

# SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009

121<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

January 17, 2010  
9:00 AM

## QUALIFICATION FOR VOTERS

### Article I Section 6 of St. Peter's bylaws:

(a) All persons eighteen (18) and over who have been baptized and are members in good standing of the Parish and have been regular in their attendance at its worship and have contributed to the financial support of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church for the twelve (12) months prior to the annual or special meeting of the Parish which they attend, shall be qualified voters at such meeting.

(b) The presiding officer, after consultation with the Treasurer, shall have the sole responsibility for determining the qualification of voters present at annual or special meetings. The decision of the presiding officer shall be final.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR VESTRY

### Article II Section 1 of St. Peter's Bylaws:

There shall be two (2) Wardens and nine (9) Vestry members to be elected by ballot from persons qualified to vote in the annual meeting at which such officers are to be chosen. No person shall be eligible for election as warden unless he or she shall be also a communicant in good standing in the Protestant Episcopal Church. No person shall be eligible for election as Vestry member unless he or she shall have been baptized and is a communicant in good standing.

### Statements of Vestry Policy - Preamble

"The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God." BCP p. 856.

As a member of the Vestry, you are a leader and an example to the entire parish and community. It is therefore expected that you will fulfill the above expectation as stated in our Prayer Book, and will also commit yourself with God's help and to the best of your ability to the following:

1. Regular attendance and participation in Sunday worship services.
2. Regular attendance at the scheduled monthly meetings, and any other called meetings as shall be necessary to carry out the responsibilities of Parish Leadership. These meetings may be brief, but usually will last at least two hours. Your presence throughout the meeting is imperative. You will notify the Rector and/or Senior Warden in the case that you will not be able to attend, and will pick up minutes and monthly reports from the missed meeting as soon after as possible.
3. Support and participate in Parish activities in as far as you are able to do so, and will take on responsibilities for areas of Parish life as may be needed and requested of you in so far as you are able.
4. Regular prayer for the Rector, Vestry, ministry of the Parish, and parishioners (as may be needed.)
5. Support the financial needs of the Parish by pledging and by fulfilling your pledge commitment, unless making other arrangements with the Treasurer.
6. Study and learn the responsibilities of the Vestry as laid out in the *Vestry Resource Guide Volumes I & II* and other literature as may be distributed by the rector.
7. Attend and participate in an annual planning retreat and an annual organizational day (this to take place following the election of new Vestry members).
8. To be a public example for the entire community.

**REPORT TO THE PARISH OF NOMINATIONS  
RECEIVED FOR CONSIDERATION**

**CHURCH WARDEN WHOSE TERM EXPIRES IN JANUARY 2010**

Susan Peverley

**VESTRY MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE IN JANUARY 2010**

Cynthia DiStefano Karin Kind-DiResta Virginia Young

**NOMINEES**

**FOR CHURCH WARDEN**

William Crawford

**FOR THREE-YEAR VESTRY TERMS**

Cynthia DiStefano George Justice Virginia Young

**FOR ONE-YEAR UNEXPIRED VESTRY TERM**

Margaret Middlemiss

*We are electing one (1) Warden for a two-year term, and three (3) Vestry Members each for a three-year term and one(1) Vestry Member to complete a one-year unexpired term.*

*If there are nominations from the floor, then the name(s) will be added, provided they fulfill the qualifications.*

**CURRENT VESTRY MEMBERS**

Church Warden:	Marc Johnston	Class of 2011
Vestry Members:	Donald Metzник	Class of 2011
	Stephen Rogers	Class of 2011
	Robert Birch	Class of 2012
	Jeffery Flemming	Class of 2012
	Susanne Smith	Class of 2012

# MINUTES OF THE 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH JANUARY 18, 2009

Warden Susan Peverley opened the polls at 9:07 a.m. at the beginning of the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist. Nominations were announced: Warden (one position for a two-year term) Marc Johnston; Vestry (three positions for a three-year term) Robert Birch, Susanne Smith, Jeff Flemming; Vestry (one position for a one-year unexpired term) Virginia Young. Floor nominations were invited; none was forthcoming. The slate was accepted as presented:

Warden - Motion: Sue Burns; Second: Linda Brady

Three-year terms - Motion: Leslie Durant; Second: Nancy King

One-year term - Motion: Leslie Durant; Second: Nancy King

An announcement was made that the meeting would continue in the parish hall following the service.

The meeting re-convened at 10:36 in the parish hall, called to order by Warden Marc Johnston. Minutes from the 2008 Annual Meeting were approved: Motion: Malcolm Young; Second: Gary Hayes.

The Reverend David Sellery presented his Priest-in-Charge report with Power Point illustrations. The emphasis was on Renewing, Rejoicing and Welcoming, with areas covered including "A Dynamic Faith Community," "Challenges and Opportunities," "Our Mission," "Serving a Lifetime of Pastoral Needs," "A Ministry of Musical Excellence," "Spiritual Enrichment Initiatives," "Creating New Opportunities for Outreach and Fellowship," "Enhancing our Education Ministry," "Maintaining and Improving our Legacy of Buildings and Grounds" and "Communicating More Effectively." At the conclusion of the report, all were invited to join in an a cappella rendition of the last verse of the Doxology. The report is attached.

