

The Mainsail

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>



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Rector's Corner

A few years ago I wrote about the close parallels between the human body and the life of the parish; drawing upon how both are living organisms...each considered to be living systems that respond to a variety of stimuli and challenges as they attempt to preserve their respective integrity. And, like our human body, the "Body of Christ" – the parish family – is composed of various "members," subsystems and on-going interactions that conduct all necessary functions to sustain life...including such as cells, circulatory systems, the central nervous system, and even waste management. And, like the body, these organic processes are not linear; nor are they necessarily progressive or expansive.

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

(Romans 6:11-13)

Of course, you already know this. But, have you ever considered – just like the sacredness of our parish life shared as community – our bodies...that crucible God blesses us with to enjoy this life and it's many gifts...is also sacred? Think about it. Do you ever take the time to think about the sacredness of our body? Have you ever wondered where it is we can go and discover those practices and rituals that give shape to the way in which we honor and celebrate God's most precious, delicate and resilient gift? Over the past few weeks where certain things associated with my own body did not work so well, I took time to!

Reflect for a moment on our worship...we sit, we stand, we kneel, we bow our heads to pray, we stretch out our hands to receive the bread and to embrace the cup. In such fashion, our bodies are already accustomed to praise and to plead – to make our supplications and receive Christ's offerings of care, forgiveness, and reconciliation. For me, it's like standing in the warm embrace of the early sunrise after spending a restless and cool night out in the open in early spring. In the Holy Eucharist, our bodies are fed and nourished with the food and drink Our Lord offers to sustain and uphold us. In baptism, our bodies are washed clean of the worldly dirt that invites spiritual sickness and threatens individual and corporate morality. And even as we embrace one another at The Peace, we touch one another in the genuine love that unifies as it bonds us in Christ's eternal hope.

These are the very touchstones in our Anglican traditions where we practice honoring the body. When God created that first human body, God proclaimed it as "good." After all, it was in such a human body that Almighty God dwelled fully human among us...even while still fully divine. Thus, each body – no matter if flawed, incomplete or broken—is worthy of blessing and care. So, it is specifically through our bodies that we are invited to be a part of ...and participate fully in...God's activity in the world. As a gift, our bodies are to be respected...fed properly, nurtured, pampered, and not subjected to those things we do and ingest that does harm to this complex system. But, even though we know better...we continue to abuse and misuse it – whether we call it necessary, exercise, enjoyment, or even healthy. To our bodies, we are our own worst enemies at times. Remember, there is no 60,000 mile replacement warranty; and spare parts are not only expensive...but, they are very hard to come by!

In her book, *Praying with Body and Soul*, Jane Vennard spoke to this sacred relationship with our bodies in this way: "A balanced relationship with our bodies has all the elements of friendship: love, letting go, conflict, change, commitment. We seek to know our bodies while we honor the mystery of our bodies. We attend our bodies when they are in great need. We also attend when all is going well. We commit ourselves to care for our bodies. We thank God for the body that has been given, for it is the only one we have."

God's Peace to you and yours.

Fr Jeff+

BIRTHDAYS:

1	Myra Williams Henry Wilson
3	Elizabeth Parsons Marjorie Brown
4	Donette Bower
10	Vicki Fisher Janet Arthur
11	Sarah Monteith
14	Ana Berry
16	Angela Garner
18	Margie Cash Don Newton
20	Rita Engelbrecht
21	Jonathan Hennessy
22	Clara Fisher Bartlett Walker
24	Tony Hollis
25	Laurel Almada
26	Kristy Dikeman
28	Henry Russell Engstrom

Announcements

Pumpkin Palooza: As we go to press, the St. Simon Peter Pumpkin Palooza has officially concluded. It has been a grand success! To date, we have significantly exceeded the sales from 2010 which helps us to meet the shortfall in our general budget. Pat yourself on the back. Job well done!

This event has been multi-faceted.....Pumpkins, Ann's Orphans, Quilt Raffle, White Elephant Sale, Baked Goods, and T-Shirt Event. From your donations to those of you who volunteered your time, St. Simon Peter Episcopal Church has touched many. The Pumpkin Palooza has gone far beyond what we expected.

