



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • 3 PEABODY ROW • LONDONDERRY, NH.03053 • 603-437-8333

February 2016

From the Rector

In the life of the Church we are living in historic ways. We celebrate liturgies in beautiful and time honored ways. The texts we use (even those that we now express in modern everyday words) have been honed carefully over millennia. Even the vestments our clergy wear stem from years of tradition. For example, the chasuble the priest wears was worn in the first century as the outer garment of a well-dressed Roman.

As invested as we are in tradition and as practiced as we are in the historic ways of doing things, our lives today are far removed from the agrarian Roman times or even mediaeval Europe. The life around us is fast paced, ever changing, filled with technological innovations that make time consuming and often tedious tasks quick and virtually effortless. And yet, our lives are hectic and more time consumed than ever before.

On February 10th we begin the liturgical season of Lent. We begin it with a very traditional service where we take communion but also we receive a thumb print of ash on our forehead. Liturgically this is to remind us of God's having created us out of the dust of the earth and that after our life has been lived our mortal bodies return to that original state. We then begin our observance of Lent as a time of self-sacrifice and introspection. Liturgically it is powerful and the intention of a Holy Lent is a worthy endeavor. But other than giving up a few treasured but most likely unneeded habits, I suspect most often Lent is just another tradition where we go through time-honored motions but do not really see significant changes in the ways we live our lives.

It need not be so! In our liturgies we see a great symbol as we simplify the things we do. There are no flowers, the alleluias disappear and the music is toned down. Hopefully the homilies preached will be more contemplative. If we commit ourselves to it, Lent can be for each of us a time to examine and simplify the chaotic lives we live. It can be a time when we really do examine what we do and how we live our lives. We can ask ourselves what we really want to be and to be like; seeking and discovering a spirit within us that leads

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us to real change and toward a renewal of how we see ourselves and how we live out a true and renewed vision of ourselves.

If we commit ourselves not to mere tradition and doing what we always have, if we really commit ourselves to a greater vision of the “me” within, this holy season of Lent truly can lead to an Easter newness, not of bonnets and traditional chocolate eggs, but rather of a renewed and changed self on a path less travelled but more fulfilling.

May the blessing of a thought provoking Lent lead you to a renewed and reconstituted self this Easter.

Welcome to our new and returning members of our vestry who were appointed at our annual meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2016

Wardens

2015-2017 David Moeri (1st term)
2016-2018 Sally Nelson (1st full term)

Vestry

2015-2017 Bruce McKay (elected to fill out unexpired term of Deb Aboud)
Noel Cartwright (1st term)
Paula Paciulan (elected to fill out unexpired term of Sally Nelson)

2016-2018 Peter Henry (1st full term)
Paul Stuart (1st term)
Cindy Litchfield (1st term)

Clerk

2016-2018 Fay Morlock (1st of 4 allowable terms)

Treasurer (Appointed bi-annually at first Vestry meeting following Annual meeting)

2016-2018 Earle Rosse (3rd of four allowable terms)

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Delegates to Convention

2015-2017 Marilyn Bragg (1st term)
Peter Henry (1st term)

2016-2018 David Moeri (1st term)
Gail Pratt (1st term)

Alternates to Convention

20116-2018 Jackie Thesse (1st term)
Jane Darnell (1st term)

Youth Delegate

OPEN

COMING UP AT ST. PETER'S

Ash Wednesday
is on February 10.
St. Peter's
has two
liturgies of
Holy Eucharist
with the
Imposition of Ashes at
7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Sunday, February 14

The Rev. Marjean Bailey
will visit St. Peter's.
As many already know,
Rev. Bailey was the
original vicar of
St. Peter's when it
first started as a mission
church. Please join us
after the 10am service in
the sanctuary as she will
share with us the history
of our church.

February Birthdays

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 Peter Bacho |  | 13 Sarah Nelson |
| Jim Stejskal | | Ana Reinhold |
| 8 Jonah Leeper | | 19 Nancy Jerauld |
| Veronica Leeper | | 26 Earle Rosse |
| 10 Nathan MacKay-Wright | | 27 Cecilia Fernandez-Hall |
| 12 David Moeri | | 28 Noel Cartwright |

ST. ANDREW'S FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your continued support of St. Andrew's Food Pantry. Food donations may be left on the table in the back of the fellowship hall and are delivered to St. Andrew's on the first and third Saturday of the month.

February is Canned Soup Month! Hearty soups, stews and chili provide year-round availability of protein and many nutrients. All contributions are appreciated and may include food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and paper goods as well as the "Food of the Month". Thank You!

"Green Living Tip of the Month"

Recycling Denim for a Great Cause

The Blue Jeans Go Green program collects denim across the country and upcycles it into UltraTouch natural cotton fiber insulation.

Since 2006: 600+tons of denim have been recycled.

Denim diverted from landfills: 1,000,000+pieces.

Insulation manufactured: 2,000,000+

Save all your unwanted denim, go to www.bluejeansgogreen.org, and donate to this wonderful cause. You will make all your denim happy because the denim gets returned to it's natural cotton fiber state!

Be a good steward of our earth. It makes God happy too!

Blessings,
Jackie

Prayer Shawl Ministry

There will be no meeting for the Prayer Shawl Ministry in Feb or March -- half of our members are away for the winter. If you have need of a Prayer Shawl or a baby blanket, please see/call Penny Sullivan or Denny Bolis, or Rev. Matthews.

