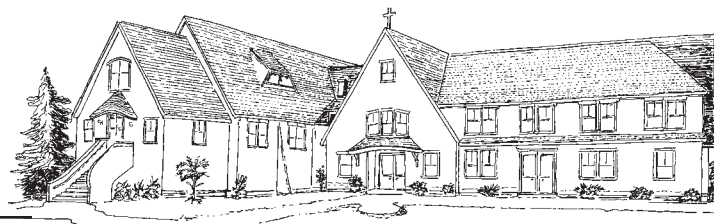


MAY 2007

# THE ROCK



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS HAS BEGUN!

The Diocese has asked the Rev. Canon Mary Ann Taylor to consult with St. Peter's in the months ahead and guide the Parish during the process of selecting a new rector. Rev. Taylor has served in this role on many occasions, and has already been of clear and helpful assistance to St. Peter's in getting the process started. Our church's Discernment Committee (until recently called a "search committee"), was appointed by the Vestry; and has already met with Rev. Taylor. The committee will be formally commissioned at the 10:30AM service at St. Peter's on Sunday, September 16th. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. Your prayers are needed for the process to succeed!

The Discernment Committee is made up of members of the congregation who volunteered their time and efforts in response to a mailing sent out in July. The members are John Bird, Lucia Elder, Anne Hurtt, Chris McLarty, Dorothy Nyman, Tom Putnam, Marty Rogers, Marilyn Smith, Jude Thomas (vestry representative), Judith Willey, and Amy Wilton. Jude Thomas and Tom Putnam are the Co-Chairs.

The Discernment Process has three phases and will take 18 months to 2 years to complete:

1. Gather information from the Parish (an ongoing process)
2. Develop a Parish Profile in consultation with all parishioners
3. In consultation with the Diocese, meet with and review all prospective candidates, acceptable to the Parish Profile; and ultimately recommend one candidate to St. Peter's Vestry as the candidate for St. Peter's Rector.

**Gathering Information and Developing a Parish Profile:** The Discernment Committee has scheduled a retreat for Saturday, October 13th from 9 AM to 3 PM. A Profile Survey Form will be developed and sent to all families to complete. It is the Committee's goal to then meet with every Parish Family and discuss their concerns and desires. To achieve that goal multiple meetings will be scheduled at a variety of times. When maximum input has been achieved, the Committee will develop a final Parish Profile for review by the Parish and the Vestry.

**Reviewing the Candidates:** The Parish Profile is then sent to the Diocese for review and approval. It is submitted to the national office of The Episcopal Church. The national office responds by sending names of qualified prospective candidates who will be vetted by the Diocese before they are sent to St. Peter's Discernment Committee. The Committee will select those candidates whom they believe to be suitable and able.

At all times, the congregation is encouraged to pass on its ideas and recommendations to the Discernment Committee. Any potential candidate must be vetted by the Diocese before being considered by the Committee. If, for example, a person tells you they know someone "who would be great" or if a priest contacts the Committee directly, that priest must go through the process first of being reviewed and approved at the Diocesan level before being considered by the Committee. Resumé information will be treated confidentially, because individual candidates might not want to have their candidacy known, particularly to their own parish. It should also be remembered that the Diocese must approve all steps taken by the Committee or by St. Peter's as a whole.

These are exciting times for St. Peter's, and the entire congregation is encouraged to keep abreast of the process and contribute information and their ideas. The Committee will use many forms of communication: The Rock, the Sunday insert, announcements at church, email, our website, snail mail, special meetings etc.

*Tom Putnam and Jude Thomas Discernment Committee Co-chairs*

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
11 White St., Rockland ME 04841  
207.594.8191  
Fax 207.594.7766  
[www.stpetersrockland.org](http://www.stpetersrockland.org)  
[stpeters@stpetersrockland.org](mailto:stpeters@stpetersrockland.org)



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

## **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

*By Ellie Hutchinson*

**D**omestic Violence is not a subject likely to be discussed over dinner. It's scary, evoking images of unpleasantness and even disgust. Some of us even consider it a topic concerning "others." Yet in 2006, there were 22 homicides in Maine, 7 of these were domestic violence homicides and already there have been 5 domestic violence homicides in 2007.