Susan Peverley presented her Warden's Report (in booklet).

John Cochrane presented the Treasurer's Report (attached). Mr. Cochrane explained that he meets once a month with the Finance Committee to review investments and the budget. This has been a difficult time with investments, but while the economy as a whole showed a decline of 38%, St. Peter's portfolio declined 25%. Endowment accounts provide \$60,000 a year to the parish for on-going expenses. We had a recovery of \$43,000 in the last month. Bruce Burns asked for a prediction of where things would be going in 2009 and he was told that the parish's financial advisor would cover that in his upcoming presentation.

Charles Hughes, St. Peter's financial advisor, was introduced. He said that he has been working with the parish since 1993. He found last year the most difficult he has experienced as an advisor over a period of twenty-five years. He described the Endowment Accounts as institutional (lasting a long time) and therefore we can afford to be patient. As a general historical perspective, volatility usually averages 19% a day; in October it was 85%. From October 2007 to October 2008, there was a 52% decline and all profits made since 2002 were wiped out. There are opportunities for the Church portfolio in investments in high quality instruments. He thinks we are in the middle of the worst period now and will be moving toward a period of expecting a recovery. He mentioned prior difficult times in 1975 and 1991. The Church has four accounts (attached orange sheet). The General Investment Account is more aggressively invested because its purpose is different from the Endowment Account, which was established in 2005 to produce \$50,000 in income. This shifted upward to \$60,000, and last year it produced \$65,000. The Endowment Account should be viewed like that of a retiree and should have 2 to 2 ½ years of income. We have more than 3 years. He ended by setting out a strategy for recovery of capital, with fixed income, US equities, and international or global investments.

Warden Marc Johnston presented the 2009 budget report (attached). 2008's budgeted deficit of \$81,000 actually came in at \$74,000. The 2009 deficit is projected at \$122,000. Adjustments were made to the 2009 proposed budget based on lower actual pledge income. An effort will be made to increase building use revenue. Telephone service has been switched from Verizon to lower cost Cablevision, and the possibility of obtaining grants will be explored.

Dr. John Caruso, Head of School, presented his report (included in the attached Annual Report booklet). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade program was implemented for the 2008-2009 school year and while it is losing money with its 6 students, next year there will be a class of 15. The school is the only one in New York State participating in an MIT grant program allowing 7<sup>th</sup> graders to work with underwater robots in conjunction with the Webb Institute. New expanded nursery programs will be offered. Dr. Caruso mentioned that four years ago, the school contributed \$64,000 to the Church; its contribution will soon be over \$130,000. He described St. Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Day School as a niche school which requires all incoming students to be on grade level and offers enrichment programs that appeal to parents of above average students.

Marc Johnston announced that Guild reports were in the booklet and he asked for any questions. Virginia Young said that the ECW's report had not been included. She wanted to assure the parish that the ECW was functioning and she invited all to attend meetings.

Kathy Malloy, our delegate to the Diocesan Convention, offered potential cost-saving information about health insurance for parish employees. The national church is working on a better way of funding. Now, each parish negotiates its own coverage for relatively few employees. A change to a nationwide plan to cover all churches is being explored with the hope that expenses for participating parishes will thereby diminish.

Departing Vestry members were recognized. Mike Ingham and Eloise Nelson were not present, but Bill Crawford was presented with a plaque.

Election results were formally announced. Winners were congratulated and asked to stand: Bob Birch, Susanne Smith, Jeff Flemming, Virginia Young.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Pool House - Marc Johnston provided an update on the continuing saga of the Pool House. The Suffolk County Department of Health Services has approved the plans. The Town of Islip required a re-drawing of the roof line to decrease its height. On December 17, the Islip Planning Board met to consider our request to redraw the property line around the shed so it would be on Church property and not have to be moved. The Board reserved decision.

Flooding - The builder of the Daniel's Way condominium development has become more attentive to possible responsibility for some of our problems, thanks to the intervention of State Senator Owen Johnson.

Marc Johnston asked if there were any NEW BUSINESS:

Sal Basile asked about the No Parking signs put up by Daniel's Way property owners along the cobblestone driveway between Montauk Highway and the condo entrance. Marc Johnston said that they do not own that property and the signs will be removed.

Charlie Becker had a question on the budget, asking where the money to meet expenses comes from if we do not budget enough to cover. Marc Johnston explained that money was transferred from the General Investment Account to close the \$74,000 deficit. In addition to the transfer out, the account lost \$90,000 last year, going from \$300,000 to \$186,000.

Linda Brady asked what would become of the pool. It will be filled-in eventually.

Clyde Payne offered thanks to all who contribute to the work of St. Peter's, to the Vestry and to Fr. Sellery, saying that this had been a very positive meeting.

Joy Wright called attention to her report (in booklet) on her pursuit of ordination to the Deaconate. She thanked the Church for its sponsorship.

