

ST. PETER'S NET

St. Peter's by-the-Sea Newsletter

I hope most of you know by now that the Diocese of Rhode Island has a sister diocese in Ezo, southern Sudan. We include them in our Sunday prayers occasionally, and I've sent financial contributions to support projects like purchasing bicycles and solar-powered portable lights. It's wonderful to have diocesan companion relationships with places that are far away, and could easily go unheard of without that special bond.

But did you know that we also have a diocesan partnership with the Diocese of Louisiana? It was established a few years back, though we probably remember this relationship far less often than the one with Ezo.

I've been thinking about our brothers and sisters in Louisiana a lot recently. Even as we come upon the five-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina this August (can you believe it's been five years!?), they are only beginning to experience another massive disaster — only this one is man made. As I write this, an estimated 20,000 barrels of oil a day continue to pour from an uncontained well 5,000 feet below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico, forty miles from the shore of Louisiana. Oil has begun washing ashore throughout the Gulf, creating what will likely be the

largest environmental disaster in American history, and it is likely that Louisiana's shores will bear much of the brunt of the spill.

Before I say anything else, let me first ask you to pray. Pray for the varied ecosystems that will be completely destroyed or radically altered for the worse: fisheries, turtle nesting grounds, wetlands, beaches. Pray for the people of the Gulf Coast whose lives have once again been flipped upside down, especially the fishermen and shrimpers. Pray for the people working night and day to stop the flow of oil, to hasten their success. And pray for the families of the eleven workers killed in the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling platform.

Perhaps, like me, you experience a wave of emotions when watching or listening to the news about this ongoing catastrophe. I have teared up more than once at the pictures or stories coming from Louisiana and the rest of the area. My grief is great, but it is surely nothing compared with that of our friends living there.

But grief is not my only emotion, and it may not be yours, either. I'm also angry. Angry at BP and Transocean, the two companies involved in the platform. Angry at the regulators who failed to prevent this tragedy by apparently lax

oversight. Angry at the failure to cap the massive leaking flow.

But guess who needs to be included in that list? Me. And you, too.

As Christians, we believe that our lives are deeply interconnected with one another, such that our sins and mistakes never occur in complete isolation. So though it is tempting to castigate the "perpetrators" of this grave sin against nature, we must also remember our role in creating it. We play more than a passing role in this catastrophe. What do you think powers the cars for our summer road trips, or the airplanes that carry us to distant vacations (hmm...like Costa Rica?)? We all participate in the system that demands so much oil that we have to build wells in mile-deep water. It is our oil-saturated lives that created Deepwater Horizon in the first place.

So add me to that earlier prayer list. And think about adding yourself, too. Ask God to help us learn from this ridiculous, unnecessary catastrophe. Pray that we won't continue to prioritize our individual wants over the health and well-being of others. We can all do more to live according to the mandate given us in Genesis, to "tend and keep" the good earth that God created, blessed and gave into our safe-keeping.

Casey+
June 2010

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

72 Central Street

Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882

401-783-4623

www.stpetersbythesea.com

Our St. Peter's Family

We celebrate

with Sarah Elizabeth Dalton & Robert Muoio, who were married on May 21.

We mourn with

the family of Robert Abbruzzese, who died on May 19. Robert was the brother of St. Peter's parishioner Carl Abbruzzese.

Food Pantry Expanded Hours

Beginning Sunday, June 20, the Food Pantry is expanding its hours of operation. In addition to the regular Tuesday and Thursday hours, it will now be open on Sundays from noon to 2:00 p.m. Not only will this provide non-weekday hours for possible clients of the pantry to benefit from the pantry's services, but it will also allow us to offer the fresh vegetables harvested from our cooperative garden on Saturday mornings. We need your help to make this expansion possible. If you are interested in helping out one Sunday a month, or even on an irregular basis, contact the Church Office at 783-4623.

Vacation Bible School Galactic Blast

Children ages 3-10 are invited to voyage into outer space praising God at Galactic Blast: Vacation Bible School 2010, hosted at St. Peter's on August 9-13. Through daily "space missions," plus music, activities and crafts, kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and



learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun will help your cadets nurture their relationship with God in Christ. The cost is \$30. Download registration forms at www.stpetersbythesea.com, or call or email the Church Office at 783-4623/stpetersbythesea@verizon.net.

Adult and teenage volunteers are still needed to help us host this event. Call VBS Coordinator Nicole Zelenak if you can help: 667-2717.

Celebration by-the-Sea Kick-Off Summer



On Sunday, June 13, we will honor the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, and party with our friends from St. Augustine's, Kingston, and other Episcopal friends from around South County at a "Celebration by-the-Sea." That morning we'll have a single, combined service at 9:00 a.m. in the

church. Then everyone is invited to come to Veteran's Memorial Park, adjacent to the Towers, anytime after 3:30 p.m. to hang out, enjoy the sunshine and help us get ready for the party — so bring games, lawn chairs, and any food or beverage you want. The evening's events begin at 5:00 p.m. with a festive seaside Eucharist, accompanied by the music of Pan Xpressions, a nine-piece steel pan drum band, and including the baptism of seven new Christians. Following the Eucharist we'll enjoy fresh watermelon, Brickley's Ice Cream, and Dell's Lemonade, while the band continues their amazing calypso music. This is a wonderful event for the entire family, and a great way to introduce St. Peter's to someone new, so invite a friend!

