

# The Mainsail

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>



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## Rector's Corner

As we begin February, we find ourselves moving towards the conclusion of the Epiphany season, and well on our way to the beginning of our Lenten journey through the soul. Epiphany arms us with those stories and encounters of God that reveal Jesus' true nature and identity to us...in efforts for us to discover the same about ourselves during our Lenten explorations.

But, Lent – which begins the second week of March this year – isn't just some season of self-denial and self-sacrifice, where we are obligated to give up some luxury of so we can "symbolically suffer." Rather, Lent offers us an opportunity to turn inward and explore the character of God's Spirit found already existing within the heart. For me, that's what Lent symbolizes...our human struggle to seek and find "that something greater within." Sure, life on this earth is a struggle... Jesus never told us anything different. Think back to Jesus' wilderness experience; how he struggled with the many worldly temptations Satan placed before him. I can imagine he struggled with many of the same desires and emotions that we do – battling those worldly "things, positions and opportunities" that constantly try and turn our hearts away from God. It's not too terribly hard for us to imagine such a list of distracters for ourselves...is it?

To undertake such a journey for myself is never easy...it requires a lot of "letting go." First, I find I must let go of my *need to always be successful*. Success has very little to teach about the spiritual life – but failure is a great teacher! For me, personal growth comes about through those hard lessons learned as I stumble or fall. Most times we learn so much more from our pain than we ever could from our pleasure.

Secondly, I have to put aside my obsession to *always be right*...a tendency that sometimes closes my heart to those many wonderful and enlightening things God lays before us. Admittedly, letting go of this tendency is difficult – especially as personal pride often denies us the opportunity to admit our mistakes. If our world could overcome this one tendency, I believe we'd experience a lot less mistrust, judgment and personal anxiety.

Lastly, I've had to let go of needing to *always be in control*. I find that when I relinquish control – especially to God – I become more receptive to those things that I might have otherwise missed. In surrendering, we become vulnerable and humble; traits that battle our human tendency towards self-centeredness and pride – our true blindness.

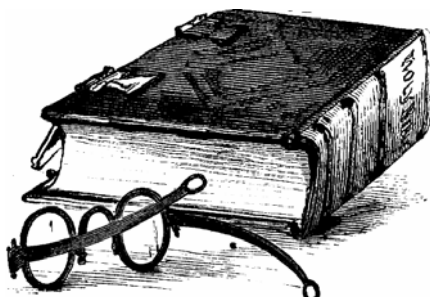
If we are faithful to our spiritual journey, we'll grow into a deeper understanding and appreciation of Christ's own life and words as he walked towards the cross. In stumbling down our own rocky paths, we'll discover a divine opportunity to grow in Spirit as we encounter God's grace and forgiveness along the way. But, the trip can be daunting; and the discoveries harsh. But, remain encouraged; and, remember...

***That if any person sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and, he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.***

God's Peace to All...*Fr. Jeff+*

**BIRTHDAYS:**

2	Russell Brown
4	Doug Blankenship
9	Michael Dikeman Jr. Nancy Kilgroe Jan Canoles
12	Mark Powell
16	Dianne DeShazer
18	Margaret Fisher Sims
20	Mike Gibson
21	Trudy Berlin
22	Peggy Blankenship
26	Glynn Grant
28	Larkin Powell



## Announcements

**Parish Mail Box:** This will be the final reminder of the new Parishioner Mail Box bulletin board added just inside the doors to the Parish Hall. Our Parish Office will post all notes, forwarded and routine correspondence to parish members to this board. Please take time to check this board on a weekly basis. We also encourage that any notes exchanged between parishioners be pinned to the board (recommended the name of the recipient be clearly placed as to be seen.) If notes are not picked up within a couple of weeks, they will be removed to help keep our mail box manageable. In addition, a request that all functional areas (ECW, Altar Guild, Choir, Wardens, etc) please check their box located outside the parish office door on a regular basis. Questions to Debbie or Fr Jeff in the office.

**Individual Giving Statements:** Thanks to everyone who have put us "over the top" for our 2011 budget with your financial pledge. In an effort to continue to reduce our operation costs for the parish, we will begin distributing your giving statements, the report of your church gifts and giving, to those with email addresses every month. For those dependent on USPS delivery, we will mail our statements only twice a year...in June and in early January. If statements are required outside this cycle, all one needs do is call the office and Debbie will generate a statement that can be picked up your next visit to the parish. This new process will help us eliminate additional postage costs...which are rumored to increase again in 2011. Again, we thank you in advance for your continued support and patience. Questions to Jay or Debbie.

**Parish Book of Intercessions:** The Parish Prayer List published in the weekly worship bulletins will be replaced with a new Book of Parish Intercessions; where parishioners can enter those names and conditions prayed for each Sunday morning before worship. Those names will be taken to the Altar and intercessions offered during our normal Prayers of the People. Entered names will not be carried over automatically week to week. However, this new Book of Intercessions will not replace the other prayer lists our faithful parish prayer warriors maintain (i.e. the DOK Intercession list, Wednesday Eucharist prayer list, or the "Prayer Chain.") The Book of Intercessions will be available Sunday mornings, beginning the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, in the Narthex on the stand adjacent to the Library doorway. Questions to Fr Jeff.

