

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

THE ROCK

We Are One Family In Christ



DECEMBER 2010
Volume 14, Issue 11



Reflections from the Rector

.....scatter the darkness from before our path...

It is my privilege to write this as we are drawn to the season of Advent. I do so with a grateful heart, feeling the joy that comes from life together with good friends and fellow sojourners.

Over the years, I have come to view this season as a gift. Advent invites us to rediscover the wonder and innocence of childhood. Like the tiny one with bright eyes, we scan the horizon with great expectation that something glorious is about to happen. In some mysterious way, we feel more alive anticipating God's active participation in the world. Advent is a most appropriate time for us to listen and become more attentive to what God is stirring up in our own hearts and in the life of our community. What is there for us to celebrate as we search out our own becoming? Where are the emerging opportunities for relationship and ministry? How can we, as individuals and as a community of faith respond more effectively to God's call in this particular place and time? These questions seem especially important as we feel the dynamics of living in a world experiencing transition in nearly every venue.

A wise friend once shared with me, "Transition is not a bridge to get us from Point A to Point B. It is instead, the dynamic reality of life". What I heard in those words was that every day is a new day. Every relationship is unique. Every situation in life has the potential of challenging our experiences from the past. We could say that every day is another day of transition. Yet to recognize such things does not leave us unsettled, comfortless, or tossed to and fro without a sense of grounding. Instead, we realize the importance of being attentive and centered on the transforming nature of God; darkness into light, despair into hope, the ordinary into the extraordinary. Such images prepare and point us to that glorious night when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, an evening that has transformed the world forever. In our received tradition this is the most blessed season of love, joy, and generosity. It is our Christmas.

Christy and I pray that you and yours are blessed with the joy and wonder of this Advent and Christmas. It will be our joy to share in the glory of this "Holy Night" with all of you once again this year.

May almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless us in this holy season, scatter the darkness from before our path, and brighten our hearts with the light of His holiness.

Blessings and peace,

Jim



PARISH BUSINESS

From the Senior Warden



John "JD" Debler, Senior Warden
jdebler@gsminsurors.com

"Jesus is the reason for the season". This phrase was coined to remind us that the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is why there is a Christmas to begin with. It's not the season of the hottest new video game, or the newest electronic gadget, or the most recent blockbuster movie. How did we get to where we are today? I wish I knew so I could reverse it. We have evolved into a culture that values other traditions more than the spiritual side of the season.

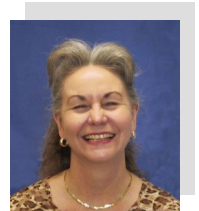
I have nothing against giving gifts at Christmas. This is not a 21st century tradition. It started centuries ago. I think you could say that Jesus was the first Christmas present to humanity. The early Christmas gifts were most often simple ones, like homemade candies or baked goods. How nice it would be to go back to that. (Except for maybe Aunt Ida's fruitcake that gets regifted year to year). No putting yourself in debt up to your eyeballs so that you can give your children all the new toys, toys that will end up in the back of the closet in a few weeks.. No rushing around and stressing out over what to get your sister-in-law's cousin's grandchild who might be there at your house on Christmas day.

This time of year should be about family, friends, and remembering that God sent us the gift of a little baby boy, His own Spirit made incarnate. We rush around to find the perfect centerpiece for the Christmas party. Christmas Party? Let the festivities begin! Parties at the office, friend's parties, church parties, civic club parties, school parties, I like parties just as much as the next guy, but I get a little stressed out, no, make that a lot stressed out, with all the festivities that we feel we must attend. Oh, but we can't even call them Christmas parties now. It's Holiday Parties, so we can be politically correct. We get so busy that we almost start to resent or even hate the season. How sad that is. This should be the most joyous time of the year, but we get so wound up in all the "holiday activities" that we lose sight of what really matters.

I don't know how to change all of this. Maybe most people don't want to change it. Maybe I should take a Valium and stop being a Scrooge. But, I think that we could all slow down a little bit, take a deep breath, and reflect on what we should be celebrating this time of year. Several years ago, I was the usher at the late service on Christmas Eve. There was a large crowd at that service. After the candlelight service, as everyone was leaving the church, a man, whom I didn't know, said to me. "This is what Christmas is all about". As I watched him walk down the sidewalk to his car on that cool, clear, starlit night, I felt a deep inner peace. The man had hit the nail on the head. Indeed, this is what Christmas is all about.

