

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
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Children and Communion

This past Sunday, I accidentally gave a child communion who had never received it before. As I was going down the rail, he had his hands out like everybody else, and I gave him communion and then I

immediately realized my mistake because the moment that I put the bread in his hand and said the words—“The Body of Christ; the bread of heaven”—he lit up like it was Christmas. I apologized to the parent after the service, and we said that

we would talk more about it at a later time. But after that, I realized that many of you do not know where I stand on this issue, so I should make my thoughts known publicly.

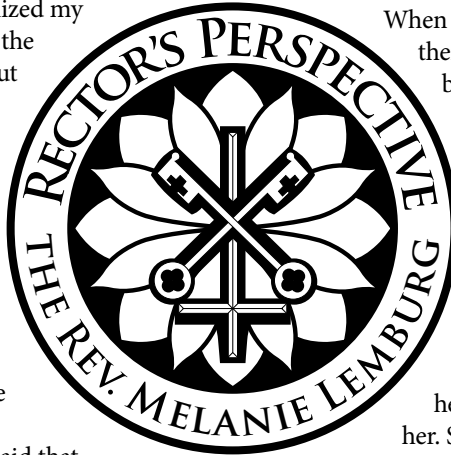
I am a cradle Episcopalian. In the early years of my childhood, I grew up at St. Andrew's Cathedral, and I remember running those halls and participating in Sunday school with a certainty that it was indeed my church, that I belonged there as much as anyone. There is not a time in my life when I cannot remember receiving

communion. In fact, some of my strongest memories of my childhood are memories of being at the communion rail and the strong sense of joy and belonging that I felt there.

When serving at my last church there was child who was not baptized whose parents wanted to wait until she was baptized until she received communion. So she stood at the rail with her family and I offered her a blessing and then moved on, and out of the corner of my eye, I saw her begin to cry as her parents looked on helplessly and tried to console her. So I went back and gave her the bread. I did not want her to have that memory of the church and that feeling of being outside of the most powerful thing that we do.

Our Book of Common Prayer, that which binds us together and shapes how we both pray and believe, says that “Holy baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church.” That means that even the tiniest child who has been baptized is eligible to receive communion.

Now I know that some people think that children need to better understand what is



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Lunch with Julia

20 October 2009



Blessing of the Pets

4 October 2009



EYOC
★by-the-Sea★

Hey everybody!

Thank you to all of the youth who have been a part of EYC so far this year! It has been wonderful to have such a great crowd each Sunday. October started with the Blessing of the Animals service at St. Peter's. The youth did a great job, and we were able to collect much needed supplies for the Humane Society. Thank you to everyone who made a donation and thanks to St. Peter's for inviting us to be a part of the celebration! Our Fall Lock-In took us to The Maize in Lucedale, and then back to St. Patrick's for a night of fellowship, games, and

a spook-tacular time had by all.

See ya'll on Sunday!
Ginny and Erin

Questions? Feel free to call Erin: 228.493.9353 or
Ginny: 228.223.3836

LOOK FORWARD TO:

Sun., Nov. 1 - EYC @ Christ Church, Bay St. Louis

Fri.-Sun., Nov. 6-8 - Happening #70 in Jackson

Fri.-Sun., Nov. 13-15 - Jr. High DOY

Sun., Nov. 15 - Only Sr. High EYC @ St. Patrick's
5-7pm

Sun., Nov. 29 - NO EYC - Thanksgiving Holiday

And don't forget about the Change Wars!

Help our EYC go on a Mission Trip and help your side claim victory!

5TH SUNDAY

November 29th is a Fifth Sunday – this means that the loose plate offering for the 29th will be placed in the Rector’s discretionary fund. This fund is used to help those many people who contact us for assistance with prescriptions, electricity, water bills, and rent, the need is great in our community so please give generously!



We will meet on Tuesday, November 10, at 10 am in the front parlor of the parish hall at St. Peter’s. Anyone interested in knitting, crocheting, sewing or other handwork is invited to attend. For those interested in a small project, pastel yarn will be available for knitting squares for a baby blanket.

Needlecraft Guilds

In support of the ECW Fall event, Lunch with Julia, members of the Needlecraft Guild sold many

different items—scarves, shawls, socks, book marks, decorations, dish cloths, purses and kitchen towels. We raised approximately \$200 from these items. In addition, cook books from Jackson, miscellaneous books and plaques were sold for approximately \$150. We appreciate the talents of Marcy Barker, Sara Scott, Shirley Pate, Tracy Williams, Helen Graham and Judy Ownbey in creating this successful sale.



Dear Parish Family,

Thank you very much for the incredible send-off party and all of the amazing gifts. You all are very generous and I am grateful to have shared time with you while living on the Coast. You are indeed a fantastic group whom I will always be proud of for what you have lived out and for what you have before you to live into. It is your spirit of joy and wonder and adventure and your desire to study and learn about Jesus of long ago and of today and how to serve those in need that make you TOPS. I love each of you and will hold you all close in prayer.