What's In a Name? Summer Beach Eucharist

With a name like St. Peter's *by-the-Sea*, it's always nice to do things as a community close to the water. Following on the heels of the Celebration by-the-Sea (see above), and taking advantage of the warm summer weather, you are invited to Narragansett Town Beach on Sundays July 11 and August 15 for an evening "beach" Eucharist. Come to a to-be-determined lifeguard stand at 5:30 p.m, and bring a lawn chair or blanket (and cooler, if you want). Then, following the tradition of John 21, we'll share in an informal beach communion service. God blesses us with gorgeous beaches and water, so it's time we got out there and gave thanks.

Loving Our Neighbors *Rebuild Rhode Island*

The spring floods severely damaged hundreds of Rhode Island homes. Some homeowners have begun to rebuild, but many are elderly and cannot do the work themselves. Serve Rhode Island is creating a task force to help. Can you spare a Saturday morning or a day off to help? If you are handy with carpentry, painting or other construction skills, contact Patti Risica about joining the St. Peter's team: 788-9012 or pmrisica@verizon.net.

Prayer Shawls *Signs of Love*



The Knitting Group, which meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., has recently begun making "prayer shawls." These shawls will be tangible expressions of the prayers of

love and support for those from our community who are ill, shut-in, or in the hospital. You are invited to help the group create these shawls even if you can't make it to the group sessions; simply call the Church Office to receive a pattern. The first batch of prayer shawls will be blessed on June 20 at the 10:15 Eucharist, and then every few months after that.

Mission and Outreach Council *Loving God, Loving Neighbor*

Jesus tells us that the two greatest commandments are to love God and love our neighbors. At St. Peter's we strive to show our neighbors, many of whom are vulnerable or in need, that compassionate love through the work of the Mission and Outreach Council. Examples of the ministries they work with include the Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Adopt-a-Family, the mission trip to Navajoland, and numerous local charitable organizations. Given the importance of their work, this council always welcomes new participation and energy. If you are interested in joining their ranks, or simply want to learn more, get in touch with Council Chair Bill Nerbonne at 789-7451 or william.nerbonne@pfizer.com.

Pigapalooza *A Charitable Feast*

You are invited to the home of Margaret and Bill Phelps on Saturday, August 7 at 3:00 p.m. for their 5th annual Pigapalooza, benefiting the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. The RICFB provides free or extremely low cost food to food pantries and local charities throughout the state, including St. Peter's. In the past, Pigapalooza has raised over \$3,000 to support their important work. The requested donation is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Food, soda, water and juice are provided, but all other beverages are BYOB, as are lawn chairs or blankets. RSVP or learn more by contacting Margaret at 932-6068 or pigapalooza@cox.net.

Film on the Lawn *The Sound of Music*

What could be more fun on a Friday evening in summer than watching one of your favorite movies under the stars? On Friday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m., we'll watch *The Sound of Music* on the front lawn, complete with sing-a-long subtitles. You bring a blanket or lawn chairs, and whatever beverages you and your family want, and we'll provide the popcorn and movie. Call the Church Office to let us know you're coming so we'll make sure to have enough popcorn.

Teaching Sunday School *A Wonderful Ministry*



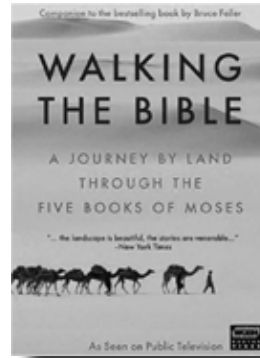
Worried that you don't know enough to teach Sunday School? Just remember that old adage that the best way to learn something is to teach it. Worried that you are too old? Kids

benefit from the wisdom of every generation. Worried that you're not creative or energetic enough? That's the beauty of working as a team: your gifts blend with the gifts of others. Throughout the summer, the Children and Youth Ministry Council invites you to consider serving as a Sunday School teacher next year. Sharing the stories of Scripture, the life and example of Jesus, and the love of God with kids is one of the most important things we do as a church. Won't you help us? Contact CYMC Chair Patti Risica if you're interested: 788-9012.

Noteworthy

- ❖ The Book Club meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. New members and suggestions for future titles are welcome.
- ❖ Green thumb? The Gardening Club could really use your help every Saturday from 9-11 a.m. working in the gardens and flower beds.
- ❖ This is the final printed issue of the St. Peter's Net you will receive, unless you notify us that you are unable to receive the weekly emailed version. If you are not already receiving the e-Net, please call or email us with your email address: 783-4623 or stpetersbythesea@verizon.net.
- ❖ Alcoholics Anonymous meets Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m., and Narcotics Anonymous meets on Monday and Saturday evenings at 7:30. If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, these are safe communities that can help you heal. You are not alone.

Summer Adult Forum *Walking the Bible*



Adult Forum will continue throughout the summer with a series called *Walking the Bible*. In a PBS documentary based on his bestselling book by that name, writer Bruce Feiler visits the settings of Genesis and Exodus — Mount Sinai, the Nile, Jerusalem, Jordan, and Mount Ararat, among others — as he seeks to connect more deeply with the power of these foundational Bible stories. Each week in Adult Forum we'll examine a segment of the film and discuss the questions or themes it presents. June 20-August 15 from 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.



Please remember to recycle the St. Peter's Net when you are finished reading it. The Net will go entirely digital this summer, so you must contact the Church Office (783-4623 or stpetersbythesea@verizon.net) July to let us know if you need to continue receiving a mailed version.

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