



CROSS KEYS

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OSTERVILLE MA 02655

April 2011

May this Easter Grandeur Awaken Faded Flowers of Faith

God, give us eyes to see
 the beauty of the Spring,
 And to behold Your majesty
 in every living thing -
 And may we see in lacy leaves
 and every budding flower
 The Hand that rules the universe
 with gentleness and power -
 And may this Easter grandeur
 that Spring lavishly imparts
 Awaken faded flowers of faith
 lying dormant in our hearts,
 And give us ears to hear, dear God,
 the Springtime song of birds
 With messages more meaningful
 than man's often empty words
 Telling harried human beings
 who are lost in dark despair -
 'Be like us and do not worry
 for God has you in His care.

-Helen Steiner Rice



Important Dates to Remember

- April 17 Palm Sunday
- April 24 Easter

Dear Friends,

We would all like to believe that we are aware of how much people are hurting in these complicated and troubled times. When confronted with these people, we want to help them heal their many wounds and bruised souls. I have had the opportunity of entering homes which, from the "outside," seemed strong and without pain. Much to my surprise the forces of life were alive and well. Economic strain and unemployment, feelings of insecurity, the matter of fact details of private pain are not strangers.

When difficult times visit our individual homes, as mature adults, we strive to face them with the confidence of our ability to endure. A natural response for most of us is to labor alone. Perhaps we confide in a spouse or trusted friend. Failure is defined as our inability to get through without help. Experience reveals the truth that doing it by ourselves, walking all alone, is not common, but often is not enough. The community around us has developed an abundance of organizational structures to assist, but these often only touch the surface. Their effectiveness is dependent on those who plan and execute them and the resources available to them.

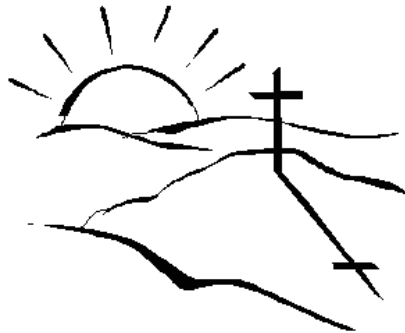
The Church can be mistaken for just another one of these structures. It isn't though. It is much more. When approached or managed as just another social organization as such, it, too, is limited by those who plan and execute and maintain it as such. As Christians we are called to walk the way of the cross with our Lord. The Church is an outward expression of that walk. The pathway includes a fellowship of life and death relationships. Within those relationships, joy and sorrow touch, and this involves much more than touching the surface.

Just as we believe that we are concerned about our families - perhaps even each other, God is concerned. God reached out in Love. On the hard wood of the cross, Jesus Christ expressed the depth of that Love. The Church is rooted in that Love. The Church is truly the Church when it is teaching God's children to love one another and it helps them to work together to build loving communities. God's children are all those searching and grappling with the mystery of life. That which we call the "Church" ceases to be the Church when it becomes a structure of codes of behavior and ritual that take precedence to Love. In such cases, the focus has become misdirected.

Being Christian is not a state which we attain alone. It involves being in community, specifically the Church, and reaching out, just as Jesus Christ stretched out arms of Love. NO ONE was excluded. God does not turn away anyone who is grasping for the Hand of Love. At times, I, too, may judge those around me too impulsively. I don't want to imagine what it would be like if that was how God responded. The great work of the Church is to offer and to hold hands with a complicated and troubled world. True Love is intimate. It touches the depth of being. Resurrection and new life are birthed in walking the way of intimacy. Open your minds, yours hearts, your arms, and remember to regularly participate in the community of St. Peter's Church. Embrace Love and experience Resurrection.

