

St. Peter's Cross Keys
April 2005

Easter the Outrageous

In the year 197 A.D., a brilliant North African philosopher by the name of Tertullian became a convert to Christianity. When asked how he had come to faith, he replied that it was because Christianity was a religion that no ordinary mind could have invented. He declared, “I believe because it is outrageous.”

To claim, as the Apostles did, that the same Jesus who had been brutally beaten and crucified to death on the cross on Friday had risen to new life on Sunday is outrageous. It defies human reason. Madelyn L’Engle said that Easter “absolutely outrages life on our terms. It turns upside down our conceptual control of what is and what is not possible. If, therefore, we have somehow failed to sense the outrageousness of the resurrection, then we have missed the mystery and have yet to be grasped by its power to save.”

The crux of the matter is this: everything that Jesus had done, said and stood for had been, in his criminal death, repudiated. In the end, the life of Jesus had been “cursed,” not “blessed.” Jesus the “heretic” was “history.” The disillusioned, terrified Disciples fled for their lives and hid themselves as fugitives. End of Story!

How in the world, then, could they have suddenly undergone such a transformation that they were now proclaiming to anyone who would listen: “He is risen! The Lord has risen indeed!”

It wasn’t by hallucination or wishful thinking that these “washed up” followers of Jesus came to transform the ancient world. It was because of their personal encounter with the risen Lord that they proclaimed an outrageously radical message: As Christ is raised by God the Father, so He has been given the power to raise up and give new life to all who believe in him.

So here is the Good News that Easter proclaims: There is no one, no matter how numbed-out, disheveled, disillusioned or washed up, who is beyond the loving reach and compassionate embrace of Jesus, our Risen Lord. There is no corner of creation too far removed, no human being too soiled to be embraced and transformed by His love and given their lives back again. Outrageous? Absolutely! But for those who believe, it is the gift of springtime, the gift of being brought to life after the darkness and death of winter, the gift of warmth and color and the music of creation. It is the gift of love unbounded and unending which transforms us and the whole of creation.

So, rejoice. The Lord has risen and has raised us up to New Life with him.

Alleluia!

The Rev. Paul M. Thompson

Music Notes

by Karen Crosby

St. Peter's is blessed in so many ways. Aside from being in the town of Osterville and on the lovely avenue of Wianno, we are brimming with talented, enthusiastic, kind and generous souls. You see them on Sundays – behind the lectern, pulpit, coffee urn, or beside you in the pew. You can also see them processing/recessing by you in a blue or red cotta – covered by a white cassock. Of course, I am now referring specifically to the choir. I am often asked about whom that new member is, or where has that former member gone to?

I am occasionally privy to thoughts like, “Oh, I don't have enough experience to sing in the choir.” Or “You are only so successful in your choir because I am not singing in it”, etc. etc. I am going to share with you a bit about the choristers for St. Peter's Adult Choir - the background, a story, what brought them to sing here, etc. Perhaps you will see yourself in there somewhere and realize you, indeed, have something to contribute. In any case, you will become more familiar with the charitable members of St. Peter's who significantly play a role in everyone's worship experience on Sundays.

When I play a hymn on Sunday, I play a keyboard with my hands and a pedalboard with my feet. The latter is connected to 16' pipes. These foundation pipes give a hymn its “oomph” and provide the much needed acoustic resonance for the rest of us. I use this as a lead-in to describe the tallest member of St. Peter's choir (albeit he is not 16'). Sebastien Richer came to us nine years ago. He is tall and has a deep, very low voice. Just like the foundation pipes in the organ, Sebastien's deep mellifluous voice provides a solid underpinning for the choir. When asked about his choral experience/background for this article he said, “Sebastien is Sebastien...Choir experience: singing in the shower.” He works very well with another bass in the choir, Robin Rowland. Robin describes Sebastien as his “amplifier”. Robin is very experienced and sight reads music at a professional level. When you see Sebastien, Robin is always at his side feeding him the notes until Sebastien gets them in his ear, which doesn't take very long. There have been many occasions when the three of us got together to put in extra time on particularly difficult music. Also, many choir rehearsals began 30 minutes earlier for Sebastien and I in order to coach a little bit one-on-one. Soon, however, Sebastien will be gone. His wife, Evelyn, and his two daughters, Lea and Claire, are eagerly waiting for him to join them in Minnesota. The family moved there last fall when Dr. Eve, a veterinarian, moved back to her home state to take an offer of a business partnership from her classmate. We have missed the Richer women very much (all of whom were very active in St. Peter's and sang with Dad in the Family Choir), but having Sebastien helped ease the transition without them. The Adult Choir will certainly miss Sebastien's voluminous voice and French sense of humor when he leaves for Minnesota. Well, let's get our priorities straight... the missing mousse au chocolat and creme brulee will represent a very conspicuous and irreplaceable vacancy at choir get togethers.

