

The Mainsail

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>



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Rector's Corner

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.
(2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

Stewardship – a subject that is difficult to talk about; but an essential element that is necessary for every faith-centered community to continue Christ's *Great Commission* of bringing The Good News into our broken and suffering world. "Stewardship," "Tithing," "Pledging." These descriptive words, and the concepts they represent, are all too familiar to those of us who are members of a worshiping community. However, unfortunately, these are also words that we all too often quickly ignore; or, oftentimes, totally disregard. Yet, the truth remains; we ARE God's stewards, entrusted as caretakers of God's good gifts given to us throughout this life. This includes all we have, all we will ever possess, and even the world in which we live.

By biblical definition, to be a steward is to be designated by the master or owner to oversee a family, a household, or the owner's interests in all business related functions. Understanding this from a Christian perspective, God is the master, and we are the ones charged with oversight of the master's interests. Both the Old and the New Testaments are replete with examples of the authority of stewards to conduct their master's business:

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1Peter 4:10)
and

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. (1Cor 4:1-2)

Scripture clearly states that God created the heavens and the earth, and that humanity was given dominion over God's good creation. But, being good stewards also involves possessing and using those unique & divine gifts we are each blessed with...as well as offering our personal wealth towards furthering God's Kingdom and protecting our valuable natural resources.

We are all familiar with the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) and the undying love of the Father for his children. But, this parable also teaches that as humanity separates itself from God, it tends to grab what is offered as gift and waste it on self-indulgence. True. In our hearts, we know that all of creation exists ultimately for God's purposes and to the glory of God. God is the rightful owner of all that exists. But, over time, our approach towards stewardship has been overshadowed by our over-tendency to over-indulge and take for granted that which we truly do not own. We should never be reckless with what God has entrusted to us. True stewardship is not about possessing or owning; but about our life-long journey in seeking God's will and the spiritual growth we experience as we further God's purposes in the world.

Thus, tithing and pledging gives us the opportunity to give witness and express out gratitude...in proportional means...back to God. Our annual tithe or pledge – our time, talent and our financial resources – reflects our recognition of God's blessings we have received in this life. What is a "minimum tithe," you might ask? Scripture tells us:

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you."
(Gen 28:20-22)

So, I ask each of you to consider, "Am I a good steward?" As you explore this answer for yourself, please keep in mind that this Parish, as well as those other very worthwhile charities and organizations you might support beyond the confines of the Church are totally dependent on your faithful contributions and support. Without each of you, and your generous gifts, St. Simon Peter would be unable to continue Christ's work into the world...being his Hands, his feet, and his heart in our community. But, two final points must be made. First, as stated in 2 Corinthians above, **God loves a cheerful giver...;** and, however you are led to contribute to this parish – in time, talent and/or treasure – is ultimately between you and God. Further, please know this -- that your Parish Leadership and Staff will do their best to be good stewards of what you entrust to us. That is my solemn promise. Blessings to you and yours...

BIRTHDAYS:

2	Mike Dikeman Joe Allinder
7	Teresa Sanders Rhonda Noble Mavis Vines
10	Rebecca Notar Myrna Ford Kathryn Elizabeth Sims Caroline Corrine Barham
17	Scott Knepper
22	Allison Goodenough
23	Oscar Price Irene Sexton Brogan Burrow
25	Sarah Oxford
26	Lori Knepper Clair DeShazer
28	George Passey Paul Kilgroe
30	Perry Hollis Avery Hollis

Announcements

Acolytes: Soon, we will vest our Acolytes the same as the rest of the Altar Party during our worship. The traditional red cassocks will still be used, but changed as the seasons dictate. Please take time to thank and encourage all our Acolytes...for without them our worship would not be complete!

Cardboard Regatta: What an accomplishment! This year, we sponsored two boats & Crews that participated in the Cardboard Regatta last Saturday. In addition, both vessels floated...and finished the course! A great effort was made by all the kids and adults who made our participation possible; and, to those who supplied materials or came out & supported our entries. Next's Year's goal: WINNING!

VEM: We are still praying for someone to volunteer to be our fourth Visiting Eucharist Minister (VEM). If you feel called to this ministry or have questions about the VEM process, please speak with a VEM (Rita, Cecilia or Lucie) or Fr Jeff.

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!

CREDO: From Sep 18-26, Fr Jeff will be away attending a Priest retreat, CREDO, at a retreat center out of state. This retreat is sponsored by the Church Pension Group and gives our clergy the opportunity to rest, relax, and consider their ministry direction for the future. If you have business with Fr Jeff, please make sure to conduct it before he leaves; as outside contact will be limited to family-related emergencies.