**Sign-up for 2011:** Did you know that our fellowship hour following worship each week is a ministry? It is! This time is traditionally set aside to allow not just our parishioners the opportunity to not only visit and catch up on the previous week, but to share experiences, hopes, and future endeavors as a community. In addition, this time is where visitors and seekers come to know the personality and identity of our parish family...or, as simply stated – where others further their understanding of who we are and what we're really about. That's why the hospitality portion of Fellowship Hour is so important...it's another way one comes to know how we connect with one another, and with our greater community, through the gift of food and drink. It's never about being fancy; just about sharing with one another. So, I encourage you to prayerfully consider signing up to support our Fellowship time together – and to share the gift of life through our birthday cake celebrations on the first Sunday of each month. Team up...it is less stressful when you're able to create and restore with another! Sign-up lists for both Hostesses/Hosts and Birthday cakes are on the Kitchen door.

**Women's Self-Defense Course:** The PC Police Department will offer a FREE Women's Self-Defense Course at the Pell City Civic Center on two separate days: Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am till noon & on Thursday evening, February 24<sup>th</sup>, from 6 – 9pm. You can register by phone (884-3334) or by email ([rachelherren@epell.net](mailto:rachelherren@epell.net)).

**February's Real Heart Day:** The St Vincent's Health System will sponsor a "Heart Health Day" at all St Vincent's facilities on Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Four (4) separate Heart Tests (EKG, Lipid Profile, Blood Pressure screening, Basic Metabolic Profile) will be offered for \$40 (normally costing in excess of \$350) to screen and detect possible symptoms of heart disease. For participating, there will be a free T-shirt for the taking. To register for this event, please call Dial-A-Nurse @ 939-7878 or 800-331-6777 by Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Congratulations to our Newest Vestry members:** Congratulations to our newest Vestry members, elected by the parish during our Annual Parish meeting: Chris Conway, Jo King, Kirk Walker and Wayne Wilcox. In addition, your Vestry has nominated Worth Barham as Senior Warden and Wayne Wilcox as Junior Warden. Jay Hollis will remain Parish Treasurer and Marsha Knepper has agreed to continue as Vestry Clerk. Please let these folks know they, as well as all of your Vestry, have your support in leading this parish into a faithful and Christ-centered future.

**Acolytes:** We will be losing two of our faithful Acolytes with this year's High School graduation...Sam Parsons and Jonathan Hennessy. As such, we are inviting some of our younger parishioners into our Acolyte corps. If you have a child that is old enough and interested, please contact Worth or Fr Jeff. In addition, we will be vesting our Acolytes in Albs, versus the normal red cassock and surplis, through a generous donation by a parish family. We will still utilize the older vestments, but cycled with the season as the Celebrant is vested. More to come....

**Cursillo:** Congratulations to Whitney Hollis who replaces Faye Hall as the Parish Cursillo Lay Rector for the upcoming year. Our monthly ULTREYA will resume in February at the home of Lisa Baggett on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, at 6:30pm. Please bring a dish or finger-food to share. Whitney is very excited about the New Year and how we might get involved in more out reach opportunities. If you are interested in Cursillo, or have any suggestions concerning Cursillo opportunities, please speak with Whitney or any Cursillo member. Remember the Fourth Day! Questions to Whitney or Fr Jeff.

**Children's Valentine's Activity:** The children's annual Valentine's Activity Time will be held Sunday, February 13th, during the Sunday School Hour. If you would like to bake a cake or other treat for the Cake Walk please see Patricia Hennessy. Be sure to drop by the activities, and cheer on the little ones, especially during the peanut race!

**ECW:** There will be a short meeting of the ECW on February 13th during the coffee hour. I urge all women to attend, especially those who are usually absent. - Shirley Wilson

**Lost and Found:** If you have found yourself missing kitchen or serving items, please check the cart under the Parish Mail Box. Debbie has spent much time cleaning out and organizing our kitchen, and any items with names found on them have been placed there for pick up. Thank you!

**Updating Birthdays:** We have again published our parish birthday list, as we have received comments that some may be left off. The only way to keep this list current and accurate is with your help. The list will be available for the next few weeks, so please take time to come by the church and check/add/update your information. Questions to Debbie.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:stsimonpeter.webteam@gmail.com) or contact Lindsay.

### **Adult Christian Education Resumes February 6**

"A dream not understood remains a mere occurrence: understood, it becomes a living experience."  
(Car Gustav Jung)

"But as for me, not because of any wisdom I have...has this mystery been revealed to me, but in order that the interpretation may be made known...*that you may know the thoughts of your mind.*" (*Italics are mine*)  
(Daniel's words to Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel 2: 27 – 30)

*Dreams: God's Forgotten Language* by John Sanford, Episcopal Priest and Jungian Analyst, is the text we will be using and from which we will be departing. It is not necessary to purchase the book, but you can find it on Amazon.com. Sanford states: "The presence of God is a disturbing presence, especially when [God's] voice is as close to us as our nightly dreams. We cannot deny the closeness of his presence, for we also dream dreams as did the men and women of the Bible."

