

Special 9/11 Liturgy at St. Peter's

In commemoration of September 11, the Liturgy and Arts Commission is holding a service of commemoration and peace at St. Peter's on Saturday, September 11. The liturgy will begin at 8 A.M. with the tolling of bells and will be followed by periods of silence, meditation, prayer, and reading. The tolling of bells will mark key times of the tragedy.

This will be a time of spiritual fasting—that is, seeking freedom from all fear, condemnation, and bitterness that hardens the heart, excludes others and dehumanizes any human being—at the same time bearing the pain and grief of all who suffer and die during this time of the world at war.

The liturgy will conclude with the offering of bread and salt to all present. Parishioner Dorothy Nyman will play a special elegy she composed following September 11 and offer an essay on peace inspired by this tragedy and the violence that followed. The community will be invited to share this service and offer prayers for peace.

People are welcome to come and go at their convenience. The church will be open for prayers and meditation between 8 a.m. and noon.

Spiritual Food

The bread handed out at each service to visitors and returning friends exists on a plane quite different from the grocery-store bread that is subject to diet fads.

Baked by a small but faithful army of parishioners, it is a tangible representation of the very real spiritual sustenance each of us carries away from St. Peter's every Sunday.

The act of baking bread for an anonymous someone can itself be done prayerfully, bringing a sense of peace to the baker.

For some it is an oasis of quiet in what is otherwise a hectic weekend, and for others it is a time to meditate on spiritual matters. For all of us there is the sense of real giving: the fruits of one's physical labor are handed over to nourish someone else, both literally and spiritually.

To join us in this special ministry, please contact Deborah Oliver at 236.8503 or Marty Rogers at 236.8922.

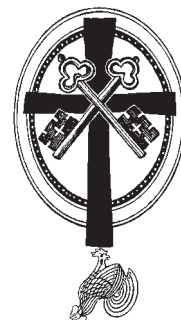
Yeastfully yours,
St. Peter's Loafers

Remember the second service returns to 10:30 September 12th.

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NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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THE ROCK





THE ROCK

NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

White Street • P.O. Box 457 • Rockland, Maine 04841 • 207-594-8191 • Fax: 207-593-9378

www.stpetersrockland.org

A WITNESS

At a time when we are assailed on every side with distressing, negative situations, I feel we need to stop and consider where we are, have been, and are going. For some time I have felt a compulsion to share some thoughts with you—my dear brothers and sisters in Christ and of St. Peter's parish. So I am briefly going to indulge in a rather un-Anglican Episcopal thing and witness to you on the power our liturgical worship has had in my life and, I hope, in yours. This is what draws us to this place Sunday after Sunday—refreshes, uplifts and supports us. This is our Rock to cling to in time of trouble, loss and sorrow as well as where we share our joys and victories.

I have had, and perhaps you also, well-meaning friends of less structured worship say, "but it's all repetition, memorized, rote—not spontaneous—from the heart." What comfort, continuity, sense of sharing with generations I find in our beautiful service.

Kneeling in the presence of our Savior and heavenly Father is a wonderfully humbling experience. One immediately feels an opening of the spirit to the divine. Without being aware till then, I realize all my shortcomings, my need for forgiveness, reassurance and balance.

I could not have come to 82 years full of sorrow and loss as well as joy and fulfillment without my faith, our church and your smiling support.

Not only have we all this but we are not only allowed, but encouraged to think.

Why are you here? I hope others among us will feel a wish to share their feeling on future Sundays.

— Kay Brown

Special Healing Liturgy Inaugurated

Saturday, September 18 at 5:30 P.M., St. Peter's will offer a special healing liturgy. The service will be an adaptation of a healing service commonly used by the Iona Community in Scotland and will offer periods of reflection, prayers, songs, silences, and chants.

Although it will clearly be a Christian service, the liturgy is designed to be comfortable and inviting to participants of many spiritual traditions. It will celebrate God's generosity and grace and the possibility that each one of us can receive strength, confidence and renewal even amidst those things that burden and confound us.

The liturgy will encompass the understanding that the healing given by Jesus and carried on by his disciples is comprehended as receiving the good news that judgment and despair are lifted and that hope and joy are given.