Though we are buying a house in Brevard, North Carolina, for long term use, my mailing address after December 1st for at least the next 18 months will be:

1761 12th Street NE
Hickory, NC 28601.

Email will remain the same: dianelivingston@hotmail.com

GOD’S PEACE, DIANE

CALENDAR

SERVING SCHEDULE

SERVING SCHEDULE

Alzheimer's Memory Walk

A team from St. Peter's participated in the Gulf Coast Memory Walk on Saturday, October 10th. The route of the mile-long walk, which started and ended at the Biloxi Town Green, took walkers through the historic Vieux Marche area and provided participants with the opportunity to honor friends and family with their fund-raising efforts.

Pat Lucas, Tracy Williams, Diane Livingston, Gaye Goodwin and Jim Ownbey joined approximately 145 walkers (representing 16 teams) for the Memory Walk, which was one of eight fund raisers being held throughout the state to benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

Our participation in the Memory Walk has been a tribute to the families of Cully and Picket Randall and Andy and Wendy Herbert. Each has played a pivotal role in the history of St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, and they continue to be an inspiration to us. Through the years, our parish has been greatly blessed by their dedication and generosity of spirit. It is with great humility and admiration that we honor them for their love of one another and for their faithful devotion to family, church and community.

Monies donated by our parish are in honor of the Randall and Herbert families, as well as others. Donations can be placed in the offering plate through Sunday, November 1st, and should be designated for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk. After that date, donations can be made directly to the Miss. Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and mailed to the following address: 1900 Dunbarton Drive; Jackson, MS 39216.

Thank you for contributing to the work being done by the Alzheimer's Association and for honoring the Randall and Herbert families with your continued love, support, and prayers.



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November is here and the Christmas Holidays are going to here before you know it.

Just a few notes about your church: We continue to stay close to our path on finances; we continue to be healthy and are trying to grow. Our budget is close to our expenditures and that is hard, in these times, to say that statement at 9 out of 10 churches. I am very proud of us and our future.

We are excited about electing new vestry members, a new Jr. Warden, and a new finance person. We have great opportunities and I hope you

Sr. Warden's Report

will consider getting involved. We sure need you. Please contact the church office if you wish to serve.

We have a clean-up day coming up. If you can wipe a base board down, we will take you. We will clean the interior and exterior prior to the Holidays. This is a great way to get involved. We will also have a "training" day. If you want to participate in the church services, including usher, acolyte, and chalice bearer, this training will prepare you.

Last, we will be having some unusual service times in the next month, so please check the church

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CALENDAR

Mission & Outreach

OPPORTUNITIES AND REPORTS

Rouse Stamps

St. Peter's Outreach Committee is redeeming Rouse stamps for flatware and serving pieces which are given to the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) clients who are starting a new life with few resources. The deadline for turning in stamps at church is Sunday, November 1. Place the stamps in the offering plate or leave them in the narthex. Thank you for supporting this project.



New Members Ministry

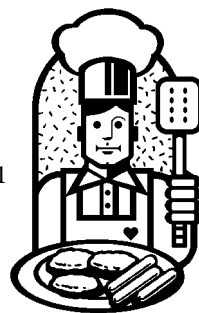
The New Members Ministry has been quite active lately. In addition to making bread deliveries to recent visitors who have expressed an interest in St. Peters (which continues to be required on a weekly basis!), we also coordinated Parish Opportunity Day in late September. For those of you who signed up for committees or activities, you should be contacted by the persons responsible for them shortly. If you are one of the "persons responsible for the committees and activities" — don't forget to contact your new charges and put them to work!



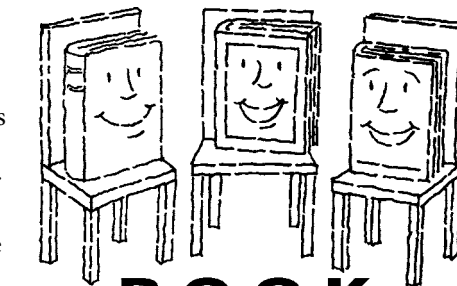
We have also recently updated the Parish Directory. For those having directory binders handed out last year, there is a new insert section to replace the current phone and member list. For those people who didn't receive a directory last year, there are also several full copies available. You may pick up your copies at the back of the Church, or you may stop by Susan Prendergast's office weekday mornings.

Help feed hungry teens

St. Peter's by-the-Sea is responsible for providing the meal for EYC on **Sunday, November 8th** and **Sunday, December 13th**. EYC normally has between 30 and 40 kids in attendance. If you'd be willing to provide the meal on one of these Sundays please contact the church office at 863-2611 and let Susan know.