Domestic violence knows no social, economic, or racial boundaries. There is no profile of the abused; the age ranges from the very young to the very old. Perhaps the only common denominators are that most victims are female and all are vulnerable.

The highest rate of intimate partner violence affects women ages 16-24. Women make up 85% of the victims of domestic violence and more than 50% of them have children under 12 living in the home. One in three teen relationships are abusive and include sexual and/or physical violence. Adult Protective Services reported over 17,000 cases of elder abuse in Maine last year and yet we know that less than 3% of teens report a violent incident and over 80% of elder abuse goes unreported. Abusers also come in assorted sizes, shapes and walks of life. What they have in common is a variety of tactics and behaviors that exert power and control over their partners, parents, and/or children. They use silence and isolation for protection and because they are always in control of their behavior, present a much different picture to the community at large.

What can you do about this staggering problem?

As a faith community there are several things we can do. First, we can confront and challenge the social norm that takes for granted male right to privilege and power and allows women to be victimized. If we believe that all are children of God, created in the image of the Divine, we cannot tolerate a society where abuse is allowed to flourish. There is nothing in Christian or Jewish teaching, which can rightly be used to justify abuse. However, there are some teachings, which can be misused and distorted to suggest that domestic violence is acceptable. This kind of misuse can be a roadblock to ending the abuse. Kofi Annan, past

Secretary General of the United Nations said, "Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress toward equality, development and peace."

Learn about domestic violence and where support and assistance for victims can be found.

Be a compassionate listener when you learn about someone who has been abused. Victims need to be heard and believed. Support your local domestic violence agency by volunteering or contributing to their work. Working together we can put an end to domestic violence.

For more information:

Call New Hope for Women: 207-594-2129

[www.newhopeforwomen.org](http://www.newhopeforwomen.org)

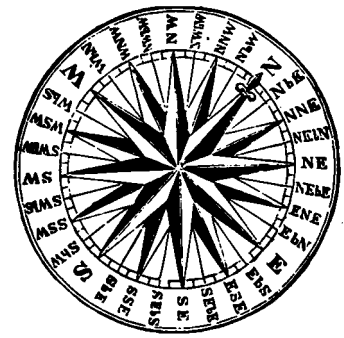
## **Gallery of the Spirit Features Lucia Elder**

**D**uring the summer and through most of September, the Gallery of the Spirit has featured original paintings by Lucia Elder. Normally I prepare an article for the ROCK that shares the artist's comments on her works in the ROCK, but alas — I confess that I have been preoccupied other obligations\* and didn't get something prepared for this edition. Enjoy Lucia's work for the remainder of the time it is hanging the sanctuary — and look for an article next month.

*Mary Alice Bird, Coordinator of the Gallery of the Spirit.*

*Editor's note: Mary Alice has been getting ready for her booth at the Common Ground Fair. Stop by and say hi.*

The Discernment Committee held its first meeting, with the Vestry and the Diocesan consultant The Rev. Canon Mary Ann Taylor on Wednesday, September 5th. After introductions Mary Ann walked through the discernment process and then responded to questions. A delicious dinner was prepared and served with love by Jake Thomas and Deacon Isabel Polk. It was a great meeting and a time of fellowship with all, including the energy of the volunteers for clean up: Ann Hurtt, Jim Curtis, JoAnn Murphy and others. Many thanks to all.



### **Smile! We're focused on YOU!!**

The Evangelism Commission has made attempts over the last months to get photos of parishioners to update our Family Tree Photo. Of even greater importance now is to have these photos on a CD file in the church office to be used by our Interim Rector, our still pretty new Parish Secretary and others who are working on a parish activity and would be helped by having a face with a name! This will be something that the Discernment Committee will also use. So when you see folks aiming a camera at you, just smile. The photos are digital so if you want to see if you look great, just ask the photographer. Multiple shots are easy.

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

### **Have you lost a skillet?**

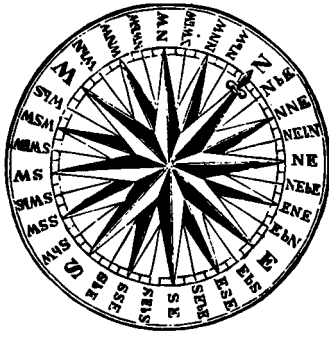
When Marty and Paul returned from vacation they found a new skillet in their kitchen. Micki Colquhoun borrowed several things from the Rogers for Ralph's Farewell Party and thinks that some things—this skillet?—may have been brought home to the wrong place. The skillet is 11 inches in diameter and 5 inches deep. It is like an All Clad skillet but not black on the outside. If you are missing a skillet, please call or email Marty—236-8922 or mlr@midcoast.com.

