

St. Peter's Keys

St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

The Rev. David Elsensohn, Rector • The Rev. Gordon Blue, Assistant Priest
The Revs. Ann Parsons and Kathryn Snelling, Deacons



*“If thou but trust in God to guide thee
and hope in him through all thy ways,
he'll give the strength to guide thee,
and bear thee through the evil days.*

*Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on a rock that naught can move.”*

(Hymn 635 1982 Hymnal, Words:
Georg Neumark 1621 - 1681)

Rectors Rambling

Dear Friends,

This summer I have been thinking a great deal about an ancient Christian concept of formation. This has come to my mind repeatedly as I read the news of the world, our nation, and our local community. It is sometimes overwhelming to realize how much is changing, and how much we seem to be leaving behind. Many of the things that some of us have simply taken for granted are being challenged by today's culture. At the same time, I realize that as a 61 year old euro-American male it may be difficult for me to objectively recognize what needs to be held onto and what needs to be let go of. Fortunately the faith and church has passed down a body of wisdom that has helped the generations before ours find their way through the gray areas of their times, and will help us as well.

The parish church is much more than a place to socialize or even to gather for worship. The community that gathers as a local congregation is actually an extended family of faith. The children, youth, and adults who participate in the life of that family are shaped by the shared experiences, teachings, and

beliefs. As each Sunday, year, and decade goes by in the life of an individual, the hymns that are sung, the scriptures that are read and reflected on, and the fellowship hours and potlucks that are attended wash over each person present. This is much more than attending any class. It is a process of formation. It is out of this saturation in the values and morals of the ancient church that tomorrow's citizens and leaders of the church and nation emerge. These citizens and leaders will then be equipped to respond to the challenges of their day from the context of their roots in a faith community and tradition.

Countless millions before us have found that being formed in the church and Christian faith has equipped them for all that life brings their way. The author of the hymn quoted above was just one of those people. This is what I pray for each of you, and for our children and grandchildren.

September marks the beginning of our program offerings for the academic year of 2009/10. These offerings will include educational events, worship services, fellowship and community building gatherings, and opportunities to make a difference in the lives of many and the world (Outreach). I encourage each of you to participate as fully as possible in these offerings and the life of our little community. The promise is that the more you participate, the more you and your family will be formed, and transformed.

Be sure to look inside for further information on Wednesday School, Episcopal Church Women, choir, worship leadership

September 2009

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opportunities, adult christian education offerings, and much more. See you in church,

Fr. Dave

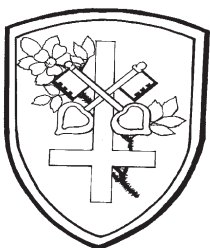
"Thanks For The Blessings."

St. Peter's has been blessed by the generous sharing of the gifts and talents of our worship leaders.

These include our organists, musicians, choir and director, acolytes, altar guild, greeters, bell ringers, lectors, thurifers, deacons and priests. It is time to say thank you. Fr. Dave invites all the members of our worship team to a "Thank You" potluck. Fr. Dave will provide the dessert. We will gather the second Wednesday evening of September, the 9th, at 6:30pm in the See House parish hall. We will spend some time celebrating, talking about our shared ministry, and looking toward the coming year's worship offerings. Fr. Dave will also introduce the book that the worship team will be studying this school year.

If you would like to become a member of the worship team in any capacity, please join us for dinner. We will do whatever we can to get you "dialed in" to this ministry and its schedule.

Fr. Dave



Adult Christian Education

Our Christian Education offerings for the coming school year promise to take us on an exciting journey. The academic year will start with a five week discussion of "*The Shack*." The first session will be Sept. 17. This popular book has a great deal to say about how we see the Trinity, suffering, and redemption. Please come to the first session having read the first four chapters of the book. As you read, jot down your responses to as many of the following questions as you feel moved to respond to:

1. What most stood out for you in these first chapters.
2. What do these "stand out" items say to you, what questions do they raise, or what is God saying to you in these notions?
3. What response do you feel these ideas are calling from you, or what is God asking of you?
4. What difference can these insights make in your life?
5. What would you like to learn more about?

Come prepared to share something of what you recorded. This will form the basis of our discussion.

"The Shack" will be followed by a six week exploration of the book titled "*Listening to the Heartbeat of God*." As we discuss this volume we will be introduced to several of the central tenets of Celtic Christianity. This introduction will go a long way toward explaining the unique nature of Anglican theology, and how our church sees the world.

In January we will pick our study up again with the volume "*The Lost*

History of Christianity." This book explores the 1,000 year flowering of Christianity in the Middle East and Asia, and its near death around the year 1,000 AD. We will be introduced to the little-told story of ancient Christianity in Iraq, Iran, Mongolia, and China.

