

In the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Peter's Episcopal Church

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

42 Sweden Road

Bridgton, Maine 04009



Fish Tales



Episcopal Parish serving the Greater Bridgton Lakes Region since 1962

March 2009

This is My Beloved Son, Listen to Him!

The following excerpts from Bishop John's Sermon on February 22, 2009 may provide some helpful suggestions for "Listening to Jesus" during Lent.

- We might find a half hour each day during Lent to just sit in silence and listen—no radio, no TV, no cell-phone or iPod. Just sit in silence and listen to how God might speak to us in our hearts or in our minds.
- Sit quietly each day with a short piece of Scripture and listen to how God might speak through the passage. Read the passage, sit quietly, imagine the scene or dialog, ask how God might be speaking through this passage. Let the Lord speak from Scripture.
- Fast one or two days each week! All of the great spiritual leaders in every faith advocate fasting as a way that opens us to listen. Sated bodies are far less open to listening. Perhaps that is why so many do not hear God today, because we are so full. Eat as lightly as possible one or two days per week and then sit quietly and listen.
- Go for a walk in the woods! Walk alone and just listen with open heart and mind.
- Give up something for Lent that might lead to a fuller life with God. More importantly take on a discipline that might increase the compassion of Jesus in you.
- Participate in the Sunday Eucharist and in the special Lenten Services with a fresh approach—with ears, heart, mind and all your senses open to the mysteries of the Lord's presence. You may find a powerful moment in the Liturgy when you just stop and pay attention to the Lord speaking to you while the Liturgy goes on. When we come to the Liturgy not only to offer praise, to listen to Scripture and sermon, but open to God's surprising Word, as we listen with our whole being, we might find God showing us something new, something we need to hear, a word of comfort or direction.

+Bishop John

*Then a voice comes out of heaven: This is my beloved son.
LISTEN to Him!*



Reflections from the Senior Warden

Reviewing the e-mail that was recently sent to the entire parish, outlining the opportunity to learn more about our church, I couldn't help but reflect upon some of the things that have kept me involved in the Episcopal Church. These brief comments have nothing to do with what you may discuss with Bishop John. They're more of a potpourri of one man's thoughts.

As many of you know, I'm a cradle Episcopalian. As a result, over the years I've rarely questioned why we do certain things that might seem a little strange to others. I just honestly like our liturgy and particularly like being able to attend any Episcopal Church and feel very comfortable with the service. It doesn't matter whether the church is considered "high" or "low," the service is still following the format in the Book of Common Prayer.

Another aspect that I've always liked is that we are what I call a participatory church. The congregation is actively involved throughout the service. Over the years I've been in some churches where I seem to recall that no one moved or said anything except to sing a couple of hymns. That's not the Episcopal Church. We stand, sit or kneel at the appropriate time. We might almost call ourselves the "aerobic" church.

Having been in church choirs since I was a boy-soprano, I appreciate and like the variety of our music. Some might prefer Bach, while others like renewal music. I happen to like it all. I may have trouble with certain pieces, but that's another story.

We've recently been singing the Venite and the Jubilate Deo. You may have noticed that we old-timers in the choir have had our eyes glued to the music when we've sung these two chants. The reason very simply is because the words have been changed slightly and I, for one, have to stop myself from automatically singing the words I grew up with. This isn't all bad, however, as it made me pay attention to the words rather than just say or sing them by rote.

I've heard the Episcopal Church referred to as the thinking person's church. We don't see the asking of questions as a bad thing or contrary to our teachings. Questions are good. Questions are healthy. We probably all have some doubts from time to time. I think that such doubts are normal. I further believe that we are generally respectful of differing points of view and hopefully we are still able to learn from others.

I'll conclude these reflections with one last thought. The Episcopal Church is an inclusive church. We welcome all baptized persons to be members of St. Peter's. We welcome all baptized Christians to join us at the altar for communion. Last summer we had a number of people visiting. I remember one couple in particular, who were absolutely delighted to learn that they could receive the bread and wine, even though they weren't members of an Episcopal Church.

For our Lenten study this year, we'll be discussing the book [If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat](#). This reminded me of the following announcement in a church bulletin:

The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water

The sermon this evening: Searching for Jesus.

God Bless, *Bob Vivian*, Senior Warden

Ecumenical Lenten Luncheons

Remember the Ecumenical Lenten Luncheons held at noon each Wednesday in March at St. Joseph's Church in Bridgton. A wonderful soup lunch is served and area clergy give brief presentations about their "favorite" Bible story or verse. This 12-year tradition is very popular and we hope you will join.

St. Peter's parishioners are responsible for the soup on March 4th. Bishop John will share his favorite Bible story that day.



Lent is one of the six seasons of the church year and is the forty-day period beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The period is actually 46 days long, but since Sundays are feast days, they are never included in the count.

This Lent, why not Make A Difference? Add something that positively affects your life and others. In the words of Bishop John, "take on something to increase your passion for Jesus.

Share Lent

IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THE WATER, YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT!

