

# The Mainsail

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>



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**BIRTHDAYS:**

1	Alma Warren Steve Vines
2	Ken Kilgroe
3	Ed Murray
5	Doug Williams
7	Barbara Noble
10	Whitney Hollis
14	Mary Power
15	Deborah Cearley
16	Wayne Wilcox
18	Melanie Glenn Powell
19	Helen Golder Price Jimmy Hollis
20	Ann Powell
22	Seton Parsons Michael Peyton Walker
23	Dee Yahn
25	Kenny Lewis
28	John Harrison Allinder Worth Barham
29	John Rickards
30	Patti Wilcox
31	Karen Arthur

## Rector's Corner

Question...What is a **VOW**? Answer...A **VOW** is a solemn promise made to God either to do or to abstain from some action. In the Hebrew, *nadir* is translated to mean "to separate from profane use; to consecrate to God...." Simplified, a **VOW** is an act of worship – a conditional promise to give something to God if God first grants some favor.

*Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you."* (Genesis 28:20 - 29:1)

VOWS cover a wide range of religious and personal commitment: VOWS of pilgrimage, VOWS of chastity, VOWS of ordination, VOWS dedicating property, and VOWS bonding us in agreement with another person. So, VOWS can either be private or corporate. Even within our Episcopal liturgy, we recite our VOWS in many forms –directly and indirectly – in our responses to the Eucharistic Prayers, in our sharing of the Holy Sacrament at the Altar, in the beliefs we recite most weeks in the Nicene Creed, and specifically in our pledge as we respond "We Will!" to the question "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?" in our Baptismal Rite. Thus, a VOW is the same as giving your personal word and assurance that what is spoken will not only be honored, but carried out.

Why do I mention this? Two reasons. First, we are trying very hard to improve all aspects of our Christian Education program here at St Simon Peter. Recalling that Baptismal VOW mentioned earlier, it is our corporate responsibility to ensure the formation and existence of viable and supportable education programs that will foster our young ones to grow as mature, informed and faithful adults. Unfortunately, this seldom happens with a handful of teachers and mentors – it requires the assistance of the entire parish family. So, if you are approached to help, please consider prayerfully considering helping in any way you can – to be "self-giving," the yeast that will leaven even our tiniest efforts into extraordinary results. As one of the Bishop Candidates said during the Walk-About last month, "Our children are not just the future of our Church...they are our Church!" I agree whole-heartedly.

Secondly, we also need to consider our "tithe," the **time, talent and treasure** we offer back to God what we have been blessed with. Any church is just like a household...with financial obligations to meet and ongoing needs and repairs to keep our spiritual home both a safe and desired place to come and honor God. If you pledge, thank you. We depend on your continued support to keep our doors open and programs viable. If you don't currently pledge, please consider doing so...pledges are accepted all year long, not just during some specific season. Also, please remember the Plate that is passed each Sunday. Even if you do make a weekly/ monthly/annual pledge, please consider dropping a bit more in the plate when you are able. Why do I speak to finances, you might ask? As you have heard either from the Vestry or by word-of-mouth, there are many "necessary and critical" repairs needed around our facilities – more of which you'll hear and read about in separate correspondence. Further, both your Finance Committee and Vestry have approved to financially support retaining a Youth Minister here at the parish. Additionally, hiring for this position ties directly back into our Christian education efforts, which will help to grow our EYC / YPF – as well as grow our parish membership.

So, we ask for your increased involvement within the activities and programs here at St Simon Peter. Remember, this is your spiritual home; and just like our family domiciles, we should always desire to put our "best foot forward." God's Peace to you and yours....

*Fr Jeff+*

# Announcements

**The Diocese's Hispanic Ministry** needs your help. With appeal concerning Alabama's latest Immigration Law pending, our diocesan Hispanic Missioner, The Rev Dr Hernan Afanador, is asking the parishes for their assistance. Since the law has been passed, the attendance in all Hispanic Ministries throughout the diocese has significantly declined. With such loss, the financial burden has increased...as fewer parishioners now attend Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia and the other Hispanic-related ministries once so vibrant. Both the Episcopal and United Methodist leaders in our region are working in unison toward a repeal of the law. Fr Hernan visited with me in July, and asked not only for our prayers, but for any financial gifts made to his discretionary fund to help those faithful families who may be caught up in the circumstances. We will have a designated offering for Hernan's Discretionary fund later in August. He also asked for a donation of a copier to help in the legal assistance of those parishioners applying for citizenship. If you would like to assist in this social justice issue, please indicate so with your financial gift. If you know of a copier that might be gifted, please speak with Fr Jeff.