In Christ,

Denzil J. Luckritz, Rector



**Newsletter
Deadline**



April 15th
for the May edition of
the Cross Keys

The deadline for the Cross Keys is the 15th of the month. Submissions may be emailed (MOST preferred by the editor!) to nancymumford@comcast.net Please note: I can only accept MS WORD documents (Not Word Perfect) by email

Rector The Rev. Denzil J. Luckritz
Associate The Rev. Paul M. Thompson
Associate The Rev. Russell H. Allen
Administrative Assistant Alison Arnold
Director of Music Karen Crosby
Sextons George Esteves & Brian Boley

Vestry

Sr. Warden Ronald Reed
Jr. Warden Carole Dwyer
Treasurer Chuck Gasior
Clerk Maureen Tempesta

Vestry Members

Mary Beebe Nancy Karami
Judson Breslin Neil Forster
Gerard Armstrong Jeff Callard
Linda Dill Barbara Spillane

Parish Ministry Contacts

Acolyte Warden Elizabeth Spilsbury
Altar Guild Cynthia Seidner
Meg Perkins, *Emeritus*
Education Kathryn Perrone
Finance Noel Spillane
Friendship Ministry Barbara Spillane
Hospitality Guild Barbara Reed
Lay Eucharist Visitors.....Kathy Duncan
Men's Club Jud Breslin
Newsletter Nancy Mumford
Outreach Helen Prothero
Prayer Group Mary Beebe
Property Will Beebe
Stewardship J. Neil Forster
Women's Association Jane Price

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
421 Wianno Avenue
PO Box 437
Osterville MA 02655

508-428-3561 (office)
508-428-4293 (fax)

<http://www.stpeters-capecod.org>
stpeters14@juno.com



for those who are ill or in any need, especially:

Mary, Gerri, Dorothy, Mary, Erik, Millie, Wilhelmina, Jackie, Elise, Manuel, John, Douglas & Sarah, Davis, Jim, Shaun & family, Susan, Jean, Nancy, Grace, Tom, Ivan & Jean, Joanne, Ruby, Stephen, Harry, Dennis, Peter, Cathi, Curt, Frank, Florence, Anna, Linda, Eddie, Bill, Tom, Phillip, Eliza, Jim, Pat, Lorraine, Melanie, Arty, Mary, Nikki, Christopher, Walter, Avena & Bishop Tharp Institute, Sally, Claudia, Nancy, Dave & Emma, Perline, Baby Elijah, John, Sephine, Laurel, Paul, Fred, Jimmy, Pat, Ralph, Peter, Carol, Carol, Adam, Ed, Al, Mary, Joe, Dick, Sheila, Bill and for the homeless of Cape Cod, those affected by mental illness and for our men and women in the armed forces overseas especially in Iraq and Afghanistan and the people of Haiti and Japan.

If you placed a loved ones name on the Parish Prayer List and the name can be removed, please email or call the office. Thank you, Alison



Those that are ill:

Nancy Dwarnik, Bunny Thompson, Dick Prothero

Our Sympathies are with the families of

Jim Emilio and family on the loss of both his uncle, Rex Sheldon and his aunt, Emily Sheldon . . . May their souls and the souls of all the departed rest in peace.

Don't forget to send cards or make a visit! This means a great deal to those who are sick or grieving.

April Birthdays

1-Barbara Sweeney

3-Mark Thomas

5-Drew Dalton

7-Bob Seidler, Laurie Kjoller, Lea Richer

9-Carl Bowley, Gerald Anderson

11-Ila Bedenkop, Alexandra Bilodeau, Priscilla

Saulnier

13-Colin Marczely, Bill Stocker

14-Abigail Mead

15-Cici Cook

16-Jen Beveridge

17-Beth Eaton, Ethan Williams

22-Jake Boguniecki, J. Duff Lyall

23-Alison Arnold

24-Nic Keith

25-Rob Diefenbach III, Chuck Gasior

27-Morgan Bilodeau, Michael Bilodeau

28-Gracie Horvath

Please note, if we've missed your birthday, let us know so that we can get your birthday on file in the office.

Anniversaries

We'd like to know *your* anniversary. Would you please call the office with your anniversary so that we may have it on file.

After services take time to greet our many visitors. Give them a warm "Welcome!" Some of us are here to seek relief from heavy pressures. Others are reaching out for comfort in sorrow. Still others are here to thank God for recent or ongoing blessings. What we all have in common is a great desire to know God and to be enabled to do God's will.

