

the Key

News & Notes

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

St. Peter's by-the-Sea
Episcopal Church
Gulfport, Mississippi

www.stpetersbythesea.net

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From the Rector's Report at the Annual Parish Meeting

First, of all, I want to thank you for being here today. Today we do much of the business of the church, the nuts and bolts of our common life together, and your presence here and your participation in that is very important.

I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the work and ministry of St. Peter's by-the-Sea this past year—those who have given money, energy, ideas, physical labor, those who have offered your prayers, those who have shown up, for worship, events, offerings. Together, we have accomplished so much this last year, but I'll get to that in a moment.

I'd like to thank those who have completed their terms as Vestry members: Judy Joest, Alan Jones, Doug Singletary, and Bob Wolford as Jr. Warden.... Each one of these has brought unique gifts to the leadership of this church, and each one has made a significant contribution to the life and ministry of this place.

I would also like to thank those who are continuing to serve on the Vestry this year; I'd like to thank Margaret and Neely who continue on as Clerk and Treasurer, respectively, and who each bring a good,

strong dose of pragmatism with them. And I'd like to thank Marie, for her incredible leadership and her steadiness as senior warden...

The Vestry of St. Peter's by-the-Sea is an amazing group of people, who deeply love this church and try to make the most faithful decisions possible in the circumstances. I cannot tell you how much time they put into the work that they do,

but it is a lot, and I know that they do it for love of you all, and for love of this church.

Please, do what you can to support them this year.

Do what you can to love them, to be kind to them, to follow them, and to

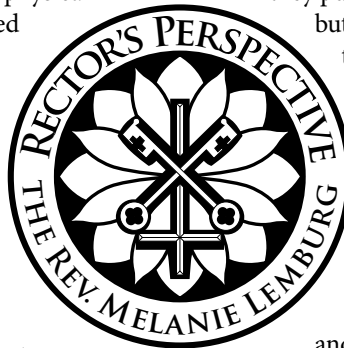
trust that their actions are always done through prayer and in faithfulness, trying to

lead St. Peter's to continue to bear fruit worthy of the Kingdom of God.

Be mindful that every criticism and complaint beats them up at least a little bit and erodes the fabric of our common life. We are all flawed human beings, and we are all doing the best that we can and trying to be faithful to following our Lord Jesus Christ.

I'd also like to thank the Vestry and the committee chairs for their written reports.

Rector's Report continues on page 13.



Senior Warden's Report

ANNUAL MEETING 2012

I know everyone reading this knows what it is like to start a new job and be nervous and excited at the same time; not knowing how to do what you are supposed to do and excited to learn new things. You pray that you make a good impression and leave people wondering how they got along without you. Well, I can tell you this past year, my first year serving as your Senior Warden has been a year like that. Worried about not letting my church family down, being concerned about being a positive beacon for leadership and helping to make our lives together richer. I am a novice at this position and I can assure you I have learned many valuable lessons, some the hard way, during this past year.

Among the many things we have done as a vestry is to work hard at being transparent, at bringing you all the news that is the news (some of you who are as old as me and older will appreciate that phrase). We have made a commitment to be positive about our growth and develop in these very trying economic times. Our economy has not only put a damper on our budget it also creates emotional stress both personally and for our church. We have seen some budget shortfalls this year requiring us to dip into the Building Fund. This is not something anyone on the vestry wanted to do, but we had to pay our bills and we are one of a few who had the funds to do it. We don't want to continue down that same path.

When Neely Whites agreed to accept the position as Treasurer she jumped right in looking at our numbers and asking questions. We took the budget apart and put

it back together again. We found a couple of things that we could cut, but not enough to put us in the black.

As you know, we prepare our budget based upon what our parishioners pledge to the church each year. History repeats itself and what we found is that on average we receive about 87% of the amount pledged. The problem is that we have to present a balanced budget and we prepare that budget based upon 100% of the promises made. We all understand that things happen in our lives that might make it impossible for us to meet the obligation that we made at the end of one year for the next year and we have all certainly felt the pain of the economy we have lived with for the past several years. Herein lies the problem: if we plan our budget based upon 100% of the amount pledged to us and we do not collect that amount, then we will have a budget shortfall. This is nothing new, unfortunately; it has been happening for many years.

This year we showed you what a budget at 87% looks like. We have increased our services and the spiritual offerings this past year to help grow our numbers, but if we cannot fund 100% we will not be able to provide those services. Then it becomes a vicious circle: if we cannot provide the services and offerings we cannot attract new members; if we don't attract new members and increase our numbers we cannot provide the services and offerings.

*Continuity gives us roots;
change gives us branches,
let us stretch and grow
and reach new heights.*

~Pauline R. Kezer

We need your help. Please keep an eye on your actual giving versus your pledge. If you are not going to be able to meet your pledge for the year, please talk to Melanie and let her know. There is nothing wrong with that, it happens to all of us. Then we can adjust our budget accordingly. Before you make a purchase on behalf of the church, get approval from the person in charge of

Senior Warden continues on page 18.

