



*For Unto Us A Child IS Born*

*St. Peter's Cross Keys  
December 2008*

# *From the Interim Rector:*

## **THE ADVENT SEASON a remedy for whatever ails you!**

The Christian Year begins with the Advent season, starting Sunday, November 30th. Its “bugle-call” gets our attention and while the season warns us to forsake our sins and turn to the Lord who is front and central in our faith, Advent is not meant to scare us. Warnings can bring encouragement and a needed reorientation in our lives, literally a turning around to move in a new direction and to see things in their proper light.

St. Paul writes so pastorally in his letter to the Romans (13:11-12):

*“...you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”* Thus, in these darkened days of considerable worry and outright fear, Advent brings us an antidote, real medicine for our souls, for Advent is ultimately a season of hope, not mere optimism, looking on the bright side and living in denial of the real problems we are facing, but we are called in Advent to be realistic and we are granted strength and patience in our prayers, praises and Advent worship to find our way as a renewed church.

One of the most neglected parts of our beloved Book of Common Prayer is the Catechism or “An Outline of the Christian Faith” that begins on page 845. In the section on hope, the catechism reads: “THE CHRISTIAN HOPE IS TO LIVE WITH CONFIDENCE IN NEWNESS AND FULLNESS OF LIFE, AND TO AWAIT THE COMING OF CHRISTIN GLORY, AND THE COMPLETION OF GOD’S PURPOSE FOR THE WORLD.” Frankly, I believe that you and I are called and empowered to be part of that plan, part of God’s solution, not part of God’s problem. Thus, we share the hope God intends for us to work for and to realize in our lifetime. This serves as a remedy to our fears, a remedy to our preoccupation with lesser things. Perhaps our astringent economic times will force us to consider the basics, the fundamentals, the essentials in our life rather than the usual extravagance and stress of the Christmas season.

And so let the cleansing, warming, restorative light of this holy time before Christmas make a difference in your outlook and your celebrations. Advent is a gift to all of us to step back, take a deep breath, to look up and around us for the vistas of God’s true peace and love in order to meet our distress and worry and to move forward into the full joy of Christmas rather than an empty Christmas.

Blessings to you!

Robert Anthony

Interim Priest (on behalf of your clergy and lay staff at St. Peter’s Church)

## ***From the Search Committee:***

Our work is coming near to conclusion. As of the moment we have identified qualified candidates and they have been approved by the Diocese. The approval process includes a thorough background check, conducted on a world wide basis, to assure that there is no reasonable reason to believe that there are skeletons hiding in a closet.

As this is written the Committee is setting up a meeting to discuss the qualification of the finalists so that our charge: *Bring to St. Peter's the Best Person the You Can Find*, is fulfilled. Our finalists are very well qualified. They have gone thru the background evaluation and have come thru with no marks against them. Our Bishop has concluded that each of the candidates is a most appropriate choice to lead St. Peter's over the next years.

We are coming close to the decision point. We hope that all members of the Parish will keep the Search Committee in your prayers as we struggle to discern which of our final choices is the candidate we believe to have the best probability of demonstrating the leadership to move St. Peter's Onward and Upward in the years to come.

James L. Baird, Jr.  
for the Search Committee

## ***Sunday Adult Forum Schedule***

**November 30: [Advent 1] Advent Focus: Home and Family Observance.**  
Making and using a family Advent Wreath.

**December 7: [Advent 2] Advent Focus: Gift-giving that spreads God's Love.**  
Christmas gifts that honor the giver and the recipient by furthering the work of God and God's people.

**December 14: [Advent 3] Advent Focus: Celebrating the Incarnation of God.**  
Exploration of the core reality of Christmas: "The Word Made Flesh."

**December 21: [Advent 4] Christmas Pageant [No Adult Forum].**

**December 28: [Christmas 1] No Adult Forum.**

***Please Note:*** Some of the above topics might be supplanted by presentations focused on Stewardship or the Selection of the new Rector.

# *Notes on Convention 2008*

Gerry Stanney

The 223rd. Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts was held Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8 at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis. In addition to myself, Ron Reed and Greg Miller also represented St. Peter's this year.

Besides being the governing organ for the Diocese, the Convention is the annual opportunity for the Diocese to gather together in one place. Representatives from the 190 parishes of the Diocese gather together as God's people to worship, sing, renew acquaintances, discuss various ministries and opportunities for mission and pass an operating budget for the next year.

