

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

The Rev. Melanie Lemburg,
Rector
mdlensburg@yahoo.com

The Rev. Scott Williams,
Deacon
scott_e_wms@yahoo.com

Marie Porter, Senior Warden
mariesubqueen@cablone.
net

J.T. Anglin, Music Director
noazdad@netzero.com

Susan Prendergast,
Administrative Assistant
stpetersbts@yahoo.com

The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, III
Bishop, Diocese of Mississippi

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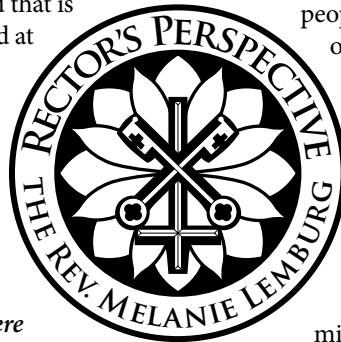
On Longing and Belonging: St. Peter's Fall Commitment Campaign

There is so much anxiety in our culture and our world these days. I've been pondering it and where it fits within the Kingdom of God. It's easy to say that anxiety is doubt and fear and they have no place in the God's kingdom. But I do not think that is correct. The more I think about it, the more I believe that anxiety is the shadow side of longing; it is longing gone wrong or misplaced. Longing is a seed that is planted in our hearts by God at our birth, and the purpose of that longing is to draw us back home, back to God. One of my favorite poets speaks to this when he says, *Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:/The Soul that rises with us, our Life's Star/Hath had elsewhere its setting,/And cometh from afar:/ Not in entire forgetfulness./ And not in utter nakedness,/ But trailing clouds of glory do we come/From God, who is our home:/Heaven lies about us in our infancy!/Shades of the prison-house begin to close/Upon the growing boy,/But he beholds the light, and whence it flows,/He sees it in his joy.*¹ In writing about this excerpt from this poem, the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr writes, "Mature religion is always trying to get you out of the closing prison-house of the false self."² We become

anxious when we are not attentive to our true longing, when we are not pursuing that for which we truly long. And that deepest is longing is for the home that we know and have in God. We are filled with God only when we empty ourselves of our own anxiety and the other parts of us that keep us from being united with God.

It is the mission of this church to point people to God, to remind us of our longing and how we find fulfillment. The mission statement of St. Peter's by-the-Sea says that it is our mission "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." But in order for the church to

do this, you must ask yourself, "How much do I want to be equipped and nurtured, especially if it means emptying myself of the parts that stand in the way between God and me?" Only God can fill that longing, not the church. But it is our job to walk with you in that longing, to love you and nurture you, to try to point you in the right direction toward God and God's Good News, Jesus Christ, and to help you listen to the Holy Spirit which is always



Annual Halloween Party

St. Peter's Social Club (the group formerly known as the Young Adults) is hosting its annual Halloween Party on Monday, October 31st at the home of Alan and Andrea Jones. The Joneses live in the Greenview neighborhood (2520 Greenview Drive), and if you arrive before 5:30,

you can park on the street or in the driveway. If you arrive after 5:30, the street will be barricaded, so you

will have to park outside the subdivision and walk. Children and adults will begin trick-or-treating between 6:00 and 6:30. Costumes are encouraged! Please, bring a dish to share, and we'll eat before we trick-or-treat. If you have questions, call Andrea at 228-324-0825 or Patti Nicholas at 228-357-1551.



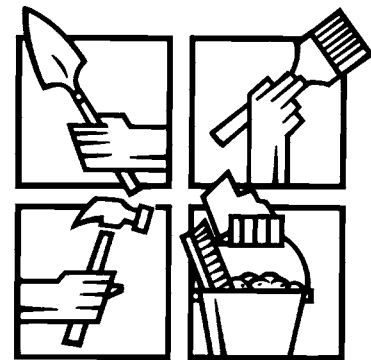
Harvest Pot Luck Dinner and Silent Auction

Benefiting Interfaith Hospitality Network / Rebekah House

Beauvoir United Methodist Church
2113 Pass Road • Biloxi, Mississippi 39531
Sunday, October 30 at 12:30 p.m.

We are asking each family to bring a covered dish. Drinks and tableware will be provided. A Love Offering will be received along with a Silent Auction. We already have some exciting auction items including: McElroy gift certificates, hotel stays, furniture, etc.