Confirmation and Bishop's Visit: Bp. Sloan will be with us on September 11, 2011 for our annual visit and to Confirm/Receive new members to our tradition. We will confirm four: Marie Johnson, Shelby Little, and Caitlynn & Braxton Darby. There will then be a reception following worship to honor Bp. Sloan's visit. The kitchen committee asks that you bring only finger foods or things that are not messy and that do not require a fork. Please direct questions about the reception or foods to Jessica Notar or Sandra Murray. We will follow the reception with a **Vestry Meeting**...so it's important for all Vestry members to be in attendance.

UTO: HOW DO I BECOME A PART OF THE UNITED THANK OFFERING? Offer thanks and prayers as a part of your life in Christ; Take the opportunity to put an offering in your United Thank Offering box; bring your offering box to your church on Ingathering Day, October 23; Join your offering with others to support mission projects at home and around the world. Our parish forwards the local ingathering offering to the Diocesan Coordinator, who records and forwards it to the national UTO office in New York. By combining the offerings it is possible to fund significant projects that make a real difference in the work of the Episcopal Church and a real difference in people's lives. In our diocese, St. Peter's in Talladega received a grant from UTO to build a handicapped play ground for its Day School.

Adult Sunday Forum: We will continue our lecture series by Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt Divinity School on The Old Testament. The class consists of watching a thirty minute lecture by Dr. Levine, followed by LIVELY discussion by class members. All are invited and welcomed. The class is convened by Lucie Magnus and Father Jonathan Waddell.

White Elephant Sale: (Formerly The Country Store)....All that beautiful produce is ready for preserving. Last year our preserved items were a big hit and sold well. Donations of preserved items (pickles, salsa, fruit, etc.) are greatly appreciated. I am happy to report that many of you have brought truly nice items to sell during the PumpkinPalooza. This year we are stepping up the advertising with more signage and announcements in local magazines and papers. This may very well be our best year yet! Questions or suggestions? Contact Jo King (205-586-8790) or jbking1550@charter.net.

PumpkinPalooza 2011: – Volunteer Needed – School Program - At this time we do not have a volunteer to head up the children's School Program scheduled for October 20th and October 27th. Ordering of supplies and distribution of flyers are both covered. Please consider volunteering for this important function. If interested, please let me know as soon as possible. Bill King (205-586-8586) or email jbking1550@charter.net.

122nd ECW Annual Conference: is set for October 6-7 in Montgomery. The speaker is The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones, currently serving as Priest-in-Charge at All Saints, Grenada, Mississippi. For more information about the conference see Shirley Wilson.

DOK Quiet Day: All the Women of the Church are invited to the DOK Quiet Day on Saturday, October 22. It will be at Shirley Wilson's home from 10:00 to 2:00. Just bring a sandwich and come. The speaker is Sister Chris from the Holy Trinity Retreat Cent in Georgia.

DOK: September DOK will be September 10 & 24 due to Bishop visit.

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.

CPR Classes Available: We will have a CPR class on September 10th from 9am-2pm. This will be taught by Donna Shaffer and the cost will be \$35.00. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the Narthex for all who are interested.

Coming Soon during a Sunday in the near future...**An Instructed Eucharist!**

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!

From the Vestry: Hispanic Ministry

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren
to dwell together in unity." -Psalm 133:1-3*
*"Mirad cuán bueno y cuán delicioso es habitar los hermanos
juntos en armonía!" - (Spanish translation)*

Several months ago vestry members met with Fr. Hernan, our Hispanic Missioner/Priest from Birmingham, to discuss the Christian needs of the Hispanic community. We had recently become aware that certain people were unable to receive the Holy Sacraments due to their marital status in the Catholic church. The Vestry felt that this would be a wonderful ministry for St. Simon Peter to be a part of.

After much discussion, it was suggested that we build trust in the Hispanic community first. We were informed that there is a great need for transportation to and from appointments. It was agreed upon that a flyer, in Spanish, would be distributed to Hispanic restaurants and grocery stores in the area. These flyers would list Josué Almada's contact information and that the volunteer's at St. Simon Peter would be a resource for transportation for those needing it.

WE CAN NOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR HELP! We need a pool of volunteers that Josué can contact to see if you would be available to transport someone to a doctor's, etc. appointment. When this step is in place, we can then distribute the flyers and begin this wonderful bi-cultural ministry.

We have a lot of wonderful plans for this ministry in the future, but again, we have to have your help. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, or you would like more information regarding this ministry please contact any of your vestry members.

Gracias,
The Vestry

Disaster Relief - Shoal Creek

The events of 27 April are fading in the minds of many of us, but not for the ones directly affected by the tornados. In Shoal Creek, there is still an ongoing need for assistance. I have continued to work with the United Way of Birmingham, and the St Clair Baptist Association to see what we can do to help.

