

# The Mainsail

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>



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**9th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"The one who hears my word and acts on it is like one who builds a house on rock."  
Matt 7:14*

**BIRTHDAYS:**

- 1 Chris Conway
- 2 Eric Knepper Jr (Shawn)  
Christopher Hayes
- 6 Mark Engelbrecht  
Pat Knepper
- 9 Marilyn Windham
- 10 Conni Hollis
- 11 Amy Walker  
Patricia Hennessy
- 13 Spencer Goodenough
- 15 Logan Freeman
- 20 Belinda Allinder
- 21 Kirsten Lewis  
Jeffery Garner
- 25 Rodney Holland
- 27 Kylie Williams  
Jim Barnes
- 28 Mary Barbara Adams
- 29 Judy Glenn

## Rector's Corner

**Dear People of God: *The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.***

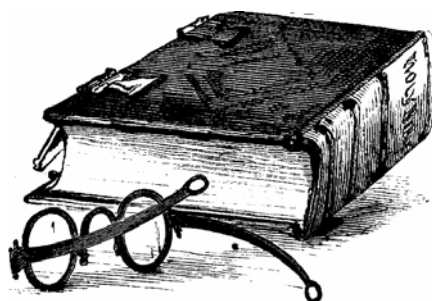
***I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature....***

This invitation contained within our Ash Wednesday liturgy calls us to remember what we have become, from whom we have separated ourselves through our sinfulness, and in whom our true salvation rests. It is a call to self-examination: to a rediscovery of where we are in our spiritual journey and reevaluate just how faithful we are—and have been—in our relationship to our Lord. These words contained in our Book of Common Prayer carefully set in relation to Lent our preparation for a renewed spiritual awakening...the very baptism identified by John the Baptist that only the Messiah could offer.

The Imposition of the Ashes is an ancient practice of public penance...one that calls for the continuing conversion and transformation for the entire Church (including its individual members!) The physical outward sign of the ashes remind the believer of both our mortality and of our need for continuing penitence. This solemn, but heart-felt Rite offers us yet another opportunity to turn toward the One who not only forgives, but who loves each and every soul...unconditionally; and forever!

*With prayers for an insightful and holy Lenten season...*

*Fr. Jeff+*



## Announcements

**The 180<sup>th</sup> Diocese of Alabama Annual Convention:** In an effort to save trees, we are encouraging you to view all the proceedings, homilies, remarks and Resolutions to our annual convention held at St Luke's in Birmingham last month on-line (you can even hear our Bishops and Bishop Gulick's presentations from the website!) All links can be found at the Diocesan website: [www.dioala.org](http://www.dioala.org). Any questions can be fielded by our delegates (Rita, Donette, or Worth) or by Fr. Jeff.) See Donette's reflection on convention proceedings our "From the Vestry" section.

**Visiting Eucharistic Minister (VEM) vacancy:** Recently, Adonis Fisher had to resign as one of our four VEMS due to personal reasons; which leaves a vacancy in our VEM rotation. If you feel called to this important pastoral ministry and wish to learn more about that activity, please contact Fr. Jeff.

**Parish Cleanup Day:** We have designated Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, as our **parish** cleanup day. We need your help. So, dust off that rake, sharpen the trimmers, take up your garden gloves, find those inside cleaning items and meet us at the church at 9am. Rumor has it there will be breakfast and possibly beverage available for participants. We hope to clean up, clean out and give our parish gardens the facelift they need to support our 23d April Children's Easter Egg Hunt and help to impress all those Easter Visitors we might expect. Questions can be addressed to Dee Parsons, Men's Group president or Wayne Wilcox, your new Junior Warden.

**June Dinner Theater @ St Simon Peter:** As part of our Outreach and Fundraising efforts, we are beginning to plan for a "Dinner Theater" presentation by a troupe of actors here at St Simon Peter in June. If you would be interested in helping organize this possibility, please see Jo King.

**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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Lent Approaches!** In preparation, our EYC will sponsor the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7p.m. Donations appreciated (\$ 3 for children under 12 - under 5 eat free and \$5 for adults). Proceeds will go towards our support of Lakeside Hospice. As such, the **EYC** will meet March 6th at 5:30 p.m. to decorate the Parish Hall for Tuesday's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** services are scheduled for noon and 6 p.m. this Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Come and begin your Lenten journey with the Imposition of Ashes.

**Wednesday Evening Lenten Series:** Beginning Wednesday, 16 March, we will gather once again for our traditional Soup, Salad and Bread meal; followed by this year's Lenten series entitled "Experiencing God: Finding the Holy and/or Letting the Holy Find Us." This program will be presented by our own Fr. Jonathan Waddell. He will be using Marcus Borg's "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" as the source for his classes. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of Borg's book, please contact the office before Friday, 4 March. Please sign up to provide the soup, bread or salad on the kitchen door for each week.

**DOK:** Dear Daughters, We will have our first meeting for the new class on March 5th. Please read chapters one and two and be ready to discuss. For His Sake, Shirley.

**ECW:** The Episcopal Church Women will have their regular meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> during Coffee Hour. We need to discuss our plans for the year so I urge all women to attend. Shirley Wilson, President.