Monthly Wednesday Evening Study Group

This group will meet each second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM in the Undercroft. The first session will be October 14th. This year we will explore "*Engaging the Word*." The book is a volume in the "Episcopal Churches Teaching Series." As we read and discuss, we will be introduced to a way of reading and understanding scripture. These tools will help those who want to spend more time with their Bible and come away with more from their reading. Please come to our first session having read the first chapter, and bring your responses to the questions above.

Everyone is asked to order their own copies of these books from their favorite bookseller. Please go to our parish website; navigate to Ministries, Christian Education, Adult Education, St. Peter's Adult Education Calendar for more information on these books and a copy of this schedule.

Wednesday Men's Breakfast

In preparation for the new year of Wednesday Men's Breakfast group (GBD) at the Pioneers' Home, any- one with comments or suggestions for this program, please call Fr. David.



ABUNDANT LIVING

Ask a simple question . . . It seemed such a simple question. “When did you learn to weave?” I asked the Hawaiian basket maker. “I’m always learning. I—we—should never stop learning.” “But when did you begin to learn to weave?” I pressed. He paused, looked at his work and replied, “It has always been there. My grandparents and their parents knew.” He paused again; then pointing to his abdomen, he continued, “It’s in our ‘piko,’ our center; the knowledge comes in through our umbilical cord.” He turned his unfinished basket over and pointed to the very center of the bottom. “It all begins here, at the ‘piko,’ the center, the beginning. It’s what connects us to our ancestors and how we know what they knew.” Pointing to each of us standing in the light rain outside his work place, the weaver said, “You have ‘piko’ and he has it and she has it and I have it. We are all connected through our center. That is how we share all we know. And we must share—we do not exist alone. We are not here as individuals. Each of us has gifts we offer to all those around us—we need each other and each other’s gifts to survive. And we need to be in touch with our ‘piko’ to use those gifts.

Our earth is a circle and our lives are circles woven together.” The weaver spoke of his frustration at not having all of the original basket materials his ancestors had; part of his learning was remembering through his ‘piko’ what the baskets of old had been made of, and then adapting what he could find today

to create the weaving of the past.


He shook his head ruefully, saying he wished he had asked his elders more questions about their rituals and heritage. But his sense of gratitude for the ‘piko’ he was learning to live and work with seemed to overwhelm the regret he expressed for his past attitudes and to ease his gentle anger with the younger generations who show little desire to learn from the struggles of his generation. We stood a while longer, listening to him quietly tell his story, not even feeling the damp settle into our clothes. Soon it was time to leave – the park was closing and the sun would soon set. We softly offered our thanks and walked in silence to the car, both of us deep in thought.

Weeks later, I’m still moved by the weaver’s words, pondering what they mean to me as a grandparent of two and as a child of my parents. My mother taught me to sew and cook, to entertain guests and care for a home, to sing and play the piano, and to drive a car. My father taught me to type, balance a checkbook and manage money, to make a good pot of coffee, and to drive a stick-shift. They both shared with me a love of education and learning and an appreciation for the diversity of those around us. These—and the gifts of many other lessons—I want to share with TJ and Angie as they grow. But the words of the weaver had the power to take my thoughts beyond the circle of my genetic family. Our community of faith is part of a wider circle interwoven and connected throughout the world. The words of scripture we read are a connection to ‘piko,’

the Center, the Beginning, that have spoken to thousands of generations since the earliest ages. Through those words, we learn and grow and share our gifts, linking our lives, our work, our knowledge and our love to those close by and those far away in both time and space. In a few days, eager children will be coming to the See House for a new year of Wednesday School. Their minds are full of questions they have not yet formed; they are thirsty for knowledge and hungry to belong, to connect to their past, present and future. They may not know that they are waiting to hear your stories and share your gifts. But you have ‘piko’ and it’s waiting for you to offer it to the next generation. Are you ready for their questions? They may be simple, but you never know. What will you share?

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 (With gratitude to the weaver, whose name I believe is spelled Kaili, for so passionately sharing with us. I hope I was true to his words.)

Thanks be to God! Kit Mellema



**UTO
Spring
Ingathering
\$365**



Trudging The Road To Happy Destiny

*Cyprian (Bishop, martyred at
Carthage, Sept 13, 258).*

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:11-16)

AS I sit down to write this, it is a week past the 2009 Deanery Family Camp. This was a great success, with more than 35 participants most days, and room for more. It was a good way to meet people from other parishes, to learn about the daily life of people of the Deanery, and it was a lot of fun. Some participants were able to attend only by day, or for a few days, while many stayed for the whole, week-long, camp

Jon and I left St. Peter’s after church on Sunday, August 9, aboard the Fairweather. Gene Smith picked us up and we were in camp at Eagle River on time for the evening meal. This was a potluck, provided by camp participants, and by members of the parish of St. Brendan’s. It was a great feast, and

there were leftovers which enriched the meals of the whole camp for days afterward. After the gathering, we found our cabin, and went to rest. The Deanery Family Camp was off to a good start.