Dale Belham is hosting the meeting in her home in Windance. We will gather at 5:30 pm on Thursday, November 5, for wine and snacks. A discussion of



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

the book, *The Girls from Ames*, will follow at 6 pm. This in-depth look at the enduring bond of friendship among a tightly knit group of middle-class Midwestern women is the story of ordinary women who built an extraordinary friendship.

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks will be discussed in December. This fictional account tracing the journey of the Sarajevo Haggadah through five centuries will delight and fascinate you. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated with images.

A copy (one of only 2,000) of the Sarajevo Haggadah was given to The Reverend Liz Jones by St. Peter's congregation upon the completion of her time with

us. Many of you probably saw the book at her farewell luncheon.

Directions to Dale Belham's home:

Take I-10 to Canal Road exit and go north to Robinson Road. Robinson Road is the first 4-way stop with a flashing light that you come to. Turn left onto Robinson and go approx. 2 1/2 miles to the entrance of Windance Subdivision. The address is 12356 Windance Drive. We are located on the left (approx. 1/2 mile) and next door to Gini Fellow's home. Phone: 831-0381

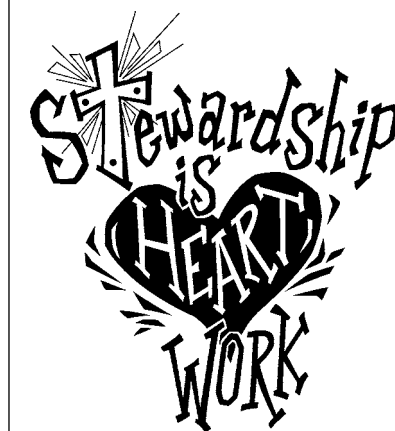
A Prayer for the birth of a child

submitted by Sue Cassady

Heavenly Father, you sent your own Son into this world. We thank you for the life of this child entrusted to our care. Help us to remember that we are all your children, and so to love and nurture her/him, that she/he may attain to the full stature intended for her/him in your eternal kingdom; for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Sr. Warden *continued from page 11.*
calendar to see when those are. You can also see the Bishop at a service and I would like us to have a good showing.

Please let us know how we can serve you better. We surely want to know. My cell number is 297-9520. Call me if you need anything.



Pledge cards for 2010

are enclosed in your newsletter, and additional cards are available in the narthex of the church. We will collect pledge cards during the 9:00 AM service on Sunday, November 1st or you may mail them to the church office. Following the 9:00 AM service on Sunday, November 1st we ask everyone to join us in the Parish Hall for a brunch.

Perspective continued from page 1.

going on before they receive communion, and I certainly respect parents' and families' individual decisions in this, but I also know that I am thankful that my parents did not choose to have me wait until I understood it better because I am 33 years old now and would probably still be waiting because I still don't fully understand it.

So here is my position on this. I believe that children should be full members of the body of Christ that is the Church, and I would lobby for them to receive the bread as early as they are able (at least a couple of teeth are good!). However, I respect

the right of individual families to make this decision, and I will try to uphold that as I am able. (But I should warn you that if they start crying for communion at the altar rail, then all bets are off). If you would like to discuss this further with me in making your decision, then I welcome that conversation. And I pray that each and every one of us, adults and children alike, may taste a small fraction of the joy that that little boy experienced upon his surprise first communion and that we may know a small portion of his understanding of what that meant.



Why is there always water in the baptismal font now?

LITURGICAL NOTES

It is a tradition in some Episcopal Churches to keep holy water available at all times in the font. Some people like to dip their fingers into the water as they come into and/or go out of the church, and with their wet fingers, they make the sign of the cross upon themselves (touching the head, chest, left shoulder, right shoulder, and chest). We do this to remember the vows that we made or that were made for us at our baptism, and I find that when I walk out into the world after a service with a wet forehead, it is a powerful reminder of who God calls me to be.
Melanie+



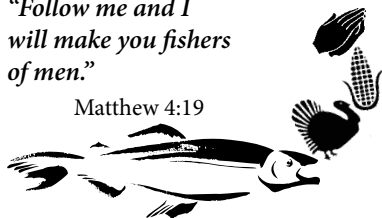
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Episcopal Church
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And he said to them,

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

Matthew 4:19



MARK YOUR NOVEMBER CALENDAR

1st

All Saints' Day

5th

Book Discussion Group

10th

Needlework Guilds

11th

Veterans' Day

22nd

*Thanksgiving service
with First Methodist
Christ the King Sunday*

26th

Thanksgiving

29th

First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 5th

Liturgical Training Day

Dec. 6th

*One service at 9am.
Advent Lessons and
Carols.
Celebration of New
Ministry*

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Births:

Samuel Kyle Cooley, Jr., grandson of Barbara Langlois

Transferred In:

Bob Wolford from St. Paul's in Columbus, Mississippi

Death:

Lillian Culpepper "Cully" Randall

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.