



CROSS KEYS

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OSTERVILLE MA 02655

December 2011

An Advent Prayer

You are our eternal salvation,
 The unfailing light of the world.
 Light everlasting,
 You are truly our redemption.
 Grieving that the human race was perishing
 through the tempter's power,
 without leaving the heights
 You came to the depths in your loving
 kindness.
 Readily taking our humanity by Your
 gracious will,
 You saved all earthly creatures, long since
 lost,
 Restoring joy to the world.
 Redeem our souls and bodies, O Christ,
 and so possess us as Your shining dwellings.
 By Your first coming, make us righteous;
 At your second coming, set us free:
 So that, when the world is filled with light
 and you judge all things,
 We may be clad in spotless robes
 and follow in Your steps, O King,
 Into the heavenly hall.

Unknown Author, 10th century

Important Dates to Remember

- December 4..... A Visit from St. Nicholas**
- December 8..... SPWA Luncheon**
- December 11 Cookie Sale**
- December 25..... Christmas Day**

Dear Friends,

Few facts are known about St. Nicholas. In an attempt to learn more, I recently read [Nicholas -The Epic Journey from Saint to Santa Claus](#) by Jeremy Seal, which I highly recommend. What we do know is that he was a bishop in Asia Minor, his name is Greek, and in scanning through Church history, several popes - and many churches - share his name. The first part of his name is the Greek word for victory, nike (not unlike the shoe, huh!). The second part, laos, means people, the same root word from which our word "laity" is derived. Literally Nicholas means, "the victory of the people."

The legends surrounding St. Nicholas portray a generous gift-giving person. Our jolly Santa Claus is handed down through mostly the German, English, and Dutch stories of St. Nicholas. He has become the patron saint of children and when we hear his name, images of joyful giving emerge. St. Nicholas or Santa Claus exemplifies unselfishness. He is the giver who receives no obvious gift himself other than the simple joy he brings to others. It is not coincidental then that he became associated with the Christian celebration of God's birth in human form, Jesus. Jesus' life represents the ultimate in gift-giving. He freely gave his life for us.

Behind the yearly celebration of the Babe in Bethlehem is our longing for meaning in our lives. Jesus proclaimed that the "reign of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15). We long for God's reign to become a living reality where peace and justice overcome hatred and oppression, a time when Love reigns. A time when no one will be denied access. Jesus was and is and will be for all people, no exclusions. In him, the brokenness of the world is healed. The ultimate gift is given.

God's people are known by their words and actions. It's not an easy thing to be Christian. So many of the Christian values we hold are counter-cultural. We are called to be "Giving People" in a society that advocates looking out for the "self" before all else. We strive for a quiet, joyful preparation in a commercial season characterized by rushing mobs of frantic shoppers and gift receipts for the post-Christmas returns. Each year we find ourselves bombarded by decorations as early as October, Christmas sales, ads, and merchandise, and in some cases even the confusing combination of

left-ever Halloween and Thanksgiving items displayed right next to the Christmas ones.

Jesus was not born in a marketplace. He was born in a quiet, obscure, humble place. If we allow ourselves to get lost in the "Christmas rush," we risk missing the subtle signs of Jesus' presence; that renewed opportunity to offer him a welcoming birthplace. Christians focus on giving, not on "getting." St. Nicholas gave without expecting anything in return - not even a thank you. Don't let the worldly activities of the season overshadow the pure spiritual joy of the season. Resolve to focus on the true center of life in the hope and anticipation of His coming again. Be ready! Watch! Prepare yourselves!

In Christ,
Denzil J. Luckritz, *Rector*

Christmas Services Schedule

Christmas Eve:

4:00 p.m. Family Service

8:00 p.m. Contemporary Service

11:00 p.m. Traditional Service

Christmas Day:

10:00 a.m.