**EYC/YPF:** The annual "Float Your Boat" festival...also known as the "Card board Regatta" is scheduled for Saturday, 27 August, at Lakeside Park. Our youth mentors, headed by Brandon Darby, are collecting cardboard to construct our "vessel" for this year's competition. This year, there is even discussion toward entering two teams...one children and one older youth. If you have cardboard, or would like to donate other building materials, please contact Brandon @ (205) 369-1949 or [darbyfr@yahoo.fr](mailto:darbyfr@yahoo.fr). (See included flyer for more info)

**VEM:** We are still praying for someone to volunteer to be our fourth Visiting Eucharist Minister (VEM). If you feel called to this ministry or have questions about the VEM process, please speak with a VEM (Rita, Cecilia or Lucie) or Fr Jeff.

**Bishop Election:** By now, you have heard that The Rt. Rev. "Kee" Sloan, our current Bishop Suffragan, has been elected to lead us as the next Diocese of Alabama Bishop. Bp. Sloan will be with us on September 11<sup>th</sup> for our annual visit and to Confirm/Receive new members to our tradition. There will be a reception following worship to honor his visit. More details to come... As such, we will begin Confirmation classes following worship on Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Classes will meet in the small classroom adjacent to the Parish Hall for five consecutive weeks. If interested in participating, see Fr Jeff.

**CREDO:** From September 19<sup>th</sup> to September 26<sup>th</sup>, Fr Jeff will be attending a spiritual retreat designed for priests that is sponsored by the Church Pension Group and the National Episcopal Church to offer rest and opportunities to re-energize mind, body and spirit. During this time, Fr Jeff will be unavailable. There will be arrangements made TBA to cover pastoral emergencies and worship. More to come...

**Pumpkin Palooza & White Elephant Sale:** Yes, you are right, last year we called it "The Country Store". Because more people seem to relate to a church having a White Elephant Sale, the 2011 name is White Elephant Sale. Whatever we call it, we need items to sell. Many of you have been very generous in donating wonderful things for our Sale. Keep them coming. Remember, this event is one month long and we want to have really nice things for people to buy (please, no clothes or encyclopedias). Our knitting ladies are busy knitting for the Sale. Do you have a craft you can share? Think about what you would be tempted to buy. Bring your donations to the church and they will be taken to our storage building until it is time to price and display them. Questions? Contact Jo King...586.8790 or [jking1550@charter.net](mailto:jking1550@charter.net).

**Pumpkin Palooza 2011 – Volunteer Needed – School Program** - At this time we do not have a volunteer to head up the children's School Program scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup>. Ordering of supplies and distribution of flyers are both covered. Please consider volunteering for this important function. If interested, please let me know as soon as possible. Bill King: 205-586-8586 or email [jking1550@charter.net](mailto:jking1550@charter.net).

**What is the United Thank Offering?** The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church. Through the UTO, men, women and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in the UTO have discovered that thankfulness leads to generosity. A short prayer of thanksgiving leads to an offering in the UTO box. All offerings are used to support grants for ministries at home and overseas as an outreach of the Episcopal Church. Prayers and offerings make it possible for the UTO mission to stretch in unexpected ways.

**The Love Pantry Needs Your Help:** St. Simon Peter is collecting peanut butter and placing in the basket for the Love Pantry. This is even more important to remember, as the Love Pantry is putting an additional jar in each sack. They have twice the amount plus the extra people from the tornados in the area. They have increased what the tornado victims can receive to every other week. Also, the Love Pantry is looking for a supply coordinator. This should only involve a couple of hours each week. Please contact Debbie Cearley for more info.

**Directories Coming Soon!** We are finished with our part of the Directory and we are now waiting for our first, and hopefully, only draft copy from Lifetouch. We have a good group that has agreed to edit the first draft so you can be assured that we are striving for 100% accuracy on the first draft. As soon as we have the final date I will let you know. Thank you for your patience. - Lisa Baggett

**Farewells:** For the past two Sundays, we have said farewell to our two senior Acolytes – Sam Parsons and Jonathan Hennessy. We also recognize and say farewell to Autumn Combs, who has been a big part in our EYC time together. Autumn will be attending Samford University in the fall, where she has been granted several scholarships, to include the Alabama Student Award and Rotary International scholarship; Jonathan will attend the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB), where he intends on "walking-on" for the football program. He also recently received The Elizabeth Blair Pannell ECW Scholarship. And, come September, Sam will be found at the University of Alabama, where has been awarded several scholarships, which include the Presidential Scholarship for Academics. Congratulations to all three. We pray you will have a great, enjoyable and productive college experience.

