

# the Key

News & Notes

from St. Peter's-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church • Gulfport, MS

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## An Invitation to a Holy Lent

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 day long season of the church known as Lent. Lent is an Anglo-Saxon word for spring that means "lengthen" (as in the lengthening of the days), and it is a time when we are encouraged to enter into reflection, prayer, devotion and are called to repent of those things which draw us away from the love of God and to return our focus and attention toward God. Our Ash Wednesday services this year will be on Wednesday, February 17th at noon and 6pm (with nursery provided at the evening service). During our Ash Wednesday service, you may receive the imposition of ashes with the reminder to "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," and you will be invited to participate in a Holy Lent with the following words from our *Book of Common Prayer*:

*Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the*

*message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.... (BCP 264-265)*



# LENT

During this Season of Lent, we, at St. Peter's, are going to be focusing on prayer as a way of intentionally seeking to deepen our awareness of and relationship with God. We will be, once again, offering a Centering prayer group beginning on Monday, February 22nd at 7 am followed by a light breakfast. Centering prayer is an ancient practice of intentionally keeping silent and

Holy Lent continues on page 3.

# Our New Servants in Christ

## *Newly elected vestry members and junior warden*

During the annual parish meeting held on January 10th after our combined 9:00am worship service, one of the important agenda items was the election of new vestry members and a new Junior Warden. For those who may not be familiar with the individuals elected, here is some information about them in their own words. We are confident that their gifts and talents will contribute greatly to our life at St. Peter's by the Sea.



### **Candace B. Ozerden**

My family has been Episcopalians for generations. When my husband and I moved to the Coast in 1971, I began a search for a church. One visit to St. Peter's was all it took for me to know I had found a wonderful church

family. Our children, Sul and Emile, grew up in St. Peter's, and I am now blessed to have my grandchildren as part of our church family. Over the years I served in several capacities: Vestry, ECW offices, education committee chair, Sunday school teacher, greeter and, with my husband, EYC sponsor. My favorite role has been that of Parish member of the loving St. Peter's family.



### **Barbara Blanchard**

I have been a member at St. Peter's by the Sea for approximately 20 years. During this time I have been honored to serve in various ministries involving primarily worship and education. This Body of Christ has been, and

continues to be, one of the most important and sustaining parts of my life, and it is my great privilege to serve on the vestry during this wonderful period in our life together



### **Bob Wolford, Junior Warden**

Anne and I have been attending St. Peter's since the summer/fall of 2008. I was born and raised in Columbus, MS, and was confirmed at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Columbus in about 1984.

We formally joined St. Peter's in the fall of 2009, and Melanie baptized our daughter, Virginia Anne, at about the same time. As Junior Warden, my responsibility is to maintain our beautiful facility in top-notch condition and to promptly address maintenance issues in a manner that is cost-effective to the congregation.



### **Jon Marc van Zutphen**

My wife & I have been going to St. Peter's since 2002. I enjoy cooking and the fellowship that it brings. I hope to expand the cooking into Church/Community fund-raising events, but St. Peter's will

need the entire support of its congregation (everyone volunteering) in order to Realize our goals. My philosophy is simple: Many hands make light work! – and you get to enjoy each other's company too. I am looking forward to serving the church.

## Thank you, Joe

The Junior Warden is responsible for the upkeep and repair of both the Church and the Parish Hall. Joe Scott has been diligent in making necessary repairs, organizing cleaning parties and being the liaison with the contract cleaning person. With his technical knowledge, he has been able to complete these jobs in a very timely manner. He was always accessible and his good humor made working with him enjoyable. We are indebted to him for his dedication in keeping St. Peter's in tip-top shape for the past two years.

Joe is now in Haiti volunteering with *Operation Blessing International* and *Water Missions International* to assist in setting up water treatment plants to provide urgently need fresh water to earthquake victims. We wish him Godspeed with this endeavor.

Holy Lent *continued from page 1.*

focusing on emptying oneself before God. Often people choose a particular focus word to help direct the mind and attention away from all the things that pop into our minds on a given time, and we commit ourselves, for a short period of time, to being silent and open to what God has to speak to us. You don't have to know anything about Centering prayer to come to this group; more instruction will be provided.