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 Jenn McDevitt
Clerk (Interim)..... Mark Clifford

Vestry Members

Mary Beebe Gretchen Perry
Judson Breslin Mark Thomas
Gerard Armstrong Jeff Callard
Linda Dill Barbara Spillane
Gregory Winkler

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 Mark Thomas
Women's Association Jane Price

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

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

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

Newsletter Deadline



December 15th
for the January 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



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

Mary, Gerri, Dorothy, Erik, Millie,
Wilhelmina, Davis, Jim, Ivan & Jean,
Joanne, Dennis, Tom, Phillip, Lorraine, Christopher,
Walter, Micheline, Avena & Bishop Tharp Institute,
John, Ralph, Eddie, Al, Sheila, Leslie, Kellen,
Suzanne, Georgia, Bob, Bart, Nancy, Luke,
Michelle, Paul, Bob & Carol, Barbara, Russ,
Lynn timer, Bill, Cathy, Mrs. L, Sally, Aleah, Lila, Matt,
Elias, Margy, Jackie, Laura, Meesh, Peter, Pauline,
Joan, Douglas, Sarah, David, Anthony, Dennis,
Janet, Dulce, Dave, Jessica, Emma, Jean,
Bill, John, Joe, Steven, Thomas, Judy, Brennan,
Diana, Anne, 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

In the hospital:



Jean Partridge
Bill Hansel
Bob Seidler

Memorials:

Barbara "Bobbie" Wohlwend

Remembering the families of:

Dianne Zielinski
Richard Johnson

December Birthdays

1-Nicole Vautrain
3-Griffin May, Katie Meyer
4-Ellen Merlesena
9-Katie Armstrong
10- Tara Bedenkop, Kathy Holcombe
11- Melissa Tavilla
14- Doris Cowan
15-James Gross, Anna Kjoller
16-Abigail Catalano, Bob Frazee, Charlie Spilsbury
17-David Gross
18-Stephen Merlesena, Pat Ingraham
19-Mary Lee, Sally Webb
22-Jane Gunnery, Geoffrey Stanney
23-Meredith Carlton, Arlene Johnson, Samira
Schumann
26-Carol Seidler
29-Liz Mumford
31-Alex Damiecki

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

Anniversaries

15-Bob & Laurie Kjoller
18-Jack & Pat Ingraham

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jonathan and Jessica Stanney on the
birth of their new daughter Vivian Marcella Stanney,
born on November 13th. The proud grandparents are
Gerry & Susan Stanney.

A New Look at Stewardship At St. Peter's

If you have been able to be in church for the past several weeks, you know that we are taking a new look at financial stewardship at St. Peter's. The stewardship committee's first hint that something very special was happening were the responses to the question "What does St. Peter's mean to you?" from the parishioners in attendance on October 23, 2011. The committee simply took the verbatim responses and formatted the **St. Peter's Parishioner's Poem**. It is printed elsewhere in the Cross Keys (page 12).

St. Peter's is facing a financial situation that is unsustainable. Simply stated, annual expenses are exceeding annual income and for a number of years, with vestry approval, we are using endowment interest and principle to "bridge the gap" This has to be corrected. Thus your stewardship committee goals:

Long Term: Begin a 3-5 year "St. Peter's Stewardship Journey" with the goal of eliminating the need to use the endowment to "bridge expenses to income gap".

2012 Goals "The First Year"

1. Ask all "givers of record" (folks who give weekly but do not pledge) **to submit a pledge card**
2. Ask all pledgers (folks who do pledge) and all "givers of record" to **increase their gifts by \$1/day or \$5-\$10/week.**
3. Invite all those who have not previously pledged or are not "givers of record" **to do so.**

Please join us on St. Peter's Stewardship Journey.

Sincerely, St. Peter's 2012 Stewardship Committee:

Mark Thomas, Kathie Duncan, Frank Fenner, Ned Richardson & Jen McDevitt-Treasurer

GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE

On Tuesday, November 22, parishioners delivered 20 food and turkey baskets, from Sandwich to Harwich Port, to families and groups who, without our help, would not have a Thanksgiving meal to enjoy.

Baskets were filled with food brought in by parishioners, potatoes and carrots and squash donated by Osterville's Fancy's Market, two heirloom tomatoes in each basket provided by Cape Abilities Dennis 6A Farm, and Charlene Krig's now famous pumpkin bread as the final topper. Tucked in each basket was a Thanksgiving card from St. Peter's family.

For all who brought in food or wrote your generous checks for turkey purchase, many, many thanks. And for the nitty gritty heavy work of actually picking up the turkeys, thanks to the Dwyers and the Dudley Thomas' families.