During the service there will be opportunity for those who desire the laying-on of hands and anointing with oil to receive these. Two teams of a clergyperson and two lay folk will minister to participants, one team in the front of the nave and one at the entrance. Beautiful blessing prayers from the *New Zealand Prayerbook* will be used with the laying-on of hands and oil. Special music will be offered throughout the service.

The decision to offer special healing services outside of the regular Sunday morning worship is an outgrowth of the six-week Sunday morning forum on healing organized last spring by the Liturgy and Arts Commission. The series was well attended by both parishioners and friends from outside of the parish. Following the series, the commission discussed possible service options and invited persons not on the

commission to join a subcommittee to begin a process of identifying new forms of liturgy for St. Peter's.

Members of this core committee include Mary Alice Bird, Lucia Elder, Chris McLarty, Linda Peterson, Isabel Polk, Marty Rogers, Sheila Seekins, Billy Smith and Jude Thomas.

The committee is considering offering four healing services throughout the year, loosely scheduled around Ember Days, which are church calendar days for special reflection on the calling of all Christians to confirm their baptismal ministries. These days were chosen as a reminder of the need for each of us to grow in the practice of our witness and service through a deeper examination of our inner lives and closer attention to the things that continue to hinder us from doing this. The committee felt it is fitting that in each of the four three-day Ember Day periods during the year offer a unique time for a healing and renewal service to be offered on the eve of the Sunday celebration during that period. The committee is also considering incorporating three forms of healing liturgy into Sunday services on four occasions during the year, with special emphasis on the selection of calendar times appropriate to reflection and reconciliation. Current thinking includes Advent, Lent and two occasions during Pentecost.

If you have specific ideas or thoughts about healing liturgies for St. Peter's or would like to be part of the team planning these services, please contact either Ralph Moore or Mary Alice Bird, Chair of the Liturgy and Arts Commission (596-6276, mabjab@midcoast.com).



Looking Back on July and August Exhibits: Robin Lewis and David Grima

Given the "vagaries" of summer and the fact that the Liturgy and Arts Commission did not print Rock advance articles on the July and August exhibits in the Gallery of Spirit, we are sharing this "after-the-fact" account for those of you who either missed these wonderful exhibits or would like more information about them.

July: ROBIN LEWIS

Throughout July St. Peter's Gallery of the Spirit featured a still life and other works by ten-year old Robin Lewis, son of Jeff and Susan Lewis. Robin has been active in the children's program and as a lay reader. Susan and Jeff say that "Robin has always loved to draw and paint. He especially got interested in practicing art when he became good at drawing sailboats—his favorite subject."

When he was six, he began to take classes and summer workshops from various local artists and has continued doing so over the last three years. He has studied with Kimberley Mahon and now with Antonio Munroe. Although Robin can still be observed drawing sailboats, he has now gravitated to drawing still life images. One of the featured pictures on exhibit was a delightful chalk pastel still life entitled, *Fishtail Tulips*.

Robin, thank you for sharing these wonderfully creative works with your church family.

August: David Grima

Through August, a painting by David Grima was on exhibit. David is the editor of *The Camden Herald* and also the chair of the Mission Commission of St. Peter's Church, where he also helps to manage the Loaves & Fishes weekend soup kitchen.

A native of England, David came to the United States in 1983. In the summer of 1999, he resumed painting, which he had given up shortly after finishing high school. While living in a friend's converted barn that summer, he found a box of paints and started

painting on scraps of board salvaged from that friend's back yard. For several years he continued to paint on wood found at the Rockland dump and has just recently taken to painting on canvas.

He says, that "only after a while" he realized his "first half dozen or so paintings appeared to be based on the creation story in Genesis." He eventually assumed that the unintended series had something to do with the fact that, in many ways, his life was starting over, with something of the freshness of Eden. David maintains that he has never deliberately set out to paint religious pictures, although many have that appearance, and some more than others. He feels that "as long as he paints from his heart rather than his head, then every painting has the chance to say something fairly honest even if he is not always clear what it is." He rarely bothers to title paintings, believing that "the viewer should not be told what to see." Mostly he thinks his works are about the "magnificent hugeness of the world, and the fact that creation does not end where eyesight fails."