Behind The Scenes With Will Beebe: Calendar Year 2010 Summary

Fr. Denzil asked me to prepare a report for our Annual Meeting, covering Calendar Year 2010. For those of you who read the Cross Keys every month, it will not be a surprise to learn that there has been a very large amount of activity in Property Management. So much so, that it is almost impossible to adequately capture what has been done. Probably the best way to attempt this, is to start at the beginning of the year, and break the project down by month. So..... Here goes:

January 2010:

- Tie rods were installed in the Nave
- Three full weeks of work were put into the Rectory to renovate it for the new Rector
- Statement of Need was drafted to detail out what was needed for repairing the Nave and renovating the whole Church
- A new door knob was installed in the door to the outside from the Sacristy
- The grease trap in the kitchen was pumped out
- An estimate to care for the Organ during Nave repair was received.

February 2010:

- A meeting was held with the Structural Engineering Company to finalize the design for the construction package for the Nave repair work
- A meeting was held with the Renovation Company to get their report on design concepts for the Whole Church
- The copy machine in the Office was set up to scan documents.

March 2010:

- Four test holes were drilled to supply Geo-technical inputs to the Nave repair work
- The final construction drawings were received for the Nave repair work
- Initial discussions were held for the design of a new Septic System
- The carpet in the Sacristy was shampooed and wet vac'ed
- Guest computer connection to the internet was established in the Office

April 2010:

- A leak in the toilet in the bathroom in the Robe Room was fixed

- Leach pits under the kids playground were examined, in support of the new septic system design
- While the St. Peter's sign at the intersection of Rt 28 and County road will be removed for traffic light installation, the State will replace it when work is completed.

May 2010:

- Update brief to the Parish on the status of the Nave repair design and Whole Church concepts
- Issues with the Organ are becoming more serious, due to Nave instability
- The Rectory wood pile was cut up and expertly stacked by the Rector

June 2010:

- The irrigation contractor turned on the system for the season, not realizing that the source piping was split in two places, or that one the solenoid valve had failed
- These three irrigation issues were solved with volunteer labor.
- Pull-down stairs were installed for the attic above the Parish Hall
- Work began to replace the 30-year-old phone system with a new digital, state-of-the-art, system
- Work began on preparing artistic renderings on Nave and Church building design concepts
- A team of volunteers put the first coat of sealant paint on the walls in the Rectory basement
- The patch of new shingles outside the Rectory kitchen were stained to match the rest of the house.
- A second coat of sealant was applied to the Rectory basement walls
- Ralph Perry, Inc. inspected the fire extinguishers in the Church Building
- The kitchen door to the parking lot was repaired

July 2010:

- Two emergency light batteries were replaced
- A faulty zone sensor that was turning on the furnace, was fixed by volunteers
- The new phone system installation was complete
- Issues remain with the irrigation system, to be fixed next year
- Video feed into the Parish hall was provided for the installation of the new Rector
- A second PA system was engineered for the Crystal Lake services

August 2010:

- The toilet in the Men's Room was fixed
- The switch for the fan in the Parish Hall was fixed

- A broken sprinkler head was replaced
- The design for the new septic system was started
- Artistic renderings were completed
- A tutorial on the irrigation system was prepared
- A tutorial on the Crystal Lake PA system was prepared

September 2010:

- The installation of a total of 13 Door Lites was started
- Tru Green treated the lawn
- C.O.M.M. inspected the Church and found 14 violations
- A tutorial on fire extinguishers was prepared

October 2010:

- A leaking drain in the sink in the kid's schoolroom was replaced
- Ralph Perry, Inc. returned to correct mistakes made during the June inspection
- A tutorial on emergency lighting was prepared
- Two test holes were dug in the North parking lot, in support of the septic system design
- A tutorial on the manual pull-down fire alarms was prepared
- A tutorial on the fire alarm horns and strobes was prepared
- Trees at the entrance of the parking lot and in the North parking lot were trimmed to correct a fire violation
- The structural engineer inspected the Nave roof and suggested tie-rod tightening
- The urinal in the boy's rest room in the lower level was repaired
- The tie-rods were tightened, closing the gaps in the trusses
- The toilet in the women's rest room was repaired
- Power cords in the Staff Room were re-routed, to resolve a fire violation
- Two new fire extinguishers were installed replacing out-dated ones
- Dimmer switches for the lights in the Chancel were installed
- The irrigation system was shut off for the Winter, this time bleeding the feeder line, thus preventing the problems of last June
- The toilet in the girl's rest room was repaired
- The final design for the new septic system was received

