

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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INSIDE JULY INSIDE

God's Galaxy Quest
pictures .. pages 2-4

Guess Who? .. page 7

Pull-Out-N-Save
Serving Schedule
..... center section

Making a
Difference page 8

A Day in the Life of the Rector: Monday, June 6th , 2011

I begin my "work" on this day as I leave my house at 6:15 am, peanut-butter and banana wrapped tortilla and cup of coffee in hand (which I eat in the car on the way), and I head to Garden Park where I pray and visit with a person preparing for surgery that day. I stay and visit for about an hour, and then I head to the church where I make my second (and last) cup of coffee of the day.

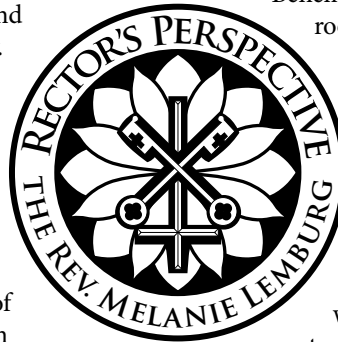
When Susan arrives, we closet ourselves in her office for our weekly Monday morning staff meeting where we spend about an hour hashing out the details of the week ahead. I take the remnants of my cold coffee and sit out on the shoo-fly for a few minutes with my journal, praying and writing. My mid-morning appointment arrives and I spend about an hour closed in my office with a couple to begin the first of five premarital counseling sessions. (Did you know that our church canons require that any couple being married in our church must have a minimum of 3 premarital counseling sessions?) The first session is spent in getting to know them, talking about what they think marriage is and what the church thinks marriage is and (my favorite part) where they tell the other

person's story up until the day they met and then they tell me the rest of the story together.

After I finish with the couple, I run pick up my children at home and drive them over to Elinor Benefield's house where they have their respective swim lessons with Rachel

Benefield. I sit in the pool house room with other mothers and grandmothers, and I proof the funeral bulletin that Susan handed me as I walked out the door, and I do a search in my Bible Application on my iPhone to try to find passages having to do with boats and water to choose an appropriate gospel for the deceased, who was a former Commodore and an avid sailor.

I drop the kids off at home after the hour is up and head back to the church. At some point, I eat a late lunch at my desk while I email, return phone calls, continue to work on the funeral bulletin, and read through the propers for the coming Sunday for the first time this week. Mid-afternoon, I join the Arts Academy meeting to talk about plans for the upcoming year and other details we need to consider and attend to



VBS 2011 out of this world!





The Key • page 4

4th of July

Mark your calendars!

*4th of July by-the-Sea
hosted by the Young Adults*

- ★ Bring your friends, family and neighbors.
- ★ Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Bring a side dish.
- ★ This is the perfect opportunity to introduce St Peter's by-the-Sea to your friends and neighbors.
- ★ Fun and Games for the kids and kids at heart.

The Key • page 5



There will be a potluck lunch after the 10:30 service on Sunday, July 31. Everyone please come for food and fellowship. There will be someone in the kitchen to accept food before the 10:30 service. If you would like to volunteer to help either before the lunch or afterwards for clean up, please contact Amy Gillespie Smith, vestry (parish activities) at amy@gillespietitle.com or 662.473.8567. I hope to see everyone there.



A **BIG THANK YOU** to Ruthie Murdock, Dot Parker, and Julius Ward for their outstanding work on the audit of the 2010 finances. They spent many hours scouring through the paperwork and we want them to know how much we appreciate their time and commitment. Thanks again!

Day continued from page 1.

over the course of the summer; I have to step out multiple times to answer the phone and to field questions about the funeral and Vacation Bible school that will begin later on.

After that meeting ends, I spend a little bit of time talking to friends of the deceased about the homily for the funeral. Then I race home, put on my costume for VBS (white robe, space belt, white go-go boots, and a cinnamon bun headband...can you guess who I was supposed to be?), grab the kids, and head back to the church ready to blast off with St. Peter's God's Galaxy Quest Vacation Bible school. (As we are waiting to begin, I swing into the kitchen where I eat my supper,

which consists of the crust pieces of the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that Earline and Jackie are making for the kids at VBS). On this first night, we have about 40 kids between the ages of 3 and 11, and Dr. Who (Noah Anglin) and I spend our time running around the church grounds in our various get-ups and leading the three different age groups on their mission to find a lost item. When the kids all leave at eight, I stay with the other adults, and we have a meeting about what we need to change to make things better for the next night. After that, we clean up all our VBS stuff, vacuum and sweep to make the parish hall ready for the ladies to come in and set up for the funeral visitation the next day. As I drive home at nine pm, I receive a call on my cell phone about more funeral-related items.

