

Rector's Reflections

As we approach the night in which the world was changed, I want to write about mystery, specifically the mystery of a young girl, her betrothed, a baby, and an angel.

For the most part, we in the modern western church don't do well with mystery, preferring instead to untangle the threads of God's tapestry, attempting to apply rational, logical thought processes to something that is beyond logic. If we need to place blame on this failed approach to God we can blame the Age of Enlightenment.

Out of the Age of Enlightenment our culture gained many wonderful scientific discoveries, but we also realized one great loss: the capacity to live with the inexplicability of the Divine. And so, we attempt to apply historical astronomical analysis to a night light that is like no other star; we analyze the conception of life through the lens of evidence-based medicine; we examine archeological evidence to argue whether the manger was housed in a wooden barn or a cave hewn into the cliff; and we attempt to use Jungian psychoanalysis to explain an angelic apparition. All of which is interesting and knowledge of which does perhaps deepen our factual, historical understanding of the events involving Mary, Joseph, and a baby many years ago (which Bible geeks like me love to do). But, none of which means a whit when it comes to delving into the mystery of a God who would risk interceding into humanity in the most vulnerable form of a wholly dependent infant.

"Religion," writes Frederick Buechner, "begins as Robert Frost said poems do, with a lump in the throat – to put it mildly – or with a bush going up into flames, a rain of flowers, a dove coming down out of the sky.... Most people have also seen such things, through some sudden turning of their lives, most have caught glimmers at least of what the saints are blinded by. Only then, unlike the saints, they tend to go on as though nothing has happened." ...subverting the mystery of the Divine to the rational limits of the human brain.

In the end, God is vivaciously mysterious, an effervescent whisper through all matter of things. Our feeble attempts to untangle the Mystery are like walking to the end of the rainbow.

Peace and blessing to you and those you love.

Fr. Kevin



Christmas wreaths and poinsettias have been given in loving memory of:

Dr. L. Sidney Christian by his family

Patrick H. Cochran by Bill and Betty Cochran

Patrick H. Cochran by William, Cindy, Emily & Kyle Cochran

Lee M. Cooper by his family

Lee M. Cooper by Clarence & Patricia Pfaff

Hallie P. Cutler by the family

Maude E. Cutler by the family

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Earle Deatherage, Sr. by the family

Robert E. Deatherage, Jr. by his children & grandchildren

Dr. Frank and Lila Duke by Jean & Neal Trueblood

Billy Edwards by Charles & Peggy Moore

Sue & Swanson Graves, Jr. by their family

Britt & Jonas Harrell by Ann Harrell Hill

Kenny Heath by Suzanne & Ray Heath

James S. Hill, Jr. by Nancy & Ina Hill

Kack & Henry Hodges by the family

Barbara Gray Howdy by David, Julie, Jennifer & Kati Howdy

Frances & Irwin Hulbert by friends

Paul & Ruth Jones by Robert & Peggy Jones

Judith & Bob Kidwell by the Bradburys

Family & Friends of the Leach Family

Homer & Nell Lewis by Robert & Peggy Jones

Ace & Sally Ann Mann by their children & grandchildren

Joe McCotter by his family

Mary Louise (Sis) Moore by Charles & Peggy Moore

Christmas wreaths and poinsettias have been given in loving memory of:

Ruth Pugh by Rosalyn Edwards

Ruth Pugh by Charles & Peggy Moore

Marty Roy by David, Julie, Jennifer & Kati Howdy

Muriel & Gerard Roy by David, Julie, Jennifer & Kati Howdy

Frederick Scales, Jr. by Fred, Sallie & Kendall Scales

The Hon. & Mrs. John H. Small

Dave & Erin Tayloe by Fred, Sallie & Kendall Scales

Justin Taylor by his family

Christmas wreaths and poinsettias have been given in honor of:

Ray & Mary Dennis by Katherine Hall

Sis Thornburgh by Rosalyn Edwards

Sis Thornburgh by Katherine Hall

Fr. Kevin & Staff by Jean & Neal Trueblood

The Rev. Kevin Johnson by Charles & Peggy Moore



Stained Glass Windows Report

On September 30, 2011, Higgins and Associates, Front Royal, Virginia, completed the restoration and repair to all the stained glass windows in the church, chapel, and Gardner hall.

The last windows restored (non-stained glass) are over the Main Street door in Gardner Hall closest to the chapel. These windows were not a part of the original contract. Higgins created and installed a stained glass insert in the door under these windows.

This three-year undertaking began in 2008 along with the campaign to raise funds to pay for this much-needed work. Members and friends of Saint Peter's responded most generously.

As of December 1, 2011, total pledges were \$257,885, of which \$255,985 has been paid.

Current costs are:

\$163,850.81	Higgins and Associates, contract
11,449.38	Bell tower windows
-- - <u>3,950.26</u>	Window plaques
\$179,250.45	Total costs

There will be minor costs later for two window plaques.

The remaining funds of \$76,843.43 (including \$108.88 interest) will be held exclusively for future work on stained glass windows.