The Convention began Friday at 1:00pm with an opening Worship followed by elections. This year we elected Provisional Clerical and Lay Deputies to General Convention, including two Cape Codders: Helen Gordon, a member of St. Barnabas in Falmouth and The Rev. Robert E. Hensley, Grace Church, Vineyard Haven. In addition we elected a Lay Member of the Standing Committee and two Board Members of the Barbara C. Harris Center.

The main focus of Convention this year was a renewal of our partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani the Bishop of Jerusalem and his wife Shafeeqa were honored guests this year. There was a middle eastern bazaar and the benefit dinner had a middle eastern theme. The proceeds from the dinner and auction which amounted to about \$20,000 are being used to support the Beir Ziet elderly housing project in the Diocese of Jerusalem. Bishop Dawani addressed the Convention and Bishop Harris gave a video presentation about the Diocese of Jerusalem and its good works. The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem covers five middle eastern countries: Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, and Palestine. Their seven thousand members belong to twenty-seven parishes. Among other ministries they operate hospitals, schools and housing for the elderly. Ethnically, many of them are Arabs. About 10% of Arabs are Christian, the remnants of the early Christian communities that date back to the time of Christ. Their schools service seven thousand children, 65% of which are Moslem. Many moderate Moslems favor their schools for the quality of education and their teaching of moderation and non-violence. Bishop Harris announced that she would be leading a missionary trip to Jerusalem this June and put out the call to join her.

Speaking of missionary trips, there are others planned as well. Our college folks are planning a trip to Kenya and the Diocesan Youth Council is planning another trip to the Gulf Coast.

You may recall that in my report from last year I wrote about how impressed I was with our Diocesan Youth program and its leader the Rev. Robert Bacon. Apparently, he has been at that ministry for ten years now and done a great job. He is assuming a new challenge, heading up a new ministry to focus on returning veterans from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the unique issues they face in dealing with that experience.

One other significant change is that Malley Lloyd, Rector of Christ Church, Plymouth will be joining the Diocesan Staff as Canon to the Ordinary.

As with other Conventions there were a number of Resolutions proposed for consideration. This year there were seven. There was discussion of each, both for and against. There were amendments from the floor. In the end, they all passed by overwhelming margins. They were:

1. Resolution creating a diocesan policy on immigration;
2. Resolution in support of transgender civil rights and inclusion in the ministries of all the baptized;
3. Resolution affirming the actions of the 75th. General convention on slavery and reconciliation;
4. Resolution on Christian formation/education regarding spirituality, history and practice of nonviolence in the Christian tradition;
5. Resolution for General Convention endorsing Feast Day May 17th. For Saints Andronicus and Junia, Apostles;
6. Resolution for the continued trial use in the Diocese of Massachusetts of Feast Day May 17th. For Saints Andronicus and Junia, Apostles; and,
7. Resolution confirming the support of the Diocese of Massachusetts for the work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

One exciting item of business was that the Convention accepted a new parish into the Diocese: Church of the Holy Spirit, Fall River. It is the result of a merger of a number of small parishes in Fall River. I think that the whole parish showed up to celebrate the event.

The last major item on the agenda was the approval of the Assessments and the Budget for 2009. These were discussed in detail at several informational meetings held around the Diocese prior the Convention. The Assessment this year is \$5,185,000 and the Budget is \$6,819,779. The Assessment is what the parishes contribute to the Diocese. It ranges from \$114 for St. Andrew's/Grace Church Fed., East Boston to \$583,932 for Trinity Church, Boston. St Peter's share is \$68,400. Both the Assessment and the Budget were passed overwhelmingly.

To close this report I thought I would share an interesting story that was told at Convention. By way of background, at last year's Convention one of Bishop Shaw's meditations was about a small parish with a long and proud heritage that had dwindled to under twenty members. They struggled to keep the place going. They had tried many different things over the years to attract new parishioners without success. The Bishop asked if they had ever considered closing and joining with other parishes nearby. They had not. He suggested that they might consider it. They didn't have to make a decision then. Perhaps they could visit other parishes in the area and pray about it. This year, the story continued. As it turned out, at nearby St. John's, they were praying for more parishioners when one Sunday cars drove up and unloaded all the parishioners from St. Luke's. Eventually, the St. Luke's folks decided to join St. John's and it was decided to move the altar from St. Luke's into the chapel of St. John's. It fit perfectly! In addition, it seems that St. Luke's altar had medieval like carvings of a figure on each side that no one had paid much attention to. When they looked closely they discovered that one of the figures was of St. Luke and the other was of St. John!

