

JUNE 2011

THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Our Journey toward Hospitality

At its July meeting the Vestry approved a strategy for conducting a Capital Campaign Fundraising Feasibility Study to see how favorable the prospects would be for financing and purchasing a permanent rectory for the rector of St. Peter's. That discussion followed up the special parish wide meeting held on June 26th that affirmed the decision made at the 2011 January Annual Meeting to proceed with the study of locating and purchasing a rectory.

In July a group of wardens and Vestry members met with Patricia Hubbard, a professional fundraising consultant, to begin to follow up on the drafted 'statement of need' that would anchor the feasibility study to be conducted later this Fall. The Vestry then discussed and approved a final version of the Statement at its earlier July meeting. That guiding statement proposes a capital campaign that focuses on three areas of need: purchase funds for a new rectory and any related maintenance expenses, monies to replenish the shrinking investments fund, and a special 'seed fund' for extending the Mission/Outreach endeavors of the parish. This seed fund would be built by a 15% tithe on all capital funds raised above the necessary rectory purchase funds. Ms. Hubbard will be interviewing about forty randomly selected parish members to create the respondent base for the feasibility study. She is the same consultant who so ably assisted the parish with the previous major capital campaign endeavor to remodel the facilities. The Vestry will hear from her in January and report its recommendation to the parish members at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Footsteps on the Journey

The process to explore and possibly purchase a rectory for the current and future rector(s) at St. Peter's has been a continuing journey since the winter of 2010. The lack of available long-term rental property created a 'crisis of hospitality' for our rector and his family. As the rector's current short-term rental at the Aldersgate Methodist church became more compromised in the spring of 2010, the Wardens and Vestry created an ad hoc Housing Committee to explore possible solutions to the hospitality problem. In October 2010, the Committee recommended a unique solution: purchase a rectory with the help of a special investors' 'bridge loan' and pay the amount back via short run capital campaign. In a meeting with the Bishop in December, the Vestry gained approval to proceed with a parish discussion and vote on the idea.

At the January Annual Meeting, John Snow presented a proposal on behalf of the Housing Committee and the Vestry. It made the whole parish aware of the extent of the problem of securing adequate longer term housing and suggested the pursuit of a rectory purchase. While the meeting membership approved the proposal, subsequent dissatisfaction with the procedure and process voiced by some members of the parish and Vestry prompted the Vestry to back up and look at the scope of the problem and its proposed solution. A moratorium on the purchase exploration was adopted by the Vestry in February.

Beginning in March and continuing into April, a parish wide survey was conducted to explore the areas of concern and disagreement with the housing solution adopted. Using both mail and email, the Vestry sought feedback from the membership. Forty-five parishioners completed the survey and the results were presented to the Vestry for its consideration. In May, a parish wide information meeting was held between the services on a Sunday morning. Many attended, asked questions, offered perspectives and comments, and provided the Vestry with another layer of feedback. In June the Vestry agreed to set a new resolution before the membership at a special Parish Meeting on June 26th. The joint resolution asked members to agree or disagree to two motions: (1) re-affirm the January 2011 decision to pursue the possible purchase of a rectory using some investor provided bridge loan monies; and (2) authorize the Vestry to conduct an objective Capital Campaign Feasibility Study to ascertain the likelihood of success for raising the monies required to repay the bridge loan and related costs.

Continued on next page

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

Can you help? Looking for current jpeg (photos) of church activities for stewardship brochure. Please send 2010-11 images to Doree Fisher by 9/16 via her e-mail. dkf@roadrunner.com.

The Sunday Adult Forum continued meeting this summer. One of the topics was on Mission Ministry. Lucia Elder led the discussions by presenting various resolutions that had been under study by the Diocesan Committee on Mission. You can read these resolutions and others that will be presented at the convention by going to the Diocese of Maine website: www.episcopalmaine.org.

After a spirited discussion of the resolution, with many points stressed and considered on all sides, the membership voted by secret ballot to affirm the earlier housing decision to pursue a rectory and to conduct a feasibility study in the Fall of 2011. The final vote was 44 ayes and 13 nays. It had been clear from the outset that reaching a 100% consensus was not likely. While there are strong viewpoints on all sides, the congregation is very capable of living with disagreement and grace.

Stop Gap Developments to Date

After reviewing, refining, and adopting the Statement of Need for the Capital Campaign Study, several questions were posed to the Capital Campaign Committee by our consultant, Patricia Hubbard. In August, the Committee met again to answer those questions for Ms. Hubbard, weave them into the statement of need, and establish a timeline for the feasibility work this Fall.