Two friendly faces that have been absent from the choir for awhile have been Warren (Nick) and Sandy Nickerson. They have sung in St. Peter's for six years now. You may recognize Nick's name from an article he contributed to the "Cross Keys" a few months ago about his experience in the choir. Currently, the couple are in Stuart, Florida where they have been soaking up the sun with golf, pool, the beach since Christmas. Nick has disclosed that they wait to venture south until after the holiday so that they can sing with the choir for Lessons and Carols and the Christmas Eve services. Nick sings bass. He will have to do double duty now that Sebastien will be gone. Nick can get to those really low notes as well. Sandy sings alto, which is the lower of the women's voices. Sandy and Nick sang in high school choruses and Sandy sang in her former Episcopal church choir in Andover. While they are in Florida, they sing with the St. Lucie Chorale. Last winter they traveled to Royal Albert Hall and sang Verdi's Requiem. I know they did St. Peter's proud!

The highest voice in the choir is a soprano. When you are singing the melody of a hymn in church, you are singing the soprano part. Very often, or as often as is appropriate, the sopranos sing a descant. This is another melody on top of the existing one everyone else is singing. It is often done in one of the last verses of the hymn and the "bring it on home" nature can be very effective – emotionally and musically. St. Peter's has a stellar soprano section. One of our regulars is Mary Beebe. Wife of William, also in the choir, (more about him later...), Mary says that "she has found St. Peter's to be a wonderful center for her life." She and Will retired to Cotuit in the summer of 2002. After being strongly steered to St. Peter's by a neighbor, they became members of the church and immediately joined the choir. Mary enjoys the choir for both its musicianship and its fellowship. She is also involved at St. Peter's as a lay reader, a lunch helper at the Salvation Army, a Dinner Group member, and a member of the aerobics class. (Wonderfully managed by our alto Terry Stocker, more about her later, too....). Mary recently played the flute with the Family Choir for the Family Eucharist service last month. She takes voice lessons and practices faithfully her soprano lines for the choir's eclectic repertoire. She will eagerly jump in when necessary to fill out the alto section as well. Her many other interests include doing massage at the oncology unit at Cape Cod Hospital, hooking rugs, boating and exploring the Cape with Will and taking walks on the beach with her dog Maggie.

The Family Choir, as well as the Adult Choir, is very lucky to have as an experienced chorister as Cindy Brackett among their rosters. Always willing to run microphones and cassettes back and forth to her place of business, Charlie's Music, Cindy is a lynch pin for the level of musicianship in both choirs. When asked about her background, she said, "I have never thought about it before, but I guess for my choral experience I've been singing in a chorus/choir ever since grammar school. This is the first church I've ever sung with – I think that is special. I cherish my 18+ years membership in MasterSingers of Cape Cod. (I sang with CCCC Chorus and their Chamber Singers for many years, and Chatham Chorale – and VocalPoint.) I learned about music playing the cello all through school. Music and skiing are my only real stress releases." Lucky for us.....!

4 More to come of "Meet the Choir" in the future issues of the Cross Keys.

A Choral Evensong

Propers for Christian Unity

Music of British Composers
the 19th and 20th century

Sung by the combined choirs of
St. Mary's, Barnstable and St. Peter's Osterville,
Conducted by James Armstrong and Karen Crosby

* * *

Sunday, May 1, 2005 4:00 PM
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Rte 6A, Barnstable

Sunday, May 8, 2005 4:00 PM
St. Peter's Church, Wianno Ave, Osterville

A Freewill Offering will be accepted at both services
St. Mary's: 508-362-3977 St. Peter's: 508-428-3561
Handicap Accessible

AIDS in Africa

Last month, a small group of St. Peter's parishioners signed up to meet with Fr. Tim for a four-Sunday study series aimed at trying to better understand the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.

“AFRICA?” you ask.

OK. Africa is pretty far away, but having already read a little about what was going on there, it seemed that sitting in on the sessions might be interesting as a kind of obscure academic exercise.

Instead, what I and the other participants learned pretty much blew us away.