Higgins has submitted warranties guaranteeing material and workmanship for 10 years. He said windows should not need restoring for another 50 years under normal conditions.

The late Maynard Hamblin did good work selecting and contracting with Higgins and Associates. Gene Higgins is very passionate and dedicated to restoring church windows.

Thank you again to all those who gave to restore this beautiful stained glass artwork for future generations to enjoy.

Bill Cochran

December 1, 2011

Have you Missed Seeing Someone in Church?

If you have not seen some members of Saint Peter's in church lately, please give us their name and contact information and someone from the church will contact them to see how they are doing. Since Saint Peter's does not take attendance on Sundays, we rely on parishioners to let us know who they have missed seeing for a few Sundays.

A box is located in the parish hallway for this information, or you may call Nancy Hamblin at 946-8151.

Thank you so much for your help.

Strategic Planning Calendar December 2011

Action Plan: Issue an ongoing invitation to families living close to Saint Peter's to attend family function.

Responsible Party: Roy Parker

Status: Ongoing.

Action Plan: Develop a protocol for identifying members who have stopped attending and once identified make contact with them

Responsible Party: Roy Parker, Ed Hodges

Status: Article in Keynotes. Receptacle for names in hallway

Action Plan: Develop a reference guide to be printed in Keynotes, posted on website, posted in "coffee area", etc. a "Who to call" list regarding pastoral care needs

Responsible Party: Fr. Kevin

Status: Ongoing

Action Plan: Incorporate link "who to call if" on website and all parish-wide emails.

Responsible Party: Jennifer Spivey

Status: In process

January Wedding Anniversaries

January 1- Donald + Elizabeth Chandler

January 8- Tedd + Lourdes Williamson

January 19- Joe + Chris Tkach

Congratulations!

Christmas for Back Pack Buddies



If you would like to honor an individual or make a memorial donation for someone, you may want to consider the Back Pack Buddies program. If you'd like to make a donation, please let us know the person's name and the family's address and we will send them (and you) an acknowledgement. Checks may be made payable to Saint Peter's Church adding "BPB" on the memo line. Thank you. Catherine Partrick 943-1687

For the shopping list we need: pudding cups, boxes of raisins, green beans, corn, cans of vegetable soup, cereal, macaroni and cheese and animal crackers. (Individual servings, please.)



Christmas Pageant

Thank you to Missy Parker and all the parents who have helped her each year with the pageant! We are keeping the same pageant, but this year we have added a few more roles to the story utilizing our middle school and high school youth.

We will have practice for the Christmas Pageant this year on this Sunday, December 18th during Sunday school time from 9:15-10:00am. We would also like to have one additional practice on Saturday December 17th at 10:00am for the kids to practice singing with Mr. Doug.

Please encourage your kids to participate. We have had a penguin, a reindeer, a Wise "woman", a moose, a giraffe and many others role through our pageant. If your child doesn't want to be a shepherd or angel or animal, we will make it work. And, any children visiting or just here for the Christmas Eve service are welcome, no need for practice etc. Any questions, please email me at gillian@saintpetersnc.org or call (946-8151).

Parish Family Supper

FYI---to those who like to prepare well ahead add this to your 2012 calendar:

There will be a Parish Supper on Wednesday, January 11 at 6:00. The menu is unknown as yet. Any suggestions??? But for only \$4.00 you can enjoy a hearty meal and the company of your fellow church family members.

Hope to see your name on the sign up list.

Little Corn Island Update

I have recently had an updated progress report from the folks on Little Corn Island. As you recall, we left a partially completed Learning Center for Campana and his crew to finish. I am being told that they are rushing to finish so that Yovani can occupy the building by December 1st. I have also been told by Moises with Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners, that they have sent some sewing machines, sewing goods, bicycles, and reading materials to Yovani. So, it looks like we are coming to the *start* of this project. If you recall, the islanders were the ones who identified their illiteracy problem; came up with a plan to address it; designed a building; and chose the property for the building's location. Now it is just a matter of standing back and watching them seize their opportunity. We are planning to check with them in about a year's time, (unless they contact us first), to evaluate how their program is progressing and talk about what else needs to be done. The point has already been made that the next project depends on the results achieved from the first project.

What to do in the meantime? It looks like we will be returning to *Amigos for Christ* in Chinandega to do a dental clinic and work on their "clean kitchens" program. It has to do with "smokeless" cook stoves, tile topped counters and running water in kitchen sinks. I don't have all the details yet. In the meantime, please join me in praying for the people in Nicaragua who are using our help to improve the lives of their children.

Fred Scales

The Jr. and Sr. EYC groups will be caroling this Sunday night at 6:00 p.m. We will be leaving the church parking and going on a hayride through town. We will end our evening of caroling at Mr. and Mrs. Bob Byrum's house for hot chocolate. Please join us for caroling; the more the merrier.