November 2010:

- Associated Alarms performed the annual testing on the fire alarm
- Ralph Perry, Inc. performed the semi-annual test on the kitchen hood extinguisher system

- A major leak behind the dishwasher in the Rectory was fixed
- The dedicated phone line to C.O.M.M. is no longer needed and was disconnected
- The final design for the new septic system was received
- A tutorial on smoke detectors was prepared
- A tutorial on heat detectors was prepared
- A tutorial on Associated Alarms was prepared
- The Vestry was provided an update on the status of the three major building issues: Nave repair; whole building renovation; and septic
- The two septic system test holes in the North parking lot were paved over
- 6 failed strobe lights in the fire horns were repaired back to working condition
- The light in the niche next to the door to the Chancel was fixed

December 2010:

- Motion detector switches were installed for the lights in the Men's rest room and the Women's rest room
- A leaking heat register in the Rectory was fixed
- The kitchen was inspected by the TOB Health Department
- Associated Alarms returned to test the items missed last month
- A tutorial on the kitchen hood was prepared
- A live Internet connection was temporarily established in the Nave

None of the above includes work done on landscaping and snow removal, the work of the Cottage Committee, the projects done by the custodial staff, or the work the Rector did or had done at the Rectory.



Food Pantry



As Easter approaches remember those people on Cape Cod who struggle everyday to put food on the table. Some of us might struggle through Lent complaining about giving up pasta or sweets but that's minimal in comparison. Maybe this month you should donate those items in your own pantry that you've so willingly given up or even stop by the Salvation Army and lend a helping hand. We are asking for any non-perishable items that are appropriate-- dinner side dishes, beans, canned vegetables, fruits and breakfast items. As a friendly reminder, please be cognizant of the date on these items.

Thanks again for your support,
Adrienne and Meredith Carlton

Christian Education

With the season of Lent upon us, there will be some changes to our Sunday School schedule. There will be a 9:45 Children's Chapel service on March 27th; however, as the last Sunday of the month in April is Easter Day, there will be no Children's Chapel on April 24th. The first Sunday in April will be Family Eucharist as usual, and the next week will be a regular Sunday School Day. April 17th is Palm Sunday and the children will be participating in the 10:00 service, reading Stations of the Cross. We will need 11 volunteers for the Palm Sunday readings, please contact Kathryn Perrone if interested! We also hope to have a donkey (or two!) from Diamond's Edge Farm accompany us during the Palm Sunday processional.

Contact Kathryn Perrone for more information on our Sunday School Program. Thank you!

Holy Week at St. Peter's

Palm Sunday

**Holy Eucharist
8 a.m. & 10 a.m.**

Monday ~ Thursday

**Holy Eucharist
10 a.m. & 7 p.m.**

Good Friday

**Proper Liturgy 10 a.m.
Ecumenical Service 12 noon
Proper Liturgy 7 p.m.**

**Saturday ~ Easter Vigil
7:30 p.m.**

Easter Sunday

**Holy Eucharist
8:00 a.m.
9:15 a.m.
11 a.m.**

Each Easter Outreach asks you to open your hearts to our less fortunate on Cape Cod. Please find the Outreach envelope, tucked into your Service Bulletin, on Easter morning. Your offerings will translate into help....help many Cape Codders truly need. Outreach sends its thanks and our wishes for a very Happy Easter.

Ritual... Reason...Why...

Through Lent, to Holy Week and Easter

Lent, which means “spring”, spans the 40 days, not including Sundays, before Easter. The date of Easter is set by the time of the spring equinox, which also sets the time of the ancient Jewish celebration of Passover, remembering the passage of God’s people from bondage into freedom. The theme of passage from death to life carries over into our celebration of Christ’s Resurrection.

