

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

January 2010



This request by Jesus' Disciples sets the theme for our Lenten Sunday Study Series this year. Led by Bishop John, the 2010 Lenten Study Series will focus on the art of prayer, meditation, Centering Prayer, an ancient form of biblical meditation traditionally known as "Lectio Divina" and the connection of public worship and prayer with these and other forms of prayer. Do you know what the acronym "ACTIP" means? How does Jesus' answer to His Disciples with "The Lord's Prayer" relate to all of this? Come and find out!

The Lenten Study Series will be held on the first 5 Sundays of Lent, beginning on February 21st. The Series will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a light supper of soup and sandwich, followed by a time of teaching and practical experience (Praxis) in each of the areas to be considered. More information will follow in February, but save the dates on your calendar now.



Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (KJV)



For the past several years Bob Vivian has filled this page with his Reflections as Senior Warden. Bob is retiring from this position and his thoughts expressed in this newsletter will be missed.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee recommended the following nominees for various leadership positions to the Vestry:

Senior Warden--Margaret Reimer: Margaret and Terry live in the historic Stone House on Burnham Road in Bridgton. She is involved in the life of St. Peter's in many different areas and is currently leading the EfM group and our Gardening Committee.

Junior Warden--Phil Blaney: Phil and Marge live in the Knights Hill section of Bridgton and he is a retired teacher. Phil came to St. Peter's several years ago and has quickly become an active participant in our church community.

Treasure--Jack Bash: Jack and Ernestine live in Cornish and lead our Outreach Program known as St. Peter's Café. Jack is also involved in other areas and is currently church treasurer. If elected, he has agreed to continue in this position.

Clerk--Jennifer Christiansen: Jennifer, John and their children, Catherine and Eric, live in Naples. For many years, Jennifer was the editor of Fish Tales. This will be her first position on the Vestry, if elected.

Vestry (3 year term)--Deborah Ripley: Deb, Chip, and their daughter Ana, live on Hio Ridge Road in Denmark. Deb is completing a 1-year term on the Vestry and has agreed to serve a full 3-year term, if elected.

Vestry (3 year term)--Fred Stuart: Fred lives in Harrison and in his retirement, operates a unique wooden puzzle business. He has been attending St. Peter's for several years and has previously served on church Vestries.

The above slate will be presented for election at the Annual Meeting on January 24th. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting for any of these positions. A reminder, however, that persons being nominated from the floor must have been personally contacted and have agreed to serve, if elected.

Report on the Discernment/Search Committee

The following parishioners were appointed to the Discernment Committee at the December 13th Vestry Meeting:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Carmen Doughty, Co-chair | Scott Secord, Co-chair |
| | Jack Bash, Vestry Representative |
| Pat Bradshaw | Barbara Marshall |
| Pat Sprackland | Tom Stone |

The committee will begin meeting shortly. Initially, the process calls for a "self-study" to examine who we are, our goals and what we are looking for in our next priest. This phase usually involves the entire congregation, and the result is the development of an up-to-date profile of our parish.

Please hold the committee in your prayers, as we begin the search process. Also, please pray for St. Peter's staff, Vestry and congregation during this time of transition.

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.

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Annual Committee Reports

It is that time again. We have accomplished so much as individual committees and as a whole at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The parish members are eager to learn of each committees' 2009 journey and prospective goals for 2010. Reports need to be in the church office no later than January 10th. Please feel free to contact Janet at 647.8549 if you have questions or concerns about what is needed in your report.



Thank You

Many thanks to Sandy Wissmann for planning and providing items for the SPYs Christmas activity on Saturday, December 5th. She helped the teens decorate graham cracker Christmas houses and bake and decorate Christmas cookies. Everyone had fun creating, nibbling, singing, munching, cheering and eating.

Parish Meeting

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24th following a brief coffee hour. The meeting will begin promptly at 10:30 and will include the election of Candidates to the 2010 Vestry. Child care will be provided. A Pot-luck Brunch will be served after the meeting.



Teen Discussion

Classes Begin January 17th

This month's focus: Life's Goals with Bob Vivian

SPY Night Out

Friday, January 8th, 6-10 p.m. at church. Come have fun and help plan the Neighborhood Canned Food Drive. Bring friends, games, music, etc. We'll make our own pizza. Please call or e-mail Janet if you and some friends plan to come.

Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow

When it does snow, however, please check your e-mail, local television stations or call the church office in case we need to cancel a Sunday service. Janet will contact any individuals who may be limited in receiving the notification.



Neighborhood Canned Food Drive

January 30th, noon-2 p.m. Our teens will select neighborhoods to canvass. Collected canned goods will help replenish empty shelves of the Bridgton Food Pantry. Adult supervision is needed. If you would like to join us in this important cause, please call or e-mail Janet.

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14

January Sunday School Lessons

- January 3—Child Care, but no Sunday School
- January 10—Man with Barns
- January 17—Mustard Seed and Leaven
- January 24 —Wheat and Tares
- January 31—Unforgiving Servant



Breakfast Pancakes for Supper

February 16, 2010

5:00 p.m.

