

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*

September 2009

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## DO ALL THINGS WITHOUT MURMURING

When I was growing up my parents often said to me, "If you cannot say anything nice, then don't say anything at all!" A bit extreme, in retrospect, since sometimes it is essential to speak "unkind" truth about some events. There is an important truth here, however, to which Scripture speaks very clearly. How different might the world be if we were all better in taking to heart in our behavior the admonition from Paul:

**Let each of you look not to his own interests, but also to the interest of others. ~ Philippians 2:4**

How the activities of Congress and the entire political life of our nation might be changed by this standard of living! In fact, how the life of our families, parish and community might be transformed in light of the increasingly dominating principle of self-interest in contemporary life.

St. Paul also writes to the Churches of Philippi and Corinth with these words:

**Do all things without murmuring! ~ Philippians 2:14**

**Do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed. ~ 1 Corinthians 10:10**

The truth is that the murmuring or complaining spirit that sometimes invades our personal or corporate lives is very destructive. It can undermine our relationships, our families, our own self-worth and that of others, and lead to destruction. Petty murmuring, muttering, complaining, or whining have a way of becoming a cancerous force not only in our personal lives, but for our families, our church, our communities and our nation.

I can wake up in the morning and complain and whine about the weather and make myself and those around me feel more miserable, or I can awaken each day and remind myself that "This is the Day the Lord has made, let me rejoice and be glad in it," no matter what! I can meet each complaining about some petty detail about a family member and so feed that misery, or I can accept that loved one for whom she/he is and give thanks for the good in her/him. In today's world with which most of us have been blessed in our lives, it has become all too easy to murmur about what we don't have, or that others seem to have more of, thereby making ourselves and those around us miserable. Murmuring, complaining, whining, or looking for anything around us with which to find fault can become an evil force in our lives if we allow that evil spirit in.

How then, do we deal with this evil spirit in our lives or in our midst? We can begin by not passing it along when it is passed to us! We can ask God's grace to counter it when we hear it and say something like, "Yes, but isn't it a blessing that we have such and such, or that so and so gives so much to our common life." We can begin and try to leave each day with those words from the psalmist: **This is the Day the Lord has made, let us rejoice!** We can pause and think about the incredible gift we have received from God in Christ: unconditional love and acceptance, forgiveness and eternal life!

The children of God should differ from others in being Eucharistic People, people who live with much rejoicing and thanksgiving. The more perverse others are, the more careful we should be to keep ourselves happy, rejoicing with all those around us and not be murmurers, fault-finders, complainers, while speaking the truth in love.

~ + Bishop John



### Reflections from the Senior Warden

It's now official! The National Weather Service has reported that we've recently set a new high mark as the rainiest summer on record. This just confirms what we all suspected. With all the rain in June and July, it felt like a very short summer as well.

When I was young (boy, that's ancient history), we always thought of summer as the time between school ending in June and beginning again in September, usually twelve plus weeks. Using this same measure, today's summer is actually two weeks shorter.

Summer is supposed to be a time to sit back, relax and recharge our batteries. Even though we've lost two weeks somewhere, I hope you all found some time to relax and get yourselves ready, when everything begins again in the fall.

Before leaving summer, however, I'm pleased to report that we had a very successful Blueberry Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. First of all, fifteen of us went to Crabtree Farms on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, to pick blueberries. We had some concern about the timing as reports from some of the blueberry farms were not too encouraging. But having faith, we met there and had a good time picking 74 pounds of berries.

On Saturday morning we served at least 175 and earned over \$1,000 to help support our Outreach Programs. All our workers wore St. Peter's T-shirts or aprons, which made a nice impression on the attendees. One of our goals has been to increase our presence in the community and these numbers would seem to indicate that we are making good progress. My thanks to Barbara Marshall, Chairperson, and Emily Hammerle, for preparing all the delicious sauce, and everyone else who helped make this a great success.