Good work, St. Peter's.
Your Outreach Committee

COOKIE SALE! Join us Sunday, December 11th after the 8:00 and 10:00 am services for our second annual Cookie Sale. You can help by baking 3 dozen cookies and then we will sell them by the pound.

Dinner Groups are being formed. Kick off Cocktail party will be December 10th at the home of Ron & Barbara Reed. All are welcome - bring an hors d'oeuvre and what you wish to drink.

Behind the Scenes With Will Beebe: Returning to the Nave

Many, many folks have been asking when we will be able to return to the Nave. As I said last month, that is not an easy question. I also hinted that there would be stages of return.

The first stage may, if we are VERY lucky, be at Christmas. If not for Christmas, very shortly thereafter. What will you find when you return??

First of all, you may be amazed how familiar it looks. With all the work we did, it may be hard to notice it. Here is what you will find in the Nave.

- The tie rods are down! We installed the tie rods almost two years ago to stabilize the Nave while we figured out what to do. With the full basement foundation and the installation of 10 buttresses, the tie rods are no longer needed.

- The wood floors are no longer dark, dirty and scuffed. We have found that underneath all that dirt and dark stain was a wonderful natural finish of the 108-year-old fir flooring. The old carpet in the chancel area, having served well for decades, is now a wood flooring matching the old fir. Not only does it make for a seamless transition to the Altar, it vastly improves the acoustics from the Chancel.

- Carpet is still down the aisle and out the Lectern door, although it is different from the old green.

- While you will see the same lead-glass windows, you will notice that they have been repaired. You will also notice that when you sit next to them, you will not get a blast of outside air. What you will feel, is the effects of the new HVAC system blowing gently from under the window sill.

- If you look very hard, you will notice a boxed in area running down both sides of the Nave. This houses new electrical wiring and sprinkler pipes.

- Up in the Chancel area, you will notice a completely redone Sacristy. It is all on one level, now, and is much more functional. You will notice

that the Altar platform has been reduced, allowing more room for Clergy to move around. You will notice more natural light in the Chancel, due to the construction of the new Narthex (see below). You will also notice a new location for the PA system. It is no longer in the Sacristy. Unfortunately, you will NOT see the organ. While it is completely restored, it had to wait for all the dust to settle before it can be returned. Look for its re-installation in the Jan/Feb time frame.

How did you enter the Nave? There are now three entrances. How will they look?

The Tower Narthex entrance:

- The biggest change here is just outside this entrance. You must have noticed the different landscaping. Trees and shrubs had to be removed during construction, and it will take time for new items to grow.
- Just to the right of the outside door, you might have seen a bit of new construction. This is the roof of the new stairway down to the Undercroft.
- Just inside the door, you will a stairway going down. This leads to the Undercroft, and will be the primary way for processions to gather before Services. No more standing outside in the weather.
- The flooring is no longer carpeting, but the exposed 108-year-old fir flooring discussed above.

That's about it for the Tower Narthex. Not a whole lot was done to it, or to the tower itself. But let's say you parked behind the Church in the Parking Lot. How would you enter the Nave? Be bold, and enter through the new narthex:

Parking Lot Narthex

- This entrance is the biggest change visible from the outside. The architecture, though, blends in with the existing architecture. Enter from the left side and look straight ahead. That is where the new elevator will be installed in the future. This elevator will take you to the Lower Level.

--Proceed though the doorway. You may recognize that you have just passed the location of the old restroom in the old "robe room". Maybe not, as you are suddenly looking into an open, inviting Narthex. Look through the window on the right, and see the Chancel area. Believe it or not, this window has ALWAYS been there. Notice the paneling on the wall. It was designed to match the paneling on the Memorial Garden Plaques. Notice the flooring. It matches the wood flooring in the Nave. Unlike the old "Office Entrance", the way to the Nave from this new narthex is very, very clear.

Let's say, however, that old habits are hard to change, and you entered from the parking lot via the "Office Entrance". Stick to your old habits, and turn right onto the familiar corridor. Proceed as usual, but notice that the door to the Nave is in a different location. Proceed through this door, and, SUDDENLY, you are in the new Parking Lot Narthex. WOW!