On a related development in our hospitality journey, the Aldersgate Church decided in July to put their parsonage property [where Glenn and Naomi have lived since first arriving here] up for sale due to anticipated tax costs. Glenn and his family, with support from others, re-doubled their efforts to find a more immediate housing solution. By grace and luck, they learned of a potential property that could be leased for one year beginning October 1st. Following research and inquiries, the Vestry discussed the option of taking out a lease on the property on behalf of the Church. Glenn met with the Wardens to piece out the details of how such a lease would work in the current contract we have with him and found a workable solution. The Vestry will be reviewing those changes in September. We anticipate being able to help Glenn, Naomi, and Heavenly move to their new home in early October.

A Beginning more than a Destination

But our faith journey continues. Providing hospitality and housing for our rector has highlighted for all of us the crisis in housing facing many families across our communities and country. While we await the process and results of our upcoming feasibility study, we cannot lose sight of the necessary role we carry as a parish to provide housing and hospitality in many ways in challenging times. For that reason, the Vestry has included 'radical hospitality' as one of our five guiding visions for the next ten years.

[For more information about any of the steps taken along this journey so far, please contact the Wardens and the Vestry]

For the Wardens and Vestry, THOM BUESCHER

The Convention is Coming

The 192nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22, 2011 at the Grand Summit Hotel at the Sunday River Ski Resort in Bethel.

For great reading and information see the New Northeast blog, replacing the old quarterly newsprint style Diocesan newspaper. Go to www.episcopalmaine.wordpress.org. For a free email subscription, enter your email address to subscribe to the blog and receive notification of new posts by email.

See notice to the left for more information.



The Art of the Spirit Gallery

The September exhibit for Art of the Spirit Gallery is the work of Rebecca Cox, 10, daughter of the late Elizabeth Biddle and Joe Cox. Rebecca has attended the Antonia Monroe Art Camp in Camden, and created these pieces over the past three years.

Besides visual art, Rebecca enjoys creative writing. Last year, she wrote, directed, and acted in a two-act play, 'Race to Talonburg', which ran for two evenings in Camden and raised several hundred dollars for the AIO food pantry. She also likes gymnastics, sailing and is studying piano.

She says, "Creativity is a gift that God gives us. I use my gifts through art and writing. I am happy to have these gifts because they help me think about things through a different perspective."

Plans Unfold for Columbarium at St. Peter's

In July the Vestry approved a go-ahead process to support the creation of a Columbarium as presented at the Annual Meeting of St. Peter's in January 2011. Thom Buescher and others from the Columbarium Committee reported on the results of a series of planning sessions with a cabinetmaker in Rockland who has offered to help design and construct a suitable structure for the nave area of the church. The design presented to the Vestry included 72 'niche' spaces for cremated remains. The Vestry has approved an initial estimated cost of \$250 per niche space. That fee would include the space, its secure door plate, and an engraved brass plaque. A special Columbarium Memorial Fund has been created to handle the fees and maintenance.

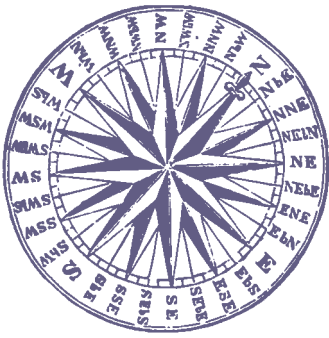
To gain a sense of interest among the congregation, the Vestry had asked individuals or families interested in purchasing a niche in the Columbarium to contact the office or Fr. Glen to be placed on a list parties we can contact further. A subcommittee of the Vestry, with Mary Alice Bird, Tom Putnam, and Thom Buescher, have been meeting with Glenn since early June to explore and develop a set of contracts and 'rules' the Vestry has now approved. These contracts and rules include the financing of the Columbarium over time, the constraints on whose remains can be placed there, and the full details of the cost/conditions of purchase of a niche or set of niches.



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

Next Sunday being the 10th anniversary of the events of September 11th - Bob Earle will be playing the "Adagio for Strings" by Samuel Barber and the "Pie Jesu" Faure Requiem beginning at 8:48am. The Interfaith Ministerial Fellowship of the Midcoast will be holding a service of reflection and peace on the afternoon of September 11 at Aldersgate Methodist Church, beginning at 2pm. If you would like to join a combined choir for this service, directed by Dick Einsel, choir director of Rockland Congregational Church, please be at the church by 12:45pm.