Susan Pevery said that Marc Johnston is fantastic with finances and rarely gets thanked, so she wanted to do so.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m. Motion: Stewart McLaughlin; Second: Joy Wright.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia DiStefano  
For the Clerk of the Vestry

# WARDENS' REPORT

In our tenure as Wardens it seems we have come full circle, going from the leaving of our 11<sup>th</sup> Rector to the calling and Institution of our 12<sup>th</sup>.

The parish has changed in these past 6 years, but there do remain constants:

- sense of community
- prayerful support of the leadership
- financial challenges
- concern over the use of - and obtaining - resources

A new member of our Parish family is the Reverend Vivian Lam. When she joined our staff she was Deacon Lam; yesterday, she was made Priest in God's church. Her contributions to our community are many and include: Chaplain for our Day School, added clergy presence in our parish and the wider community, occasional preacher and general bright spark of youth, encouraging each of us on our individual journeys.

Of course thanks must be given to many, not only because it should be done but because so many have earned our thanks through dedication and hard work:

- the Vestries which have served through the years
- heads of organizations
- those teaching in and leading the church school
- our choirs and organist and choirmaster
- our parish administrator and those who work in the office
- the Head of School and the staff
- the clergy who have served us during the 'between times'

Just as important are all of you: the parishioners who have served with these leaders. This list could go on as we think about all who make what St Peter's is possible. It is awesome. and yet there is always room for more: more ideas, more challenges, more people to facilitate them.

One of the aims set at our vestry retreat was, of course, growth.

Using the Mission Statement as a guide, new programs have been instituted to reach out to the community and we have begun to see new families joining us for worship.

## Mission

We seek to worship the Lord as one loving family by serving our parish and community through prayer, music, education and outreach.

One of the prime focuses of our new bishop is ministry to the young people of our diocese. Our Day School addresses this ministry on a continuing basis. He also emphasized ministering to those whom we have called to minister to us, through prayer, joining with other clergy, not being isolated but working toward a Diocesan community of faith.

There are stiff challenges for us ahead ... not for only a chosen few or the leadership but for us as a community. We are encouraged to step out in faith. This does not mean we step out and wait for God to do our work. It does mean that we step out and move forward and accept with joy our corporate responsibilities as members of this place.

There are changes coming: “re-thinking” the Farm, determining how its ministry will go forward; dealing with the property. Jen Campbell has done a fantastic job making us aware of the benefits of organic gardening and her ministry at the Farm has gotten numbers of children in the Day School excited about where our food comes from and how it grows. Both mystery and magic. Now the baton is passed on to others who will help shape the direction this particular ministry will take. We must address our finances ... with a combination of expertise and faith.

The Bishop charged us with the corporate responsibility of supporting our parish. the “they” who used to dig into their pockets decades ago to provide money for our special needs are gone. “They” are now us: all of us. Giving what we can consistently. One of our former bishops told the story of how, from the time he was a child he was taught to tithe -1 penny to church from his 10 cents allowance. No exceptions; no excuses.

So we decide what we can give and give it consistently: make our promise and keep it.

We say the same people always do stuff. The only way to change that is by us becoming the people who always do stuff. There is so much each of us can do to strengthen and broaden the already active outreach to both the St Peter’s and wider communities. As we reach out Christ reaches in to give us further and increasing strength to sustain us as we move forward in faith.

Barbara Crafton wrote something that I quoted last year, and I think it bears remembering: So many things in life determine us that it’s easy to forget our own role in what happens. Not everything is visited upon us - I may not call all the shots in my life, but I call some of them.. I can’t change everything, but I can change some things. And every change in life, the change I author as well as the one that just falls from the sky and bonks me on the head, brings with it at least one road to travel that wasn’t there before. So there it is: new things will happen if you do a new thing. Whether doing the new thing makes you happy just thinking about it or scares you to death, it will bring something new into your life that wasn’t there. And you’ll have a hand in creating your own future.

So, there it is: it is up to us to create our own future here at St Peter’s in prayerful faith...

*Susan Peverley & Marc Johnston - Church Wardens*

## **ALTAR GUILD**

The year 2009 was a busy and challenging one. Father Sellery as our Rector and the Altar Guild have settled in nicely with a good working relationship.

Marge Middlemiss has made new Lenten orphreys (these are the banners that are hanging in front of the main altar), as well as the purple cover for the lectern, and Joan Derle has made new green orphreys that match the new green vestment set (stole, chasuble, burse and veil) that Father Sellery is wearing for Epiphany. The burse and veil were purchased with a donation from Ruth Richards and the cost of the remaining vestments was covered with proceeds from St. Peter’s anniversary dinner celebration. Thank you Ruth and the Vestry!

A thank you also goes to Heather Carmichael of Variety florist for donating the advent wreaths for the Christmas season. She also donates the flowers for the fifth Sunday throughout the year. Thank you Heather!