Eagle River Methodist Camp is located on a large wooded acreage, along Eagle River, north of Juneau. It lies close to the State campground, and across the river from the Boy Scout camp. Facilities include the Lodge, which has a huge commercial kitchen and hall, with adaptable seating and tables, and a fireplace large enough to focus the attention of a dozen children and adults, at any time. Showers, restrooms, and laundry, are in a building about 50 yards away. In between, is a church bell, mounted high in a ‘belfry’ of trees, and a well-stocked wood shed. Ringing the bell for meals and worship is a favorite activity of young people and adults, alike.

There is a large fire pit, a few yards to the side. It has covered seating (!) in a ring around the open fire. There is a field, which we adapted for pick-up games of softball, soccer, croquet, bolles, bike rodeos, and other, more imaginative pursuits. A stream meanders along the edge of this portion of the camp. Over this, is one of the most popular of the camp features, the rope swing.

Sleeping accommodation is provided in a number of cabins, which are located across bridges, over the stream, and back along looping trails through the woods. Some are accessible from the driveway, and by car; with others, you have

to pack your gear along the level trail; there are carts provided which make this easy. Some of the cabins have heat and electricity, many do not. Most cabins sleep about a dozen people, in single bunkbeds. Bedding may be found at the laundry; Jon & I take our sleeping bags, which we recommend. Although the trail system is designed to create a sense of peaceful retreat, none of the cabins is more than 100 yards from the facilities. This year, many of the camp youth brought their bicycles, and they enjoyed riding around the camp trails, for fun.

Family Camp is intended to be a time for families to be together, in the company of other families from around the Deanery, and elsewhere. One family times a visit from Montana, to include ‘reunion’ time at camp, with relatives from Juneau. There is ample housing that families are able to each have a cabin to themselves, and we come together for shared activities, throughout the day and evening.

Shared activities include indoor and outdoor games, worship, hikes (there are many trails, close by), and all of the ‘chores’ necessary to camp life – cooking, dishes, cleaning, splitting and carrying wood, tending fires, supervising activities.

All of these things are shared, each family and family member finding their particular interests and ‘niche,’ which contributes to the sense of comfort and adventure, simultaneously. Many of the families included ‘extra’ members – friends of children, who were

(continued on page. 6)



St. Peter's By-the Sea Vestry		Rector Fr. Dave Elsensohn
Sr. Warden, Gary Paxton	Jr. Warden, Matt Turner	Ted Laufenberg
• Mike McConnell	• Kit Allgood-Mellema	• Ira Snelling
• Brian Massey	• Ann Brauer-Burns	• Debbie Paxton. Tres.

Vestry Hilites

Quick Summary

Vestry Meeting August 19, 2009

New Endowment Board Workbook reviewed favorably. Garden folks want to put in a greenhouse. Easter Group still meets and hopes to have a Homeless Services Summit in Sitka. Undercroft has floor heat now. Weekly church cleaning, with Altar Guild, going well. Deanery Camp in Juneau great fun, larger crowd. Time to paint the church, in Spring. Dream Catchers plan brought by Fr. David and approved. Jericho Road funding scant. Glenda will represent St. Peter's vestry at St. Philip's Native Convocation.

Quick Summary

July Vestry Meeting Minutes

Roberta bought a new computer after the one in her office crashed.

The Easter Group continues to meet.

Save Sitka's See House corporation has been dissolved and balance of money on hand paid on See House Restoration loan. The loan has all but \$11,933 pledged.

Discussion of need for collaborative planning by the many organizations and agencies involved or interested in homelessness in Sitka.

Minutes Quick Summary

June 2009

An addition to St. Peter's calendar May 15 saint's day Elizabeth Molineaux with Collect:

Almighty God, you have given to your church great gifts of love and nurture through those you have called to ministry. Give us grace that, like your servant Elizabeth Molineux, we may open our hearts and share these gifts with all your children, to the glory of thee, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

There is no emergency housing in Sitka for anyone.

Offer made to Diocesan office to help St. Philip's in Wrangell when it loses its rector this Fall.

Calendar of weekly church volunteer cleaning schedule started.

Quick Summary

Vestry Meeting Minutes June 2009

Many reports of General Convention and Deanery Convocation (including debriefings of St. Peter's work), available in See House. Boiler repair. Attic insulation installed.

Church response to dreadful Yukon flooding.

Plans are being readied for restarting of the Men's Breakfasts at the Pioneer Home this Fall after a summer recess and wonder if changes are needed.

These summaries are brief, but the complete minutes are available in the See House Minutes Book in the dining room of the See House.

—Judy Johnstone, Parish Clerk

NOTE: also find in the See House dining room, a notebook with the Draft Minutes of the interesting Deanery Convocation.

SMILE!

A Sunday teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds—After explaining the commandments to “Honor thy father and mother,” she asked “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?”

