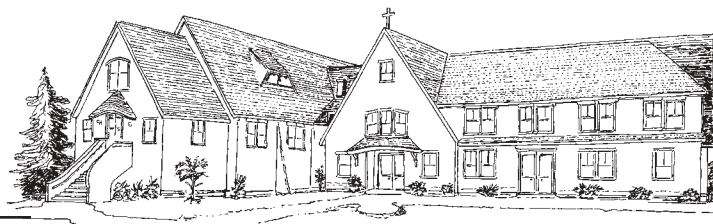


MAY 2007

# THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Lee Karker Ordained Priest at St. Peter's

In a splendid in St. Peter's worship service Thursday evening, May 17, Lee Karker, was ordained priest in the Episcopal Church by the Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, Bishop of Maine. Since 1994 Lee has been on the staff of the Methodist Conference Home in Rockland, becoming executive director in 1996. Prior to this, he served in ordained ministry for many years, most recently as pastor of Rockland Congregational Church, 1984-1994. A graduate in history of Eastern Nazarene College in Massachusetts, he earned the Masters of Divinity degree at the Divinity School of Yale University in 1980. Ordained in the Congregational Church in California in 1980, he came to Rockland in 1984.

Lee and Jane Karker have two children: Daniel, entering his senior year at Hampshire College in Massachusetts, and Leah, entering her junior year at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Karker's ordination in the Episcopal Church indicates no change in his occupation. He will be available to serve in various ministries in the Diocese of Maine, as well as in St. Peter's.



## Leavetaking Service—Goodbye Ralph June 3 One Service 10 A.M.

On June 3, our Rector's last Sunday with us, we will celebrate one service at 10 AM. Canon Vicki Weiderkehr, representing the Bishop and the Diocese of Maine, will participate in a liturgy of "leavetaking" and we'll enjoy the miracle of prayer, sacrament and joy in a unique way.

## The Second Service Changes to the Summer Schedule on June 10: 10 A.M.!

The celebrant at 8AM and 10 AM will be the Rev. Ted Kanellakis.

## HEY!!! WATCH YOUR MAIL!

During the week of May 13, the wardens and vestry will be sending to each member of the congregation a very important communication. This will include a pamphlet entitled, "Your Priest is Leaving—Now What Happens?" This will be the first step in the process by which the vestry keeps the congregation fully informed about the exciting transition in clergy leadership that we now begin. Everyone's input will be invited. So—WATCH YOUR MAIL!!

## Stewardship News

Thanks to an additional gift from a generous parishioner, we have been able to reach the 2007 stewardship goal of \$130,000. The Stewardship Commission is most grateful and thanks all our members and friends who have pledged their support of the mission and ministry of St. Peter's Church.

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

## **The Trinity**

**W**e celebrate the Trinity on the Sunday following Pentecost Sunday. This year it falls on June 3rd. Pentecost is one of the great celebrations of the church year, not as popular as Easter or Christmas, but very significant nonetheless. Trinity Sunday lives in its shadow. It is one of those Sundays when the rector takes the day off and lets the assistant or a guest preach. After all, how many times can you try to explain the Trinity? Let me try just once more.

The doctrine of the Trinity is primarily a way we Christians have of talking about God. It is an attempt to express in a coherent and succinct way what we know about God. The difficulty with this is that our knowledge of God is very limited. The doctrine of the Trinity represents our attempt to understand and describe the One who by definition is beyond our understanding.

So, to talk about the Trinity is to use our limited language to describe a mystery. This is probably better done in the language of poetry than in the language of theology. (Or perhaps in the language of innocents—my daughter, Leah, as a very young child had no trouble with the Trinity. It was about “the three hearts of God”, she said.) The historic creeds, the Apostles’ Creed (commonly used in the service of baptism), the Nicene Creed (commonly used in the Eucharist) and, perhaps especially, the Athanasian Creed (rarely used) with its almost rhythmic repetition, might well be thought of as poetic descriptions of the God we believe.

The doctrine of the Trinity is a description of our understanding of God based on our very human experience of God. It incorporates God’s action throughout history to deliver God’s people from enslavement to all of the things that separate us from God; to bring us out of darkness into light. It sees God’s action in Creation, in delivering the Chosen people from Egypt and bringing them home to the promised land. It sees God’s action in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It sees God’s action through God’s “breath” or Spirit inspiring the Hebrew prophets and their counterparts throughout history, and breathing new life into God’s world. It takes this experience of God and uses it to describe what God must be like.