DEACON'S LETTER

Most of annual reports reflect upon what has been accomplished or maybe not over the past year. Yes, we did some wonderful things helping our less fortunate members of our community with our outreach efforts. Thank you for answering the call. In this past year we kicked off our Arts Academy with great success. In a partnership with Central Elementary we had 15 students complete the program and exhibited a wonderful art show on the last day for their families. This year we continue the program in a new partnership with Pass Road Elementary and have 19 students in the program. They and the school are very excited about being here and what the academy will give them. We received a grant from Mississippi Power for \$5000.00; many thanks to them for helping St. Peter's continue this program in our community. The academy has a very positive impact on many third, fourth and fifth graders through the efforts of our teachers and volunteers who work so hard and are dedicated to this project.

However, what is 2012 going to present to this parish community? By all indications it will be a while for this economy to level out and how our lives will all change as the world economy changes. This will present us with challenges and force creative thinking on our part to continue answering the call to serve as Christ to this community we call home. I do not foresee us abandoning our call to serve this community, to let the hungry be left without, to support those who need shelter and to support children who need encouragement, education and a spiritual presence. There will be opportunities to assist Interfaith Hospitality Network's Rebecca House regain its vital use on the Coast, which again will take thinking outside the box. Feed My Sheep and the food pantry continues to serve and need our input and working hands to assist those who cannot support their nutritional needs, this is the Church.



Over the past six years St. Peter's has been synonymous with caring and giving to me. So I challenge us all to keep up the good fight, "respecting the dignity of every human being" and serving as Christ to the poor, homeless, widowed, orphaned and hungry of our community.

Many blessings to you all and thank you for responding to the call.
The Rev. Deacon Scott Williams

John Dreyfus, coordinator for Camp Bratton Green, will be at St. Peter's by-the-Sea on Sunday, March 4th to talk about camp with the adults. He will have some college-age people who serve as the permanent staff with him, and they will be helping with Kids Sunday school. John will meet with the adults in the parish hall (big room) at 9:30.

Social Club LETS THE Good Times Roll

The St. Peter's Social Club is going to be rolling in a Mardi Gras float this year. We are collecting gently used throws and money to help offset the cost of the registration fee. We are hoping to roll in the Gulfport Day Parade which is Sunday February 19th at 2:00 pm. Anyone can ride with us on the float. But you must be responsible for your own throws to be supplemented by what is donated to the church. Contact Patti Nicholas with questions or if you'd like to help and/ or participate.

We will also be gathering as a group to attend the Gulfport night parade on Tuesday, February 21st. We'll gather at the parish hall and share a pot-luck meal prior to the parade at 5:00 pm. All are welcome.

Mission & Outreach

OPPORTUNITIES AND REPORTS

Feed My Sheep

Karen and Larry Brassell and Linda Lewandoski coordinated the Second Sunday Feed My Sheep lunches and delivery of January's Second Sunday Feed My Sheep lunch. We had assistance from Meri and Vlad Ionescu, Judy Ownbey, Helen Steele, Amy, Hudson and Chuck Rollins, Ralph Vanatta, Phil Parker and myself in making the sack lunches. Jane Glenn and Cheryl Smith again made their wonderful homemade cookies to add to the 75 lunches. Thank you all!

Juanita and Jim Flanders will be responsible for coordinating our January 8th Second Sunday Feed My Sheep lunches. Please join us in the kitchen to assist in making the 75 lunches immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Service. If you have not participated in this mission, gathering around the kitchen work table to make the lunches is a fun way to be a big help.

The schedule of coordinators for **Second Sunday Feed My Sheep** for 2012 is as follows:

February 12 Juanita and Jim Flanders

March 11 Patti and Brett Nicholas

April 8 (Easter) Judy and Jim Ownbey

May 13 (Mother's Day) Phil Parker

June 10 Christie Daniels

July 8 Dawn and John Ruble

August 12 The Ozerden Family

September 9 The Rollins Family

October 14 Christie and Harry Yoste

November 11 The Ionescu Family

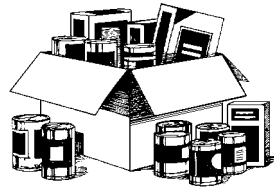
December 9 Susan and Richard Pagano

The list for those serving Monday lunch at Feed My Sheep in February are as follows: (Feb. 13th) Judy Joest, Jim Joest, Linda Lewandoski, Gay Goodwin and (Feb. 27th) Jackie Krass, Paul Krass, Margaret McCrary and Barbara Smith. Thank you for your faithfulness to this outreach mission.