This past year we purchased our normal supplies: wine, wafers, candles, flowers, greens as well as five artificial trees that were on the high altar for Christmas. Did you realize that they were not real? This was done as a precautionary measure because of potential fire hazards. We will be using only greens, yes real greens, on the altar until Lent unless there is a special memorial or other occasion when flowers are requested.

One of the highlights of the church this past year was the ordination of Bishop Provenzano. St. Peter's Altar Guild loaned some vessels and linens for the celebration.

While the work of the altar guild goes on regardless of the circumstances, it is becoming increasingly difficult as two more members have left our fold due to illness in the family. Hopefully they will return at a later date. As a result, Father Sellery and I will be meeting to discuss possible new members. If you are interested in becoming a member of the altar guild, please consider joining us, you will not be sorry!

It is an honor & a pleasure to serve the Lord with these dedicated women. My thanks goes out to each and every one of you and also to Father Sellery for his patience and guidance.

Our work is dedicated to the glory of God with love & thanksgiving.

*Linda Brady - Altar Guild Directress*

## **READERS/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS/EUCHARISTIC VISITORS**

How blessed it is to serve in the house of the Lord! All of our Eucharistic ministers have served at St. Peter's for many years. Each volunteer is committed to serving God at the altar, assisting the clergy in administering communion as well as reading psalms and lessons. Schedules are prepared by the coordinator every three months to make sure all services are covered. While initially taking classes required by the diocese, training is continued here at St. Peter's to learn our traditions and serve our congregation.

Eucharistic visitors take communion to the sick and shut-ins at home or in hospitals and nursing homes. Visitors receive a kit during the Sunday service containing consecrated bread and wine to bring to those who cannot get to church. A version of the regular communion service is used during the visit. We are presently visiting Trudy Berge, Jack Berge and Marion King. Any parishioner may ask for home communion, long or short term. Simply call Father Sellery or the church office to request a visit.

Our current list of Eucharistic ministers and visitors are Sal Basile, Joan Derle, John Gianella, Gary Hayes, Lon King, Kathy Malloy, Clyde Payne, Linda Ruhl, Mike Shimskie, Tom Taylor, Don Middlemiss and Marge Middlemiss. Father Sellery and Deacon Lam also make regular visits to shut-ins and hospitals.

It is a very special privilege and blessing to serve the Lord and St. Peter's in this ministry. We welcome new members and invite you to consider joining us. If you feel called to serve in this way please speak to Father Sellery.

God blesses in many ways, expected and unexpected, for work done in His name.

*Marge Middlemiss - Coordinator*

## **LECTORS - 8:00 AM**

Faithful, dependable, willing to volunteer: all of these apply to the group who read the lessons at the early services throughout the year. Our gratitude goes to Linda Brady, Judy Thoelen, Marilyn Walser, Dawn Johnston, Nan King, Marian and Don Metzник and Sue Perry.

This is a ministry which can always use new members as well. If you would like to participate, please phone me at home 631-666-3647 or email me at [susanperry3647@msn.com](mailto:susanperry3647@msn.com)

*Susan Perry - Coordinator*

## **LECTORS - 10:15 AM**

Who is that person in the congregation going up to the altar to read one of the lessons? He or she is one of our lectors. This year we were blessed with new and seasoned lectors. On the second Sunday of the month during our family service, we welcomed youth lectors. Our thanks goes to Andie Leyrer, Angela Becker, Bevin Flemming, Chris Elton, Dr. Clyde Payne, Connie Harvey, Courtney Allen, Dan Sullivan, George Justice, Isaac Smith, Susanne Smith, Dr. John Caruso, Justin Allen, Kara Kind, Kathy Malloy, Lee Flemming, Matthew Helf, Peter Helf, Ryan Small, Ted Nagengast and Tochi Malize.

All are welcome to join our family of lectors. We have no set rotation, so whether you can volunteer regularly or once in a blue moon, we work with your schedule. Lectors receive the lesson in advance, so they have plenty of time to practice. If you would like to participate, please call me at 631-649-4129 or email me at [smithjr001@yahoo.com](mailto:smithjr001@yahoo.com)

*Susanne Smith - Coordinator*

## **MUSIC AT ST. PETER'S**

St. Peter's is the most musically appreciative and supportive congregation I have ever known. I know I speak for the Adult, Treble, and Handbell Choirs when I thank you for the opportunity you give us as musicians to serve the Lord and give weekly praise to our God.

**EVENSONG:** 2009 started off with a liturgical bang as our choir joined forces with the choir of Oyster Bay, NY for a joint evensong, once on the North Shore and once here at St. Peter's by-the-Sea. The combination of two of the finest choirs on Long Island made for a liturgical experience long to be remembered. An evensong in March featured a premiere of "Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester" by Stephen Paulus, considered one of the greatest living American composers. October's evensong was filled with joy and pride as Fr. Sellery was installed as our new rector by our new Bishop, Lawrence Provenzano. Dr. Gerre Hancock, a special friend of St. Peter's composed an anthem, premiered on the occasion. In November our Treble Choir gave their yearly evensong, singing beautifully the Service in G by Sumsion. The Lessons and Carols service in December had one of our largest congregations yet, and the presentation by all of our choirs was exemplary.