God is the One who creates, redeems and breathes new life.

We Christians are not unique in seeing and naming different attributes or faces of God. The Hebrew scriptures often speak of the divine wisdom, of God’s word and God’s breath or spirit almost as if they were distinct entities. But it has been especially important for Christians to express our understanding of God’s action in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ as being a part of the eternal nature of God and not an event limited in time.

It is equally important for us to make clear that by describing God in three “persons” we are not dividing God or referring to more than one God. Many analogies have been used to describe this paradox, but none does full justice to what it attempts to describe. The use of “persons” in this context does not mean what we would understand by persons in the modern human sense. The original Latin word meant something more like masks that might be used in a play. All three roles are played by one and the same God who is fully present in all of God’s activity.

The trinitarian formula with which we are so familiar, “Father, Son and Holy Spirit” has unfortunately become problematic in a world where patriarchal language offends one half of the population and the word “Father” does not always portray the love and nurture that is intended. As difficult as it might be for us, perhaps it is time to consider adopting a new phrasing to describe our understanding of God. Although some theologians object that alternatives like “Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer” do not convey the same meaning, I believe that alternative language is appropriate and that it is important that we find language to express our understanding of the Trinity that is inclusive and that will have meaning for all Christians.

— Lee Karker

## Focus: Woofie (Ruth) Parker

**W**oofie is an eight o'clocker with a ready smile and a lively step. One Sunday in March after the eight o'clock service Woofie and I were seated at her dining room table with coffee and muffins. The breath taking view from the table is of Rockland harbor, the Breakwater and Penobscot Bay. Of course the very first thing I asked her was how did the nickname "Woofie" develop? I thought that maybe it came from Ruthie, but she said "No". When she was eleven or twelve her friends decided they would call her "Woofie" and the name has stuck and she likes it.

She was born Ruth Weyburn in Boston. She grew up in Prides Crossing, MA, near Beverly, and attended the local schools, then The Master's School (Dobbs) in Dobbs Ferry, NY. It happened that her room mate's brother was Harry Parker. Her first job was at Cooley's, a china and glass store on Newbury St., Boston. She and Harry were married July 1940 at Beverly Farms. She was twenty and Harry was eight years her senior. They set up housekeeping in Hingham, MA.

Harry was in the Naval ROTC program while at Harvard and continued in the program after graduation, going into active duty in November 1940. He put in for PT Boats and was assigned a boat in February 1941. He was in John Bulkeley's Squadron, (Bulkeley later rescued General MacArthur from the Philippines) and the Squadron was stationed in Key West, after two months it was transferred to Newport, RI, then to New York and finally to Pearl Harbor in August 1941. By then Harry was Skipper of his own PT boat. Woofie had moved each time the Squadron had and while in Pearl Harbor she and Harry had a small house across the island. The fact is that they were living and Harry was stationed there on December 7, 1941. (The day that Pearl Harbor was bombed almost out of existence.) She said that was quite an experience, but took it in stride.

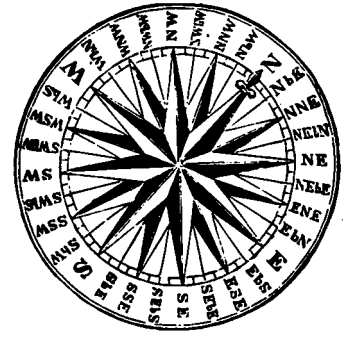
She promptly got a government job as she was determined to remain in the Pearl Harbor area to be sure she would see Harry when he did come back from patrols. First she worked in censoring mail. Then she worked for the 7th Fighter Command and lived at Fort Shafter plotting planes with an outfit called WARD (Women's Air Raid Defense). In the meantime Harry and his Squadron of PT Boats was dispatched the 1300 miles across the Pacific to be a critical part of the battle for Midway Island in June 1942.

In April 1943 Harry got orders to return to the newly organized PT School of Melville, RI, where he was Senior Instructor and Executive Officer until he was transferred to Destroyer Escorts and was shipped back to the Pacific until the end of the war. He was discharged from active duty in November 1945.