While things look new, refreshed and inviting, there are several things that are yet to be done before this first phase of our work is done, and our return to the Nave is complete . These are the stages I mentioned in the beginning of this article.

- First, and foremost, is the return of the organ. As stated above, this should happen in the Jan/Feb time frame.
- The elevator has to be purchased and installed.
- The Undercroft has to be "finished off" and deemed occupiable by the Building Inspector. Currently, it is no different than an unfinished basement.

With luck, these stages will be completed soon. But look at all the work that HAS been done. We did a LOT. Small details can hold some of the best stories, so be sure to ask questions.

TREASURER'S MEMO October, 2011

For the month of October 2011 and Year to Date (YTD), the income and expenses for the parish were as follows:

October 2011
Income: \$ 28,011
Expenses: \$ 39,768
Balance: (\$11,757)

YTD 2011
Income: \$343,133
Expenses: \$359,004
Balance: (\$12,947)

Our monthly expenses yet again outweighed our income. As of the end of October, I have requested another draw-down of DIT funds to help bridge the gap between income and expenses. It is our hope that by year's end we will not have to draw down the entire amount (for the year) allotted by vote of the vestry. More info to come on that next month.

By now you all should have received your statement through the end of the third quarter. If by chance you have not received yours, please call Alison in the office or feel free to call me directly at 508-737-3875.

As the Advent season approaches, I hope that all of us will continue to give thanks for all that God provides us in this place. It's not just about our building, it's not just about our worship services, it's about the strong, connected, faith-based community that we are here. I thank God for each and every one of you and what you bring to our collective table!

Please don't ever hesitate to call me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Jenn McDevitt, Parish Treasurer

We Believe in Angels!



Won't you be an Angel?

Let the Church School send Christmas greetings to everyone in the parish on your behalf. For a \$10.00 donation, your name may join our list of benefactors, enclosed in a lovely card sent to every member of St. Peter's.

Proceeds of this project benefit **A Baby Center. ABC**, located in Hyannis, serves Cape & Islands families in need by providing critical basic items for infants and toddlers.

YES! Include my (our) name as it is written below:

Please make checks payable to *St. Peter's Church School*

Deadline Friday, December 9, 2011
Thanks for your support!

Toys for Tots

Once again, St. Peter's Outreach Committee is asking the parish to support the USMC's "Toys for Tots" program to help brighten the Christmas of young children and teenagers on the Cape and Islands whose families have been so affected by the current financial climate.

We ask that only new toys, games and books be donated and that they are unwrapped to help volunteers find an appropriate gift for each child. Please leave your donations in the "Toys for Tots" box in the hallway starting Sunday, November 27 until Thursday, December 15.

If you prefer to make a financial donation, you may send a check to:

Toys for Tots
 C & I Detachment 955
 P. O. Box 195
 West Hyannis Port, MA 02672

More than 55,000 gifts were collected and distributes to over 21,000 Cape and Island families in 2009. Last year, the numbers of toys and families receiving them greatly increased. The vice president of the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" Foundation, Major Grein, thought you would like to be assured that 96% of the funds collected is spent on the mission to procure (or purchase) and distribute these gifts each Christmas.



“Liturgy and U”

Reviewing the Church Year

As we approach the Advent Season and begin our new Liturgical year, it seems like a good time to re-visit the liturgical seasons and renew our understanding of what it means to be Baptized into the Body of Christ. The purpose of the liturgical year is to enable us to re-live the story of our faith. Each season has its own color, reflecting the theme of the season.

I Advent – liturgical color, blue or purple – for preparation

Advent is about waiting – waiting with hope and expectation for the Messiah to come. After Christ’s death and resurrection, early Christians waited for him to return in glory. We, too, live in the joyful expectation of his coming again to gather us into God’s eternal kingdom.

Reflection - Our lives are in the hands of our Saviour who has triumphed over death. We face the future trusting that God will guide and protect us on our journey, until we come into the fullness of His Kingdom.

II Christmas – liturgical color white – for new beginnings

We celebrate the birth of Jesus and tell the story of angels proclaiming his birth to poor shepherds. Reflection –We celebrate moments of new birth in our lives when we discover and experience the fulfillment of our hopes and dreams.

