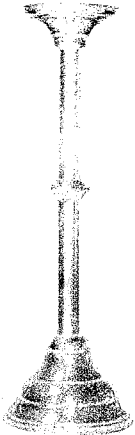


The Rock

of St. Peter's

A publication of the People 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, radiat-
ing Christ's love by
bearing witness to our
community with
hope, compassion,
inclusion and service.



Summer 2008

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

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Editor: **Roger L. Ludin** (rludin@calpoly.edu)

Message From the Rector

Dear People of St. Peter's,

As Christians, we believe that the abundant life that we receive from God in this world will extend to eternal life in the next. As Christians, we never say good-bye for the last time. Even so, we are saddened by the death of loved ones. Just within our immediate families we have experienced several recent deaths recently. Please pray for those already called home to God, as well of for those still with us.

Bud and Linda Zeuschner enjoyed a happy gathering of their extended family in May when Linda's mother, Betty Rockwell, passed away in her sleep. Roger Ludin's sister Cal Robinson died suddenly following a brief illness. (He has written about this in this issue.) Alan and Carol Williams kept vigil, along with her sister Jan Brown, as Carol and Jan's father John Buttolph slipped away, having lived a full life of 96 years. My husband Warren died on May 20. He and I had had a sweet and warm visit just a few days before. His Burial Eucharist will be at St. Peter's on July 19.

Our Burial Eucharist begins, "I am Resurrection and Life, says the Lord." That hope of the resurrection is available to all: believers, skeptics, and non-believers alike. God welcomes us all into relationship. I am deeply grateful to be a person of faith, within a faith community. Here we celebrate life, mysteries, and death together. We are not alone in our journey.

As Episcopalians/ Anglicans, we are connected to 70 millions other Christians in the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops meets this year July 16—August. Our webpage has a link to the Conference. On Thursday, August 7, at 11 am. PDT, our Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schorri will do a live webcast. Stay tuned, as we plan to have viewing available in the parish hall. Just in time for "elevenses."

Look around to see signs of our participation in various congregational development conferences. Thanks to all who are part of sharing God's overwhelming love for all of creation. There is such abundance.

And, finally, a heartfelt thanks to all who kept St. Peter's moving along while I was away on a fabulous vacation with dear friends in the UK and the south of France. Ahhhhh . . .

Peace and love in Christ,

Harriet+

Senor Warden's Report

The past two months have been busy ones for your Vestry. In addition to dividing up our work into 4 main teams, your Vestry has been seeking ways to make us more visible and inviting to our community. This action fits right in with our mission statement. We will be advertising St. Peter's in the Yellow Pages in both hard copy format on in their on-line format. We hope visitors and "browsers" will be able to locate us that way.

Also, the four teams have launched their activities for the near future. First item is to create a set of goals for each team that flow from our mission statement. So, if you'd like to participate in any of these teams, feel free to get in touch with the contact person for each group: Music (Dorene Hughes), Outreach and Growth (Jo Johnson), Operations (Donna Baker) and Building and Grounds (Frank Fiedler). Each member of the Vestry will be "attached" to one of these areas (with Harriet and Bud sort of ex-officio on all of them). Even if you are not a member of the working team, from time to time, the team may seek your help with accomplishing a specific goal or project. The vision is to have every member of the St. Peter's family connect some way to our mission. Some will contribute ideas, others may offer time or materials, some will attend meetings, and many (we hope) will give financial support, and all participating with offering prayers and support and encouragement. Every one of these items is essential and deeply appreciated by your Vestry members.

After a few months of the teams working on goals to accomplish our mission, we will do a review to check up on how we're doing - what we still need, what is succeeding and what needs revisioning. This is the Mutual Ministry Review process that Cris Rose is coordinating. In all of these efforts, we have been tremendously supported by our neighbor, the Rev. Donna Ross. who lends her training and expertise to help us through this process.

Stay in touch, contact me or any team leader, and keep track of the exciting work that illuminates our mission.

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Bud Zeuschner

Life-Long Learning

Faith, the Environment, and YOU

Wednesday, August 6, 5:30-8pm at the First Presbyterian Church, SLO

Congresswoman Lois Capps will host a community forum on “Faith the Environment and You,” on Wednesday, Aug. 6 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, 981 Marsh St. The forum will feature two panel discussions starting at 6 p.m. — “Caring for Our Earth: What Faith Teaches Us” and “Caring for Our Earth: What Science Teaches Us”.

After the panel discussions the forum will move into breakout groups with religious, community, and environmental leaders to discuss what individuals, organizations and congregations can do to take action to protect the environment. Informational booths about what you can do to help the environment will be open before the panel discussion begins.

