

FEBRUARY 2007

THE ROCK

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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
note new office hours

The Rev. Dr. Ralph Moore, Jr., Rector
(home 596.0421, rector@stpetersrockland.org)
The Rev. Isabel Polk, Deacon
(home 596.0003; deacon@stpetersrockland.org)
The Rev. Lee Karker, Deacon
(home 596.0606 lkarker@mchinc.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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St. Peter's Evangelism Commission
Thom Buescher (354.0608)
Deborah Oliver (236.8503)
Marty Rogers (236.8922)
Page Design: Chris McLarty
Please e-mail submissions to Marty @ mlr@midcoast.com
You are welcome to contribute material for our next newsletter;
the submission deadline is noon 19 March.

WAYPOINTS

activities and notices on our journey together

Annual meeting: new lay leadership elected; reconfiguration of church office duties outlined

Elected at the 4 February annual meeting for three-year terms are two new co-senior wardens, JoAnne Murphy and John Chatfield, and junior warden Doug Curtis Sr. Micki Colquhoun was elected as treasurer (see her bio on page 7), and Linda Mann as secretary.

Three new members joined the vestry: Ellie Hutchinson, Billy Smith, and Jude Thomas, also for three-year terms.

The good service of outgoing officers John Bird, Jim Bowditch, Mac Deford, and Sarah Reynolds, and outgoing vestry members Harold Van Lonkhuyzen, Bruce Davis, and Joanne Smith was honored at the annual meeting, with heartfelt applause and thanks from the congregation.

Honoring a steady presence . . .

At the annual meeting Debbie Watson, outgoing administrative secretary, was also honored and feted for her service at St. Peter's. The vestry had headed up a mail effort to solicit a gift for Debbie, and John Bird

presented her with a check for more than a thousand dollars to show our appreciation for her good and steady work over the years.

Shifting administrative and financial roles

As noted in the January issue of the *Rock*, Debbie Watson's position has been replaced with a 15-hour weekly parish secretary and an outside bookkeeper who will work about 10 hours each month.

Laura Curtis of Union has been engaged as the bookkeeper. Laura is financial manager of Child Development Services in Rockland and does bookkeeping for small businesses and a church in Belfast. She brings to St. Peter's more than 25 years as a bookkeeper.

As Laura's role develops, we will all learn more about which questions Laura can answer; in the meantime, please address financial and statement queries to church treasurer Micki Colquhoun at mickicol@aol.com or 592.5992 (cell.).

Ferris Donoso has assumed the position of parish secretary and was able to attend the annual meeting to greet the congregation. (See more about Ferris on page 7.)

If you aren't sure who to address a query to, start with Ferris and she will direct you to the appropriate person if she is unable to answer your question.

New office hours

Note that Ferris will have the church office open every weekday (except holidays) from 9 a.m. until noon. Ralph will still generally be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, but it's always best to make an appointment if you wish to see him; call the office at 594.8191.

Forward with Faith Fund 2006 Annual Report

By Mary Alice Bird and John Bird, Forward with Faith Fund cochairs

The following report was inadvertently left out of the 2006 Annual Report.

In the spring of 2006, the vestry appointed Mary Alice and John Bird, who chaired the 2001 Capital Campaign Committee, to chair a subsequent Forward with Faith Fund Committee to retire remaining building debt and provide funds for the interim and search for a rector after Ralph Moore's retirement in July 2007. Additional members of the committee included Jim Bowditch, Thom Buescher, Mac Deford, Liz Hunt, Anne Hurtt, Spence Hurtt, Chris McLarty, Lolly Mitchell, Ralph Moore, JoAnne Murphy, Isabel Polk, and Marty Rogers.

In June the committee held three informational forums to acquaint the parish with plans for Ralph's retirement in July 2005 and inform everyone of the financial needs associated with the search for a new rector. As explained in those meetings and subsequent communications, in 2001 St. Peter's had an extremely successful capital campaign, raising well over \$600,000 through pledges. This total far exceeded the original feasibility study projection that \$450,000 could be raised through a capital campaign. At that same time, the vestry had allocated an additional \$150,000 toward the building and renovation need from the Halsey Adams bequest. However, in completing the project, it became clear that an additional \$100,000 was needed to fully fund all the expenses related to the project.