Challenge By-the-Sea Barbecue

SAVE THIS DATE: April 28th

PLACE TO BE: St. Peter's By-the-Sea



Food Pantry

Thank you for continuing to bring in your gifts of food for the Food Pantry! It is so good to see parishioners dropping off your bags of food as you enter the Church.

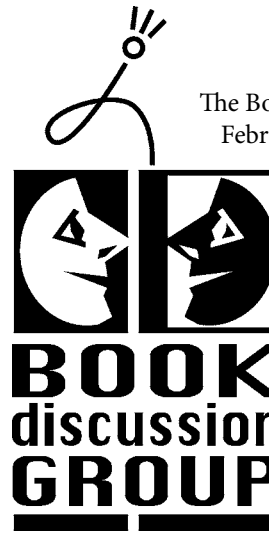
Respectfully submitted,
Candace B. Ozerden

Ladies' Night Out

Our next *Ladies Night Out* will be Tuesday, February 28th at Saluté's Restaurant. Please join us for good fellowship with no dishes to wash!



It's a Lenten Gospel Read-a-long with Bishop Gray!
(See the schedule on page 17.)



The Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 2, at 5:30 pm at the home of Margaret Murdock.

February book selection:
Catherine The Great: Portrait of a Woman by Robert Massie

Synopsis: Born into a minor noble family, Catherine transformed herself into Empress of Russia by sheer determination. Possessing a brilliant mind and an insatiable curiosity as a young woman, she devoured the works

of Enlightenment philosophers and, when she reached the throne, attempted to use their principles to guide her rule of the vast and backward Russian empire.

March book selection:
To be decided at the February meeting.

Directions to Margaret Murdock's home:
612 East Beach Blvd. First house WEST of Hewes Avenue on Highway 90 (grey, raised, dark shutters). Parking to the rear of the house. Additional parking on the lot immediately to the east can be accessed from Hewes Avenue. Phone: 863-6633.

Third Sunday Forum at St. Peter's Features Father Joe Dilettuso

Father Joe Dilettuso will lead our next Third Sunday Forum on Sunday, February 19 at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

By Popular Demand, Father Joe Dilettuso will lead our next Third Sunday Forum on Sunday, February 19, at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

At the request of several persons, we have rearranged our speaker schedule to make it possible for him to present a follow-up of his great lecture on *Understanding PTSD*. This time he will focus on *Relating to Persons with PTSD*. He will provide helpful suggestions on how we as individuals and as a Church Community can relate in more helpful ways to persons with this complex disorder.



Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is widespread and almost every household has a family member or personal friend suffering with the disorder. This mental health condition is predicted to increase rapidly due to the large number of combat soldiers returning from recent wars and the destruction of earthquakes, tornados, accidents, and other disasters. They need informed and helpful persons in their lives.

Many of the residents of the Gulf Coast will remember Father

Delittuso as the host of the popular weekly WLOX talk show *Living Words* for many years. After he completed his show, he went to the Veterans Hospital in Pensacola where he worked for 14 years assisting in the treatment of residents suffering with PTSD. His experience as a chaplain, therapist, and parish priest provide him with a wide range of ideas that can be helpful to us in relating to our friends and family members.

Please reserve this date, February 19 and invite your family and friends to participate in this lively and important discussion.

If you have a topic or speaker you would like to suggest for a future forum, please share it with Edwin Graham, 863-2343.

An invitation to a holy Lent



Lenten practices at St. Peter's by-the-Sea

“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)

This *Invitation to a Holy Lent* is found in our Ash Wednesday service, and it helps us remember

that Lent is a special season, an intentional time of 40 days that we spend in reflection and repentance to help prepare ourselves for the joyous celebration on Easter.

There are various ways that individuals can choose to keep a “Holy Lent.” Some people like to give up something as a spiritual discipline. Other people like to take on something as a spiritual discipline. Whatever you do, you will find that it will take on more spiritual significance if it is grounded in prayer, reflection, and repentance. Lent is a time when we remember how we often choose to turn away from God by following our own selfish inclinations, and we are mindful of God’s call to turn back to God. In whatever way you choose to keep a “holy Lent,” the focus should be on how this practice helps you return to God. I encourage you to take some time and prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to keep a “holy Lent” and how God may be speaking to you, through your life and calling you to return to God. Some of us will be taking on something new and joining with the Bishop in his

challenge to read the gospels over the weeks of Lent. More information about that program is offering in an additional article in this *Key*.

At St. Peter’s by-the-Sea, we will be offering several different prayer opportunities and one formation series that are unique to our corporate observance of Lent and are designed to help you in your pursuit to keep a “holy Lent”. As this *Key* goes to print, we are still nailing down final details on our Lenten offerings. But one thing that we can publicize is our Wednesday offerings.