### **Foyer Groups to reassemble and start a new year**

This will be our fifth year of gathering together for friendship and fellowship, and usually food, in small groups. Our numbers increased last year and we hope we can include you too, this year. We will try again to re-mix people (amazingly successful last year) but you may also be able to refresh acquaintances from previous years. The new season will start as we have in the past with a potluck supper on Sunday, October 21st at 5:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Bring a favorite food for this true potluck. If you can't commit to a group for the full season but want to come to the potluck and fellowship, please do. See you there! For more information call Marty Rogers at 236-8922.

### **St. Peter's is Counting on You!**

Are you good with numbers? If so, St. Peter's could use your help! We need three or four good people to follow a checklist from the Diocese for our financial review. The checklist includes questions on bookkeeping procedures, financial reports, and documentation. We anticipate that the process will take four to six hours total for a three or four person team. Don't worry if you're not familiar with our financial procedures—you do more interviewing than anything else. We'll dig up the reports needed and associated documentation. The financial review is a requirement for the search process for our next rector. No one on the Budget and Finance Commission is eligible to participate, but everyone else is. We'd be grateful for your time. Please contact Micki Colquhoun, Treasurer, if you would like more information. 592-5992 or mickicol@aol.com.



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

### **Vestry Attendance:**

Members Present: Elizabeth Biddle, Kay Brown, John Chatfield, Micki Colquhoun, Doug Curtis, Sr., Ferolyn Curtis, Spence Hurtt, Ted Kanellakis, JoAnne Murphy, Isobel Polk, Billy Smith, Jude Thomas

Members Absent: Jim Curtis, Ellie Hutchinson, Tom McBride, Pat Snow  
Visitors: Jake Thomas

JoAnne Murphy chaired the meeting.  
Ted Kanellakis led the prayer.

Minutes. The July 11, 2007 minutes were approved; the July 25 minutes were approved as amended.

**The next meeting of the vestry is Wednesday, October 10, at 7 p.m.**

## **Vestry Minutes**

August 8, 2007

**Treasurer's Report.** Jake Thomas provided a brief background on how the 2007 budget was developed, the three scenarios of which the second was selected by the prior vestry, and the committee chaired by Harold Von Lonkhuyzen. He mentioned a minor cash flow problem common to mid-summer. Micki Colquhoun presented the treasurer's report. She stated a need to sit down with John and Mary Alice Bird to discuss the Capital Campaign. Micki has had to use \$31,000 in endowment funds this fiscal year, which is more than the budgeted amount. She would like to be authorized by the vestry to use up to \$36,000 in endowment funds. The motion was approved. A motion was also approved giving Ted authorization to sign checks from the discretionary fund. Micki reported that she was looking into a cheaper copier machine for the church office without some of the collating features. She is also having the separate telephone line in the vestry room removed and checking into the possibility of blocking long distance from the kitchen phone and having a second line removed.

**Interim Contract.** Elizabeth Biddle report that a signed contract had been sent to the bishop. A motion was made and approved that Ted, as interim rector, will receive a housing allowance in lieu of a salary. The difference between the budgeted amount and the actual amount to be paid will be available for the clergy compensation fund.

**Discernment Committee.** John Chatfield reported the names of the members: John Bird, Thom Buescher\*, Lucia Elder, Anne Hurtt, Chris McLarty, Bill McClellan\*, Dorothy Nyman, Tom Putnam, Marty Rogers, Marilyn Smith, Jude Thomas (vestry representative), Judith Willey, and Amy Wilton. JoAnne reminded the vestry that they needed to appoint a chair and co-chair. A motion was made and approved that Jude would be the chair; John will call another member and ask that person to be co-chair. The discernment meeting will tentatively take place September 5th at 5 p.m.; dinner will be served. John will notify all members after talking with Mary Ann Taylor.