I share this snapshot of this particular day for several different reasons. The first is to show you just a little of what being a parish priest entails. The second is to show that only a small fraction of my "work" is actually done at the church office. I can generally be found in the office Monday-Thursday between 9 and 3 in the summer; during the school year, I arrive around 8 and leave at 2 to go pick children up from school. But I also do a great deal of work outside of the office that involves visiting with people and other meetings and commit-



ments that I might have. Usually at least two nights out of any given week, I am present at the church; my letter of agreement states that I will be asked to do no more than 3 evening commitments, but on some weeks, that just is not doable, and I am needed most evenings, so I try to compensate by spending time with my family at other times during those busy weeks. I appreciate when people make appointments to see me, so that I can plan my day. Most of my appointments take place early in the week (Monday and Tuesday and a few on Wednesday) because I try to spend Thursday in intensive sermon preparation and writing. But this doesn't always happen, so often I find myself writing Sunday's sermon on my Sabbath, which is Friday, or on Saturday (which I try to

devote to family activities). On some weeks, it is just too hectic at the church office to get anything accomplished, so I may spend an hour at home before coming in to the office in prayer and reading and writing (but only when my children are in school, otherwise it is too hectic and loud at home!). Prayer and study are essential parts of my work as a parish priest, and it is certainly not limited to the times when I am in my office. Even when I am not in my office, I am usually available on my cell phone and I check my email regularly at all hours of the day and well into the night. I

am not a "9 to 5 priest", and thanks be to God for that, because if I were, think of all that happens in our lives that I would not be a part of: early morning pre-op prayers, Vacation Bible school with our dedicated adults and wonderful children, late night pastoral care phone counseling sessions, after hours meetings, a midnight call to come perform Last Rights/Ministration at the Time of Death.

When you are so gracious as to allow me the flexibility to make my own schedule and do things like take my children to swim lessons in the middle of the day and do my sermon preparation work in my driveway while watching them ride bikes and pray and read at home for



Toward a Christian Understanding of Other World Religions

Toward a Christian Understanding of Other World Religions is the topic for the Second Sunday Adult Forum on **July 10**. Dr. John Switzer will address the way Christians view other religions.

Dr. John Switzer is a professor and Director of Graduate Programs in Theology and Ministry at Spring Hill College in Mobile.

Dr. Switzer asks, "In our attempt to remain faithful to our understanding of Christ Jesus as a unique expression God, we Christians are challenged by the goodness and genuine holiness that we encounter in the believers of other great religions. Are we big enough to find a place for them in the Kingdom of God? Is God hospitable enough to do the same?"

Join us as he proposes some possible answers to these questions. Participants in The Forum will gather at 9:00 a.m. in the parish hall for coffee and fellowship. His lecture, followed by questions, will begin at 9:15. The session will conclude in time for the 10:30 worship service.

Everyone is invited. Tell your friends and neighbors they will enjoy Dr. Switzer on his return to St. Peter's.

For more information call Edwin Graham, 863-2343 or the Church Office.



Guess Who?

This person is:

- ▣ A graduate of Auburn University
- ▣ Directed Music for Auburn's Famous Water Shows
- ▣ Spent 42 years as a Radio Frequency Engineer
- ▣ Solved Radio Frequency Problems all over the world for U.S. Military
- ▣ Has a large collection of statues of the most important people in World History.

(Answer on page 18.)



Day continued from page 6.

the occasional hour in the quiet and comfort of my favorite chair, then I am better equipped to take your emergency call in the late hours of the day or to be present with you in the early hours just before surgery. This life of our parish is a dance that we all do together, and it flows best when we allow the music to be the grace of God's Holy Spirit among us.

