

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



THE ROCK

We Are One Family In Christ

JUNE 2011 - Volume 15, Issue 5



Reflections from the Rector

Pentecost – more than a season in the church year

This month we hear the familiar, yet powerful story of the Day of Pentecost. Some have called this event the birthday of the Church. It is a great description. Yet, too often Pentecost has become a passive, historical event stuck in the memory of things long passed. I long for a way to recapture the energy and vitality of a brand new faith community, “heaven bent” on sharing the hope and promise of lives lived in unity with God through Christ. Perhaps those are only thoughts a pastor or priest can desire, but even in my simple, raw humanity, everything around me tells me that there is as great a need for such a model of living in the twenty-first century as there was in the first century.

We watch the news. We see the clash between cultures, nations, ethnic, economic, religious, and age groups. We are witnesses to a vast array of challenges facing not only our nation, but nations across the globe. We seek leadership and too often are disappointed by self-absorbed, self-serving personalities. We know that long term vision strategies are necessary and yet it is hard to imagine a “body” that could sit together long enough to hammer out such a thing. The months, the years, the decades go ticking by and still we are mired in the same bog that has paralyzed us for generations. Such realities cause us to become cynical and jaded, asking questions like, “Who benefits from this stalemate?” or “How could that approach serve the greater good?” Trust goes out the window and fresh ideas are scrutinized in a fashion that leaves them buried in a pile of open files. We look to the horizon, the future, trying to get a glimmer of something or someone who can transform our current reality. Quite honestly, we see more of the same and even the beginning of a cycle that takes us back to square one.

Imagine God looking on this state of affairs. Does this manner of life together resemble the kingdom of God? Is the Holy Spirit, sent to equip us for life in relationship with God and with one another, present in these realities? I have no doubt that there are people of faith serving in all these venues. All levels of government, business, religious

life, etc. permeate with faithful leaders. Yet, here we are stuck in this widening gap. Does the Holy Spirit not equip us to solve problems? Is there no way for us to relate to one who disagrees with us that does not crush the spirit within them?

As you might imagine, my answer to these questions is that God knows human nature all too well. God sends His son to give us the most intimate expression of life lived in unity with God and God's creatures. Then, as promised, God sends another; the very breath, wind, and spirit of God comes to us to fill our lacking and equips us for all that comes next. God also blesses us with the gift of free will, to choose to rely, either, on ourselves or on those resources of God that we possess by virtue of our baptism and genuine faith. Believing this and realizing all the venues where humanity is stuck, leaves me thinking that the resources of our faith have been shelved long enough.

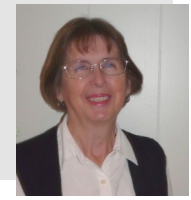
I have great respect for the separation between church and state, for I would not want this nation telling me how I must worship and express my faith. That being said, there are essentials of our faith that inform the way we live and move and have our being. They inform our ethics in relationships in business, in politics, and in religious life. We don't always live the ideal, but we always recognize and are shamed when we fall short. Then, begin again with God's help, putting our life in balance with the character and integrity modeled for us by Christ. Expressed another way; I don't have to see, “In God We Trust” on my currency, but I do have to live as if I put my trust in God.

I do believe there is fire in Pentecost. I do believe it is a fire that can be rekindled in the Church. We have put our trust in ourselves and in all kinds of things long enough. Surely it is time to place our trust in something beyond us. So, when God looks upon our struggle, he will see our faces turned toward him in great humility, seeking counsel, guidance, and strength to persevere. Then with new wisdom and insight we can be about blessing God's creation as we have been blessed by virtue of his love, mercy, and grace.

As you might expect, I believe the church has meaning and purpose. Surely this is exemplified on Sunday mornings, but it is especially true every day of the week. As our journey in this life continues, may our eyes always be fixed on the One who can lead and make a difference, beyond our human imagination.