Immediately after posting the report for July, we received a letter from the St Clair Baptist Association, thanking us for our contribution to buying supplies for the new home of Mrs. Sherry Smith in Shoal Creek. Dr Chandler also send a CD with some pictures of the construction of her home. This was a small contribution, however it was greatly appreciated.

I continue to look for ways to use our gifts to the greatest good.

There are weekly meetings in Birmingham to review cases where there are unmet needs, and I am working with a representative of Harbert Management Corporation, who has pledged significant resources to help in the rebuilding process.

Fr. Jeff has suggested that I carry some Home Depot Gift Cards with me on my travels through the Valley and present them where appropriate and that is what I will be doing.

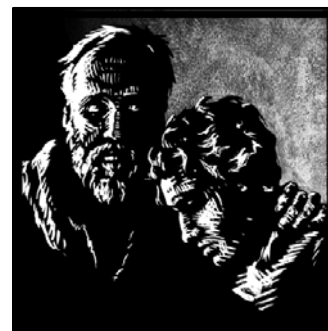
Each week in the meeting in Birmingham, cases are presented where there are needs beyond what FEMA has been able to address. Representatives of the Episcopal Diocese have been present, and have given to several cases. I have asked the United Way people to be apprised of any cases involving the people of Shoal Creek in advance if possible, and will make a special effort to make certain they are accommodated.

I will continue to work in this area, thanks to your generous donations and the funds committed to us by the Alabama Diocese.

Respectfully submitted,
John V. Rickards
Disaster Coordinator
St. Simon Peter Episcopal Church
Pell City, AL

A Final Pondering: *Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.* (1 John 4:11)
Jesus humbled himself. He went from commanding angels to sleeping in straw...from holding stars to clutching Mary's finger. The palm that holds the universe also received the nail of a Roman soldier. He was glorified by the Father in his Resurrection...yet washed the feet of common people.

Why? Because that's what love does...forever putting "beloved" before "self." (adapted from Max Lucado)



23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
"If he listens to you, you have won over your brother." Matthew 18:15



24th Sunday of Ordinary Time
"Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" Matthew 18:33



25th Sunday of Ordinary Time
"Are you envious because I am generous?" Matthew 20:15

*"The fragrance
always remains on
the hand that gives
the rose."
~Gandhi*

**Create Your Own Tee
Color, Style & Design
One Day Only
Saturday, October 8th 9:00 to Noon**

Looking for that perfect gift for the ladies in your life?

Looking for a stylish tee to add to your wardrobe?

Join us at St. Simon Peter Episcopal Church on Saturday, October 8th, 9:00 am to noon, for a free breakfast and fun choosing and designing your quality tees. Hundreds of designs to select from and tees are available in all the colors of the rainbow. Short sleeve tees are only \$15 with ¾ length sleeve tees only \$20. All profits will be used for programs sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women.

Great Holiday Gifts!

St. Simon Peter is located at the intersection of Highway 34 and Mays Bend Road, just past the Civic Center. Payment due at time of order. Please allow 2 weeks for delivery.

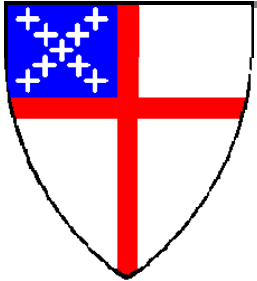


Our EYC & YPF had a blast at the 7th Annual "Float Yer Boat" Cardboard Regatta!

Left: Paul Kilgroe & Noah Parsons; Right: Aaron Sears, Braxton Darby, Caitlynn Darby, Tori Sears, Corbin Berry & Nate Berry.

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



26th Sunday of Ordinary Time
"Which of the two did the will of his father?" Matthew 21:31

Dates and Events (September 2011):

5	-	Office Closed	(Labor Day)
6	-	Finance Meeting	(6pm in Library)
10	-	DOK	(9am in Chapel)
	-	CPR Class (tent)	(9am-2pm in Parish Hall - \$35)
11	-	Confirmation & Bishop's Visit	(9:30am)
	-	Vestry Meeting	(Following Reception)
17	-	Men's Group	(TBA)
18-26	-	CREDO	(Fr Jeff away)
24	-	DOK	(9am in Chapel)
26	-	Newsletter Inputs Due	
30	-	Pumpkins Delivered	(? @ 5pm)

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

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 online & functioning! 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.

2011 Parish Budget Review (as of 08/30/2011)

Pledge promised to date: \$108,375
Pledge and Plate received to date: \$109,771

Shortfall (through August 2011): (\$1,396)

We're on the Web!

<http://www.stsimonpeter.org>

E-mail: stsp_rector@centurytel.net

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