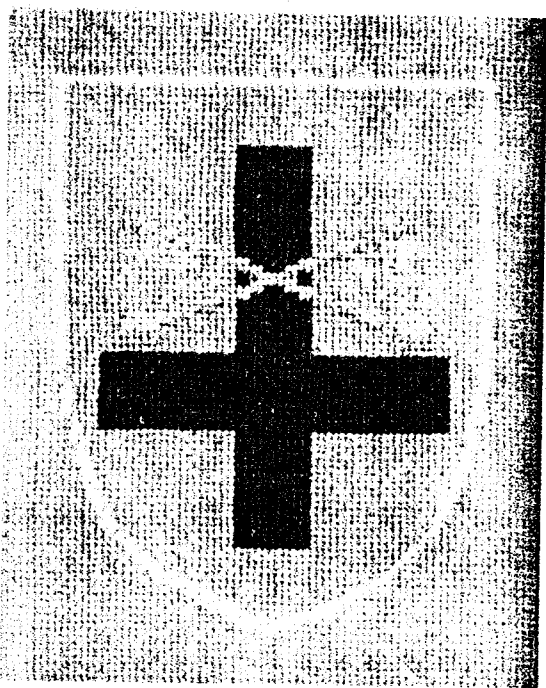


The Rock

of St. Peter's

A publication of
St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, Morro Bay,
California



St. Peter's mission is to be a spiritually thriving household for people on their faith journey, radiating Christ's love by bearing witness to our community with hope, compassion, inclusion and service.

November 2009

Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real

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All Baptized Persons

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The Rev. Charles J. Erickson, Rector Emeritus

Pastor Paul Valentiner, Associate Pastor

Judy Burke, Office Secretary

Walt Schob, Treasurer

Susan Johnson, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry Members:

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Ellen Pool 771-9180(3)

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Dear People of St. Peter's

This fall we are gathering in small groups to explore our feelings about giving. The members of the vestry are hosting these groups, and I am facilitating the discussions. We all have had extensive life experiences, including experiences of giving. This is simply part of human nature. In our groups we are sharing our own memories and practices of giving, especially from childhood, and then looking at passages in scripture. Whether the story is about buying property, paying wages, offerings to God, or managing assets, the Bible is full of words about giving, saving, hoarding.

The store clerk says thank you when we complete our transaction. The child says thank you when given a cookie. Our pets even thank us for our relationship by giving their unconditional love. The athlete may give thanks to God for a race well run, a score made, a game won. It just seems to come naturally.

We might get up in the morning, thankful to be able to get up. A friend unexpectedly calls, and we are thankful. For work, for recreation, for food, for a beautiful sunset, for the flight of a bird or butterfly, for the cooing of a baby, for the silent pleasure of being with a companion of many years. Our lives are replete with times and places of giving, of being thankful. We give of ourselves with the many blessings that God gives to us. All of what we have comes from God, belongs to God, and God is grateful to receive back a portion of God's blessings.

What portion? That is decision each of us makes, me included. Come and be part of one of these groups. Find out the many ways in which we honor God and God's creation by sharing the abundance in many ways.

We are gathering on October 30 for an evening of a simple meal, some fellowship, and fun. A way for us to thank one another for being. Remember the line (from Bishop Katharine), "we are human beings, not human doings." And we will be knowing the joy of giving.

Peace and love in Christ,

Harriet+

Advent Service
of Lessons
and Carols

by St. Peter's Choir
and Friends

Sunday, Dec. 13

5:00 PM

St. Peter's by-the-Sea

545 Shasta Ave

Morro Bay



From Jolyn Johnson

Jolyn Johnson has started a blog in which he hopes to engage interested persons in on-line conversation about various topics that challenge us to expand our minds and explore our Christian lives and how it relates to the world around us. Jolyn is very eager for his family at St. Peter's to participate. Comments are welcome. Just go to the following link to read his entries. To comment, just click on comment at the bottom of each entry. If you do not have login, just click on anonymous to make your comment. If you want Jo to know who you are, just add your name to the end of the comment, however it is not necessary to do so. To read the comments to Opening a Coconut, please go to the following link. This is an excerpt from <http://jolynjohnson.blogspot.com>:

