

The Mainsail

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>



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Rector's Corner

For the past several weeks, we have been in the Great 50 Days of Easter; the period of eight Sundays beginning with Easter Sunday. We celebrate this season because the explosive force of the Resurrection of our Lord is way too vast to be contained within the celebration of just one day.

That Easter in its fullness consists of fifty days is no accident; as it is based on the great Jewish festival of fifty days that begin with the opening of the harvest season two days after the start of Passover (in the Jewish tradition) and extends until the Day of Pentecost – where we'll once again enter the Church's Ordinary season. And, there is theological significance to the number; as "50" carries a sacred meaning. In the Book of Leviticus, there is designated a Year of Jubilee – which occurs every fifty years. This was a significant year in the life of Hebrews; as it overthrew business as usual...forgiving all indebtedness – personal and corporate, wiped clean by debtors because God commanded it early in Israel's life. So, in many ways, the number fifty reveals an eschatological quality of Easter...as it offers both liberation and restitution to the life of the indebted...and, to those enslaved. Thus, the Fifty Days of Easter became a sign for the early Christian community – which adapted the ancient symbolism as a sign of newness and rejoicing since the wages of sin were eradicated for all eternity through Christ's Passion and Resurrection.

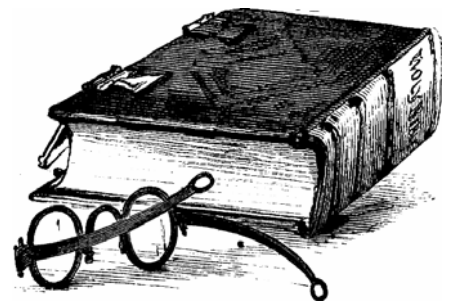
When we think of the Great Fifty Days in this way, believers are afforded a new kind of existence; a way of living and sharing that prepares both individuals and society for God's kingdom of equity and justice yet to come. This season of the Great Fifty Days, therefore, moves God's church along toward a fuller understanding of what the Resurrection of the Lord implies. Thus, Easter is not just one closing day at the end of a lengthy period called Lent. Instead, Easter Sunday is the first day of a new season; the opening of a protracted celebration...just as the Resurrection is itself the opening of a vast new reality to our mortal souls...and, to the life of our world.

God's Peace to all as we end, once again, the 50 days of Easter and burst forth in the Power of the Holy Spirit as we approach the renewal of Pentecost and the Ordinary season...

Blessings...Fr Jeff+

BIRTHDAYS:

2	Hope Skelton
3	Mary Jim Edwards Mueller
4	Jon Engerbrecht Evelyn Maxwell
8	Aaron Sears
16	Dee Parsons
17	Kaylyn Fricker
20	Shelby Little
23	Algie Passey Christine Watson Lew Arthur
26	Henry Fisher III
27	Kayla Almada
28	Charlie Myrick
30	VI Watson Flossie Runyans



Announcements

Parish By-Laws (also known as Customaries): As one of our 90-day goals decided upon during the Vestry retreat, we are working diligently toward publishing Parish By-Laws that will inform the parish family of processes, decisions and policies that guide our worshipping community. These are intended to supplement the already existing Diocesan policies and National Church Canons; designed specifically for St Simon Peter's use. They will cover such things as Nursery operations, Sunday school classes, liturgies, Vestry and Parish processes and the like. If your ministry area or church group would like instructions or descriptions to be included in this formal document, please provide your draft to the parish office before June 23d. It is recommended that all committees draft their governing directives to be included. Please speak with Fr Jeff if there are questions.

Church Picnic: We have scheduled the Parish Picnic for Sunday, 12 June, following our worship that morning. This year, we will gather at Pavilion # 1 in Lakeside Park (the one nearest the Children's Castle playground). Your Vestry will provide hotdogs and chicken as the main entrée, but requests that you please bring a side dish to share. Sodas and water will also be provided (please note alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the park.) Remember there will be no refrigeration available, so coolers are recommended to keep those tasty dishes that require cold to keep from spoiling. Also, you might consider bringing lawn chairs, as the benches are limited under the pavilion. June 12th is also declared CASUAL SUNDAY, so your St. Simon Peter T-shirts and slacks/shorts will be acceptable as the dress of the day. Come, relax, and enjoy an afternoon of shared food and fellowship! Questions can be directed to Worth and Wayne – your Wardens.

Dinner Theater: June 4 – 6:30 pm – It's going to be fun. You will miss a really good time if you don't come. So make your plans to be there. This event is almost sold out (only 100 can be seated) so if you do not have your ticket see Debbie in the Church Office. Tickets are \$20.00 each. This includes a delicious dinner of salad, lasagna, and chocolate pound cake plus a production of "Choice Chocolate Shoppe". Steve Shafer will offer dinner music. Also, if you so choose, you may enjoy a glass of wine for a donation of \$2.00 per glass.

