

The Mainsail

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>



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2nd Sunday of Easter
"Peace be with you."
John 20:19

BIRTHDAYS:

- 2 Robby Skelton
- 5 Lisa Baggett
- 6 Horace Grant
Andre Monteith
- 11 Alyssa Ashley Williams
- 14 Janie Blankenship
- 15 Andrew Eaton
Peck (Earl) Barham
- 16 James Eaton
- 17 Michelle Williams
- 18 Adonis Fisher
- 20 Ralph DuLaney Sr.
- 25 Ericka Freeman
- 26 Larry Daugherty
- 27 Lester Watson
- 28 Amanda Garner
Heather Fricker
- 29 Ruth Golder

Rector's Corner

Lent, Holy Week and Easter Day are now behind us. The Easter Eggs have been emptied; the decorations and baskets are tucked away; and our Easter best has been put to storage for another year. Indeed, Easter may be over...but what Easter represents – Resurrection – continues.

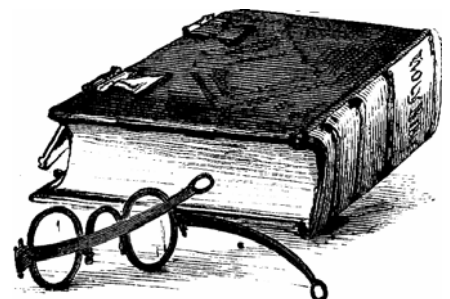
And, there is a lot of "resurrection" going on around this parish and around our parish family. There is a newness brought about by the many committees and motivated people who are focused on making St Simon Peter not only more inviting and ascetically appealing, but also more spiritually fulfilling – through the expansion of our Christian Education opportunities; the various social opportunities that will both raise funds and bring us closer in relationship; the sweeping interest in both stewardship and legacy giving; our landscaping upgrade being investigated; and in the area of Outreach and new ministries now being considered. Even our Cursillo movement has grown and found new energy. All these efforts are beginning to yield, as several new families and couples have recently expressed interest in becoming part of this worship community. Many are Episcopalian; but there are those who are new to our traditions and church.

Of course, with growth and new opportunity, there is the potential for change. But, we should never be afraid of change...for change oftentimes necessary to both promote necessary growth and survival. But, if change is nurtured in gently, the transition from old ways to new need not be threatening. But, we each must address how we deal with any change. I invite each of you to become engaged with some aspect of church growth and renewal and help us to find new and better ways of serving both our God and one another.

One of the more exciting processes underway in the parish is the Strategic Planning process your Vestry began addressing earlier last month during their retreat. Many good and logical ideas were discussed, and we even developed new words to describe who we are and what we're all about. There will be information forthcoming that explains further from your Senior Warden. I invite each and every one of you to become involved in making our spiritual home a place where not only we want to be...but, be a place where others will want to come and become part of this great place for many years to come

Peace of the Season to You. With Prayers for a Wonderful Easter Season!

Fr. Jeff+



Announcements

VOAD Members: We need people to volunteer to help hand out items at a distribution center in St Clair County and to take supplies to people in need. The distribution center has not been established yet. We also need people to volunteer at the EMA to help coordinate for about 1 week. EMA can use you in 2-5 hour increments. Please reply to this email and let me know if you can volunteer at the distribution center and/or take supplies to the people. I will let Patrice at EMA know and she will let me know when and where and I will relay the info onto you. Please also reply to this email letting me know if you are willing to volunteer at EMA and when. We need people from now until at least next Friday. Thanks for your support! - Brian Burrows, St. Clair VOAD President

Our Common Areas: such as the Parish Hall, Kitchen and Garden Room host many functions and activities. As such, sometimes they are left in a state of disarray for those who would follow. If you use these areas for either church, social or organizational activities, please make sure you leave them clean and put away. We are entering the season where "critters" become more active and present...so any and all we can do to make this space less inviting to them is appreciated. This is your parish home, so please care for it as you would your own living areas at your residence. Questions to the parish office.