Let us celebrate God's gifts by helping families find the stability and resources they need!



CHURCH WORKDAY

We will have a parish wide workday on Saturday, October 22nd from 8AM until noon.

Bring your rakes, yard tools, window cleaners, rags, etc. and join in. Remember more hands make for an easier day. Lunch will be served.

In addition to the exterior projects, we need people who are willing to work inside (parish hall, kitchen, church, sacristy, parlor/library, choir room, vesting rooms) to help us take inventory of all church property.

Are you interested in learning more about the order of the Diaconate?

If so, you can attend an information session called *The Day on the Diaconate* from 9-3 at Trinity, Hattiesburg on Saturday, October 22nd. If you are interested in attending or want to learn more, please, contact our deacon, the Rev. Scott Williams.

Inquirers' Class

Are you interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church? Do you want to know why we do certain things on Sunday and what we mean? Melanie will be leading a weekend retreat type Inquirers' class this year on Friday and Saturday, November 4-5 at the church.

We'll begin with dinner on Friday night at 6:00 pm, and we'll eat together and get to know one another, and then we will discuss a variety of topics about the Episcopal Church and our peculiar way of life and worship. Topics will include where did the Episcopal Church come from, unique Episcopal words, governance questions, the sacraments, a walk-through the Book of Common Prayer, Episcopal authority, how Episcopalians read the bible, themes seasons of the church year, and a little bit of church history. We will close our time with an Instructed Eucharist which is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with explanation about what we are doing scattered through-out. There will be the opportunity to ask ample questions throughout the entire class (including the Eucharist). We will meet on Friday night from 6-9 and Saturday from 9-4. This class is very appropriate for adults who wish to be baptized, people who want to be confirmed or received from another tradition when the bishop comes in January, people who are new to the Episcopal church, and people who want a refresher course on all things Episcopal. Please, contact Melanie if you have any questions.

Town Hall Meeting

Would you like to learn more about the Vestry's goals and plans for St. Peter's by-the-Sea over the next 5 years? Then come to the Town Hall meeting which will be held in the parish hall on Wednesday, October 19th from 6:00-7:00 (following supper). We have a lot of exciting plans and many exciting things going on in the life of St. Peter's by-the-Sea, and we want to share it all with you! Come and see!



Guess Who?

This person is:

- ❑ Born in Greenville, MS, reared in Hollandale, MS
- ❑ Undergraduate degree from Delta State Univ.
- ❑ Engineer on a Mississippi River Boat
- ❑ Graduate degree, University of Alabama
- ❑ Taught at Co-Lin Jr. College and Millsaps College
- ❑ President of Faculty Club at Millsaps
- ❑ Loves to visit battlefields, especially Vicksburg
- ❑ Describes self as a "history nut"

(Answer on page 18.)



Mission & Outreach

OPPORTUNITIES AND REPORTS

FEED MY SHEEP

Christie and Harry Yoste were responsible for September's Second Sunday Feed My Sheep lunch. They were assisted by Phil Parker, Paul Krass, Maria Porter, Meri and Cris Ionescu, Linda Koury, Marvin Koury and myself. Once again, Jane Glenn and Cheryl Smith made their wonderful homemade cookies to add to the lunches. It was good to see that with teamwork we were able to make the lunches while the kitchen was also being used for our Sunday School Kick Off Breakfast.

Judy and Jim Ownbey will be responsible for coordinating our October 9th Second Sunday Feed My Sheep lunches. Please us in the kitchen to assist in making the 50 lunches.

Thanks to the able organization of Mary Alice Bailey, the schedule for the remainder of the year for our every other Monday serving at Feed My Sheep has been posted. For October 14th servers will be: Patti Golden, Maryem Hopkins, Ruthie Murdock and Bill Murdock. Our October 24th servers will be: Cheryl Smith, Suzie Patricks, Mary Alice Bailey and Dawn Ruble. Thanks to our members who continue to provide their designated help on Mondays at Feed My Sheep. Feed My Sheep served over 4000 meals in September to the walk-ins and the shut-ins! This count does not include the Sunday lunches.

IHN

August 28-Sept 3 was our next week to provide meals for IHN. As this fell on Labor Day Weekend, a special thanks goes out to Judy and Jim Joste, Christie and Harry Yoste, Meri and Cris Ionescu, Dawn and John Ruble and others for providing dinners to the residents during this time. Patti Nicholas continues to coordinate St. Peter's efforts for the IHN.