Welcome Welcome to Jo's blog. This blog will serve as a place for me to put down thoughts that I do not mind getting published while allowing any who read them to give feedback. Most posts will deal in the realm of philosophy where a question will be posited and I will give a response, not necessarily an answer. Many will relate to the war between science vs. religion, liberal vs. conservative, or simply an area of scientific or religious inquiry. Generally, these will be sparked by a video lecture on YouTube, a news article, or personal discussion. Rarely, I will give an update on the happenings of my life. I believe it is important to impart events of daily living as they shape our world view, and this blog is, more or less, my world view.

Once again, I encourage responses to my posts, whether you agree with me or not (especially if you disagree), to the end that I may learn from multiple view points. Added insight will help everyone understand the sides of a debate more thoroughly. Opening a Coconut It took a little time but finally I got the coconut open. Thank God for rock hammers! However, the milk inside doesn't taste very good. It's not nearly as sweet as in pina coladas. I tried adding pineapple juice to make it bearable. That was somewhat successful, although five sips later I gave up. I then added sugar...no difference. Then I got creative. Rum? Yuck. Time to throw it out.

Also, the meat around the side of the coconut is extremely hard to scrape off. It took me 45 minutes to get enough off to make a quazi-fruit salad with pineapple. Why not eat the meat alone? It tasted terrible too. I ended up throwing out 60% of it.

This reminded me of a discussion I had with Russ at Pine Mountain Observatory this last July. While passing a herd we began talking about the vulnerability of cows in the wild. Could they survive in their domesticated state? How long would they last if humans, their evolutionary protectors, disappeared? Russ made the comment, "we've made them dumb. They can't survive outside our ranches and farms."

This made me wonder if the same was true of ourselves. Have we been so domesticated, or "dumbed," that we cannot survive in the wild. Of course, we all know that most humans have been domesticated to the point that we cannot return to nature. Even the hardiest of tribesmen of the jungle would find it difficult to survive beyond the protection of his or her settlement.

If I couldn't eat a coconut without exerting more energy than I would get from it, then I am deffinitely no different from a dumb cow.



It was hard to say good-bye to Shirley and Sandra on October 18. They are leaving the area, moving to the big sky country of Montana. Their new address is 210 S. Fourth St. Hamilton, MT 59840
Their new church home, St Paul's, stands ready to welcome them.

Holiday Bazaar

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Los Osos presents its annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. New this year is the inclusion of Fair Trade items, an art gallery, a silent auction and musical entertainment. Shoppers also can browse among the exciting array of hand-crafted (knitted, quilted, and sewn) merchandise, holiday décor, ceramics, art work, books and delicious home baked goods And, bazaar proceeds enable St. Benedict's to give support to the Prado Day Center for the homeless. St. Benedict's is located at Los Osos Valley and Clark Valley Roads. Information: 528-0654.



Scenes from the annual barbecue. Top: Harriet and Susan enjoy a happy moment. Middle: Sonja, Bill and Dee partake of their dinners. Bottom: Clint cookd for the last time on the old grill. (There will be a new one for him next year.)



Sue and Clovis Putney's grandson, Harrison modeling for in the Pottery Barn Kids. His parents are Alisa and Douglas Hubbard and his picture is He's 4 yrs. old and loves doing the interviews. (He was baptized at St. Peter's.)