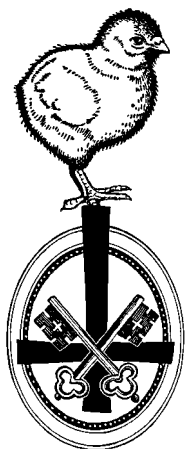
It was time to settle down. Harry felt he really wanted to own and run a boat yard. In South Freeport they found exactly what they were looking for. They bought the South Freeport Yacht Basin in 1947. There they not only serviced yachts, but built boats and started a charter business. In 1969 they sold the boat yard. They then concentrated on the charter business from Maine to Florida, the Bahamas, Virgin Islands, and the Antilles. They put in many nautical miles taking boats back and forth. In addition Harry imported English boats, among which were Camper and Nicholson and Southerly Yachts. This involved trips to England which was a real bonus, since their daughter had married a Brit!

In 1957 Woofie had started her own Real Estate business and ran it for almost 40 years. Yes they do have four children and nine grandchildren. Hank was born in 1944 and now lived in Annapolis, MD, Tony in 1945 and he lives in Washington, DC. Ann was born in 1951 and lives in England and Steve born in 1956 lives in McLean, Virginia. So, theirs was a very busy household. They designed and built their own home right on the water's edge in South Freeport.

Woofie was always an Episcopalian and while they lived in South Freeport they attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brunswick. She served on the vestry and Harry was Senior Warden for years. In 1991 they sold their home in South Freeport and moved to this town house at Jameson Point with the trillion dollar view. Unfortunately Harry was plagued with ill health. He died in 1995. Woofie remains active. She is on the Atlantic Challenge Board and helped start the Community Sailing program in 1998. She is devoted to the sailing program. She knows the kids and is delighted that they call her Woofie.



## **WAYPOINTS** *activities and notices on our journey together*



# THE PEBBLE

## Pentecost Comes 50 Days After Easter

**T**he Feast of Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, is celebrated 50 days after Easter. On this day, churches read Acts, ch. 2, the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples as they waited and prayed together.

The color of the altar hangings is red to symbolize the tongues of fire that rested upon the disciples' heads. Many people wear red items of clothing to church on the Day of Pentecost to ass to the festival spirit.

Pentecost is also a day set aside for baptisms, in remembrance that 3,000 people were baptized after the disciples' experience at Pentecost.

Usually the Gospel is read in the language of the people who are members of the congregation. On Pentecost Day, it may be read in different languages to simulate the ability of the apostles to speak in the tongues of many lands as a result of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes red and white streamers are hung where they will catch a breeze, to show that the wind is present. The Spirit is often compared with the wind. (As wind blows through the branches of trees, we cannot see it, but we can feel and see the effects of it.)

The Spirit was sent by God to be a Comforter. The symbol for the Comforter is the same sign that descended upon Jesus at his baptism—the dove. Doves are frequently used as decorations on Pentecost.

All the articles in the Pebble this week are adapted from *Covenant Times*, Unit IV, Issue 9, Episcopal Children's Curriculum published by Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing

The stories in this volume are derived from of this passage in the New Testament book of Acts:

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." *Acts 2:4*

## Disciples of Jesus Christ Had Amazing Experience During Feast of Pentecost

JERUSALEM (ABOUT 27 A.D.)

**O**n the Jewish feast of Pentecost, in the heart of the city, the followers of Jesus of Nazareth began speaking in many different languages. This caused a great deal of confusion among he bystanders.

We talked with one of the disciples later in the day to determine what had really happened.

He said, "We have seen Jesus ascend into heaven, He told us to stay in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon us. Not knowing exactly what was to happen, we simply waited. We gathered together daily to pray and talk about our future.

"Suddenly there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind. It filled the entire house where we were sitting. The force of the wind was so great that none of us could move. When the wind had passed, tongues of fire appeared in the room and divided themselves until one rested above the head of everyone there.

"We are all filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. Soon we noticed that everyone was speaking in a different language. It was only through the Spirit that we were given this ability, for we had never spoken these languages before.

"We went outside and began speaking to the people assembled. It was the Jewish Feast of the Weeks and many had come to Jerusalem from far-off lands."