Also We will be returning to our regular schedule next Sunday, September 11. Services will be at 8:00 and 10:30, with the Adult Forum beginning at 9:15am and Children's Sunday School, led by Kirsten Staples and Joe Cox, starting at 10:30.



WAYPOINTS *activities and notices on our journey together*

As designed and proposed, the Columbarium will be about 92 inches tall, 82 inches wide, and about 15 inches deep. Each niche box will be approximately 9 by 9 inches tall/wide, and 15 inches deep. There will be no 'doubles' in the final design. Each person will have an individual niche. The installation will be located on the south wall of the newly renovated area west of the nave. It will be constructed from naturally finished native Maine oak. Its color will match the altar fixtures and rails.

As soon as contracts are signed and deposits collected from the more than one dozen interested members, the fabrication of the Columbarium can begin. It is hoped it will be installed by the end of 2011 with a dedication ceremony to follow. Please contact the church office and notify Kate or Glenn of your interests in purchasing a niche or two in the very near future.

For the Columbarium Committee and the Vestry,
THOM BUESCHER Co-Senior Warden

AIO news from Mary Hunter

Dear Friends at St. Peter's,

Well it seems I have been remiss in getting the word out regarding the AIO Food Pantry. The new storage addition is finished and is a great addition to the Pantry. However, I have not been physically doing as much as I was due to surgery I had in January. I apologize for not getting word out sooner.

The food collections over-all have been much less than usual. Some of the larger suppliers of food products (Good Shepherd and our local Shaw's grocery store) also have been feeling some of the same thing the local Food Pantries have been feeling: i.e. bare shelves and such. More people have been visiting their food pantries due to the slow employment conditions. Some of you have asked me where you can send the Pantry checks, since they forget to bring a can, a box, a tube or roll of things needed by those Clients who do use our Food Pantry. I just spoke with our Pantry Director, Judy Terrio and read this report to her to make sure I have all my information correct. She said those who ask about giving money, could put it in an envelope that I will have on hand, already addressed to the AIO Food Pantry, and put it in the Offering Basket Sunday mornings, thus saving an envelope and stamp, :-). All donations are greatly appreciated and needed. Judy also said that Linda Mann could bring the envelopes to the Pantry over when she brings the food.

I thank all who have given to our great Food Basket cart in the Narthex, donated to us by Marty and Paul Rogers. A huge Thank You to them for this gift and a Special "Thank You" to Linda Mann for taking the food to the AIO food pantry all this time.

I think we have a great St. Peter's Episcopal Church here in Rockland, Maine, doing the work that God has sent us out to do. In Prayer and Thanks to all you do, helping me to try and do what I should in our ministry to the ones in need in our neighborhood. "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" is the motto of our Area Interfaith Outreach Food Pantry in Rockland, Maine.

In Faith,
Mary Hunter



Rhonda Hart has a flair for decorating St. Peter's. The supporting tie rods in the nave are made beautiful with greens at Christmas, flowers in the summer and autumn colored foliage in the fall. For Pentecost Rhonda added red ribbons—red signifying the Holy Spirit.

The Vestry has been meeting throughout the summer to focus on the many matters that have been unfolding the past six months. While the official Minutes of the AUGUST meeting will not be accepted until the September 21st meeting, the action items are included here for your information.

Thom Buescher, Co-Senior Warden

JUNE MEETING

■ **Resolution about Housing for the Rector:** discussed as a motion from the Wardens, the two part resolution affirmed the previous decision of the Annual Meeting to explore housing for the Rector AND asked for authorization to initiate a feasibility study for the Capital Campaign Fundraising effort required. Passed by the Vestry on a vote of ten ayes, two nays, and two not present to vote. The resolution will be emailed/mailed to all members and then discussed at a Special Parish Meeting June 26th.

■ **Columbarium Update:** 13 individuals have asked for more information and consideration for the proposed Columbarium in the church. Glenn asked the Vestry to approve moving about \$600 from the last capital effort into a special memorial fund to start the process. Other donations collected on behalf of Elizabeth Biddle will also be added into that memorial fund. Approved.

■ **Small 'Geographical Groups':** Mary Alice and Tish presented a revised proposal for developing and using parish-wide small groups and suggested a calendar for a timeline. These groups are directed at the first 'vision area' of the parish: connectedness and communication. Vestry members were asked to study the lists and come to the July meeting with any proposed revisions.

