

The Mainsail

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>



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4th Sunday of Lent

"Surely we are not blind, are we?" John 9:40



5th Sunday of Lent

"Unbind him, and let him go." John 11:44

BIRTHDAYS:

5	Charlee Goodenough
7	Lindsay Knepper
13	Paul Engelbrecht
14	Marion Hayes
17	Shirley Wilson Deegan James Burrow
24	Brett Vines
25	Don Grant
29	Drew Dikeman Donald A Forest Gardner

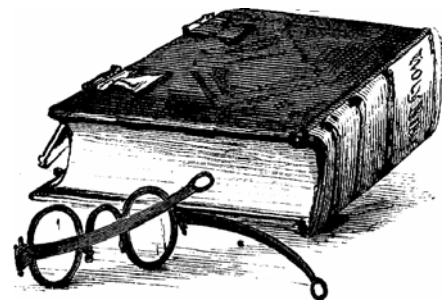
Rector's Corner

As the Lenten season draws to a close, we begin to lift our hearts and thoughts out of the darkness of suffering, looking forward and upwards towards the Resurrection of Our Lord on that first Easter morning. During our personal and corporate Lenten journeys, many of us have discovered new things about ourselves, those around us, and even new things about God along our way. Now, as we again retrace the final events of our Lord's life during Holy Week, we shift our attention toward God's declaration of deliverance and the eternal salvation promised when the "Light of the world" will once again burst-forth from the tomb on Easter Morning...as Christ forever overcomes the anguish and darkness of eternal death through his Resurrection remembered and celebrated.

For the past several weeks of prayer and reflection, much has been revealed to me about relationship, discipline and self. I hope the time spent in both your private and corporate devotions and reflections have brought each of you to a deeper understanding of who Christ is for you and of God's purpose in your life. So as we enter into these final few weeks of Lent, let us set our hearts on new beginnings; casting aside all burdens that block our way to a renewal of heart, mind and soul – those that keep us from proper relationship within ourselves, with our neighbor, and...most importantly... with our God.

Martin Luther, that great theologian and writer, encapsulates what this season means to those who devoutly observe it. Hear his Easter hymn...

*Jesus Christ lay in death's strong bands,
For our defenses given;
But now at God's right hand he stands
And brings us life from heaven;
Therefore let us joyful be
And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of hallelujah.
It was a strange and dreadful strife
When Life and Death contended;
The victory remained with Life,
The reign of Death was ended;
Holy Scripture plainly saith
That Death is swallowed up by Death,
His sting is lost forever.
Then let us feast this Easter Day
On Christ, the Bread of Heaven;
The Word of Grace hath purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed,
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other.*



With prayers for a meaningful Holy Week and a Blessed Easter! God's Peace!

Fr. Jeff+

Announcements

The Commission of Spirituality invites you to a quiet, reflective day at St Mary's-on-the-Highlands Episcopal Church in Birmingham during the holy season of Lent. Come spend the day with Bishop Parsley on Saturday, April 9th, from 10am to 3pm, as he explores "The Mystery of Faith." The cost of the Retreat is \$15, which includes lunch. Application forms are found around the church, and are due by April 2nd.

KUDOS! A very special thanks for all the help and initiative in making both our Nursery and Sunday School classroom swap and all the improvements to the grounds over the past several weeks. Things are looking really good! A special thanks to Wayne (our Junior Warden) and John for their leadership in minimizing the transition time to our new accommodations for our youngest members. A special thanks, as well, to all those who supported our parish cleanup day. The gardens are looking great and the playground once again is looking inviting. Thank you all!

Vestry Retreat: Your Vestry is planning a day retreat on 16 April. During this time, we will be developing not only mission statements and goals, but incorporating that into the beginnings of a Strategic Plan for the parish. This will be an on-going project, many of you may be contacted outside the meeting to provide input or opinion. In addition, all our functional areas (i.e. Finance Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, Christian Formation Committee, and Outreach and Fundraising Committee) will be developing their specific portions of the strategic plan to help map out the future for our community. Please see Worth (Senior Warden) and Wayne (Junior Warden) for further details.

