

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

# THE ROCK

*We Are One Family In Christ*



NOVEMBER 2010  
Volume 14, Issue 10



## *Reflections from the Rector*

### *A Litany of Thanksgiving*

On page 837 of The Book of Common Prayer, we find a prayer, a litany that challenges us to remember aspects of this life deserving of our thanks. We hear these words most often when the theme for the day is thanksgiving, like a Thanksgiving Day worship service. In truth, we could benefit by recalling this prayer everyday. Here is this offering in its entirety. Notice the familiar response, "*We thank you, Lord.*":

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For all valiant seekers after the truth, liberty, and justice,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

Above all we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
*To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

In some ways the form of this litany reminds me of the prayers I said at night as a child, "Thank you for grandma, grandpa, mom, dad, Tom, Curt, ...", and all of those names my tiny mind could recall of family and friends. This was my own little litany of the important things to be communicated to God, a blend of cares and concerns alongside the thanksgivings I was learning to recognize.

All of us have our litany of thanksgiving. The words may never be spoken aloud, but no doubt we carry the blessings we have known in this life in our hearts. These have shaped and conditioned us to be the people we are today. Remembering them may bring a smile to our face or perhaps a tear. Yet, each remembrance is a gift of our life, lived in relationship with others and with God. Each one allows us to recall and appreciate our story, with all of its twists and turns.

Praying the words of the litany above reminds me of all of you. Here is a community of thoughtful, loving, serving, strong, playful, brave, courageous, patient, faithful, unique, gracious men and women revealing the image of Christ. Oh, and by the way, great company to share this journey in faith with on the road ahead.

God bless you and Happy Thanksgiving.

*Jim*

**PARISH BUSINESS**

*From the Senior Warden*



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

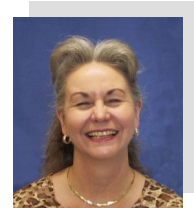
Have you ever read a book or seen a movie that puts a thought or idea in your head and you can't stop thinking about it? I'm sure you have. The thought may disturb you; cause you to change how you look at life in general, or certain things in particular. It may nag at you, like a tight spot in a new shoe, until you get it worked out. Worked out in your head, so that you know how to use this new-to-you gem of wisdom and awareness.

That is what I have encountered in watching a DVD of Reggie McNeal, a priest/author/lecturer who has taken on the promotion of the "missional church". In his words, "the Missional Church is the people of God partnering with Him in His redemptive mission in the world". McNeal feels that we have become too "church centric". That we have tied up too many of our resources in "doing church" and not enough has been put into going out in the world, to the people, and spreading the Word of God. He feels the people of the world are starved for the Word of God, not "church speak". McNeal says that God has a mission and it is older and much larger than the church. And he is not talking about any church in particular, but all churches of all faiths.

WOW! That kind of language gets your attention like an air raid siren going off inside a library. He makes you feel like we have been doing it all wrong, all these many years. Are not our churches the bedrock upon which our society has been built? How can he accuse us of missing the mark by so far a distance? He bases his views on the fact that our society is turning away from the churches. Fewer people are going to church. Many profess to believe in God, but never the less do not buy into "church". He feels that the way to reach these people is to get outside our church walls and begin to develop relationships with people in the community. He urges church congregations to adopt a school, help mentor students, provide food for the children who may be fed at school, but starve on the weekends. McNeal sees service as worship. He reminds us of the time just after the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, when His disciples went among the people and started a "movement" that eventually drew in millions of people over the next few centuries. There were no organized Christian churches in the beginning, yet multitudes of people were drawn to the Word of the Lord. McNeal wants the "Movement" to start again.

A lot of this, at least at first, is not easy to digest. It almost appears to be an attack on our church. It is hard, however, to disagree with many of his points. McNeal is a very engaging speaker. He is humorous, self deprecating, and you will find yourself drawn towards his reasoning. His points have made me ponder what we are doing as a church. Actually, it has made me feel proud of our church, because we do a good job of going out into the community and helping with our outreach programs such as The Good Samaritans, Castaways, and the Community Table. But as is always the case, we can do more. Perhaps we should not dismiss what McNeal is saying, but study it and see how we can use his ideas to help spread the Word of the Lord. Father Jim leads a group discussion every Sunday at 9:15, between the church services. We watch a portion of McNeal's DVD and then Fr. Jim leads the discussion of what McNeal has said. We will do this until Advent. I invite you to come and hear some thought provoking comments, not only from McNeal but from our own parishioners. As I said at the beginning, there are things in this that have disturbed me, but that is a good thing, because we all need to be stimulated, in one way or another, to grow in our faith.

