

St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
412 N. Live Oak  
Rockport, TX 78382



# THE ROCK

*We Are One Family In Christ*

AUGUST 2010  
Volume 14, Issue 7



## *Reflections from the Rector*

### A Tapestry That Illuminates and Strengthens

Last month the reflection I offered focused on hospitality. In that reflection, I spoke of the wonderful and mysterious reality of hospitality illuminating both the stranger and the host. What I did not mention was a subtle aspect of hospitality and its relationship to pastoral care.

For years when someone spoke of pastoral care, I immediately thought of the prayer chain at church and the list of names with each special care and concern to be remembered in prayer. I suppose I also thought of our pastor or priest regularly visiting those in the hospital and in their homes; offering prayers, blessings, and his or her presence as a comfort during a time of special need. Now these were expressions of pastoral care, but they were also naïve perceptions, far from the depth of true meaning of the term.

How easily my earlier understanding of pastoral care could be lived out simply as kindness extended to another, not realizing that somehow the care extended to another transforms both the caregiver and the recipient of care. It transforms their relationship with one another and illuminates the spirit of God at work in the simple, ordinary realities of life. I have learned this through the years not simply by reading about it, but by walking through doorways and into the presence of others. I have learned this when someone else walks through a doorway and into my presence. The encounter, not orchestrated by either of us, surprises us with a beautiful tapestry of pastoral care and hospitality woven together. Two creatures are now strengthened by a bond of spiritual humanity that offers comfort and true peace. Perhaps this sounds a little over the top, but, not if you are one of the two in the encounter.

In that case, you realize that these words fall far short of the mysterious thing that happens in that moment.

In my vocation, I am blessed with the opportunity and challenge of walking through many doors. Every time is like doing it again for the first time. My prayer at the door is that God will make me attentive both to God and to the one I am about to meet. I know that doesn't sound like being fully equipped for the encounter. My faith is that somehow in our time together, all will be well and we will offer the face of Christ to one another.

During Christy's recent surgery and in the days that followed, we were more keenly aware of being recipients of care. The role reversal was enlightening and a gift. The pastoral care and hospitality came to us through family, friends from the parish (and every venue), doctors, nurses, medical staff, and even other clergy. We were very much aware of the reciprocal blessing for the giver and recipient of care and the bonds that were strengthened by virtue of this relationship. Her surgery went very well and she is recovering beautifully. We are grateful for the good outcome. I must tell you that whatever the outcome may have been, I am convinced that the pastoral care and hospitality shown revealed something of God that illuminates and strengthens the human spirit for whatever comes next. Does our caring and our praying matter if we don't get the desired outcome? You bet it does, because in that genuine offering of ourselves for the sake of another - it is not ourselves that we are offering. Something more is being offered through us. I could use the language that, "God through Christ is being made known", but perhaps it is best to leave it a holy mystery. Somehow God knows what is necessary in the moment and stirs the hearts of those present, mysteriously and wonderfully. I guess that's why we call our response to such things, faith, not knowledge.

Thank you all for every act of kindness, for every prayer, for time away on vacation, and for remembering and praying for one another through all the changes and chances of this life. Together, the tapestry being woven has the capacity to illuminate and strengthen God's very presence in this tiny acre of the kingdom.

With admiration and gratitude for your hospitality and pastoral care,

Jim

## Parish Business

### *From the Senior Warden*



John "JD" Debler, Senior Warden  
[jdebler@gsminsurers.com](mailto:jdebler@gsminsurers.com)

Every month I struggle with what to write about in this article. You'd think with the entire Bible as a resource, and a vibrant church and Diocese around me, it wouldn't be so hard. If it is around a Church holiday, it is not difficult. Eventually, something comes to me. But, sometimes, I feel like a single large space heater at the North Pole- I put out a lot of hot air with not much effect on the overall situation.

This month, I'm going to touch on evangelism. Wait a minute, is that really a word in the Episcopal vocabulary? Do we, as Episcopalians, actually go out and talk to people about Christ, try to encourage them to find God, or tell them what a difference He has made in our lives? Sadly, as a whole, and I include myself in this, we do not. At least, not in the way we should be. First, let me say that I know several in our church family that do a wonderful job in this area. They are very quiet, however, and do not call much attention to themselves. I hear about them through others. They selflessly do things for others, go out of their way to make lives better, and their actions speak volumes about their love of Christ. They spread the Word by how they live their lives. Their good deeds attract others to our church.