My joke-of-the-month is taken from Garrison Keillor on Episcopalians:

“We make fun of Episcopalians for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in Des Moines, a relatively Episcopalianless place, to sing along on the chorus of *Michael Row the Boat Ashore*, they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Episcopalians, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach!--and down the road!

God Bless,

*Bob Vivian*, Senior Warden.

*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 25<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

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### Important Dates to Remember

**September 13th—Sunday School begins**

**October 9th—Turkey Dinner**

**chaired by Kirsten H. and Shelly J.**



## Lessons About the Episcopal Church

### Episcopal Polity—Part I

In Episcopal Church polity, or the way in which we govern ourselves, a parish holds an annual parish meeting in January, at which the congregation helps to adopt the parish budget for the year, elects members of the Vestry plus Sr. and Jr. Warden, Clerk and Treasurer and helps to set the priorities for the parish's ministry and life for the coming year. The Rector is also a member of the Vestry and chairs its meetings unless this is delegated to the Sr. Warden. The Rector and Vestry become the governing body of the parish between Annual Meetings, overseeing and making decisions about the life of the parish.

By Canon Law, it is also the Vestry's responsibility to select and call a new Rector, when that becomes necessary, though the Vestry normally appoints a "search committee" to do the research, conduct interviews and nominate priests to the Vestry for its consideration. Members of the Vestry are also always open to hear of concerns as well as joys about parish life from members of the congregation, in order that those matters may be a part of the Vestry's decision-making ministry. The Vestry normally meets monthly throughout the year.

Obviously, the ministry of the Vestry is an important part of parish life and we are thankful to those who give so generously of their time and energy to this ministry on our behalf.

### Sermons this Fall

Sunday, September 13, marks the start of Sunday School. During fall and up until Christmas the children will learn about and explore the Parables of Jesus. As part of broadening and strengthening the life of the parish for mutual support in our knowledge of Scripture and our life in Christ, the sermon each Sunday will also focus on the same Parable the children are studying. If you wish to prepare ahead of time, the Parables for September will be the following:



September 13: The Prodigal Son-Part 1

September 20: The Prodigal Son-Part 2

September 27: The Good Employer

### Welcome St. Francis Statue

Thank you to Bill and Ba White, who have graciously given a statue of St. Francis to our Memorial Garden. It has been placed in the upper area of the garden where the first burials will take place.



## Parish Funeral Policies

In response to a number of questions raised in the last few months, the Vestry calls our attention to the parish funeral policies posted on the Narthex bulletin board, copies of which may be obtained simply by asking Janet for them.

There are no fees for a funeral for members of the parish or their families. Certain expenses, **however**, are expected to be covered by the family. These include the following:

1. Musician's fee--\$125

2. Cost of flowers for the altar

3. Cost of food for the reception and remembrance time following the Burial Requiem.

The parish "Bereavement Ministry Team" will arrange for the reception as appropriate.

Other Policies:

The place for funerals is in the church and normally includes the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

The coffin is to be closed before the service and remains closed. It is appropriate that the coffin be covered with a pall, or in the case of a Veteran, a US flag.

Two vases of flowers are to be used as the altar flowers. No other flowers are to be used.

The Rector, or other priest designated by the Rector, usually presides at the funeral. In the absence of a priest, a deacon may preside at the Burial Office without Eucharist.

A homily focuses on Scripture readings. It is the custom of the Episcopal Church that "remembrances" or eulogy take place in settings other than the liturgical Burial Service, such as at a "remembrance reception" immediately following the Funeral Liturgy.

It is also the custom of the Episcopal Church that non-church ceremonies, such as Masonic events, take place in another setting or prior to the Burial Service.

### Peaceful Place for Prayer

In September, we will receive and install three granite benches given in Memory of Harry Sprackland. They will be set in the circle around the Celtic Cross given in Memory of John Kobrock. We hope you will find this a peaceful place for prayer and meditation. A small granite bridge will also be installed across the ravine to the upper burial grounds of the garden, giving us an attractive access between the two parts of the garden.