David prefers not to sell his work, as—he says, "until he has squeezed as much as possible out of them by looking at them himself." Those of us viewing his provocative work find ourselves doing the same! Thanks, David.

Coming in September: Lyn Snow

In September, watercolors by parishioner Lyn Snow will be on exhibit. A separate article will appear in the next ROCK, with background on Lynn and her work. We are indeed blessed at St Peter's to have so many creative persons willing to share with us their art as expressions of their individual spiritual journeys.

Thanks to all.
Liturgy and Arts Commission



THE ROCK

NEWSLETTER OF
ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Peter's Parish seeks to serve God's mission of restoring all people to unity with him.
We open wide our door and say, in the name of Jesus Christ, "Welcome."

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Bruce Davis, Jane Karker,
Dorothy Nyman, Linda Peterson,
Joanne Smith, Harold van Lonkhuyzen,
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is the 20th of each month.

Letter from the Rector



During summer browsing I came across a line by Annie Dillard from her book *Holy the Firm*: “The higher Christian churches... come at God with an unwarranted air of professionalism, with authority and pomp, as though they knew what they were doing, as though people in themselves were an appropriate set of creatures to have dealings with God... If God were to blast such a congregation to bits, the congregation would be, I believe, genuinely shocked. But in the low churches you expect it any minute.”

It is a scandal when we fall into the rut of assuming that our presence in an Episcopal church on a Sunday guarantees us a privileged relationship with the Creator of the universe. When we think about it, we know that to treat church in such a casual way violates what we believe about God and the vows we have made in our baptisms. But when we treat church casually anyway, as we quite often do, we show that we really don't care that much. And it seems that we don't have to, because when we do make it to a service we fall right back into the familiar script that is orderly, beautiful, even professional. It lulls us, comforts us and—in the sense of Annie Dillard's statement—lifts from us the burden of doing anything more than just being there in the service. Blasts from God—such as those that we have heard from several prophets and Jesus himself during July and August—are almost offensive to our sensibilities as protected people. We are relieved when the reading and proclaiming of the Word is over and we can move forward into the comfort of the Communion service.

I was raised by a family whose religious life was in what Dillard calls “low churches”—that is, Southern Baptist, Southern Methodist, Disciples of Christ. I have an inkling of what she's talking about when she points out that those folks focus directly on the impact that God is about to make on the very next steps of our lives during the next few minutes, days or certainly before next Wednesday's prayer meeting when everyone comes back together. In our family faith meant living on an edge, never certain that we were pleasing God and very intent on trying. Of course, as my parents' lives and circumstances got more secure we moved “up” to

Methodist churches of the northern tradition and Presbyterian churches. Eventually I on my own walked into ordination as a Congregationalist pastor, eventually to arrive at the “top” (where I presumably am now, right?).

As I reflect on it all, I can discern somewhere in all that movement what it meant to cross the line between “low” to “higher.” And it has to do with my self image. Perhaps two extremes can be described. One is an image of myself as sinner, displeasing God, powerless to improve. The other is an image of myself as saved by Christ's sacrifice, free to live without fear, rejoicing in this certainty. We instantly see that each extreme expresses some truth. We also see that when either extreme dominates, the picture is incomplete and my image of myself is distorted. So a most critical challenge to any faith community is to live in as complete an expression of the gospel as possible so that there are no extremes, but, rather, a healthy, balanced whole in our images of ourselves as Christians.

For the sake of argument let's admit that a common image of Episcopalians is that of the “higher” category. This reflects the bias that some people have about our worship—that it tries to convey that we really do know what we are doing. We seem to be insisting that our liturgy sums up everything about God just right and therefore we can rely on it and coast through it. There's the extreme: Christ has saved us, we're free to do as we please and we're happy to live in this certainty. But I don't think any of us wants to be viewed this way even though it's hard to resist the comfort of being this way.