As you may know, St. Peter's by-the-Sea has been working closely with the Rev. Paul Stephens and the people of All Saint's Tupelo, and we have loaned them our tool trailer to assist in the disaster recovery efforts in North Mississippi. Now, we are planning to send a team of people from St. Peter's to Tupelo to assist in building a home for the Wade Morris family of Smithville, and we need your help! If you are interested in being a part of team St. Peter's and helping give back just a small portion of all the gifts and help and love that we received after Katrina, then join us for a work trip to Tupelo on July 21-24th. Contact the church office below to let us know you plan to join us. An excerpt from a recent letter from the Rev. Paul Stephens is included below to give more details about this endeavor.

"We have been touched by the suffering that Wade Morris and his family have endured these past months. (Wade is the nephew of the Rev. Judy Morris, associate at St. Peter's by the Lake, Brandon). You recall that Wade suffered severe burns to his hands, arms, chest and face in a grease fire which occurred several weeks before the tornado hit Smithville. Because he had been laid off from his job and didn't have health insurance when the accident occurred, he had to be separated from his family (pregnant wife Jennifer and two children) and taken to the burn center in Memphis for treatment. His treatment in Memphis was grueling and included multiple skin grafts. He was discharged about two weeks before the Smithville tornado hit so he could be home for the birth of his third child—a beautiful and healthy baby girl born 10 days before the tornado—provided he agreed to make at least two trips a week to Memphis for burn care and physical therapy. (Those trips are anticipated to continue for several months into the future). He and his young family were at home in downtown Smithville when the tornado hit. That April



Making a Difference in the Face of Disaster

afternoon, the house they were renting and all their possessions, including vehicles, were totally destroyed. Fortunately and providentially, Wade and his immediate family escaped injury. Since the tornado, Wade and his family first lived with family members and then in a hunting cabin in the woods. As I write this note, they are preparing to move into a FEMA trailer which has been located in downtown Smithville.

It was apparent that this family needed our help. With your support they have been helped in numerous ways by many people within and outside of the Episcopal Church since the tornado hit—gifts of clothing, food, and gas as well as pastoral care and spiritual support have been provided.

More was needed however. We determined that Wade and Jennifer and their three children needed a home they could call their own and in which Wade could complete his recovery. We began to dream of building them a home through the collaborative effort of multiple churches and Habitat chapters.

Beginning Saturday, July 9th, that dream will take a significant step toward becoming a reality. On that

day, in collaboration with several Habitat Chapters, multiple churches in Smithville, Tupelo and the surrounding communities, and support from interested Episcopal churches in Mississippi and beyond, we will start a TWO WEEK HABITAT BLITZ so that the Wade Morris Family will have a comfortable home they can call their own!

What began as a dream has suddenly gotten legs and is moving forward very rapidly:

- A one acre tract of property just south of Smithville has been donated to Wade and Jennifer. Their new home will be constructed there.
- ERD has given its tentative verbal approval for a major grant that will cover approximately 30% of the costs of

Difference continues on page 13.

CALENDAR

SERVING SCHEDULE

SERVING SCHEDULE

Mission & Outreach

OPPORTUNITIES AND REPORTS

FEED MY SHEEP

The Hudson Family was responsible for June's Second Sunday Feed My Sheep lunch. They were assisted by Phil Parker, Arlene Snyder and others. The Ozerden Family will be responsible for our July 10th Second Sunday Feed My Sheep. Please consider joining us in the kitchen to assist in making the 50 lunches.

Members continue to provide their designated help on Monday's at Feed My Sheep thanks to the able organization of Mary Alice Bailey.

IHN

June 12-18 was our week to provide meals for IHN. Patti Nicholas continues to coordinate the volunteer food delivery for St. Peter's.

FOOD PANTRY

Please remember to bring in a canned or boxed food item for the Food Pantry.

Respectfully submitted,
Candace B. Ozerden

CALENDAR



July Angels:

Arlene Snyder, Kathy and Jon Marc Van Zutphen, Lauren Williams

A Special Thank You

to those who so kindly helped with the visitation and funeral for Ann Morse. Linda Koury, Judy Joest, Sue Cassady, Lynn Singletary, and the Stanfields provided cookies, coffee, and drinks for the visitation. This is a gift the families so appreciate.

Difference continued from page 8.

construction materials. Other financial assistance has been promised so that we anticipate that at least 65% of the costs of construction materials will be covered.