Many Blessings,

John "JD" Debler
 Senior Warden



Audre Debler, Treasurer
debler@pocca.com

Treasurer's Notes

Results of operations through October 31, 2010
 are as follows:

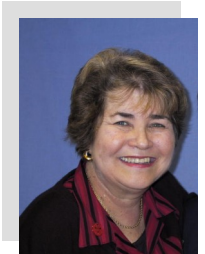
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Operating Revenues	252,884	247,774	5,110
Operating Expenses	(233,885)	(252,806)	18,921
Net Income (Loss) From Operations	18,999	(5,032)	24,031

*Respectfully,
 Audre Debler*

AMONG OUR OWN



A Celebration of the Life of Genevieve "Jennie" Heldenfels was held at St. Peter's on Saturday, November 27, 2010. Jennie will be greatly missed by all who loved her so much. Our condolences and prayers to her son, Dailey, and his wife Pat, as well as to all her family and many friends.



Barbara Patton

Community of Hope
Prayer List

We ask that you keep the following persons in your prayers: **Carol Allen, Landon and Charlean Alexander, Nadia Clark, Corina Domaschk, Nat Gonzalez, Jean Herring, Nell Herring, John Hill, Dorothy Hooker, Joan Lee, Carole Ann McKitrick, Anna Nix, Marvin Northrup, Al Steffens, Audrey Steffens, 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 bpattton@dbstech.com

I'd like to express my deepest gratitude for your prayers and expressions of concern during this recent "journey " with my friends, Harlan and Elizabeth Roberts. Harlan passed away on November 24, 2010. Both he and Elizabeth told me they were comforted, knowing that your prayers were there for them during these past few weeks.

*Sincerely,
Diana*



Birthdays

	<u>DEC</u>		<u>DEC</u>
Thursey Sutton	1	Rev. "Mac" Keeble	10
Paul Hinson	2	Charles Atchley	13
John Edwards	4	Frances Parsons	16
Kay Hunter	4	Shirley Kirmse	17
Sally Cotner	5	JoAnn Martin	19
Russell Painton	5	Sandra Gregory	20
Sis Vander Naillen	5	Hillary Adams	29
Joe Dickson	7	Bob Cotner	29
Gay Keeble	7	John Niederkorn	30
Carol Benningfield	8	Vallerie Farmer	31
Mallory Fraser	9		



	<u>DECEMBER</u>
Cecilia & William Shannon	13
Mary Alice & Jack McBrayer	31



MINISTRIES



From the Director of Music Ministries

Angela Rivera

We are well into Advent now, so that means our Chancel Choir is frantically working on Christmas music on Wednesday nights. We have some wonderful music to present to you and to the glory of God on the Sundays and Christmas Eve leading to Christmas Day.

We have many talented members willing to spend countless hours preparing for our worship services. I am honored to be working with such wonderful people. They are faithful in attendance, joyful in their countenance and committed to their God.

Come share our music on Christmas Eve before each service. You will be blessed with their music as I am each and every week.



Carla Reed had tears in her eyes when I gave her the \$701 from St. Peter's Episcopal Church. She said that they usually had a little reserve money, but because of the economy, people have not been able to give as much as they had in the past, and they had used up the little reserve they had in the bank.



St. Peter's contributed 52 Christmas boxes for the troops, about one-tenth of all the boxes they will send this Christmas season. They have already sent 529 boxes, and will most likely send around 600 boxes.

A special thanks goes to the congregation, visitors and friends of St. Peter's for the very generous gifts of time and money to make this effort for our troops. Also, thanks to our gracious secretary, Diana, for ALL she does behind the scenes.

Faithfully in His service,
Frances Reed



The Community of Hope International "A School for God's Service..." RSB



Pam Heidt

The members of the Community of Hope at St. Peter's wish you a Christmas Season filled with wonder, joy and beauty. These are all the things that we easily find right here in our beautiful part of this world!

Here at St. Peter's we are blessed with a church family in which the members are so caring of one another. The Christmas season is an especially important time to remember those of us who are not able to come to church or who are suffering from illness or loss. Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers. Your continuing caring and involvement blesses us all.

We enjoyed a great Circle of Care meeting in November with 16 members present. A plan has been made for our next gathering, December 8.