**Congratulations and Thanks:** Congratulations to the newest members of the St Eleanor Chapter of the Daughters of the King (DOK); Laurel Almada, Lisa Baggett, Joan Goldberg and Judy Tumlin. Also thanks to Yolanda Seawright, the Diocesan DOK President, for being with us for the installation. A special **thanks** to Brandon Darby, our newest Lay Eucharistic Minister assisting the Celebrant for the fifth Sundays, and to Kirk Walker, our new Acolyte Master. Also, **KUDOs** our newest Acolytes...Shelby Little, Caitlynn & Braxton Darby, and Riley Hollis.

**CPR Classes Available:** We will have a CPR class on September 10th from 9am-2pm. This will be taught by Donna Shaffer and the cost will be \$35.00. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the Narthex for all who are interested.

## Announcements (cont...)

**ECW Meeting:** There will be SHORT meeting of the ECW on August 14th, immediately after service. I urge all ladies to attend (even those who do not normally attend). There are things we need to discuss. -Shirley

**Sunday Hosts / Hostesses:** We desperately need people to sign up for the rest of the year as Hostesses / Hosts for our Sunday Fellowship time. It doesn't have to be elaborate, nor difficult. Most of us have time to eat and enjoy the many treats a dedicated few offer us to share each week. Keeping this tradition is a sign of Hospitality... just as in the many Biblical stories where food and fellowship were offered to visitors and family alike. Remember, it is a ministry...one that is just as important as any other aspect of being Church together; and, one I hope each of you will find it in your heart—and in your creativity—to participate in throughout the year. The list is posted to the kitchen door. Please sign up!

**2011 STSP VBS:** This year's VBS program was a complete success! We had an impressive 23 children participate! The kids had a blast with the "Shake It Up Café!" curriculum and festivities. We focused on God's recipe for life & "secret ingredients" to help the children remember God on a daily basis. We would like to thank each and every person who donated food, snacks, supplies, & canned goods to the program. Also we would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help, signed up to teach & lead the stations, or just gave their time in general. Without all of you the program would not have happened. A special thanks goes out to all of our Youth who did a PHENOMINAL job with the kids!! THANK YOU!! Photos of the program are now available through the STSP website ([www.stsimonpeter.org](http://www.stsimonpeter.org).)

**Children's Church:** 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 MOST IMPORTANTLY more 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, Whitney or Donnette. 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!

**Children's Sunday School:** With the approaching school year, STSP has plans for a brand new Sunday School program for the children. Donnette Bower will be heading up the Christian Education Committee and planning classes for the fall! In order for this new program to be successful we need YOUR HELP! Volunteers will be needed desperately to teach these Sunday School classes. The children will be grouped by age and the classes will be held after worship at the same time as Adult Sunday School classes. Our goal is to attain enough volunteers for a rotating schedule...so both our adults and children are being spiritually fed on a regular basis! If you are interested in volunteering please contact Donnette Bower for more info.

**Columbarium Plan:** We have a purchase plan in place for anyone that would like to purchase a space in the Parish Columbarium. The plan is \$50 a month for 12 months and of course interest free! Just make a note on your check to indicate the columbarium plan.

**Coming Soon** during a Sunday in the near future...**An Instructed Eucharist!**

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We are the church. We are the silent minority who wake up Sunday morning to gather for fellowship, teaching, and celebration. "Christ-like" behavior in this setting is second nature to us; indeed, conspicuous are they who do not act as Christ. This summer I visited the unchurched, where the opposite is true. At Sawyerville Day Camp, we stood out in a bleak, poverty-ravaged environment, for acting *like* Christ.

The contrast between our behavior and the norm in the Hale County household was written in the eyes of the children themselves. They betrayed the nature of their home lives by the irresistible affection with which they latched onto us, the counselors. The simple courtesies, such as opening a door or asking, "How are you?" disarmed the children's wall of distrust, while the more subtle acts of love, such as simply taking the time to listen to a story, proved to them that there really are people who care. In many cases, that is precisely what the children craved – attention. And all the while that we showered them with such attention, I was being steadily taught that such care for kids I have never met came not from any inherent nobility of my own, but from Christ living through me. I volunteered a week of my time for His services, and He certainly seized the opportunity to infect others with His love.