The 40 days of Lent correspond to the 40 days that Jesus spent praying and fasting in the wilderness after his baptism, preparing for his public ministry. Originally, Lent was a time of intense catechetical instruction and personal reflection for those preparing to be baptized into the Paschal Mystery on Easter Even. Our Lenten discipline of prayer, study and reflection, provides us with the opportunity to learn more about ourselves, our world and our Lord, in order that we may be more effective disciples.

The week before Easter became an intensified time of preparation. Holy Week re-tells the story of our Lord’s entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, his confrontation with the Jewish authorities, his celebration of Passover with his disciples, his betrayal, arrest, trial and crucifixion. Having been taken down from the cross, he was placed in a tomb. He remained there until Easter morning when the women who had come to anoint his body for burial found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty.

Maundy Thursday commemorates what we now call the “Institution of the Lord’s Supper,” or the Holy Eucharist. Maundy comes from the Latin word “to command”. When Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said

“do this in remembrance of me,” it was a command. The Breaking of the Bread to recall Christ’s sacrifice has been at the heart of the church’s life and worship from the very beginning. In addition to this, John’s Gospel tells us that on this same night Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and said to them: “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you.” The message here is that, as we break bread together and share the Eucharistic meal, we are called to minister to each other’s needs. This is the kind of loving and serving relationship that Jesus calls us to share as his disciples.

As Maundy Thursday is a helpful prelude to Good Friday, so Good Friday is an essential prelude to Easter. Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified, is a day of solemn fasting and prayer. The Passion narrative which is read from one of the synoptic gospels on Palm Sunday, is read from John’s Gospel on this day. The church has been stripped of all ornamentation. The cross is shrouded in black. There is a dramatic sense of emptiness, giving emphasis to Christ’s death. This liturgical participation in Christ’s death is critical if we, as worshippers, are to fully participate in the joyful Easter celebration of his resurrection. Without real death, there can be no genuine resurrection. The liturgy for Good Friday is basically a service of word and prayer. The traditional hours for Good Friday observance are from twelve noon to three p.m. St. Peter’s has an ecumenical service of meditations on the Stations of the Cross, which enables us to share the significance of this time with fellow Christians in our community. The Book of Common Prayer provides a beautiful and moving service of prayers that I recommend and encourage all to use on this day. (B.C.P page 276)

Holy Week ends with the Easter Vigil. As a sign of Christ’s resurrection, the Paschal candle is lit from the newly kindled fire and processed down the aisle toward the altar as the celebrant chants “The Light of Christ.” From this candle all of the altar candles are lit and the ancient hymn, The Exultet, is sung.

Lessons telling the story of creation and redemption are read. Baptism vows are re-affirmed with the baptism of new candidates, and the Eucharist is celebrated. The impact of the Easter Even service is dramatic. It is truly an experience of re-birth for all who gather in the Lord's name to proclaim and celebrate his resurrection.

The Easter morning celebration of the Eucharist resounds with the opening proclamation "He is risen. The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia." The children bring back the alleluia banner that was hidden during Lent and hymns of joy ring forth.

"So let our songs to heaven wing,
The vault with alleluias ring,
In praise of Christ our risen Lord
New life to all he doth afford, alleluia."
Hymn 201

Happy Easter!

Fr. Paul +

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 4, 2011

Hosted by S.P.W.A.

\$517 collected

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of

prayer each year on the first Friday of March. Services begin at sunrise in the Pacific and follow the sun across the globe on the day of celebration. World Day of Prayer was founded on the idea that prayer and action are inseparable in the service of God's kingdom. For more information, visit www.wdpusa.org

This year's service was hosted by the St. Peter's Women's Association. Women from a number of Cape Cod churches attended. To cover the expenses of hosting this service and reception, a cupcake sale was held on a previous Sunday at which \$184 was collected. Minus expenses of \$50, the remainder of the cup cake sales proceeds were also included in the total receipts. Including the offering, a total of \$517 was collected.