Youth Sunday & Senior Recognition Day: If you weren't able to attend the Eucharist on 15 May, you missed a real treat! Once again, our Youth faithfully lead us through the Liturgy of the Word, highlighted by one of our graduating seniors, Sam Parsons, offering his reflections on the day's lectionary. What a treat...well done, Sam! During the service, all our EYC / YPF members came forward and presented Lakeside Hospice a gift of \$1000.00 – the proceeds of all their fundraisers this past year. In addition, the parish presented our three graduating seniors who attended – Sam, Autumn Combs and Jonathan Hennessy – with gifts that included an NRSV bible to take with them as they step out towards their advanced education pursuits. Congratulations to all our youth for another great year...and to all our graduating seniors. We will miss you.

New Parish Directory: Our new Parish Directory is now well under way to being published. Many have expressed the need for an updated directory, given all the new and returning faces that are now seen around the parish – now, we will have one! With over 65 portrait sittings and many Sundays of accumulating group pictures, Lisa Baggett – our directory coordinator – is working hard to provide you with an updated resource. You should be receiving your new parish directory, and your free portrait (and others if ordered) in the next few weeks. Thanks to Lisa – and thanks to all who volunteered their time to host, set-up, tear down, schedule and make this much needed project happen. Kudos to all!

Tornado Relief: Through the various emails and announcements...as well as word of mouth you have encountered along the way...you have probably heard that the cleanup in the Shoal Creek valley has begun a new phase. On 24 May, Fr Jeff escorted both our diocesan disaster relief coordinator and Katie (Episcopal Relief & Development from NY) to both the EMA headquarters and a tour of the affected areas of St Clair County. Good discussions and ideas of how churches and groups can continue to support the relief efforts were offered from all participants. Some rebuilding has begun for those who have insurance claims answered; but, there are some delays in FEMA subsidizing due to Insurance companies delays. FEMA has begun to bring in Mobile Homes to those sites that are cleared (thanks to your kind and generous gifts that help fuel independent volunteers heavy equipment), so there is some progress. I will be meeting with the parish leadership to discuss the various ways ERD and those on the ground in the Valley suggest we might be able to support. Remember, this is a marathon...not a sprint. Recovery will be a long time coming – as well as healing. I offer my personal thanks to each and every one of you who have responded to this tragedy – no matter how that response has taken form. It all is necessary, and it is all felt and appreciated. Please continue to pray for both the victims and those trying to relieve their suffering, and please continue donate wherever-however-as often as you can. We should hear from ERD in the next few weeks. I'll be glad to field any questions you may have (Fr Jeff.)

Meet our Newest Parishioners: Once again, we will be introducing our newest parishioners to you in this section. Hopefully, you will come to know our newest arrivals a bit better. This month, I present Jo and Bill King...

After 25 years of job related moves, Bill and Jo King returned to Alabama. Bill is originally from New Orleans, Louisiana and Jo is from Gardendale, Alabama where they now live part time (the other part time is in Lincoln on Logan Martin Lake). Career-wise, Bill has been CFO of numerous companies. Jo has sampled several careers from shopping center manager to church administrator.

As the parents of three and grandparents of eleven they are always busy. Bill enjoys fishing and working in his two yards. Jo's hobby is quilting. Both enjoy traveling.

Bill is now the chairperson for the Finance Committee, and Jo has her fingers in many ministries and activities around the church. They feel they have found the perfect church home here at St. Simon Peter, and look forward to many years with this family.

Grief Support Group: The loss of a loved one can be a frightening experience. And even if you have experienced loss before, each loss is fresh and new and different than anything you have experienced before. You may feel alone or unable to put your grief into words. St. Simon Peter's Grief Support Group will begin meeting on Thursday June 2nd at 6:30 and will meet through July 7. We will meet each Thursday for 6 weeks and cover the grieving process and how it affects each person in a different way. As a group we will explore how to get thru the Holidays or just how to get up and start a new day. Deborah Cearley will facilitate the group. She is a trained Stephen Minister and has facilitated groups in for this parish and others in the past. If you would like to participate in this healing ministry, please call the office at 884-0877 and we'll pass on to Debbie.

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.

From the Vestry

On April 26th your Vestry met, at the Pond House, for our annual retreat. What a peaceful setting for us to come together, in fellowship, as we worked diligently to complete our assigned tasks.

Our call to duty from, Senior Warden, Worth Barham...**"If we fail to plan, then we are planning to fail."** Worth did a great job in setting the agenda, asking members to come prepared with ideas, and keeping us on point, which resulted in a very productive meeting.