III Epiphany – liturgical color green – the color of life

We discover how Jesus became known to the world

- The visit of the Magi
- The presentation in the Temple
- The Baptism of Jesus

- The miracle stories

We learn that Jesus came to teach everyone about the Kingdom of God, in which all people are embraced with compassion.

Reflection –We recall our own Epiphany times, reflect on those moments when the love of Jesus was made known to us, was revealed to us.

IV Lent – liturgical color purple – for penitence and preparation

The readings give expression to the theme of suffering both for Christ and Christians. The Gospel texts give a compact version of Jesus’ baptism, temptation and preaching in Galilee, leading to Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

Reflection –We reflect on our own Lenten times

- our temptations and failures as individuals, as a society, as a faith community
- our facing life’s setbacks and disappointments, crying out “Lord have Mercy”

V Holy Week – liturgical color red – for suffering

We recall Jesus entry into Jerusalem. We re-live Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples and the institution of the Eucharist. We re-live Christ’s suffering and death on the cross.

VI Easter – liturgical color white – for new life

We celebrate Jesus’ resurrection and reflect on those moments in our lives in which God’s love and grace have given us new life and saved us from despair, - our Easter moments of discovering new possibilities.

VII Pentecost – liturgical color red – for fire

This fiftieth day after Easter introduces the last great season of the church year and is the day on which the church celebrates the gift of God’s Holy Spirit, enabling us to continue the ministry of Jesus as his disciples.

Reflection – We reflect on our personal Pentecost times when we experience a fresh awareness of God’s spirit moving within us and around us.

VIII All Saints – liturgical color white – for new life

The liturgical year begins to draw to a close as we remember and reflect on the example of those who have lived the story of faith and witness before us, and have, in a special way, helped point the way to true and faithful discipleship.

IX Thanksgiving Day – liturgical color white

The liturgical year comes to an end as we express our gratitude for the love of God in Christ and reflect on God’s many blessings to us and the world in which we live.

The church sets aside these seasons and tells these stories in order that we may be more aware of God’s healing, loving and renewing presence in our own personal lives and stories.

Always remember that to be baptized is:

- to belong to a people bound together by a story, God’s story
- to belong to a people who are loved more than any of us could ever imagine
- to belong to a people who have been marked as Christ’s own forever.

Happy Christian New Year!

Fr. Paul+



“You Have Cancer.” **An Update.**

Many of you have offered your prayers and support to me since I shared news of my medical issue in Cross Keys. For that I am very grateful, as well as for your willingness to honor my privacy by not asking me for details of what is going on.

I have now had a second opinion confirming the diagnosis and prognosis, and the plans for surgery have been confirmed. The operation will be at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston on Friday February 10th. I should be in the hospital for seven days, and recovering at home for an additional two months. If all goes well I will be able to resume limited duties at St. Peter’s in mid-March, and be fully functional in time for Holy Week.

Please continue to keep Louisa and me in your prayers, offer your support, respect my privacy, and with me stand firm in our Faith in God, and in the belief that when this is finally over, I will resume my life and activities with renewed energy and commitment.

The Rev. Russell H. Allen,
Associate Clergy

Knitting Group With the diligent work of our St. Peter’s knitters and friends, our grand total for this year of knitted articles sent to Seamen’s Church Institute was 63. That is the most we have ever made and many thanks go out to you all and for turning them in on time for shipping. As usual, we keep knitting every 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm in the library so come join us. Nancy Dwarnick.

**UNITED THANK
OFFERING**

Fall 2011 Ingathering

Report

Totaled \$597.61

The October 23, 2011 St. Peter's Fall UTO Ingathering offerings, our "giving in gratitude for our many blessings", totaled \$597.61. One hundred percent of this collection will be used to support Diocesan grants both at home and around the world as an outreach of The Episcopal Church. You can't say that of many charities!

The UNITED THANK OFFERING is a personal and family devotional program of The Episcopal Church. It is the sum of our daily thanks for the blessings in our everyday lives. It is a way for women, men and children to nurture the habit of giving a daily tangible thanks to God. Your prayers and offerings make it possible for the UTO mission to stretch in unexpected ways. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who

participate in the UTO offering have discovered that thankfulness leads to generosity.