Tests come soon enough however, and much is revealed by the way we react to them. When we try to avoid or blunt God's blasts we reveal a discomfort over having to change our beliefs and our behaviors. We cling to what is familiar even though we may know in our hearts that God's calls are never static and that our selfish little egos ferociously resist divine challenges. On the other hand, we also know in our hearts that in order for us to be healthy we must live in the middle, in struggles of death and rebirth, in order to be whole and healthy. And this means expecting to be blasted by the Word of truth and the Gospel of love when we least expect it but

See Rector's Letter on page 5

**ST. PETER'S 2004 OPERATING BUDGET
MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Through July 31, 2004**

	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	2004 BUDGET
Income: Pledged	\$7,462	\$63,328	\$120,000
Income: All sources	\$9,337	\$129,401	\$177,500
Total Expenses	\$20,548	\$131,118	\$208,555
DIFFERENCE	(\$11,211)	(\$1,717)	(\$31,055)

The Budget and Finance Commission met on Wednesday, August 11th at 8:00 A.M. in the vestry room.

Pledge income continues ahead of last year's by about 18%. Co-Senior Warden Jim Bowditch reported that pledged income for 2004 is a little above \$17,000. There is still a need for another \$3,000 to meet the budgeted amount of \$120,000 and another few thousands are desperately needed. Building and equipment expenses and computer costs continue well over budget. The rest of expenses are in line.

The concept was discussed of all parishioners giving St. Peter's an extra 13th month pledge for FY 2004. This would raise about 8% more than currently pledged, or an additional \$9,000.

The B&F Commission heartily endorses this idea; and recommended that the members of the vestry authorize a letter now to be sent to all parishioners with this request. This gives plenty of time for parishioners to accommodate this into their monthly budgets.

Additionally, to make up for the \$5,000 overrun for computer expenses, an anonymous parishioner has extended a \$1,000, 4 for 1 challenge grant to cover those expenses. This must be completed by November 30, 2004. Those one-time expenses were incurred to revise St. Peter's computer software, making it much more useful to the parish and all of its needs.

We need 4 more (anonymous or otherwise) angels to match this challenging pledge. PRAY ABOUT IT!

Finally, the parish and the B&F Commission is indebted to Peter McGinnity for his review of all of St. Peter's financial documents for FY 2003. To paraphrase Peter, the day-to-day operations of St. Peter's Episcopal Church are well documented and the records are easily accessible. There are no glaring problems found with any of the accounts or record keeping. Peter made some valuable suggestions for improvements and the B&F Commission will attend to those. From all of us, "Thank you, Peter. We shall miss Pam and you."

Finally we welcome a new member to the B&F Commission: Vestry member Dr. Linda Peterson. Welcome aboard, Linda!

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 20, 2004, and the main item of business will be the development of a proposed budget for FY 2005.

*Tom Putnam, Chairman
Budget & Finance Commission
August 2004*

**Vestry Highlights
for August**

Members Present: Rev. Ralph Moore, John Bird, Jim Bowditch, Deborah Oliver, Rev. Isabel Polk, Sarah Reynolds, Joanne Smith, Harold Van Lonkhuyzen

Members Absent: Kay Brown, Bruce Davis, Doug Curtis Sr., Mac Deford, Jane Karker, Dorothy Nyman, Linda Peterson, Christine Wohler

■ **Vestry Liaison Assignments** All commissions now have vestry liaisons. Liaisons will make sure that their commissions are aware of the work done by the Vestry at its planning retreat.

■ **Several event-based fund-raising ideas** were discussed to raise money to cover the growing gap in our budget. Most popular were a *Breakfast with Santa* that would include a chance for children to have their picture taken with Santa, and a bottle drive with proceeds going to a named recipient (for example, Loaves and Fishes).

■ **Plans for the Fall Stewardship Campaign** are under way, with plans to get parishioners more involved in the stewardship process this year.

■ **Budget and Finance Report.** We are a little behind on budgeted income for the year. The Budget and Finance Commission plans an appeal to help make up the shortfall.

■ Also, an **anonymous donor** has offered \$1,000 towards paying down our computer expenses if we can raise \$4,000 by the end of the year. Parishioners will be asked to pay for unbudgeted items and may give them in honor of someone or as a memorial.

