

March 2016



Fish Tales

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Episcopal Parish serving the Greater Bridgton Lakes Region since 1962

From the Internet:
The Children's Bible in a Nutshell
(Reportedly written by a 6th grader)

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that."

Anyway, God said, "Give me a light!" and someone did. Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked,, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check. After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a

FEATURES

March Church Events

March 30th, 5:30 p.m. Monthly Dinner

St. Peter's Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Brunch: Olde Mill Tavern, \$25.00 per person. PG 6

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really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues including frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh yeah, I just thought of one more: Honor thy father and mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament, He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?" It would be nice to say, "As a matter of fact, I was.")

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

(Nothing bad will happen if you don't forward this, but if you do forward this delightful story you'll make some LAUGH today, and they'll keep spreading the laughter by sending it on!!)

If in God We Trust, It'll Be a Great Day!

Prayers of the People

Those in Sickness or Distress: Allen & Stephanie, Floyd & Donna, Pete & Joyce and Janine and Josh, Ray & Joanna, Lexus & Family, Loraine & Richard.

Allison, Ana, Blanche, Bruce, Dave, Donal, Debbie, Diantha, John M, Jill, Joy, Heather, Louis, Pat, Rebekah, Rosemary, Stephanie, Tom, Willie.

We give thanks for the birth of Claire Isabella Safford, granddaughter of Peter and Barbara Mortenson.

Prayers for the safe return for Margaret and Terry as they travel.

Reminders: Please remember to turn off cell phones, including text, when entering the sanctuary. Thank You.

Basket of the Month: NON- PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS

Coffee Hour Schedule

06 March	Bob and Norma Vivian
13 March	Pat Sprackland and Jeanne Kobrock
20 March	In-Reach Committee
27 March	Easter Brunch

St. Peter's Episcopal Church began as a summer mission in 1962. On September 8, 1974, St. Peter's-by the Lake held its first service of extended ministry. Since then, though it did not have a home of its own, the church has provided an Episcopal presence to summer and year-round residents of the Lakes Region by meeting in various locations including people's homes, Bridgton Academy and local churches of different denominations. The first service in St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Sweden Road, Bridgton, was held on May 25, 2008. The building and its contents were dedicated and consecrated June 1, 2008.

Celebrating the Saints

March 19

Saint Joseph

In the face of circumstances that distressed even a man of such tenderness and obedience to God as Joseph, he accepted the vocation of protecting Mary and being a father to Jesus. He is honored in Christian tradition for the nurturing care and protection he provided for the infant Jesus and his mother in taking them to Egypt to escape Herod's slaughter of the innocents, and in rearing him as a faithful Jew at Nazareth. The Gospel according to Matthew pictures Joseph as a man of deep devotion, open to mystical experiences, and as a man of compassion, who accepted his God-given responsibility with gentleness and humility.

Joseph was a pious Jew, a descendant of David, and a carpenter by trade. As Joseph the Carpenter, he is considered the patron saint of the working man, one who not only worked with his hands, but taught his trade to Jesus. The little that is told of him is a testimony to the trust in God which values simple everyday duties, and gives an example of a loving husband and father.

Prayer: O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be a guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16

Psalm: 89: 1-29

New Testament Reading: Romans 4:13-18

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52

Spiritual Needs
New Birth

Key Scripture: *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” (1 Pet. 1:23)*

Key Thought: You are a new creation.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for providing me with eternal life through your Son, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In the same way that Jesus rose from the dead, you have allowed me to rise up and walk in newness of life with you, as I trust Christ for salvation. Thank you for the joy of salvation that my faith gives to me. Help me always to serve you in newness of spirit.

Father, you have enabled me, through faith, to be in Christ, and this has made me an entirely new creation in Him. Thank you for letting the old things become new in my life. With a thankful heart, I put on the new person which is created in righteousness and true holiness after you, Lord.

By your boundless mercy, I have been begotten (been born again) to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Yes, Lord, I have been born again of incorruptible seed by your Word.

Because I have believed in Christ as my Savior you have enabled me to be born into your family. Thank you, Father. Because I have been born of you, I am now able to overcome the world through faith.

Thank you, Father, for saving me and keeping me.

References: Romans 6:4, Psalm 51:12; Romans 7:6, Galatians 6:15; Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:24; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 4:15; 1 John 5:4; Ephesians 6:16-17.

