

# ST. PETER'S NET

St. Peter's by-the-Sea Newsletter



**M**y favorite television show is, without a doubt, LOST. LOST tells the story of a group of plane crash survivors on a mysterious tropical island, and their struggle to make it off the island and repair their lives. If you're already a LOST fan, then you know why Melody and I love it. If you haven't joined the LOST bandwagon yet, I have to admit that it's not an easy show to get into at this point, but you really have no idea what you're missing.

The huge ensemble cast, remote filming locations and complex storyline make the production of LOST a huge undertaking, so episodes come out less regularly than many other network dramas. Sometimes almost a year can go by without a new episode, which makes for some serious suspense (the next new episode doesn't air until 2010!). During that time bloggers and websites debate and discuss the nuances of plot, dissecting episodes for meaning or hints of what is to come. So what could be a huge hindrance to momentum in the show—the long delays between shows—turns out to generate *more* excitement.

The time away means that LOST fans anticipate new episodes with the enthusiasm of children at Christmas.

Summertime in the church calendar feels a little bit like a hit TV show on break. We're chugging along, putting out our own version of a hit, weekly drama (Eucharist, Sunday School, Choir, etc.). And then, summer arrives and the energy drops. People go on vacation; kids go away to camp; folks head to the beach and golf course. Summer comes and the momentum we had been building during the spring seems to fade.

But like a LOST groupie waiting for the new season, we are eagerly anticipating the fall kickoff at St. Peter's. That's when Sunday School will launch for children and adults. That's when the choir will be back in their stalls, making a joyful noise. That's when Journey to Adulthood will resume its ministry to our youth. That's when the newly formed councils will begin their work in leading our parish as we grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ. That's when you get the big payoff and recommit yourself and your family to joining in the fun.

I hope you've had a restful and rejuvenating summer. I certainly have. Melody and I spent time in Sewanee, Tennessee, continuing our own theological education and getting some away time on "The Holy Mountain." The crowds on the beach are a little too intimidating for us, but we've found other summertime activities to refresh us. My hope is that your summer has provided some quality, healthy time for you and your family.

But get excited about the return of your favorite show this fall: the one starring you and God and a couple hundred new and old friends, set in a cute church in a coastal New England town. Sound like a surefire ratings smash? It does to me. Hey... who needs LOST anyway, when you've got Jesus and St. Peter's?!

Casey+  
August 2009

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 - *Eucharist with no music*

9:00 - *Christian Education for all ages*

10:15 - *Eucharist with Choir and music*

11:15 - *Coffee Hour*

## ST. PETER'S BY-THE-SEA

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[www.stpetersbythesea.com](http://www.stpetersbythesea.com)

## Our St. Peter's Family

### *We celebrate with*

- ✠ Elizabeth Okero, who traveled to Kenya in May to bring supplies to an orphanage for HIV/AIDS children.
- ✠ Casey and Melody Shobe, who welcomed their new daughter, Isabelle Aubrey, into the world on August 6.

### *We mourn with*

- ✠ the family of Francis Knowles, who died on June 15.
- ✠ the family of Kay Alden, who died on June 27. Kay's daughter, Janet, and son, John, are also parishioners.
- ✠ the family of Vincent Lilla, who died on July 16. Vincent's wife, Ruth, is also a parishioner.

## General Convention 2009 *Casey's Reflections*

The 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church took place July 8-17 in Anaheim, California. Often likened to a huge family reunion, General Convention is the governing body of our church that meets every three years and is comprised of a bicameral legislature (a House of Deputies and a House of Bishops) that represents all the dioceses and people of the Episcopal Church. This year there were several thousand people in attendance, with 150 bishops, 830 deputies, 1500 volunteers, plus hundreds of vendors, supporters, family members, and spectators in the crowds. There were close to 8,000 at the Sunday Eucharist! General Convention conducts a wide variety of business, from approving budgets to liturgical changes (i.e. Prayer Book changes) to addressing social or humanitarian crises.



Much media attention was focused upon two resolutions that passed both houses: C056, which called for a “pastoral response” by the church in those parts of the country where same-gendered people may now legally marry, as well as the gathering of liturgical materials to assist in this; and D025, which recognizes that there is no differentiation of who God calls to holy orders, regardless of sexual orientation, and resolves that the discernment process is open to all baptized Christians. Already these two resolutions have generated a tremendous amount of conversation on blogs and in newspaper articles and editorials.

These two resolutions were not the only ones discussed at GC. Here are just a few of the others:

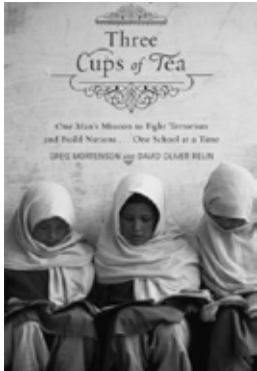
- ❖ **A088** *The development of new liturgies for reproductive loss*
- ❖ **A098** *New commemorations for trial use (112 new “saints” added)*
- ❖ **A138** *Mandatory lay pension for all employees working 1,000 hours or more*
- ❖ **A143** *Continuation of conversations on Episcopal involvement in the American slave trade*
- ❖ **A177** *Mandatory denominational health plan for all employees working 1,500 hours or more*
- ❖ **A185** *Reforms to clergy discipline procedures*
- ❖ **D019** *Commitment to fund the Millennium Development Goals (0.7% of operating revenue)*
- ❖ **D055** *Reaffirmation the tithe (10%) as the minimum standard of giving*
- ❖ *Consented to the election of three new bishops (South Dakota, Long Island, Central Ecuador)*

I believe that General Convention positively responded to the legalization of marriage between gay and lesbian persons in many states. Our own ecclesiastical debates about homosexuality haven't slowed the country from legitimizing gay marriage, which forces the Church to respond pastorally. I also think GC appropriately embraced the right of all baptized Christians to enter the discernment process, regardless of sexual orientation. God calls whom God calls. But contrary to what you may have heard, GC did not approve marriage or blessing rites for same-gender couples, and the Bishop of Rhode Island maintains her prohibition of such rites in this diocese.