Whether or not the children left "story time" with a better understanding of the Exodus is beyond my perception. What I do know, and what I could see, was this: the kids left camp with the knowledge that Christian people are loving people. No one else in their home lives takes the time to ask them how their day went; yet a few dozen teenagers came from all across Alabama to ask them the same question. More than one camper asked me directly, "Why do y'all come here? Why are you all so nice?" One demanded to know how much I was being paid. I assured him I was a volunteer (though I'm certain he did not believe me), and that Christ enabled me to "love you, because He loved me first." Such semantics may not occur to him as sound reasoning for years, but I am content that my actions spoke volumes more than my words. Such is the point of Sawyerville Day Camp.

Samuel Parsons

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***Leave a legacy of love to your parish.  
Please remember St. Simon Peter Episcopal Church in your will and in your estate planning.***

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## Disaster Relief – Shoal Creek

Three months after the devastating tornados struck a wide area of Alabama, including our neighbors in Shoal Creek, a great deal has been accomplished. However, much remains to be done.

Our congregation was very generous and in fact led the way in providing fuel for heavy equipment to get the clearing operation underway and have it continue. Later other churches and eventually the County also became involved in this operation. Several weeks into the recovery effort, Father Jeff asked me to become the point of contact for our church. My instructions were to meet with agencies working in the area and the Episcopal Disaster Relief Committee to see where we could best utilize the funds you so willingly contributed.

- I have met with the County EMA staff, as well as the County Commissioner, Stan to see what the best course of action would be.
- Judy Quick from the Diocese Relief Committee provided information and has pledged additional money to supplement our donation.
- In Ragland, I was able to meet with Jeff Huey of Extreme Ministries, who is leading the effort to build a number of houses in the Ragland/Shoal Creek area. They are doing some great work up there.
- I was able to meet with Dr. Ben Chandler from the Baptist Association in Ashville and reviewed the interview sheets they had compiled to assess the needs. I have been working with Dr Chandler to put their information into a database so it can be better analyzed.
- The County EIS Coordinator arranged to provide maps of the area to me so that we can cross-reference the interview sheets to ensure no one is missed in the assessment of damage and needs. I was also able to acquire a database of residents in the area from the EMA staff as another check of the data.
- In early July I travelled to Huntsville to attend a Training and Tools Course for Disaster Recovery.
- I have also been attending the Long Term Recovery Committee Meetings in Birmingham, held each Monday to coordinate the efforts of different groups working in this area. Over the past two weeks, volunteers from CRWRC known as the 'Green Shirts' were in St Clair County, conducting a needs assessment, and their report should be available to me next week.
- I continue to work with Dr. Chandler, and we will be making an assessment of the greatest need and the priority of the action to be taken.

One of the greatest needs is for accommodation for groups who are willing to come to the area to work.

A request to the congregation earlier, generated only one response. There are groups of 10 to 25 people, skilled and unskilled to have expressed interest in coming to this area to work, however they do need a place to stay.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss any of the above report, please call me, or see me after the service on Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,  
John V. Rickards



### SUPPORT OUR TROOPS: OPERATION SUNBLOCK!

Help us supply our American troops with sunscreen products to protect them...  
Just like they protect us. We are sending Sun Protection Care Packages to Our Troops!  
Donate \$20.00 to sponsor a care package TODAY!

Combat troops have a duty to remain fit, healthy and ready for action at all times; in fact it is a chargeable offence no less, to suffer from any preventable infection caused by the harmful effects of the sun and be rendered unfit for duty.

Did you know that the average temperature between the months of May and November are 102' Fahrenheit?

The climate is arid with little natural shade protection. But with Mary Kay's SPF 30 Sunscreen and Lip Protector with Sunblock, we will be giving our troops protection that they currently do not have.

100% of the care packages purchased will go to benefit our troops! We will cover the cost of shipping and transport to the respective distribution points.

A care package consists of the following:

- 1 SPF 30 sunscreen
- 1 lip protector sunscreen 15



**19th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
*"But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened." Matthew 14:30*



**20th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
*"But even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Matthew 15:27*