- St. Peter's by the Sea, Gulfport, has graciously loaned us its construction trailer loaded with all kinds of construction tools. Those tools will enable us to build a beautiful and functional home for this family.
- The Northeast Mississippi Habitat for Humanity chapter, located in Tupelo, is taking the lead by supplying financial and other support, as well as supervision and planning for the construction

project. Other Habitat chapters have also offered to assist.

- Several Episcopal parishes and missions in Mississippi have contacted us and told us they want to take part in the construction project.
- Surveying, title work, utility hookup and other preliminary site and related work are underway. Access to and clearing of the home site begins tomorrow, with construction of the foundation beginning soon thereafter.

Everything will be ready for framing on Saturday, July 9th when together we begin to raise the roof of the new

Wade Morris Family Home. We want to complete construction of the home by Saturday, July 23rd so Wade and his family can move in and get settled before school starts.

We need volunteers from across the diocese to help make this project happen. Everyone can take part: We need folks to help with the construction of the home. We need people to keep the construction folks fed and watered. We need people to run errands and to assist with offsite support. We need people to offer prayers. I'm sure we'll need help in ways that we've not even yet thought about!"

BLOOD DRIVE

As we have done for several years, St. Peter's is sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, July 15, 2011, from noon until 5:00 p.m. Co-sponsors include the Kiwanis Club of Gulfport and First United Methodist Church. As Deacon Scott mentioned in his homily on Trinity Sunday, it's all about evangelism, and the best way to evangelize is to reach out into the community. And giving blood is an easy and simple way to help others.

Did you know:

- Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. That blood can only come from a volunteer donor, a person like you who makes the choice to donate. There is no substitute for your donation.
- When you make a blood donation, you join a very select group. Currently only 3 out of every 100 people in America donate blood.

Our blood drives in the past have been successful, but the number of disasters, both at home and abroad, both local and national, are all the more reason to ask how we can help in these trying times.

So, call the church office to schedule a donation time, bring a book or magazine to read while you give, and do something that will help someone else!

Children's Choir News

Do you have children interested in singing for worship? Would you like to join them in an adult/child setting? What kind of scheduling would work for your family? We are interested in hearing from you! New ideas for rehearsal formats and scheduling are being entertained this summer in preparation for the fall program launch. Please contact Barbara Blanchard (blanch433@yahoo.com) with any questions, requests, or suggestions! We need to hear from you and welcome your input! The program will be tailored to our community's interests, so let them be known!

Thank you for your consideration!!

Barbara Blanchard
Christian Formation



Pentecost: Happy Birthday, Church!



Eco-Tips

Did You Know—

- ▶ that switching from paper napkins to cloth napkins could save up to \$511 a year on paper products?
- ▶ that if you shut your computer off before leaving each day, you could save an average of \$90 per year?
- ▶ that obeying the speed limit can save you \$.30 per gallon? (According to the EPA, every 5 miles per hour over 60 mph you drive is equal to paying an extra 30 cents per gallon.)



Sacred Music Concert Report

JT Anglin and Lisa Elliott presented an outstanding concert on June 5 to benefit Mississippi tornado victims. Our thanks go to them for raising \$400 for continuing relief efforts. We appreciate your using your time and talent to assist others.

EfM

What is EfM?

Answer: Education for Ministry.

Learn the stories of the people of God through time as presented by The School of Theology of University of the South. This course of instruction covers the old Testament in year one, the New Testament in year two, Church history before 1800 in year three and Church history after 1800 in year four. EfM is available in two flavors: the traditional seminar class or On-Line meeting. Traditional seminar details are available from Jim Ownbey (228-896-7565). On-Line meeting details are available from Gaye Goodwin (Gngood181@aol.com) or Maggie Jamieson (bmjamie@gmail.com). Registration begins in July and closes in early August.

Congratulations!

Susan Pagano, wife of Richard Pagano, recently retired from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College after teaching for 35 years. Her last position was Chair of the Mathematics Department on the Jefferson Davis Campus of the college.