Our first task was to develop a Mission Statement for our church. After a collaboration of ideas we adopted the following:

Our **Mission** as the Body of Christ is:

- **To know our faith...**
- **To live in truth and love...**
- **To serve the needs of all people.**

While discussing our Mission Statement, Josue Almada came up with the following words that, we agreed, would be a perfect **"motto"** for St. Simon Peter bumper stickers and window decals: **"Come – Follow – Serve – Reach Out"** What a great way to get more name recognition in the community, and invite ALL to come and serve with us, through our message.

Next, we made a list of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of our Parish. From these lists we formulated, and prioritized, our 90 day goals, and five year goals. Some of which, are already under way.

Quoting Jo King... "With regard to input and ideas developed...I thought it amazing that we were pretty much all on the same page. Everyone came with a goal of making St. Simon Peter better by enhancing existing programs, as well as, moving forward toward some pretty ambitious tasks."

"It is a joy to work with such a group who is obviously seeking God's Will for our church."

I agree with Jo, and I believe we all came away from the retreat with renewed energy and excitement! There is much work to do, and we will be calling on our church family to help us grow our parish, improve existing programs, and implement new ideas. We look forward to a very exciting and productive year!

Blessings,
Marsha Knepper

Announcements (cont...)

A word on the Newsletter: Over the last year, it seems that most of the news and events within the Newsletter is provided by your parish staff. This is your Newsletter...to make announcements, to brag or report on your various ministry's activities and accomplishments, to let your fellow parishioners know of significant church-related and social gatherings and activities. This is your resource...please use it. Thanks go to Lindsay for publishing and editing it each month...for it is truly one of those thankless jobs.

Vacation Bible School: We have ordered & recieved this year's Vacation Bible School. We will be following Cokesbury's "Shake It Up Café!" program, and hope to have more kids than ever involved in an entire week of lessons, activities and more! If you would like to volunteer to help teach, chaperone, provide dinner or donate supplies, please contact Lindsay or Whitney.

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.



7th Sunday of Easter

"And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you." John 17:11



Solemnity of Pentecost

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:4



Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

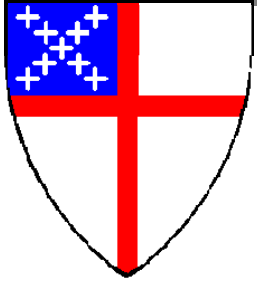
"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." 2 Cor 13:14

"I always tried to turn every disaster into an opportunity."

~John D. Rockefeller

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

Phone (205) 884-0877



Revolving Weekly Schedule:

1st & 3rd 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



**Solemnity of the Body
and the Blood**

*"We, though many, are one
body, for we all partake of the
one loaf." 1 Cor 10:17*

Dates and Events (June 2011):

- 1 - Stage Setup in Parish Hall
- 2 - Grief Support (6:30pm in Library)
- 3 - Theater Dress Rehearsal
Pell City Block Party (5:30pm)
- 4 - Blessing of the Lake Fleet (8am @ Horizons – Lakeside Boat Show)
DOK – 9am in Garden Room
SSP Dinner Theater (6:20 @ Parish Hall)
- 6 - Kiwanis (12 noon)
Rector – Warden Meeting (TBD)
Finance Committee Meeting (6:30pm in Library)
- 6-11 - Young People Painting Birmingham (Youth Event)
- 7 - Rotary (12 noon)
- 10 - Bridge Club in Parish Hall (10am-2:30pm)
- 11 - AA / ALANON Anniversary Celebration (in Parish Hall 3-7pm)
- 12 - Casual Sunday & Parish Picnic (following worship in Lakeside Park)
- 13 - Vestry Meeting (6:30pm in Garden Room)
- 14 - Rotary (12 noon)
- 18 - Men's Group (8am @ O'Fells)
DOK (9am in Garden Room)
Fr Jeff @ Chapel in the Pines (8:30am)
- 19 - Father's Day
- 20 - Kiwanis (12 noon)
- 21 - Rotary (12 noon)
- 24 - Bridge Club (10am-2:30pm in Parish Hall)
- 25 - Bishop Election Walk-about (11:30am-4:30pm @St Luke's Birmingham)
- 26 - Newsletter Inputs Due
- 28 - Rotary Banquet (pm @ Sammy's)

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.
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) Choir AA ALANON	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 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).

2011 Parish Budget Review (as of 04/30/2011)

Plate Offering	\$8562	Budget	=\$10,000
Pledge	\$67,322	Budget	=\$64,542
Total	\$75,884	Budget	=\$74,542

We're on the Web!

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>

E-mail: stsp_rector@centurytel.net

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