Also, our Wednesday night Lenten formation classes are going to be discussing prayer and different prayer practices. I've had many conversations with different people lately about how to pray, and so we will look at different ways to pray and also different ways to recognize what is already prayerful and holy in our lives. These will begin on Wednesday, February 24th. We will have a light supper each Wednesday from 5:15-5:45, and the teaching will be from 5:45-6:45.

In closing, I leave you with a passage from Episcopal priest and spiritual

director Margaret Guenther as found in her book, *The Practice of Prayer*, that is about the very essence of prayer; it is a passage that I plan to keep before me throughout this upcoming season of Lent to encourage my own personal repentance and continual returning to God. Guenther writes, "I am convinced that prayer is not so much something we *do* or *say* as how we *are*—grateful, questioning, penitent, comfortable, adoring, sometimes listening carefully, sometimes silently companionable. But always open and attentive. Always in conversation. We can get so tangled up in our devotional patterns—our idea of what we should be doing and how we should be praying—that we forget what we are about. We can forget the Lord's injunction to 'be still and know that I am God.' From time to time, we need to stop and savor the stillness." *Melanie+*

*The Practice of Prayer* by Margaret Guenther. Cowley: Cambridge, 1998, p 155.

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## Vestry Members Completing Their Term of Office

With the election of new Vestry Members during the Annual Parish Meeting in January, **Gini Fellows, Marie Porter and Larry Brassell** ended their three-year terms. During their period of service, they all were involved in the search for a new Rector as part of the initial Search Committee, and of course they were also involved with the final approval of our new Rector,

Melanie Lemburg following her selection by the second phase Search Committee. Individually, each devoted much time and effort to various ministries within the Church: Gini Fellows was serving as our Outreach Coordinator, making sure that programs like Interfaith Hospitality Network and Feed My Sheep were properly supported; Marie Porter was

serving as Children's Ministries Coordinator, working with the EYC coordinators and also overseeing the Children's Education program; and Larry Brassell was serving as our Worship Coordinator, making sure we had trained and qualified acolytes and servers. Please take the time to thank each of them for their three years of service!

# DEACON'S LETTER:

**Greetings St. Peter's:** January 9 has come and gone and what a day that was, one that will be ingrained in my mind forever. The vows, the setting and liturgy all meaningful and transforming in many ways, all put together I was humbled and touched deep within my heart. Throughout this journey you all have been so supportive in many ways and I can only return to you my thanks in serving you as your deacon with all my strength and soul.

Again I would like to thank you so very much for the gifts that you presented to me for my ordination: The men's group presented me with a celebration stole, the women's group with my red ordination stole and prayer book and St. Peter's parish the home communion set. All were wonderful gifts and appropriate visible reminders of the bond we have in our ministry together.

I now look forward to many years of ministry with you and Melanie. Thank you all again and may God bless each one of you through this new year and the ministry of St. Peter's by-the-Sea.

Peace and Blessings,

*The Rev. Deacon Scott Williams*



# Camp Bratton-Green Disc Golf Tournament

*Greetings friends!*

I trust everyone is doing well during this wonderful season, even if your pipes happen to be frozen due to the cold. I'm writing because each of you has connections to Camp Bratton-Green, and I wanted to send you a note and let you know about an event coming up this spring.

The Camp Bratton-Green Alumni Association is hosting a disc golf tournament to help raise funds to upgrade/restore the course, and for those of you in the diocese, we would love if you would help publicize the event in your church. Youth groups are a great place to start.

For those of you who are not in the diocese, we thought you might like to know about it and give you an update on what's happening out there.

Thanks for all your support of Gray Center and Camp Bratton-Green, and if you haven't already, please take a minute to sign up for the CBG Alumni Association, <http://cbgalumni.dioms.org>. There is no cost, but if you would like to become a sustaining to help us continue with some of our projects, we would love your support. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Take Care, and, again, thanks for your help.