According to the President of the IHN Board of Directors, the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is in "...dire financial straits" and "...beg for your charity on behalf of homeless parents with children."

"The mission of the Interfaith Hospitality Network is to empower, mobilize and educate homeless families with children to achieve self-sufficiency.

The target population is families with children 18 or younger." From Long Beach to Ocean Springs, this is the only "...agency which operates such a program where intact families are able to shelter together and work on their barriers to employment and housing."

Any special gift you might wish to give to IHN may be made through St. Peter's with a check to Susan. Thank you for your consideration!

FOOD PANTRY

St. Peter's members continue to remember to bring food items for the community pantry.

Canned and dry food contributions are always welcomed. The food basket is located by the front entrance in the Narthex.

CLOTHING FOR HARRISON COUNTY CHILDREN'S SHELTER

Our Back-to-School efforts to provide clothing for girls' sizes 6-6X (pants and tops) to the Harrison County Children's Shelter was a big success. According to Leslie Stanfield, the coordinator of this mission, we were able to provide for girls at the Shelter 10 outfits, 7 tops, 2 pants, 2 dresses and 6 underpants. A big thanks to all who contributed to this effort!

Respectfully submitted,
Candace B. Ozerden



Stewardship

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their

financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

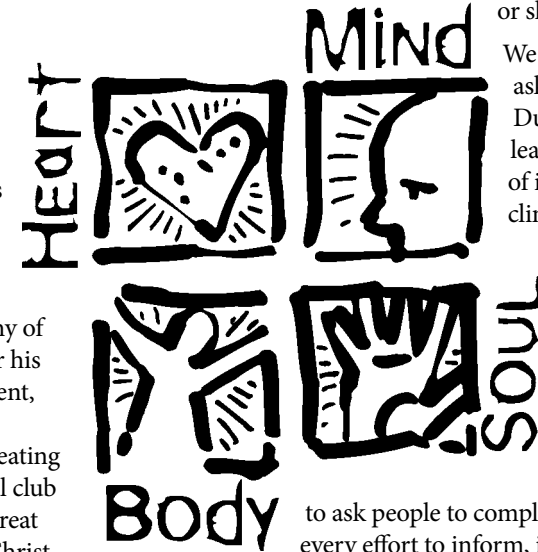
We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Vestry members. Since we will make no follow-up visits

to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Marie Porter
Senior Warden



Ladies' Night Out

Our next Ladies' Night Out will be Tuesday, October 25th. We had 30 women participate in our August ladies night out...please join us.

Belonging *continued from page 1.*

working quietly within your own soul, working to bring you back to your true home in God.

This fall, St. Peter's by-the-Sea will be nurturing you through our fall commitment campaign. There are three parts to this commitment campaign, all of which you can read about in this edition of the Key. First, we are having small group meetings in peoples' homes and one big town hall meeting at the church to invite you to commit to the Vestry's vision and goals for the next five year of our life together. Marie will share more about this part in her Sr. Warden's column. The Second part of this campaign is Consecration Sunday, which is the fall celebration and financial commitment at St. Peter's and is also detailed elsewhere in this Key.

Finally, I am inviting you into a season of examining your commitment to the church through membership and involvement. Are you a member of St. Peter's by-the-Sea? Have you been

baptized here, confirmed or received here by the bishop or requested that your letter be transferred from another church? If you have not, then you are technically not a member. Now, maybe you do not need or desire membership here, and that is perfectly acceptable. We will continue to feed and nurture you as if you were. But maybe, you are longing for a deeper commitment in the life of faith, and one step in that might be membership in a particular community of faith. I invited you into discernment of that in this season. I recently read an article which quoted the Lutheran pastor Peter Marty on membership in a congregation. He said, "The beautiful part of belonging to a congregation...is that you create a community of common people gathered for a holy purpose and united by that sense of purpose. When you become a member...you discover the privilege of being a giver as well as a taker. A church,

1 Wordsworth, William. *Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood. Immortal Poems of the English Language* (New York: Washington Square) 260f.