On Wednesdays, we will continue to have our mid-week Eucharist in the chapel. This begins at 12:05 and lasts about 35-40 minutes. It is a good way to stop and pray in the middle of our busy day, in the heart of a busy week. On Wednesday evenings, we will once again have our Lenten soup supper and formation offering. Soup and salad will be provided by the different groups of St. Peter’s. We will eat from 5:00-6:00 pm. in the parish hall, and our formation series will last from 6:00-7:00. This year, our topic is Reading the Gospels with the Bishop, and the Adult Formation

Holy Lent continues on page 8.

St. Peter’s Arts Academy Through the eyes of a volunteer

Salvador Dali, surrealist (1904-1989).

For Dali, sleep was part of his work as a painter. By examining his dreams he hoped to find new ideas and images which he would never have thought of while awake.

It’s three o’clock on a Monday afternoon. A yellow school bus arrives with 16 third and fourth grade students from Pass Road Elementary. They arrive with backpacks and some with musical instruments that were the size of the student. The first person off the bus is Kenny Hudson, Principal of Pass Road Elementary. He has a big smile on his face that shows pride in his students. He follows the boys and girls in and makes sure that each student is happy, comfortable and secure before his departure. Later in the afternoon he arrives again

with Lucas. Lucas, a shy third grade student was not confident enough to ride the bus to a strange place. He loves art but wasn’t sure about our program. The principal made a special trip with him to meet our art teacher and educator, Janis Anderson. He introduced Lucas to the volunteers and showed him the featured painting, Swans Reflecting Elephants, by Salvador Dali, a surrealist. Lucas surveyed the room, his classmates, the art sketchbooks and art reflection journals. He listened as Mrs. Anderson discussed how the artist designed the painting and why. She discussed art criticism which includes looking at what is there and making meaning from what you see and what you know. He listened to the responses from his friends. Lucas never uttered a word but one could see interest in his big eyes.

On Wednesday the yellow school bus arrived with Lucas in line. It was enrichment day. A project is chosen that compliments the work of the painter. The students were instructed in the rules of making a collage composition. For this occasion, the students are to experiment with making a surreal collage composition. They were given step by step instructions. Mrs. Anderson shared several collage compositions that she had created and later reproduced into paintings.

Soft classical music played in the background as Lucas sat quietly and scanned the magazines for three pictures that would be the basis of his collage. He carefully cut and arranged his three in an abstract design. No words were uttered, no emotions were viewed. His big eyes again expressed that he was pleased with himself.

On the next Monday Lucas will be asked to glue in other images and give his collage a title. He will then present the collage by hanging it on the display board and telling what his surreal collage means to him. We will all be available for encouragement and guidance. I know that he will be on the bus Monday. I know that I will be there to greet him and give support.

“The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers- But most of all, the world needs dreamers who do”





Did You Know—

that on average, it costs \$30 per ton to recycle trash, \$50 to send it to the landfill, and \$65 to \$75 to incinerate it?

What is the recycling process?

- ▶ The first stage is collecting and sorting.
- ▶ The second stage is manufacturing (the goods are processed into new reusable products).
- ▶ The third stage is selling of the goods to consumers.

Why is recycling important?

- ▶ Saves Energy
- ▶ Reduces pollution
- ▶ Reduces landfill waste
- ▶ Saves money
- ▶ Uses less raw materials

An Evening with C.S. Lewis

The year is 1963 and C. S. Lewis, the famous British author, is in the twilight years of his life. Following a request from his great friend, J.R.R. Tolkien, he has agreed to give an informal talk to a group of American writers who are visiting England. They have come to Lewis' home, just outside of Oxford, and are eagerly anticipating hearing the man who has become a legend in his own lifetime. They are not disappointed. Despite his failing health, Lewis is in great form. His audience is spellbound as, with a display of oratory and humor that made him one of England's most famous public speakers, he recounts the significant events and the people that shaped his life.

An Evening with C. S. Lewis takes you into the unique world of a man who lived a simple life in a modest house on the outskirts of the city of Oxford. Full of humor, it is a fascinating and enthralling insight into the life of a man who journeyed from atheism to Christianity to become one of the great champions of the Christian faith. Actor David Payne is from Canada and has been performing this outstanding one-man show for many years.

The performance will be held at the theatre at the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center in Ocean Springs at 7 pm on Tuesday, February 28th. Tickets cost \$15 plus a \$2.75 processing fee and are available from their web site (themaryc.org) under Upcoming Events. You can print your e-ticket or pick up your ticket from the box office.

An Evening with C.S. Lewis

Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center in Ocean Springs

7 pm on Tuesday, February 28th.

Tickets cost \$15 plus a \$2.75 processing fee

Holy Lent *continued from page 6.*

committee is still working to develop a format that will help and support you as you learn more about the gospels and read them throughout Lent.

Please, watch your Sunday bulletins for an insert with more complete information on our Lenten offerings in the coming days.