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, “Thou shall not kill”

—via email



Needed: St. Peter's Players

Producer/Director

The St. Peter's Players have performed memorable pageants and chancel plays. This ministry can be fun and rewarding. St. Peter's is blessed with so many talents it always 'comes together,' no matter how frazzled the director/producer got! The pageants were always successes!

St. Peter's Players is fairly well set up. Over the years a nice costume wardrobe has been put together and many props accumulated. There are also many scripts in the attic — some have not been produced and others would need a new copyright which is easy to get and inexpensive. There is also the good old Internet — there are many places that have public domain scripts.

Drama enhances our worship and the pageant, as well as the chancel plays, can help us live the Scripture in a whole new way. The dramatic readings and plays on Good Friday can create a feeling of 'being there.'

When Roberta began directing and producing the Christmas Pageant — way back 10 years ago — she had no experience whatsoever in directing a Christmas Pageant or any other production for that matter. We are hoping that someone will come forward to keep this ministry going. It would be very nice if there were at least two

people committed to putting on the Pageant this year. Please think and pray about this and give Fr. Dave a call ASAP!

(Trudging continued from pg. 4)

well-enough known that the parents were comfortable with the responsibility for their care, as one of their own. On Thursday night, many of the campers car-pooled to St. Brendan's for the evening meal, provided by The Galley, a community outreach project. Also on Thursday, the Holy Trinity Youth Group came out to camp. With the guidance of Mtr. Hunter and others, they prepared their evening meal, and held down the fort while the rest were away.

For the past two years, Family Camp has met at Eagle River. The deanery has provided for the camp fees, and the basic food cost. Each family has provided for its own care and contributed to the supervision and support activities of the camp. Family Camp works, because families come out. The participation of adults – parents, grandparents, and other volunteers – guaranteed that the meals were provided, the cleaning and the dishes got done, and the play and worship were fun and safe. In three years, this has become an important activity of the Deanery. **You are invited to participate, next August, as well!**

Thank you, everyone!

—Fr. Gordon



HAPPY BIRTHDAY September

- 1 Gail Johansen-Peterson
- 2 Rick Hadlin
- 5 Virginia Pearson
- 8 Donald Soukup
- 10 Hatch Frohlich-Fry
- 12 Jake Falvey
- 13 Kit Allgood-Mellema
- 13 Kathy Kahler
- 16 Carole Knuth
- 19 Owen Fulton
- 19 Naten (Nate) Turner
- 19 Betsy Johnson
- 28 Matt Turner
- 30 Dorothy Osbakken

Watch over thy Children, O lord as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be; strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall, and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth all understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(BCP)

Quote:

People lose sight of the hurdles when they jump at conclusions.



Wednesday School 2009

Current information and dates for 2009-2010 St. Peter's Wednesday School Activities:

Wed September 2, 2009 5:30-6:30pm: Planning meeting for 2009-2010 Wednesday School. Anyone interested in helping with teaching, cooking, cleaning or assisting, please attend or let me know of your interest. Currently I have the following volunteers and openings:

Teaching Staff:

Youngest Group (4yrs of age to 1st Grade)

Main teacher : _____

Assistant teacher: _____

Middle Group (2nd Grade to 5th Grade)

Main teacher : Sarah Blue

Assistant teacher _____

Sr. Group (6th Grade to Sr.)

Main teacher : Kris Fulton

Assistant teacher _____

Cooking Staff:

Lead Cook : Ginny Wood

Assistants: Kathryn Snelling _____

Bonnie Elsensohn _____

Food Purchasing: Trish White

Special Events: Jesse Tree: _____

Christmas Program: _____

Lent Program: _____

Easter Program: _____

As you can see, there are lots of opportunities for all of you. Please pray for our program that we can find teachers and assistants for this program.

Wednesday School will begin on Wednesday,
September 16th at 5:30pm

—Kristine Fulton

Annual Fair Trade Fair

St Peter's Outreach Committee has ordered the merchandise for the Trade Fair. They are asking volunteers to help unbox, sort and organize the merchandise when it comes.

They will also need lots of help: setting up for the sale, sales help, cleaning up after, boxing up merchandise to be returned (if any).

Trade Fair Date

Saturday October 24

10am to 2pm

Please contact Roberta if you can help. It will be very helpful to know in advance whom to call when the merchandise arrives. Thank you.

On A Roll

In-line skates provides thrills, cardiovascular conditioning and muscle tone. It can also introduce you to a whole new set of friends—ambulance drivers, emergency room technicians and physical therapists, as well as those nice neighbors on the next block who called the rescue squad.

—Chuck Moses in Detroit News



Impressions of The General Convention of the Episcopal Church

July 8 - 17, 2009

by Fr. Dave Elsensohn

The 2009 General Convention is the fourth I have attended. My experience of this last gathering was that its tenor was much more collegial. We did deal with some very difficult questions, just as the 2000, 2003, and 2006 conventions did. But in the midst of what were sometimes tense discussions, people were able to treat each other with respect, civility, and together enjoy a little humor. This was a cause of celebration.