**Old Business.** Doug Curtis, Sr. asked and received permission to purchase a cover for the downstairs piano for \$114.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Linda Ames Mann

Editor's note: Thom Buescher and Bill McClellan have declined to accept appointment to the Discernment Committee due to other personal time obligations.

**“Do not withhold from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.”** (Proverbs 3:27)

## Stewardship Notes

People of faith have a long history of giving. Before the time of state-run social services, individual communities had to care for their own. Tithing provided a guideline and the means to support those in need. In today's world, with cuts in federal and state programs, the giving back to God a portion of our income, helps support people who would otherwise fall through the cracks. As faithful stewards of what God has given us, we are called not only to reach out to others, but also to reach deep into our own pockets in support of God's work in the church, the community and the world.

Third-quarter giving statements will soon be in the mail.

Historically, weekly offering drops off during the summer months when many are away on vacation or entertaining visiting family and friends. When you receive your statement, please check to see if your pledge is up-to-date. St. Peter's needs your support to carry on God's work.

During the course of a year, people's financial circumstances occasionally change ... sometimes for better and sometimes for worse. If you have received a raise, an inheritance or an unexpected windfall, please consider adding a portion of your good fortune to your pledge. If, on the other hand, you have suffered a job loss or other financial setback and find that you cannot honor your pledge commitment, please let our parish secretary know as soon as possible so she can make the necessary adjustment.

Plans are underway for the fall stewardship program. The kick-off date is planned for Sunday, October 21, when stewardship materials and pledge cards for 2008 will be distributed after both services. The ingathering of pledges for 2008 will be on Sunday, November 11. Watch the Sunday bulletins in October for more information. As our parish begins the search for a new rector, your support of the mission and ministry of St. Peter's is very important.

*The Stewardship Commission*

---

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

I am so grateful for all of the outpouring of support for my recent ordination to the priesthood. It was a wonderful and uplifting service. I walked around a couple of inches off the ground for several days afterward.

I am thankful for all of the people who took various parts in the service, all of whom have been important to me on this journey. I am grateful to all of you who found time to attend the service on a busy weekday, and also to those whom I know were there in spirit even if they did have to be somewhere else.

I want to express my thanks to the members of the Vestry and others who helped to provide such a sumptuous reception following the service. It was a labor of love and greatly appreciated. Many thanks also for the gift certificate to Almy's church supply store and for the lovely sterling receptacle for holy oil.

I am deeply thankful for the home I have found at St. Peter's and for all of the support that I have felt in so many ways. It has truly been a blessing to be a part of this community.

Your brother and fellow seeker,  
*Lee Karker*

## A thank you note from Lee Karker

## From the Interim Rector



### Recently, I heard this story.

There was a man who was on a spiritual quest. He wanted to speak with God. He traveled across the country on his journey.

Out west he came to Salt Lake City and visited the Tabernacle Temple. While taking in the majestic beauty he noticed a gold telephone in a corner.

He inquired of one of the ushers, "What is that gold telephone for?" He was told that that was a direct line to God. Excited, he asked how he could get to make a call. He was told that it would cost him one thousand dollars. Not having those kinds of funds, he continued his journey.

While in California, the man visited the famous Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove. He was absolutely amazed at the splendor of the massive glass worship space. As he took in the beauty, he noticed that off in a corner there was a gold telephone. He inquired of one of the young ushers what the gold telephone was for.

He was told the telephone was a direct line to God. He asked how he might be able to make a call to God. He was told he could do so for one thousand dollars. The man again continued on his journey.

Some time later that year the man was visiting Maine and while off the beaten path came across a small log built chapel deep in the woods. He decided to go in to rest for a moment. He entered the plain but neat little chapel. As he sat there praying he noticed a gold telephone in a corner near the altar. Just then a priest came in. He smiled and greeted the visitor.

The man couldn't resist asking what the gold telephone in the corner was for. He was told that that was a direct line to God. With a downward look and saddened face he asked how much it would cost to make a call. The pastor told him that would be twenty-five cents.

The man looked up, surprise on his face and said, "Twenty-five cents! Everywhere else I have been it was one thousand dollars. How could it be only twenty-five cents?" "Well," the pastor told him, "it's a local call."