**... a community of
common people gathered for
a holy purpose and united
by that sense of purpose.**

2 Rohr, Richard. *Falling Upward. A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life.* Jossey-Bass: 2011, p 99.

3 Peter Marty as quoted in Christian Century article *Loose Connections* May 31, 2011 p 23).

unlike other sectors of society, does not have qualifications for joining. Membership is open to all. But it does involve an element of commitment, even a covenant, with a specific group of people over time. That is the secret gift that unfolds as you become integrated into something that is larger than yourself. You find yourself saying yes to possibilities that you would never otherwise imagine.”³

I will be holding an Inquirers' Class in early November that will serve as preparation for baptism, confirmation or reception—all ways that one may become a member of the Episcopal Church. We will also have forms available in the church and in the office that you can fill out if you would like to have your membership

transferred from another Episcopal Church to St. Peter's by-the-Sea. If you have questions about any of this, please, call or email me. If you are a member of St. Peter's by-the-Sea, I invite

you to ask yourself if you are being nurtured and equipped in your life among us to spread the good news of Jesus Christ? If not, what do you think is lacking either in your own spirit or in the life of the church? Might God be calling you to deeper involvement in this particular community of faith and in our common life?

We make room for God in our lives when we give of ourselves—to God and to others— and when we empty ourselves of our pride in our accomplishments and our endeavors. The Church cannot do this difficult work for you. Only you can do it; only you can invite God into your longing for God and for Home. But we can serve as “the tugboat to get you away from the shore and out into the right sea; [we can be] the oars to get you working and engaged with the Mystery.”⁴

4 Rohr, Richard. *Falling Upward. A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life.* Jossey-Bass: 2011, p 98.

CALENDAR

SERVING SCHEDULE

SERVING SCHEDULE

CALENDAR

Called to Leadership

In January, the people of St. Peter's by-the-Sea will elect a new Junior Warden and three new vestry members. You may nominate qualified individuals by first obtaining their permission and then contacting a member of the nominating committee (Judy Joest, Alan Jones, Doug Singletary, or Bob Wolford) with that name and the specific office for which he or she will run. Please, consider taking part in the life of our church in this way. We will hold Vestry elections at the

Annual Parish meeting. Below are the expectations and qualifications for a member of the Vestry or Warden at St. Peter's by-the-Sea.

Attend 80% or more of Vestry meetings (date tbd by vestry)

Attend annual Vestry retreat.

Be visible (through regular church attendance and participation in parish activities)

Function on or within the commission of your designated area or areas

Serve as a liaison between congregation and leadership

Be a confirmed communicant in good standing who is over 18 years of age.

Be an upstanding member of the community.

Give regularly.

Be diplomatic and a team player.

Be prayerful.

St. Peter's Roundup

(not by the sea or pearly gates)

The Roundup has been scheduled for Saturday, October 1st so hitch up the buggy, get maw and the kids ready for a fun filled afternoon and evening at Helen and Virgil Gillespie's farm (17092 Carlton Cuevas Road, Gulfport).

Pony rides, hayrides, swimming, and many, many more activities for the entire family.

Just bring a pot of trail style vittles to share with the other cowpokes, some branch water or beverages of your choice, a stump to sit on and a hankerin' for a great time of fellowship.

Festivities will begin at 4:00 pm and last until the coyotes start howling.

Ballroom Dance Class to Begin Soon

A new Ballroom Dance Class will be held at St. Peter's beginning in October. People have been requesting another class for some time, and now it has been arranged. If you have an interest in this exciting activity, please register soon because it will be limited to a maximum of 20 persons. You do not have to have a partner to register. However, you will learn more quickly if you have someone with whom you can practice during the week.

The Class will be taught by Linda Forst, a professionally trained ballroom dance instructor with years of teaching experience. Helen and Edwin Graham will coordinate the arrangements.

The Class will meet on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. beginning October 4 and continuing through November 15. No class will be held on October 25, the night of the Men's Grilling Group and Ladies' Night Out.

The cost of the six sessions will be \$40 per person for the six weeks. Two dances per week will be the focus of study each week. Snacks, soft drinks and wine will be available at the break. If you do not have appropriate ballroom dance music to use in your practice, a CD with a variety of practice music will be available.

To register for the class, or for additional information, please call the Church Office (863-2611) or the Grahams (863-2343).

Blessing of the Animals Scheduled for October 2nd

St. Peter's by-the-Sea's Annual St. Francis of Assisi Day *Blessing of the Animals* will be Sunday, October 2 at 5:30 pm in the courtyard near St. Francis' statue (east side of the parish hall). Hosted by the Gulf Coast EYC. We will give thanks for our pets' presence in our lives and offer them a blessing.