May your observance of Lent be a holy and transformational time, and may you grow deeper in the knowledge of the God who loves you.

CALENDAR

SERVING SCHEDULE

SERVING SCHEDULE

Young Adults Sunday School Resumes February 12

St. Peters' Young Adults Sunday School will resume Sunday, February 12, at 9:15 am, in the Conference Room in the Parish Hall, across from the Lectionary Class. We will be studying Adam Hamilton's *Enough*, a DVD series that invites us to rediscover the Bible's wisdom on prudent financial practices. Hamilton's timely topic during this period of personal financial challenge for many offers to help us find the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity by

helping us change our relationship with money. No outside reading or work is necessary-just show up and join the discussion.

Young Adults Sunday School will meet every Sunday except for the third Sunday of every month, so as not to conflict with Adult Forum. We will meet on the following dates: February 12, 26; March 4, 11, 25; April 1, 8, 22, 29; and May 6, 13. Those with questions may contact Sul Ozerden. Come join us!

CALENDAR

Rector's Report continued from page 1.

The statistics and information provided in these reports in your packets is both enlightening and amazing, and I think it gives us a wonderful picture of all that we have accomplished this year. There are just a few things I'd like to highlight.

First, last year, one of my visions for 2011 was to start a hospitality time after the 10:30 service. The hospitality and new members committee, under the direction of Helen Graham and the energy of Kerry Hudson quickly acted to meet my vision, and they started offering a hospitality time, solely through the donations of people willing to do it, and it now serves at least 50-60 people in attendance each week (and many more on special occasions). In addition to providing food during this time, Edwin Graham has been creating a new, multi-media slide presentation each Sunday that is on at both hospitality times. These slide presentations

provide information about upcoming events, feature a mystery person every week, and they help us all stay better connected.

Another goal for this year was to maintain excellence in music and to continue to build our music program. Under the leadership of JT Anglin, Donna Hutchings, Barbara Blanchard, Debbie Anglin, and Keith Ballard, all three of our choirs are flourishing. The chancel choir is now up to 20 members (the largest since I've been here). The bell choir has 10 ringers, and the children's choir has 11 children enrolled (the largest number since each's inception). And we continue to work together to provide worship that is a fit offering to God, that is accessible to the people in the pews, and that offers the full breadth and beauty of our Anglican heritage and our Episcopal identity.

We continue to offer solid offerings for Christian formation of all ages.

The children's Sunday school program is thriving under the direction of Debbie Anglin and a number of dedicated teachers. The recent surveys about the Adult Forum indicate an overwhelming response to continue those offerings. The lectionary class, the Young Adult Sunday school, the Wednesday night seasonal offerings, and the short term studies have all been of outstanding quality. Truly we offer something for everyone who desires to be formed and shaped in the image and likeness of Christ through study and discussion together.

We've also had a lot of fun together this last year. We've broken bread together in small groups around each others' tables in our Common Ground Groups, which we'll hear a little more about later. We've learned to dance together; we've barbecued together; we've celebrated special events, major milestones, and

The Center for Formation and Mission announces retreat offerings for spring.

Our theme this year, drawn from our call to be “One Church in Mission : Inviting...” is “You Are Invited”. You, your congregations, and all who are seeking spiritual nurture and growth are invited to come out to Gray Center for one of our events. From silent retreats, to engaging creativity, to exploring healing, to reflecting theologically, there’s something on our calendar that will feed almost any spiritual hunger.

Email or call if you have any questions or concerns about any Gray Center events. The Gray Center works to make events accessible to all, and so offer scholarships when needed.

The Center for Formation and Mission thanks you for your continued support as they seek to encourage congregations and individuals to engage their faith through quiet, study, fellowship, prayer, and the enjoyment of the beauty of Gray Center...

Peace,
Jennifer Deaton

You are Invited...

BEARING THE WORD: A WOMEN’S RETREAT FEBRUARY 17-19, 2012

Join other women for an exploration of the ways in which we are called to bear the Word of God in the world, like our sister Mary and so many women of faith before us. In our relationships and in our work, in our art, in our poems and songs, and in our stories we make the Word of God incarnate over and again. We will gather in the Big House for this time of prayer, conversation, creativity, and reflection. The weekend will be led by the Rev. Rwth Ashton, Chaplain at Millsaps College, and the Rev. Jennifer Deaton, Canon for Pastoral Care at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Cathedral. Cost: \$165 for double occupancy, \$180 for single occupancy. Register on-line or print a registration form at <http://cffm.dioms.org>