Each household is encouraged to have and use their UTO BLUE BOX throughout the whole year. The size of the offering is not as important as the practice of thanksgiving. In doing so, it is a way to fulfill our baptismal covenant: to serve Christ in all persons, love our neighbors as ourselves, and strive for justice and peace among all people.

UTO BLUE BOXES are available in the parish hallway. Please note that ingatherings will be held twice a year, fall and spring!

**The Spring 2012 UTO
INGATHERING will be Sunday,
March 18, 2012**

Debbie Gasior, UTO Coordinator
St. Peter's Women's Association
Service Project

December Adult Forums:

The Spiritual Celebration of Christmas

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

As the secular calendar year winds down and the Liturgical New Year begins, the weekly Adult Forum will be devoted to the Observance of the Advent Season and the Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Both of these can and often do get lost in the much larger "Holiday Season" that seems now to begin with Columbus Day and abruptly ends on January 2nd. Though many of us try to be faithful in our worship and spiritual activities during the Advent and Christmas Seasons, it is harder each year to find the balance between sacred and secular that we may want, and more importantly need. As a result, we expend much money and energy doing things that in the end leave us feeling dissatisfied.

This year the Adult Forum on the four Sundays of Advent will explore ways to enter into the spirituality of the Advent and Christmas Seasons, especially as those attending have done so in the past or plan on doing so this year.

There will be no Adult Forums on Christmas or New Year's Day. The schedule for these weekly Adult Education programs for January will appear in that month's Cross Keys.

Your comments and suggestions for the betterment of the Adult Forums, and especially proposals for future topics, are always appreciated. Please contact me before or after Sunday Worship, by email at capecahd@comcast.net, or by phone at [508-432-3483](tel:508-432-3483) or [860-391-3100](tel:860-391-3100).

The Prayers of the People Project

The First Sunday of Advent will mark the beginning of the second year for the use of Prayers of the

People written especially for St. Peter's. The weekly Prayers in this three-year project follow the pattern set forth in the Book of Common Prayer, reflects the Church Year and the themes and readings of the Eucharistic Lectionary for a given Sunday, contains flexible content and opportunities for adaptation to changing circumstances, and can be used in this and other parishes in years to come. They are printed in the Sunday Bulletin and may be used taken home and used during the week following.

Upon their completion at the end of 2013, these Prayers of the People will be edited, compiled, and possibly published for use in the large Church.

You may have noticed modifications in the content, length, and other aspects of the Prayers of the People since this Project began. This has been due in part to changes in the Church Year, but they have also resulted from comments and suggestions made by members of the congregation, especially at a recent Adult Forum. Such input is very valuable to my oversight of this project, and I encourage anyone wishing to share comments and suggestions to contact me personally before or after Sunday Worship, by email at capecahd@comcast.net, or by phone at [508-432-3483](tel:508-432-3483) or [860-391-3100](tel: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. Our next Baptismal Occasion is the First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8th, 2012. Anyone wishing to be baptized, or to have someone baptized at that time should contact the Parish Office or Fr. Russ Allen at 508-432-3483 at their earliest convenience.

The News Is Never Good.

There are two old jokes that go something like this:

A man goes to his doctor for his annual physical. Raising his arm he tells the doctor: "It hurts when I do this." The doctor's advice: "Don't do that."

A man is talking to his best friend: "I read an article that says smoking is not good for my health, so I decided to stop." The friend said: "Stop smoking?" The man replied: "No – reading."

Sometimes I feel that way watching the evening news. It would be so much easier if I didn't. Just stopped watching.

Some of that comes from the relative quality of much that passes for electronic journalism. You know what I mean. I much prefer reading the paper – I get more information and less hype. Newscasters seem to believe that the news snippet they are reporting will be more important if they yell it at me.

I suppose sometimes, perhaps like you, I wish that the TV stations would report more "Good News," or at least create a better balance between the positive and the negative.

However, the reality is that there are terrible things happening every day in our world, things about which I would just as soon not know. That's the problem for me. Not that there are things I cannot fix, cannot do anything about. In fact, often there are things I could do to respond to what is being reported, to help those whose suffering is being shared in my living room.

No – the issue is that I just do not want to know.

But have I a right not to know? As a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, can I wear blinders, deny realities simply because they are inconvenient, painful, intrusive into my otherwise happy life?

