

The Rock *of St. Peter's*

A publication of
St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, Morro Bay,
California



St. Peter's mission is to be a spiritually thriving household for people on their faith journey, radiating Christ's love by bearing witness to our community with hope, compassion, inclusion and service.

September 2011

Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real

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The Rev. Charles J. Erickson, Rector Emeritus

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Dear People of St. Peter's Episcopal,

What a wonderful and poignant expression of love and community it was on Sunday, August 28! My deepest thanks to all of you who participated in it, by being present, with food, flowers, photos, cards, generous words, and the "purse," to which many contributed. It is in a savings account, waiting for inspiration. My first thought is to give a tithe, shared with the Scholarship Project in our companion Diocese of Western Tanganyika and Episcopal Relief and Development, for outreach. Then, I await the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Again, many thanks for sharing with me in this ministry.

So far retirement is packing up my study at St. Peter's while at the same time preparing my home for sale. A daunting task. Which books will I still read? And which to give to St. Peter's and to the Church Divinity School of the Pacific? And where are the walls to hang the artwork? Such abundance!

Also many thanks for sharing your lives with me in our time together as priest and people. It has been a tremendous blessing. My prayers for you are that you will follow Jesus' desire for all of us, and that is always to strive for more. As I wrote in my letter to you two months ago, you are a good and wonderful people. God has plans for you, and you will discern them in the search process.

While I am still in Morro Bay, we will see one another on the Central Coast. Our relationship is shifting now to friend and retired rector. Saying hello is a blessing. I look forward to that.

When my plans are more settled, I will let you know. In the mean time, pray that my house sells. You continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. You are in good hands, with Roger Ludin as Senior Warden, and Ellen Pool as Junior Warden, together with the rest of the vestry and officers, and Judy Burke, parish secretary. Our Bishop Mary and Deacon Brian are already providing excellent guidance as you begin the search process, first for an interim, then for a rector. Please support them by your active participation. That is one of the best ways to carry out the mission and ministry of Jesus the Christ given to St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal. Go with God.

Peace and love in Christ,

Harriet

Senior Warden's Report

Search for a new rector: With Harriet's retirement we enter into a search phase for a new rector. Many of us have been on search committees previously and have horror stories to tell. This search should be quite different in that the diocese will be an active participant in the process. Both Bishop Mary and Canon Brian Nordwick have a lot of experience in finding the right fit for individual parishes and are interested being a part of the process.

There will be two different searches done sequentially. The first one will be a search for an interim rector, and then the longer more involved search for a permanent rector will be undertaken. During the search for an interim rector we will be having supply priests conducting our Sunday worship services. We have four local retired priests who will be officiating for us, Jeremy Bond, Carl Hansen, Ricardo Gonzales and Lyle Grosjean. We will also be having Morning Prayer once a month to more involve our laity in our worship. On September 25 we will have a special MP service conducted by our youth group led by Lenny Erickson.

The search for an interim rector should take only a couple of months. The interim rector will lead us in worship as well as preform all the duties of a rector. Interim rectors have special training to assist us in our transition between permanent rectors. They usually serve 12 to 18 months while a search for a permanent rector is completed. By diocesan rule, the interim rector may not be called as a permanent rector, so that the interim's term does not become a campaign for a permanent job. The diocese has recently conducted an interim search for another parish and has a list of many good candidates. Already the news of our opening has spread by word of mouth and several people have expressed an interest in coming to Morro Bay. The search committee is chaired by Susan Arnold and consists of Alan Williams, Frank Fiedler and Nancy Castle. We hope to have someone on board before Advent.

Once the interim is installed, we begin the task of searching for a permanent rector. A new larger search committee will be formed. They will first have to create a parish profile, which looks at our past history, where we are presently and where God will be leading us in the future. Everyone in the parish will have input into this profile. We may have a common service followed by a potluck similar to our annual meeting to give everyone an open forum to express his or her views. We have recently completed our Mutual Ministry Review and that document will serve as a launching point for our profile. The diocese will appoint a search consultant to assist us and Bishop Mary and Canon Brian will also be deeply involved. If all goes well we will have a permanent rector installed by Christmas 2012.