Blessings and peace,
Jim Friedel

PARISH BUSINESS



From the Senior Warden

June Gregory

Hello to all,

Wow, it is getting hot. You can tell summer is here with kids wanting to go to the beach or pool, and the parents and grandparents looking for air-conditioning.

The Memorial Day services that were held on May 29th were very moving. If you missed either of these services, please try to attend next year - you won't forget them soon. Earlier in the month, church members turned in names of family members or friends who served their country to be included in the Memorial Day service. During the service, as we sat in the pews and listened to the names of those listed, the Church bell was rung after the announcement of each name. As you prayed for each name announced, the emotions began to surface as tears or sorrow for the ones lost, though you were proud of each of these men and women. As we now pray for those who gave their all for their country, let's not forget the families and friends who were left to mourn. Not too very long ago, some of our service men and women returned to the country they served only to be treated badly by their fellow countrymen. Prayerfully and hopefully this will not happen again. To each of you who have served God and your country, "Thank you".

I can't say enough about the young people in our Church. They served during Youth Sunday superbly. Although we do not have a very large group of young people attending this church, we as a congregation are very proud of each one who attends. I wish to tell each of the "younger ones" who come to this church as a visitor, with your family, invited by a teacher or friends, we at St. Peter's welcome you. May you always feel free to come anytime to visit or worship with us. We are always glad to see you.

To Betsy and Justin, your church family is very proud of both of you and may you be successful in your future adventures. Always remember that God loves you, and so does your St. Peter's family.

As I wrote earlier, we as a church family will need plenty of energy this year. Get ready as Vacation Bible School and Fishin' for Mission are just around the corner. If you haven't volunteered yet for either one of these events, there is still time! Lastly, may God grant each of you an enjoyable and safe summer.

Blessings to each of you,
June Gregory, Senior Warden



A message to the parish from Fr. Jim...

Dear Friends,

I value your relationship and our shared ministry. So, I want to make you aware of a medical issue I am confronting at this time.

Recently, I was diagnosed with having, what is called, an acoustic neuroma. Basically, this is a slow-growing, benign tumor that is found in the vestibular canal in the skull. It is located, in my case, behind the left ear and houses the acoustic nerve for the left ear as well as the left facial nerve. Left untreated, it continues to grow until eventually causing hearing loss in my left ear and, potentially, numbness or paralysis on the left side of the face.

This neuroma was discovered during an MRI about nine months ago and confirmed as growing at a slow rate by an MRI a week ago. Treatment can be with either radio-surgery or neuro-surgery. The neurologist I am seeing is referring me to specialists who treat this condition, in Houston. I am hoping to have a consultation with them before leaving on vacation in July. A date for the surgery will be determined during those consultation visits. Please know I will keep you informed as the treatment begins.

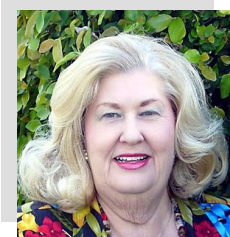
Either treatment carries the same risk as doing nothing. That being said, further complications can develop when the tumor continues to grow and eventually puts pressure on the brain stem. At my age, doing nothing really does not make sense.

I ask your prayers for me and for our family. At present, I am not feeling any ill effects or anxiousness. No doubt, the anxiety level will change as we move closer to surgery. I must say, I am feeling grateful that this condition was discovered with a chance MRI ordered by my doctor. Otherwise, I would have no idea that anything was amiss.

Thank you, as always, for your care and prayers.

Fr. Jim

SPOTLIGHT ON MUSIC MINISTRIES



Angela Rivera

From the Director of Music Ministries

The Texas Choral Director's Association is comprised of thousands of choir directors for schools, churches and colleges all over Texas. We meet each summer in San Antonio to review music selections published within the last year, and to hear outstanding choirs from throughout Texas.

Each year outstanding singers are auditioned to win a spot in different honor choirs. There are High School, Middle School and Elementary School choirs.