*Duncan Gray, IV*



The church's acolytes participated in a Commissioning Ceremony led by the Rev. Melanie Lemburg who presented each acolyte with a cross and a pin. Pictured are, from left, Robert Williams, Ajia Woods and Noah Anglin. Not pictured are Tabitha Williams and Vlad Ionescu.

## Junior Warden's Report

The following items have either been repaired or addressed:

1. Heating \$ A/C unit "D" in sanctuary– replaced malfunctioning defrost board.
2. Two (2) interior/office doors in parish hall– will not latch upon closing, repair project assigned out.
3. Exterior doors of parish hall– two (doors) do not shut completely, although they do not trip the alarm when "unshut" (from now on, if you are the last person to leave the parish hall, please manually check each exterior door to make sure that it is closed. Do not rely on what the alarm panel says about the building being secure). Expected to be repaired by publication of this report.

I have compiled a list of projects for inside the church and parish hall, and I will schedule an "indoor workday" to address some of those projects in the near future. Your collective cooperation in this workday will be appreciated.

*Bob Wolford, Junior Warden*

The First Christian Church in Gulfport is sponsoring a Financial Peace University course which helps people manage their debt and get control of their money. A free preview meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, at 6 pm at the church, 2111 15th Street in Gulfport.

# Baptisms: January 16, 2010

Mary Helen Rebekah Smith

Miriam Dunaway Ozerden



## CALENDAR

## SERVING SCHEDULE

## SERVING SCHEDULE

## CALENDAR

## Happening at St. Peter's: call for support

St. Peter's by-the-Sea is most excited to be selected to be the host for Happening #71 on April 22nd-25th. Happening is a weekend retreat for high school students that is a diocesan sponsored event and includes prayer, services, activities, and it can be a transformative experience for the young people and the adults who participate. We will publish more info about Happening in the next newsletter, but as a part of our commitment to this program, we will be providing meals and showers for 34 staff people who will be gathered at St. Peter's for the staff training weekend March 5-7th. Doug Singletary and Margaret Murdock are the coordinators for both weekends, and they will be looking for people who are willing to help feed the 34 staff members snacks and 4 meals over the course of the March weekend, and we will also need people willing to open their homes for these staff members to take showers on Saturday afternoon. We will also need people to help feed and provide showers for an even greater number for the April weekend. If you are willing to help in this important and life-changing work, please call either Doug (896-8072) or Margaret (863-6633).



**Who Dat?!** 2010 is here and we are super excited to start up the spring semester of EYC. Our Epiphany bonfire was great fun despite the chilly, chilly weather. Thank you to everyone who donated their time, trees, and/or money to the EYC to make that event possible.

By the time you read this Baby Enamorado may already be with us! We are all so excited for Erin and her husband, Joel, and we can't wait to welcome the newest (& tiniest) member of the Gulf Coast EYC!

Annual Council will again coincide with a Youth Lock-in hosted by All Saints, Tupelo. Anyone interested in participating should see Ginny for an application. Our youth delegates from the Coast Convocation are Meghan Lind (Christ Church), Delegate and Claire Yoste (St. Peter's), Alternate.



### **GOOD TO KNOW:**

**Feb. 5-7** Annual Council in  
Tupelo, Youth Lock-in @  
All Saints

**Feb. 7** — NO EYC for  
Superbowl Sunday

**Feb. 14** — NO EYC for  
Mardi Gras

**Feb. 19-21** — Jr. High DOY

**Feb. 21** — Sr. High EYC only  
from 5:00-7:00 @ St. Patrick's

See ya'll on Sunday,  
*Ginny and Erin*

*At left: the EYC honored Erin at a  
Baby Shower on January 17th.*

## Mardi Gras

The Young Adults would like to invite all parishioners to join them on Tuesday, February 16th, for the Gulfport Night Parade! We will gather at the Parish Hall, with a light supper being served from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Then, we will walk as a group to the intersection of 15th St and 21st Ave, only 2 blocks away, where we will establish our viewing area. All who attended last year had a great time, so please plan to join us if you are interested in having some fun!