Susan, Lola and Ted Kanellakis

**W**e who live here in Maine, can relate to that since we feel this has got to be the best place outside of heaven. That may be a bit of an exaggeration, but we do love our life here, and there is a sense that where there is such beauty at all times of the year, God must be close.

I want to tell you about the story. I heard it from a man who has become a friend. His name is Ray Gross. Some of you long-time members, may remember that he was a Warden at St. Peter's many years ago. I got to meet and know Ray, since I was invited to join the Midcoast Windjammer Barbershop Chorus, in Camden. Ray sings tenor. I was invited to the Windjammer Barbershop Chorus by a friend who I met here at St. Peter's. His name is Asger Bagge; Deborah Oliver's husband. Asger has been singing with the Chorus for many years. The chorus practices every Monday evening and sings at assisted living facilities, nursing homes and town gather-

ings and community affairs.

I invited Ray, who is retired and now summers in Maine, to come to St. Peter's to worship and perhaps meet some of the people he knew here years ago. He did so and since has invited his daughter, who has many fond memories of St. Peter's to come with her husband and worship with us also. It was so good to meet them.

We tend to invite people to come and see what we have seen and enjoy; where they can share in the pleasure we know. In this way we share part of ourselves, our joy with them, so they may have joy too.

You have and continue to share your joy with me and my family.

I am indeed grateful to have been asked as a clergy member of St. Peter's, to serve as the Interim Pastor, during this period of preparing for the inviting in the near future, a priest who will be called by God and the Vestry to come and share the joys and sorrows each of us experience in our journeys. We will then share together what we will come to know and love at St. Peter's, the church of gathered people known now as friends. Together, then we will come to know and share ourselves with other people who like us are on a spiritual quest, seeking God.

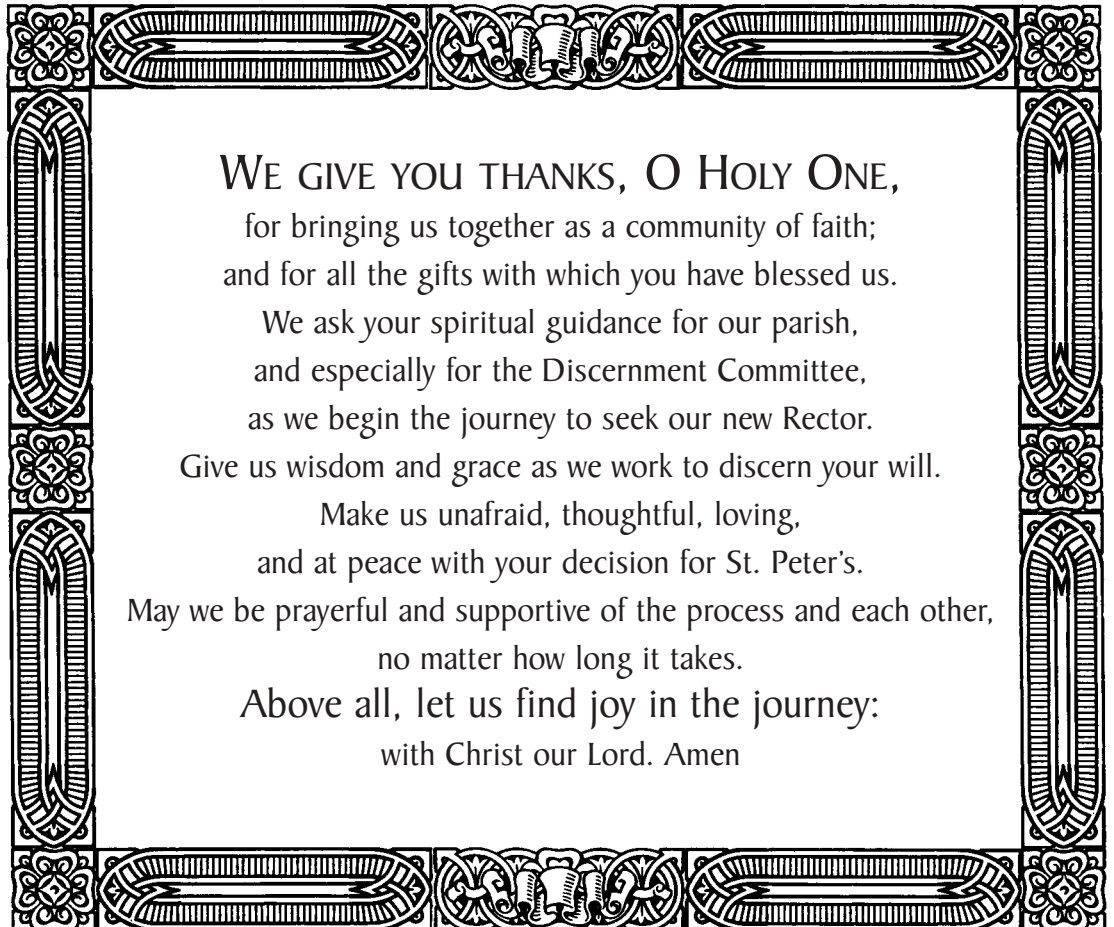
As I see it, we, all of us, are very important to this process. We can support the efforts of the Discernment Committee and the Vestry by giving the best of ourselves in this present interim time. This is the time to re-emphasize our commitment to actively invite anyone we know to become acquainted with the joy we have come to know here at St. Peter's. The joy of being with other's on a joint journey into relationship with God in one another. If we concentrate on the blessings we have and have been given as God's gifts to us, and invite others to share in our joy, all of us will be prepared and ready for inviting the next rector to share our joy and to guide us to the places where God is waiting for us. It does not cost beyond what we have ourselves. God is close within us and our fellow journeyers. We are all called to be the direct lines to and with God.