In addition to the money raised for "Inreach" (supplementing our sagging funds) St. Simon Peter is "Reaching Out" to several areas of need in the community. We have been able, through the Pumpkin Palooza, to help three other organizations with worthwhile projects. By donating pumpkins to Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church for their food pantry needy families will be helped. Their ladies will preserve pumpkin to supplement food needs. A donation of selected unsold items from the White Elephant Sale to the Pell City Public Library's Silent Auction will generate much needed funds for its programs. Thirdly, the donation of the balance of unsold items will help the programs of Elijah's Barrel.

On a personal note....many, many thanks to everyone for all you did to make the 2011 Pumpkin Palooza a success. God has truly blessed us. St. Simon Peter Episcopal Church is a very special place with many very special people. On behalf of the Pumpkin Palooza Team, Thank You.

Lessons & Carols: It's that time of year again, and we are looking for people who would like to join us in singing our Lessons & Carols Service! Our choir practice for Lessons & Carols will be every Thursday, starting in October, from 7pm to 8pm. We would love to have any and everyone who is interested. If you have friends who might be interested please feel free to bring them also. I will have music packets ready for anyone who wants to sing by October 2nd. Our Lessons & Carols service will be Sunday, December 18th @ 4pm. Please contact me or email me @ kenorg2@yahoo.com if interested or just show up for choir practice on Thursday night. —Kenny Lewis

Diocesan Fall Retreat: The upcoming Diocesan Commission on Spirituality 2011 Fall Retreat with The Right Reverend Larry Maze will be held November 18-19 at Church of the Ascension in Vestavia. Please see the flyer on page xx or contact Christine Watson for more info.

Free Zumba Classes: Laurel Almada and Ana Berry will be offering a Zumba & Strength Exercise class for the members of St. Simon Peter. This is a trial run, beginning in November, the class will be held on Thursdays at 5:15pm. There is no charge for the class. Thank you. Please contact Ana or Laurel for more information.

Toys for Tots: The Civitan Club is now starting it's "Toys for Tots" campaign. Last year, over 700 children were served; and the estimated need for this year is \$20,000.00 An account has been set up at Metro Bank, Toys for Tots Children's Fund, and checks can be sent to P.O. Box 883, Pell City, AL 35125. Also, toys can be dropped off at Pell City Civic Center or Fields-Gossett Realty anytime. This is a tax-deductible program.

Pledge Cards: Please remember to return your "Time, Talent, and Treasure" Pledge Cards for 2012 before November 15th. This information will determine the 2012 draft budget, which will be presented at the annual parish meeting in early January 2012 for adoption. Please send questions to Chris Conway or Worth Barham.

Pledge Envelopes: 2012 pledge envelopes are on the glass case in the hallway. If there is anyone that would like to have pledge envelopes that did not have them in 2011 we have extras. Please see Debbie in the Church office.

Office Hours Reminder: Office hours for St. Simon Peter Church are Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Lunch normally mid-day). The office is closed on Fridays. In case of pastoral emergency outside these office hours, please contact Fr. Jeff at (205) 338-2882 (home) or (205) 753-0047 (cell).

2011 Children's Christmas Program: The children will be rehearsing their annual Christmas program this month! We have a wonderful array of live instrumentals, fun sing-a-longs, and of course the timeless Christmas Story to share with you! The "dinner theater" style program will be held December 11th during coffee hour in the parish hall. We will hold a potluck brunch, so please bring something to share! If you are interested in helping or being a part of this program, please contact Lindsay or Whitney for more information. Mark your calendars, bring your friends and family and help us celebrate this most joyous occasion!!

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!

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 number of clients plus 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.

STSP Website Updates: Visit <http://www.stsimonpeter.org> for full interactive event calendars, photo galleries, inspirational multi-media and forums, online forms & registries for events, state & national diocese information and so much more!

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Call for new Newsletter Publisher & Webmaster!!! We are looking for a new person or two to take on the monthly STSP Mainsail Newsletter as well as the STSP website. Due to both school and family requirements, Lindsay will be stepping down as the newsletter editor and webmaster after two years. This is simply a process of collecting inputs, dates & other information from parishioners & Fr Jeff, and then placing them together for publication. If you are interested in taking on these important ministries please contact Lindsay or Fr Jeff. Thank you!