**The next vestry meeting is on
September 9 at 7 P.M.**

The Buildings and Grounds Commission is looking for a few good women and men!

You may have heard that as a result of the Task Force for Funding Our Ministry, we will all be asked to contribute other resources to reducing the costs of operating St. Peter's. One such idea being developed is that of having parish members help with routine maintenance and cleaning of the facilities. Some tasks will continue to be "hired out," but we are planning to organize volunteers to do such tasks as lawn mowing, vacuuming and bathroom cleaning (lawn mowing has been done by parishoners for several years already!).

You may have seen sign-up cards for specific tasks on a table in the parish hall after recent Sunday services, and you may have even signed up for a task. More folks are still being encouraged to sign up, and we're planning to start things on September 11th. We want to stress that sign up is for the fall only (until New Year), so you would not be signing up for an unlimited time commitment!

The Buildings and Grounds Commission (George Jones, Chair, Jim Bowditch, Joanne Smith, Doug Curtis, and Bruce Davis) are working to develop a simple system so everyone will be able to understand their role: a clear description of all tasks, wherthey are located, where the appropriate materials and tools are stored, etc. We feel that success in this endeavor relies upon volunteers getting the support and encouragement they need, and we're committed to seeing that happen. Every volunteer will have a commission member to call with questions or concerns, or just for encouragement. Commission members plan to call and check in every so often, just to see how it's going. We'll plan to have volunteer get-togethers if there is interest, and we'd also like to have a workshop that deals with the possibilities of combining work and prayer in the Benedictine model (*ora et labora*).

We hope this endeavor can benefit us all with some fun and fellowship. We hope to see you around the church on cleanup days.

Buildings and Grounds Commission

Greetings St Peter's Community

It hardly seems like late August with the grass still behaving like May and the garden lush green with vegetables and weeds. And the shortening daylight hidden in foggy evenings. For many it is time to think of "returning to school" as well as gathering in and stacking wood and readying for winter. As for me, I went to school this summer.

I spent two intensive weeks in class at Boston College with 14 other people from around the world. For us it was the start of a three-year post-master's Certificate Program in the Practice of Spirituality. We are all interested in furthering skills for the practice of spiritual direction. We will gather for two more summers, and have reading and writing assignments during the year. The faculty come from BC, Episcopal Divinity School, and New England monasteries. We shared study and our life stories and prayer, laughter and tears.

For me, the experience stirred new life and hope and delight. And oh, did I get homesick after the first week! I found comfort in praying with the *Prayer Book*: I found a new grounding in this faith community of ECUSA, and specifically with each and all of you who are called to be the Body of Christ who gathers at St Peter's.

If you would like to learn more about entering into spiritual direction, please feel free to contact me. I can make room in my schedule for 3-4 people.

Peace be with you,
Sheila Seekins

RECTOR'S LETTER *continued from page 3*

nonetheless not being totally surprised when it does happen (because more and more we learn to expect it)—and always being healed by it.

You might sigh, "Summer browsing, indeed!" Comes September now and church activities start up. Being the living Church, Christ's alive people, offering the resources and talents that we have to be ignited by the Holy Spirit's transforming power—lots of good work, lots of remarkable fellowship with each other, lots of joyful surprises. Most of all, "low" and "higher" are blown away and Christ is all in all. My prayers are for us all to be touched by the healing blessing of God.

In Christ,

Ralph

PARISH RECORD

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Walter Clifford Ladd

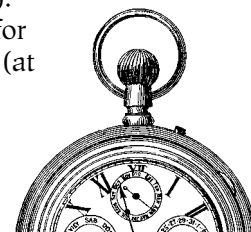
died January 3, 2004, age 58,
Committal in Achorn Cemetery,
Rockland, August 15.

Wendy Tomblin

died July 31, 2004, age 51,
Memorial Service in St. Peter's,
Rockland, August 15.

The Time It Are A'changin' Sunday, September 12 —10:30 A.M.!!

The 10:30 hour returns as the beginning time of our second Sunday morning service. This makes possible resumption of the splendid forums (9:15 A.M.) for study and dialogue (see other items in this edition of the ROCK). It also allows time for singers to warm up (at 10:00 A.M.). Some family activities may begin during this time also.