In 2002 the vestry decided to "move forward with faith" and borrow the funds, believing that completion of the undercroft and narthex were necessary and more economical if done within the overall construction then underway. The plan was to retire this mortgage with a mini-campaign following the end of the pledge payment period for the Capital Campaign in 2006. For the past five years the parish has been paying interest on this loan. In approaching the transition from Ralph's leadership to that of a new rector, the vestry believed that retirement of the \$100,000 building debt would better position the parish to attract strong new leadership—and also that up to \$50,000 might be needed to fund transition expenses to new leadership as well as to make a parish contribution to the recent diocesan capital campaign (One in Christ). Estimated transition expenses will include search travel and communication needs, assistance

with moving costs for a new rector, and other expenses during the interim period. The vestry also voted to tithe 10 percent of all funds raised through the Forward with Faith Fund to One in Christ.

Through a combination of personal visits and a letter appeal, donors to the original Capital Campaign were asked to consider (if possible) an additional two-to-three-year pledge totaling about 25 percent of their original campaign gift. Those not part of the original campaign are asked to consider (if possible) three annual pledges that represent either 25 to 50 percent or 100 percent of their annual stewardship pledge. These considerations were suggested only as guides—and the committee stated that gifts at all levels were needed and would be appreciated.

As of 30 December 2006 the Forward with Faith Fund had received over \$125,000 from gifts and pledges, including vestry allocation of a generous bequest of \$44,000 from the estate of James Bearnese Smith (a former parishioner). As a result, in 2007 the remaining building debt has been retired and the additional Forward with Faith Funds placed in escrow for interim transition needs.

The generosity and support of the members and friends of St. Peter's toward both the original campaign for renovations and this Forward with Faith Fund to pay off the debt and fund interim expenses is greatly appreciated. Both are affirmations of strong stewardship by a vital congregation.

Tax changes regarding charitable money donations in 2007

Parishioner and accountant Allen Holmes sent the office a copy of some changes in tax law that affects charitable donations *made in 2007*. One of them requires a clear paper trail for donated money. Loose cash in offering plates will no longer qualify, though a check will.

This raises some interesting points. For one, when we make a pledge, the use of pledge envelopes is necessary for people contributing cash if they wish to claim their pledge as a charitable donation. For that matter, making a pledge rather than just contributing from time to time will produce for the pledger a quarterly statement from the church office that the IRS accepts as proof of the donation.

Even though pledging has been strong for 2007, many of us still have not yet made pledges. This is a mystery. Perhaps this tax notice will serve to nudge some of us who have put off this concern to make our stewardship commitment.

Allen Holmes is available to answer questions at his office (594.1426). He can also explain tax changes regarding noncash donations.

—Editor's note: the big difference between 2007 tax year and previous years is that the IRS, beginning in 2007, will no longer accept your own financial record as proof of a cash donation; the record must originate with a bank or the charitable organization itself.

Stewardship News

Thank you to all of St. Peter's faithful stewards for your commitment to God's work. To date, we have received 81 pledges totaling \$126,396, which is 97 percent of the 2007 goal of \$130,000. If you have not yet sent in your pledge for this year, there is still time to do so. Pledge cards are available in the narthex and the church office and may be placed in the Sunday offering or mailed to St. Peter's Church, 11 White Street, Rockland, ME 04841.

—The Stewardship Commission

Stewardship Commission looking to be “tabled”

If you've attended a basket auction and dinner, or, really, just about any social occasion in the parish hall, you've encountered the large, round tables, which weigh about 85 pounds each and are rickety and scarred. The Stewardship Commission is seeking contributions toward the purchase of six round tables to replace the old tables. The new tables are slightly smaller and therefore more maneuverable and manageable; they are also lighter.

The new tables cost \$200 each, and \$400 will buy a storage rack for all six. To date, we've collected enough to buy two tables and the storage rack; we are still \$800 short to cover the remaining four tables.

For more information call Jim Bowditch at 236.2272. To make a donation by check, make the check payable to St. Peter's and write "round tables" in the memo line.

Let's try to fund the remaining four tables in time to enjoy them at our next St. Peter's fellowship event.

Have you checked your entry in the church directory for errors?