A DAY APART: DAY OF SILENCE AND PRAYER MARCH 9, 2012

Our own Bishop Gray will guide this day of prayer, reflection, and solitude. Participants will gather in community for prayer, and have the opportunity to engage in prayer alone, walking the labyrinth or the trails, sitting in the chapel or by the lake, reading or writing, painting or soaking in the beauty of Gray Center...however it is that you wish to create a time and space for personal reflection and resting in the presence of God. The event is co-sponsored by the Center for Ministry. Cost: \$20. Please bring a lunch; snacks and drinks are provided. Register on-line or print a registration form at <http://cffm.dioms.org>

I WISH GOD WOULD TELL ME WHAT TO DO: MEN’S WEEKEND MARCH 16-18, 2012

We wish God would speak clearly to us, give us direction, and answer all our questions. How might God be speaking to us in ordinary events and times and places? How might we be hard of hearing? Explore the ways God speaks and calls in our lives, engage in good fellowship, and enjoy some good food at this second annual Men’s Weekend at Gray Center. The event is co-sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Cost: TBA. Stay tuned to <http://cffm.dioms.org> for registration information.

THE TELLER AS THE TALE: JESUS’ RHETORIC OF PREACHING AN OFFERING OF SEWANEE AT GRAY CENTER MARCH 23-24

The last generation of scholarship on the historical Jesus (Sanders, Crossan, Meier, Borg, Wright, Witherington, Levine, et al.) have immeasurably helped our understanding of the person and message of Jesus. What has not been explored is the way Jesus is depicted as teaching beyond reference to his use of parables. In this conference the Rev. Dr. William Brosend, Associate Professor of Homiletics at the

Retreats continues on page 18.

EYC Schedule Spring 2012

FEBRUARY

4 (Sat.)- EYC goes to the Movies!

5 - No EYC - Superbowl Sunday

12 - Regular EYC

19 - No EYC - Pass Parade

24-26 - DOY

26 - Regular EYC

MARCH

2-4 - Happening

4 - Regular EYC

11 - Regular EYC

18 - Regular EYC

23-25 - DOY

25 - Regular EYC

30- 31 (Friday - Sat.)- 30 HOUR FAMINE!

APRIL

1 - Regular EYC

8 - Regular EYC

15 - Regular EYC

22 - Youth Sunday/ Regular EYC

29 - Youth Sunday/ Regular EYC

MAY

6 - Youth Sunday/ Card making and games with S. M. R. C. residents (3-5pm)

13 - Regular EYC

20 - Regular EYC

27 - Last EYC!

Rector’s Report *continued from page 13.*

ordinary days together, and through all this, we have strengthened the bonds of our common affection.

And we’ve helped a whole lot of people. We’ve served more than 4,050 meals at Feed My Sheep. We’ve made and delivered 650 sack lunches to hungry people on 2nd Sundays. We provided 70 thanksgiving meals to needy individuals and families in our community. We gave 42 outfits for girls coming through the Harrison County Children’s Emergency Shelter. We provided dinners for the residents of IHN for 24 evenings. We bought Christmas gifts for 30 children of the Women’s shelter this past Christmas. We sent three of our Arts Academy students to Camp Bratton Green on full scholarships and provided partial scholarship assistance for parishioners. We worked with other churches of this diocese and helped build a Habitat House in Smithville, through the loan of our equipment and the labor of members. We gave \$2,688 out of our budget to local agencies, and then we raised an additional \$7548 to go to other charitable organizations. By my rough

calculations, we have improved the lives of around 5,000 people who have been in need this past year. That is amazing, and I am so proud of you all!

Just a few more numbers about this past year, and then I’ll move on to plans for the coming year. This summer, I started

keeping up with the number of pastoral encounters that I make in a given week. On average, I have 29 pastoral encounters during the week. This can include calls, visits, notes, emails, Facebook messages, texts—any encounter that I consider to be primarily of a pastoral nature, and the numbers vary greatly in an given week. Usually on shorter weeks, when I’m not in the office, it can be as low as 16. On crazy weeks, it can be as high as 72. But 30-40 is usually a normal week.

Also, our average Sunday attendance has grown this year from 131 to 148. My goals for 2012: to do all that we have done this year and more. We are moving in the right direction; we’ve got structures to support our continued movement and growth in this direction, and we need to keep it going.

This year, we are going to look at new structures to support the continued life and development of pastoral care in the church.

“we are both a place and community that places our hope in the resurrection, that says we shall not be overcome by hardship or adversity, by death or destruction”

Margaret McCrary has agreed to help me by leading the project to preserve and display the fullness of the history and life of St. Peter's by-the-Sea by collecting, framing, and displaying pictures to hang on the walls of the hall way from the church back to the parish hall (which has been named in Memory of Buddy Hopkins). Soon, we will be calling upon some members of the church to help with this, and we ask that if you have any pictures which express the fullness of the life and history of St. Peter's by-the-Sea such as baptisms, weddings, special events (Easter egg hunts, pageants, etc), historic events (building consecrations), or history of the church, that you share them with us. We may not be able to use all of them, but Margaret and her committee would like as many options as they can get as they decide how to tell the story of the life and history of St. Peter's by-the-Sea on that wall in there.