Source: Richards, Clift & Kathleen. *Bible Prayers for all your needs.* Tulsa, OK: Victory House Inc., 1999, pg 109-110.

CHURCH INFORMATION

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
42 Sweden Road
(P.O. Box 134)
Bridgton, ME 04009
647-8549

Email:
stpetersbridgton@aol.com

Sunday
9AM Worship

Office Hours
Sunday 1:00 to 4:00
Tuesday & Wednesday
8:00 to 12:00

Staff
Director of Music & Choir
Evan Miller

Vestry Officers
Senior Warden: Barbara Collins
Junior Warden: Nelle Ely
Treasurer: Eric Wissmann
Clerk: Emily Hammerle

Vestry Members

Carmen Doughty
Jim Knox
Christine Molloy
Deborah Ripley
Elna Stone
Fred Stuart

What Is Father Craig & the Vestry Reading?

The Agile Church

Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age

Dwight J. Zscheile

I love this book for several reasons. First, it is hopeful. Dwight provides great practical and biblical advice. Secondly, the book blends insights from all kinds of fields: church, business, culture, sports, and life! We are desperate for this kind of integrative thinking to move us out of our church silos. Finally, it's just a plain, good read: easy to grasp, interesting and thought-provoking. It's a book I wish I had written.

Reggie McNeal

Bestselling author and missional leadership specialist

St. Peter's Community Dinner

March 30th at 5:30 p.m.

All are invited!!!

Come Join the Fun!!!

Bring the Children and Grandchildren

Easter Brunch

Our Easter Brunch will be held March 27, at 11 am in Harrison at the Olde Mill Tavern. Brunch is \$25.00 per person. There is an Easter Brunch Sign-Up Sheet on the table in the Narthex.

To confirm your reservation, one must sign-up and pay by March 21.

No reservations can be taken after March 21.

Make Checks payable to St. Peter's Episcopal Church and in the memo line write Easter Brunch.

In order to verify the number of people from St. Peter's with the restaurant there will be a check-in at the door.

Reflections from the Senior Warden

Greetings to everyone:

How are YOU? What is new in your life? What is happening with you? I hear we are reaching out--picking up the phone or sending email or mailing a note. Fr. Craig is busier than ever with pastoral care activities. It warms the heart to know we care to keep in touch with each other.

Leaping into March, we continue our Lenten practices. Thank you Barbara Marshall and friends who served a Lenten Luncheon. We gain a deeper understanding of what it means to know Christ and change our lives with spiritual growth. Acts of repentance show an intentional turning away from sin and turning to God. Acts 2:38 (NIV)...Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of you sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

How do we share this reflective time with each other?

Palm Sunday, March 20th, starts Holy week, with Easter, March 27th. Our Easter Brunch is at 11 a.m. at the Olde Mill Tavern in Harrison. The cost is \$25.00 per person and includes gratuity. Sign-up sheet in the narthex. Contributions gratefully accepted--see Eric.

Girl Scout Sunday is March 6th. We welcome Olivia Wentworth's Troop and Emily St. John's Troop to join us. Do you have any memorabilia (pins, badges, uniforms, etc.) to add to the display table?

The Vestry is meeting as a learning community (1) to set up Action Plans that address responses from the congregation's survey, (2) to conduct business, (3) to discuss THE AGILE CHURCH, (4) to grow with each other in Christian formation. Everyone is invited to join our mission, March 20th. We thank all of you who quietly and generously work on St. Peter's ministries with each other and outside the community.

Your thoughts are welcomed.

Barbara

March Lessons

<u>Date</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
06 Mar	Josh 5:9-12	32	2 Cor 5: 16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
13 Mar	Isaiah 43:16-21	126	Phil 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
	<u>The Liturgy of the Palms</u>			<u>Passion Play</u>
20 Mar	Isaiah 50:9a	31	Phil 2:5-11	Luke 19: 28-40
	<u>Maundy Thursday</u>			<u>Washing of Feet</u>
24 Mar	Ex: 1-14	116:1, 10-17	1 Cor 11:23-26	John 13: 1-17 31b-3
	<u>Good Friday</u>			
25 Mar	Isa: 52:13- 53:12	22 1-21	Heb 10:1-25	John 19: 1-37
	<u>Easter Day</u>			
26 Mar	Isa 65: 17-25	118:1-2 14-24	Acts 10:34-43	Luke 24: 1-12

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The St. Peter's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place after church on Easter Morning, Sunday, March 27th. Please donate wrapped candy or a small amount of cash for this fun-filled family event. We have plenty of plastic eggs that need to be stuffed.