If you haven't already done so, please pick up a church directory (dated 1 January 2007, yellow cover sheet) from the narthex. This replaces the 3 February 2005 version. Please check your entry for accuracy, and submit corrections in writing or by e-mail (stpeters@stpetersrockland.org) to Ferris. It's come to our attention that some entries seem to use old data, perhaps a function of the database merry-go-round from a few years back.

January vestry meeting winds up former leadership

By Linda Ames Mann

The vestry met at 7 p.m. on 10 January in the vestry room; it was the last meeting for the vestry before new officers and members would be elected at the 4 February annual meeting.

Mac Deford presented the Treasurer's Report, which incorporated the addition of funds for a sexton and for an increase in maintenance/cleaning supplies.

Marty Rogers from the Evangelism Commission reported on the commission's recent activities and informed the vestry that there would be a one-week delay in the *Rock* because of the timing of the annual meeting. The possibility of showing the DVD of the presiding bishop to the community was discussed.

Jim Bowditch offered to write up plans for the adult forum related to the Millennium Development Goals. Adult forums can be expected to be more closely coordinated with the deacons and vestry.

A plan was approved to solicit funds to purchase six lightweight round tables to replace the current tables. An anonymous donor had given \$300 for new prayer books to replace the aging ones in the pews; other donations will be sought to purchase a total of 60 books.

The Rev. Canon Linton Studdiford will make a presentation on Thursday, 1 March, in combination with a Lenten soup and salad potluck supper.

Additional Lenten gatherings will be held each Wednesday in March (7, 14, 21, and 28).

Ralph is starting confirmation classes with three boys; he is looking for additional candidates.

The next meeting of the vestry was set for Thursday, 8 February, at 7 p.m.

—*Editor's note: the date of the February vestry meeting was later changed to 15 February and thus too late for this issue of the Rock.*

The Pebble

for the Sunday-schoolers

Q&A: All about Lent

By Elizabeth Biddle, from a summary by James Akin

What is Lent? Lent is a season in the church calendar. Historically, Lent has been the forty-day period before Easter, excluding Sundays. It began on Ash Wednesday and ended on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday). In recent years this has been modified so that it now ends with a service on the evening of Holy Thursday. This proceeds Good Friday, the day of the Jesus's death and of course Easter Sunday, the day of his resurrection.

When does Lent begin? Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Traditional services on that day include the ritual of signing your forehead with ashes in the form of a cross.

Why forty days? Forty days is a traditional number of discipline, devotion, and preparation in the Bible. For example, Moses stayed on the Mountain of God for 40 days (Exodus 24:18 and 34:28), the spies were in the land for 40 days (Numbers 13:25), Elijah traveled 40 days before he reached the cave where he had his vision (1 Kings 19:8), Nineveh was given 40 days to repent (Jonah 3:4), and most importantly, before undertaking his ministry, Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting and praying before entering his ministry (Matthew 4:2).

Why is Lent a period of fasting and abstinence? Christ used a forty-day period of prayer and fasting to prepare for his work spreading the Word of God, which culminated in his death and resurrection. It is fitting for us to imitate him with a forty-day period of prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration of his ministry.

What are appropriate activities for ordinary days during Lent? Giving up something we enjoy for Lent is a custom to encourage us to remember the gift we have been given in Jesus Christ and the sacrifice he made for us. Giving up something we enjoy also gives us discipline and wisdom to understand what is essential to our lives and what we can do without. It is a good way for people of all ages to learn about keeping priorities straight and being able to focus on what is necessary in our lives. Other activities appropriate for Lent include physical and spiritual acts of kindness and generosity for others, prayer, confessing one's sins and other acts of asking forgiveness for the sins we commit.

WINDOW OF THE SPIRIT

views into the souls of St. Peter's

Lenten journeys 2007

ASH WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

Three services for prayer, receiving ashes, and Holy Eucharist.

7:00 AM Ashes and Holy Eucharist in the chapel

A celebration offered through silence, Taizé chants, readings, and liturgy. Brief and quiet.

12:15 PM Ashes and Holy Eucharist in the nave

The traditional litany and prayers of the day.