**CONCERTS:** Our Bachathon in February continued to be one of the most popular concerts with the Concerto for Four Harpsichords and Orchestra. Former Music Director Cynthia Holden returned to play one of the harpsichords. The choir sang Bach Cantata #147 in German with period instruments. In May, the highly anticipated concert by the Fisk Jubilee Singers took place before an enthusiastic audience including many visitors who came to St. Peter's for the first time. In light of the economy, I decided to play the first concert of the fall myself. Several months of hard practice allowed me to achieve performance levels in music I wanted to play for many years. (I have noticed that I still reap the benefits of that hard practice each Sunday when playing my voluntaries.)

**HYMN FESTIVAL:** Gerre Hancock returned to St. Peter's to lead our Hymn Festival in May. This particular event with shared costs was sponsored by the Suffolk, Nassau, and Queens chapters of the American Guild of Organists. The program was entitled *Easter Through the Eyes of the Mystics*. Dr. Hancock outdid himself and portions of the program were uploaded on Youtube. The combination of shared costs and the offering made this an event that completely paid for itself, a rarity for these kinds of things, and welcome indeed.

**FINANCES:** A Cabaret Evening in June presented by members of our choirs and friends managed to raise over \$3,000.00 for the Hedger Organ Fund, a designated fund for any major maintenance issues with our renowned pipe organ.

The Vestry generously helped with scholarship monies so that our Treble Choristers could go to the Royal School of Church Music Choir Camp in Wilkes Barre, PA. Seven of our kids (and Mr. Bailey) attended last summer, one of the largest groups there.

Our loyal cadre of *Friends of Music at St. Peter's* continues to "step up" and contribute generously to maintain our music fund. Since September 2009 to this date, \$5,000.00 has been donated by *Friends*. The music fund is not only used for concerts, in the past year it has covered expenses for evensong, accompanying organists, and orchestra for Sunday services, such as last November's All Saints' in which the choir sang Mozart's *Missa Brevis*.

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** I am so thankful for our Adult Choir who work week after week and show up Sunday after Sunday to provide such high standards in liturgy and music in our church. I am thankful for our superb Treble Choir who sing not only their Family Sunday requirement, but also go the extra mile to join the Adult Choir most Sundays, scurrying in from Church School to help us out with their exquisite voices. I am thankful for our Bell Choir who rehearse weekly and maneuver complicated schedules in order to lend their special skills and gifts to our worship. And finally, I am thankful for Fr. Sellery, Deacon Lam, Wendy Wessler, and you the congregation; all of whom make this such a wonderful place to be.

*Thomas Lee Bailey - Organist & Choirmaster*

## 8:00 AM USHERS

The Ushers at the Sunday 8am service here at St. Peter's function well. I have a wonderful group of people that are involved on a revolving basis. We have a rotation, but are flexible in switching, when the need arises. We are friendly and courteous to everyone who enters our church to worship. We treat each person with dignity, respect and a smile. We introduce ourselves to any newcomers and see if there are any activities that they might be interested in.

I would like to thank the people who have served during 2009: Bob and Kathy Birch, John and Betty Cochrane, Gary and Beryl Hayes, Marc and Dawn Johnston, Don and Marion Metzник, Richard and Marilyn Walser.

*Marc Johnston – Coordinator*

## **10:15 AM USHERS**

Ushers are responsible for greeting and welcoming everyone to St. Peter's by the Sea. We strive to maintain quiet in the Narthex so that those who are already seated in the church are not distracted. We encourage newcomers to fill out a pew card and to take a "welcome bag." We also select two people to carry the elements to the Altar during the Offertory. During the service, ushers count every person including the choir, clergy and all children. After the service is concluded, the ushers must straighten and turn the books in the pews, put-up the kneelers, remove any unnecessary papers or objects and sort the contents of the collection plates in the counting room.

The 10:15 ushers are divided into 5 teams with each team serving one Sunday per month, always on the same week of the month. We are presently a group of 25, and during 2009 three new ushers joined us: Bill Crawford, George Justice and Bob Stein. We also solicit volunteers for special holiday services such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. We regret the resignation of Bruce Burns and thank him for his decades of enthusiastic devotion to this ministry. Anita Hutcheson, who made all the ushering name badges and was a substitute, will also be missed as she begins her new life in South Carolina.

Our hope for 2010 is that more parishioners will take an interest in this important ministry and volunteer to serve, especially during the holidays when many of our regular ushers are away visiting their families. In particular we would welcome the opportunity to work with parents of Sunday School children. Please contact us or the Church office or speak to Father Sellery if you have questions or are interested in ushering at the 10:15 service.