When I meet a person and within the first few minutes of conversation, they make a reference to God, such as a phrase like "Praise the Lord", or they ask "Are you a Christian?", or "Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?", I am pretty sure that they aren't Episcopalians. There is nothing wrong with what they are asking, but I think that most Episcopalians aren't likely to approach people with such inquiries, especially upon first meeting someone. It makes us uncomfortable. Why? Are we ashamed of what we believe? I don't think so, but it isn't "how we do things". It's too "in your face". What is it with these people, anyway? It's like they are so full of the love of Christ that they can't hold it in. Gosh, that's a good thing, isn't it? Should we be doing that? Is there a right or wrong way to express your love of Christ to others? Personally, I think we each should be able to express it the way that we want and feel comfortable with. I'm not going to condemn anyone who is trying to spread the Word of God, however they do it, as long as it is in a peaceful manner. I think what is important is that we do it.

Perhaps a middle of the road approach is the best. I'm always kind of leery about things done to either extreme. That seems to be where the wheels tend to come off the cart. If we live our lives as full time Christians in the community, not just a couple of hours a week at church, and do good

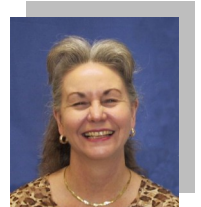
deeds and help others in the name of Christ, then I think that will further our cause better than anything else. Your actions will still be speaking volumes to someone long after the buzz of your words leave their ears. But at the same time, it wouldn't hurt to be a little more vocal as we do it. There is nothing wrong, I feel, with telling someone that you are helping with a project in the community because you are trying to live a more Christ-like life. Christ did his good works and preached the Good News out among the people. That is where we need to be to reach the un-churched.

The more visible and vocal we are while we serve the Lord, the more apt people are to look at us and think "Hey, they seem to be a really happy and sincere group of people. Maybe I need to check out their Church". Sincere action and words will get results, I feel.

We, as a church, are already involved in several outreach programs in our community. I certainly look at these outreach programs as a form of evangelism. The efforts of our members certainly have a great effect on many people in our community. But we, individually and collectively, can do more. Ask yourself what you have done this week, or even this month, that has made a difference in someone's life. Something that has shown your desire to be more like Christ. It's a win-win situation. When you help someone grow closer to God, then you have taken a step closer as well.

Many blessings,  
 John "JD" Debler  
 Senior Warden

### *Treasurer's Notes*



Audre Debler, Treasurer  
[debler@pocca.com](mailto:debler@pocca.com)

Results of operations through June 30, 2010  
 are as follows:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Operating Revenues	153,895	156,666	( 2,771)
Operating Expenses	(136,148)	(149,951)	13,803
Net Income (Loss) From Operations	17,747	6,715	11,032

***Congratulations to those from St. Peter's and St. Helena's Episcopal Church in Boerne who participated in the 2010 Fishin' for Mission. A check in the amount of \$9,614.09 has been sent to World Mission.***

*Respectfully,  
 Audre Debler*

*Among Our Own*



**Congratulations to Pam Heidt.**  
She was recently selected one of the  
"2010 Rockport Merit Artists".



Barbara Patton

*Community of Hope*  
*Prayer List*

We ask that you keep the following persons in your prayers: **Carol Allen, Butch Adams, Mary Adams, Landon Alexander, Jayne Boyce, Nadia Clark, Christy Friedel, Nat Gonzalez, Jean Herring, Dorothy Hooker, Joan Lee, Carole Ann McKittrick, Les Moor, Bob Nelson, Anna Nix, Marvin Northrup, Jane Ross, Jeannie Rozzell, Fred Snook, Rick Spencer, Al Steffens, Audrey Steffens, Rod Summers, Dorothy Taylor, J. T. Gonzalez, Jesse Watson, Morgan Watson, and Ray R.**

To pray with the Prayer Circle or to request prayer for yourself or your family, call or email Barbara Patton at 790-7775 or [bpatton@dbstech.com](mailto:bpatton@dbstech.com)

**LOST & FOUND**

A silver Cursillo cross was recently lost. If anyone finds it, please notify the Parish Office at 729-2649 or John Hill at [stxlobo@peoplepc.com](mailto:stxlobo@peoplepc.com)  
Thank you.