6:00 PM Ashes and Holy Eucharist in the nave

Quiet meditation, Taizé chants, healing, and anointing with oil

THURSDAY, 1 MARCH—A SPECIAL AND UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

“Life Together” The faith community begins a new journey

5:30 PM A potluck sharing of soup and salad in Lenten table fellowship

6:30 PM “Present Faith, Future Journey.” A presentation and discussion led by the Rev. Canon Linton Studdiford, Canon for Ministry and Deployment of the Diocese of Maine. Reflections on ways of discerning the parish's call to new rector

WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH—7, 14, 21, AND 28 MARCH

6:30 pm “Finding the Future in the Present.” Ralph Moore will facilitate a series of four gatherings in which he will share reflections and prayers about his life as rector of St. Peter's. Topics will include: “Expectations, Messes and Sillies,” “The Imperfection in All Perfection,” “Growing Older and Younger at the Same Time,” “Regrets, Surprises, and Gifts.” In each get-together we will examine specific parts of the ministry that we share and learnings that we have received in over ten years of journey together.

Ted extends his thanks to all

Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. Peter's, Rockland

I was deeply touched and moved by the love and heartfelt thoughts you all shared with me as you and Fr. Ralph laid hands on and prayed for me during the 10:30 AM worship on 21 January in celebration of the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. I was blessed to feel the Spirit pouring out through all of you, and my cup was running over.

Susan and I feel greatly blessed to be part of the church that gathers at St. Peter's. Your welcoming, caring, and generosity warms and encourages us as we journey together in the name of Christ.

May God continue to bless you with all good gifts.

Peace, joy and love, Ted Kanellakis

New prayer books

You will shortly notice that the tattered prayer books in the pews have been replaced. This change is the result of a fund-raising effort by outgoing co-senior wardens John Bird and Jim Bowditch. Thanks to all who contributed to this important statement about our commitment to liturgy and to community worship.

FOCUS ON: Kay Brown, vestry member

By Jo McAlary

Kay Brown is well known to all of us, as she is a vestry member as well as a frequent reader at the eight o'clock service. She was born in Fort Lewis, Washington, in 1921. Her father, Keryn Ap Rice, grew up in Rockland and at one time was the treasurer of St. Peter's. A graduate of West Point, he served in the Army Corps of Engineers. Kay's childhood was spent traveling all over the world with her family for her father's military career. When it came time to enter high school, she and her mother returned to Rockland and St. Peter's. Kay graduated from Rockland High School, then the University of Maine, and eventually Emerson College (Boston) with a degree in speech therapy.

While I was chatting with Kay she asked if I had heard the story about how her future husband asked her to marry him. She and Roy Joyce had gone to Rockland High School together. He immediately went into the service after Pearl Harbor. He was an engineer on a B-17 plane that was shot down over the Netherlands, landing Roy in a POW camp for 16 months. On St. Patrick's Day in 1943 Axis Sally, the Nazi voice of Germany, came to his POW camp and sought out a good Irishman, which Roy Joyce certainly was. She started asking him questions, which he had learned early on to answer only giving his name, rank, and serial number. Eventually she gave up and asked him if he had a message he would like to send back to America, as she always directed her programs to the States. He replied that he did. He said he had a girl back in the States and his message was "Wait for me." Kay heard it and, yes, she did wait for Roy.

They married and had two sons. Roy worked for the American Red Cross Service to the military, and they lived in Germany and France. Kay was widowed in 1984. She returned to Rockland feeling that her life was over. She met again Gardner Brown, who was a Rockland High School classmate who had also recently been widowed. They were married and had a very happy but, sadly, brief marriage. She was again widowed, but she told me that through all of her ups and downs in life, her church has held her together.

"Really" says Kay, "I have had a wonderful life."

This past month Kay has left her house and is now, at her son's insistence, living with him on Broadway. Kay says that her legs are "wobbly" and her family felt she should no longer live alone. The phone number for Kay Brown and her son, Keryn Joyce, is 594.2376, and Kay welcomes your calls.

FOCUS ON: Ferris Donoso, parish secretary

I'm delighted to be at St. Peter's! As parish secretary I'll be in the office Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. I answer the phone, gather the mail, and generally direct communication traffic. I organize and assemble the Sunday leaflets and bulletins, photocopy and mail the *Rock* and other mailings, keep track of the facilities scheduling, and other miscellaneous tasks as they arise.

The big piece that I am not doing is the bookkeeping. I will, however, make sure that checks, bills, and reimbursement requests are appropriately directed so they can be recorded and/or paid.

