

ST. PETER'S NET

St. Peter's by-the-Sea Newsletter

At last year's Vestry retreat, we all shared stories about how we first got involved at St. Peter's. Not how or why we first came to St. Peter's, but how or why we first really got involved. Many people come through our doors, but only a fraction become active in a ministry beyond Sunday morning. I wanted to know what it was that first got this group to take that next step.

Everyone went around the room, telling stories about their earliest experiences at St. Peter's, and what got them to move beyond Sunday-morning-only involvement. By far and away (for something like seven of the twelve people there) there was one ministry at St. Peter's that did the best job of engaging people for the first time as a sort of "gateway ministry." Can you guess what it is? Yep. Coffee Hour.

In conversations with others, I've learned that this trend is not limited to the Vestry. Perhaps you got involved at St. Peter's for the first time helping out with Coffee Hour, baking a dish or bringing in a coffee cake or a plate of cookies. When I think about it, the gateway quality to Coffee Hour makes perfect sense for three reasons.

First, who doesn't love Coffee Hour? It's laid back, friendly and fun. It's the time when we get to extend the joy and fellowship of Sunday morning.

Second, it is tangible. It is a job people can get their heads around,

and really imagine doing on a relatively regular basis. A lot of roles at church seem overwhelming, but the tasks associated with Coffee Hour are perceived to be realistic. It's like the old adage goes, if you can picture yourself doing it, you're more than halfway there.

But the third reason is the most important. For some reason, people involved with Coffee Hour have demonstrated a willingness to invite others to participate. And there is nothing quite as effective at getting people involved in something as personally inviting them. Announcements in the bulletin or newsletter, signage, and even me speaking about it before services don't have the effect that comes from walking up to someone and asking them to take part.

These three reasons make a compelling case for getting involved, so much so that our participation in Coffee Hour is pretty impressive. Lots of folks are happy to serve the church in this way, which is something to be proud of.

I think the other ministries at St. Peter's could really learn something from the example of our Coffee Hour volunteers. In particular, I'd love to see the list of "gateway ministries" expand to include something else that is central to our mission as disciples of Jesus Christ: outreach. I pray for St. Peter's to have the kinds of service ministries that people are proud to invite others to get

involved with and support. I would love to see our list of volunteers to serve these ministries be as long as the Coffee Hour list. One ministry in particular is getting me excited right now, so let me commend it to you.

Recently St. Peter's and St. Augustine's in Kingston agreed to partner on a cooperative vegetable garden. The food grown in this garden will go to support our Food Pantry, as well as the Jonnycake Center in Peace Dale. This fresh produce will be a fantastic addition to our existing operation, which was recently expanded to include frozen food and "living supplies."

This garden could be an absolutely amazing ministry. Growing food to feed our neighbors is perhaps the most practical, Christ-like thing I can think of. And I think it could succeed by matching the exact same three criteria used earlier to describe the success of Coffee Hour: it's fun and laid back, it is definitely tangible, and I'm hoping that once you participate, you will be willing to invite others to get involved.

Even if working in a garden is not something to which you feel God's call, I do hope you will join me in my prayer that we be a community with myriad "gateways" to deeper life and service at St. Peter's. Through joy, imagination and invitation, we can all grow closer to our Lord.

Casey+
May 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

the birth of Elijah Lucas Reitzell, born on April 8 to Matthew and Jessica Reitzell.

the birth of Elijah Song-Jin Bucci, grandson of Steve and Barbara Bucci, born on April 8.

We mourn with

the family of William Blackburn, who died on April 2. William was the father of Laurie George.

The Blessing Way Supporting a Friend

During the season of Lent we had the privilege of learning about the modern criminal justice system from guests who work within that system every day. They helped us examine the story of the Passion by sharing how the story affects the practice of their vocation.



THE BLESSING WAY

One guest in particular captivated those present with her unique witness and courage. Renee Calpin spoke about her struggle with addiction and time in prison, and her efforts to turn her life around on the other side.

Renee is an inspiring testament to the kind of life that is possible for former prisoners. Thanks to the spiritual guidance and support of The Blessing Way, she got a job and is now in recovery, steadily putting the pieces of her life back together. It would mean a lot to Renee if the folks she met when she came to St. Peter's to tell her story wrote to her with messages of support and encouragement.

Renee Calpin can be reached at 151 Brooke Street, Providence, RI 02906.

The Blessing Way is a faith-based agency providing spiritual and social support for those men and women returning to the Providence area from prison or drug treatment who have demonstrated a commitment to recovery, personal change, and social responsibility. To learn more, visit www.theblessingway.org.

Adult Forum The Reformation

Adult Forum continues in the month of May with an exploration of the Reformation. What led to the splintering of the Church into so many pieces? Who were the key players, and what was at stake? How did the Church of England come into play, and did it really arise from a divorce?

If this is a chapter in the Church's history that you've always wanted to know more about, come to the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. The coffee is always fresh, and the discussions are lively.

Adult Forum will study Pentecost in art and literature on May 23, conclude the study of the Reformation on May 30, and end the year on June 6 with another "Rector Q&A."