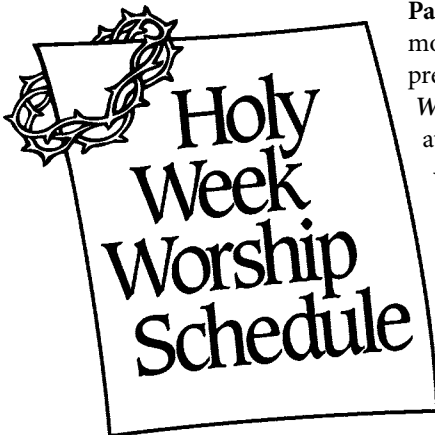
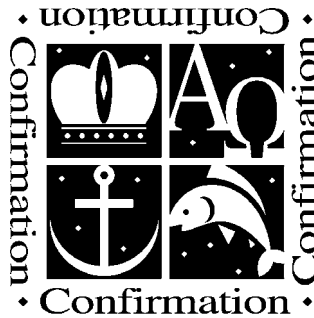
# Looking forward to March

*The Bishop* is coming for his annual visit on **March 7th**. If you would like to be baptized or confirmed by him when he is here, please, contact the church office or Melanie. (It will be one combined service at 9am followed by a reception.)



*The Southern Chorale* concert, "The Spirit of Southern," will be presented by Dr. Fuller from the University of Southern Mississippi and his choir at St. Peter's on **Tuesday, March 9th** from 7:00-8:00 pm. Place this on your calendar as a date to remember.

*Happening #71 staff training weekend March 5-7th*. We will be providing meals and showers for 34 staff people at St. Peter's. To volunteer, call Doug (896-8072) or Margaret (863-6633).



**Palm Sunday March 28th** (regular morning services) and special presentation of DuBois's *7 Last Words* with music and meditation at 6pm

**Wednesday, March 31**—Voice recital by JT Anglin with light lunch at noon; 6 pm service of Healing and Holy Eucharist

**Thursday, April 1**—Maundy Thursday service of holy eucharist and foot washing at 6pm

**Friday, April 2nd, noon** —Good Friday liturgy; kids bring brown bag lunch to eat and then do stations of the cross (around 2ish?)

**Saturday, April 3rd, 8 pm** The Great Vigil of Easter

**Sunday, April 4th The Day of Resurrection** (regular service times)

# Mission & Outreach

## OPPORTUNITIES AND REPORTS

The month of December was very busy for Outreach at St. Peter's. We collected gifts for The Women's Center for Nonviolence, food for the food bank, served at Feed My Sheep, and hosted IHN dinners. The Rebekah House hosted an open house showcasing the home.



We will be hosting IHN February 28 through March 6, 2010.



Feed My Sheep is requesting that we assist one Sunday a month to make box lunches. (See accompanying story, this page.) Mary Alice Bailey could use some help. If you have time please contact Mary Alice.



We continue to need food for the food bank. Please drop off donations in the Narthex on Sundays.

## Feed My Sheep – *Extended Ministry from St. Peter's*

St. Peter's is now participating in a Sunday bag lunch program with other area churches to offer a meal at Feed My Sheep on Sundays. The need for this is an obvious one, on Sundays there is no place for the folks who depend on Feed My Sheep during the week to get a meal.

The plan is that each church take responsibility for preparing 30 bagged lunches with 2 sandwiches, chips, fruit, dessert and a drink and distribute them at Feed My Sheep's parking lot at 12:00 noon on their designated Sunday. St. Peter's by-the-Sea has been assigned the second Sunday of each month. Our first week was handed by the Outreach Committee. The Sunday in February is being done by the Newcomer's Group and Youth Confirmation class.

We need groups to take on this task in March and so on. Get your group together, like ECW, Book Club, Needlework Guild, and see what month you can do.



*Many thanks to those who participated in the clothing drive for the Harrison County Children's Shelter. Boys' and girls' play clothes, dress clothes, pajamas, underwear and socks were collected and delivered to the shelter in December.*

*Leslie Stanfield*



This fund-raiser will be held on Memorial Day and all proceeds go to different projects, improvements and ministries at the Duncan M. Gray Center, our diocesan gathering place. Each of us can contribute by donating an auction item in support of this project.