TCDA announced this last January the inaugural Church Division Festival Chorus directed by Dr. Donald Neuen, director of Choral activities at UCLA. The event will take place Thursday, July 28, 2011 at the First Baptist Church in San Antonio. The TCDA Festival Chorus is comprised of one hundred forty adult church choir members from across the state.

Church Music Choir Directors were invited to invite one soprano, one alto, one tenor and one bass with highly advanced musical skills and vocal technique as well as strong sight-reading skills to be a part of this historic event.

I am happy to announce that soprano Christy Friedel, alto Elise Olexa, tenor Fr. Jim Friedel and bass Will Douglas were chosen to be in this choir. They must prepare a large amount of music on their own in June and July and be thoroughly prepared for this event. They will rehearse all day on July 28 for the worship service at 7:00 p.m. This event is open to the public.

The choir will be so fortunate to work with the convention Headliner, Dr. Donald Neuen.



Convention Headliner Donald Neuen

After twelve years on the faculty of the Eastman School of Music, Rochester NY, **Donald Neuen** accepted the position of Professor of Music/Conducting and Director of Choral Activities for UCLA in 1993. He developed the highly acclaimed UCLA Chorale and an outstanding graduate program in choral conducting with both the Master of Music (MM) and the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA).

Neuen is also a Conductor of the 130-voice, highly select Los Angeles based Angeles Chorale, a large chorus whose repertoire emphasizes major works for chorus and orchestra.

St. Peter's is very fortunate to have four such highly trained adults to represent us at this convention. Each of these four have had extensive individual vocal training, been a part of several professional singing groups and are soloists of high quality.

I am so proud of these singers. Congratulations to you, and I look forward to hearing you at this historic event.

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his
presence with singing".* *Psalm 100:1-2*

~ Angela Rivera

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

FISHIN' for MISSION



*The
Community of Hope International*

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



Pam Heidt

As summer rolls in, we are seeing several of our parishioners in need of medical attention. As I write this, Carol Allen is recovering from knee surgery, Pinky Gonzalez is recovering from open heart surgery and Judy Nibbelink is about to have abdominal surgery. A few weeks ago, Polly Cook fractured her femur.

At times like this, your prayers and support of our dear church family members is so appreciated. Being a member of the prayer chain not only gives you the blessing of being able to hold these people up in your prayers, but also gives you first hand information of things that are happening to your church family members so that you may be supportive of them in many ways.

Prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits are all ways that we can all show our love, support and thankfulness for our church family members.

If you are not a member of the Circle of Prayer, please consider signing up. All that is needed to do this is a phone call or email to Diana at the Church Office (729-2649 ~ stpeterbythesea@att.net) or Barbara Patton (790-7775 ~ barpatton@gmail.com) and tell either one of those ladies that you would like to be on the Circle of Prayer. Circle of Prayer is an email prayer chain. When there is a request for prayers for a church member or one of their family members, you will receive an email about it. Your prayers are appreciated so much and you will be blessed in many ways.

Next month I'll tell you about the Conference at Camp Allen with our very own very Benedictine Fr. Jim as one of the main speakers! You may wonder why I said very Benedictine ~ I'll tell you! One of the most interesting instructions that St. Benedict issues in his "Rule of Benedict" is this: No matter what you are in the midst of - whether it is prayer, study, worship, work, a meal, - if someone knocks at the door - drop everything and go to welcome them. That is the definition of hospitality. Now the implication of this is that the needs of your fellow man (the stranger at the door) far exceeds any other issues that you are facing at the moment that need is vocalized. From my observation, I would say that Fr. Jim is the epitome of hospitality.



As I write this, I know the wind will stop blowing someday...surely by June 25th..."FISHIN' FOR MISSION" weekend.

This will be our 3rd annual "FISHIN' FOR MISSION" fishing tournament that benefits World Mission. Last year over \$10,000 was contributed to the effort of helping our Brothers and Sisters throughout the world. This money is used for food, medical care, drilling of water wells, and many other significant contributions to folks throughout the world who are not as fortunate as we are. It will prove to be a busy weekend and will require "All Hands On Deck" so to speak.