Martin Luther in 1533
by Lucas Cranach

Mission Task Force Inviting Participation

At Diocesan Convention last fall, a resolution was passed inviting a reevaluation of our diocesan mission priorities. Episcopalians of Rhode Island are united by our discipleship of Jesus Christ and our Episcopal heritage, but what do we now believe to be central to our mission as a church? Are we still devoted to the same ministries of twenty or thirty years ago?



Or should we focus on different diocesan mission priorities and redirect funding and energy to those new areas? A Mission Task Force has been established to help guide this process, and they want our help. You are invited to attend one of the following "Listening Process Gatherings:"

Wednesday, May 5, 6:30 p.m., at St. Columba's Chapel, Middletown

Saturday, May 8, 10 a.m., at Church of the Epiphany, Rumford

Wednesday, May 12, 7 p.m., at St. Luke's Church, East Greenwich

This process is about more than writing a mission statement. It is about a renewed sense of purpose, one that hopefully flows from the Holy Spirit, and will invigorate the Episcopal Church in Rhode Island to be greater servants of the Kingdom of God. If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact Casey, or call the Task Force Chair, the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick, at 434-5012.

Building Community

The advent of warmer weather signals the arrival of three fun events at St. Peter's:

The Day of Pentecost

We'll celebrate this principle feast day on May 23 in a variety of ways. Several youth will participate in the Rite 13 ceremony, a liturgy honoring and blessing the rite of passage that happens when youth turn thirteen. A Parish Luncheon on the lawn will follow the service. If you can help the Community Life Council with this event, contact BJ Carangia at 315-2416.

Movie Night

Gone are the days of drive-in movies, but on Friday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m. we'll have a St. Peter's movie night on the front lawn. We'll watch the beloved classic *The Sound of Music* on a big screen, 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 Linda in the Church Office at 783-4623 to let us know you're coming so we'll make sure to have enough popcorn.

Celebration by-the-Sea

On Sunday, June 13, we'll honor the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, and party with other Episcopal friends from around South County at a "Celebration by-the-Sea."



Rain or shine (we rented a huge tent!), we'll gather at Veteran's Memorial Park in Narragansett at 5 p.m. for a festive seaside Eucharist, accompanied again this year by the calypso music of Pan Xpressions.

Brickley's is donating three large tubs of ice cream, and we'll also provide water and lemonade. You bring blankets or lawn chairs, and food and beverage for your family. And invite a friend! This is a great event to introduce someone new to our community.

Rite 13 Celebration

On the Day of Pentecost, the 10:15 service will include again this year the Rite 13 ceremony, celebrating the transition from childhood to young adulthood of our St. Peter's youth. This year a few boys in the 7th grade will mark this important transition, as they receive our collective blessing on their "journey to adulthood." The presence, witness and faith of young people at St. Peter's are important symbols of our church's health and vitality. But we must continue to work hard to provide mentors, support and prayer for all children and youth who call St. Peter's home. So come on Pentecost and help us do just that.

Flocking Funds

In the past two months, fundraising efforts for the J2A Pilgrimage to South Dakota have really "taken wing." Many unsuspecting families have woken to discover a flock of pink (plastic) flamingos on their lawn, and have made generous donations to have the birds removed, with nearly \$1000 raised. Another \$600 came on the first of two Rent-a-Kid days (the second is coming up on May 15; call the Church Office to learn more), and several hundred more from unprompted gifts from many in the St. Peter's community.

Our goal is to raise \$3000, to be matched by funds from last year's Bazaar, which means we are already two-thirds of the way there! If you would like to learn how you can donate toward this important trip, or support the youth of our church, call Linda in the Church Office today at 783-4623.

Sunday School Teachers *Recruiting for Next Year*

The end of the school year is an exciting time for children and parents, as the summer months bring sun, fun and vacation. But it is also an excellent time to plan for the start of the next one, and in particular, for our Sunday School ministry. In order to get a jumpstart on 2010-2011, the Children and Youth Ministry Council is seeking adults who are committed to the faithful formation of children to consider working as Sunday School teachers next year.

This is not an easy job, but it is richly rewarding. 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 consider participating in this wonderful ministry? If you're interested, contact CYMC Chair Patti Risica at 788-9012.

Noteworthy

- ❖ For Pentecost, Music Director Jim Morgan has written a special anthem for the children's choir entitled, *Thy Seven-fold Gifts*. The text is a 9th century Latin paraphrase of the very familiar *Veni, Creator Spiritus (Come, Holy Ghost)*.
- ❖ The Book Club meets on the first Monday of the month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and will be reading *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert next. New members and suggestions for future titles are welcome.
- ❖ The Knitting Group meets year-round on the second Wednesday of the month, and is focusing on making prayer shawls for the shut-ins served by the Pastoral Care team. If you can't make it to the group sessions, you can still work on crocheting or knitting a prayer shawl from home. If you need a pattern, contact Linda in the Church Office at 783-4623.

- ❖ If you like to work in the soil, the Gardening Club could really use your help. They can be seen every Saturday from 9-11 a.m. beautifying the grounds, and they would welcome more hands as the growing season gets going.
- ❖ The St. Peter's Net will be going entirely digital this summer, so please notify us if you need to receive a paper copy by mail. Otherwise it will be electronically sent to you beginning in July.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every morning at 7 o'clock 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.



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) by May to let us know if you need to continue receiving a mailed version.

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