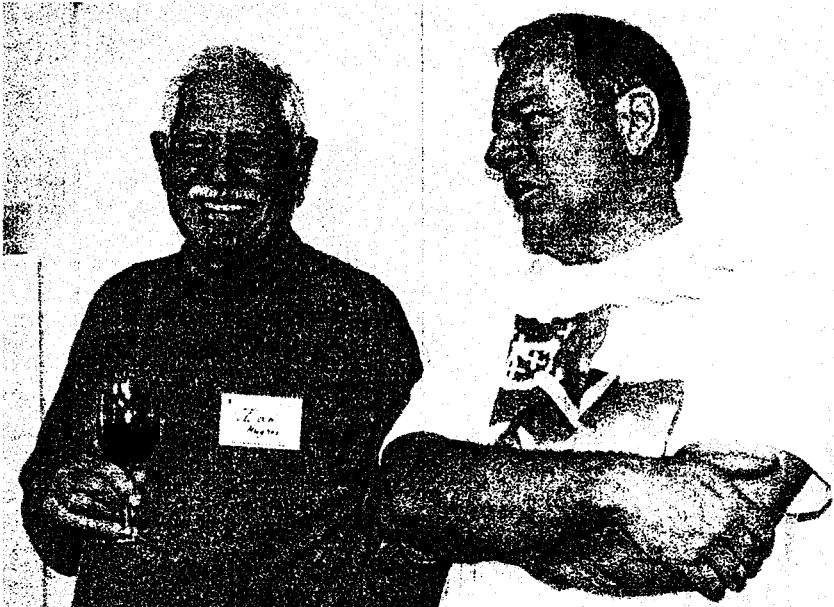
Diane, Ryenne and Mikayla making their selections at the Fish Fry





The baptism of David Bogart. He joins his parents Dan and Nataliya and big sister Valerie as part of our faith community.

Ian and Bud enjoying the Fish Fry



Beer-Batter Fish

Many people asked about the fish recipe used at the fish fry. Mark Tognozinni donated the breadng, but that soon ran out so a lot of the fish was prepared with my recipe show below. Roger Ludin

1 cup all purpose flour plus additional flour
1 12 ounce bottle porter (dark beer)
1 teaspoon onion powder (I grind onion flakes for this)
1 pound cod or other white fish fillets cut crosswise into 1 inch wide strips
Vegetable oil for deep frying

Place 1 cup flour in medium bowl. Gradually whisk in enough beer (1 to 1 1/4 cups) to form medium-thick smooth batter. Whisk in onion powder. (Batter can be prepared 1 hour ahead. Let stand at room temperature.)

Sprinkle fish with salt and pepper. dust with additional flour. Pour enough oil into large saucepan to reach depth of 1 1/2 inches. Heat oil to 375°F. Working in batches, dip fish into batter, coating completely, but allowing excess batter to drip off. Add fish to oil; fry fish until cooked through and batter is deep golden brown, turning occasionally, about 4 minutes. Transfer fish to paper towels to drain. Arrange fish on platter and serve. Makes 4 servings.

Small Solutions Make a Big Difference

For want of mosquito nets there are 250 million new malaria infections a year and 90% of those are in Africa south of the Sahara Desert. The disease kills nearly one million persons a year. By far, most of them are children under 5 years old.

The organization "Nets For Life" distributes insecticide-treated mosquito nets and trains the recipients in the proper use of the net to prevent mosquito bites. Each net can prevent the infection of three persons. Until some way is found to permanently stop the transmission of the malaria parasite, these nets are the best way to protect families in mosquito-infested areas.

Here is a way that small donations can accomplish important results. The organization is a partner of Episcopal Relief and Development and has received a significant grant from USAID.

When malarial infection is reduced, significant improvement in agricultural production follows because the farm workers are not debilitated. Go to <http://www.netsforlifeafrica.org> to learn more and to make a donation.

What's in a Diocesan Convention?

The first thing I can gladly report is that it's not the contentious, adrenalin-spurting, nail-biting event of yore. This diocese has repaired the big broken parts that used to cause such traumatic conventions and is continuing to cooperate and coordinate to find and repair any other organizational problem areas.