The EYC will be accepting donations to be taken to the South Mississippi Humane Society; you may bring an item on their wish list at <http://hssm.org/help/wishlist> to the church, and we will transport it to them, or you may give a monetary donation. Come and celebrate our special furry, slimy, slithery, four-legged friends. Stay for food and live music by *The Reasons Why* after the blessing.

ECW NEWS

Our ECW fall Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1st. Help will be needed from many hands. Tickets may be purchased from Dottie Long and Joann Vanatta.



Third Sunday Forum, October 16 *Building Community in the Church*

Building Community in the Church is the topic Dr. Jim Flanders will address in the Third Sunday Forum in October. The sense of Community is what makes a Church more dynamic and effective in its ministry.

Dr. Flanders is the Staff Psychologist at Memorial Behavioral Hospital in Gulfport. His doctorate is in both social and clinical psychology. He is the creator of the "Hometown Neighborhood Design" which fosters community. He will speak to us regarding ways we can strengthen the factors which bind us into community within our Church.

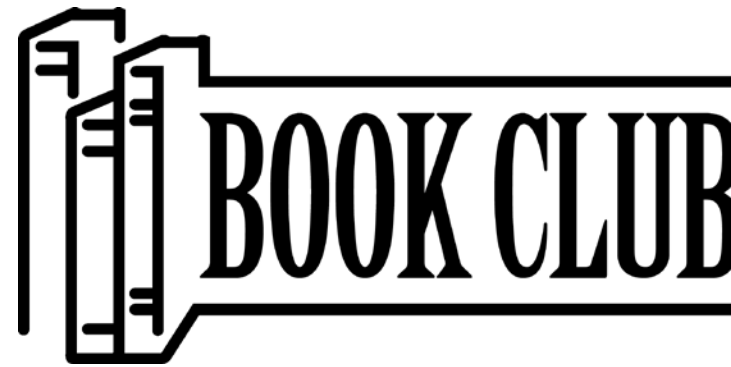
Remember the Forum begins with coffee at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall and the lecture and discussion begins at 9:15. The session will end no later than 10:15 in order that everyone can attend the 10:30 worship service.

If you have a topic you would like for us to discuss at St. Peter's, please give your suggestion to Edwin Graham (863-2343)

Mark the third Sunday in each month because we have a wide variety of interesting and provocative topics that will be discussed by competent leaders. Come, let us grow together.



All adult participants interested in helping with the December 18th Advent Lessons and Carols are asked to attend a planning meeting on Sunday, October 9th at 4PM.



The Book Club will meet on Thursday, October 6, at 5:30 pm at the home of Jackie Krass. Sarah Scott will lead the discussion of the book, *A Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks.

Synopsis: In 1666, when an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to the isolated settlement of shepherds and lead miners, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna's eyes the reader follows the story of the plague year, as her fellow villagers make an extraordinary choice: convinced by a visionary young minister they elect to quarantine themselves within the village boundaries to arrest the spread of the disease.

November Book selection: In Garth Stein's novel, Fido speaks. Well not exactly speaks, but pooch Enzo does narrate *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. From his floor-hugging position, this restless Lab-terrier mix dispenses trenchant views on life, car racing, and his nominal owner, Denny Swift. Stein's daring use of a four-legged narrator doesn't distract us from the story of would-be NASCAR driver Swift; in fact, it effectively lightens the tone of Denny's bumpy ride.

Directions to the home of Jackie Krass at 12192 Canal Road:

Take I-10 West to the Canal Road Exit – Turn right and go north – Pass Landon Road (light) – Continue North – Pass Catfish Charlie's Restaurant on the left and Orange Grove Road on the right – Continue north 1/4 mile – Brick Home is on the right - Mailbox on right entrance to drive, tall pine tree on left of driveway – 12192 Canal Road. Home Phone: 832-2979

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.

Anglican Aesthetics starts October 26th

Beginning Oct. 26, Sarah Scott will lead the Wednesday night adult formation hour exploring our identity with Anglican Aesthetics and the importance of beauty in our churches throughout the worldwide Anglican Community.