Youth Appreciation & Senior Recognition Day: Sunday, May 15th is our Youth Appreciation Sunday and Recognition of our Seniors Day. During our worship, our youth will conduct most of the Liturgy of the Word, and present their end-of-year monetary gift to Lakeside Hospice...their chosen charity for 2011. In addition, we will recognize those participating Seniors who will be leaving us this fall to engage in the rest of their life. As such, we will honor them with a covered-dish luncheon to follow our worship that Sunday. Please come and support our kids, and bring your favorite covered-dish item to share afterwards. They have done a lot for us over the years...let's show them how much we appreciate both who they are and what they've meant to us! If you are a senior and wish to participate that Sunday, please contact Fr. Jeff directly. If you would like to help us organize this effort, please contact the parish office.

Nominees for Diocesan Bishop Announced: The Diocese of Alabama Bishop Search Committee has announced the four candidates to be considered as your next Bishop. Our own Suffragan, The Rt Rev Kee Sloan, is among that group. There are Bios on each on the diocesan webpage www.dioala.org and I strongly urge you to read up on them, pray and let your delegates (Donette Bower, Rita & Worth Barham) know how you feel about them. They, and I, will be recalled to the Cathedral later in the year to meet and vote on the candidates.

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.

Adult Sunday School: The new Sunday School class will begin on May 1st and continue for six classes. The class will be entitled "Life Stories and Theology". The book that we will use is "Messengers of God: Biblical Portraits and Legends" by Elie Wiesel. Thanks! - Fr. Jonathan.

Country Store: DONATIONS NEEDED - The storage building has been cleaned and is ready for your donations which will be sold in The Country Store during the Pumpkin Palooza in October. Items may be brought to the Church. They will then be stored until it is time to price and arrange them for sale. Questions? Call or email Jo King - [205-586-8790](tel:205-586-8790) or jbking1550@charter.net.

DINNER THEATRE: – JUNE 4 – 6:30 PM – Plan now to enjoy an evening of good food and fun at "The Choice Chocolate Shoppe", aka, St. Simon Peter Parish Hall on June 4. The play will follow a delicious dinner of salad, lasagna and chocolate cake. Performing the play, "The Choice Chocolate Shoppe", is a talented group of young adults who express their love of God and their faith through theatre.....a little bit of serious and a lot of laughter. Dinner music will be offered by Steve Shafer. Tickets are available in the church office or from any vestry member. The price is \$20.00 each. This is going to be a special evening.

Parish Directory: The dates for our photographs are coming up soon. If you have not made your appointment go to our web site www.stsimonpeter.org and in the upper right hand corner is a link to the appointment book. If you would rather make your appointment over the phone you can call Debbie at the church office or me at [205.915.7115](tel:205.915.7115). Remember this year we will be using a black background when choosing what to wear.

Final group shots will be made Sunday, May 1st. Scheduled are Lectors, Flower Guild, Cursillo and the Knitting Group. Pictures will start 30 minutes after the service concludes and will only take 5 minutes or less for each group.

Finally, we still need Host/Hostess for Thursday (are most hectic day) and Saturday. Thursday we have one open slot needed for the entire appointment time; 2:30 to 8:30. Of course I am not expecting someone to work the entire time but if you could volunteer for even a couple of hours during the needed times it would help. Please e-mail if interested. Also, we have one open slot on Saturday for entire Saturday shift which is 10 to 3:30. Again the dates we need volunteers are Thursday May 19th and Saturday May 21st. Friday if already covered.

Thanks for your help and support. I am excited about seeing the end result and getting up to date information!

Lisa Allen Baggett
lisaabaggett@mindspring.com
 205.915.7115

Cheaha Convocation Officers: The nominating committee is pleased to present the Cheaha Convocation slate of officers for the 2012-2013 term:
Convocation Coordinator: Jane Wood, Grace, Anniston
Secretary: Cindi Lusk, St. Luke's, Jacksonville
Treasurer: Lisa Baggett, St. Simon Peter, Pell City
Nominating Committee: Marilyn Atkins, Linda George, Joyce Dryden

A "thank you" from our Children: Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Easter Egg Hunt a complete success!! The kids had a wonderful time of fun & fellowship. We couldn't have done it without all of the volunteers and donations...THANK YOU ALL!!