Our current list of 10:15 ushers is as follows:

1st week--Bruce and Linda Rauch, Ellen Jung, Linda Ruhl

2nd week--Gil Derle, Eloise Nelson, Juanita Moon, Bill Crawford

3rd week--Charlie and Barbara Becker, Andrea Leyrer, Bob Stein

4th week--Ruth Belanger, Jeanette Emory, Angela Becker, Ada Ruth Richards

5th week--Leslie Durant, Don Aitken, Michael and Joanne Ingham

Substitutes--Connie Harvey, Sal Basile, Peter and Kathy Helf, George Justice

*Barbara & Charlie Becker – Coordinators*

## HEAD OF DAY SCHOOL REPORT

One of the many highlights of the 2008-2009 school year was the first eighth grade graduation from the Day School. All graduates are currently attending and succeeding at either private or parochial schools of their choice. Three of the graduates received academic scholarships. The middle school also inducted its first class into the Junior National Honor Society. Our middle school also participated in the Sea Perch Competition at Webb Institute. The underwater robotics program has been a huge success and is being utilized during the current academic year with different challenges. The elementary grades continue to expand the usage of our new mathematics and science programs with teachers utilizing the supplemental manipulatives and other hands-on activities to afford each student a greater opportunity to maximize academic achievement as teachers directed more instruction to meeting the learning styles of individual students. All teachers in our pre-kindergarten program are now utilizing the Scott-Foresman Literacy Program which provides teachers with the materials and techniques to take advantage of each student's reading readiness level.

Also new this school year was our inclusion in the Mock Trial Program, a new scrapbooking club, co-op review classes and our first inter-school soccer team.

The school results for the New York State Testing Program continued to be among the best in the State as follows:

Fourth Grade Mathematics-all students scored above the target range.

Fourth Grade English Language Arts-all students scored above the target range.

Fourth Grade Science-all students scored above the target range.

Fifth Grade Social Studies-all students scored above the target range.

Eighth Grade Mathematics-all students scored above the target range.

Eighth Grade English Language Arts-all students scored above the target range.

Our eighth grade students performed exceptionally well on the National French Examination with five students scoring in the top 10 in Suffolk County.

The 2009-2010 school year began with an enrollment of 186 students in nursery school through grade eight. This represents a decline of 16 students from the previous school year. While grades kindergarten through grade eight have remained relatively stable, we lost one nursery class and one pre-kindergarten class from last year. The depressed national and local economy plus the addition of Universal pre-kindergarten by many of our local school districts added to the drop in enrollment. This decline added to the financial issues of the Day School. A freeze in tuition rates last year, as recommended by the Board of Trustees, further cut into our revenues. A loss of two consecutive years will place our current deficit in excess of \$100,000.

The Board of Trustees approved a tuition increase of 3 ½% for all grades and a 5% increase for full day enrichment in our Nursery and pre-kindergarten program. A new recruitment strategy including direct mailings, an improved school web site and an active participation by the Parent Association in this year's "Open House" on January 23 should improve our overall performance during our enrollment drive. The Day School Annuities will be utilized to offset deficits.

There were three very notable additions to the Day School. Mrs. Linda Harris was hired as our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mr. Kevin Hutchins was hired as our middle school science teacher and Deacon Vivian Lam is now our school chaplain. Deacon Lam will be providing religious instruction for all grades, daily chapel and participation in the school's monthly Eucharist.

*John Blaise Caruso, Ed. D -Head of School*

## **DAY SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

This has been a very busy year for St. Peter's Day School. Linda Elton has successfully concluded her first year as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Clyde Payne has provided professional guidance and wisdom as the Board Secretary. Cooperation between the Church and Day School is wonderful with Sue Peverley, Linda Bonventure, Father Sellery and myself regularly attending school Board meetings. Most importantly, Deacon Vivian Lam is the new Church Chaplin and the children love her. She has been instrumental in augmenting the music program successfully teaching hymns and songs which the students apparently can't stop humming.

The education program itself is one of the best parochial school educations on Long Island. Many students have been inducted into the Nation Junior Honor Society Program securing outstanding grades on national achievement tests. Dr. Caruso and the teachers should be commended for their excellent work.

With respect to nuts and bolts operations, substantial improvements were made to the landscaping surrounding the school; the Day School By-Laws were completely revised and approved by the Vestry and the Day School's website underwent a major upgrade. In addition, the Board instituted a formal annual review of the Head of School and is undertaking a self assessment process for the Board members themselves.

The Board of Trustees conducted its first annual fundraiser for the Day School on October 29, 2009 at Timber Point Country Club. For a first time event it was highly successful with nearly 100 participants enjoying fine food and dancing.

Finally, the essence of the St. Peter's Episcopal Day School was on vivid display when the children conducted their Epiphany Pageant on Thursday, January 7th. The students read passages from the Bible, dressed like shepherds and kings and sang like angels. I was honored to be asked to light the candles at the beginning of the ceremony along with Linda Elton and Sue Peverley. Come join us next year to share the Christmas Magic.