Mistake on the Métro

by Malcolm Brooks

As part of an effort to understand Islam, I went to Paris this July and visited the Institut du Monde Arabe, where I read up on composers, instruments, and texts of sacred Islamic music. What what I really wanted, though, was to see a mosque and meet a Muslim.

I leafed through a Paris guide and read the list of houses of worship. The Mosquée de Paris was located in the 5th arrondissement, a half-hour ride by métro. I climbed on to the métro train and looked for an empty seat. The seats near the doors are grouped in fours, with two seats facing forward and two seats facing backward. When all four seats are filled, knees touch.

One group of seats was empty except for a man sitting by the window. I sat down diagonally opposite him on the aisle side, so that our knees would have freedom.

As the train bounced along, I started looking at this man by the window. He was dark-skinned, with a mustache, probably in his forties. He looked like an Arab. He was also intently reading something, a hardcover book about an inch thick.

I recalled hearing something about Arabs reading the Koran every day. I couldn't believe my good luck: here I was sitting next to a real live practicing Muslim, no doubt on his way to the mosque, just like me.

After the train pulled through a few more stations, I decided to start a conversation. I leaned over and, in polite French, asked him whether he was reading the *Koran*.

The man looked up and said "This is the *Bible*." I must have appeared stupefied. He turned the book around on his lap so that I could read the cover, "La Bible Sacrée."

I felt so foolish, yet the man didn't seem offended. He said, "I read the *Bible* because it gives me strength to go on. You see, I came here from Africa 23 years ago. I paint buildings every day. I still do not have French citizenship, but I've had a permit to work now for ten years.

"My wife joined me and she worked, too. We wanted to save up to buy a home. Over time we had four children and we worked every minute to save money.

"Finally we had enough. Then the little baby had heart trouble and died. A year later, my fourteen-year-old boy developed cancer and died. My wife was so sad that she and the other two children have returned to Africa."

The train stopped and I realized it was my station. The man said it was his station, too, so we stepped off the train, but neither of us walked to the exit. The man continued talking.

"The boy was the light of my life, smiling at me every time I came in the door. He studied so hard at school. He was my light and then he was gone.

"Now the only thing that keeps me going is the scripture. I read the stories, ones of Abraham and Isaiah, again and again. If those men could keep going, so can I. Each day I try to do God's will."

We shook hands in the station and parted, the fool and the wise man. But foolish and presumptuous as I was, I felt fortunate to have met a man of such faith, and I think he felt some comfort in sharing his story.



Do Not Enter St. Peter's This Way

Friends,

St. Peter's is an inclusive gem of a community that welcomes all sorts and conditions of women and men. Although some of us kneel during the consecration of the bread and wine, and others stand—respectfully acknowledging each other's preferences, there is one bit of ceremonial that we need to do the way it is intended—and that is to drive in the driveway from Limerock Street, not the wrong way off of Union Street. The photo shows the "Do Not Enter" sign.

The only legal way to enter the parking lot is from Limerock Street, and the only exit is onto Union Street.

So, please render unto Caesar Caesar's due, and for everyone's safety obey the traffic rules for the parking lot the City of Rockland has provided.

Thanks,
Jim Bowditch
Co-Senior Warden

EFM Mentor Training

Mentors for the Education for Ministry program are required to attend training every 18 months to keep their leadership skills up-to-date. What this means in reality is a session each August at the Living Waters Retreat Center in Winslow, Maine, led by an experienced trainer.

Mentors attend two years of Basic training then advance to Formation training for as long as they continue to be mentors. Formation workshops change from year to year and cover many topics including designing and trying out new methods of group work.

It is also a great time for mentors around the state to exchange ideas and see how others handle group dynamics. You might find it interesting that five

out of the ten in the class were from St. Peter's, St. John Baptist and St. Thomas'. Our part of the midcoast is becoming a hotbed of educated Christians who participate in various mission activities (*like being Rock editor, for instance*).

New groups are starting for the coming year, and it's not too late for you to join in. Call Chris McLarty (236.4244) for more information.