**Lenten Quiet Day & Bishop Parsley:** Dear Friends, We are so lucky to have Bishop Parsley offer a Lenten Quiet Day for the diocese. This will be held at St. Mary's on the Highlands in Birmingham, on Saturday, April 9th from 10 - 3. I do hope you can include this day of reflection in your spiritual Lenten discipline. Blessings, Sarah Sartain. (Registration forms can be found on the hall table outside the office)

**The Country Store:** October seems a long way off; however, we must begin planning now to ensure a good selection for The St. Simon Peter Country Store which is part of the Annual Pumpkin Palooza Event. Last year we were gifted by Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church with a 'mountain' of items. These items made a significant impact on the revenue generated by the store. This year we must depend on ourselves to stock the store. A few changes and additions are being considered for 2011, i.e., a Christmas Corner and more furniture and craft items. Your help is needed. Good usable furniture sells well, as do reasonably current books (encyclopedias and old college textbooks do not sell well), Christmas decorative items, homemade goodies (jellies, salsa, preserves, etc.), pretty glassware and serving pieces are all desirable and tend to sell quickly and for top dollar. All in all, anything you would consider buying yourself will probably be attractive to someone else. The church has a storage space for donations. Simply bring anything you wish to donate to the church or call me to arrange for pickup. Everything will be stored until time to set up The County Store. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me....Jo King, [jbking1550@charter.net](mailto:jbking1550@charter.net) or 586-8586.

**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](mailto: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.lmpa.org>. – Deb

**Special Announcement FURNITURE:** The Sunday school room and nursery will soon be under major improvements! We have a large wooden cabinet in the children's Sunday school room right now, which will be donated if it is not claimed. Please see Lindsay or Whitney if you are interested in adopting this piece!

**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.

**Save the Dates**  
**New St. Simon Peter Directory**  
**Portrait Schedule**  
**Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

We received only positive feedback on redoing our Church Directory using the company Lifetouch. Their work, hands down, is far superior to the company we have used before. I have samples available if you would like to see their work, especially the beautiful St. Mary's –on- the- Highlands directory.

This new directory will not cost you or St. Simon Peter one dime. They provide the service in hopes you will enjoy your portraits enough to purchase them. Win/win all the way around. And, this year you will have the convenience to reserve your portrait appointment on-line if you would like.

A small committee has been formed to lead this effort. More information will be made available as we get closer to the dates but mark your calendars now for the portrait schedule.

Here is Lifetouch's web site if you would like more information on this company and their products: <http://churchdirectories.lifetouch.com/>

Peace,  
Lisa Baggett  
Committee Member



*Vanitas Allegory, Pieter Boel, 1663*

## From the Vestry

### Report of Attendance at the 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention

On Friday, February 11 and Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup>, Worth and Rita Barham, Father Jeff and I attended the convention. It was my first time to attend and I really didn't know what to expect. It was hosted by St. Luke's Parish in Birmingham. Just imagine 180 years! It must have begun in 1831. They have surely learned how to hold a convention in those years.

I'll try to give you a snapshot with my impressions. Since it was a church event there was a lot of worship. We started with a service and sermon led by Rt. Rev. Edwin Gulick, Bishop of Kentucky, retired. Bishop Gulick's started us on the theme of "Hospitality". The wonderful choir of St. Luke's gave the occasion a special atmosphere. The most memorable part for me was the congregational singing and the Holy Eucharist.

The Nave at St. Luke's is beautiful and large with perfect acoustics. The songs saturated the air in the Nave. It seemed that everyone was singing to God alone but we were all together. Since everyone was singing and worshiping in song, I felt free to do the same (Even among strangers.)

The convention attendees filled every seat in St. Luke's Nave and more. When time came for the Lord's Supper, an announcement was made of the different sites to receive communion. People moved forward in large numbers with the music. I had never seen so many people at the rail before. It was most impressive.

In our precious body of baptized believers at St. Simon Peter, this time seems very personal and real. At the convention, the Holy Eucharist was special in a different way. With so many people moving forward to receive Christ's Body and Blood, I felt a part of something bigger. It was a wonderful experience. Of course, my heart is with our small but growing parish.

There were other services with wonderful sermons on "Hospitality." Scripture was read and we heard many different kinds of welcoming, helping, and loving, the loved and unloved. Examples of hospitality were discussed such as: Grace Café in Cullman who opens monthly with free lunches to anyone who comes in. Some parishes are called beans and rice parishes because they give those foods. We were told that if we have an idea for outreach we can write the Department of Mission & Outreach for a grant.

On Saturday, we voted for people to serve on committees and for resolutions. We were asked, "What is God inviting us to do? Does my community see my parish as a center of hospitality?" We are challenged to look outward as well as inward. How can we show our fellow people the love of Christ through hospitality?

Respectfully yours,  
Donette Bower

### 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



### Ash Wednesday

"Your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."

Matt 6:4



### 1st Sunday of Lent

"Jesus was led away by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." Matt 4:1



### 2nd Sunday of Lent

"Jesus was transfigured... and Moses and Elijah appeared, conversing with him."

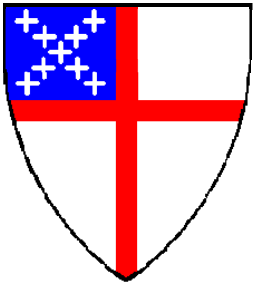
Matt 17:3

"Are you capable of risking your life for someone? Do it for Christ."

~Pope John Paul II

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

**Phone** (205) 884-0877



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

- 28 Feb – 4 Mar - Pell City Grad Exam Week
- 5 - DOK (9am @ Church)
- 6 - EYC Decoration Party (Parish Hall)
- 7 - Finance Committee Meeting (Parish Library)
- 9 - Ash Wednesday / Imposition of the Ashes (noon and 6pm)  
 Parish Staff Meeting (2pm)
- 12 - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** (12am)
- 13 - Acolyte Training (Following Worship)  
 Vestry Meeting (Following Adult Sunday school...noon)
- 14-18 - Pell City Schools **SPRING BREAK**
- 16 - Parish Directory Planning Meeting (Church @ 2pm)
- 19 - Men's Group (8am)  
 DOK (9am @ Church)
- 26 - Parish Cleanup day (begins at 9am)

**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 **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!

**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)*



**3rd Sunday of Lent**

*"A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' "*  
*John 4:8*

**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>