## Visitor Shares Details

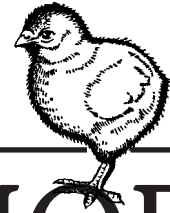
A visitor from Mesopotamia told us about his experience with the followers of Jesus. He said, "I was in the street with many other people from foreign lands when we heard a tremendous noise. As we headed for the house where the sound came from, we met these people who, for the most part looked like Galileans. They began speaking.

"I was amazed! I did not have to translate what they were saying into my own language. I understood them perfectly as if I were in my own country. They were speaking of God's powerful deeds and about the wonder of the man called Jesus of Nazareth. I thought to myself and heard others saying, "What does this mean?"

"There were some who sneered and said the speakers were drunk with new wine.

"A man they called Peter addressed the crowd in a loud voice. He said they were not drunk. He then quoted from the prophet Joel, saying that the Spirit would come upon all flesh. I wish I could remember all he said. He spoke of King David, and of this Jesus as the Messiah."

We have heard that as a result of this morning's events, and the speech by Peter, three thousand persons were baptized and became followers of Jesus and the twelve apostles.



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## Neighbor to Neighbor Concert, June 2, 7:00 P.M. at Strom Auditorium

As a benefit for the Area Interfaith Outreach, a very special 100-voice Community Chorus, directed by Mimi Bornstein (and including several members of St. Peter's), will perform "Music for the Soul," pieces from different musical cultures in a concert on June 2, 7:00 P.M. Guest artist, James Durst, composer of several of the works to be presented, will join the performance in the Strom Auditorium, at the Camden Hills Regional High School in Rockport. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. They are available at Breakwater Bookland and Rock City Books and Coffee in Rockland, and Wild Rufus and Owl & Turtle in Camden. Tickets can be charged by calling Boynton-McKay at 712-1207.

Produced by First Universalist Church of Rockland, this event is supported by all of the congregations of the Rockland Interfaith Alliance in support of our area's food pantry. We are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to the concert as a donation. Thus the concert is called: "Music to Feed Our Friends."

## Down East Singers 2007 Memorial Day Concert

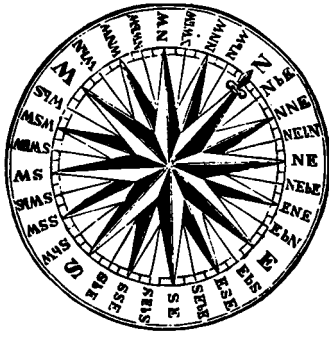
Joseph Haydn's  
Lord Nelson Mass

Rockland Congregational Church  
Monday, May 28, 2007 at 5:00 pm • \$15 Adults

## ON THE HORIZON *Upcoming events*



Please plan to attend the  
**Bubba Fest**  
June 10th at Beaver Lodge  
on Alford Lake.  
This Pot Luck Memorial to  
Chris McLarty's husband  
Jim  
will be from 12:00 to 6:00  
236-4244 for details



## **WAYPOINTS** *activities and notices on our journey together*

### **Vestry Attendance:**

Members Present: Ralph+, Elizabeth Biddle, Kay Brown, John Chatfield, Doug Curtis, Sr., Ferolyn Curtis, Jim Curtis, Ellie Hutchinson, Joanne Murphy, the Rev. Deacon Isabel Polk, Billy Smith, Pat Snow, Jude Thomas

Members Absent: Micki Colquhoun, Spence Hurtt, Tom McBride

Visitors: Marty Rogers and Jake Thomas

**The next meeting of the  
vestry is Wednesday,  
May 9, at 7 p.m.**

## **Vestry Notes**

April 11, 2007

Joanne Murphy complimented the vestry on the nice brunch served after the services on Easter, and praised the live music.

Ralph explained that he had cancelled Maundy Thursday services in collaboration with Joanne and with Doug Curtis, Sr. because of the weather. He reminded everyone that he would be on vacation the following week and that Jake Thomas would be taking the services the first Sunday and Ted Kanellakis the second Sunday. He led the vestry in prayer. Ralph handed out copies of the vestry minutes for the last three months; a copy of the parish constitution, a copy of "Beyond the By-laws;" information on the Diocesan Convocation on May 5; the Safe Church Training Schedule; and a copy of the letter from the bank informing the church that the loan had been paid in full. The vestry minutes were approved.