This is the theme for this year's **Lenten Series**, based on a book of that title by John Ortberg. The Lenten Series will be held on

Wednesdays,
March 4, 11,
18, and 25,
beginning at
6:00 p.m.



with a light soup supper. The Lenten discussions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the evening will conclude with an informal Celebration of Holy Eucharist at 8:30. Everyone is welcome! Bring your friends! In order to know how much soup to prepare, we would ask you to sign up on the Lenten Series sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Copies of the book may be purchased from [Bridgton Books](#) on Main Street, Bridgton. The books will be available in early February at a discounted price.

WHO ARE THOSE EPISCOPALIANS?

Want to know more about What do we believe? How Jesus for us and what is Sacraments? What are Anglican Church? And week series to learn more those questions you have wanted to ask! There are no dumb questions!



the Episcopal Church? do we worship? Who is the Holy Spirit? What are the historical roots of the more? Attend this four

This series will meet on four Sundays, **March 1, 8, 15, and 22**, beginning at noon with a light soup luncheon, followed by a presentation with time for discussions and questions. The weekly program will last about an hour and a half. Here is an opportunity to learn more about the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion of which we are a part. This is also an opportunity to come and explore without any pre-commitment for those who may be considering Confirmation by our Bishop and joining the Episcopal Church. Please bring a friend or someone who may be interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church began as a summer mission in 1962. On September 8, 1974, St. Peter's-by-the-Lake held its first service of extended ministry. Since then, though it did not have a home of its own, the church has provided an Episcopal presence to summer and year-round residents of the Lakes Region by meeting in various locations including people's homes, Bridgton Academy and local churches of different denominations. The first service in St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Sweden Road in Bridgton, was held on May 25, 2008. The building and contents were dedicated and consecrated on June 1, 2008.



Fish Tales

is a monthly publication of **St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

Deadline for each issue is the 25th of the preceding month.

Editor:

Leigh Macmillen Hayes

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The Baptismal Font

The gorgeous pottery Baptismal Bowl located just inside the front door, in the Narthex, always contains blessed water. An ancient tradition of the Church, which many continue to use to this day, is to dip a finger in the blessed water and then make the sign of the cross on your forehead as a prayer and blessing either upon entering and /or leaving the church. This sacramental action remind us of God's presence with us in worship and as we go out into the world. Please feel free to make use of this sacrament.

Memorial Gifts Received

St. Peter's Episcopal Church has been the recent recipient of two Memorial gifts.

A much needed, second Fair Linen for the Altar has been given by Chris Molloy, in thanksgiving for the life and in memory of her beloved husband, William Molloy.

In Thanksgiving for the life of John Kobrock, Joan Twaddle has made a gift of the following: 2 Palls, 2 Purificators with embroidered crosses, 5 plain Purificators, 1 Lavabo Towel and 1 Baptismal Towel with embroidered shell

During Lent these gifts will be blessed for use on the Altar and during our Liturgies.

Prayers of the People

Please pray for the following:

Elizabeth, Frederica, Larry, Raleigh, Cassandra, Dorna Jean, Peggy and Greg



The Parish Wish List

St. Peter's Episcopal Church continues to keep a "wish list" of items that are still very much needed for our new building. Anyone who might wish to make a donation for the purchase of any of these items may speak with the Rector or Sr. Warden.

- A desk for the Rector's office
- bookcases for the Rector's office, which will serve both the Rector and as shelves for our parish library
- Shelving and cabinets for the Parish Coordinator's office
- A glass case for our Memorial Gift Book and for the Record of Burials in our Prayer/Memorial Garden. The case will be located in the Narthex near the Baptismal Font

*Create in me a clean heart, O God
and put a new and right spirit
within me.*

Psalms 51:10

Non-Church Fund Raising

From time to time members of the parish wish to ask for donations for very good causes that are not church related, to which many parishioners like to give. Such fund raising, such as school PTAs or trips, a Lakes Region community need, or a Scout project are welcome. We would ask, however, that you limit your requests to no more than two or three each year, that such requests be made as a general announcement and that individuals not be personally asked to donate, since often some folk are not in the position to make a donation and are embarrassed not to give something when personally approached. We also ask that any such fund raising requests be approved by the Rector or Sr. Warden before hand.



During the month of February the children in our Godly Play classes hung homemade mail boxes in the classroom. They have received letters of inspiration, notes of praise and Valentines in these. They've also been learning some of the Parables of Jesus.

In March, they will focus on the Miracles of Jesus and be given the chance to wonder what it must have been like to be present during one of those special moments. They will also learn about St. Patrick. Do beware though, because they plan to construct a leprechaun trap in honor of St. Patrick's day. Who knows—they might just catch one!

Calling All Recipes

Do you like to eat?

Do you like to cook or bake?

Do you like to read?

Do you like to purchase locally?

If you answer yes to at least one of the above, then we need your recipes.

Folks at St. Peter's Episcopal Church are renown for the food we prepare at pot luck meals, St. Peter's Café and coffee hour. Let's put those recipes together in a bound cookbook. Be thinking of your favorite recipes and jot down any memories, or hints associated with them.