To give us time to stuff the eggs, please bring candy to St. Peter's by March 20th; there is a basket in the Narthex.

If you would like to help hide the Easter eggs, please leave your name and contact information on the sheet in the basket.

Sandy Wissmann will contact you.

Spiritual Direction and Counsel in the Christian tradition

THE BEGINNINGS OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

The term 'spiritual direction' is usually applied to the cure of the souls when it involves the specific needs of one individual. Max Thurian's definition is a useful starting point. Spiritual direction, or the cure of the souls, is a seeking after the leading of the Holy Spirit in a given psychological and spiritual situation. Here the stress is on seeking and the seeking is mutual. The director, and the person who is being directed, are both seekers: they are both parts of a spiritual direction, a current of spirituality, a divine human process of relationship. Spirituality and spiritual life are not religious departments, walled-off areas of life. Rather the spiritual life is the life of the whole person directed towards God.

Nevertheless, the work of direction involves skill and training. So Martin Thornton (a noted Anglican theologian) related the work of ascetical theology in that of the director.

Ascetical theology is the practical doctrine of prayer, its techniques, methods and the disciplines which help to support and nurture it. Spiritual direction is its application by one skilled in the doctrine to the personal needs of individual people.

Thornton saw direction as the primary concern of the Christian priest or minister.

Source: Leach, Kenneth. *Soul Friend: Spiritual Direction in the Modern World*. Morehouse Publishing, 2001, page 2, beginning of Chapter 2.

Step 1 in Self-Examination: Admitting we are powerless

Admitting powerlessness runs contrary to many of our cultural messages that say, “Be strong! Be the master of your own destiny!” The admission of powerlessness also conflicts with the message that I can handle it!

Nevertheless, the central paradox of Step 1 is that the admission of complete defeat permits a life-transforming victory. The admission of being powerless over our behaviors actually becomes the foundation for the strength to eventually overcome the dependency on a behavior.

Admitting powerlessness is absolutely essential to breaking the habitual cycle of behavior which is made up of five points.

- 1. Pain**
- 2. Reaching out to a habitual behavior, such as work, food, sex, alcohol, dependent relationships to dull the pain**
- 3. Temporary anesthesia**
- 4. Negative consequences**
- 5. Shame and guilt, which results in more pain or low self-esteem**

For example, the workaholic who has low self-esteem (pain) begins the overwork (habitual behavior), which results in praise, success, and achievement (relief). However, as a rule, family relationships and his personal relationships with God suffer terribly because of preoccupation with work (negative consequences). The result is an even greater sense of shame and guilt because of inadequacies, both real and imagined, which brings him back to point 1 in the (habitual) behavior cycle). Now the workaholic feels compelled to work even harder to overcome his guilt.

Understanding the habitual behavior cycle is important because it helps explain why the admission of powerlessness is the first step in letting go and changing. Otherwise we will remain caught in an unending cycle of pain, shame and guilt especially if we rely on willpower alone, then the only thing we know to do is to escalate our habitual behavior to get out of the pain. Step one call us to do less—to yield, to surrender to God and to let go and let be.

Two factors keep the habitual behavior cycle spinning. They are FEAR of the loss of power that the habitual behavior gives us and, second, DENIAL that we have destructive habitual behaviors in the first place.

- 1. FEAR: The real fear of giving up our habitual behaviors is the loss of control. The paradox is that giving up our habitual behaviors will actually bring us back into a state of healthy control and begin the healing process.**
- 2. DENIAL: Breaking out of denial often requires a painful encounter with the consequences of our habitual behavior. Some 12 step programs call this hitting bottom.**

In conclusion: We should not be fearful that powerlessness will result in passivity. On the contrary, to admit powerlessness is to subordinate our human will to God's will so that we can become the most effective and potent instruments of God. Surrendering to the will of God allows us to become the person that God intended us to be in the first place. Surrendering allows us to reach our human potential as the children of God.

Source: Hemfelt, Dr. Robert and Dr. Richard Fowler. *Serenity*. Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1990, pages 22-25.