# Christmas At St. Peter's

Lessons and Carols      December 14th, 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Pageant      December 21st, 10:00 a.m.



## ***Christmas Eve Services:***

4:00 p.m.      Family Eucharist with Family Choir

7:30 p.m.      Special Music Prelude

8:00 p.m.      Holy Eucharist with Adult Choir

## ***Christmas Day Service:***

10:00 a.m.      Holy Eucharist, spoken - no music



# *Outreach*

## **Overnights of Hospitality**

St. Peter's hosts a Salvation Army Overnight of Hospitality on the fourth Monday of every month. We now have four women in the program, and expect more as winter draws closer. We need volunteers to chaperone, provide food and a video, or drive the ladies to and from St. Peter's. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please contact Lynn Voccola via email at [lsvoccola@comcast.net](mailto:lsvoccola@comcast.net) or by phone at 508-332-8205 if you would like information or to volunteer. Your support of this vital ministry is greatly appreciated

## **Seamen's Church Institute**

Many thanks to all the knitters and friends who contributed the 43 items sent to the Seamen's Church Institute so far this year for Christmas. Whether you knit at home or join us at the church the third Thursday of each month (except December). It is a wonderful outreach program. Please join us. If you have any questions, you may contact me at 508-428-4457 - Nancy Dwarnick



## **In Memory**

Thank you, St. Peter's, for honoring the memory of our beloved Gene Goetchius. The donations many of you made in his name assure the continuation of Outreach's mission .....reaching out to our Cape Cod neighbors in need.

Most gratefully, your Outreach Committee

## *Food Pantry*

The holidays will be difficult for many of us this year, but even more so for those who frequent our food pantry. We ask that you be extra generous in your donations these next two months. When purchasing staple items for your holiday meals, please pick up a few extra for the pantry. We already have an ample supply of canned pumpkin, but canned cranberries, canned sweet potatoes, syrup, pecans, canned ham, canned vegetables, cream of mushroom soup and the like would be welcome additions. And, as always, the regular staples of tuna, macaroni and cheese, one box meals, cereals, coffee, etc. are needed. On behalf of those utilize the pantry, thank you. Adrienne and Meredith Carlton

## *Christmas Cookie Swap & Music*

St. Peter's Women's Association will meet on Thursday, December 11 at 11:30 am. After our celebration in the church, we will meet for cheer and fellowship and lunch. Dessert will be finger sweet that we will bring. Please come with a plate to share. After lunch, St. Peter's choir will entertain us with traditional carols for Christmas. Bring a friend and join the fun. Sign up before December 8. The charge will be \$15.

## *Harvest Fair Thank You's*

### **From the Craft & Basket Tables**

Thank you!

On September 1st, we asked for crafters, stitchers, gluers, knitters and quilters to provide for our Harvest Fair. And you loafed and fished us. Our tables were full, full, full of work done by our Friday Church Crafters and by all of you who stitched and knitted at home. Thanks to you, the Outreach Committee will be able to continue to reach out to our Cape Codders in need and the Church will get a bonus near year's end as well. We are grateful.

### **From the Kitchen**

Thanks to those who made tempting sandwiches, excellent chili, to Barnstable General Store for its donation of their own clam chowder and crackers, for parishioners' brownies, for Osterville's Fancy's Market's wheel of amazing cheddar donated. And, of course, for all who chose to have their delicious lunch at Church and eat all this good food....or perhaps brought home baked goods and dinners-to-go... or enjoyed that early morning coffee and donuts presented to our early bird customers. For all who brought, made, consumed, purchased, thank you!

### **From the Jewelry Boutique**

Once again, Barbara Glatley and I would like to thank all who donated, purchased and worked at the jewelry boutique. It was another great year for our table that couldn't happened without all of your help. Thank you, Nancy Dwarnick

# *Christian Education*

Upcoming reminders in Christian Education:

**Sunday, November 30th is the first Sunday of Advent.** Following the 10:00 service, we will have an Advent Wreath-making workshop in the Parish Hall for anyone interested. Since I need to buy supplies, please make sure you have signed up with me during coffee hour or by email: [kkperrone@comcast.net](mailto:kkperrone@comcast.net). Participants should bring some greens and garden clippers if possible.