In the meantime life will go on in our parish. I will be asking people to step up a bit more and pitch in on a lot of the daily tasks that need to be accomplished to keep us running smoothly. Volunteers are always welcome; if you see a task that needs to be

done and you can do please step forward and volunteer. We are a community and it takes a community to run a parish.

Other goings on: First I would like to give a big thank you to Ellen Pool for organizing the marvelous send off for Harriet. So many people stepped forward asking what they could do to help that the party went off without a hitch and fun was had by all.

Good-byes are hard and we had another one recently when Paul Valentiner left us to be closer to his family in the Midwest. Again there was a good turnout to say farewell. We thank Paul for his many years of service as associate pastor and for filling in as rector during Harriet's sabbatical several years back.

On a much more joyful note we had a big turnout for the blessing of Marti Lindholm and Allan Smith's civil marriage ceremony. It was the first time I had seen that service and it was a moving occasion. The coffee hour lunch afterwards was a great bash to go with the 'hitch'.

Buildings and grounds: Our large rental house on Napa Ave. has just had a new roof installed. Extensive work was also done to the interior to make it livable. Since it's been vacant for three months we hope to have it rented soon. Part of our stewardship is to maintain our properties in good condition, so the vestry made sure that these upgrades were accomplished. We will probably face a major expense in replacing a sewer line from the parish hall to the street. It is old Orangeburg pipe and is beginning to crumble.

One task that Harriet did to keep our curb-side appeal up was weeding in the Memorial Garden. I often see Carrie Trahan and Bill Morley also pulling weeds, but we need a few more people to step up and add that chore to their stewardship.

Roger Ludin

Rest in Peace

Longtime member of St. Peter's Judy Loomis Copeland entered life eternal on July 25. She was buried from St. Peter's, with interment in the Memorial Garden, on August 20. Many gathered to remember her, through lovely photos of her life. She is survived by daughters Betsy Bettencourt (Jamie) and Paige Vaughan (Ryan), and grandchildren Willow and Owen Bettencourt and Sebastian and Jackson Vaughan. Please pray for Judy's soul and for the comfort of her loved ones.

Readers' Theater

Advance notice for our next production, "Folk Tales and Fairy Stories" (for grown-ups) the last weekend in October. We are starting rehearsals this month under the direction of Jonniepat Mobley. We hope you all can come, it is sure to be a fun event. More news and information next time. Look for posters soon!

Dorene Hughes (producer)

Shirley & Sandra

On the last Wednesday in June, Edith and I took off in a rented Toyota Camry to see Montana and North Dakota and South Dakota. The plan began with a wish to see our dear friends Sandra Gordon and Shirley Dean again. It grew from there to include a visit to the Farrells' farm in North Dakota and the Mount Rushmore and Chief Crazy Horse Monuments in South Dakota.

By Friday we had reached Hamilton, Montana. We found Sandra and Shirley in good health and good spirits. We loved their new home and hometown. The house is a little gem in a downtown neighborhood. They are very proud of their hometown where we visited a farmers' market and arts fair and ate some great Black Angus beef.

On Sunday we went with them to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Hamilton. The service was Morning Prayer, Rite I. The people of St. Paul's love Sandra and Shirley who are very involved in the church life. We altar guild ladies were very impressed to see peonies on the altar, too.

Later in the day we attended a showing of "The King and I" by the Hamilton Playhouse. Sandra and Shirley knew a couple of the players. It was a very impressive production.

All too soon our visit was over and we were rushing off to catch up to Suzy and Brian Farrell and kids in North Dakota. But that is a story for a different day.

Here is a picture of Sandra and Shirley. They send their love to all their old friends at St. Peter's Church and invite everyone to come to visit them.

Donna Baker



A Prayer For A Calling Process

"Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for St. Peter's, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen" (Book of Common Prayer, page 818)

Hunger Walk

Cayucos, Morro Bay and Los Osos will participate in the annual Hunger Walk benefiting the SLO Food Bank. Walkers will meet in the area of St. Timothy's and the MB Fire Station on Dune, Sunday, September 25. There are two segments of a mile each. Walkers can go the distance to the Rock, turn around halfway or quit after a block if they want. The important point is raising money and awareness for the food bank efforts in our community. More will be posted as the date nears, but put it on your calendars and start gathering pledges for your participation. Dianne Ellis is serving on the committee representing St. Peter's. You may reach her at dellis37@gmail.com or 528-7451. On line registration is at www.slofoodbank.org.