Come make the palm crosses: On Wednesday, April 20th, following worship and beginning at 11:00am, the ladies of the church will come together to make our palm crosses for Palm Sunday. All are invited to come and learn this ancient art!

Easter Flowers: Last day to sign up for Easter Flowers will be April 10th.

Note: Fr. Jeff will be taking two weeks after Easter. If you need to meet with him, please do so before Friday, 22 April, as the clergy spouse conference convenes the next week.

Christian Formation Committee: Thanks to Donnette Bower for becoming the chair of our newly formed Christian Formation Committee which will address our Christian education and parish formation activities in planning for the out-years. Those who are interested in participating, please contact Donnette.

New VEM: Congratulations and thanks to Lucie Magnus for becoming our newest Visiting Eucharistic Minister!

Dinner Theatre: June 4, 2011 @ 6:30 pm. Ticket Price: \$20.00. Mark your calendar! Make plans for an evening of entertainment, food and fellowship! There will be music, a comedy presented by a local Christian theater troupe, dinner and lots of laughs. Tickets will be available in the office or from Vestry members beginning April 15th. Questions? Please contact Jo King, 205-586-8790 or jbking1550@charter.net.

The Country Store: Many thanks to those who have brought items in for our store. Keep thinking, "Donations.....Country Store"! Tools, fishing gear, golf equipment, household items, craft items, holiday decorations, etc., will sell. Just bring your donations to the church. Thanks again for your help. (If you need items picked up, please call Debbie in the church office and arrangements will be made.)

FREE Community-Wide Church Event: "Life Interrupted": God Wants To Meet You Where You Are! Located at First United Methodist Church of Pell City---Friday April 1st 7-9:30pm (continues Saturday 8:15am-12:30pm.) For free tickets, contact First Methodist Church (205-338-3374) or Karen Sawyer (205-405-1082). For more information, visit: www.pellcityfumc.org.

Children's Church: Our rapidly growing Children's Church program needs your help! The children are flourishing more than we could have imagined and in great numbers...in the past few weeks we have had at least 13 kids! Thank you all for bringing your children to participate in this fellowship! As our numbers grow, we are going to need more supplies, snacks and volunteers to help keep the program going steady. If you are interested in donating simple school supplies (such as construction paper, glue, scissors, markers & crayons), helping us to keep the snack supply healthy, or volunteering to teach or help during Children's Church please contact Lindsay or Whitney. Also, please note that Children's Church is over after communion. Due to the larger numbers of kids each week, we ask that children stay with their parents in church after communion until church is dismissed. We will then have their snacks ready in the parish hall for fellowship hour. Thank you!

Important Note about Newsletter Inputs: All newsletter inputs are due by the 26th of the month. To make the process faster and more efficient, please have all information and inputs written or typed as you would like them displayed and e-mail them to stsimonpeter.webteam@gmail.com or hand them over to Lindsay.

STSP Website Update: The <http://www.stsimonpeter.org> website is still under heavy construction, and we appreciate your patience with the change-over and re-design. In the coming month you will find full interactive event calendars, photo galleries, inspirational multi-media and forums, online forms & registries for events, state & national diocese information and so much more! If you have inputs you would like included on the website, please send them to stsimonpeter.webteam@gmail.com or contact Lindsay.

Lake Protection Association Info: If you have been reading or hearing we have new leadership. I am the secretary on the board (are you surprised). The Association right now is in the middle of getting a walkway in the park which will teach about the wetlands and educate many of the habitats of birds and plants and how to protect for our future. The walkway will be large enough to accommodate a school class. This project was spearheaded by the Lake Protection Association and in large part funded by the Association. You will be hearing and reading about it. Members have been attending Rotary and Chamber meetings to get the word out that this is wonderful for our community. Follows is the Mission Statement for the Lake Protection. The Lake Clean up is scheduled for the March 26 thru April 2. The youth may want to contact bkitchin@centurytel.net to get a set area to clean or the men's group. The new website to the Lake Association is: <http://www.lmlpa.org>. – Deb

Announcements (cont...)