Everything in God's creation has at least two sides. The opposite side of the collegial nature of the 2009 G.C. was the voices that were not present. All of us are aware that four Dioceses have withdrawn from the Episcopal Church: they are the non-continuing Diocese of San Joaquin, Pittsburgh, Fort Worth, and Quincy. I could not help but wonder if the level of civil discourse was aided by the absence of the deputies from these Dioceses. At the same time, the strident voices at the other end of the spectrum also seemed to be absent. Those at one end of this curve seemed to have come to the conclusion that there was no longer room for them at the table in the Episcopal church. Those who balanced their voices at the other end may have been quieted by the lack of vociferous opposing voices to energize them. This development is a source of grief for me, and should be for the church. Any time the church shuts itself off from the ideas of another

portion of the church we are guilty of a form of fundamentalism. Some could say that the Episcopal Church is at times guilty of liberal/progressive fundamentalism, an unwillingness to hear the conservative voices among us. We are all impoverished any time any of our brothers and sisters are made to feel unwelcome and withdraw from the ongoing dialogue in the church. The theology that emerges from counsels in which the entire church is not represented is fundamentally flawed.

My years of sitting on the floor of the House of Deputies has taught me something. This last convention has reinforced my impression that when difficult issues or ideas are under discussion, the participants frequently do not discuss what is before the group. They may be speaking in the terms of what is on the floor. But in fact they stand before the House publicly wrestling with their own preconceived notions, stereotypes of those in positions that differ from their own, and a fear of the agendas they suspect are behind what has been presented. There is value in this process if it helps those involved to come to a point where they are ultimately able to hear their opposite number (truly hearing is required-agreement is optional). This takes a great deal of time. Getting to this point requires deep commitment to our Lord, and to the Church. At its best, on occasion—when we find this place, this is where the General Convention shines.

Many years ago, at the 2003 General Convention, Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold called the Conven-

tion to the practice of Interpretive Generosity. This is the practice of ascribing the best possible interpretation to what you hear the other saying. In all likelihood that is closer to what the other intends than the opposite. This year's General Convention has reminded me that interpretive generosity, loving our brothers and sisters as we love ourselves, is the only way forward for the Body of Christ. When we do this, all that I have described above becomes that much easier (but no less challenging).

Now to a few specifics of convention. You can visit http://ecusa.anglican.org/gc2009_8419_ENG_HTM.htm?menu=menu91928 to get a list of the legislation presented to General Convention. You can also find a report of the final status of each resolution. You will find a link there to the final form of each piece of legislation that was adopted.

D025 was the piece of legislation that made the biggest headlines. It was interpreted by the media as the Episcopal Church breaking ranks with the Anglican communion on several issues. It did not. Instead this brilliant document endeavored to present a snapshot of the facts of life on the ground in our church. The central issue behind this document is the unique nature of how we govern ourselves as a church. The rest of the Anglican communion does not enjoy the same level of democratic process that we enjoy. As a result our lived reality of a church that encompasses many different deeply-held convictions is foreign to them. In fact it looks rather messy from an international



perspective. The author of this resolution offered it to be informative, not proscriptive or prescriptive.

Resolutions A138 established a church-wide mandatory health care plan for lay and clergy employees of the Church. Resolution A177 established a mandatory pension program for Lay employees. These programs will go into effect July, 2011. Resolution C070 challenged the church to reduce its carbon footprint 50% by 2019.

Resolution A074 is one of those resolutions that will call the church to theological reflection and study. It sets out a development of the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral (1886, 1888). This document moves beyond ecumenical relations and furthers our statement of principals in regard to inter-religious relations. I look forward to a time when we form a discussion of this text at St. Peter's.

B007 has changed the canons in regard to a Diocesan Bishop's obligation to visit the congregations of his or her diocese once every three years. With the passage of this resolution, these visitations may now be made by either the Diocesan, Suffragan, Coadjutor, or Assisting Bishop of a Diocese. This change will be very important to the Diocese of Alaska. This will allow us to begin to rethink how we provide for Episcopal ministry in our far flung land.

In one of the closest calls, C023 The Defense of Marriage was defeated. This resolution would have called "ALL" Episcopalians to work for the repeal of all defense

of marriage laws in our respective states. The measure passed the House of Deputies by 5%. The House of Bishops then did not concur and referred the measure to an interim legislative body. Calling "ALL" Episcopalians to a position like this could be seen as a violation of the comprehensive nature of the Anglican Church. This concern came to be echoed on the floor of the House of Deputies once they had a moment to reflect on what their vote would mean to so many.

The Houses of Deputies and Bishops passed a resolution calling for a study of the theology of marriage. The resolution number is C014. As the centuries have passed, the church has found it necessary to re-articulate every one of its central doctrines and dogmas to each new age and culture. The call for this study is no different. It is obvious that we live in a time and culture that is challenging much of what the church believes and stands for. This reflection is intended to speak what we believe to this emerging culture in words this new society can hear. I am particularly excited about this study.

