

DECEMBER 2010

# THE ROCK

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THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**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)

## **Worship**

Sunday 8:00 and 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 7:00 AM Taizé Holy Eucharist

## **Office hours**

Monday–Friday 9 AM to 12 PM

The Rev. Glenn Mahaffey, Rector

(home 593-9003, [rector@stpetersrockland.org](mailto:rector@stpetersrockland.org))

Kate Jones, Parish Secretary

([stpeters@stpetersrockland.org](mailto:stpeters@stpetersrockland.org))

Robert Earle, Organist

The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane, Bishop of Maine

## Officers

Senior Wardens

Thom Buescher, 345.0608, buescher@midcoast.com

Tom Putnam, 594.2994, tcp12@gwi.net

John Snow, 596.6025, Junior Warden

Micki Colquhoun, cell. 592.5992, Treasurer

Linda Ames Mann, Clerk

## Vestry members

Steven Alley, Elizabeth Biddle, Jim Bowditch, Marilyn Smith, David Grima, Mary Alice Bird, Tish Taylor, Jude Thomas, Midge Welch and Judy Willey

## THE ROCK

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St. Peter's Evangelism Commission

Thom Buescher (354.0608)

Marty Rogers (236.8922)

Page Design: Chris McLarty

Please e-mail submissions to Marty at mlr@midcoast.com

You are welcome to contribute material for our next newsletter; **Submission deadline is noon February 14, 2011**

**Mailing Date for this issue: Wednesday, December 22, 2010**

# WAYPOINTS

## *activities and notices on our journey together*

### Comments being sought on the possible revision of the 1982 Hymnal

The following is a press release from the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

December 15, 2010 The Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) is inviting input and comments about a possible revision of The Hymnal 1982.

Starting December 15, an online survey is available to engage the entire church in this discussion, noted the Rev. Dr. Ruth Meyers, chair of the SCLM. The survey is available at <http://www.cpg.org/hymnalstudy2>

"We have established this survey as part of The Episcopal Church's ongoing work with liturgical materials and in compliance to Resolution B004 as approved at General Convention 2009," Meyers explained. "This is important work in the life of our church and we are grateful for participation as our church embraces this task."

Resolution B004 "authorize(s) Church Publishing Incorporated, working with the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, to conduct a feasibility study on the need for revision of The Hymnal 1982 by speaking to congregations, dioceses and all seminaries of this Church, and to report its findings to the 77th General Convention."

The survey, coordinated by the Church Pension Fund's Office of Research, will be available online until January 31, 2011.

"The study seeks answers to two basic questions," said Dr. Matthew J. Price, Church Pension Group Director of Analytical Research. "First, do the hymnal and the other authorized resources that the Church has for worship music meet the needs of the Church. If the answer to the first question is 'no', then the question should be asked as to whether a new Hymnal is the most efficacious means of answering these new needs."

Meyers explained that prior to the December 15 debut of the online survey, the first step in the Hymnal Revision Feasibility Study was to invite clergy, music directors and church members in 1400 congregations, representing all sizes, locations, and languages in a stratified random sample, to participate in an initial phase of the study.

Following the January 31 deadline, the responses from the initial phase along with the general survey info, will be collated and all data reviewed, under the leadership of Jeannine Otis, a well-known musician from the Diocese of New York and an SCLM member.

These results, along with recommendations for next steps, will be presented to General Convention 2012 as part of the SCLM report.



New Acolytes at St. Peter's: Duncan Dyer and Jason Reese and parents Scott Dyer, Mary Alice McLean and Michael Reese

# WINDOW OF THE SPIRIT

*views into the souls of St. Peter's*

10/17/10

(Spiritual Autobiography, EFM)

## THE VESSEL BETWEEN

by Vicky Lesmerises

The river of my life  
gurgles – spits – splashes  
in its journey to the unknown.  
Deep pools of thoughts lie few.  
Fears constantly assailed me  
as I searched what seemed  
endlessly for Your Light.

Baptized to You,  
confirmed in You -  
You in me.

I delight and amaze  
when the Holy Spirit uses me.  
My love glorified by You.  
Treasured in my heart:  
step stones of healing,  
step stones of breaking out of tombs,  
step stones of speaking Your Truth,  
giving Your Love, showing me  
Your feelings, heal thru my fingers,  
speak thru my hands and body.