Celebrate Shrove Tuesday at St. Peter's with the traditional pancakes, bacon, eggs, fruit and beverages.

Shrove Tuesday and Lent



Visitors Among Us

In the past few months we've welcomed visitors from Yarmouth and Harrison, Maine, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania and Springfield, Virginia. We are grateful that they found their way to St. Peter's Episcopal Church.



Prayer List

St. Peter's is a praying church. We love to pray for people . . . and we keep praying for them, BUT sometimes people get "parked" on the parish prayer list. Please let us know if names should be removed or added. And . . . Keep on Praying.

Please pray for those who have requested our prayers:

Peggy, Mike, Barbara, Rosemary, Pat, Marcia, Ana, Lynn, Alfred, Frederica, Richard, Nancy, Stephen, Peter, Lee, Dick, Charlotte, Linda, David, Mark, Ibra, Barbara, Eugenia, Jean, Greg, Edna, Marge, Jeffrey, Nell, Sheila, Nick and Stephine.

For those serving in the Armed Forces and Peace Corp:

Brian Shimer, John Terry, Justin Cowan and Alan Reimer

The Best Christmas Celebration Ever

Thank you from the Parish to all members of the Choir and Altar Guild for your contribution to our festive celebration of Christmas. Hours of preparation and faithful decoration were involved in making our Christmas services such special events

We also extend a sincere thanks to Kirsten Hewes and Shelly Juneau, as well as many others including the children, who made the Christmas pageant an extraordinary part of our Christmas celebration.



The Season of Epiphany

The Feast of Epiphany occurs on January 6th each year. "Epiphany" means "showing forth" and the feast commemorates the first showing forth of Christ to the world, when his presences was revealed by the three Magi. The season of Epiphanytide, which continues until Ash Wednesday, is observed as a time of focusing on the mission of the church in reaching others by "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people.

This season gives voice to the importance of Christmas. While much of the world around us says, in essence, "Okay, a child is born. Now let's put away the decorations and get back to work," the Church says, "No, wait! God's Son has come into the world with us. Nothing will be the same. Let us reflect on what this child means."

During this Epiphanytide may we do the following:

- Remember the revelation of Christ to John the Baptist, to the disciples and to all Christians.
- Remember Christ's baptism and our own, together with the ways in which Christ was revealed to mankind.
- Ponder the ways in which we are called to bring Christ to the world and rededicate ourselves to our mission to spread the Light of Christ's forgiving and redeeming love.

The predominate symbol of the season is Light—the light from the Star of Bethlehem and the Light of Christ spreading throughout the world. The Baptismal Covenant on pages 304-5 of *The Book of Common Prayer* reminds us that we will "continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers . . . persevere in resisting evil and whenever [we] fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord . . . proclaim by word and example the God News of God in Christ . . . seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving [our] neighbors as [ourselves] . . . strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being."

St. Peter's Episcopal Church provides a support group for us as people of God. We nurture each other—sometimes by comforting and encouraging, sometimes by challenging, always by loving and reaching outside our parish family to serve the world around us in the name of Christ—in that way we are the bearers of light to the world.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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Rector

The Rt. Rev. John H. Smith
 Winter phone: 207.729.6023
 e-mail: JHSme1@aol.com

Holy Eucharist, Sunday School and Child Care

Sunday—9:00 a.m.

Parish Coordinator

Teen Activities Coordinator

Janet Jones

Director of Music and Choir

Evan Miller

Sunday School 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.

January Schedule of Events

Jan 1	Happy New Year—Office Closed	
Jan 3	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		Child Care, but NO Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	In-Reach Team Meeting
Jan 5	5:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Jan 6	6:00 p.m.	EfM
Jan 7	7:00 p.m.	NA for Women
Jan 8	6:00 p.m.	SPY Nite Out
Jan 10	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		Teen Discussion, Sunday School, Child Care
	11:00 a.m.	Bridgton Health Care Service
**** Deadline for Annual Chair Committee Reports ****		
Jan 12	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry, Pat S.'s home
	5:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Jan 13	6:00 p.m.	EfM
Jan 14	7:00 p.m.	NA for Women
Jan 17	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		Teen Discussion, Sunday School, Child Care
	11:00 a.m.	Vestry Meeting
Jan 19	11:00 a.m.	St. Peter's Café
	5:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Jan 20	6:00 p.m.	EfM
Jan 21	7:00 p.m.	NA for Women
Jan 24	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		Teen Discussion, Sunday School, Child Care
	11:00 a.m.	Annual Parish Meeting and Pot Luck Lunch
	12:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting directly after Annual Meeting
Jan 26	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry, Marge's home
	5:00 p.m.	Choir
Jan 27	6:00 p.m.	EfM
Jan 28	7:00 p.m.	NA for Women
Jan 30	10:00 a.m.	SPY Teens' Neighborhood Canned Goods Drive
Jan 31	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		Teen Discussion, Sunday School, Child Care

Basket of the Month

We will collect personal items such as shampoo, soap, shaving cream, razors, deodorant and powder to be distributed at St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry in Portland.