Today a Diocesan Convention for El Camino Real is a full-fledged opportunity for each delegate to engage on equal ground with delegates from all other congregations in the shared furtherance of Christianity in the counties we encompass. The budget, once a huge obstacle during conventions, is now just another proposal to be passed without debate. This simple fact comes because of the dedicated effort of The Reverend David Breuer and the other members of the budget committee every year bring the budget to every deanery to explain the proposed plan and listen to local considerations.

The convention just held on October 23rd and 24th, full of music, hearings, voting, worship, inspirational speaking, awards, reporting about diocesan accomplishments, and social time left everyone with no bitten fingernails.

Becoming a Convention Delegate and actually attending the deanery meetings and the conventions is a worthy goal for any member of St. Peter's. So much understanding of the workings of the church is gained in this manner that the minor inconveniences of attending events is more than offset by that which is gained. At the upcoming annual meeting there is the opportunity for anyone to become a Convention Delegate. While most of us don't like to "put ourselves forward" and nominate ourselves for a position, if you tell any of your friends you are interested in serving as a Convention Delegate, just ask that person to nominate you. If you win election you will find a new understanding of your role as an Episcopalian when you have attended a few meetings. In all, there are five deanery meetings a year and the convention.

Now Hear This!

Help for the hard of hearing at the church service is on the way! Nancy Castle tried out a device last Sunday at the 10:30 service which was hooked in to the amplification we have at the lectern and Harriet's microphone, and it worked very well for Charlie Erickson. She's prepared to order more sets for us; we need to know how many people would like them. Please call the church office (772-2368) or the Ericksons (772-2834) to let us know if you want one.

Lessons and Carols Prepare the Way Toward Christmas

St. Peter's choir and friends are working hard to prepare for our annual Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols which will be held this year on Sunday, Dec. 13, beginning at 5 p.m.

Dr. Marti Lindholm, organist and choir director, is preparing the choir and guest singers from St. Benedict's and the community in anthems of many eras and traditions, all promising the coming Savior. The Service, a tradition at St. Peter's for more than 25 years, features Bible lessons moving through history toward Jesus' impending birth. The congregation will have many opportunities to actively join the celebration in song

This evening of worship and song presents a perfect opportunity to share the warmth and spirit of St. Peter's with friends and neighbors. A freewill offering will be taken to help support the choir. For information call 772-1723.

Prado Toiletries Program:

As I delivered our bi-monthly grooming supplies to the Prado Center I was struck by how clean and tidy the center looked and how grateful the recipients were for our donations. Your continued support for this project have improved so many lives by helping lift the self esteem of those in less fortunate circumstances. In today's troubled times when so many are struggling with reduced or non existent incomes, the need is greater than ever and your generosity is much appreciated. Lee Schob

Clean Up Days at St. Peter's

Friday and Saturday December 4th and 5th. Early birds will show up at 9:00 and we'll work 'till we're tired or 1:00pm. We will work on the inside of the church and will concentrate on the parts of the grounds that need it most. Bring your own equipment and, or supplies. Rain cancels the grounds work. Pray for rain :-) Frank Fiedler

Wonders during the Year of Wonder

It was Bill Morley and his wife Carrie Trahan who brought the wonder to St. Peter's during the summer of 2008. "What if," they asked, "we reached out to the community with a gift of all the profits from our yearly summer barbecue?"

As junior warden, I gasped. The barbecue is our biggest fund raiser of the year. We've budgeted the \$1,000 we plan earn to help run the church!

I wasn't alone in my reasoning. We didn't take up Bill's challenge and nearly missed the wonder. We did promise to do another fund raiser . . . later. Profits from that one, we said, could be given away.

Months passed, and it was time to keep the promise. Susan Johnson, one of the people who'd agreed with Bill from the outset, joined me in getting the ball rolling toward this new idea of a charity fund raiser. That's when the wonder started

Harriet suggested The Central Coast Women for Fisheries (CCWF) as a deserving community organization. We've all watched our fishing industry shrink to the point that the fisherman and woman's livelihood is as endangered as the protected fish in our waters.