New St. Simon Peter Directory Portrait Scheduling Information

It will not be long and it will be time for our portrait sessions for our new Directory. This year you have two options for scheduling your portrait appointment:

1. You can schedule your portrait appointment on-line using the link provided on our web site, <http://www.stsimonpeter.org/>. The scheduling link, located on the website, will be active as of April 1st for you to use. You will find it very easy to schedule your own appointment and it is very easy to use
2. If you would like to schedule your appointment before the link is posted to the website, here is the specific URL to take you directly to the scheduling page:
<https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/stsimonpeterepiscopalchurch/index.php?page=10>
3. If you do not have access to a computer or don't want to schedule on-line please know that you can call me or Debbie to make your appointment:
 - a. Debbie at the Parish Office, 884.0877, stsp_admin@centurytel.net
 - b. Lisa Baggett, 205.915.7115, lisabaggett@mindspring.com

We need everyone to make their portrait appointments by May 9th. This will help us to stay on schedule and that we receive our Directory in a timely basis. Please help us meet this date goal!

If your schedule just does not allow you the time during the portrait session dates you may submit a photograph of your choice for use in the Directory. Please bring these to Debbie at the Parish office by May 9th. Please note if you plan to use the picture taken for the last Directory, you will have to obtain approval by Olan Mills as they own the rights to those photographs. Either Debbie or myself can tell you how to do this.

As a reminder portraits will be taken:
Thursday, May 19th, 2:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday, May 20th, 1:00p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 21st, 10:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

One final detail; this year we will use a black background. All colors, including white, look wonderful against this background. The only one that blends too much into the background is a solid black shirt or jacket. But black with strips and/or a pattern look wonderful! I know these are so many details so please feel free to call me or e-mail me or Debbie. We are here to make this as smooth as possible!

Peace,
Lisa Allen Baggett
Committee Member

This is the remainder of our Lenten, Holy Week and Easter worship schedule:

Wednesdays	April 6 th & April 13 th	6:00-7:30pm	Lenten Meal and Program
Sunday	April 17 th	9:30am	Palm & Passion Sunday
Thursday	April 21 st	6:00pm	Maundy Thursday & Stripping of the Altar
Friday	April 22d	Noon	Good Friday Liturgy Stations of the Cross
Saturday	April 23d	8am 8pm	Holy Saturday Service The Great Easter Vigil
Sunday	April 24 th	6:00am 9:30am	Easter Sunrise Service (@ the Murray home) Principle Easter Eucharist

All during the office hours of Lent, the rite of *Reconciliation of a Penitent* may be scheduled by appointment. Also, during Holy Week we will suspend our normal Wednesday Holy Eucharist and Bible Study period.

From the Vestry

Setting Goals for the Future

The observance of Christ's last days on earth falls at a time when your vestry is engaging is a time of quiet reflection and thought prior to a Parish Leadership and Training Event on April 2 with Bishop Parsley, followed by and a vestry retreat in mid April.

The issues which face St.Simon Peter parish vary from our mission to parish and community, to maintaining the building and grounds, managing our funds, Christian education, and many others. They can be daunting.

One of the most challenging and exciting undertakings of the vestry is the development of a strategic plan, a roadmap, to help guide us ahead. Assessing our strengths and abilities, tuning up our programs, and developing our skill in serving each other and our community require careful planning. Decisions about how to allocate our physical, personal and financial resources can be difficult. Having a strategic plan to help us make decisions without going in circles will move us toward our goals.

Many good steps were taken by the vestry in previous years through some difficult times. It is our belief that this new vestry, with some who have never served before, can generate enthusiasm for our task ahead. We believe we will be successful if we keep God's will in mind as we make decisions.

Worth Barham, Senior Warden, has said a good strategic plan reflects the values of our church, defines the most important steps to achieving our success and helps get everyone on the same page, "pulling the wagon in the right direction."

Change is often met with fear and reluctance. Father Jeff has told us that while change will come as we plan for the future, it should be "gentle change." The decisions we make in planning for our future will affect your life and the lives of all in our parish, and we hope others who might come to join us at St.Simon Peter.

We ask for your thoughts and prayers as we engage in this exciting new undertaking.