Why should you care about General Convention? Well, St. Peter's is not an island unto itself. We are part of a wider church, and General Convention reminds us of the bonds we share with other Episcopal churches around the country, as well as our sister churches elsewhere in the world. And it reminds us of the diverse issues the church must face as we grow into the body of Christ today: from health care to liturgical innovation to sexuality.

## St. Peter's Book Club *Three Cups of Tea*

The St. Peter's Book Club will discuss its next book, *Three Cups of Tea*, on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. The book tells the story of high mountain climber



Greg Mortenson, who, after a failed summit attempt on K2, was sheltered for seven weeks by a small Pakistani village. In return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a pledge he kept. Eventually he created the Central Asia Institute, which has constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and

Afghanistan. *Three Cups of Tea* recounts Mortenson's heroic efforts to do something sacrificially generous and hopeful in the face of many obstacles. Captivating and suspenseful, with engrossing accounts of both hostilities and unlikely friendships, this book will impress and inspire.

### Calendar of Events

**August 23 South County Chamber Orchestra**  
4:00 p.m. *A marvelous, annual concert held at St. Peter's*

**September 9 St. Peter's Knitting Group**  
7:00 p.m. *Monthly gathering*

**September 13 Kickoff Sunday**  
*Ministry Fair, Fall Barbeque and First Day of Children's Sunday School*

**September 14 St. Peter's Book Club**  
6:30 p.m. *Discussion of Three Cups of Tea*

**September 20 Adult Forum resumes**  
*Church Words You Think You Ought to Know But Don't Remember Learning*

**October 2-3 ECW Retreat to Canonicus**  
*Overnight retreat for women*

*Alcoholics Anonymous meets every morning at 7 o'clock at the Town Beach, and Narcotics Anonymous meets here on Monday and Saturday evenings at 7:30. If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, these are safe communities who can help you heal. You are not alone.*

## Knitting Club Michele Lamb



The St. Peter's Knitting Group meets the second Wednesday of each month. It is a very informal group of knitters who attend when their schedules permit. There has been a sharing of patterns, ideas, expertise and chat. The best part is there are no dishes, laundry, cleaning or kids. New members are always welcome and you don't have to be an experienced knitter to attend; a helping hand is always available. We are planning a road trip in the fall to Webs, a yarn outlet in Massachusetts (stay tuned for more details). So if you have nothing planned and are interested in a relaxed evening, join us on September 9 at 7:00 p.m.

### Healing From Pain *Church Women's Retreat*

The Episcopal Church Women of Rhode Island are having a Spiritual Retreat on October 2 and 3 at the Canonicus Retreat Center. The Guest Facilitator will be Ann Marie Hood, Providence native and acclaimed novelist. After her 5-year-old daughter died in 2002, Ann battled grief and anger at God. But the spiritual and emotional pain healed over time (helped along by knitting), and she adopted a baby girl in 2005. All women are invited on this two-day exploration of loss and the new life that is possible on the other side. Reserve your spot at the retreat by September 8 by calling the Church Office or Elaine DaRosa at 295-5758.

### Back in Session *St. Peter's Pre-School*



Pre-school will re-open on Wednesday, September 16 with some new paint and carpet! Our New Parent Meeting is Thursday, September 3 from 7-8 p.m. This will be an orientation for first-time parents concerning program and policy. Social, physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual growth in an imaginative, relaxed and loving atmosphere is the continued goal for our children. If you would like to enroll your child, please call Carol Stuart 789-7554 or the Church Office 783-4623.

## Books for a Better World *Helping Kids Read*



While in Nicaragua recently, St. Peter's parishioners Bob and Barbara Bergen were introduced to a remarkable literacy program for children. An organization called Books for a Better World helps

remote, rural villages construct "reading corners," where local children may come and borrow books. Functioning like a children's lending library, these "reading corners" are filled with donated books in English and Spanish. The Bergens plan to send a shipment of gently used books to Nicaragua at the end of September. If you would like to donate any of your old children's books to this worthy cause, drop them off in the Parish Hall. To learn more about the Bergens' time in Nicaragua or Books for a Better World, email Barbara at [bergen123@cox.net](mailto:bergen123@cox.net).

## Calling All Acolytes *A Special Ministry*

All St. Peter's children and youth who currently serve as acolytes or are interested in this special ministry are required to attend a refresher and training on October 18 following the 10:15 service. Those in grades



3-5 are eligible to serve as Torchbearer, Middle School age youth are eligible for Bookbearer, and High School age youth are eligible to serve as Crucifer and Thurifer (handle the incense). This training is mandatory for all acolytes; if your child cannot attend, you must make arrangements to fulfill this requirement at some other time. Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP to the Church Office (783-4623) to help us get an accurate count.



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