The 2011 annual World Day of Prayer offerings from our service will help support the work of World Day of Prayer USA and this year will focus on concerns expressed by women of Chile and will help meet the needs of families who are victims. Chilean women struggle with the impact of globalization, social and environmental issues such as pollution, overpopulation in urban areas, lack of prospects for young people, drug consumption and trafficking, prostitution and dysfunctional families – problems affecting women and children.

St. Peter's Church and the St. Peter's Women's Association were pleased to have had the opportunity to host this year's annual event.

Debbie Gasior, Treasurer

St. Peter's Women's Association

St. Peter's and the Mission of the Wider Church

Good Friday Ecumenical Service

For many years St. Peter's has hosted an Ecumenical Good Friday Service at 12 noon, with members of the local clergy offering brief meditations appropriate to the day. This will happen once again on April 22nd. Meditations on the "Way of the Cross" will be given by clergy and laypersons from the Churches or Osterville, and the service will include music and special devotions suitable to the day.

The Diocese and the Cape and Islands Deanery

St. Peter's will host the next meeting of the Cape and Islands Deanery on Thursday, March 24th, beginning at 6 p.m. with supper, followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tentative plans include a presentation on our support for the Bishop Tharp Institute in Haiti. Information is available on the Deanery Website <http://capeislandsdeanery.org>, or in the Deanery email newsletter that may be requested from deaneryweb@capeislandsdeanery.org.

Haiti

In an effort to expand our involvement with the efforts to rebuild Haiti following the earthquake last year, initial conversations are being held in an effort to plan for a visit from persons associated with the Bishop Tharp Institute to St. Peter's, as well as more communication with our members regarding this important missionary outreach.

A Comment and Two Requests

Further information on our involvement and support as a parish for the Mission of the Wider Church appears on the Church's Website.

Many readers of Cross Keys have friends, neighbors, and even family members who attend other churches in the Barnstable area. In future issues of Cross Keys I would like to highlight what those congregations maybe doing beyond their walls, as well as the activities of ecumenical and similar organizations that serve the Cape. That goal will be helped if you could ask those acquaintances about what their churches are doing, and share those answers with me.

Please contact me before or after Sunday Worship, by email at capecahd@verizon.net, or by phone at 508-432-3483 or 860-391-3100.

The Rev. Russell H. Allen, Associate Clergy

Holy Baptism

The Book of Common Prayer establishes five occasions when Holy Baptism is most appropriately administered in a given parish, one of which is *Easter Eve*, April 23, 2011. This year the Great Vigil of Easter will begin just after sunset at 7:30 p.m., and will include the administration of Holy Baptism. Anyone wishing to be baptized, or to have someone baptized on this occasion, should contact the Parish Office or Fr. Russ Allen at 508-432-3483 at their earliest convenience.

April 2011 Adult Forums

The Adult Forum, held every Sunday following the 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, meets in the Library.

Beginning on the first Sunday in March and for most of the upcoming Lenten Season the weekly Adult Forum will return to a type of presentation that proved very popular when first introduced in the fall of 2010. “This I Believe” originated as a radio program hosted by Edward R. Murrow, and has more recently come into its own as a series on NPR and through a designated website <http://thisibelieve.org/>. In its St. Peter’s version, members of our congregation are invited to share with those attending the Adult Forum their core values and beliefs, often including the personal story that led them to hold those values to be true.

The schedule for this second series of presentations is:

April 3: “This I Believe” Series 2 – Neil Forster.

April 10: “This I Believe” Series 2 – Frank Lord.

April 17: Palm Sunday – No Adult Forum.

April 24: Easter Day – No Adult Forum.

Further information on the Adult Forums appears on the Church’s website and in the Sunday Bulletin.

Your comments and suggestions for the betterment of the Adult Forum, and especially for future topics, are always appreciated. Please contact me before or after Sunday Worship, by email at capecahd@verizon.net, or by phone at 508-432-3483 or 860-391-3100.

The Rev. Russell H. Allen, Associate Clergy.

St. Peter's Women's Association Luncheon

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011

11:30 AM - Eucharist 12:30 PM - Luncheon 1:30 PM - Speaker

Sign-up in parish hallway for luncheon or call parish office by Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Prepayment is requested

Cost: \$18. Make your check out to: S.P.W.A.