*Michael F. Ingham - Chair*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our focus in Sunday School this year has been community service, giving back and helping others. The children and staff have reached out in a variety of ways. To start, the kids and Sunday School staff helped out the Sandwich Program this year, by assisting Mr. Rogers in the kitchen. The children, big and small, took over the sandwich program for a day. With guidance, the kids decorated lunch bags, packaged lunches, and made sandwiches, to be delivered. From the littlest to the largest, everyone was involved with his or her own special task. Another project was the creation of a quilt to celebrate Father's Sellery's call to Rector. The children and their families created squares to complete a joyous congratulatory work of art and presented it to Father Sellery. Yet another work of community outreach was the creation of crosses for the people attending the Sandwich Program Luncheon at Thanksgiving. One-of-a-kind cross necklaces were made by the kids and given to those that attended. In another spirit of giving, the older children made Advent wreaths to give away to family or friends. The enjoyment was twofold, one in the making and the other in the giving. Our final act of community service for the year was the creation of scarves for the Christmas Sandwich Program Luncheon. The kids cut and packaged these wonderfully soft, gorgeous gifts. Unfortunately, the scarves were not delivered due to the snowstorm.

Finally, Mrs. Small and I, with the generous assistance of Mrs. Elton, created new shepherds' costumes for the nativity procession. Headdresses, as well as robes, were made. Looking back, it is amazing to see the scope of service that the children of our parish have accomplished. In this season of giving, it reminds us that it is truly in the giving that we receive.

*Karin Kind-DiResta*

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCHWOMEN OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH

The organization now known as The Episcopal Churchwomen of St. Peter's Church was started in 1888 by a group of twenty-eight women, whose purpose was to promote charity, peace and humility among its members and to band together in Christian work. It was then known as the Guild of the Silver Cross of St. Peter's Parish. The guild had a constitution, a silver cross as its emblem and officers who were elected annually. Later it became known as St. Peter's Guild and, in 1973, the name was again changed to the Episcopal Churchwomen of St. Peter's Church.

*The present ECW continues to carry out the purposes of the original group. It accomplishes much in the raising of funds for support of the Parish and the Diocese and for support of missionary work - both domestic and foreign. (The above is from the ECW Constitution.)*

All women of the parish are considered to be members of the ECW and are welcome to attend the monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month (September to June) at 11:30 AM in the lounge. The meetings are planned to include worship, fellowship, outreach and fun. Lunch, provided by those attending, is an important part of every meeting. Part of the outreach of the ECW includes supporting the Sunday Sandwich Program by providing Christmas presents for three families. The ECW also coordinates the annual Christmas Fair contributing a large portion of the proceeds toward the church budget.

*Virginia Young*

## THE FARM AT ST. PETER'S

The Farm at St. Peter's completed its 8<sup>th</sup> successful season following organic growing practices. Harvesting began in early June and continued through October. The Farm has continued its successful relationship with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade science class of the Day School providing them with an important glimpse into where their food comes from as well as how it's grown. The outside classes at the Farm will begin again in March starting with seeding in the Green House all the way to harvesting early vegetables by the end of the school year.

In addition, the Farm has continued to host the Suffolk County Cornell Cooperative Extension's (CCE) Master Gardener program, the Bay Shore High School's student Community Service program, visits by members of the Long Island Horticultural Society as well as members of the Bay Shore community at large. The Farm also provided some excess produce to St. Patrick's RC Church's Hospitality Center to help meet the growing nutrition needs of the less fortunate of Bay Shore. Finally, the Farm will try to reconnect with St. Peter's Sunday Sandwich program to provide appropriate produce that can be used for their outreach effort.

As the second largest ministry of the Church the Farm is unique in several ways. It is open to all members of the community within the constraints of the amount of produce that can be grown on the property while continually seeking more parishioners to be part of the Farm (See the St. Peter's Farm bulletin board for contact information). It provides weekly produce for 45 or more families over five to six months -all from just one acre of land. Those members pay a fee to help cover the Farm Manager's salary and production costs. Members also provide a minimum of 25 hours of their labor over the course of the season. The Farm keeps in contact with its members through four to six newsletters annually providing Farm news, growing tips, photographs and recipes for using the produce. The Farm also maintains a website which is currently being updated and linked to the Church's website. 2009 was an eventful year for the Farm and its members. Jen Campbell, a parishioner and founder of the farm, resigned in December to pursue other interests. Although Farm members miss her initiative and "can do" spirit, many wanted to continue the organic farm program that she started. We can not thank Jen enough for her dedication to this ministry. Toward that end a small Farm Transition Committee composed of Leah White, Peter Pitzele, Charles Becker and Larry Malsam have sat down with the Vestry and a special Church Committee headed by Marge Middlemiss to address how the Farm should operate in the future.

A revised system of governance was established that will better maintain the lines of communication between Church and Farm members while more equitably distributing roles, responsibilities and workload among more people. The Farm Manager will now report to a larger Board of Directors (BOD) which will, in turn, report to the Vestry. The BOD, composed of both Church and Farm members, will have specific responsibilities and duties that will allow the Farm Manager to focus on growing the produce and directing the members in the work of the Farm. Interviews are currently being conducted for the Farm Manager position with a final decision to be made by the end of January.