Thank you,
Justina Trevorrow



Fellowship/Coffee Hour

The coffee hour after the 10 AM service is an on going activity and certainly lots of fun, an opportunity for friend-shiping and welcoming new members. We have a clip board with reminder "sign up sheet" for taking turns in the narthex area. Unfortunately, no one has signed up for January 31 or all of February. It is a volunteer effort,(age and gender non-specific) and everyone who possibly can, is asked to take their turn by baking or by purchasing a small treat or two. Just helping with the setting up the coffee & tea, napkins etc. would be lovely as well. Coffee hour is up to all of us so please seek out the "sign up sheet" and put your name down for one Sunday. As a small parish, many are needed to volunteer their services on the numerous worthwhile committees. Every big and little bit of time and effort you contribute to the church are very much appreciated.

Thank you,
the Coffee Hour (non-committee committee).

End of Year report on SCRIP PROGRAM

During 2015 total orders to the Scrip Program amounted to \$11,300. Many, many thanks to everyone who placed orders throughout the year. After postage of \$162.50 the total profit for St. Peter's was \$706.14. It may not seem like a lot but any amount we can raise together for the benefit of the church coffers has to be a good thing!

Could we all work together during this year 2016 and try to boost the profits even higher? The order dates are listed in the Scrip box on the Narthex table along with order forms so please take a few minutes to consider purchasing a gift card either for your own use or to benefit someone else. There are cards for major retail and grocery stores, Pharmacies, gas stations and lots of restaurants plus Amazon and iTunes, always a hit with the younger crowd. Cards are delivered the Sunday after sending the orders in.

If you need help with filling out the form or have any other questions please contact Penny Sullivan.

Let's make our goal \$1,000. We can do it if we really try!

Thank You.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
Dec. 17, 2015

Members present; Rev. Dick Matthews, Noel Cartwright, Paula Paciulan, Bruce McKay, Peter Henry, Sally Nelson, , David Moeri, (warden) Katie Stuart, (clerk) Earle Rosse (Treasurer) absent: Jim McCoy, Jim Stejskal

The meeting convened at 7pm. Rev. Dick Matthews offered an opening prayer.

Please note: the minutes of November's meeting are briefly summarized here because notes of that meeting were lost (by the clerk—who apologizes for the mistake.) At the meeting on Nov. 19 members of the search committee were approved by the vestry. Paula is the vestry liaison to the search committee. Committee Members are, Art Trevorrow, Beth Baker, Dan Bragg, Jim Howell, Jon Maltz, Lee O'Connor, Laura Reinhold, Mandy Jasper and Sandi Critchley

Co-chairs of the search committee are Lee O'Connor and Penny Sullivan.

Also at the Nov. meeting, there was a brief report from those who attended the diocesan convention

Treasurer's Report: Earle reports that due to some changes at St. Mary's Bank, there has been some difficulty getting on-line, so some information may be incomplete. Earle reports that our cash position is "OK" with \$15,000 to \$ 18,000 in the church's account. All bills are current including our "Fair Share" payment to the Episcopal Church of NH. By the time of the January meeting Earle anticipates having final year-end numbers. At this time, there are \$85,000 in pledges.

Search Committee Report: The scheduled search committee meeting was cancelled because Canon Hannah Anderson was unable to attend. The meeting has been rescheduled to Jan. 6, 2010. There was some clarification of the package that can be offered to a candidate. The diocese prescribes health insurance and other benefits, but the vestry makes the final determination of the offer that can be made. We will learn more about the process after the search committee meets with each other and with Canon Anderson and Paula reports back to us.

Old Business: We are still in search of a Safe Church officer. Although some people have completed on-line modules and some the in-person training, we are quite short of people who are actually Safe Church certified. There was discussion of this problem without any clear resolution. The issue was tabled for another meeting.

New Business: Earle is at work on next year's budget. At this time of year, pledges are trickling in and the budget is a work in progress. The proposed budget is approximately \$150,000. This is less than last year's budget (\$193,000) largely due to the reduced salary cost of our interim priest.

Sally raised the issue of pre-planning for the expense of a sabbatical when we hire a new priest. Perhaps this should be a budget item over 6 years or so. This was considered a good idea, but no action is required at this time.

Paula asked about the source of funds for the search committee. Earle said that he will add a line to the budget to reflect this necessary expense.

Noel raised the issue that has been discussed before of a weekly or monthly reporting of income to parishioners in the bulletin or newsletter. The principle was agreed upon by the vestry, but the details of its execution were referred to the warden's committee.

Rev. Dick Matthews reported that the visit from Bishop Hirschfeld went very well. There were 140 in attendance at services and three baptisms were performed. It is Bishop Rob's plan to attend February's vestry meeting.

The office will be closed for the week between Christmas and New Year's.

New members have been nominated to the vestry to replace those completing their terms. Paul Stuart and Cindy Litchfield will be installed at the annual meeting on Jan. 24.

The vestry meets next on Jan. 21, 2016 at 7 pm.

The meeting was closed with a prayer and adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Stuart, clerk

Giving Statements

The 2015 annual giving statements are on the
table in the narthex for you to pick up.
Please find yours and take them home.