A Litany of Supplication in Time of Trouble

Gracious God, arise, help us;
And deliver us for your Name's sake.

We have heard with our ears and our ancestors declared unto us the noble works of loving kindness and healing that you have done in their days, and in the old time before them.

Gracious God, arise, help us;
And deliver us for your Name's sake.

With breaking hearts and deep sadness at the tragedy of the tornadoes in our state, (and especially in this community of _____,)

we pray for all who have died and all injured, for those who have lost their homes, and for those who are alone and afraid.

Gracious God, arise, help us;
And deliver us for your Name's sake.

Guide and strengthen all who are providing food and water, shelter and care for those in need; grant your wisdom to those coordinating relief efforts and generosity to those who offer gifts and funds for support and assistance.

Gracious God, arise, help us;
And deliver us for your Name's sake.

Embrace all those who have lost loved ones, friends, and neighbors with your comfort and compassion; bind us all in deeper community and as we join hands to support one another and rebuild our life together.

Gracious God, arise, help us;
And deliver us for your Name's sake.

Renew our trust in your presence in the midst of loss, and in your power of hope and healing in our midst.

Grant that no storms and clouds of this world may ever hide from us the light of your love, which is eternal and heals our hearts, world without end.

Gracious God, arise, help us;
And deliver us for your Name's sake.

Let us pray:

Loving Father of all, we humbly pray you to look graciously upon our hurts and heartaches, and especially upon those in the greatest need in this time of trouble. Grant that we may put our whole trust and confidence in your mercy; bind us together in mutual love and service, and make us instruments of your healing and peace; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Episcopal Diocese of Alabama
The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr.
April 29, 2011

Announcements (cont...)

Vacation Bible School: We are also in the beginning phase of planning for this year's Vacation Bible School. This year, we hope to have more kids than ever involved and are planning for an entire week of lessons, activities and more! If you would like to volunteer to help, or have suggestions/ideas you would like to see included in this program, 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.

Life Lesson: No one is in charge of your happiness but YOU!



3rd Sunday of Easter

"He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread."

Luke 24:35



4th Sunday of Easter

"And the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." John 10:3



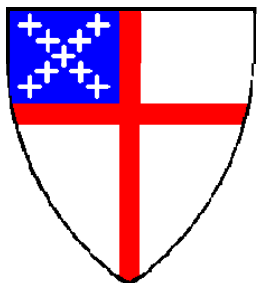
5th Sunday of Easter

"Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me?" John 14:9

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."
~ Martin Luther

St. Simon Peter Episcopal Church
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 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



6th Sunday of Easter

"Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me ... and I will love him and reveal myself to him."
 John 14:21

Dates and Events (May 2011):

- 2 - Finance Committee Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 5-14 - Fr. Jeff vacation time
- 7 - DOK (9:00am)
- 15 - Youth Sunday / Senior Recognition Day (followed by covered dish)
- 19-21 - Photo sessions for Parish Directory
- 21 - Men's Group (8:00am @ O'Fells)
 DOK (9:00am)
- 22 - Vestry meeting (around 12noon)

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.

A Note from the Rector: With the recent devastation and tragedy brought to both our community and our state (as well as those surrounding states and communities that have suffered,) many opportunities to contribute to the relief efforts will arise. Funds will no doubt be established, volunteers will look for ways to help those impacted, and donations of both subsistence and finances will continue to be offered and collected. The Red Cross is still accepting donations of all things...and the collection points are the old Pell City Armory on 19th Street and the former 84 Lumber facility on Hwy 78. The address for the American Red Cross is 205 Edwin Holiday PL, Pell City, AL 35125 if you wish to donate financially.

However, let's not forget that when confronted with such widespread sorrow and loss, we--ourselves--can also feel both the emotional and spiritual effects of such an event. After all, we are connected...in both heart and mind and Spirit. So, I encourage you to remain patient and prayerful...remaining mindful that our most Merciful and Compassionate God is still present--even in the midst of all this pain and destruction. Indeed, we each may have a part to play in relieving someone else's misery -- but, please make sure you take good spiritual care of yourself while you are accomplishing it!

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).

We're on the Web!

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>

E-mail: stsp_rector@centurytel.net

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