

ST. PETER'S NET

St. Peter's by-the-Sea Newsletter



A few years ago a research team working in the Arkansas woods claimed to have stumbled across the ivory-billed woodpecker. These magnificent creatures, called the "Lord God Birds" in generations past, had been presumed extinct for nearly 50 years, just another of the three species that disappear forever from the earth each and every day.

Confirming evidence has not been shown yet, but the mere thought that the Lord God Bird may still roam the swampy backwoods of the South, that God may have given us this rare gift a second time, has been enough to inspire the imaginations of many, both birders and those who never cared about birds a day in their life. The ivory-billed woodpecker is an icon of a deep yearning that exists inside all of us: we so want to believe that it's possible to come back from our saddest mistakes, to be resurrected from our failures as individuals and as a community, to be given another chance.

The current ecological crisis facing the earth is not just an issue for those who consider themselves "green." It's not about "saving the whales," or "hugging trees." I believe that it is foun-

dationally an issue of justice, of whether we will treat the miraculous gift of creation, the world that God formed in six bursts of love and joy, with the respect and dignity that it demands. It is a question of whether we will continue to choose lifestyles of unbridled consumption and expansion, using rather than revering.

Think about it this way. At Christmas every year we celebrate the "Word made flesh" and the significance that has for people. God came into the world, not just as Creator, not just as Lord, but also as participant. But if that same eternal Word is the originator of all Creation, then what does that say about the significance of the Incarnation for the whole earth? I mean, how could the Incarnation and Resurrection *not* have ramifications for the entire world that God looked on in the beginning and called "good"?

God may have made us in God's image, but there is this sense you get from Scripture (just check out Psalm 104) that God delights in everything that is out there, from the tiniest, most seemingly insignificant critters, to the majestic beauty of whales and 3,000 year-old trees. I don't think God's redemption of the world through Christ pertains only to the fate of

people. Humans may only have eyes for our own advancement and well-being, but God's love embraces all. God doesn't know zero-sum games.

It is my fervent prayer that the Lord God Bird is perched atop some tree deep in a southern swamp right now, lifting its gorgeous ivory-billed head to glorify God. May it always remind us that we worship a God of forgiveness, a God of mercy, who longs to see the restoration of the garden paradise he placed us in at our dawning. Let us step away from the brink of destruction, from the despair of the Good Friday of our beloved earth, and through hard work, sacrifice and renewed vigor, welcome the resurrection of God's whole creation.

Casey+
October 2009

In October and November, Adult Forum will focus on ecology and theology. For five weeks, Casey will lead an examination of the ways the Christian faith can guide us in the face of the environmental crisis. Come and lend your voice to this important conversation about faith, justice and "this fragile earth, our island home" (BCP, 370).

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

- ✠ Jason and Jennifer Howell, who were married on September 12.
- ✠ Dan and Nicole Harding, who welcomed their new son, Miles, into the world on April 5.

We mourn with

- ✠ the family of Martha Anderson Colvin, who died on September 18. Martha was the sister of new parishioner Judy Anderson.

Children in Church

Beginning September 6 we welcomed children back to church during the 10:15 service. Worship related activity bags are available in the rear of the church for children of all ages (just ask an usher). Children are also invited forward to the chancel steps for singing and a children's sermon every week. "Let the little children come to me..."

All Saints' Day A Famous Feast

All Saints' Day (every year on November 1) celebrates the witness and faith of all those women and men who passed along the faith to us today. You may think you're not familiar with All Saints' Day, but that's because you're used to its older title, All Hallows' Day, which is preceded by All Hallows' Eve (aka "Halloween"). On All Saints' Day we remember all our family and friends who have departed this life for the next, and pray that we might follow their example "in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys" prepared for those who love the Lord (BCP, 245). You are invited to call the Church Office to add a name to the list of deceased from the previous year that will be read during the celebration of the Eucharist.

All Saints' Day is one of the feast days appointed by The Book of Common Prayer as an appropriate occasion for baptism. If you know someone interested in this sacrament, please contact the Church Office and schedule attendance at the Baptism Workshop on October 31 from 9:00-Noon.

Blessing of the Animals The Feast of St. Francis



The traditional Blessing of the Animals in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi will take place this year on October 4 at the 10:15 service. That's right: the animals are coming, the animals are coming! Each year we remember St. Francis and his unique, graceful way of being in relationship with all of God's creatures by blessing our favorite furry (and not so furry) friends. So bring your pets (cat, dog, turtle, ferret, parakeet, etc.), and possibly an antihistamine, to the service so they can receive a blessing. A pet friendly reception on the lawn will follow. Loose plate offerings (those not dedicated toward a pledge) that morning will go to support the Animal Rescue League of South County.

Finding a Note Jim Morgan, Music Director

As you may have noticed, we are down in the number of choir members actively participating in Choir. There are the usual reasons for this: deaths, work schedules changing, relocation, retirements, night courses, elopements, etc. So now is the perfect time to consider taking a closer look at joining! We are in need of sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. The ability to read music, that dreaded excuse, is not necessary. That's what I'm there to do—pound out notes on the piano so we can all learn our respective parts. No previous musical experience required, just a willingness to be part of St. Peter's music ministry.