No. Not if I am going to honor the promises I have made to God.

There are many terrible things happening in our world today – whether that is the small insular world of our everyday existence or if we see things globally. As Christians we actually do have a responsibility to know and respond to those things, to fix what we can, to protect

whom we should, to help the most in need, and sacrificially to love others with the same love with which God in Christ has loved us.

Am I happy about that? Do I always want to? Can I?

That is not the right question, is it?

The Rev. Russell H. Allen,
Associate Clergy

What does St. Peter's mean to you?

Everything...

Community, spirituality, commitment, discipline, opportunity,

Peace and fellowship, Faith and family, great people...

Home away from home

It starts my week and gives me strength during the week

St. Peter's anchors my life.

The Place to worship God and meet spiritual needs
Reminding me of God's love through fellowship
with like-minded people

in Fellowship for Spiritual life and health.

My church

A place for Community worship

A very good deal,

Without a doubt

For Spiritual support

Another home,

A place of wonderful people and exceptional community,

This is my church and means very much to me.

*-St. Peter's parishioners
10-23 -2011*

St. Peter's Women's Association Luncheon

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011

11:30 AM - Eucharist 12:30 PM - Luncheon 1:30 PM - Gift Swap

Sign-up in parish hallway for luncheon or call parish office by Monday, December 5, 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 the parish office before the deadline. If you discover you need to cancel and also
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 the headcount has been submitted to
the caterer you will be expected to pay for your lunch – your prepayment will not be returned.

PROGRAM
ORGANIST, KAREN CROSBY
BRING A GIFT – SWAP A GIFT
(VALUE - \$10)
BRING A PAPER PRODUCT
FOR THE NEEDY

Announcements

Would you like to become a LECTOR?

(one who reads scripture at worship).

We are currently inviting anyone who is interested in reading scripture or leading the Prayers of the People to join in this wonderful ministry. Please let us know if you are interested. Contact Fr. Denzil.

A sign up sheet is in the hallway for those who would like to participate on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day as **Readers, Chalice Bearers, Torch Bearers or Ushers**. If you think you will be attending any of these services and would like

to commit to any of these spots, please sign up on the bulletin board. Thank you!

Christmas Flowers

Envelopes for Christmas flowers and the decorating of the Church may be found on the table in the Parish Hall or with Fr. Luckritz's Christmas mailing. The deadline is Sunday, December 21st.

Save the office time and paper! Have your newsletter and weekly updates emailed. Contact Alison in the church office and she will add you to the electronic mailing list.

Lessons for December

DATE	1ST LESSON	PSALM	2ND LESSON	GOSPEL
December 4	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
December 11	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 18	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Canticle 15	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 12:26-38
December 25	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20