AUG

AUG

Sally Huff	6	Mary Alice McBrayer	23
Mike Monroe	6	Ida Stroud	23
Sarah Shugart	10	Rev. Tom Keith	26
Martha Christian	11	Esmeralda Zamora	26
Alice Frick	12	Edith Douglas	27
Christy Friedel	14	Nell Herring	30
Tara Kirmse	18	Jim Mays	30
Ed Frazier	19	Jane Butt	31
Yvonne Moor	19	Richard Craig	31
Raymond Burgess	22		



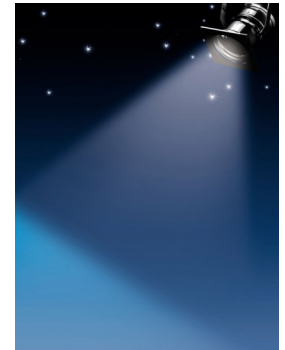
Betty & Dick Smith	August 2
Thursey & Gary Sutton	August 2
Jackie & Jim Mays	August 11
Elinor & Ben Donnell	August 16
Mary & Butch Adams	August 20
Peggy & Walter Bringle	August 22
Elizabeth & Lowell Kepp	August 22
Sally & Richard Hart	August 24
Betty & David Smith	August 24
Diane & Bob Austin	August 26
Esmeralda & Pete Zamora	August 26

## AUGUST "SPOTLIGHT" on CURSILLO



JoAnn Leonard

It's hard to describe the short course in Christianity called Cursillo. *Is it like going to church for 3 days straight?* Hardly. *Would I use the words ho-hum, preachy and dull?* Not even close! Could it be that you have heard it all before - you know "been there, done that" complete with t-shirt.



You've been a faithful member of the church for a number of years, perhaps your whole life (even listened to every sermon) - what could anyone **POSSIBLY** tell you that you haven't heard before. I can assure you that God delights in each one of us, and over the course of those three days He has so much to share with you.

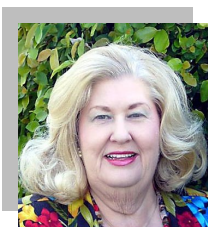
This course takes place over a weekend. In our diocese we have the choice of meeting at the beautiful Mustang Island Retreat Center or in the serenity of Camp Capers outside of Boerne. The setting is casual, but structured to help develop our awareness of our place in God's community. Each person receives God's gifts in this special time according to their own needs and personality. The team members are very giving and conscientious about their messages. The morning worship service, the talks by priests and lay people are up-lifting and will be liberally spiced with great food, joyful singing and easy relaxing atmosphere. There will be a Cursillo on Mustang Island October 14 through 17, and at Camp Capers November 11 through 14. More information will be posted in the parish hall, or may be obtained from Fr. Jim.

Community, sharing, meetings, study, were words that I had always been uncomfortable with before my Cursillo. I did have the desire to be closer to Christ but lacked the confidence to truly seek Him. I thought I was content and of course thought I knew everything, but the warmth and sincerity of the team members and others attending the weekend opened my eyes to how much I had been missing. In the book *The Rule of Saint Benedict* I read "We come to realize that we did not find God, God finally got our attention". I know He meets us more than half-way.

Cursillo will not change your fortunes, your circumstances or your personality and doesn't presume to do this. My experience is that Cursillo opens our hearts to receive God's peace and presence in our lives, with the strong assurance that  
He will never leave us.

Our invitation to you echoes Christ's call to Andrew - "Come and see".

## MINISTRIES



Angela Rivera

The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time. School - new activities for students - new schedules for parents - new clothes - and for me, the beginning of choir rehearsal at church. It is truly fun to get back to learning new music and seeing folks who have become friends every Wednesday night. We begin to feel like family very quickly. We love having new members. If you would like to join us this year, just show up on Wednesday evening at 7:00 sharp. You will be welcomed and appreciated!