If someone asked you if you would show them the gold telephone at St. Peter's where would you tell them it is? If I were to be asked, I would have to point to the congregation present during a worship service and fellowship time. It is always a local call.

Peace, joy and love,

*Ted+*

*This prayer is the first accomplishment of the Discernment Committee. Please pray with us continually.*



WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O HOLY ONE,

for bringing us together as a community of faith;  
and for all the gifts with which you have blessed us.

We ask your spiritual guidance for our parish,  
and especially for the Discernment Committee,  
as we begin the journey to seek our new Rector.

Give us wisdom and grace as we work to discern your will.

Make us unafraid, thoughtful, loving,

and at peace with your decision for St. Peter's.

May we be prayerful and supportive of the process and each other,  
no matter how long it takes.

Above all, let us find joy in the journey:

with Christ our Lord. Amen

*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. Ted Kanellakis, Interim Rector  
(cell 975-0572, rector@stpetersrockland.org)

The Rev. Isabel Polk, Deacon  
(home 596.0003; deacon@stpetersrockland.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 Oct 22nd.**



Mailed September 14, 2007

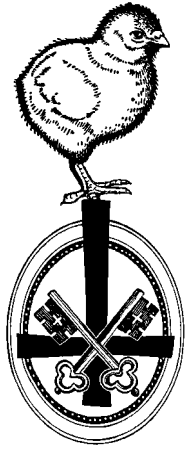
Return Service Requested

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

# THE ROCK



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ROCKLAND, ME  
PERMIT NO. 106



# THE PEBBLE

## Jesus Tells Disciples to Change and Be as Humble as Children

Dateline: Capernaum, about 25 CE —

While preaching to a group of his followers in the village square yesterday, Jesus was asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Expecting a discussion about their own importance, the disciples were surprised when Jesus called to a child who had been playing nearby.

Jesus placed the child in front of him, saying, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child, welcomes me.”

Jesus continued by telling the crowd that they must take care of the children at all costs.

## A Prayer for Children

**I**nto your hands, O God, we place your children. Support them in their successes and in their failures, in their joys and in their sorrows. As they grow in age, may they grow in grace, and in the knowledge of their Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*, p.444.

## Disciples Argue

The disciples have been overheard arguing about their own places in heaven. They seem to think they deserve special honor because they have left everything and followed Jesus. Lately, they seem a bit upset.

One of them told us, “Jesus continues to give us the message that we are not all that important in relation to all God’s creation. He wants us to concentrate on how we serve God and others.

“Some of us just don’t get it. Two disciples who are brothers are always asking for special privileges. I must say that Jesus is very fair to all of us.”

We asked if this incident with the child was something new. The disciple replied, “Jesus has blessed the children many times. One day there was a large crowd of people gathered around him. Several of the mothers were pushing through the people who were talking to Jesus.