C056 might be seen as a companion resolution to C014 by many. This resolution calls for the gathering of liturgical resources that already exist in the church worldwide and are being used in the blessing of same sex unions. Like any study, those doing the work need to know what something "looks like" before being able to reflect on it. This does not call for the development of these liturgies, only the study of what already exists in many corners of the

universal church. This committee is to report their findings in 2012.

I am as positive as I can be that the results of C014 and C056 will be brought into dialogue with each other at the 2012 General Convention. As in every transformative moment in church history, it will be critical to have prayerful, reflective people of faith involved in this study. The same will be true of those we elect as Deputies to the 2012 General Convention.

Thank you for supporting me as a Deputy to convention from our parish and Diocese. I consider it an honor to have represented this part of Christ's Body in the counsels of the Church. I will be happy to talk with any of you about convention. And I encourage each of you to read the legislation for yourself because I am certain that some of your friends and relatives will be asking you about what we did.

Faithfully,
Fr. Dave Elsensohn

The Bishop's Tea House

A Note of Thanks to all who helped with the Tea House this summer! Thanks to Bonnie, Harriet, Maryann, Debbie and Mim for their serving in the daily operation of the Tea House. Thanks to the many donations of supplies. We were able to clear \$1,393. This money will go for our many outreach projects.

—Thankfully, Ginny Wood

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Nancy Ricketts

The archives has had many visitors during the summer, some just wandering back to the Community Garden or the See House, some expected visitors, and yet others who came over after a visit to the Bishop's Tea House. The beautiful annual cineraria in the planter, which needed daily water during the "heat waves" didn't always get it and gave up. I'm trying to revive it. Someone planted a lovely lilac in a perfect place at the corner of the building but it is still fighting for its life. My hope is that we will have a built-in planter to the right of the door by next summer, and also some sort of window coverings to keep UV light-rays from damaging some of the exhibits.

Matt Turner and crew, laid a concrete pad and entrance walkway to the door. Tom Reinholdt had a carpet-runner laid the length of the archives space and it is working and looking very well.

Ted Thomas has sent more material and pictures concerning the Rev. William I Thomas (and family) leadership at St. Peter's during the 1940s. One of the items was an article about the early Revenue Cutter BEAR, with which the Thomas family had some 1919 contact, and a photograph of which is included in the Thomas collection in the archives. He will send yet more to cover that time period, at which time we will have a pretty complete record of the Thomas family from their years at Point Hope in the 1920s to the present time. It would be wonderful to have that complete

a record of all of St. Peter's priests.

Diane Whaley has done some fascinating computer-research into the Molineux family, a huge, worldwide family that, except for our Mrs. Elizabeth Molineux, is beautifully documented. I've been wanting, to know about Mrs. Molineux's life from the time she left St. Peter's in ill-health in 1942, to the time she died in Ontario, Canada, in 1959. Diane contacted a source for Elizabeth Molineux, a man in Tennessee whose work concerns computes Molineux family roots, but that avenue didn't work out as we had hoped. So far our best information has come from the National Episcopal Archives in Austin, Texas. Some years ago I gave a lot of Mrs. Molineux information to the Molineux Family Newsletter, material that they had never had. Diane and I will not give up looking for more.

While Bishop Kimsey was in Sitka on April 20 for a visitation and confirmations, he blessed the Allan E. Johnstone Annex Archives Building. At the same time the staff of Bishop Mark MacDonald was added to the archives. Fr. Dave supplied the following information about the staff—"This staff was a gift from the Southeast Deanery to the then Bishop Elect Mark MacDonald. It was presented ... by the Venerable Mark Boesser, the Arch Deacon of the Southeast Deanery ... Bishop MacDonald left the staff with Fr. Dave upon the Bishop's resignation.

Parts of a letter from Mark Meredith from Boulder, Colorado, on May 8—St. Peter's By-the Sea has played an important role in the lives of my wife Syd and myself and in the lives of her family. The St. Peter's 'connection,' is what brought them and, subsequently, myself to Sitka.... "My wife Syd and her family—parents Loren and Alice Hert, and sisters Janelle and Melinda—moved to Sitka in 1945 from the San Bernardino, California area.

"Loren Hert had planned to work in Anchorage and had booked passage on a ship to that city, which happened to make a stop in Sitka. Loren got off to call on his former California Rector, Fr. William 'Tommy' Thomas who in 1945 was at St. Peter's By-the-Sea. Loren immediately liked Sitka. Fr. Thomas suggested that he inquire about employment at Mt. Edgecumbe, which he did. Loren decided to stay. A month later, the rest of his family joined him in Sitka. Loren worked at Mt. Edgecumbe as a stationery engineer in the power plant until retirement, he loved fishing and hunting, considered himself very lucky to have lived in the Sitka environment; and died in 1993. Alice worked for several years at Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital as medical transcriber and then for the Moore Clinic as medical secretary; greatly loved Sitka and her many friends; and died in 2009 (at the Pioneers' Home, with funeral service at St. Peter's).