As the new Children's Ministry Coordinators, we are excited to announce that Sunday School and Nursery Care will begin a new year on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The children will start the year by learning a new Parable each week, with a related Arch book and hands-on activity. As the holidays approach, we will make the traditional Advent wreaths and prepare for the Christmas pageant.

We are still looking for teachers and supplies for the year. If you are interested in helping, please contact us at 627.4514.

We look forward to serving the children of St. Peter's,  
~Amy and Scott Secord



### Memorial Garden Work Day

Saturday, September 26

8:30-noon, pizza following

Bring garden gloves, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows

Help plant bulbs, shrubs and perennials, plus create more pathways.

Also, one or two willing volunteers with pick-up trucks or flat-bed trailer, needed on Friday, Sept 24, to pick up mulch and wood chips.

Contact Margaret R.

### Direct Cremation of Maine

Recently a cremation service in Maine has come to my attention, which may prove a good alternative for those who plan to be cremated and buried in St. Peter's Memorial Garden. Direct Cremation of Maine operates out of Belfast, Maine and provides a very caring and compassionate plan for cremation and burial of ashes in places like St. Peter's Memorial Garden for a reasonable cost of \$895. Licensed to operate throughout Maine, this funeral home provides a kind and caring service for those times when people do not need all the services of a traditional funeral home. For further information, brochures may be found in the church Narthex, or you may call the Direct Cremation of Maine Service at 800.479.1433. This is but one of the possible ways to consider preparation for cremation and burial in the Garden.  
~ +Bishop John

### Memorial Garden

The Memorial/Prayer Garden is quickly becoming a place of prayer and peace. In September, we will also begin burying the ashes of loved ones who have died. In response to several questions in recent weeks, we want to remind parishioners of the policies set by the Vestry for the Memorial/Prayer Garden:

1. Members of the parish and any members of their family may be buried in the Garden.
2. There is no cost for burials.
3. Burials must be in biodegradable containers, in locations selected by the Rector and family and there will be no markers or plantings on any burial site.
4. A Memorial Garden book will be kept in the Narthex, listing the names and dates of death of those buried in the Garden.
5. A map marking the location of each burial will be kept in the church office for reference for the Rector and families.

Some of these policies are to prevent any possibility of vandalism. If you have any questions, please speak with the Wardens or the Rector.

### SPY Group

September—Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Games & Barbecue at Janet Jones' home. Bring your ideas for the upcoming year. It's your youth group!! We can meet as often as you want.



October—Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>—Canoe Saco River with breakfast and lunch picnic, weather depending

November—Date TBA—Help First Congregational Church with Thanksgiving Baskets, Create float for Christmas Parade  
~ Janet Jones

### Teen Discussion Group

Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, will be the first Sunday for Teen Discussion. Lyn Frank will be this month's mentor. She'll talk with the teens about Haiti. Come ready for deep discussion, questions and ideas about being good stewards to those in need.



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### Sunday Coffee Hour

We are extremely appreciative to all those who contribute to and oversee our weekly coffee hour after the Sunday Liturgy. Under the leadership of Elna Stone, who coordinates this ministry of hospitality, we have been treated to special times for fellowship that have become important to our life and ministry in Christ. We sometimes need to remember, however, that coffee hour is not meant to be brunch and call back to a simpler, less elaborate and costly time of refreshment and fellowship together. Except for very special occasions, a few brownies, cookies, crackers and perhaps "fish" or pretzels for the children, along with coffee, tea and maybe lemonade, should be more than sufficient. Keeping it simple and inexpensive is also important so as to enable as many members of the parish as possible to feel comfortable in sharing in this ministry. Thank you for your consideration of cutting back and thank you to those who engage in this ministry on our behalf.



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### Two Quiet Ministries of St. Peter's



A special thank you to two ministry teams that work quietly behind the scenes, the first to enrich and make possible our wonderful worship, and the second to minister to the families of those who experience loss in the death of loved ones. The **Altar Guild**, under the leadership of Joan Wright, prepares for and cleans up after our celebration of the Eucharistic Feast. We thank them for their faithful and careful ministry for the Lord and for us. The **Bereavement Team**, chaired by Marge and Phil Blaney, provides an incredibly important ministry to the families of parish members who have died and whose funerals are held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. It is a ministry of gracious hospitality provided on sort notice and with the smile of God's grace. Thank you to all the members of these ministry teams.