The CCWF was formed to act positively in this time of change, donating scholarships to California commercial fishermen and women and their families, working with the National Estuary Program to distribute clean boating kits to every boat in the harbor, and helping sponsor the program Kids-At-Sea to introduce young children to the life of those who fish, process fish, or sell fish and fishing supplies. Their mission is to promote "a sense of the living culture" of our fishing community.

In addition, the group had just taken on the challenge of erecting a bronze statue at the mouth of Morro Bay's harbor, near the community's famous 500-foot "Rock". The statue will memorialize the

decades of fishing families who saw and still see their loved ones sail off for months at a time in pursuit of their living.

Susan tried to contact the group to tell them we wanted to put on a fund raiser to for their projects. However, our phone calls and e-mails went unanswered. We later found out that the women wondered just how serious we were.

We were just about ready to look for another community charity, when the CCWF offered to meet with us. At that meeting they began to believe we were for real. Fund raising ideas were batted around, and we agreed with their suggestion of a fish fry.

Fish fries were an old tradition in Morro Bay, we learned. At one time everybody raised money that way – much as Santa Maria style barbecues do today.

So, a fish fry it would be! No matter that St. Peter's had no deep fryers – or anything else to help us put on such an event. We were surprised when this new generation of fishing women told us they didn't fry fish for crowds either! We began to wonder how we'd manage.

But, it turned out we weren't alone. The CCWF had every intention of seeing the fish fry through to success! Members helped with every facet of the event – even with clean up. What had originally been planned as St. Peter's gift to the CCWF had morphed into a truly joint activity. Thrilled that we were doing this for them, members couldn't do enough to make the fish fry a success!

Through the CCWF's link to the larger fishing community, we found everything we needed. Nearly all the food was donated by fishing community businesses and individuals. Total expenses for feeding more than 200 hungry people were \$150!

A sense of joy permeated the effort. While working we were meeting new people. We were dedicated to having a delicious good time. Tickets were so easy to sell that by the time the doors to St. Peter's parish hall opened the evening of the fish fry, every ticket was sold!

Financial Report As of September 30th, 2009

Revenues	Received	Expected	Budgeted Year
Offerings	78,360	83,887	111,849
Rents received	28,080	27,221	36,294
Parish Hall use	3,372	2,993	3,990
Fund raising projects	152	0	0
Special projects	3,102	750	1,000
Miscellaneous other revenues	2,173	1,425	1,900
Interest	4,566	4,625	6,167
Total Revenues	119,804	120,900	161,200

Expenses	Have Spent	Expected	Budgeted Year
Diocesan fair share	10,912	12,275	16,367
Equip & fixtures-new purchase	1,076	0	0
Insurance	13,016	12,993	17,324
Maintenance & repair	2,405	2,490	3,320
Office (not supplies)	1,768	2,030	2,706
Supplies	2,216	1,481	1,975
Taxes	1,189	1,804	2,405
Utilities	6,969	7,409	9,879
Miscellaneous expenses	3,115	3,534	4,712
Personnel	75,747	76,884	102,512
Total Expenses	118,413	120,900	161,200

How did we do in September, 2009?

Our September cash flow was ok but it is getting tighter. In September we spent \$2,584 more than we received. January through September, we took in \$1,392 more than we spent. With our balanced budget, this small excess will be applied to upcoming expenses.

Each pledger will receive a "September 2009 Pledge Received report".

There are 17 pledgers that are behind in their pledges---for a total of \$7,325.

BBQ took in \$1,141---No expenses received yet.

We are 43% on our way to reaching our goal to donate \$1,612 to the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. (We have donated \$693.01 so far.)

We are 41% on our way to the Sound Solution of \$3,360 needed to deaden the noise in our parish hall. (We have received \$1,366 so far.)

Sprint started construction on Friday, 7/31. Still no activity!

A full copy of the September Financial Report is on the bulletin board (with a blue cover).

Any questions or comments please call me---771-8270

or email: wschob@sbcglobal.net

Walt Schob, Treasurer