Canterbury Club Barbecue

Tri-tip Barbecue Fundraiser at St. Peter's to benefit Canterbury Club, October 2, from 3 to 6 p.m. There will also be a silent auction – one of the items is a one-week use of a condo in Maui. Donation is \$10. You can call the church office for tickets – 772-2368.

Setting the Record Straight

Bill Morley

I've long believed myself to be the current member of St. Peter's who was present here in the earliest days of the parish. It turns out I was wrong.

Before I first attended St. Peter's and before any services were held in the converted and renovated army chapel, here at the corner of the streets now called Driftwood and Shasta, the fledgling congregation met upstairs in the brick building at the corner of Monterey and Morro Bay Blvd. (formerly 5th and C).

One of those attending at that location, dressed in Sunday finest, was the 5-year-old Caroline Ann Haggberg, now known as Carrie Trahan. She is the first known (and still living) attender of St. Peter's.

Education for Ministry Classes

Education for Ministry (EFM) will be offered at St. Benedict's, Los Osos, starting in September. EFM is open to anyone who wishes to do Biblical studies in depth, but requires an annual 9-month commitment to meet weekly together as a group.

Lorienne Schwenk, who will be mentoring the class, needs commitments at this time from those wishing to enroll. Participants should complete a registration form and send it to Lorienne, along with the \$350 class fee.

Checks, made payable to "Education for Ministry", will not be cashed for at least two weeks. Registration forms may be downloaded from www.sewanee.edu/EFM/Forms/Student_Enrollment.pdf. Send the completed forms and checks to: Lorienne Schwenk 2467 Langton St. Cambria CA 93428

The meeting dates and times have not been set. Indicate your preference for either Tuesday afternoon (3-5 pm) or Thursday afternoon or evening.

If you have questions, Contact Lorienne at singingkitchen@gmail.com or telephone her at 203-5196. Lorienne has been mentoring EFM groups for 8 years when she lived in Boulder, Colorado.

Hats Off to Adult Christian Formation Education

Among our dear, retiring rector Harriet's many attributes is her willingness and capability to educate. Recently, Harriet offered a series by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan called *The Eclipsing Empire*, which Susan and I attended.

Highly credentialed Biblical scholars, Borg and Crossan, led us on an inquisitive journey through some of the missionary ventures of Paul. This included a comparison of the Paul depicted by Luke in the Book of Acts with Paul depicted by Paul, himself, through his various letters to the churches he visited and helped establish. Under Harriet's leadership we were able to view this portion of the New Testament in a way we had never done before.

Paul, like Jesus, tried to attract and show his followers that the Kingdom of God is not necessarily some elusive phenomenon that awaits us at some future time; it is, in fact, here. Its activation is a function of our collaboration with God in "The Great Divine Cleanup" of the world; a world where peace through justice prevails. It is a world shared equally by all of God's children, if only we could inspire others to join in God's wish that we call on God for His most desired and our most needed collaboration.

It is our hope that such valuable Christian education as that led by our outgoing rector continues forward into the future here at our St. Peter's church and beyond.

Together in Christ, Jim and Susan Arnold

An Invitation to a Deanery of SLO Event

For some time, retired diocesan priest, John Buenz has been wondering about what's happening to our world. John was ordained in 1965 after time as a construction engineer and at the Stanford Business School. He served as a Curate at St Marks, Santa Clara, founding Vicar of the Episcopal Church in Almaden and Rector of St Judes, Cupertino. As chair of our Diocesan Formation Committee and author of the "Brown Book", he was very involved in the formation of our diocese in 1980. After a ten year tenure, he retired in 1996 as Dean of the Cathedral in Spokane, Washington and returned to his home in Cupertino.