Lifetime to a higher plan -  
unknown – scary – exciting.  
Take me – use me.  
Here I am, Lord. Out of shadows -  
out of hiding. Here I am!!!!!!



### Gallery of The Spirit

Please contact Dorothy Nyman at 596-0363 if you would like to exhibit your creative art in the Gallery of The Spirit.

## **Vestry Notes**

### **October 20 2010**

Treasurer's Report. Micki Colquhoun noted that pledges were still slow. Two large gifts have been given to the church.

Building and Grounds. John Snow reported that flooding in the kitchen continues to be a serious problem. We need gutters and macadam over the crushed stones. John will check on a sump pump or French drains. A motion was approved to permit John to make the decision on how to fix this. Thom Buescher said that a survey will be in the next two bulletins regarding use of the newly-opened space in the sanctuary.

Stewardship. Jim Bowditch reported on a plan to divide the congregation into groups for "cottage meetings." Thom thought that this was a great idea but the time span was too compressed for this to happen this year. There was a discussion related to whether we needed a target for 2011. Mary Alice stressed that it was important for the congregation to know the truth about church expenses and the need for more money. Glenn asked if the vestry wanted transparency so that the congregation knew what was needed to balance the budget. Micki said that we need pledges to be increased by 25 percent. Thom proposed using the 25 percent figure in the stewardship letter.

Feedback on Retreat. Glenn discussed inviting the Aroostook Cluster Ministries to talk both regarding lay ministry and clustering. He noted that the Bishop is trying to keep as many fulltime priests in Maine as possible and that he considers the three Episcopal Churches in the Midcoast as a plus. Glenn believes that this church can be self-supporting. Every group that meets in the Church has some members of the congregation. We need to give proper credit to those who work for justice. There are seven people working on pastoral needs. We could have a gift-based ministry.

Request from City of Rockland. The City has requested \$5,661 in lieu of taxes (about half of what property tax would be). Glen will check with the Diocese to see if there are any guidelines and with other ministers in the area and bring this matter up before the vestry again in November.

Retreat continued. Glenn asked for names for the discernment subgroup. David Grima, Glenn, Mary Alice, Marilyn, and perhaps Tish Taylor will serve as members. The subgroup could contact the Aroostook Cluster Ministries. There was a brief discussion on organizing a "fishbowl" experience in church (the vestry would have an open meeting.) Thom suggested doing this before the annual meeting. Steve Alley reported on the effort to arrange a social event for the parish. The men's group will work with the ECW to put on a dinner November 14, 2010 at 5 pm. Tish and Pat Snow also had discussed having quarterly dinners with entertainment; they will coordinate with Steve.

Ad Hoc Housing Committee. John placed the Report of the Rector's Housing Committee into the record. Thom made a motion to adopt the report and to seek legal counsel which was accepted.

Vestry Nominations. The Nominating Committee is made up of one vestry member who is leaving the vestry, one warden, and one person from the congregation. Midge Welch and Tom Putnam will serve.

### **November 17, 2010**

Treasurer's Report. The current financials & the budget for 2011 were reviewed. Pledge payments for 2010 are still behind. Some of the budget lines related to building and grounds could be combined next year. Additional information was requested regarding the line for "Employer, Emp Tx" under Salaries & Supply and the line for "Gas" under Building Costs. Micki Colquhoun is interested in having revenue from the fund for theological education be unrestricted.

Building and Grounds. John Snow reported that Steve Alley should be finished with the painting in the newly reclaimed space this week and with the chapel next week. LP gas will be purchased from Montgomery Oil Company. The estimate for paving (to alleviate basement flooding) is \$500; a motion to accept this was approved. Thom reported on the space survey results; most respondents were interested in a columbarium and flexible space. During the December vestry meeting, there will be discussion of a space proposal to present to the Annual Meeting.

Rector's Report. Glenn thanked Steve for feeding a homeless man. Glenn talked to the Bishop's office regarding the issue of contributing to the City of Rockland, in lieu of taxes; this practice is discouraged because of precedence. No response to the request will be made.

Clergy Housing Committee. John reported that he had met with attorney Ed Collins, who agreed with the idea of an LLC. Glenn will meet with the Bishop on December 7 along with the wardens and treasurer; further work should wait until after this meeting.