Pam Heidt

ANNUAL WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

THURSDAY, DEC. 16, 2010 4:00 - 6:00 PM
HOME OF JACKIE WRIGHT - 409 AUGUSTA

It's that time of year when we gather again to celebrate the coming birth of Our Lord and to cherish the love and friendship we share with one another.

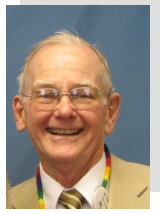
Once again Jackie Wright has offered the use of their beautiful home for our party.

The response to our Christmas sharing project was so positive that we have chosen Kids Care to again be the recipient of our Christmas donations. This program serves the many disadvantaged children of Aransas County through the school system. It is administered under the wing of Good Samaritans, and the needs are determined by school counselors, nurses and teachers. We have many members of our congregation who are familiar with the good work of this program and will give us information during upcoming services.

NOW AND THEN . . . by Jim Reed

Mission Statement

"...proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to our community..."



The year was 1871: Rockport was incorporated as a town and the Episcopal Church was about to be established as a leader in the community. The first ordinances by the City of Rockport, with J.M. Mathis as Mayor, declared it unlawful for any person to fire or shoot any gun or pistol within the city limits or to run any horse or mule on any public street. It also made drunkenness and disorderly conduct illegal. Read almost any history of our community and key family names are to be seen. Read the Bishops Committee and Vestry minutes and many of the same family names will appear: Bruner, Herring, Sorenson, Spencer, Gibson, Cochran, Harden, Fulton, Cabaniss, Heldenfels; all these and many more have been leaders in the development of Rockport.

In 1880, an election was held that established free public schools for Rockport with a board of directors that included T.H. Mathis and Capt. C.L. Deane, both Episcopal Church members.

The summer of 1910 found the Episcopal Ladies Guild dodging mud holes on Live Oak Street. They proposed, through Alderman Bailey, that they would grade Live Oak Street between Wharf and North Streets if the City would shell the street. The city accepted the proposal on August 3rd.

During the 1920 and '30's there was no full time priest to minister to the congregation, so St. Peter's joined the Methodist Church and First Baptist Church to create The Union Sunday School. Capt. C.F. Bailey was school superintendent. They used the David Crook Bible literature, and all of the young people and many of the adults from all three churches attended. (A search of the Internet did not find David Crook Bible literature.)

Susanna Sorenson wrote Bishop Jones in 1949 explaining that in the aftermath of WWII, the Church Women were helping two European families, one in Marseilles, France and the other in Vienna, Austria. They had asked for gifts of money, clothing and food to send overseas, but the response was so great that they were looking for others to help. They called their effort the "Second Mile Project". Bishop Jones introduced them to the "Save the Children Foundation" working with Navajo Indian children in Arizona. Episcopal women have never been idle and are always reaching out.

The Korean Peninsula was devastated in March of 1953, so the ladies of the church busied themselves with shipping winter clothing to help the refugees. 1957 found Iris Sorenson and Mrs. M.W. Cochran petitioning the City Council for permission to plant trees on city property outside the west wall. Permission was granted.

The Rockport Tour of Homes was initiated in 1974 to raise funds for church projects in the city. The tour was subsequently taken over by the Rockport Center for the Arts. Walter and Sally Clark sponsored a dinner theater season by the Alpha & Omega Players in 1975. These plays added to the cultural experience of the community for several years. 1976 saw the church contributing to relief in Guatemala and the sponsorship of a man recently released from prison. The Vestry paid the man for work around the church until he could find a job.

The Church of Our Savior in Aransas Pass was having a tough time in the late '70s, so St. Peter's started raising money for them. One money raiser was a food booth at the annual SeaFair celebration. Over the years while St. Peter's actively participated in the SeaFair weekend, several outreach needs were met. A benefit to all was the refinement of Virginia Leonard's recipe for a great seafood sandwich. (Look elsewhere in this issue for the recipe.)

The above examples of the outreach from our church are just those that can be found in old letters and reports. Many more have undoubtedly been lost to the passage of time, but it is clear that St. Peter's has always been a church family that reaches out to bring the gospel of Christ to all in the community.

In the more recent past our congregation has played a major role in establishing and maintaining organizations for the welfare of the community. Some of these are: ABC Learning Center; Castaways Thrift Store; Good Samaritans; Fishing For Mission; Young Life; Community Table; Vacation Bible School; Christmas Boxes for the Troops.