Save the Date: Saturday, November 12th, 8:00am – 1:00pm

Breakfast for all and parish workday!

The Men's club will provide breakfast:
Pancakes, eggs, sausage, toast, fruit.....

Meet in the parish hall at 8:00am for great food and fellowship. Come prepared to put elbow grease into our building and grounds. At 9am we will hit the deck!! Here is what needs to be done.

Inside:

- Polish all woodwork, baseboards, and paneling
- Wash windows
- Change filters
- Clean up closets
- (Windex, Fantastic, Murphy's Oil and rags will be provided)

Leaders needed to coordinate work for: parish hall, kitchen, sanctuary, class rooms, and garden room.

Outside:

- Refurbish playground equipment
- Weed and de-vine entire grounds
- Remove small trees, vines, weeds, around the fence at the dumpster.
- Remove weeds around columbarium
- Correct drainage to left of main church door
- Clean off all drain grates
- Clean up all debris, old shingles, wood, from in the crawl space below the alter
- Blow the parking lot

Tools needed:

Racks, shovels, brooms, chain saws, loppers, clippers, wheel borrow, blowers.

Leaders needed to coordinate work for: playground, crawl space, dumpster area, hwy 34 frontage, columbarium area.

Contact Dee if you want to help cook and serve. Contact Wayne if you have questions about the clean-up.

From the Finance Committee

St Simon Peter Financial Update

01/01/2011 - 10/30/2011

	2011 Actual	2011 Budget	Over / Under Budget
Plate Offerings	26,166	25,000	1,166
Pledges	128,435	132,386	(3,951)
Other	17,517	6,220	11,297
<i>Total Inflows of Cash</i>	\$ 172,118	\$ 163,606	\$ 8,512
Administrative	112,143	112,704	561
Church Operations	41,860	35,399	(6,461)
Outreach Programs	18,408	13,992	(4,416)
<i>Total Outflows of Cash</i>	\$ 172,411	\$ 162,095	\$ (10,316)
<i>Difference in Inflows and Outflows</i>	\$ (293)	\$ 1,511	\$ (1,804)
<i>Outreach as % of Income</i>	10.7%	8.6%	2.1%

* * We have a shortfall in cash for the Parish in the amount of \$293.00 through October 30,2011

If you have any questions, please direct them to Jay Hollis (treasurer) or Bill King (chair). Thank you!



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."
 Matthew 25:13



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 "For to everyone who has, more will be given ... but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."
 Matthew 25:29



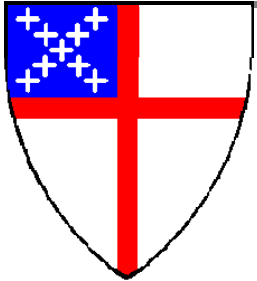
Christ the King
 "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."
 Matthew 25:40



1st Sunday in Advent
 "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming."
 Mark 13:35

**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



“If the only prayer you
said in your whole life
was, ‘thank you,’ that
would suffice. “

~Meister Eckhart

Dates and Events (November 2011):

5	-	DOK	(9:00am in Chapel)
6	-	Daylight Savings Time ends! All Saints Sunday Birthday Sunday	
7	-	Kiwanis	
7-8	-	LARC Conference on Shared Ministry	(St John's Montgomery)
12	-	Parish Workday (Breakfast at 8am by Men's Group, 9am begin cleanup)	
15	-	Deadline for monetary gifts for Bp Sloan's Investiture (see letter on bulletin board)	
18	-	Vestry Meeting / Work Session (primary)	(6:30pm in Parish Hall)
19	-	Men's Group DOK Vestry Meeting / Work Session (backup)	(8:00am at Church) (9:00am in Chapel) (9:00am in Parish Hall)
20	-	Christ the King Sunday & Holy Baptism	
21	-	Kiwanis	(noon)
24	-	Thanksgiving Day Eucharist Office closed	(10:00am)
27	-	Advent I (Year B begins for lectionary)	
Dec 2-4	-	Advent Retreat w/ Bishop Parsley, Holy Waiting (Sewanee)	

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	AA	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) Zumba & Strength Classes Choir AA/ ALANON	6:30 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Friday	Family Movie/Game Night (every other Friday)	6:00 p.m.

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>

E-mail: stsp_rector@centurytel.net

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