- * Since AIDS first appeared in the U.S. 25 years ago, nearly a million cases have been diagnosed here.
- * In Africa, more than 39 million lives have been ravaged by the epidemic to date.
- * United Nations figures report AIDS killed more than three million Africans in 2004 alone with between 6,000 and 8,000 people continuing to die there from the disease every single day.
- * The sub-Saharan region where AIDS is most prevalent contains just 10% of the world's population, but 70% of the earth's population infected with AIDS.
- * It is estimated that by 2010, 27 million African children will have lost one parent; 12 million will have lost both.
- * AIDS originated in the homosexual community, but today most of its victims are heterosexuals, women and children.
- * Like the rest of the world, Africa went through a long period of denial and concealment of the disease. Governments and the Anglican Church both were part of this denial.
- * While there is no cure and the virus continues to mutate and change, there are drugs which can slow its progress in infected individuals and prevent its transmission from HIV-infected mothers to their babies. However, most Africans don't have access to those drugs.
- * A “multi-sectoral” approach involving every part of society must become involved in fighting AIDS in Africa. This includes governments, education, the military, industry, agriculture, people living with AIDS, community organizations, professionals - and because almost everybody in Africa goes to church - the Anglican Communion there.
- * In Africa, there are 42 million Anglicans while in the U.S. there are just over 2.3 million Episcopalians.

So perhaps the biggest surprise of all was to learn that the Episcopal Church in the United States, and in particular, the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts through its Jubilee Ministry and the efforts of individual congregations, is already providing support for a range of AIDS-related relief and devel-

opment efforts in Africa. This involves everything from feeding and educating orphans, to assisting in the training of home-based care workers to help those afflicted and their families, to mobilizing international technical skills to inform the Church in Africa about AIDS issues and outcomes, to supporting the development of AIDS strategies and services within the individual provinces in Africa.

Those who met with Fr. Tim, came away resolved that right here at St. Peter's we can begin a parish dialogue to educate and stretch our knowledge of the AIDS crisis in Africa and explore ways in which we can respond locally.

One parishioner commented, "St. Peter's could take the leadership in holding a Cape-wide seminar/workshop for all Episcopal parishes." Another said, "Greater education about how the disease is transmitted and not transmitted is needed, as well as education about how it threatens the non-gay, non-African population. We need to work with our youth population as well." And another, "The idea that churches, rather than governments or politics, may ultimately be the best place to confront the suffering connected with AIDS, somehow seems appropriate."

The special UN envoy in Africa has said, "... to observe the unraveling of so much of the continent is heartbreaking. I have heard language that startles and terrifies: holocaust, genocide, extermination, annihilation. And what makes it even worse is the tremendous resilience and courage and effort and compassion with which the entire population, especially the women, attempt to withstand the pandemic."

If, in this safe place, it is difficult to imagine such suffering halfway around the world, try for a moment to imagine a parallel universe:

Another perfect Sunday morning on Cape Cod. Summer sun colors the air, silhouetting seagulls as they soar over Dowses Beach. But where are the little children filling their buckets with sand, splashing in the water, sailboats gently loping on the waves?

Where is the endless parade of fit joggers, tandem bicyclists, dogs and owners exercising along Wianno Avenue?

Why in the height of the season is St. Peter's morning service almost empty? Why are the few worshippers there so thin? So frail? Where is the choir? Why only one priest on the altar? Why is every movement of your own body so heavy and painful? Why have almost half the children still attending Sunday School been orphaned?

And where, where is God?

St. Peter's Nursery School

Having postponed our Pancake Breakfast from February 6 to March 6 due to snow, we anxiously waited to see what March would bring for weather. In spite of another snow fall, we went ahead with the breakfast as planned and had a tremendous turnout.

This breakfast, like all the others, would not have been possible, or nearly as successful, without the combined efforts of those involved!

We are grateful to our generous Donor Sponsors:

- Donna Schulze: Century 21 Seaside Village Properties
- John J. Lyons: Coldwell Banker – Joly, McAbee & Weinert Realty
- Scott Mitchell: Direct Dry Cleaning & Laundry
- Scott Mitchell: Sunrooms, Etc.
- Linda Walsh & Nancy Holt, Wine Consultants: The Traveling Vineyard

I extend my heartfelt gratitude those who donated supplies and/or volunteered their time (Laird Boles, Beth Daly, Jeanette Facey, Gerriann Gallo, Dianne Gauthier, Jacey Germani, Kathy Hambly, Bruce & Irene Jones, Dina Lyons, Shelley MacKowsky, Bridget & Brittany McSorley, Karla, Hannah & Scott Mitchell, Mary Nielsen, Tracey Osgood, Suzanne Powers, Jim & Tracy Stewart, Suzanne Savage, Christine Tuttle, John & Emily Williams) and, of course, those who attended (too numerous to mention, yet greatly appreciated)!

Our next breakfast will be held May 22, 2005 from 8:00-11:30. We will be serving plain and blueberry pancakes, real maple syrup, bacon, sausage, fresh fruit, home fried potatoes, scrambled eggs, juice, milk, coffee and tea. Please plan to join us or participate in some way!