## Bishop's BBQ

The Needlecraft Guild members are interested in supporting this worthwhile project and will be donating several hand-knitted items as well as a print by Walter Anderson. Do you have artwork, photographs, jewelry or other items you could donate? Seize this opportunity to support this wonderful Center!



# St. Peter's Book Club



St. Peter's Book Club will be meeting at the home of Gini Fellows at 5:30 pm on Thursday, February 4, for light refreshments and a discussion of the book, *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

## Synopsis

It's just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery. . . .

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish

## Young Adults Discuss Balance, Plan for Mardi Gras

The Young Adults had the first of what we hope are many discussion groups with Rev. Melanie Lemburg on Tuesday, January 19th. The topic was handling the balance of life vs. work vs. faith. If you were unable to join in on this discussion, plan to make the next one, time and place to be announced. The next Young Adults event will be gathering to watch the Gulfport Night Parade on Fat Tuesday.

## New Members Ministry to Meet February 21st

All persons currently serving in the Bread Delivery Ministry, and anyone wishing to become active in this very vital ministry, are requested to attend a meeting on Sunday, February 21st, at 9:15am in the Parish Hall (right after the end of the early service). I have asked Jackie Krass to show us how she makes her delivery bags, and we will put together bags that will be kept available for future deliveries. Even if you are interested only in baking bread and not in delivering, please consider joining us and assisting in the bag making. *Please contact Chuck Rollins for more information (chuckrollins@cablone.net or 617-8149)*

All persons serving as Greeters are also asked to meet on that Sunday, at the same time, where we will be putting together the new Children's Activity Bags which the Ushers will begin handing out to all families that arrive with children. The bags are intended to make it easier for young families to feel comfortable in our church, and they will also have an information sheet that will show the locations of bathrooms, the Nursery, the Sunday School classrooms, etc.



## Welcome Our New Members

man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.

This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.

Directions to Gini Fellow's home: Take I-10 to Canal Road exit, go north to Robinson Road, turn left on Robinson Road and continue to

the entrance to Windance subdivision. Turn left into Windance. The address is 12358 Windance Drive. We are on the corner of Windance Drive and North Point Cove (which is the second cove on the left side of Windance). Phone # 831-4543.

## **Follow St. Peter's by-the-Sea on Facebook, blogspot**

If you use Facebook, look for the St. Peter's by-the-Sea fan page.

**The Rev. Melanie Lemburg now has a blog:**

There's spiritual insight and the texts of her sermons, in case you didn't hear all of it the first time!

**<http://lemburgordinarytime.blogspot.com/>**

There's a link to it at the top of the St. Peter's website, too.

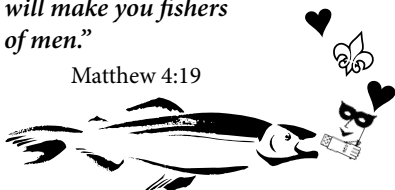
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And he said to them,

*“Follow me and I  
will make you fishers  
of men.”*

Matthew 4:19



## MARK YOUR FEBRUARY CALENDAR

**4th**

St. Peter's Book Club

**5th-7th**

Annual Council

**7th**

Who Dat? Super-what?

**14th**

Valentine's Day ♥

**16th**

Mardi Gras, Gulfport  
Night Parade

**19th-21st**

Jr. High DOY

**21st**

New Member Meeting

**22nd**

Centering Prayer, 7 am

**24th**

Lenten Formation begins

**28th**

St. Peter's hosts IHN  
One service at 9am

**March:**

**5th-7th**

Happening Staff  
Weekend

**7th**

Bishop's Annual visit

**9th**

Southern Chorale  
Concert

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

### Baptisms:

Mary Helen Rebekah Smith

Miriam Dunaway Ozerden



**Ash  
Wednesday**

**February 17th**

Services at noon and 6pm  
(with nursery provided at the  
evening service).