Many blessings,  
 John "JD" Debler  
 Senior Warden



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

***Treasurer's Notes***

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

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Operating Revenues	231,247	223,979	7,268
Operating Expenses	(207,045)	(225,063)	18,018
Net Income (Loss) From Operations	24,202	(1,084)	25,286

*Respectfully,  
 Audre Debler*

*AMONG OUR OWN*



A Celebration & Remembrance of the Life of Thomas Roderick "Rod" Summers was held Saturday, October 16 at the Cotulla Cemetery. Rod was born October 3, 1928 and passed away on October 11, 2010. Our condolences and prayers are extended to his wife, Sally, and to his many friends and family members.

**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.



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, Nadia Clark, Audre Debler, Corina Domaschk, Nat Gonzalez, Jennie Heldenfels, Jean Herring, Nell Herring, Dorothy Hooker, Joan Lee, Carole Ann McKittrick, Les Moor, Bob Nelson, Anna Nix, Marvin Northrup, Rick Spencer, Al Steffens, Audrey Steffens, 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)



NOV

NOV

Meredith Carter	1	Jane Gaston	15
Sherri Collins	2	Ben Donnell	18
Jean Albright	3	Lenora Wiley	19
Tony Farmer	3	Walter Bringle	20
Angela Rivera	3	Alfred Lane	22
Kay Barnebey	5	Ruth Burgess	24
Joan Lee	5	Vernetta Sorrells	24
Wendy Laubach	7	Steven Plummer	27
Judy Nibbelink	10	Dottie Niederkorn	28
Lowell Kepp	13	Bob Martin	29
Bonnie Prouty	14	John B. Owen	30
Bob Austin	15	John F. Owen	30
Lisa Baer	15	Karen Sanders	30

NOVEMBER

Jean & James Herring	5
Ruth and Raymond Burgess	12
Karen and George Sanders	23
Yvonne & Les Moor	27

## MINISTRIES



### *From the Director of Music Ministries*

Angela Rivera

Our Talent Show was a wonderful evening for all of us. I am so grateful to all our performers who were willing to share their amazing and varied talents - You were all great!

A special thank you to Frances Reed and Becky Warren for making the picnic supper happen. The choir provided the food, and many folks contributed in different ways.

For six years, my husband, Bill, has graciously taken on the task of making door prizes possible. These men give money for the restaurant gift certificates. We are very grateful to them. These generous men are: Les Moor, Gene Douglas, Dan Pugh, Ken McGee, Mike Patton, Al Steffens, Charlie Goolsbee, Tony Farmer, Larry Heidt, Bill Rivera, Lynn Lee and John Warren.

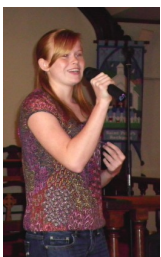
Our very special "angels of generosity" are Dr. Tony Eby, Pam Heidt and Joey Gill.

Three lucky folks won their awesome door prizes: a free eye exam, an original painting and a gorgeous diamond necklace. We, the choir, thank you so much for your help. Only 3 of these donors actually sing in the choir, so your support of us is extra special.

Last, but not least, thanks to our own Al Steffens. In spite of having major surgery the same week, Al worked his magic as he has for 6 years as our emcee - We love you, Al.

And now, the most important element - YOU! Your support of our annual talent show is what makes us successful. You donated \$1655 to our music ministry.

*God Bless all of you who helped in any capacity.*



### *The Community of Hope International*

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

On October 20, we gathered for a Circle of Care meeting. Our subject matter had to do with healing prayer and the perceived expectations and results from that prayer. We all enjoyed hearing each other's opinions on the subject and Father Jim was there to add his input. I think we all did agree that our prayers for others give the person we are praying for a sense of peace and comfort, in that they know they are surrounded by (1) care and prayers from our community and (2) the loving arms of God.

As has been the case in the last few months, we have quite a few people on the prayer list. Please make note of those names in the prayer chain article in this newsletter.

Our next meeting will be in mid November.

Pam Heidt

### ANNUAL WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

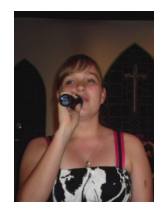
THURSDAY, DEC. 16, 2010 4:00 - 6:00 PM

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...

### NOW AND THEN... by Jim Reed



Change is the one constant in life.