Syd and I met in Boulder at the U. Of Colorado (1954), and were married at St. Peter's in 1955 by Fr. Henry Chapman. Following a stint that I did in the military, we returned to Sitka where I worked for Alaska Coastal Airlines for two years. During this time, Syd and I worshipped at St. Peter's By-the-Sea. We were residents when Alaska became a state (1959).

"Although we resided primarily in Colorado since 1959, we have made a number of return visits to Sitka through the years to be with Alice and Loren, Janelle and Melinda and their families who lived there part of the intervening, years, and also to see lots of friends. We always included time at St. Peter's in our visits."

In his letter Mark asked a couple of questions, which I was able to answer by phone, I also got him in touch with Ted Thomas to follow up on one of his questions.

In everyday usage "hope" means a desire for something to happen.

Theologically, however, it means more than just a desire. It is an assured expectation based on trust in God

—via Anglican Digest

St Peter's Balance Sheet June 30, 2009

		ASSETS
Current Assets		
Petty Cash	\$ 33.37	
Cash - Checking	3,642.35	
Pledges Receivable	65,228.35	
Total Current Assets		68,904.07
Property and Equipment		
Property(held by Diocese)	6,000.00	
Total Property and Equipment		6,000.00
Other Assets		
Checking - ECW	5,782.86	
Jericho Road Checking	369.06	
St. Peter's Raffle/Kitchen	168.92	
Rector's Discretionary Fund	415.87	
Fr. Gordon Discretionary Fund	124.59	
Dn Kathryn's Discret. Fund	498.94	
Restricted Checking	57,554.49	
Investments -Endowment	61,459.38	
Total Other Assets		126,374.11
Total Assets	\$	201,278.18
		LIABILITIES AND CHURCH FUND BALANCE
Current Liabilities		
Payroll Tax Payable	\$ 40.85	
Salaries Payable	0.01	
Alaska Airlines Credit Card	<368.34>	
Total Current Liabilities		<327.48>
Long-Term Liabilities		
Total Long-Term Liabilities		0.00
Total Liabilities		<327.48>
Fund Balance		
Operating Fund Balance	98,548.26	
Restricted Fund Balance	103,609.18	
Net Income	<551.78>	
Total Fund Balance		201,605.66
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$	201,278.18



Life On The Farm. . . St. Peter's Fellowship Farm that is.

What an amazing Summer for the Fellowship Farm! The bounty, by the time of this printing, has already graced 3 of the 5 Farmers Markets (see accompanying pictures) and gifted many of our volunteers with delicious nourishment this Summer. I am overflowing with gratitude and here's why... We've benefited from several improvements on the Farm including a timed, drip watering system which has provided some necessary relief to our dedicated watering volunteers (Karen Iwamoto, Kathryn Snelling, Brent Edwards, Allison Sayer and Susan Hoyt) given the dry Summer conditions. The watering system was a project completed by Paul Gloe, a U.W. medical student, and was dedicated at the Farm's 1 year birthday party the end of June. Another improvement was the resurrection of a 3 compartment compost unit that accepts coffee grounds, vegetable waste, grass clippings and other non-weed plant waste. Thanks to Brent Edwards who completed this project.

Additionally, the Farm was blessed by several special work parties throughout the Summer. A Juneau Girl Scout troop volunteered to plant flowers, strawberries and

weed our garden in mid-June and the SAIL participants volunteered on several Wednesdays helping to ease the watering chore and dead-head flowers. Tom Hart, Lynnda Strong, Maybelle Filler, Doug Osborne, and Nattalie Sattler have also been consistent volunteers



who have loved and nurtured the garden week in and week out.

If you are interested in assisting with the Fellowship Farm, Wednesday 4:30-6:00pm work parties will continue through mid-September as will the Saturday 2-4pm work parties on non-Farmers Market Saturdays. We could also use assistance harvesting on Saturday 9/12 for the last Farmers Market beginning at 7am.

We are also planning to bed the garden down in October/November and celebrate with a Harvest Party sometime in October so keep your ears to ground for the date and time.

In closing, I came across this sweet poem by Wendell Berry called *The Man Born to Farming*...it speaks of being drawn to a deeper Source and the miracles the Earth holds for us.

The Man Born to Farming by Wendell Berry

*The Grower of Trees, the gardeners,
the man born to farming,
whose hands reach into the ground
and sprout*

*to him the soil is a divine drug.
He enters into death yearly, and
comes back rejoicing.*

*He has seen the light lie down in
the dung heap, and rise again in
the corn.*

*His thought passes along the
row ends like a mole.*

*What miraculous seed has he
swallowed*

*That the unending sentence of
his love flows out of his mouth*

Blessings 'til October and hope to see you at our blessed communal garden.