STATUS OF 2011 PLEDGES:

Financial update as of May 31, 2011

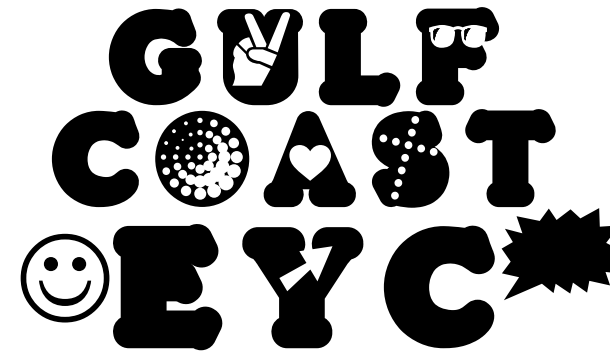
Pledge total for 2011:
\$ 265,405.00

Anticipated pledge receipts thru May 31:
\$ 110,585.40

Actual pledge receipts thru May 31:
\$ 98,846.00

Shortfall of pledge receipts to date:
(\$ 11,739.40)

Is your pledge up to date?



We've worked, played, planned, and baked desserts...and it's finally here! On July 10th, the Gulf Coast EYC will embark on our Summer Mission Trip to Atlanta. We will be taking ten youth (three of which are from St. Peter's) and three chaperones (Erin Dyson-Enamorado, Ginny Davis, and the Rev. Patrick Skutch from Christ Church). During our week in Atlanta we will be assisting with the Emmaus House 7th Heaven Summer Program. The 7th Heaven Summer Program is a seven-week, full-day camp with breakfast and lunch for about 150 neighborhood elementary students. It is hosted by different schools and churches in the community. Our group will assist the 7th Heaven Interns throughout the day program while it is hosted by St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church. We will spend our evenings out enjoying all that the great city of Atlanta has to offer us—the World of Coca-Cola, an Atlanta Braves ball game, and Six Flags! We are very excited to be able to take this trip together. It is sure to be a wonderful opportunity for our youth to continue to grow together as a community of God through service and fellowship.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL OF YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Peace,
Erin and Ginny

Erin Dyson-Enamorado – 228.493.9353
Ginny Davis – 228.223.3836



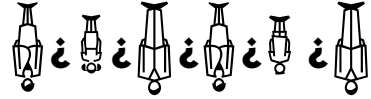
Ladies' Night Out

Our next Ladies' Night Out will be Tuesday, July 26th. Please join us for a fun night of Fellowship and good food.

big thanks!

*A big heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who helped with this year's Vacation Bible School, **God's Galaxy Quest!** Our final count was 46 children who were eager to blast off for adventures that were out of this world every night. We appreciate everyone who helped with decorating, as well as the construction of the worm hole and space ship and for all the teachers and volunteers who turned out every night to pitch in wherever they were needed. From the food and t-shirts, to the crafts, bible stories, costumes, mission and music, it was obvious from the smiles on the children's faces that everyone involved had a great time. We are very blessed to be a part of a church family who pulled out all the stops to make this an incredible week for our children. This year's VBS will be hard to top, but don't worry — we are already busy plotting our next Biblical adventure!*

*Live Long and Prosper!
J.T. and Debbie Anglin
Starfleet Commanders*

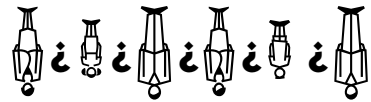


Graduated from Auburn University
in Electrical Engineering
Directed the music for Auburn's
Famous Water Shows
42 years as a Radio Frequency
Engineer for U.S. Military
worldwide
Collects statues of most important
people in World History

Harold Ivey



Here's Who



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

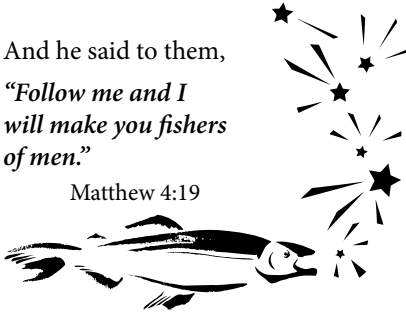
We are a community of faith that seeks to equip and nurture all persons to live out the love of God and to share the message of Jesus Christ through servant ministry to the greater community.

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

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Organization
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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 JULY CALENDAR

4th

*Celebrate at the best
fireworks location on
the coast!*

10th

Second Sunday Forum

15th

Blood Drive

26th

Ladies' Night Out

31st

Fifth Sunday Potluck Lunch

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, August 7
Backpack Blessing

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.