The four sessions will begin with *Creating with the Creator* and then on successive Wednesdays, *Church Vestments, Their Origin and Development, The First 20,000 Years of Fabric*, and *Color – Why the World Isn't Gray*.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! to Patti Nicholas who spent two long days in the office during September cleaning, sorting and labeling the supply closet.

ALSO, a big thank you to the "Angels" who spent many hard sweaty hours weeding and working on the flower beds at St. Peter's...your hard work was noticed and greatly appreciated!

PARISH TREASURER

In September the vestry accepted the resignation of Bill Williams as treasurer. We thank Bill for answering the call when asked to fill this position two years ago. We have been blessed by his outstanding service and ministry to the church. The Vestry has appointed Neely Whites to the position, you may read a little about her below:

Born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi and attended St. Andrew's Episcopal School from K through 12th. I left Jackson to attend Tulane University in New Orleans, majoring in chemical engineering. I worked as an engineer for 6 years. While an engineer I went back to Tulane and earned my MBA with Finance and Management concentrations from the AB Freeman School of Business, attending class in the evenings and on weekends. When my engineering job disappeared in a company reorganization I decided to try my hand renovating historic homes in New Orleans, based on some experience renovating my own properties and a fantastic real estate finance class that I took in business school. That went well until Hurricane Katrina came along.

I relocated to the Coast with my then-husband within weeks of Katrina, but continued to commute to New Orleans daily for over a year to finish projects and to help friends rebuild. In 2007 the mortgage and real estate markets began falling apart and I realized I should put myself back to work using my finance education, since that is what I love and do best. I have been very fortunate to work at Strojny and Strojny for the past four years, and have learned a lot and built a loyal client base. I will start a private practice, Neely Whites Tax and Financial LLC, in October, 2011. I hold my Series 7 investment license, am an Enrolled Agent, licensed to represent clients before the IRS, and also have a busy accounting/bookkeeping business.

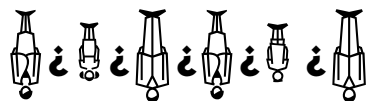
On the personal side of things, I have a son, Andrew, who will be 4 on 11/11/11. I divorced in 2009 so it is difficult to find time for hobbies between work and parenting, but I am looking forward to working in my garden and exercising with my new workout buddy, Melanie Lemburg! I am on the Stewardship Committee at St. Peters and am looking forward to the opportunity as Treasurer to do the work I love for my church family.

Melanie and Scott will be at Annual Clergy Conference at Gray Center October 24–27. In case of a pastoral emergency, call the church office or Marie Porter, Senior Warden.



October Angels:

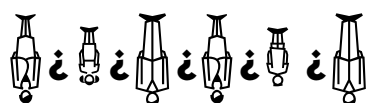
Cheryl Smith, Patti Golden, Larry
and Karen Brassell



Rufus "Ruff" Turner



Here's Who



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

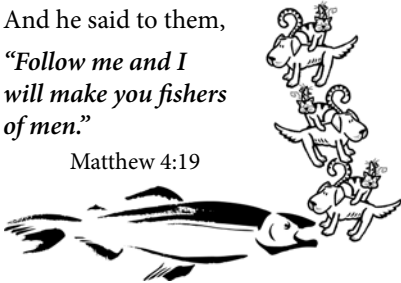
We are a community of faith that seeks to equip and nurture all persons to live out the love of God and to share the message of Jesus Christ through servant ministry to the greater community.

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

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

Matthew 4:19



MARK YOUR OCTOBER CALENDAR

1st

St. Peter's Round-up

2nd

Pet Blessing

4th

Ballroom Dancing by the Sea

8th

Liturgical Training Day

16th

Third Sunday Forum

22nd

Work day at the church

25th

Ladies' Night Out

31st

Halloween Party

NOVEMBER BAPTISMS

The next principal feast day of the church year upon which baptisms will be conducted will be the Sunday after All Saints, Sunday November 6th. If you or someone you know would like to be baptized, please, contact the church office a.s.a.p.

Liturgical Training Day

Saturday, October 8th at 10:00 am. We will provide training for people who would like to serve as Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors on Sunday mornings. If you would like to be trained as an usher, call Jim Joest at 228-860-5522.

SAVE THE DATE: Advent
Quiet Day at St. Peter's by-the-Sea
on Saturday, December 3rd from
9:30-3:00. Our leader will be the
Rev. Betsy Baumgarten who is the
new chaplain at Coast Episcopal
School.