In November of 1871, Tom Mathis and J.M. Doughty included churches in their plan for the future of the City of Rockport. They gave two lots near the train station on the corner of Live Oak and North Streets to the Episcopal Church. Bishop Alexander Gregg did not waste any time in building a church for the 20 communicants then residing in the area. The parish was named Church of the Messiah according to Lawrence L. Brown in his book "The Episcopal Church in Texas 1838-1874"; however, the Diocesan Journal of 1875 refers to the "Rockport Mission". There was a storm in 1877 and the damaged church was rebuilt. The church had 17 communicants and the value of the building was listed at \$500. In 1889, the Rockport Mission began to be called St. Peter's, Rockport.

On August 3, 1891 two lots on the SE corner of Live Oak and Liberty Streets were conveyed to Bishop James S. Johnston, for the sum of \$1.00. In the Episcopal Church, all real property belongs to the Diocese. As the Diocese grew, it became very complicated for titles to be in the Bishop's name, so a corporation was formed to own all property. The corporation has changed names over the years and today is called the Episcopal Church Corporation. Whoever is the current Bishop is involved in the Corporate Board.

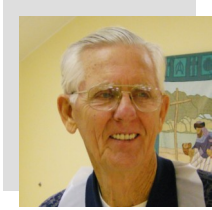
The hurricane of September 1919 caused great damage to the church building. Various stories tell of pews and altar being jumbled into a pile. Other stories say that the congregation wanted to move the church because of the location near the train station. The noise of train loads of tourists arriving and departing on Sunday mornings, along with coal smoke from the train engine coming in the open windows, made worship less than a wonderful experience. The hurricane was in some ways a God given opportunity since the church already owned the property on Liberty Street. What was left of the building was loaded on some wagons and moved down Live Oak street to the corner on Liberty Street. Bishop Capers secured funds to rebuild the church. The Diocesan Council held in Laredo in January 1920 reported Rockport with 20 communicants and a \$17.10 delinquency in the assessment.

In December 1937 the City of Rockport offered to buy the original two lots on North Street for construction of a well and pump station for the new water works. Correspondence at the time expressed much excitement over the pending sale, since it was the first offer in 18 years. There were many letters to Mr. Delaney, Chancellor of the Diocese, asking for expedited action and for \$200 out of the proceeds for repairs to the St. Peter's church building. Seven months later, in July 1938, Mr. Delaney wrote Mr. J.C. Sorenson for help in finding a copy of the deed for the property. The City was offering \$400 for the land, but Bishop Capers was on leave in Alabama, so the paper work was moving slowly. Finally, on August 25, 1938, Mr. James Steele, representing the City, notified Mr. Delaney that "due to the long delay in getting the church property for drilling the water well, the City has purchased other property". The church property was not sold until September 1950, when Alton Kinsel bought it for \$650. The proceeds from the sale came to St. Peter's and the 34 communicants could repair the church building. No mention was made of the \$250.08 in delinquent taxes!

By 1953, the corner of Live Oak and Liberty Street was becoming untenable for the church. Liberty Street was widened to become Highway 35, so ten feet of the property was lost. The three lots where the church sits today were available from the Texas Christian Missionary Society headquartered in Ft. Worth. St. Peter's paid \$1,000 for the land. (The Texas Christian Missionary Society developed out of the American Christian Missionary Society established in 1849. That is an interesting story but not for this article.) Once again, the church building was jacked up, put on wheels and moved to its present location. The diocesan newspaper of September 1954 tells of extensive remodeling, "but St. Peter's still looks just like it used to". A Parish Hall was added to the building at the same time.

The two lots where JJ's Burgers is located were sold to the South Texas Service Station Corporation for \$5,000 in August 1953. This money was used to build the Parish Hall. In May of 1954, Emory Spencer gave the church the three lots where Carter House sits today. The Rectory that we call Carter House was built in 1955. The property as we know it today was completed in October 1958 when the three lots on the SE corner of the property were bought from Adolph L. Bracht and his wife Blanche Bracht for \$5,000. The concrete pad where we park was a tennis court complete with lights that could be turned on by depositing coins in the timing mechanism.

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS



Bob Austin

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

### *Good Samaritans - November 2010*

The Coastal Bend Community Foundation (CBCF) has announced that they will hold a "Day of Giving" on November 16<sup>th</sup>, in which they will match any donation given to a designated charity. The three charities are Rockport Fulton Good Samaritans, Council on Aging and Aransas. A \$10 donation from you will bring Good Sam \$20: your donation plus the CBCF match.