God, Gays and Faith

4 Wednesday evenings starting September 10 at St Benedict's Los Osos – 7p.m.

In the last few years the press has been full of arguments within churches over the full inclusion of gay and lesbian people, especially within the Episcopal Church following the ordination of a gay man as Bishop of New Hampshire in 2003. In this class we will examine how Christians have understood and understand sexuality, especially homosexuality, and why it seems to be so divisive. We'll look at the relevant Bible passages as well as the experience of people who feel that God calls them to be gay. Why do some churches say that you're welcome if you're gay but only if you're celibate while others welcome partnered gay people? Why does religion make such a fuss about sexuality? What's the difference between civil marriage and marriage in a church or synagogue? Led by the Rev. Caroline Hall, priest in charge at St Benedicts, who is completing a doctorate in this subject area. For more information contact Caro Hall at 528-0654 or stbenedicts1@aol.com.

Through the Eyes of Youth

With the sudden death of my sister last May I was jolted into the awareness of the fragility of life. Live each day to the fullest and appreciate the world around you and especially the people around you. Rediscover the things we take for granted. I learned this first hand when I took my six year old grandson, Tomas, on his first backpacking trip. After the first few minutes convincing him that he had to carry his own pack, the hike turned into a discovery trip. Tomas did not want to miss anything. We had to stop about every hundred yards to watch the ants in the trail. Finding a beetle necessitated getting down and letting it crawl on our hands and up our arms. Rabbits or quails crossing the trail required a close inspection of the bushes they went into to see if they could be found again. Seeing the world through the eyes of a six year old not only brought me back to my youth, but also speeded up the healing process after my loss.

Roger Ludin

A New Rector For St. James'

The Rev. Mary K. Morrison has been called as Rector of St. James', Paso Robles and will begin her ministry there on August 1. Mary has been the Pastoral Associate at St. Luke's in Los Gatos since 2002. She was ordained in June of 2000 following her graduation from CDSP and served on the staff of the Center for Anglican Learning and Life for two years. Currently, she serves on the Standing Committee and as Liturgical Grand Poobah (not an official title!) for some diocesan events. The Rev. Claudia Jo Weber, who has been Deacon at St. Luke's, Los Gatos since her ordination in May of 2003, will also be moving to Paso Robles. Jo is the membership director for NAAD (North American Association for the Diaconate) and serves on the faculty and as Dean of Chapel at The School for Deacons. Mary and Jo look forward to participating in the work of the SLO deanery.

St. Peter's is More Magnetic

Small changes lead to grater magnetism. Changes we may not even notice.

The most obvious change that has happened at St. Peter's is that we have name tags. The name tags help visitors to feel more comfortable. They also help the regulars. Sometimes we don't know or don't remember someone's name. This happens more frequently amongst some of us older folks. Well, I confess, while it may not happen to you, it happens to me. I like to be able to read someone's name to correct my sometimes incorrect assumptions about whom I'm talking to.

Now there is a line at the bottom of the "street signs" that gives our phone number, our web page address, and informs folks that we are handicap accessible. This is a big thing. Sometimes people just drive by churches to see what they look like before they build up the courage to go in and test the water. If they can look us up on the World Wide Web they can learn more. (Oh! How we hope for a newly paved parking lot).

Finally, we now have a temporary directional sign inside the main door for entrance into the Parish Hall. It has little arrows that point the direction for the various rooms inside. It's not always clear to people that you have to turn right to get to the Parish Hall itself. In actuality, it's an uncomfortable entry that needs to be corrected some day, but the sign helps strangers and that's the point.

You, too, can make St. Peter's more magnetic. Next time you come to St. Peter's, look around as if you had never before been here. Take note of your perceptions and talk to others about what might be done to improve anything negative you discover. Together with the building and grounds we are the magnet. The seekers and non-churched are the iron that we can attract in order to help them in their spiritual lives.

The Veterinarian

Some of the most poignant moments I spend as a veterinarian are those spent with my clients assisting the transition of my animal patients from this world to the next. When living becomes a burden, whether from pain or loss of normal functions, I can help a family by ensuring that their beloved pet has an easy passing. Making this final decision is painful, and I have often felt powerless to comfort the grieving owners. That was before I met Shane.

I had been called to examine a ten-year-old blue heeler named Belker who had developed a serious health problem. The dog's owners - Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane - were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer.

I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home. As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for the four-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt Shane could learn something from the experience.

The next day I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives.

Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why." Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me - I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. He said, "Everybody is born so that they can learn to live a good life - like loving everybody and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued, "Well, animals already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Outreach

Toiletries for the Homeless

Many thanks for those of you who continue to provide soaps, toothpaste, deodorant and more for our "clean up kits" for the homeless. Your faithful contributions have enabled many Prado recipients to enjoy a shower and shampoo at the facility and come away refreshed and reenergized.

Last spring Walt and I took a seven day trip to the high Sierra camps in Yosemite and on rare occasions had to do without hot shower facilities. When they became available at the next camp we thought we were in the lap of luxury! I know that is how your generous gifts must seem to those who daily attend the day center at Prado. Please continue to support this worthy project.