In this class we will explore Biblical dreams as well as dreams of modern people. We will be using the theories of Carl Gustav Jung to "unwrap" some of the hidden aspects of dream language and imagery. Recurring dreams, nightmares, premonitory and bereavement dreams are some of the topics that we will be discussing.

Lucie Magnus will be leading the class discussion. She is a Certified Jungian Analyst in private practice in Birmingham and is a member of St. Simon Peter.

"Light gives of itself freely, filling all available space. It does not seek anything in return; it asks not whether you are friend or foe. It gives of itself and is not thereby diminished."

~Michael Strassfeld



*The Sermon on the Mount, Cosimo Rosselli, ca. 1482*

# 2011 Parish Budget Report

I am very excited about the budget for 2011 and wanted to share some thoughts with you. As to date we have 65 pledges for the New Year. 22 people have raised their pledges and we have seen the addition of 5 new pledges.

This gives us a total of \$158,000 dollars which is \$3,000 above our estimated amount of \$155,000.

This is going to be an exciting year! Thanks again for each pledge that was sent in.

Yours in Christ,

L Jay Hollis / Treasurer



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 "Your light must shine before others." Matt 5:16



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 "Be reconciled first, and then bring your gift to the altar." Matt 5:24



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 "If someone wants to go to law over your shirt, give him your coat as well." Matt 5:40

## Smiles-R-Us



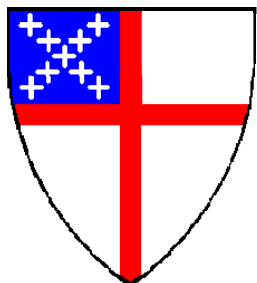
## St. Simon Peter 2010 Vestry

Matthew Power	205.338.8804	<a href="mailto:matthew@powertoyou.com">matthew@powertoyou.com</a>
Chuck Hall	256.268.9248	<a href="mailto:chall@coosahs.net">chall@coosahs.net</a>
Belinda Allinder	205-362-5815	<a href="mailto:hunt.ferguson@yahoo.com">hunt.ferguson@yahoo.com</a>
Josue Almada	205.753.0520	<a href="mailto:j_almada@yahoo.com">j_almada@yahoo.com</a>
Worth Barham	205.338.6484	<a href="mailto:worth@documentimaging.net">worth@documentimaging.net</a>
Trudy Berlin	205.613.5346	<a href="mailto:taberlin@yahoo.com">taberlin@yahoo.com</a>
Donette Bower	205.884.7918	<a href="mailto:bdbower@safelegs.com">bdbower@safelegs.com</a>
Scott Fricker	205.368.2987	<a href="mailto:fricker@centurytel.net">fricker@centurytel.net</a>
Jay Hollis	205.447.0369	<a href="mailto:jwhollis@centurytel.net">jwhollis@centurytel.net</a>
Marsha Knepper	205.365.8018	<a href="mailto:marsha@macoindustries.com">marsha@macoindustries.com</a>
Don Newton	205.541.4277	<a href="mailto:PellCityPD810@yahoo.com">PellCityPD810@yahoo.com</a>
Mavis Vines	205.902.2905	<a href="mailto:mvinest@centurytel.net">mvinest@centurytel.net</a>

"Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you."  
 ~Maori Proverb

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

**Phone** (205) 884-0877



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

5	-	9:00 am	DOK (9am @ Church)
6	-		Birthday Sunday (Fellowship Hour) Adult Class resumes: (Dreams: God's Forgotten Language, Garden Room) EYC Super Bowl Party (@ The Parson's home)
		5:00 pm	
7	-	6:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting (@ Church)
11-12	-		Annual Diocesan Convention (All Saint's, Birmingham)
13	-		Vestry Meeting (following Worship)
19	-	8:00 am	Men's Group @ O'Fells Restaurant
		9:00 am	DOK (@ Church)
		9:00 am-noon	Women's Self-Defense Course (@ Civic Center)
21	-		President's Day (Office closed in observance)
24	-	6:30 pm	Cursillo Ultreya (@ Lisa Baggett's home)
		6:00 pm-9pm	Women's Self-Defense Course (@ Civic Center)
26	-		MainSail Newsletter inputs due

**Revolving Weekly Schedule:**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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	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.
Monday	Narcotics Anonymous (NA)	7:00 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)	
	AA	7:00 p.m.
	Choir	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 **26<sup>th</sup> of each month** so we can make sure to include it!

Send all input and information to [stsimonpeter.webteam@gmail.com](mailto:stsimonpeter.webteam@gmail.com). Thanks!

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

**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>