You can give your check to parish office or mail your check to:
S.P.W.A. P. O. Box 437 Osterville, MA 02655

If you sign-up to attend, be sure to come or call parish office if you discover you need to cancel.

Be sure to have your name erased off the parish hallway sign-up sheet.

If you plan to bring a guest – be sure to include that person's name on the sign-up sheet.

We do pay for the number of people who sign-up! Once headcount has been submitted to caterer you will be expected to pay for your lunch – your prepayment will not be returned.

Program Speaker

STEPHEN PROTHERO, PhD

**Professor of Religion at Boston University; author of numerous books;
commentator on radio & television; contributor to Wall Street Journal
and USA Today**

**“WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WORLD
RELIGIONS”**

Men are invited to attend program

Separate sign-up sheet provided for attendees of program only

Bring a friend and join us!

A Lenten Meditation: Right or Wrong?

One of the paradoxes of Holy Scripture, and problems in living the Christian Life, has to do with the events recorded in the Book of Genesis. Adam and Eve are told by God that they are not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. To do so would be to disobey God, which presumably is a bad thing to do. If they do eat of that fruit, God tells them, they will die.

The Tempter has a different take on the issue: He tells the first two people that if they do what God says they should not do, they will not die – rather they will become like God.

You know the rest of the story. Adam and Eve eat the fruit, in time they and their descendants do die, but also they begin to possess a godly power – the ability to decide what Right is and what Wrong is. Of course, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer pointed out, the Fall, the universal corruption that resulted from their disobedience, applies to that ability; as St. Paul points out, the result is that humans either are unable accurately to distinguish between Right and Wrong, or know the difference, but still do what they should not do.

The whole situation is further confused by the fact that, if prior to eating of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil Adam and Eve did not know Right from Wrong, how could they have known that they should not disobey God – that to do so was in fact Wrong.

This story and its complications are important for two reasons.

First, it is Lent, and at one level, this Season of Penitence and Fasting is all about dealing with the things we do that we know are wrong. However, there is also the seemingly endless confusion today as to what is Good and what is Evil. If indeed humanity possess the knowledge that allows us to discern the difference between Right and Wrong,

and assuming that though we are fallen sinners, we have also been redeemed by Christ and possess the power of the Holy Spirit through Baptism, i.e., have a restored ability in this area, why do we still have such a hard time deciding ethical issues, to say nothing of acting in ways that are moral?

These are not, of course, new issues. The Old Testament is the story of a people who receive a clear statement [10 of them, in fact] regarding what they should and should not do, which on the one hand are expanded into volumes, and on the other are creatively ignored. Most secular and legal institutions have established rules for proper and improper behavior, often with significant enforcement and punishment provisions, yet the members of the society or religion they serve are quite willing to follow or disobey those laws and regulations at will.

Many believe there was a time in which moral ambiguity was absent; everyone knew the rules and followed them. There was a common understanding, whether from legal, folklore, religious, or cultural sources, which governed everyone's life, and disobedience meant essentially exile from the community. More recently moral relativism has emerged, suggesting that the only judge of what is Right and Wrong for an individual is that person's own ethical compass; i.e., Right is whatever I say it is. Conflict and chaos can result when the moral relativity of one impacts that of another.

The issue of a legal approach to this matter is studiously being avoided here, for presumably laws represent the codification of individual and group judgments in a given society or institution; they express what is held in common by virtue of the moral compasses of its members. Unfortunately, this has led to an all too common belief that if something is legal, it is automatically ethical or moral, which as we have seen in recent years is often not the case. (continued next page)

So what do we do about this conundrum? If we humans possess the result of Adam and Eve eating of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, then should we not know what is Right and Wrong? And if there is only one “Right” and one “Wrong” regarding any ethical question, how come there is often such disagreement, whether the focus is the economy, politics, marriage, medical ethics, war, or any of the vast number of issues that confront us? To say nothing of the fact that knowing what is Right does not mean we will do what is Right!

