clergy housing. Now, the situation has reversed with churches finding that many clergy have been priced out of the housing market and in need of rectories. John related how the committee looked at current costs and determined that we can borrow \$175,000 and use \$75,000 from the Kenyon fund; however, the church itself cannot borrow money from a bank. Therefore, we need a capital campaign, which the Bishop supports, but we want to address the problem now. Seven persons are willing to put up \$25,000 each (a total of \$175,000) to invest in a rectory. Glenn and the Bishop have expressed concern regarding investors receiving interest. A long-term capital campaign would be initiated (2012-2017) to pay off the investors. Before we go to the Standing Committee in the Diocese, we need the support of the parish. Two motions are needed – one for the bridge financing and one for the six year capital campaign.

A wide-ranging discussion followed. Ted Kanellakis asked if other options had been considered and expressed concern for clergy not being able to build equity in their own home. Glenn responded that the Diocese requires an equity housing allowance be set aside each month. Jake Thomas said as a priest that he had lived in clergy housing and his own housing and had faced these issues before. He suggested that some of the investors may end up gifting their money to the church. John Bird said that the committee had considered many housing options. Mary Hunter expressed her concern regarding Heavenly's health. Marilyn Smith noted that over the years, only two priests had bought their own homes. Lucia Elder said that we need to make a decision today. Paul Rogers asked if the proposed rectory would be in the church neighborhood. John Snow replied that in order to maximize the search, Rockport and Owls Head would be considered. Tom Putnam said that we can require priests to live in the rectory or we can rent it out. Billy Smith stressed the need to expedite the decision; he was concerned about the church being back in the rectory business and the problems if the rectory would not work out for the next family. Thom Buescher stated that the vestry and the housing committee have spent a tremendous amount of time on this issue and that the Bishop is very clear on the need for a conclusion. Marty Rogers said that she had tried to cull sufficient information on housing concerns from the vestry minutes for the Rock. Jo McAlary and Pat Snow asked that the two motions be clarified. Midge Welch said that she had experienced the high cost of housing in Rockland and that she supported the motions. Tish Taylor remarked that the midcoast is an exception to lower home prices. The two motions were carried.

Two approvals are needed from the Diocese. The first will take place this week and the second will involve approval of the purchase agreement.

■ **Other Reports/Discussion** – Amy Wilton spoke on behalf of the

Sunday school and stressed the need for more parishioners to participate, beyond the parents of the children. She also asked that space in the church be dedicated to the children and that the children be incorporated more into the church services. Marilyn Smith noted that ECW has only seven active members who contribute all the food for the Pancake luncheon and the chicken pies for Petit Noel; more help is needed or these events will not continue. Rhonda Hart, similarly, asked for more volunteers for the Altar Guild. Mary Alice Bird reported that a group is working on fellowship activities.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Mann
Clerk

Notes from the February 16, 2011 vestry meeting
will be in next month's Rock.

The next meeting of the vestry is Wednesday, March 16, 2011.

From the Rector



GLENN MAHAFFEY

Rector's Report to the Annual Meeting

January 30, 2011

We ended up the year of 2010 asking the question: "what is God's purpose for the church?" This was not necessarily the question as we began the year. In late 2009 and early 2010 we were looking at "how do we build the church?" How do we grow in membership, in pledges, in activities and programs? At the beginning of 2010 the emphasis was in the building of the "church" as an institution, to which people contribute their money, time, and talent, to see work done on behalf of the gospel by the institution.

At the end of 2010, because of a variety of reasons, a new direction emerged asking the question: "what is God's purpose for us, as the church?" In this day and age when people do not trust institutions, perhaps God's purpose is not to simply preserve an institution which people have grown to question and distrust? Perhaps God is more concerned how the members who make up the institution are influencing life outside the walls of the building on 11 White Street in Rockland? How are our communities impacted and our families influenced by the gospel of Jesus Christ made flesh in our lives? It is a different way of looking at the work of the "church". When the teachings of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit work in us, influencing decisions we make and how we see God at work in the world, the gospel shines through us and impacts the world around us.

I think it is important that we don't "throw the baby out with the bathwater." What we do as "church" in the institutional sense at St. Peter's is very important to the community of Rockland and beyond. Our contributions of time, talent and treasure to St. Peter's results in caring for people, both within our congregation and outside our congregation. This year we have seen a re-formation of a group of people ministering to people in the congregation through visitation, bringing them communion at home, and other forms of pastoral care. This ministry has been pushed and led by Dorothy Nyman and Jane Chatfield. The people in this group are doing good solid work and should be commended! Every Sunday as we worship together, we make a statement to the world. Prayer is important to life, scripture is still relevant in life, we are able to discuss topics of popular

From the Rector

concern in some depth without acrimony, with respect and acceptance. Doors are opened and we hear the music, contributed in many ways by members of the church.