Donations must be made by credit card on a designated website and ***only on November 16<sup>th</sup>***.

The website is: [www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org](http://www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org)

No computer or computer challenged? Come to the Good Sam Center at 507 South Ann Street on November 16<sup>th</sup> between 10 am and 3 pm and one of our workers will do it for you.

If you are planning on donating to Good Sam this year or buying a Christmas Basket for our program to provide a meal on Christmas day for our county's needy, please consider donating it on November 16<sup>th</sup> to the Day of Giving website. This year has been one of record-breaking need as the economic troubles impact those who live on a razor's edge financially. Inclusion in this fund-raising program is the answer to a prayer. We have never needed it more.

Thanks to all of you who have given Christmas toys for children. All items will be cleaned or repaired and given out on December 18<sup>th</sup>. I wish we could all see the smile on the face of a child receiving toys at Christmastime.

*From all the Good Samaritan volunteers, thanks to all of you for your donations and support throughout the year.*

*Bob Austin*



JoAnn Leonard

### *Castaways*



Roy Allen

Castaways is a unique space for bargain hunters to browse, a place to find unusual items, with new additions to the stock each day. Some customers come daily and enjoy visiting with friends and strangers alike. Of course there are those who find this a place to be able to clothe their family for a very reasonable price.

Today the organization is comprised of volunteers from the Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, and Lutheran churches, each in charge of manning the store one day a week. The sixth day is run by the "Shop", a non-denominational group. Each church, at present, gives 10% of their proceeds towards the basic expenses of the building, utilities and insurance, keeping the remainder for their church's outreach. The shop is able to donate more than \$200,000 each year to organizations benefiting people from Aransas County - such as the Senior Citizens Center, Rockport Fire Department, EMS, Good Samaritans and many other worthy organizations. A list of these recipients is posted by the front door of Castaways and I invite you come look at it.

Our volunteers work from 2 to 4 hours a week or more. We have several men and women who cheerfully come in on Monday afternoons to price and prepare clothing to be hung in the store the next morning. We have a lot of fun at this time while accomplishing the task at hand. On Tuesday we are there early to get out the items to be ready when the customers line up at the front door. We have a few women from St. Peter's to help with this, and we are grateful for the unsung heroes who work in our cramped space outside of the store, handling donations, pricing items and packing the boxes to be priced on Monday. Most of our cashiers on Tuesday and Friday are members of St. Peter's, serving in 2-hr shifts. These cashiers say they enjoy the interaction with the customers and are cheerful ambassadors for our church. There are others who come to help the cashiers by bagging or tending to customer's needs, and some are able to help Roy move furniture and pick up items from estate sales. Another important job is pulling old items once a month to make way for more.

We are fortunate that our parishioners Landon and Charlene Alexander have given us the use of their second garage for additional storage for the past several years and we are most grateful. If you feel you can help in any capacity, we have a place just for you.

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

**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 Nibbelink
Pictorial Directory	Joey Gill
Signs, Advertising, Directories, Bulletin Boards	Les Moor

**Evangelism Commission:** Becky Warren & Joey Gill  
Greeters & Name Tags  
Newcomers**Planning & Analysis Commission:** Mike Patton  
Five Year Plan, Bldg Planning and Land Sale or Purchase**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:** Becky Warren & Joey Gill  
Castaways  
Good Samaritans  
Community Table  
Roy Allen & Jo Ann Leonard  
Bob Austin  
Al Steffens**Worship & Liturgy Commission:** Rev. James W. Friedel

Altar Guild	Sheri Collins
Acolytes/Lay Readers & Lay Eucharistic Visitors	
	Verger: 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.

**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.

**Wednesday, November 17  
Episcopal Schools' Night with the Spurs**

This nationally televised game will be sponsored by area Episcopal Churches and Schools' to help support relief efforts in Haiti. The Haitian choir, Les Petits Chanteurs, have been invited to sing the National Anthem at an ESPN-televised Spurs game on Wednesday, November 17 at 8:30 p.m. Because the Spurs care about Haiti and its recovery, they are welcoming the choir and offering San Antonians the chance to have fun and make a difference at the same time. Discount tickets are being sold to the game (Spurs v. Chicago Bulls), and proceeds from the sale will go towards reconstruction of Holy Trinity Cathedral's Music School in Port-au-Prince. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Kiehne at 210-342-4263 or email [ekiehne@saintgeorgeschool.org](mailto:ekiehne@saintgeorgeschool.org)

## 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 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