There will be many opportunities to support this endeavor. The weekend will begin on Friday evening with registration check-in and a meal for all fisher people and anyone who would like to join us for the kick-off dinner. Tickets will be available for those who want to join us for dinner but will not participate in the fishing tournament. On Friday night, there will be a raffle with some neat items being offered and winner's names will be drawn on Saturday during the weigh-in and awards ceremony at the Salt Water Pavilion.

Consider how you may want to participate, there are many opportunities including:

- Setting up/breaking down on Friday and/or Saturday
- Cooking/serving on either or both days
- Assisting with registration
- Soliciting raffle items from local merchants or artists
- Soliciting items and filling "Goody Bags" for all anglers
- Contributing CASH donations.

There are two "Sign Up Boards" (one for STUFF that we will need and one for STAFFING) in the Parish Hall. Please mark this weekend on your calendars and plan on a weekend full of Fishin', Fellowship, Food and Fun...all in the name of serving as the Body of Christ. We look forward to this event and the opportunity to serve. We know this will be a great success with the help of all the giving people from St. Peter's Episcopal.

Peace Be With You,
Steve and Eileen Vincent

AMONG OUR OWN



Our thoughts and prayers for Cecilia Shannon and her family. Her father's wife, Eileen, passed away on Sunday, May 29.

Prayers and condolences for Angela and Bill Rivera upon the recent passing of Angela's dear friend, Jeanne.

A Celebration of Life was held at St. Peter's on Tuesday, May 31 for Ruth Holliday. Please remember her husband, Jim, and their family in your prayers.



Barbara Patton

Community of Hope
Prayer List

We ask that you keep the following persons in your prayers: **Carol Allen, Landon Alexander, Nadia Clark, Corina Domaschk, Pinky Gonzalez, Nat Gonzalez, Jean Herring, David Herring, John Hill, Dorothy Hooker, Joan Lee, Carole Ann McKitrick, Judy Nibbelink, Anna Nix, George Sanders, Mary Sherman, Al Steffens, Audrey Steffens, J. T. Gonzalez.**

To pray with the Prayer Circle or to request prayer for yourself or your family, call or email Barbara Patton at 790-7775 or barpatton@gmail.com



	<u>JULY</u>
RUTH & GENE DOUGLAS	1
JACKIE & CHARLES WRIGHT	4
MARY LOU & VERNON LEWIS	14
CAROL & ROY ALLEN	15
BECKY & JOHN WARREN	17
DIANA & GREG SAXON	18
PINKY & NAT GONZALEZ	20
JOAN & LYNN LEE	27

	<u>JULY</u>		<u>JULY</u>
BETH GARNER	4	CAROLYN BEHEE	19
CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER	6	CAROL ALLEN	19
NANCY CRAMER	8	JACKIE MAYS	21
BETSY JOHNS	8	NAT GONZALEZ	21
WILLIAM SHANNON	8	MARIE CRUMLY	24
JANE DOSS	9	DOROTHY HOOKER	25
TOMMY GARDNER	10	JAMES FRIEBELE	26
BETTY F. SMITH	14	BESS MATTESON	27
MEAGAN LEE	15	JUDY WILSON	28
JERRY CRAMER	18		

OUTREACH PROGRAMS**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bob Austin

GOOD SAMARITANS JUNE - JULY 2011

We are so fortunate to be serving the many needy families in our community. God's work and guidance is evident, not only through the churches, but at Good Samaritans, Castaways, St. Vincent de Paul and other charities. Volunteers throughout the county help those in need each day.

A family with several children needs help with food and their rent. The husband has just been laid off. Even with the wife's job and with food stamps they cannot make it. They received our help.

A man who works on shrimp boats has been out of work for a year. After giving him food, he was given our "Help Wanted" list of many jobs. He was also told that Texas Work Force might pay his tuition to a trade school in Corpus Christi for welding, pipefitting, electrical, etc. We refer people to these career jobs regularly.