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Saint Peter's Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Kevin Johnson Rector
 946-4762/946-8151
rector@saintpetersnc.org

The Reverend Deacon Janet Sueiro Rodman
 975-2214
gjrodman@yahoo.com

Judy Chandler	Housekeeper
Doug Cutler	Organist/Choirmaster
Nancy Hamblin	Evangelism
Vincent Holliday	Sexton
Jay Marle	Treasurer
Gillian Pollock	Director of Religious Education
Jennifer Spivey	Parish Administrator
Susie Taylor	Day School Director

Saint Peter's Vestry

Senior Warden	Hodges Hackney
Junior Warden	Walker Lynch
Christian Education	Hank Van Dorp
Evangelism	Roy Parker
Outreach	Swanson Graves
Youth	Read Allen
Worship	John Thompson
Pastoral Care	Betty Cochran
Parish Life	Cathy Whichard
Resources and Admin.	Ed Hodges
Special Projects	Todd Williamson
Buildings and Grounds	Tom Archie

New Vestry Members are: Crystal Hardt, Sonia Privette, Bill Rianhard & Bob Thomas

Year B Revised Common Lectionary

December 18 readings

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
 Romans 16: 25-27
 Luke 1: 26-38

December 25 readings

Isaiah 52: 7-10
 Luke 2: 1-20
 Psalm 96

Altar Greenery and Flowers

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18

The greenery on the altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lucy Bowers & Jimmy Johnston, Ruby King and Jim Moore by the family.

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annie Cutler, Mary Wilson, Marianna Franklin and Tillie Jackson.

Church Attendance

December 4, 2011

8 am	56
10:15 am	130
10:15 am, Spanish	<u>68</u>
Total:	254

December 11, 2011

8 am	67
10:15 am	160
10:15 am, Spanish	<u>85</u>
Total:	312

Thank you

The Sue Duval Daughters of the Pamlico Chapter of Daughters of the King thank you for the hundreds of medicine bottles donated. There is no longer an outlet for our used pill containers. Therefore we will cease our collecting. Thanks again for your support with our service project.
FHS Carolyn Lewis

Please Pray For:

Herta Abarr - friend of Marilyn Roth

Nancy Ayer - friend of the Babcocks

Kay Blake & family - relatives of Crystal Hardt

John Gray Blount - friend of Bill Rianhard

Jenny Bonner - friend of Robert & Gillian Pollock

Joan Bordeaux - friend of the Sidburys

Dave Bradford - friend of Barbara Rumley

Ashley Burnette - friend of the Parkers

Tay Carter - member

Janice Cox - friend of the Sidburys

Dennis Cupp - cousin of Sonia Privette

Glen Cushing - friend of the Hardts

Peggy Daniels & family - daughter of Leslie Whitehurst

Becky Deans - friend of Leta Thompson

Kevin DeBruhl - friend of the Parkers

Gloria Dixon - step-mother of Cindy Stringer

George Etheridge - brother of Anna Sizemore

William Garrett & family - son of Jane Garrett

Jay Garris - friend of Lalla Sidbury

Cherri Howdy - sister-in-law of Julie Howdy

Rysam Hurley - son of Jeannene Hurley

Virginia Keech - friend of Pam Hodges

Carol Keim - friend of the Dennis'

Charlie Kenney - friend of Saint Peter's

The Lopez family - members

Sue Loy - friend of Mary Jones

Sally McGahey - friend of Mary Jones

D. J. Midgett - friend of Ed Hodges

Dick Phelan - member

Michele Portch - friend of the Sobols

Hilda Privette - mother of Sonia Privette

Matt Rauschenbach - friend of Keith Hardt

Marsha Remyn - friend of Carol Mann

Tyler Roberts - relative of the Byrums

Root Rumley - son of Barbara Rumley

Mark & Vicki Shore - relatives of Stacey Lynch

Cottie Smith - friend of Pam Hodges

Joey Smith - friend of the Stringers

Mike Sobol - member

Jim Steinbacher - friend of Sick Phelan

Sylvia Sterling - sister-in-law of Philip & Jean Sterling

Sheila Swindell - member

Michelle Harris-Taylor - sister-in-law of Stephanie Harris

Wyatt Taylor & family - friends of Saint Peter's

Betty Tubaugh - friend of Peggy Hudson

Nena Tyndall - member

Lisa Vaughn - niece of Tom Archie

Russell & Betty Jean Waters - friends of Leslie Whitehurst

Doris Wilder - great-aunt of Sonia Privette

John Wiley - friend of Sabin Leach

Todd Williamson - member

Lester Woolard - friend of the Walkers

Jeremy Yeagle - relative of the Stringers

Jim Yonally - member



Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
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The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church this Sunday at 5 pm.

Follow the story of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus as told in nine short Bible lessons and Christmas music.

All are welcome. Stay for wassail and cookies after the service.

Christmas at Saint Peter's

Christmas Eve, Saturday the 24th

Worship with pageant ~ 4 pm

Festival Music ~ 9 pm

Worship ~ 9:30 pm

Christmas Day, Sunday the 25th

Worship ~ 10:15 am