We will be taking on the bishop's challenge to read the four gospels with him during Lent, and we will be providing some structure to help make that meaningful for you to be provided on Wednesday nights as our Lenten formation offering.

I will be working with a small group of volunteers who want to help realize our dream of hosting a reception to honor our senior citizens of this

parish, and it is my hope to make that a reality this spring.

In closing, I'd like to share what I learned about you, about us, this past summer. When Sue Cassady and I were completing our 2nd year of the Congregational Development training, one of the exercises that we had to do was to look around at the people who were visiting and joining St. Peter's by-the-Sea. In that exercise, we were supposed to learn about what kind of people we are attracting and what that says about our community and our identity. As Sue and I did this work together, we realized that we were attracting an incredible diversity of people to St. Peter's. We could not identify one single demographic or other characteristic to help us further understand our identity and what people are finding when they come to St. Peter's and decide to stay.

But then, as we delved more deeply into what we know about this wide diversity of people who are newly attracted to St. Peter's by-the-Sea, we realized what it was that attracts them. We are a resurrection community. In this world where so much is marked by death and destruction and corruption, we are both a place and community that places our hope in the resurrection, that says we shall not be overcome by hardship or adversity, by death or destruction. We are a church and a

people who put our trust in the resurrection of our Lord that shows, once and for all, that God's love is stronger than anything that this old world can throw at us. We are a church and people who are an outward and visible sign of the hope that the Kingdom of God is already with us, even now, and we are going to work to continue to bring it to fruition. We are a church and a people that welcome you, regardless of where you have come from, and we will try to help you bind up your broken heart as so many people have helped us do for ours.

We are a resurrection people. May God give us the grace to continue to grow into this truth in the coming year and the hope to be truly worthy of that name.

Life Lessons:

- 1. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.**
- 2. Cry with someone. It is more healing than crying alone.**
- 3. It is OK to get angry with God. He can take it.**

— Regina Brett,
90 years old

MARK	MATTHEW	LUKE	JOHN
<i>February 22</i> (Ash Wednesday) Mark 1	<i>March 2</i> Matthew 1,2	<i>March 16</i> Luke 1,2	<i>March 28</i> John 1
<i>February 23</i> Mark 2,3	<i>March 3</i> Matthew 3,4	<i>March 17</i> Luke 3,4	<i>March 29</i> John 2,3
<i>February 24</i> Mark 4,5	<i>March 4</i> Matthew 5,6	<i>March 18</i> Luke 5,6	<i>March 30</i> John 4,5
<i>February 25</i> Mark 6,7	<i>March 5</i> Matthew 7,8	<i>March 19</i> Luke 7,8	<i>March 31</i> John 6,7
<i>February 26</i> Mark 8,9	<i>March 6</i> Matthew 9,10	<i>March 20</i> Luke 9,10	<i>April 1</i> (Palm Sunday) John 8,9
<i>February 27</i> Mark 10,11	<i>March 7</i> Matthew 11,12	<i>March 21</i> Luke 11,12	<i>April 2</i> John 10, 11
<i>February 28</i> Mark 12,13	<i>March 8</i> Matthew 13,14	<i>March 22</i> Luke 13,14	<i>April 3</i> John 12,13
<i>February 29</i> Mark 14,15	<i>March 9</i> Matthew 15,16	<i>March 23</i> Luke 15,16	<i>April 4</i> John 14,15
<i>March 1</i> Mark 16	<i>March 10</i> Matthew 17,18	<i>March 24</i> Luke 17,18	<i>April 5</i> (Maundy Thursday) John 16,17
	<i>March 11</i> Matthew 19,20	<i>March 25</i> Luke 19,20	<i>April 6</i> (Good Friday) John 18,19
	<i>March 12</i> Matthew 21,22	<i>March 26</i> Luke 21,22	<i>April 7</i> (Holy Saturday) John 20
	<i>March 13</i> Matthew 23,24	<i>March 27</i> Luke 23,24	<i>April 8</i> (Easter Day) John 21
	<i>March 14</i> Matthew 25,26		
	<i>March 15</i> Matthew 27,28		

Schedule of gospel Lenten readings with Bishop Gray

from: Diocese of Mississippi, Jackson

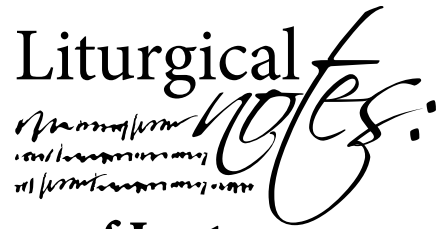
by: The Rev. Scott Lenoir

[MSE] As reported in the January issue of The Mississippi Episcopalian, Bishop Gray has challenged parishioners across the diocese to join him in a Lenten Discipline of reading all four gospels. Below is a daily schedule of the readings which begin Feb. 22, Ash Wednesday, with the Gospel of Mark and ends with John during Holy Week.