Lee Schob

People's Kitchen

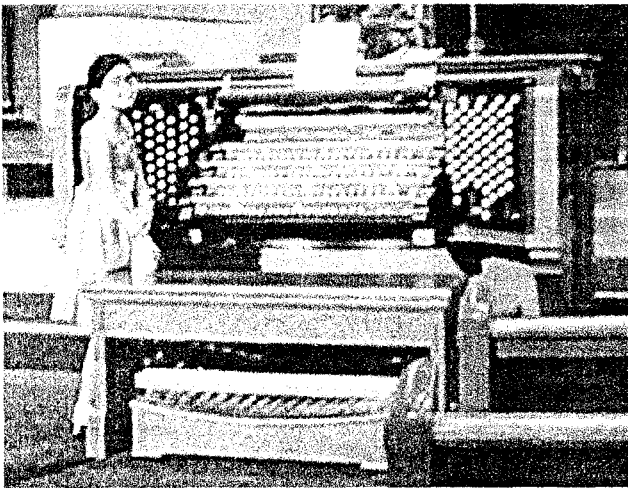
On the first Saturday of even-numbered months, members of St. Peter's, Morro Bay, serve lunch at People's Kitchen. In June we set a new record for us: We served more than 125 lunches, though we lost count after 125." To help, contact People's Warden, Diane Ludin dwludin@charter.net or Sue and Clovis Putney, clovisputney@earthlink.net.

Salvation Army

St. Peter's also works with the Salvation Army: Every Sunday parishioners bring packaged food items to a basket in the narthex and then the basket is taken to the offer at the offertory. Robin and Frank Fiedler deliver the food to the Salvation Army office in Morro Bay, where Robin volunteers. It is great to see the basket overflowing on most Sundays. To help, contact the Fiedlers at rfriedler@sbcglobal.net.

Organ Recital

Fourth-grade student Francesca Hughes about to perform on a hundred pipe organ at the Grant Recipients Recital, Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Woods, CA June 10. At nine years of age Francesca was the youngest organ student ever to receive a grant reward from the American Guild of Organists, Orange County Chapter. She recently participated in the National Pueri Cantores Conference in Washington, DC where she sang at the National Shrine with Holy Family Cathedral School Choristers and also took part in the Congress Avenue Parade on the Fourth of July. Such an end to the school year! Francesca is the granddaughter of Ian and Dorene Hughes.



Deanery Web Site: A first draft of the Deanery web site, with links to each local parish, is now up at <http://SLOepiscopalians.org>. Help us build an attractive website with your contributions! Send comments and suggestions to Rob Ross at robertross@charter.net.

SLO News: News from our local Episcopal churches, emailed on the 10th of each month. To receive SLO News by email, contact Donna Ross at donnaross@charter.net. The August SLO News will focus on evangelism – we hope for contributions from your parish.

Finances As of June 30th, 2008

Revenues	Received	Expected	Year Budget
Offerings	\$63,572.84	\$56,573.34	\$113,146.72
Rents received	\$8,439.15	\$8,997.00	\$17,994.00
Parish Hall use	\$1,520.51	\$2,032.50	\$4,065.00
Fund raising projects	\$0.00	\$25.02	\$50.00
Special projects	\$782.60	\$1,324.98	\$2,650.00
Other revenues	\$4,790.84	\$951.00	\$1,902.00
Interest	\$1,173.13	\$2,476.98	\$4,954.00
Total Revenues	\$80,279.07	\$72,380.82	\$144,761.72

Expenses	Spent	Expected	Year Budget
Childcare-babysitting	(\$60.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Continuing education	\$165.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Diocesan fair share	\$6,731.00	\$7,200.48	\$14,401.00
Equip & New purchase	\$9.21	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance	\$7,344.04	\$8,520.48	\$17,041.00
Maintenance, repair	(\$228.62)	\$660.00	\$1,320.00
Office (not supplies)	\$1,264.50	\$1,230.00	\$2,460.00
Labor services	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$915.50	\$1,237.50	\$2,475.00
Taxes	\$1,059.57	\$1,209.00	\$2,418.00
Utilities	\$4,990.39	\$4,623.06	\$9,246.00
Miscellaneous	\$4,789.93	\$4,234.98	\$8,470.00
Personnel	\$43,597.84	\$46,550.58	\$93,101.00
Total Expenses	\$71,028.36	\$75,466.08	\$150,932.00

HOW DID WE DO IN JUNE 2008?

In the month of June, we received \$3916 more than we spent. During the first six months, we received \$9250 more that we spent, including two paid up pledges received in January. A full copy of the June Financial Report is on the bulletin board (with a purple cover). If you would like a copy, ask Judy.

Any questions or comments please call me—771-8270 or email: wschob@sbcglobal.net

Walt Schob

Treasurer

St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

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Morro Bay, California 93442-2541

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