■ **Rector's Report:** Glenn discussed the pending need for a way to develop and continue the Emergency Need Advocacy Center which will no longer be able to work with Penquis Social Services and the Salvation Army Center in Rockland. Glenn has been in contact with the Rockland area churches; several were willing to partner with St. Peter's to fill the gap in some way if necessary. Glenn took Vestry advice to pull pastors together, estimate costs, and see what might be feasible.

■ Vestry members agreed to meet in both July and August this year.

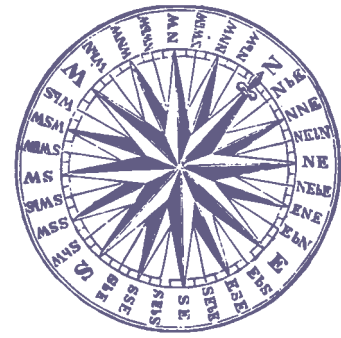
JULY MEETING

■ **Financials:** Some updating and corrections from previous report. Glenn noted that the new Memorial Checking Fund had been renamed to hold monies for the Columbarium project ahead.

■ **Statement of Need for the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study:** Mary Alice presented a draft statement to get feedback from the Vestry. After much discussion the proposed aspect of a 'tithe' of 15% for mission/outreach on funds raised above the targeted housing need of \$190,000 as well as the entire statement was approved by vote. The Capital Campaign Committee will be meeting with consultant Patricia Hubbard in later July to map out a plan for the study.

■ **Baptismal Ministry Ad Hoc Committee:** David Grima reported that the Parish Directory of Ministry Activities and particular contacts had been completed and circulated. The Vestry considered two other proposals: (1) planning a dinner/discussion with the Bishop and other midcoast vestries this fall to explore common issues and vision; and (2) to develop a means for parish members to explore and discern their own call/gifts. The Vestry accepted both ideas in concept and asked the group to develop further details.

■ **Columbarium:** Glenn and the committee discussed the details of two proposed documents to move the Columbarium project along: The 'Certificate' or contract language, and also the Rules for use of the Columbarium itself. Vestry approved both proposed documents; they will be used to discuss further options with all interested parties.

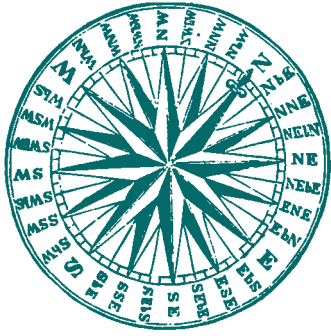


WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together

Vestry Notes

The next meeting
of the vestry is
Wednesday, September 21st
at 5:30 pm in the Parlor

Continued on next page



WAYPOINTS activities and notices on our journey together

**The service times
will go back to
8 and 10:30 on
Sunday, September 11th**

**Adult Forum will be at
9:15**

**Sunday School. will be at
10:30**

See you there!

■ **Geographic Groups:** a final version for vestry review was distributed. The hope is that these groups will begin in early Fall with a sense of direction from the Vestry.

■ **Rector's Report:** Two matters were discussed regarding two parishioners in pursuit of Holy Orders in the year ahead. Glenn read a quarterly report from Jane Chatfield. The Vestry also extended an invitation to Sheila Seekins to report on her progress and plans in August. The Vestry will then be asked to endorse her pursuit as a transitional deacon for September 2011. The exploration about the creation of an alternative Emergency Need Advocacy Center has continued among midcoast pastors with some estimate of costs. More to come!

■ **Missional Budgeting:** At the Vestry's request in the spring, Glenn began a discussion about the look and usefulness of so-called 'Missional Budgeting' as a means of considering how we seek, secure, and use our parish monies. That will continue in August and September.

AUGUST MEETING

■ Sheila Seekins met with the Vestry to discuss her progress and plans toward ordination into the transitional diaconate in June 2012. The Vestry endorsed her continuation and signed a letter to the Bishop and Committee On Holy Orders (COHO) to that effect.

■ **Financials:** Supported an effort to re-create the Budget and Finance Committee a suggested by Glenn and the Wardens. Candidates will be approached to help with this effort, chaired by Tish Taylor and supported by Tom Putnam and others.

■ **Rector and Housing:** The revised and updated Statement of Need and timeline for the Feasibility Study was presented. In a new development, the Vestry heard about a potential one-year lease on a home in Rockland for Glenn and his family. The Vestry agreed to explore the option and act as the leasing party. This will require some redrawing/recasting of Glenn's contract. Tom Putnam and Thom Buescher will meet with Glenn in a few days to iron out the details required by the Diocese about leases for Rector housing. The plan, if acceptable, would allow Glenn to move into the new space by October. The lease does not change the need for long-term permanent housing; it just buys time for working out other plans.