"ST. PETER'S SEAFOOD SANDWICH - IT'S HEAVENLY"

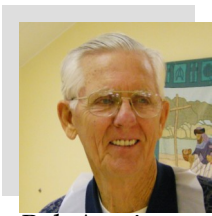
Virginia Leonard's recipe sold at SeaFair

2 or 3 heaping T. tarter sauce
 1 t. curry powder
 ¼ t. garlic powder
 dash pepper
 ¼ t. Worcestershire
 6 oz. Cold boiled diced shrimp or other cooked seafood
 2 French rolls
 soft butter

Mix first six ingredients thoroughly and chill for at least an hour. Just before serving time, split the rolls, removing enough of the soft centers to form four boats. Brush rolls lightly with butter. Warm rolls in 375-degree oven for 6 to 8 minutes. Remove rolls from the oven and divide seafood evenly among the rolls, making sure the mixture is spread evenly to the edges. Heat under broiler until bubbly. Serves two.

Copied from UPON THIS ROCK by Juliet Wenger, p. 76

OUTREACH PROGRAMS



Bob Austin

www.rfgoodsam.com

Good Samaritans - December 2010

Giving comes in many different forms and circumstances...perhaps a handshake, a hug, a pleasant smile or greeting. There are many ways of giving to the church and to others. We give clothes to Castaways, food to Good Samaritans, toys to children at Christmas and prayers to those in need.

There was a wonderful response to the toy collection in October. Over 50 toys were forwarded to Peace Lutheran Church where they will clean/repair them for handing out on December 18th. Thanks to all of you for your help.

Another example of giving is the donations for the Good Sam Christmas Basket Event, also on December 18th. The food comes, from not only the Food Bank and purchases at HEB, but from the churches, RV parks, schools, "Curves", RCC Ladies Association and several businesses and individuals.

If you could spare an hour or so between December 6th and 16th to help prepare the boxes and food for the December 18th handout, it would be greatly appreciated. Call me at 790-7806 or just come by Good Sam. It's fun and you may meet new friends.

So, while monetary donations are important to a church or charity, we see there are other ways as well. Giving of yourself with love to comfort others comes from the heart.

Bob Austin

Welcome Back Winter Visitors!

We're happy to see you again. Please notify the Parish Office that you are back in Rockport so you will continue to receive "The Rock" and other mailings at your local address.



JoAnn Leonard

Castaways



Roy Allen

December Update of Castaways Schedule:

Castaways will not close for the total of 2 weeks at Christmas as usual. Instead, they will be open for business on December 20 and 21, and again on December 27, 28 and 29. St. Peter's will be pricing on Monday, December 20, and will man the store on Tuesday the 21st. We will then be free to rest and relax until pricing on Monday, January 3, and will resume our usual schedule then.

We are especially grateful to our volunteers who will give of their time during the busy holiday season, and thank all of you for your work and support throughout the year.

*Above all, your donations are appreciated,
and we ask for your prayers for our mission.*

CURSILLO

On Saturday, January 22, 2011 a Day of Deeper Understanding will take place at St. Mark's in Corpus Christi. This is held from 10 am - 2 pm, a time to refresh our spirits in a miniature Cursillo/Ultreya with prayer, talks and song, and seeing old friends. If you are interested in attending, please mark this date on your calendar. A group from St. Peter's is interested in going by bus. This will be only \$10 per person and we will need at least 10 people to sign up. If you are interested in going with us on the bus, please call or e-mail JoAnn Leonard before December 16 so that we can reserve the bus for a stress-free trip.



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 Formation 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 Nibelink
Pictorial Directory	Joey Gill
Signs, Advertising, Directories, Bulletin Boards	Les Moor

Evangelism Commission:

Greeters & Name Tags	Becky Warren & Joey Gill
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	Becky Warren & Joey Gill
Good Samaritans	Roy Allen & Jo Ann Leonard
Community Table	Bob Austin
	Al Steffens

Worship & Liturgy Commission:

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

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday	8:00 a.m. Rite I Holy Eucharist
	9:15 a.m. Adult Christian Formation
	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.

***** The Parish Office will be closed December 27 - 31.
We wish everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season.**

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.

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE****Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24**

5:00 pm	Special Music - St. Peter's Chancel Choir
5:30 pm	Christmas Eve Worship Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:30 pm	Special Music - St. Peter's Chancel Choir
11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship Holy Eucharist Rite II

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

412 N. Live Oak Street
 Rockport, TX 78382

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 Rockport, TX 78382

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 W. 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