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### The Parish Register

We have been blessed with a large number of new people joining us as members of the St. Peter's family over the last two months. **A warm welcome to the following:**

Tom and Rita Bush, Bridgton; Barbara Collins, Lovell and Massachusetts; Andrew and Laura Forauer, Harrison and New Hampshire; Gloria DeCapua, Bridgton; Bill and Polly Hayden, Naples and Florida; Carol Johnson, Sweden; Patricia Kennedy, Nevada; Mona Kenny, Bridgton and Florida; Carol Sawyer, Bridgton and North Carolina; Ross and Shirley Smith, Gray and Florida; Fred Stuart, Harrison.

#### And a warm farewell to the Whites:

Bill and Ba White, who have been part of the St. Peter's family for several decades and who have contributed so generously of their time, talent and energy to our parish life, have sold their Bridgton home and have moved to Wells. God's grace and blessing be with them. They shall be sorely missed.

#### Deaths of parishioners:

Gwyneth Bohr, died July 1, 2009

Larry Landry, died August 8, 2009

*Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; Let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen*

#### During September we will bury the following people in the Memorial Garden:

Elizabeth Yoell, mother of Lanny Wenthe

Larry Landry, husband of Elizabeth Landry

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### Prayers of the People

Fredricka M., Larry D., Peggy J., Greg W., Mike M., Karen M., Barbara J., Jay S., Christine B., Ely, Dorna Jean, Noel J., Rosemary, Jeff J., Sean M., Autumn J., Lynn B., Marcia E., Clayton N.

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 PO Box 134  
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 207.647.8549  
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 Web site: [www.stpetersbridgton.org](http://www.stpetersbridgton.org)

**Rector**

The Rt. Rev. John H. Smith  
 Summer phone: 207.583.4270  
 e-mail: [JHSme1@aol.com](mailto:JHSme1@aol.com)

**Holy Eucharist , Sunday School and Child Care**

**Sunday—9:00 a.m.**

**Parish Coordinator**  
 Janet Jones

**Director of Music**  
 Evan Miller

**Christian Education Coordinators**

Scott & Amy Secord

**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.

**September Calendar of Events**

<b>Sept 3</b>	7:00 p.m.	NA for Women
<b>Sept 6</b>	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Child Care and Activities In-Reach Team Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	
<b>Sept 7</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Sept 8</b>	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry at Pat's home
<b>Sept 9</b>	6:00 p.m.	EfM Class
<b>Sept 10</b>	7:00 p.m.	NA for Women
<b>Sept 13</b>	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist <b>Sunday School Begins</b> <b>Teen Discussion Begins</b> Child Care provided Bridgton Healthcare Center Service
	11:00 a.m.	
<b>Sept 15</b>	11:00 a.m.	St. Peter's Café
<b>Sept 16</b>	6:00 p.m.	EfM Class
<b>Sept 17</b>	7:00 p.m.	NA for Women
<b>Sept 19</b>	11:00 a.m.	SPY group BBQ at Janet's home
<b>Sept 20</b>	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Sunday School and Teen Discussion Child Care
	11:00 a.m.	Vestry Meeting
<b>Sept 22</b>	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry at Marge's home
<b>Sept 23</b>	6:00 p.m.	EfM Class
<b>Sept 24</b>	7:00 p.m.	NA for Women
<b>Sept 26</b>	8:30 -noon	Memorial Garden Work Day/pizza party
<b>Sept 27</b>	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Sunday School and Teen Discussion Child Care
<b>Sept 30</b>	6:00 p.m.	EfM Class

*May I know Thee more clearly,  
 Love Thee more dearly,  
 Follow Thee more nearly.  
 ~ Richard of Chichester*

**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:

**September: Dollar\$ for Diaper\$**