—Lisa Sadlier-Hart





Lay Ministers' September Schedule

Time	6	13	20	27	Oct. 4
8am Lay Reader Deacon	Brian	Kit Dcn. Kathryn	Ted	Roberta	Brian
11am Lector Lay Reader Crucifer Greeter Bell Ringer Hostess	Mim Laura Marg. Bonnie Ann B-B. TBA TBA	Nancy Jo Roberta Morced Judy O. Thelma TBA Bonnie	Jack/Judy Glenda Marg. Judy J. Carleigh TBA TBA	Carol Harriet Marg. Debby Gary TBA Judy J. Dorothy	Mim Ginny
1pm Shepherd	Glenda	Ginny & Kris	Thelma & Kit	Judy O. & Judy J.	

Wednesday Services

	Wed. 2	Wed. 9	Wed. 16	Wed. 23	Wed. 30	Oct. Wed. 7
Lay Reader	Ted	Ginny	Brian	Laura	Harriet	Roberta



Telephone Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer need and want someone to pray with you, or if you would like several people to pray for you, call one of the following people. We are all in need of prayer. Don't hesitate to share your needs.

	Home#	Work #	Other#	email
Dn.Kathryn Snelling	747-8825		738-3835	kathryn@thesnellings.com
Fr. Dave Elsensohn	747-7272	747-3977.....	738-9999	david@stpeters-sitka.us
Gordon Blue.....	747-7967		206-979-0850	gkblue@gmail.com
Ann DeLill	747-6068			ade_lill@hotmail.com
Dn. Ann Parsons.....	747-4919		738-4919	arp@gci.net
Candi Barger	747-8326	747-8922.....		candi@alaska.com
Polly Bass.....	747-4639.....	229-221-0082..		glaciobotanist@gmail.com pbass2@uas.alaska.edu
Sarah Williams	747-5036			sarahw.61@gci.net
Marian Blankenship.....	738-3842			sukiesplace@yahoo.com



News from ECW

The National Episcopal Women had their convention in July in conjunction with the General Convention. One of the items on the agenda was honoring women of the church from all the Dioceses. As the only active ECW group in the Diocese of Alaska, St. Peter's submitted the name of Elizabeth Molineaux. She was instrumental in keeping St. Peter's operating in the 18 years we were without a rector. There is a nice certificate that will be framed and displayed in the See House.

The first meeting will be Friday September 25 at noon beginning with a potluck lunch. We will have a short presentation about the success of St. Peter's Fellowship Farm. The other items on the agenda will be to begin planning for the Christmas Bazaar and to do some brainstorming on our mission with special focus on outreach.

Please come and enjoy good food and fellowship and help us plan a great year!

—Roberta Modrell

Candi's Corner

Hello everyone! Hasn't it been the most beautiful spring and summer? Had a great chance to visit a few gardens this summer and all I can say is "the flowers and vegetables were in abundance!" Even the slugs seem to have hid out cause it was so dry....and the berries were absolutely fantastically delicious! Wish it could have lasted for another 2-3 months, just so I could have enjoyed even more of the wonderful flowers....oops and then that heavy rainfall came! Guess we needed it but sure brought you back to reality! Fall and winter are right around the corner.

Enjoyed some nice times with my granddaughter Holly; she came home for the summer and I gave a few driving lessons. I had forgotten how fun teaching a teen to drive was. She did a great job, now we just have to build her confidence but she did make it right thru the new roundabout like a champ! Don't you remember those first months of driving Dad's car? What a kick it was!

Happy Birthday to my cuz Michele and to all of you celebrating birthdays this September. Have a great safe enjoyable Labor Day as summer comes to a close.

Blessings to all of you who have been giving of your time, talent and treasures to keep St. Peter's Church, See House and grounds so beautiful.

Agree with God, and be at peace; in this way good will come to you. . . Job 22:21

—God's blessings, love, Candi

St. Peter's Endowment Board

The board takes pleasure in informing you of another method to make gifts to St. Peter's Endowment.

You can give memorials for loved ones and friends and donations honoring family or friends. Just as we did in the past for Save Sitka's See House.

I have already done a memorial for a dear friend. Her family was very pleased and grateful.

I would encourage you to use this method as well as the other ways for giving to St. Peter's Endowment fund.

If you have any questions ask

any member of the Endowment board:

Brian Massey

Gary Paxton

Jack Ozment

Julie Abbott-Jones

Marg. Parsons

Ann Brauer-Burns

—Ann Brauer-Burns



Fr. Gordon & Jon at Deanery Family Camp at Eagle River.

Notes

**September 2
6:00pm Wed. School
Planning Meeting**

**September 9
6:30pm Worship
Team Potluck**

**September 25
12pm ECW
Luncheon**

Editor

J. Carter

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