Extra copies of the Prayers of the People for the week are available on the table in the hallway of the church.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 First Sunday in Advent 8 am - 8:45 am Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:45 am - 10:45 am Children's Chapel 10 am - 11 am Stewardship Sunday 10 am - 11 am Stewardship Sunday 11 am - 11:45 am Fellowship Hour	28 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Al-Anon	29 8 am - 9 am Exercise Class 9:30 am - 10 am AA Meeting 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Capital Campaign Meeting	30 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 10:30 am - 11:30 am Bible Study 2 pm - 2:30 pm Pastoral Care 2:30 pm - 3 pm Staff Meeting 7 pm - 8:15 pm Adult Choir Practice 7 pm - 8:30 pm Alanon	December 1 2:30 am - 3:30 am SPWA Board Meeting 8 am - 9 am Exercise Class 9:30 am - 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm - 5 pm Prayer Circle 8 pm - 8:30 pm AA Meeting	2 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting	3 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 10 am - 1 pm Armenian Church
4 Second Sunday in Advent 8 am - 8:45 am Holy Eucharist Rite I 10 am - 11 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10 am - 11 am A visit from St. Nicholas 11 am - 11:45 am Fellowship Hour	5 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 1 pm - 2 pm Stewardship Meeting 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Al-Anon	6 8 am - 9 am Exercise Class 9:30 am - 10 am AA Meeting 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Capital Campaign Meeting 7 pm - 8 pm Friendship Meeting	7 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 10:30 am - 11:30 am Bible Study 2:30 pm - 3 pm Staff Meeting 7 pm - 8:15 pm Adult Choir Practice 7 pm - 8:30 pm Alanon	8 8 am - 9 am Exercise Class 9:30 am - 10 am AA Meeting 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm St. Peter's Women's Association Luncheon 4 pm - 5 pm Prayer Circle 8 pm - 8:30 pm AA Meeting	9 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting	10 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting
11 Third Sunday in Advent 8 am - 8:45 am Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:45 am - 10:45 am Sunday School 10 am - 11 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 11 am - 11:45 am Fellowship Hour	12 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 9 am - 10 am Vestry Officers Meeting 10 am - 11:30 am NOAH cooking 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Outreach Meeting 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Al-Anon	13 8 am - 9 am Exercise Class 9:30 am - 10 am AA Meeting 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Capital Campaign Meeting 7 pm - 9 pm Open Mic Night	14 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 10:30 am - 11:30 am Bible Study 2 pm - 2:30 pm Pastoral Care 2:30 pm - 3 pm Staff Meeting 7 pm - 8:15 pm Adult Choir Practice 7 pm - 8:30 pm Alanon	15 8 am - 9 am Exercise Class 9:30 am - 10 am AA Meeting 1 pm - 2 pm Knitting Group 4 pm - 5 pm Prayer Circle 8 pm - 8:30 pm AA Meeting	16 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting	17 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting
18 Fourth Sunday in Advent 8 am - 8:45 am Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:45 am - 10:45 am Sunday School 10 am - 11 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 11 am - 11:45 am Fellowship Hour	19 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Al-Anon	20 8 am - 9 am Exercise Class 9:30 am - 10 am AA Meeting 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Capital Campaign Meeting	21 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 10:30 am - 11:30 am Bible Study 2:30 pm - 3 pm Staff Meeting 7 pm - 8:15 pm Adult Choir Practice 7 pm - 8:30 pm Alanon	22 8 am - 9 am Exercise Class 9:30 am - 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm - 5 pm Prayer Circle 8 pm - 8:30 pm AA Meeting	23 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting	24 Christmas Eve 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 4 pm - 5 pm Christmas Eve Family Service 8 pm - 9 pm Christmas Eve Contemporary Service 11 pm - 12 am Christmas Eve Traditional Service
25  Christmas 10 am - 11 am Christmas Day Service	26 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Al-Anon	27 8 am - 9 am Exercise Class 9:30 am - 10 am AA Meeting 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Capital Campaign Meeting	28 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting 10:30 am - 11:30 am Bible Study 2 pm - 2:30 pm Pastoral Care 2:30 pm - 3 pm Staff Meeting 7 pm - 8:15 pm Adult Choir Practice 7 pm - 8:30 pm Alanon	29 8 am - 9 am Exercise Class 9:30 am - 10 am AA Meeting 4 pm - 5 pm Prayer Circle 8 pm - 8:30 pm AA Meeting	30 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting	31 8:30 am - 9:30 am AA meeting
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

Wianno Avenue, Osterville, MA 02655 508-428-3561

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

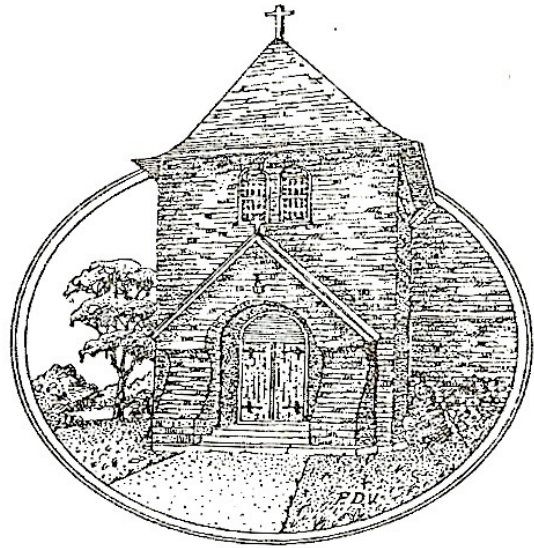
Wednesday Service

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Christmas Service Schedule on Page 2

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