Spring Gala Auction

Saturday, April 30

***Proceeds benefit
St. Peter's Nursery School***

2005 SixWeek Summer Program

July 5-August 12

9:00-11:30

Tuesday-Friday..Choice fo 2 or 4 days/week

Applications now available.

***Currently accepting applications for
2005-2006 session.***

Those in diapers are welcome!

We serve children as young as 21months to 5

Christian Education

Bishop's Visit Sunday, April 24th, 2005

Candidates for confirmation or reception are strongly encouraged to attend the Easter Vigil (on Easter Eve) as well as two required sessions after church as follows:

Youth Candidates - Sunday, April 3rd (noon to 2 p.m.)
Sunday, April 10th (noon to 2 p.m.)

Adult Candidates Sunday, April 10th (noon to 2 p.m.)
Sunday, April 17th (noon to 2 p.m.)

(An alternate session for adults will be held Tuesday evening April 5th from 6 to 8 p.m.)

Those who attended a previous Foundations Class need not repeat it. If desiring to know more—or to reserve a place!—please contact the Rector or the office.

Vestry Nominations:

A formal nominating committee will be deliberating soon, to put forward names of parishioners to fill officer and vestry openings at the annual meeting on June 12th. All parishioners interested in the work of the Vestry or in suggesting names for consideration may speak with the Wardens (Sally Haven and Bill Seaward) or any Vestry member.

As always, the most important qualification for any active parishioner remains love of God and God's church - and the ability to work with (and listen to) others.

Overnights of Hospitality

Spring is coming and so are our overnights of hospitality guests! The need continues and we are averaging our full house of 6-7 women each night. During Holy Week, the 2nd Annual Holy Week Bridgeport Walk was held to help raise funds for Bridgeport Two, now that Bridgeport One is under construction. Each of these developments will house 8 homeless guests from our Overnights program and hopefully lead them to self-sufficiency.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, they continue to make St. Peter's a favorite place for our ladies! We can always use new volunteers to help transport, feed, chaperone and do laundry for our twice monthly nights. For more information call Hilary Greene at 508-737-4542.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church - Acolyte Schedule

<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>CRUCIFER</u>	<u>ACOLYTE</u>
4/3 9:15 AM	George DeMello	Caroline Meyer
4/10 9:15 AM	Will Jones	Grace Horvath
4/17 9:15 AM	Charlie Spilsbury	Eliza Spilsbury
4/24 9:15 AM	Madison DeMello	Alyson Schmidt
5/1 9:15 AM	George DeMello	Peter Butler

Also available on the Parish Web Site: <http://www.stpeters-capecod.org>
Then click on "Parish Life" to find all schedules

Announcements

The 2004 Harvest Fair has awarded \$7,000.00 to the Outreach Committee, \$7,000.00 to Parish Projects and \$7,000.00 which remains Unspecified. Any committee or individual wishing to apply for distribution of the unspecified \$7,000.00 for church use should apply in writing before April 15 to Barbara Reed or Ellen Merlesena.

Arrangements are being made for some interesting and informative classes on our Outreach programs. These will be held April 10, April 17 and May 15. Watch the website and weekly bulletins. For further information and future suggestions, call Carole Dwyer 508-771-2275.

A Counter's Plea

To enable us to do our Sunday job more easily, please help us as follows:

1. Even if you do not wish to pledge, please ask the Church office for a pledge envelope and be assigned a number for the Church record. Otherwise, the counters must record by hand the amount of the check together with your name and address on a separate listing of contributions, then add these amounts up to a single total.
2. When you do use pledge envelopes, please write the amount of the check or cash in the space provided on the front of the envelope and indicate by a check mark if it is a check.
3. If there is a Sunday or Sundays that you do not come to church, please do not complete a pledge envelope or envelopes for each Sunday you missed. Next time you do come please put your weekly set aside amounts into one pledge envelope for the collection plate and indicate the total on the front of the envelope. Thank you!

The deadline for the Cross Keys is the 15th of the month. Submissions may be left in the church office, emailed (most preferred by the editor!) to williem@comcast.net, or mailed to 350 Plum St. West Barnstable, MA 02668. Thank you.

Sunday Services

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:15 am Holy Eucharist

11:00 am Holy Eucharist

Church School begins at 9:00

Sunday childcare is provided in the
downstairs nursery from 8:30 am - 12
noon for parents attending church or
other parish activities

Church Staff

The Rev. Timothy B. Cherry, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Eugene Goetchius, Associate

The Rev. Paul Thompson, Associate

Karen Crosby, Organist-Choir Director

Linda T. Puleo, Christian Ed Director

Estalee Fernald, Administrative Assistant

Sally Haven, Senior Warden

Bill Seaward, Junior Warden

Sara Rhodes, Treasurer

David Bernard, Clerk

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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