Lent may be about dealing with the consequences of both our subjective decision regarding what is Right or Wrong, and our actions undertaken, often without regard for the results of that decision. However, is not the larger issue one of determining, factually, objectively, truly what is Right or Wrong based on the knowledge gained in the Garden of Eden?

The Devil may have been accurate when he told Adam and Eve that if they ate the forbidden fruit they would be like God, for one of the divine attributes is to discern clearly what is Good and Evil, what is Right and Wrong [and then to do what is Good/Right, and avoid what is Evil/Wrong]. But if we are “like God,” and we are created in the image of God and redeemed by Christ, then we possess that godly ability, once fallen and soiled, but also restored and empowered.

Is not this something we should also consider during Lent: Our struggle to discern accurately what we are supposed to know already?

One key to doing that may be in understanding not only the negatives, what Lent reminds us of, what led to Jesus being nailed to a Cross and dying. Another may be in understanding what happened next: the restoration of creation, the reconciliation of God and humanity, and the redemption of men and women that restored us to what God wants us to be; i.e., understanding Easter and our new reality as Easter people.

The other key may be in accepting and acting on who we became in Baptism, and especially the power of the Holy Spirit we received in that rite. To discern Good and Evil, to know what is Right and Wrong, and to act in ways that affirm the same, are abilities given us from God the Father, through the death and resurrection of His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

If that is true, we, you and I, should know Good from Evil, Right from Wrong. Do we? If not, why not?

The Rev. Russell H. Allen,
Associate Clergy

Thank you

A huge thank you to Debbie Gasiar, Harriet Conroy, Kathy Duncan, Carole Dwyer, Lisa Luckritz and Jody Hough who sat in the office and helped Fr. Denzil last week while I was out, yet again, for eye surgery. I am much better and I so appreciated the flowers, cards and a very special lunch. It means a lot to me. Alison

~

Now that I am home and on the road to recovery, I want to thank everyone who sent notes, cards, calls, visits and remembered me in their prayers. You certainly made the time pass much faster and I am so grateful to you all and to be part of St. Peter's family. And to you knitters, keep those needles clicking for I have ordered more yarn and when I can drive I shall return if not to knit, it will be to visit.

God Bless,
Nancy Dwarnick.



A Coffee Hour Sign-up is posted in the hallway outside the office or you may contact Barbara Reed to volunteer.

Flower Charts:

2011 Flower Charts are located on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please sign up if there are special dates which you would like to have flowers at the altar in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a birthday, anniversary, or other important event. There are still many dates available. (Suggested donation for flowers is \$40.00)

Lessons for April

DATE	1ST LESSON	PSALM	2ND LESSON	GOSPEL
April 3	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
April 10	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
April 17	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27
April 24 Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:14-17 22-24	Colossians 3:1-4	Luke 24:1-10

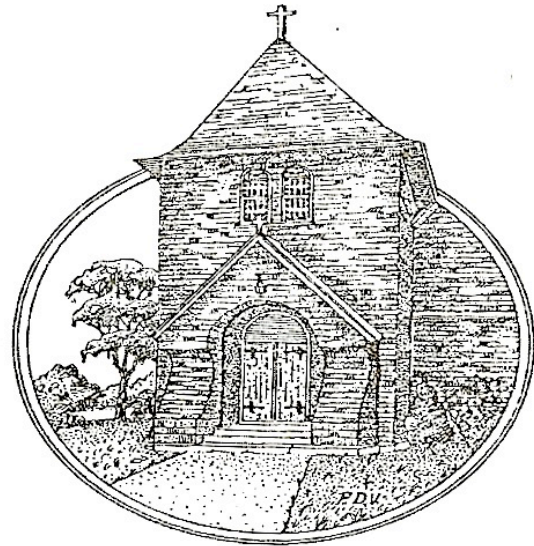
Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday Service

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
7:00 p.m. During Lent
See page 6 for Holy Week Services

Sunday childcare is provided downstairs
for parents attending services.
Parents must sign their child
in and out of childcare.



The doors are always open
welcoming you!

<http://www.stpeters-capcod.org/>

Osterville MA 02655

PO Box 437

421 Wianno Ave

St. Peter's Episcopal Church


Cross Keys