We work hard and love what we do! If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 361-729-7884.

Angela Rivera

### PERSONAL PLANNING



Mike Patton

About ten years ago, St. Peter's held several meetings at which we discussed the various personal, legal and spiritual issues that people face when making decisions concerning their eventual death. I have had a number of requests that we re-visit these issues. There will be three sessions held on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The meetings will be between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services. Qualified speakers and discussion leaders will facilitate these meetings. Please attend, and if you have friends in the community who would be interested, please let them know they are welcome.



## *The Community of Hope International*

"A School for God's Service..." RSB



Pam Heidt

Several months ago, while traveling, I heard a sermon about the "one of the most important sentences in the history of mankind". This sentence was in the sixteenth chapter of Acts. It has a lot to do with "listening" which is one of our key words in our study and action as pertains to the Community of Hope.

The sentence goes something like this: "During the night, Paul had a vision (dream) of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'come over to Macedonia and help us.'" The next morning Paul and his entourage packed their things immediately and got in a boat to go to Macedonia. (There was no discussion, no dawdling and no dream analysis. He just woke up and jumped in the boat.)

Paul had already carried the Gospel to Galilee, Samaria, Judea and Asia Minor. He had gone back to these places to reinforce the churches that he had started. But Greece was an unknown land and a strange and foreign place. Paul, however, was all ears for the voice of God and he listened to this dream and knew God needed him to do more. And wasn't it a wonderful thing that he did that? He went to Greece and Italy and later from those places Christianity spread to Spain, France, Germany, England and then finally to the New World.

(Continued on page 6)

## OUTREACH



Bob Austin

[www.rfgoodsam.com](http://www.rfgoodsam.com)

### *Good Samaritans - August 2010*

A wonderful outpouring of food and donations was made to Good Samaritans by St. Peter's in June. Hundreds of pounds of food, as well as money, will aid in helping those coming to Good Sam. Thanks to all of you from the needy families in Aransas County.

Fr. Jim's message on July 11<sup>th</sup> was about the parable of the Good Samaritan - Luke 10:30: "*But a Samaritan as he journeyed, came where he was; and when he saw him he had compassion on him*". At Good Sam it is sometimes difficult to understand or agree with a client's problems, but we do not "pass him by".

#### Recent Examples:

A family with three children came in for much-needed help after the husband had lost his job. They received the help they needed from Good Sam.

A mother with three small children escaped her husband's abuse (in another town) and came to Rockport. She received food, a Castaways voucher for clothing and a gas voucher for her car in order to find a job.

A woman recently out of prison needed clothing, as the men's clothing she had on was all she had. We issued a voucher to Castaways for clothing and gave her food.

A family of three adults needed food and help with a utility. None of them had a job and were living on the wife's disability check. Her husband and adult son cannot find work. We did not "pass them by".

Through June 30<sup>th</sup> this year, 2,134 families have visited the Good Samaritan Center. Many were similar situations to those above. We are fortunate to be able to serve them.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of Good Samaritans,

*Bob Austin*

#### (Continued from page 5 - Community of Hope)

If Paul had hesitated or flinched at the idea of going to that foreign land, had not been sure that was God's voice telling him to head for Macedonia where people desperately needed to hear The Good News, would Christianity have slowly spun out? The New Testament would certainly have been shorter. No letters to the Corinthians, Romans, Philippians and Thessalonians.

The sermon giver pointed out that 'our Macedonia' in today's world, is not across the water, is not a place with a different kind of people, but is right where we are, with people just like us. It is not a matter of whether God calls us, rather whether we hear it. Sometimes we listen but don't respond. Like Paul, we are called to help people who sometimes don't even know they need God. Sometimes people are turned off about religion because they see how some talk about God or live God out in their lives. It is our calling to model to others the commandment of loving our neighbor as ourselves. Many Christians try to model this commandment in many different ways. In the Community of Hope, we try to listen to God (and our care receivers). Our listening has led us to this particular organization, just as many at St. Peter's have found other organizations that afford them ways to meet others and provide a way to model Christian behaviors.