Meeting Goals from Vestry Retreat. The ministry discernment subcommittee (David Grima, Mary Alice Bird, Jim Bowditch, Tish Taylor, and Marilyn Smith) will meet January 5 at 5:30. Marilyn will be out of town. David will send something to members via e-mail. The parish supper on November 14 went very well with about 40 people attending. Steve said that next time there will be a social hour. The Annual Meeting will be January 30. The next parish supper will be during Epiphany. The vestry fishbowl experience will occur before the Annual Meeting. Work on the Aroostook Cluster Ministries is on hold.

Vestry Concerns. Marilyn asked if the annual Eliza Steele day in May could be held at the church. Jim reported that he had been putting church information on the Village Soup website in the absence of Marty Rogers, including the Native American film and special service and the Thanksgiving dinner. He could also put up information on the Christmas fair and the Hospice memorial service. Tish and Judy Willey need desserts to serve following the film. Marilyn reported that the rummage sale netted \$850; the ECW would like \$400 of that donated to the rector's discretionary fund. A motion was made and approved. A discussion welcoming newcomers will be on the agenda for the December meeting.

**Vestry Notes for the Wednesday, December 15, 2010 meeting will be available in the next Rock.**

**The next meeting of the vestry is Wednesday, January 19, 2011.**

## *From the Rector*

The book of Genesis describes the situation prior to God's creation of the earth as an "*unformed void, with darkness over the surface of the deep*". One Jewish commentator in discussing this passage suggests that the idea could be translated as: "*confusion and emptiness and darkness.*" This phrase struck me, since during the Christmas season each year, the "confusion, emptiness and darkness" of society seems to come into sharp focus for so many. Pastors, mental health professionals, law enforcement and even emergency medical personnel would all concur that the Christmas season is notorious for bringing out some of the worst behavior and most dysfunctional aspects of families, neighbors, and society in general.

In an article from the 2009 *Boston Globe* entitled "Christmas was a Riot", discussed some traditions of Christmas in Boston from years past. The article states that according to a tract written by Cotton Mather in 1693, "Christmas was a holiday of pagan origins, all too often an occasion for "dancing and drunkenness, chambering and wantonness." Mather quotes an eminent Bishop as saying, "Men dishonor Christ more in the twelve days of Christmas, than in all the twelve months besides." The article continues: "Across early modern society, Christmas was celebrated – especially by the poor and young – as an

occasion of boisterous misrule . . . roaming house to house, often in disguise, to beg noisily for money or alcohol." It gives a whole new twist to the wassail bowl and Christmas caroling! *Confusion, emptiness and darkness*, and bad dysfunctional behavior in society at Christmas, are not only a modern day occurrence.

In the creation story from Genesis, into this *confusion, emptiness, and darkness*, God begins the process of bringing order to life by *speaking the immortal words* "Let there be light." At Christmas we celebrate God's *spoken word* coming to life in the person of Jesus, who John's Gospel tells us "was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Jesus came to bring order out of our confusion, substance from emptiness and illumination from shadows. We hear God's "spoken word" at Christmas from the words of the Gospels, occasionally from the words of preachers, and most profoundly from the mouths and actions of those who love us. God speaks and light springs forth. God speaks and life is created.

Creation is as much a Christmas activity as it is an Easter springtime activity. Light from darkness and life from emptiness is not unlike resurrection from death and spring leaves from the barrenness of winter. Hope is the message of Christmas, just as it is the message of Easter. In the midst of the confusion, emptiness and darkness of our physical and social environments, God's hope appears. It only takes a spark of hope to light a great fire of hope. Look for the spark! Allow the spark to touch our dry and parched minds and souls. Allow the Spirit of God to create the flames of life and hope and love within us. We have gifts from God at Christmas to share with the world and people around us: gifts of hope, light and love!

Let us join together this Christmas and take time to praise God for the dawn of redeeming grace in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light which mercifully shines over all the earth and its inhabitants.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Christmas Eve, December 24th** 10–11 am Lessons & Carols from King's College, Cambridge

**4:30 pm** Family Service with Christmas Pageant

10:15–10:40 pm Carol Singing, 10:40–11 pm Instrumental Prelude

**11:00 pm** – Candlelight Midnight Mass

No Services on Christmas Day

Sunday, December 26th, 8 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist

In Christ's love,  
Glenn+