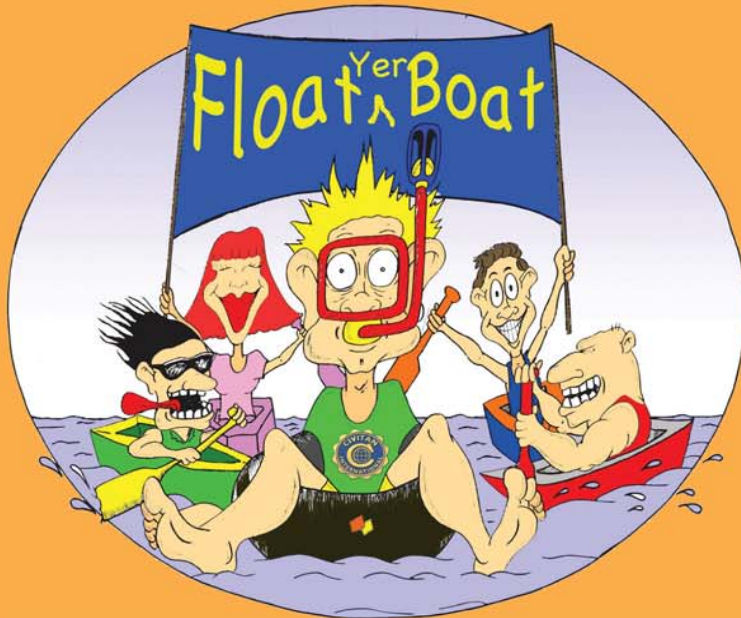


**21st Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
*"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." Matthew 16:18*

*"Vows made in storms are forgotten in calm."*

~Thomas Fuller

The Pell City Civitan Club  
Presents the 7th Annual



# Cardboard Boat Regatta

Live music, food and fun for the  
entire family

**August 27, 2011 • Pell City Lakeside Park**

Come and join in the festivities for a day of music, fun, food  
and, of course, some very, very interesting boat races

Check in begins at 8 a.m. • 9 a.m. race start Event ends about 1 p.m.

**CLASS I-\$20**

Youth Open (14 yrs & under)  
Adult Open (15 yrs and up)

**CLASS II-\$30**

Business & Industry  
Church

Each entry receives one official "Float Yer Boat" Cardboard Boat Regatta" Tee Shirt  
and additional tee shirts are available for \$10

**Awards**

**Captains Award:** Team Dress • Team Involvement and Crowd Response  
Team spirit during competition and at the finish line

**Pride of the Fleet:** Creativity, Innovativeness and uniqueness • Floatability  
and movement in the water.

**Titanic Award:** Most Dramatic Sinking (must make best effort not to sink and  
must recover all parts of the boat)

1st and 2nd place awards in all categories. Your boat must cross the finish  
line to win

There will also be open challenge races at the end between contestants.

There will be food, beverages and tee shirts available for sale at the event.

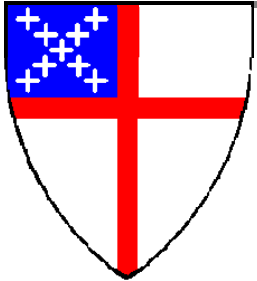


You may pick up applications  
at the Pell City Civic Center,  
visit [www.civitan.net/pellcity](http://www.civitan.net/pellcity),  
or call Randy Mason 205-  
405-4781 or Matt Mitcham  
205-338-3534

A fundraiser sponsored by the  
Pell City Civitan Club • 100  
percent of proceeds benefit  
Toys for Children and local proj-  
ects for developmentally dis-  
abled citizens of Pell City

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

**Phone** (205) 884-0877



**Revolving Weekly Schedule:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays**  
12noon Kiwanis
- Each Tuesday**  
12noon Rotary
- Tuesdays / Thursdays**  
7:00pm AA 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  
7:00pm ALANON  
7:00pm AA Group



**22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."  
Matthew 16:24

**Dates and Events (August 2011):**

6	-	DOK	(9:00 am @ Church)
7	-	Confirmation class	(following worship in small classroom)
8	-	Finance Meeting	(6:00 pm in Library)
12-20	-	Fr Jeff Away	
14	-	ECW Meeting	(following worship in Garden Room)
	-	Confirmation Class	(Brandon instructs)
20	-	Men's Group	(8:00 am)
	-	DOK	(9:00 am)
21	-	Confirmation Class	(Fr. Jeff)
	-	Vestry Meeting	(following Adult Class approx noon)
27	-	Cardboard Regatta	(Lakeside Park @ 8am – registration)
28	-	Confirmation Class	

*\*Note: there will be no Wednesday Eucharist and Bible Study on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>*

**During the week:**

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

**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](mailto:stsimonpeter.webteam@gmail.com) or hand them over to Lindsay.

**STSP Website Update:** The <http://www.stsimonpeter.org> website is online & functioning! 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](mailto:stsimonpeter.webteam@gmail.com) or contact Lindsay.

**2011 Parish Budget Review** (as of 07/30/2011)

Pledge promised to date:	\$115,964.00
Pledge and Plate received to date:	\$ 113,174.00
Shortfall (through July 2011):	(\$2,790.00)

**We're on the Web!**

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>

E-mail: [stsp\\_rector@centurytel.net](mailto:stsp_rector@centurytel.net)  
Episcopal Diocese of Alabama: <http://www.dioala.org>