During the months of September and October, Thursday night choir practices are designated as Choir Workshops and are a time when anyone who wishes may simply come along and see what goes on. No commitment required or expected. And Thursday night practice is usually a lively time when we talk about politics, current events, cars, religion, the weather, recipes, and sometimes even find time to rehearse the music for the coming Sunday in a relaxed, no-pressure atmosphere.



Choir practice is on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 PM, exactly one hour and not one minute more. Sunday mornings we rehearse at 9:15 AM. So give it a try—nothing to lose, money-back guarantee. Think about it.

Journey to Adulthood An Exciting Calendar

Throughout the year, youth in grades 7-12 are invited to a series of evening gatherings along with youth from other area churches. These events are designed to add a fun, relaxed component to the morning Sunday School classes, and give our youth a chance to hang with other local Christians. But check out the calendar below of all the events coming up this fall!

Friday, October 9—Deadline to register for the Urban Immersion to Boston

This day trip is open to all youth in either Rite 13 or J2A. Supervised by adults, this trip allows youth to make decisions about transportation, destinations and directions in a big city.

Sunday, October 11, 5:30 p.m.—Youth Group at St. Augustine's in Kingston

Monday, October 12—A "Great Day" of Service
Details TBA; offered to all youth in the diocese as a day of common service

Saturday, October 17—Urban Immersion

Sunday, November 1, 5:30 p.m.—Youth Bowling

Sunday, November 15, 5:30 p.m.—Youth Group at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 13 at 3:30 p.m.—Caroling, Tree Decoration and Holiday Party

Calendar of Events

October 4 Blessing of the Animals

10:15 a.m. Honoring St. Francis of Assisi

October 5 St. Peter's Book Club

6:30 p.m. Discussion of The Almost Moon

October 7, 14 & 21 Episcopal 101

6:30 p.m. Newcomer Class; Call to RSVP

October 8 Bazaar Planning Meeting

5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

October 14 Knitting Group

7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room

October 18 Acolyte Training

Immediately following 10:15 Service

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.

Leaves and More Fall Grounds Clean-up



Calling all hands! We need your help with the Fall Grounds Clean-up scheduled for Saturday, November 14 at 9:00 a.m. The leaves need raking, the debris needs bagging, and

the grounds need some T.L.C. before winter arrives. If you can help out, please call the Church Office and let us know you'll be here, or just show up if you feel like some good, old fashioned hard work. But make sure you bring a rake and your gloves!

Episcopal 101 Back to Basics

If you are a newcomer to St. Peter's or the Episcopal Church, or might need a refresher on the life, beliefs and history of our tradition, you'll want to attend *Episcopal 101*. This three-part class meets on October 7, 14 and 21 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. with dinner provided each night. This class is designed to help you connect with other parishioners at St. Peter's, and deepen your knowledge and understanding of the Episcopal Church. We'll discuss topics such as:

What does the Episcopal Church believe?

How do we read the Bible?

What is a Prayer Book and what's in it?

How is the church organized and structured?

What are the similarities and differences from the Roman Catholic Church?

RSVP by calling the Church Office at 783-4623.

Phoning a Friend Suicide Crisis Hotline

Statistics show that almost all of us have been touched by the suicide of a family member or friend. The Samaritans of Rhode Island are recruiting adult volunteers willing to be trained as nonjudgmental listeners to help with the Suicide Crisis Hotline, which is often a last line of contact for those contemplating suicide. Volunteers are there to listen when family, friends and professionals are unavailable. This noble ministry requires you to be at least 18 and participate in 21 hours of training, but the rewards are profoundly important. Call 272-4243 to learn more. If you or someone you know may be contemplating suicide, please call 272-4044.

Noteworthy

- ❖ The Nursery is open every Sunday from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m for children from birth to age four.
- ❖ The next meeting of the St. Peter's Book Club is Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 in the Conference Room to discuss *The Almost Moon* by Alice Sebold. Books are available at Peace Dale Library.
- ❖ The Knitting Group next meets Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00 in the Conference Room and the second Wednesday of every month.
- ❖ The South County Hospital will host a Flu Clinic on Sunday, October 18 from 8:30-12:30.

Calling All Acolytes A Special Ministry

All St. Peter's children and youth who are interested in the special ministry of acolyting are required to attend a 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). If your child cannot attend, please make arrangements to fulfill this requirement at some other time. Lunch will be provided, so RSVP to the Church Office (783-4623) to help us get an accurate count.

A Bazaar Update

The St. Peter's Bazaar is not for a few more months (Saturday, December 5), but plans are already in the works. This year an activity booklet will be distributed to all visitors and will include a list of supporting vendors and local businesses. If you know of a business that might be interested in advertising in this publication, please contact Hope Chopy at 782-9451 or Linda Farr at 782-4548. The next planning meeting for the St. Peter's Bazaar will be held on October 8 at 5:30 p.m. Volunteers are always needed, as well as suggestions and donations.



Please remember to recycle the St. Peter's Net when you are finished reading it. To discontinue your paper version of the newsletter and receive it by email only, simply contact the Church Office at 783-4623 or stpetersbythesea@verizon.net.