Jake Thomas presented the financial report. There was a discussion related to pass-thru income and expenses. Jake pointed out that the debt was less than had been anticipated at the end of February. Ralph encouraged the vestry to look at the fund raising and space use donations. He pointed out that the schedule of fees could be studied and that efforts could be made to promote the use of space. Ralph also asked if the vestry wanted an audit done for the past two years. Laura Curtis could head a small committee: Doug Curtis, Jr.'s name was suggested.

Ralph asked the vestry if they wished to adopt the second Wednesday of the month to be the regular meeting time. A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Ralph is required to ask the vestry in writing for permission to retire June 3, 2007. A response must be prepared from the vestry. The leave-taking liturgy will be on June 3. After that day, the Moore-Buck family cannot have any contact with the church until/unless the new rector invites them. John Chatfield reported that he had been in touch with Canon Studdiford regarding the supply priest. Isabel Polk reminded the vestry that Lee Karker will be ordained as a priest on May 17.

Marty Rogers presented the Evangelism Commission report. She reported that they had not yet found a web master; vestry members suggested using a high school student. Marty also presented the Fundraising Work Group report and asked for fundraising ideas. Ralph suggested looking over the Millennium Goals and improving what this church already does. As an example, he pointed out that few from the church work regularly on Loaves and Fishes, which is held at the church.

The vestry decided that an additional meeting was needed before the scheduled meeting in May; this special meeting will take place April 25 at 7 p.m. and will be dedicated to issues related to Ralph's retirement, the interim period, and the discernment process. Elizabeth Biddle offered to prepare a timeline.

Respectfully Submitted:  
*Linda Ames Mann*



## *From the Rector*

What an unfamiliar moment approaches as St. Peter's says goodbye to the rector. There is a notion that the priest-parish relationship is like a marriage, but I've been helped to see that such a comparison is badly flawed. If it were like marriage then we would be contemplating divorce. That is certainly not what I think we're doing. Rather, we are saying simple goodbyes as we come to a fork in the road that leads on to our different journeys. Our relationship has been that of companions, people who break bread together, pray together, celebrate and sort out challenges and meanings of the ups and downs of our lives, finding the Creator in each of our paths, seeing Christ all around and getting blown away by Spirit.

It hasn't exactly been a relationship of teacher and students, either, because that assumes that one has some kind of power and authority over the other. Despite the tons of words that I've dished out as preacher and teacher, I still find myself to be chief among the learners in this congregation. Wow—you have so many gifts and skills and unique experiences in your lives. And so much faith, also. "Church" has really come to mean to me a company of learners who share, give, in mutual and kind companionship.

I love you, St. Peter's. You've given me the privilege knowing you and receiving the gifts that you generously offer. And as I and Bridget and Danji take that one fork in the road that leads away from you at this moment, this love will not diminish. The richness of eleven years of such growing together will intensify and re-member in richer forms as time flows by. As sad as it is for us to separate and change the nature of our relationship, it is equally awesome to be able to celebrate how much our lives and the life of our parish have flourished during the time we have shared. Imagine: eleven years of sacrament!

I leave with regrets, too—"things done and left undone." I have certainly gotten a good dose of my own finitude. Limits and weaknesses come along in every one of our lives, so I know I'm not alone. I do regret disappointments and dissatisfactions among you that I've been responsible for. I am speechless when I ponder how you have manifested true forgiveness and "amazing" grace. I shall always be grateful to you for this.

We've been finding out lately that at St. Peter's we have gotten ourselves involved in something pretty huge. Little did I know in 1996 that I was being called to serve a modest Episcopal parish that would catch the vision that it was called to become a center for serving a small city that is rapidly changing into an urban crossroads. I think that this is a fantastic possibility, totally realizable. It promises an upsurge of faith and imagination, solid work, study and conversation and enormous joy, real peace, and a whole lot of love. Part of me would like to hang around for a couple more decades.

During the next couple of years we have some really interesting new adventures to discover apart from each other. After that, who knows where we'll all be? For myself I can say, however, that I'll still love you and thank God that St. Peter's Rockland has been where I would be called to know what the joy of salvation in Christ is all about. Always, always, always—you're in the hearts and prayers of our whole family.

Much much love,

*Ralph*

*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

**\*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**

Published seasonally by

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 to our next newsletter.**

**Submission deadline is noon June 25th.**



Mailed May 25, 2007

Return Service Requested

NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
11 White Street • Rockland, Maine 04841

# THE ROCK



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