“This Bible reading initiative, begun at Fort Washington, Pennsylvania and endorsed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, our Presiding Bishop and other archbishops and bishops from around the Anglican Communion, is an effort to invite a serious and rigorous reading of scripture throughout the year,” said Bishop Gray.

Gray said the reading is designed to be more reflective, much like the process of lectio divina, or holy reading approach, rather than a Bible study.

In Mississippi, the initial focus of the Bible challenge will be on the four gospels. Participants are urged to register on the diocesan website (www.dioms.org) or through your local parish.



The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent begins with our observance of Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, we remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return, and we bear on our foreheads the sign of the cross made from the ashes of palms from previous Palm Sundays. On the First Sunday of Lent, we begin our services with the Great Litany. This is a long, litany of prayers in our *Book of Common Prayer*, and in it we pray for all sorts and conditions of people. During Lent, we no longer say the word “Alleluia,” so on the First Sunday of Lent, our children will hide an Alleluia banner that we will then resurrect on Easter morning. The Sunday services during Lent will also be slightly different to reflect the penitence of the season. Our usual songs of praise are replaced by “Lord Have Mercy,” and we will add a few other minor observances, such as the reading of the Law to reflect the tone of this season. Some Sundays during Lent, we will even slightly shift the order of service to include the *Penitential order* which begins with *Confession of Sin*.

The 8:00 service will notice a shift from our usual Rite 1 Prayer 2 to Rite 1 Prayer 1. This prayer is made up of significant pieces of Thomas Cranmer’s original Eucharistic prayer from the first prayer book, and it is much more penitential in nature. At the 8:00 service, we will also be praying the traditional *prayer of humble access* just prior to communion, which also is a very penitential practice.

At the end of the service, the priest’s blessing at both services is a series of Lenten blessings, a different one for each of the Sundays in Lent, and they are taken from our Book of Occasional services to reflect the themes of each of the Sundays in Lent.

One of the gifts of our 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* is that it gives us many more options than we’ve ever had in the past, and these options allow us to make our worship more meaningful and seasonally appropriate, that we may all work to “keep a holy Lent” in our individual lives as well as in our corporate life of prayer.

Retreats continued from page 14.

School of Theology, Sewanee, and Executive Director of the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, will draw on his book *The Preaching of Jesus* to share the importance of how Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God for how we may better tell the story of Jesus today. Proclaiming the good news is a baptismal call we all share, lay or ordained, and our lives speak whether we spend the in the pulpit or at some other calling. Cost: TBA. Stay tuned to <http://cffm.dioms.org> for registration information.

The Rev. Jennifer Deaton

Canon for Pastoral Care, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Cathedral
jdeaton@standrewscathedral.org
601-813-3398

Senior Warden continued from page 2.

the commission that would encompass that budget item. Then request reimbursement so that we can track that cost and keep our budget straight. If you simply deduct that amount from your pledged amount only you know what those numbers are and it makes our budget worthless.

If we are going to become what we have said we want to become, we are going to have to be progressive. Is it not our task to spread the goods news of Christ and share His unconditional love for us? Do we just want to keep that a secret to ourselves and become stagnant with no growth?

*Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches,
let us stretch and grow and reach new heights.*

~Pauline R. Kezer

Respectfully Submitted:

Marie A. Porter
Senior Warden

St. Peter’s by-the-Sea Mission Statement:

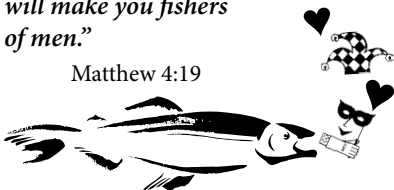
We are a community of faith that seeks to equip and nurture all persons to live out the love of God and to share the message of Jesus Christ through servant ministry to the greater community.

St. Peter's by-the-Sea
Episcopal Church
1909 15TH ST.
GULFPORT MS 39501

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
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Gulfport, MS 39501

And he said to them,
"Follow me and I
will make you fishers
of men."

Matthew 4:19



MARK YOUR FEBRUARY CALENDAR

2nd

Shadow, or no shadow?
Book Discussion Group

12th

Second Sunday lunches

19th

Third Sunday Forum

21st

Gulfport Night Parade

22nd

Ash Wednesday

29th

Leap!



LEAP YEAR

Ash Wednesday services

Wednesday, February 22 at noon and 6:00 pm.

*The next opportunity for baptism will
be at our Easter Vigil service on
Saturday, April 7th at 8:00 pm.
Contact Melanie if you or someone
you know would like to be baptized.*



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 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.