Among his retirement ministries, he has been a member of our diocesan Committee for Vitality and Growth and developed a program "So What's Happening to Our World?" His program is based on Phyllis Tickle's popular book, "The Great Emergence" which offers an answer to his question about what's happening to our world. The program also offers some thoughts about how congregations in our diocese might respond to the profound cultural changes some call "post modernity". John has offered his program in many congregations and other settings in the northern part of our diocese.

On Saturday, October 22 from 10 to 3 at St Benedicts, Los Osos, he will share that program with the entire SLO Deanery. There will be no charge for this offering. His insights were developed out of his long and varied experience and underlying interest in what's happening our world, including the Church. We believe you will find his suggestions for a response to be provocative on behalf of congregational vitality.

A Poem by Thomas Merton

Submitted by Judy Gallo

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.



Bishop Mary, Bill and Dee Bowes and Harriet after confirmation and reception

Harriet enjoying her Retirement Party

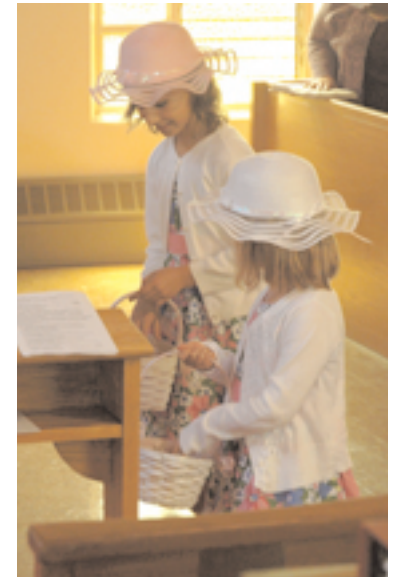


Harriet with the newlyweds Allan and Marti

Paul Valentiner at Farewell Party



Kate & Liz, Marti's granddaughters and flower girls



September 2011 - October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Pentecost 13 8am Holy Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist 11	12	13	Holy Cross Day 14	15	16	17	
Pentecost 14 8am Holy Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist 12:15 Vestry 18	19	Readers' Theater Rehearsal 20	St. Matthew Apostle & Evangelist 21	22	23	24	
Pentecost 15 8am Morning Prayer 10:30 Morning Prayer Hunger Walk 25	26	Readers' Theater Rehearsal 27	28	St. Michael & All Angels 29	30	October 1 MB Harbor Festival Prado Meal	
Pentecost 16 8am Holy Eucharist 9 AM Breakfast 10:30 Holy Eucharist 3-6 Canterbury Club Barbecue at St. Peter's MB Harbor Festival 2	3	Readers' Theater Rehearsal 4	Choir 7:15 5	6	7	8	
Pentecost 17 8am Holy Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist 9	10	11	Choir 7:15 12	Readers' Theater Rehearsal 13	14	15	
Ongoing Weekly Groups							
7:30 pm Al-Anon Noon - 4pm Bridge		9 AM - Noon Bridge Noon- 4pm Bridge 7-8 pm Nicotine Anon		6 PM AA		7:30-8:30 Narcotics Anonymous	
						Last Sat. 10:30-Noon Multiple Sclerosis Support Group 8-9:30 PM Narcotics Anon	

October 2011 -November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pentecost 18 16 8am Morning Prayer 10:30 Morning Prayer 12:15 Vestry	17	St. Luke Evangelist Readers' Theater Rehearsal 18	Choir 7:15 19	Meals on Wheels Dinner 20	21	22
Pentecost 19 23 8am Holy Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist	St. James of Jerusalem 24	Readers' Theater Rehearsal 25	Choir 7:15 26	27	St. Simon & St. Jude Apostles Readers' Theater Dress Rehearsal 28	Reader's Theater Performance 2 PM at St. Peter's 29
Pentecost 20 30 8am Holy Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist	All Hallows Eve 31	November 1 All Saints' Day 2	All Souls' Day Choir 7:15 3	4	Diosesan Convention Salinas 5	Diosesan Convention Salinas
Pentecost 21 6 8am Holy Eucharist 9 AM Breakfast 10:30 Holy Eucharist All Saints' Sunday	7	8	Choir 7:15 9	10	11	12
Pentecost 22 13 8am Holy Eucharist 10:30 Holy Eucharist	14	15	Choir 7:15 16	17	18	19
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