Chris Conway

St. Simon Peter 2011 Vestry

WORTH BARHAM, *Senior Warden*

WAYNE WILCOX, *Junior Warden*

JOSUE' ALMADA

TRUDY BERLIN

DONETTE BOWER

CHRIS CONWAY

SCOTT FRICKER

JAY HOLLIS, *Parish Treasurer*

JO KING

MARSHA KNEPPER, *Vestry Clerk*

DON NEWTON

KIRK WALKER

Smiles-R-Us



Laurel Almada and Whitney Hollis running a 5k (RUMP SHAKER) to benefit colon cancer awareness. They came in at an impressive 37 min time!!



Palm/Passion Sunday

"Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey." Matthew 21:5



Holy Thursday

"For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." John 13:15



Good Friday

"Behold your king." John 19.14

"The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances."

~Robert Flatt

We're on the Web!

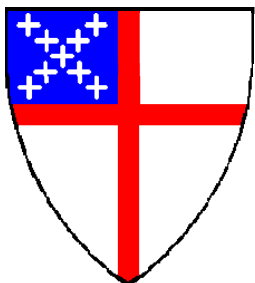
<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>

E-mail: stsp_rector@centurytel.net

Episcopal Diocese of Alabama: <http://www.dioala.org>

St. Simon Peter Episcopal Church
 3702 Mays Bend Road
 Pell City, AL 35128

Phone (205) 884-0877



Dates and Events (April 2011):

- 2 - Parish Leadership and Training Event (PLTE) @ All Saints
 - Last day to Register – Bp Lenten Quiet Day
 - DOK (9:00am)
- 4 - Finance Committee Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 5 - Safeguarding our Children Training (St John's Montgomery 5:30 - 9:00pm)
- 6 - Lenten Meal & Program @ 6:00 - 7:30pm
- 9 - Lenten Quiet Day with Bp Parsley (St Mary's on the Highlands, 10a - 3p)
- 10 - Vestry Meeting (noon)
- 13 - Final Lenten Meal & Program @ 6:00 - 7:30pm
- 16 - Vestry Retreat (Pond House 8am - 4pm)
 - DOK (9:00am)
 - Men's Group (8:00am @ O'Fells)
- 17 - Palm & Passion Sunday (9:30am beginning outside)
- 20 - Making crosses for Palm Sunday (11:00am)
- 21 - Maundy Thursday Service & Stripping of the Altar (6:00pm)
- 22 - Good Friday Liturgy & Stations of the Cross (noon)
- 23 - Holy Saturday Service (8am)
 - Children's Easter Egg Hunt (TBD)
 - The Great Easter Vigil (8:00pm)
- 24 - Easter Sunrise Service (@ the Murray home, beginning 5:45am for coffee)
 - Principle Easter Eucharist (9:30am)
- 27-29 - Clergy & Spouse Conference (Camp McDowell)

Revolving Weekly Schedule:

- 1st & 3rd Mondays**
 12 noon Kiwanis
- Each Tuesday**
 12noon Rotary
- Mondays/Tuesdays / Thursdays**
 7:00pm NA Group
 (Garden Room)
- Each Wednesday**
 10:00am Holy Unction & HE II, followed by Bible / Book Study
 1:00pm Knitting Group
 (Garden Room)
- Thursdays**
 7:00pm Choir Practice
- Saturdays**
 6:00pm NA Group
 (Garden Room)

During the week:

Sunday	Choir Practice The Holy Eucharist Fellowship Time Adult Sunday School EYC/YPF	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Following Worship Services Following Fellowship Time 5:30 p.m.
Monday	Narcotics Anonymous (NA)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Cursillo Reunion Group #1 AA	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Cursillo Reunion Group #3 Holy Eucharist Bible Study Needle Work Ministry	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
Thursday	Cursillo Reunion Group #2 (1st & 3rd Thursdays) AA Choir	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	Narcotics Anonymous (NA)	6:00 p.m.

Office hours for St. Simon Peter Church are Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 (Lunch normally mid-day)

In case of pastoral emergency outside these office hours, please contact Fr. Jeff at (205) 338-2882 (home) or (205) 753-0047 (cell).

****NOTE**** If you have any input you'd like to include in The Mainsail newsletter, please have it sent in by the **26th of each month** so we can make sure to include it!
 Send all input and information to stsimonpeter.webteam@gmail.com. Thanks!



Easter Sunday

"Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb." John 20:1