**Sunday, December 21st is the Christmas Pageant.** Sign-ups will take place in the Parish Hall after the 10:00 services in November. Our rehearsals will take place on December 7th and 14th, after the 10:00 service.

**Advent Readings/Candle Lighting - Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21, and Dec. 24.**

We would like to have a family light the Advent candles in the church each week and do a short reading. This will take place in the beginning of the service. Children participating on the 30th and the 14th will miss a bit of Sunday school, but are welcome to come join us after the lighting.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me!

Kathryn Perrone

CED

## **Acolytes**

We need to add you to our acolyte roster this December. Anyone with a minimum age of 8 years old and older is welcome to make inquiries.

Please contact Fr. Bob at 508-790-7981.

# *St. Peter's Nursery School*

Each year, I am told that everyone looks forward to the first pancake breakfast benefiting St. Peter's Nursery School Scholarship Fund. This year was no exception and our October Pancake Breakfast was a hit! We had several generous sponsors, hard working volunteers to help behind the scenes and an enthusiastic turnout. Leftover foods were donated to Champ House in Hyannis.

## **Sponsors**

Angel Level \$250: Joanne Chope Corsiglia  
Patron Level \$100: Gargiulo/Rudnick, LLP Attorneys at Law  
Donor Level \$50: Mr. and Mrs. Peter Davies

## **Volunteers**

Noelle Benoit, Carter Catalano, Beth Daly, Peter & Shelly Davies,  
Julie Esteves, Melinda Jacob, John Lyons,  
Shane Peters, Suzanne Powers, Jennifer & Emily Williams

## **Supplies**

Bainier, Curley, Davies, Esteves, Goode, and James families

## **50/50 Cash Raffle**

Shane Peters, our \$35 winner, donated her winnings to our scholarship fund!

## **Finally, we are very appreciative to all those who attended!**

I would like to thank all involved for without their help and support the breakfast would not be possible!

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS...FEBRUARY 1, 2009...PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**2009 CALENDARS** are now available for purchase for \$10!

Not only is it a great and useful keepsake, it makes a great and affordable gift!

Reserve your copy or pick one up at the church office.

## **Fall Enrollment for the 2009-2010 begins in January.**

We thank you for supporting our students. Please feel free to email me, Charlene Krig, at [info@stpetersnurseryschool.org](mailto:info@stpetersnurseryschool.org) or call **508-428-8857** should you have any questions.

*On behalf of the families and staff of the nursery school, may you and yours experience a joyful holiday season and peace throughout the year!*

*Merry Christmas!*

# *Announcements*

## **Soujourn in Gloucester Prints**

Liz Mumford Wilson is very happy to report that 61 prints have been sold, with the first 50 at 100% contribution. There are still more prints available. She has also received an intent to buy the original painting. People have until Dec 1 to make an intent, if they so desire. The drawing will be held December 1st. If you wish to purchase a print or are interested in purchasing the original painting, contact Alison in the church office. Many thanks to all who have been so supportive.

## **Going Green at St. Peter's**

If you would like your Cross Keys sent to you electronically or "This Week at St. Peter's" from the church bulletin sent to you each Monday, please let the Alison know. If your email address has changed, please let Alison know that too.

## **FOUND IN THE KITCHEN**

A lovely 86" x 92" fine linen tablecloth with an exquisite monogram "S" and a 16" striped border. If this is yours, please contact the office. 508-428-3561.

## **Attention Snow Birds**

Don't forget to let Alison know when you will be leaving for the winter and when you plan on returning so you will be assured to get your Cross Keys and other important mail from the church all year long. Thank you.



*The deadline for the Cross Keys is the 15th of the month. Submissions may be left in the church office or emailed (most preferred by the editor!) to [nancymumford@comcast.net](mailto:nancymumford@comcast.net). Please note: I can only accept Word documents (not Word Perfect) by email as I use a Mac-based program. Thank you.*

## Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday childcare is provided in the downstairs nursery for parents attending the second service and activities following. Parents must sign their child in and out of childcare.

## Church Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Anthony, Interim Rector

The Rev. Dr. Eugene Goetchius, Associate

The Rev. Paul Thompson, Associate

The Rev. Russell H. Allen, Associate

Karen Crosby, Organist-Choir Director

Kathryn Perrone, Christian Ed Director

Alison M. Arnold, Parish Administrator

Ronald Reed, Senior Warden

Carole Dwyer, Junior Warden

Chuck Gasior, Treasurer

Maureen Tempesta, Clerk

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