A Note from Your Junior Warden

All of us remember Joe Patten's extraordinary tenure at St. Peter's as Junior Warden, in which he also served as the chair of the Building & Grounds Commission during the exhausting planning, construction, and opening of the expansion and renovation project.

When I was elected Junior Warden in January 2004, I was deeply grateful to be invited to follow in the footsteps of Junior Wardens, such as Marilyn Smith and Harold Willey, who did not manage the parish site. (Honestly, by now you would have been grateful, too!)

Now St. Peter's has been blessed by George Jones's agreement to head up the B&G Commission during its formidable task of harnessing parishioners to help maintain this glorious space.

But what is your Junior Warden doing this year, if not handling B&G issues? Well, it HAS been an interesting year for me, with four more months to go in my term. What I have been trying to do is to fill the role as your People's Warden. So I've been listening—to you.

At St. Peter's, where the vestry, the two co-senior wardens, the rector, and the deacon are all eminently accessible, mine has been almost a redundant task, because we are blessed with clergy WHO LISTEN and well as a vestry WHO LISTEN.

But come and talk to me if something has your knickers in a twist or if you're especially glad about something you receive at St. Peter's. I'm here to listen.

—Deborah Oliver, Junior Warden
(the People's Warden)

INTERDEPENDENCE DAY Concert & Celebration Sunday, September 12, 2004

AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC AND WORDS

Performed by Down East Singers & Friends
2:30 p.m., Camden Opera House

\$10; under 12 free

Tickets available at VillageSoup.com, ADCD Books,
Wild Rufus Records

St. Peter's in Action: Your Lay Leadership

The structure of lay leadership at St. Peter's follows the canons of the Episcopal Church of the U.S.A. and incorporates a few permissible innovations that have developed in the past five years.

Thirteen people comprise the lay voting members of the vestry, all elected at the annual meeting for terms of three years or less. The wardens and treasurer of the church are among the voting members of the lay vestry. While not a voting member, the clerk is also elected at the annual meeting and is the 14th member of the lay vestry.

The traditional structure of the lay leadership includes a senior warden and a junior warden. Four years ago at St. Peter's, modern demands on committed lay members of the parish resulted in the division of the senior warden position into a position shared by two co-senior wardens. Until then, vestry agendas grew out of discussion between the senior warden and the rector.

With the introduction of two co-senior wardens, a "coordinating team" (CT) of all 3 wardens and the rector evolved to flesh out the responsibilities of the lay leadership and to help lift administrative and other burdens from the rector's shoulders. The current CT meets about 10 days before each vestry meeting to harness our collective memories about agenda items and to share whatever has been brought to us as wardens. (In Episco-speak, the "officers" of the church are the wardens, the treasurer, the clerk, and the rector.)

Last year, the junior warden position was separated from the Building and Grounds chair position, as had also been done at various times in the past.

This year, St. Peter's was blessed with the addition of a deacon, so 13 lay voting members, 1 lay nonvoting member, and 2 clergy now comprise the vestry.

Vestry meetings are usually



Deborah Oliver is not only our Junior Warden, she has recently accepted the position of editor of The Northeast, our diocesan newspaper. We look forward to her good work and wish her well in this new endeavor!

Photo: DAVID GRIMA/THE CAMDEN HERALD

held at 7:00 p.m. in the vestry room on the 2nd Thursday of each month. All vestry meetings are open to the congregation and to the public, and anyone may address the vestry from 7:00 to 7:15, or longer if agreed upon by the vestry.

The list of the complete vestry follows. These are YOUR vestry; talk to them, help them, bring them your questions and problems, and pray for them as they do their best to serve you in God's church.

Rector, Ralph Moore Jr.
Deacon, Isabel Polk
Co-Senior Warden, John Bird
Co-Senior Warden, Jim Bowditch
Junior Warden, Deborah Oliver
Treasurer, Mac Deford
Clerk, Sarah Reynolds

Other vestry members:

Kay Brown
Doug Curtis Sr.
Bruce Davis
Jane Karker
Dorothy Nyman
Linda Peterson
Joanne Smith
Harold Van Lonkhuyzen
Christine Wohler