Several of the disciples tried to stop these women. After all, Jesus was talking about important things. When he realized what was going on, he said clearly, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’

“Jesus spent the rest of the afternoon laying his hands on the children and blessing them.”

See *Matthew 18:3; Matthew 5:9; John 14:17.*

## Children Now and Then

**Y**oung persons of today have an easier life than children in ancient times. For one thing, you are healthier. Because of diseases, many children in Jesus’ day did not live to become adults.

Children of today also have more time to play and to go to school. Hebrew boys attended school only part of the day and worked at learning a trade the rest of the time. Hebrew girls stayed at home and helped their mothers. Anything they knew about reading and Scripture was learned from their mothers.

Children did not participate in the religious services although they did enjoy the festival celebrations. Boys were allowed in the temple after they were twelve or thirteen. Girls were never allowed. Boys and girls today have many more opportunities for worshiping God in church with their families. Many serve as acolytes, greeters, and members of the choir.

*These stories have been adapted from Church Times, Episcopal Children’s Curriculum, from the Virginia Theological Seminary and Morehouse Publishing. “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.”*

## Children's Sunday School Program Begins

The Children's Sunday School Program at St. Peter's Episcopal Church will begin its new year on Sunday, September 16th. There will be a free "Meet and Greet" Pancake Breakfast for parents, children and teachers at 9:15 AM in the church's parish hall. Parents can meet the teachers at the breakfast and register their children for the classes which will begin during the 10:30 AM service.

Valerie Wells is Coordinator of Children's Ministries at St. Peter's and she is assisted by Elizabeth Biddle as the lead teacher. Valerie begins each Sunday with song either for the day or in preparation for a performance involving the children. Children are taught prayers, and study Bible passages based on curriculum materials provide by The Episcopal Church and published by "Living the Good News." After a break to join their parent for Communion, the children will return to their classrooms to learn about the geography and history of the region where Jesus lived and taught by creating a "salt clay" map of the Middle East, with some information about the borders of the countries that exist in the region today.

St. Peter's Sunday School program is for children age 4 through 12. Nursery services are also provided for younger children. All are welcome. An elevator to all levels of the church property make it fully handicapped accessible. St. Peter's is located at 11 White St. in the red shingled building near the Rockland Public Library and the Rockland Recreation Center. For more information call the church office at 594-8191.

*The above text was used for the Press Release and information was gleaned from Elizabeth's article for the Rock and from a brief PR piece prepared by Valerie Wells.*



## News from The Sunday School Teachers

The first session of Sunday School will begin in just a couple of weeks. I am anticipating only one class this year again, but if we have enough children of varying ages, we will divide the groups by age to make sure the programs are appropriate. The program will be slightly more structured this year, lending it more easily to volunteer teachers stepping in and out if need be or desired. I anticipate having curriculum and project materials prepared a couple of weeks in advance if there are any adults who would like to volunteer to teach or assist in a class on a regular or occasional basis.

When we gather in the undercroft, we will begin with Valerie Wells leading us in songs she has chosen, either for the day or in preparation for a presentation in which the Sunday schoolers will be involved. Next we will participate in prayer time, learning parts of the service offered upstairs, and occasional prayers the children can incorporate into their lives. After prayers, we will study select Bible passages and the lessons based thereon, guided by the curriculum materials provided by the Church and published by "Living the Good News." This study will include crafts and Bible stories. We should be able to accomplish these three segments by the time we are called to Communion.

What will be particularly new this year will be the project after Communion. This period has traditionally been less structured. Some children seek out their families and stay with them during the remainder of the service. Some children wander off to play in the nursery. This year after communion, we will learn about the geography and history of the region where Jesus lived and taught by creating a "salt clay" map of the Middle East, with some information about the borders of the countries that exist in the region today. Salt-clay is like play-dough, but grainier, and can be built and painted to resemble mountains, valleys, rivers and lakes. This project will be challenging but manageable for most of the children who have participated in the Sunday School program in the past few years. This portion of the program would benefit from mentoring of the younger children by either older children or adult volunteers. If you or some member of your family can make a commitment for this portion of the class for one Sunday a month or so, I have a calendar and would be very appreciative of the help. Please email me at [29spear@midcoast.com](mailto:29spear@midcoast.com).

*Elizabeth Biddle*