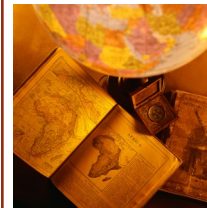
Thanks to all of you who volunteer at Good Sam (all 15 of you!). So I hesitate to ask for more from our congregation. However...just in case you have some spare time, come see us.

Bob Austin



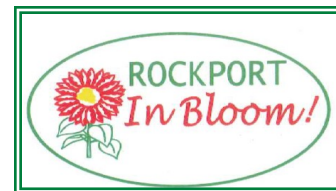
Altar Flowers

Our Flower Chart is posted on the wall in the Parish Hall for anyone who would like to contribute to the Altar Flowers for a particular Sunday. Many folks select a week celebrating their birthday or wedding anniversary. If more than one person signs up for the same day, the cost (\$45) can be shared. Please make out your check to St. Peter's Episcopal Church and specify "Altar Flowers" on the memo line. These flowers are usually taken to one of our shut-ins after worship on Sunday. The flowers brighten the room and bring a smile to their face.



AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES

On May 29 and June 5, African wood carvings, jewelry and other craft items were sold in our Parish Hall, raising \$830 for African Team Ministries. Proceeds provide orphan support, aid to refugees, clean water, medical care, repairs of churches and training for the laity. Thank you for your support.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE
WINNERS THIS YEAR.**

**ST. PETER'S WON FIRST PLACE IN THE
CHURCH CATEGORY.
STEVE LONG AND WALTER BRINGLE
REPRESENTED US AT THE AWARDS
CEREMONY MAY 26.**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR
VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP KEEP OUR
CHURCH & CITY BEAUTIFUL!**



June 20

Corpus Christi Hooks Baseball Game

The diocesan baseball game for the Corpus Christi Hooks will be on Monday, June 20 at 7:05p.m. against the San Antonio Missions. The game will be at Whataburger Field in Corpus Christi.

To reserve a ticket and t-shirt, contact Wayne Sykora at 361-877-6983.

MINISTRY LEADERS**Vestry Commissions and Ministry Leaders**

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

Buildings, Grounds & Equipment Commission:

Garden Guild	John "JD" Debler
Columbarium	Steve Long
	Mike Patton

Christian Formation Commission:

Daughters of the King	Becky Warren
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	Joey Gill
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	Pinky Gonzalez
Newcomers	

Planning & Analysis Commission:

Five Year Plan, Bldg Planning and Land Sale or Purchase	Jim Blake
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Parish Care & Fellowship Commission:

	Beth Garner, Kay Scott & Dan Pugh
Sunday Coffee Hosts	June Gregory
Comfort Meals	Milby Wade
Community of Hope/Pastoral Care	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	Rick Glassett
	Jean Albright
	Walter Bringle
	Mike Patton

Finance Committee, Stewardship

Outreach Commission:

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

Worship & Liturgy Commission:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS**FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 19**

On Father's Day, the Habitat for Humanity Task Force (EDWTx) invites you to honor your father or another man who has had a significant impact in your life with a special offering to help build simple, decent affordable homes for families living within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of West Texas. Special cards will be included in your Sunday bulletins on June 19th for you to make your offering and designate your honoree. Cards to send to that special person will also be included.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It's THAT time of year again. VBS is scheduled for JUNE 20-24, from 9:00 to 11:45 a.m. Mark your calendar and search your heart. We have a place for you!!!

The theme this year is **PandaMania**.



If you are interested in contributing food-related items, please call Thursey Sutton or the church office 729-2649.

**JUNE 24 - 25, 2011**

Mark your calendars for the 3rd annual "Fishin' For Mission" fishing tournament June 24-25. It promises to be a fun-filled weekend of Fishing, Food and Fellowship in support of World Mission. *Help support World Mission by participating in this worthy endeavor.*

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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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 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