■ **Baptismal Committee:** The group reported that the special dinner and discussion of midcoast vestries (St. Thomas' and St. John Baptist) and the Bishop will be at St. Peter's on Wednesday October 26th after the Convention concludes.

■ **Missional Budgeting:** Glenn presented a more detailed draft of what this would look like when used to display the five vision priorities adopted by the Vestry at its Spring Retreat. Further discussion about the creation of a dedicated Outreach/Mission line item in the 2012 budgeting proposal.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

From the Rector

I don't know how many people in the congregation have actually attended the Taise-Iona Eucharist that is led by Fr. Lee Karker on Wednesday mornings at 7am in the Chapel. It is a different kind of service than many Episcopalians have ever experienced. The service is centered in reading/listening, silence/reflection, intentional prayer/sacrament. The bells are rung, as people sit in silence. You have a reading followed by a time of silence. The time of silence concludes with the singing of a Taise chant (usually very simple tunes and words that are very quickly learned).

The chant is then followed by another reading, followed by silence, concluded with another chant. There is an invitation for participants to pray for special intentions. The Eucharist is celebrated, the prayer going back and forth between the Priest and another reader, Communion is distributed from one member to another and the service ends with the Peace.

I hope at some point everyone at St. Peter's takes advantage of the opportunity to experience this liturgy as well as the other liturgies that are offered which may stretch a person's mind and soul.

One of the chants that is sometimes used is "*Ubi Caritas*". My Latin is not only rusty, it hardly exists. Yet, in doing some research, I found that the words of this canticle speak about something that is very familiar and dear to my heart. The words of the chant are: *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est* (Where love and charity are, God is there.)

As I thought about the words of this canticle, my mind was drawn back to a very familiar place in my spiritual background. Although raised as an Episcopalian, my spiritual heart has always been centered in scripture, which is often a more "protestant" frame of reference than many Episcopalians feel comfortable with. "*Ubi Caritas*" draws me back to the words of the First Epistle of John, chapter 4, the second half of verse 7 and the first half of verse 16: "everyone who loves is born of God and knows God . . . God is love, and those who abide love, abide in God and God abides in them." If we want to discover God, in experiencing love and charity, we experience God.

We can never say a person doesn't believe in God if they have experienced love. They have literally experienced God. Love is beyond us and between us, and is proven regularly to be even more powerful than fear or violence.

If everyone who loves is born of God then most everyone is born of God, since there are very few people who have never experienced love. They may have not accepted love or pursued the love they encountered; they may have twisted the love or even misused it, turning it into something it was not ever intended to be, namely selfish and destructive of others. Yet, St. Paul has a point in Romans when he says that what the law requires is written on every person's heart.

Love feels wonderful, love can be painful at times, and love can give us strength and hope. Love cannot be destroyed. There have been literally trillions of words, metaphors, symbols, and artistic expressions used to describe love, and all of them are absolutely correct. Love is like a spiritual diamond with infinite facets. Love can create great anger in people and love can produce unbelievable acts of reconciliation and forgiveness. Love can be made trite, reduced to surface meanings, and even enshrined into an idol that can save no one. It would seem the point is not simply what love is, but how we respond to love, how we allow it to work in our lives, how we serve love and respect the understanding, experience, and insight of others who experience love.

I don't think I will ever forget the parishioner who came to me with great concern about someone very dear to her who had died. The person who had died was not a person of faith, in fact was openly and boisterously antagonistic toward anything having to do with God. Was his death the end of him? I pointed her to the scripture in I John and asked her if the person loved her. She replied "of course." And did the person acknowledge that love? She replied "of course, all the time." I said, then how could anyone say that he didn't know and acknowledge God if the scripture in I John is true and indeed God is love? I asked her, "does your love for him and his love for you and your children continue beyond his death?" She said that there was no doubt about that. Then he lives in that love, he lives in God. She ended our conversation by saying: "so God won in the end anyway, regardless of how much he fought against religion?" God always wins, we are the ones who lose valuable opportunities when we oppose the power greater than ourselves.

I hope you find your life fulfilled in love, that is, in God. If you are ever up early in the mornings on Wednesdays, give the 7am service a try. It just might open new windows in your soul. And if you are ever looking for God, you need to look no further than wherever and in whomever you find love and charity at work.

I look forward to seeing you in Church!

Fr. 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)
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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