SPY Group

Our World Vision 30-Hour Famine on February 21-22 turned out to be a wonderful success. Five teens participated in the 30-hour fasting, which began at noon on Friday and ended with a spaghetti supper on Saturday evening. The youth had previously collected over \$300 from sponsors prior to the weekend, with more money to be added following the event.

The weekend's theme was Tribe: Amazon. All five heard and experienced difficulties, through survival games, that impoverished families in the beautiful areas of South America struggle with on a daily basis. They learned that the residents live hand and mouth with little help from the government. They saw how World Vision goes into these areas and provides sustainable food, education, medical needs, means of employment and creates long term assistance. They also learned how World Vision helps in different areas of the United States with education, disaster relief and youth development.

During the 30-hour event at St. Peter's, the SPYs learned about the poverty level in the Lakes Region area as well. One in five local families lives in poverty and is hungry in our area. This news was a shocker to the SPYS. Marion Browning presented information about nutrition and budgeting for food in a family setting. She also helped the teens plant pepper and tomato seeds in hopes of growing a sustainable garden called the "Garden of Love and Giving," which will supply vegetables for St. Peter's Café and the Bridgton Food Pantry. The teens humbled themselves and begged for food and monetary support at Food City. The food will be donated to the Bridgton Food Pantry. The new manager, Kirsten, announced the fund raiser in the store, gave food to the food drive and donated all the fixings for the SPYs spaghetti supper. During the food drive, \$101 was collected, which will be split between World Vision and the Bridgton Food Pantry.

There are several people who need to be thanked for without all of you this would not have been such a success. Thanks to Edna Engstrom, Marion Browning, George and Joan Wright, Greg, Jonathan and Jeff Jones, and Sarah Lowell of "Running With Scissors." But most of all THANK YOU TEENS! You are awesome, fun, faithful, creative and I just love being around you. You keep me young!!

~Janet Jones

And a heartfelt THANK YOU to Janet and her crew for all the time and effort that went into this event.

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42 Sweden Road
 PO Box 134
 Bridgton ME 04009
 207.647.8549
 e-mail: stpetersbridgton@aol.com
 Web site: www.stpetersbridgton.org

Rector

The Rt. Rev. John H. Smith
 Winter phone: 207.729.6023
 e-mail: JHSme@aol.com

**Holy Eucharist and Child Care
 Sunday—8:45 a.m.**

Parish Coordinator
 Janet Jones

Director of Music
 Evan Miller

Christian Education Coordinator
 Janet Jones

Fish Tales Editor
 Leigh Macmillen Hayes

Vestry
Senior Warden: Bob Vivian
Junior Warden: Eric Wissmann
Vestry Clerk: Leigh Hayes
Vestry Treasurer: Jack Bash

Members:
 Jonathan Jones, Lin Frank, Karen
 Mentus, Deb Ripley, Kirk Engstrom,
 Liz Tusing

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 Office Hours
 Monday-Friday
 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**The Mission of St. Peter's Episcopal
 Church**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is a congregation that meets to worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is a place where everyone is welcome. We find our strength in the Eucharist. We pray that we may use our time, talent and resources for the benefit of our community. We gather to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to uphold and support each other and to reach out in service to others.

March Calendar of Events

Mar 1	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal Holy Eucharist/Children's Programs Who Are Those Episcopalians In-Reach Team Meeting
Mar 2	6:00 p.m.	EfM
Mar 3	5:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Mar 4	noon 6:00 p.m.	Lenten Soup Luncheon at St. Joseph's Church/ St. Peter's hosts Lenten Series/Soup Supper
Mar 8	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal Holy Eucharist/Children's Programs Who are Those Episcopalians Bridgton Health Care Service
Mar 9	6:00 p.m.	EfM
Mar 10	10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	PSM at Ann's home Choir Rehearsal
Mar 15	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal Holy Eucharist/Children's Programs Who are Those Episcopalians Vestry Meeting
Mar 16	6:00 p.m.	EfM
Mar 17	11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	St. Peter's Café Choir Rehearsal
Mar 18	noon 6:00 p.m.	Lenten Soup Lunch at St. Joseph's Lenten Series/Soup Supper
Mar 22	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal Holy Eucharist/Children's Program Who are Those Episcopalians SPY group to Colonial Mast
Mar 23	6:00 p.m.	EfM
Mar 24	10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	PSM at Norma's home Choir Rehearsal
Mar 25	noon 6:00 p.m.	Lenten Soup lunch at St. Joseph's Lenten Series/Soup Supper
Mar 29	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal Holy Eucharist/Children's Programs Who are Those Episcopalians
Mar 30	6:00 p.m.	EfM
Mar 31	5:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Apr 1	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Series/Soup Supper (last week)

Basket of the Month

The "Basket of the Month," a source of outreach for St. Peter's, continues to support St. Elizabeth's Essential Pantry in Portland with the following items:

March: Cleaning Supplies, i.e. Comet, Windex, Mister Kleen, etc.