My assistant and greeting specialist is my dog, Maggie, who like myself comes with experience in these duties at Adas Yoshuron Synagogue, where she was known as Maggeleh. As far as I can guess, Maggie had a Golden Retriever for one parent and a collie/shepherd cross for the other. We figure she may also be part marshmallow. Maggie and Zippa go way back.

I live in Rockport near Tolman Pond, and I have two sons. Alec, 18, is a friend of Danji and is in his first year at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. Evan, 13, attends Ashwood Waldorf School in Rockport. The rest of the family is Maggie, four cats, a guinea pig, and three cockatiels. I promise that of these last, fuzzier, family members, Maggie will be the only one to accompany me to the office.

For those of you who frequent the Rockland Public Library next door, I will satisfy your natural curiosity (since "Donoso" is not a common name in these parts) and tell you that the Steve Donoso who works there is my former husband.

I went to College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor but completed my bachelor's degree in Burlington, Vermont, where we lived for 16 years after that. We have been back in Maine for about ten years now.

I previously worked at the Adas Yoshuron Synagogue for six years and then did a year's stint at Breakwater Bookland, where I spent my money as fast as I earned it—it was glorious but highly impractical. I was raised in various Protestant churches, mainly Congregational, but became familiar with the Episcopal Church as my mother in her later years was a member and choir member of a church in Vermont.

I very much look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

FOCUS ON: Micki Colquhoun, treasurer

Micki Colquhoun was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. She graduated from Barnard College in 1972 and obtained her MBA from Columbia in 1976. Before moving to Castine in 1988 with her husband, Jeff, and their three children, Micki was a CPA with Price Waterhouse and worked in finance for Chemical Bank and Morgan Stanley. Once in Maine, she worked for Eastern Maine Development Corporation, a nonprofit economic development agency in Bangor, and then headed up the Bay School in Blue Hill. Micki and Jeff, a marine artist, moved from Castine to Camden in 1999. She is a real estate broker with Camden Real Estate Company.

From the Rector

Lent is a time to ponder some *things*. A few years ago in a play that was performed as the homily in our Sunday liturgy, one of the characters was Chairman of the Committee to Do a *Thing* or Two. Pooh stares at a quite empty honey pot and decides that he now has "a pot to put *things* into." Well, Lent is a time to "ponder some *things*."

What "*things*?" Here's one suggestion: ponder the *things* that are going on in one's life **right now**. I have in mind a story that is found only in Luke's gospel. After the terrible execution of Jesus on the cross, as two disciples are walking toward their village, the resurrected Jesus mysteriously is walking along with them. He hears them talking about all the *things* that have been happening. And he simply asks, "What *things*?" And they tell him about what happened to Jesus and the upheaval that this has caused in their lives. (Luke 24:13–35)

What if Lent were a time when we took time to concentrate on all the *things* that have been happening in our lives during these present days and weeks?

I'm quite sure that none of us is in exactly the same state of mind, heart, emotion or circumstance that we were in one year ago. I certainly am not. There have been many changes in me. What I need to take time out for, however, is to ponder, to think about, to meditate upon, what these *things* have meant. Am I more mature, more faithful and more spiritually awake? Or have I been kidding myself a lot? And what new setbacks have shown up: fears and worries and doubts? Where do I want to find God and have God find me, right now?

Our life together in St. Peter's Sunday worship during Lent is designed to offer space and silence and calmness to support the thoughts and struggles and ponderings of such *things* in our daily lives. A few changes may startle some of us. For example, we will pass the Peace after the Lord's Prayer, a practice that is given as an option in the Book of Common Prayer (p. 407). After Prayers of the People we will go right into the time of offering and singing a hymn and then the Great Thanksgiving prayer without the time of boisterous greeting that now abruptly breaks our service. This and some other less dramatic changes will be offered as a support to prayer and contemplation in our worship as befits the mood of the Lenten journey. And, just maybe, as a result of our worship together, during every day we might give extra moments to silently ponder some *things*.

"What *things*?" *Things* being done, *things* left undone, *things* that harm, *things* that cheer, *things* that call for attention, *things* that require amends, *things* that make for peace, *things* yearned for, *things* to be given, *things* to be received, *things* of thanksgiving and gratitude.

Blessings, love, and peace,
//Ralph//

Don't worry: the "real" *Rock*, with Chris McLarty's skilled layout, will return next month!