At the end of the year, the Vestry became especially aware of our ministry in running this building, which is a home to many different groups in the community. The groups meeting here are doing powerful spiritual work such as teaching and supporting people in living sober lives, teaching young fathers how to parent small children, enacting restorative justice in working with victim and perpetrator instead of simply housing people in jails. Our providing this space, paying the heat and lights, making sure the building is clean, inviting and well kept, is a powerful ministry of hospitality in our community! Whether it is a Toy Library where parents and little kids come and play, or as a space for ecumenical groups to serve meals to those in need through the Loaves & Fishes program, we are doing ministry. What we do together as an institution is important!

What we do in our individual journey of faith is important as well. How do we learn that we are living the paradigms of scriptural stories if we don't have a group of people to study the Bible and reflect on life with? How do we receive the spiritual encouragement that we need to get through the week living a life of faith if we don't have each other to join together in worship or even to sit next to fellow believers in silent prayer? We value being taken to another space and time in music, we celebrate our common identity in singing a hymn we all know word for word. We need to hear how individuals in the Parish are living out their life of faith in the world because it opens our minds to new opportunities. It gives us people we can access for more information or provides us an entrance into a specific endeavor. We learn here that we are each partners with the Holy Spirit in life outside the walls of St. Peters. It is here we can come and journey together.

What is God calling you to do personally and how do you discern it? How can the church do a better job of acting as a vehicle of God's Spirit to empower people for ministry in the world? What are the needs in the community around us that are crying out for our involvement? Is "evangelism" about convincing someone of a spiritual path or is it about working in cooperation with the Spirit in public ways in which we invite people to join us? How do we get to know each other better, learning to trust each other on a deeper level than just discussing the weather?

I think by the end of 2010 we have returned to what St. Francis put into such a beautiful prayer. It is by working for others that we get our own needs met. In consoling others the Spirit moves inside of us, healing us and making us whole. In loving others, we know love ourselves.

The story of the miraculous catch of fish has always seemed to illustrate ministry in my experience. The disciples can't catch any fish, Jesus tells them to let down their nets, they catch so many fish their boat begins to sink. Which is better, to not have any fish or to have such an overflow that your boat begins to sink? In either situation you recognize your need for a power beyond yourself, whether that power manifest itself by some miraculous extraordinary act of God, or other people who arrive to help. So, here we are at St. Peter's, we don't provide enough money in our plate and pledges to provide for the ministry we do each year. We live on the edge, hoping an endowment holds out or an extraordinary gift is given to bring us through. Perhaps that is not the way we want it to be, but that is the way it is. What are we being called to do about it?

So, we come to the conclusion of a year in 2010 that has had its challenges as well as its success stories. People have become a part of our congregation and joined in the work we do. People have encountered illnesses in their lives and other people have discovered ministry in

being the “church” present with those in need. Keep offering what we have to God and one another, communicating our needs as well as what we have available to give! I pray in 2011 we value each week, each ministry, each movement of the Spirit as we journey together following our Lord, Jesus Christ into the heart of the creator of all.

*In Christ,
Fr. Glenn+*

2011 Fellowship Calendar

A newly forming Fellowship Commission has begun to establish a calendar of monthly fellowship opportunities for members and friends of St. Peter's. The initial members of the Fellowship Commission (Steve Alley, Mary Alice Bird, and Tish Taylor) invite you to join the commission or volunteer to help plan or implement one of the following events. If interested, please contact Steve, Mary Alice or Tish or leave a message with the Parish Secretary. Please mark the following dates on your calendar – and save these dates saved so you can participate and get to better know fellow members of the parish. Watch for details in the Sunday bulletin and Rock.

- February 13: Parish Brunch following one joint 9 a.m. Sunday Service
- March 6: Pot Luck with hearty hors d'oeuvres, and a presentation by Marty and Paul Rogers on Machu Picchu
- March 8: ECW sponsored and organized Pancake Luncheon
- April 24: Special Coffee (but not brunch) for Easter Sunday.
- May 1: Cinco de Mayo Pot Luck Dinner:
- May 15: Parish Brunch following one joint 9 a.m. Sunday Service
- June 19: Father's Day Picnic and Holy Eucharist– if possible both held at Beaver Lodge
- August 14: Parish Brunch following one joint 9 a.m. Sunday Service
- September 11: Patriot's Day Pot Luck Dinner
- October 23: Parish Brunch following one joint 9 a.m. Sunday Service
- December 18: Parish Christmas Party

Machu Picchu on March 6th

To celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary, Paul and I took a trip to two places on our “Bucket List”. (Don't worry—we plan to live a long life!) The first part of the trip was to the Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador. The second part was to Machu Picchu in Peru. I have prepared a slide show talk on the Machu Picchu portion that focuses on geography, history, religious beliefs of the Inca people and Peruvian culture. I have not studied Spanish or South American History so I am not an expert. However I did a fair amount of research putting this talk together so that it would be accurate as well as visually appealing. We hope you will enjoy it and the pot luck on March 6th. *Marty Rogers*



Ash Wednesday Schedule March 9th

7:00 a.m.
Taize & Iona Eucharist with
Imposition of Ashes

Noon
Imposition of Ashes and
Eucharist (BCP)

5:30 p.m.
Imposition of Ashes and
Eucharist (BCP)

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 10:00 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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