So, listen! And if you hear God calling to help with the flock, you needn't jump onto the nearest boat! Find a way, on your own or in an organization to model God's love for us, to a friend, neighbor or complete stranger.

### JOURNEY IN FAITH

Sessions begin Thursday, August 26 at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please join us for the next 6 weeks as we learn more about the Church, and in particular, the Episcopal Church.



## Ministry Leaders

## Announcements

### Vestry Commissions and Ministry Leaders

<u>Sr. Warden</u>	John "JD" Debler
<u>Jr. Warden</u>	June Gregory
<u>Treasurer</u>	Audre Debler
<u>Scribe</u>	Kay Scott

### Buildings, Grounds & Equipment Commission:

Garden Guild	June Gregory
Columbarium	Steve Long
	Mike Patton

### Christian Education Commission:

Daughters of the King	Frances Reed
Brotherhood of St. Andrew	Frances Reed
Cursillo	Al Steffens
Library	JoAnn Leonard
Nursery	
Godly Play	Kimber Clark
Adult Education	The Rev. James W. Friedel
Vacation Bible School	Frances Reed

### Communications Commission:

The Rock	Butch Adams
Website	Diana Sebastian
History	Woody Woodard
Office Administration Liaison	Judy Nibbelink
Pictorial Directory	Joey Gill
Signs, Advertising, Directories, Bulletin Boards	Les Moor

### Evangelism Commission:

Greeters & Name Tags	Joey Gill & Becky Warren
Newcomers	

### Planning & Analysis Commission:

Five Year Plan, Bldg Planning and Land Sale or Purchase	Mike Patton
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### Parish Care & Fellowship Commission:

Sunday Coffee Hosts	Beth Garner & Kay Scott
Comfort Meals	June Gregory
Community of Hope/Pastoral Care	Milby Wade
	Pam Heidt
	Pinky Gonzalez
	Sarah Shugart
	Milby Wade
Circle of Prayer	Barbara Patton
	Yvonne Moor
Kitchen Guild, Special Events, Meals & Dinners	

### Stewardship Commission:

Audit Committee	Mike Patton
	Rick Glassett
	Jean Albright
	Walter Bringle
Finance Committee, Stewardship	Mike Patton

### Outreach Commission:

Castaways	John "JD" Debler
Good Samaritans	Roy Allen & Jo Ann Leonard
Community Table	Bob Austin
	Al Steffens

### Worship Commission:

Altar Guild	The Rev. James W. Friedel
Acolytes/Lay Readers & Lay Eucharistic Visitors	Sherri Collins
	Verger: Al Steffens
Ushers	Ken McGee
Director of Music/Choir	Angela Rivera

### WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday	8:00 a.m. Rite I Holy Eucharist
	10:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	6:00 p.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist and Healing Service

The Nave of St. Peter's Church is open for prayer and meditation every day the church office is open. Hours are 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday 9:00 a.m. until noon.

### WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

Mon:	Castaways Pricing 12:30 p.m.
Tues:	St. Peter's at Castaways 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  Community Table at First Presbyterian 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Wed:	Healing Service and Holy Eucharist 6:00 p.m.  Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
Fri:	St. Peter's at Castaways 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### COMMUNITY TABLE - VOLUNTEERING IS FUN!



If you haven't visited our website in awhile, please do - [www.stpeterbythesea.com](http://www.stpeterbythesea.com). It's updated regularly with photos, information about upcoming events, reports of recent happenings and much more. Also, issues of *The Rock* and our monthly calendars are available on the site.

## St. Peter's Episcopal Church

412 N. Live Oak Street  
Rockport, TX 78382

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### CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

#### SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sundays:	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II
Wednesdays:	6:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist and Healing Service

#### CHURCH STAFF:

Rector:	The Rev. James Friedel
Director of Music Ministries:	Angela Rivera
Parish Secretary:	Diana Sebastian
Office Telephone:	361-729-2649
Office Hours:	Monday through Thursday 9:00 am - Noon; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Friday 9:00 am - Noon
Email:	stpeterbythesea@att.net
Website:	www.stpeterbythesea.com