Directory Changes

The following are corrections for the Parish Directory:

*Jennifer Lain address:
29 Overlook Drive - Unit 103
Center Conway, NH 03813*

*Sandra Long email:
sandytlong@gmail.com*

*Gary & Sara Rogers email:
garysrogers47@gmail.com*

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes January 31. 2016

Present: Reverend Craig Hacker, Barbara Collins, Eric Wissmann, Nelle Ely, Carmen Doughty, Deb Ripley, Elna Stone, Chris Molloy, Jim Knox, Fred Stuart, Emily Hammerle

The meeting was opened with prayer at 10:20.

Trust Protocol: Barbara emphasized getting to know each other.

Setting the Norms: Things to remember as we work together:

1. Be kind to each other
2. Don't interrupt
3. Be transparent to the congregation
4. Be sensitive to personal items
5. Be representative to parish needs
6. Focus on topics and don't stray
7. Celebrate and have fun
8. Use efficient communication
9. Start on time and end on time

The Agile Church--will be discussed on Feb. 24, March 30, April 27 from 3-4 p.m.

A suggestion was made that the Vestry could present a short play using the Gospel during the Sunday service. Chris and Deb will brainstorm this.

Valentine cards were distributed to the vestry to be sent to church members.

Clerk's Report: The minutes of the December meeting were corrected to include Eric Wissmann as a convention delegate and to correct the spelling of Fred Stuart's last name. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: St. Peter's is doing well financially. Eric mentioned that he could use help Sunday mornings to count the offertory. Fred Stuart, Jim Knox, Carmen Doughty, Elna Stone and Chris Molloy volunteered to assist with this.

A motion was made and seconded to include the treasurer's report in the Fish Tales newsletter. The motion passed.

Junior Warden's Report: Nelle said that the painting work was finished. The goals for this year are to complete a new church sign for Route 302 and to make the memorial garden more attractive and user friendly. She suggested forming a committee to come up with some ideas.

Rector's Report: Father Craig passed out copies of the questionnaires that had been filled out by church members. They will be discussed at the Vestry Retreat. He asked that we choose three themes to discuss and suggested that we have a copy of the annual report with us as we read those questions. How do we define ourselves as St. Peter's? How do we get more youth in St. Peter's?

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Emily Hammerle
Clerk

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12-1 pm AA Meeting 3:30-4:30 pm choir	2 12-1 pm AA Meeting 12 noon Lenten Luncheon 6:30 pm Contemplative Prayer	3 9:30-11:30 am Women's Initiative 12-1 pm AA Meeting	4 12-1 pm AA Meeting	5 Fr Craig at Diocesan Council, Brunswick
6 <i>Girl Scout Sunday</i> 9 am Service and Sunday School In-Reach	7 12-1 pm AA Meeting	8 10am-12pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 10am Ecumenical Clergy Meeting 12-1 pm AA Meeting 3:30-4:30 pm choir	9 12-1 pm AA Meeting 12 noon Lenten Lunch at St. Joseph's	10 9:30-11:30 am Women's Initiative 12-1 pm AA Meeting	11 12-1 pm AA Meeting	12 TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR
13 9 am Service No Sunday School 11 am BHCC Service	14 12-1 pm AA Meeting	15 12-1 pm AA Meeting 3:30-4:30pm choir	16 12-1 pm AA Meeting 12 noon Lenten Lunch at St. Joseph's	17 9:30-11:30 am Women's Initiative 12-1 pm AA Meeting	18 12-1 pm AA Meeting	19
20 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9 am Service, no Sunday School Vestry Meeting	21 12-1 pm AA Meeting	22 10am-12pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 12-1 pm AA Meeting 3:30-4:30pm choir	23 12-1 pm AA Meeting 12 noon Lenten Lunch at St Joseph's	24 <i>Maundy Thursday 6PM</i> 9:30-11:30 am Women's Initiative 12-1 pm AA Meeting	25 <i>Good Friday 6PM</i> 12-1 pm AA Meeting	26
27 EASTER 9 am Service and no Sunday School 11AM BRUNCH OLDE MILL TAVERN	28 12-1 pm AA Meeting	29 12-1 pm AA Meeting 3:30-4:30pm choir	30 5:30 Community Dinner 7-8pm Vestry Book Discussion	31 9:30-11:30 am Women's Initiative 12-1 pm AA Meeting		