We look forward to more parishioners joining the Farm to enjoy the community of like minded persons working in the earth and enjoying the fruits of their labor. We would invite all parishioners to take a walk back to the Farm and see it in operation, especially from June through October when the vegetables, herbs and flowers are at their most abundant.

*Larry Malsam*  
*Farm Transition Committee*

## OUTREACH

St. Peter's Outreach Program is supported solely by the kindness and generosity of our parishioners. And, although 2009 brought with it an economic crisis nationwide, our parishioners continued their generosity to the less fortunate as they have in prior years.

**EASTER** - This outreach program is similar to our Angel Tree Project at Christmas. St. Peter's provides empty baskets (*We reuse the baskets - please donate your used Easter baskets!*) and our parishioners take baskets home and fill them with Easter goodies, chocolates, candies and small toys. The baskets are returned to the church, and they distributed throughout our community through the Outreach Program. During 2009, a total of 15 baskets (up from 12 in 2008) were provided to the 8 children of homeless families temporarily housed in Suffolk County's Coalition Against Domestic Violence safe house, as well as 4 baskets for the elderly in our parish who are not able to attend services.

**THANKSGIVING** - Thanks to the generous donations of Linda and Victor Bonventre, Coordinators of St. Peter's Food Pantry, together with our students of St. Peter's by the Sea Day School, Kathy Malloy delivered two large cartons of non-perishable foods and other Thanksgiving fare to the domestic violence homeless shelter here in Bay Shore. Their extensive Thanksgiving dinner was made possible by the generosity of the parishioners of St. Peters.

**CHRISTMAS** - There were three boxes of non-perishable foods left over from Thanksgiving. On the first Sunday in December, Kathy Malloy delivered the boxes to the safe house in preparation for their Christmas dinner celebration. They were most surprised and grateful.

**St. Peter's Angel Tree** - Reflected the growing number of Long Islander's who are suffering financially. Please see the following itemized breakdown of Angel Tree "ornaments":

- Suffolk County Coalition against Domestic Violence: **10** (up from 9 children in 2008)
- Thursday's Child (Families with Aids): **44** (down from 46 in 2008) However, Thursday's Child Director/Founder Greg Noone reported a remarkable total of 384 children from 112 families received gifts this holy Christmas thanks to community organizations, of which St. Peter's was a major contributor. *Thank you all!*
- St. Peter's Sandwich Program (Ginny Young): **18** (representing local friends, and up from 13 names in 2008)
- St. Peter's Office (community families): **28** (initially 20, but Wendy received more requests.)
- St. Peter's elderly homebound parishioners: **2** (down from 4 in 2008)

*A note of importance: In 2008, a total of 13 names represented BOTH the St. Peter's Sandwich Program and local families who needed help with Christmas presents for their children. In 2009, that total number came to 44! One can clearly recognize how the devastation of our national economic crisis has hit our local community and our own parishioners! Let's remember all of them in our daily prayers.*

The grand total of holiday gifts in 2009 came to 102 Christmas gifts. *(A huge increase from 74 gifts donated in 2008.)*

Kathy Malloy delivered all of the Domestic Violence shelter gifts on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jen Campbell delivered the Thursday's Child gifts on December 22<sup>nd</sup> (due to the snowstorm.) Although Ginny Young's Holiday Luncheon for the Sandwich Program was cancelled due to the Sunday, 12/20/09 snowstorm, she managed to get her gifts to their proper owners before Christmas. Kathy Malloy delivered some late arrivals to Thursday's Child on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fr. and Mrs. Sellery made sure the gifts for our elderly homebound parishioners were delivered safe and sound.

Kathy Malloy, Jen Campbell, and Steve Rogers of the Outreach Committee thank everyone of our parish for helping to provide a wonderful Christmas for all of these families & children!

*Kathy Malloy - Coordinator*

## **BOY SCOUT TROOP 43**

2009 turned out to be an interesting year for the Troop. We gained some boys and lost some due to aging out and moving. But we are still going strong and have a group of Life Scouts now looking to do Eagle projects. We have already had one pick a project to do at St. Peter's and he is starting to do his write up for approval. Other boys will be starting to pick projects and do their write ups in the next month or so as we approach the warmer weather.

On another note, we have had a change of Scout Master. After over a decade of service to Troop 43 and St. Peter's, Mr. Maybeck is stepping down as Scoutmaster. He will remain on with the troop as a Committee member. Tom Merriweather has become the new Scoutmaster on the new 2010 Charter for the Troop. He has a young scout in the Troop and will do a great service to the Troop and St. Peter's.

In 2010 the Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Troop 43 will be celebrating it's 53<sup>rd</sup>. The Troop is very proud that for over 4 decades it has been chartered here at St. Peter's. We are looking forward to many more decades here at St. Peter's.

*James H. Maybeck - Scoutmaster*

## **FOOD PANTRY**

This ministry is sustained through monetary donations and food donations from various sources. The food pantry has provided well over 100 food bags to local needy families in 2009. The need was much more than in past years and we have tried to meet the demand. As in the past, the food pantry received monetary donations which combined with continued parishioner support helped to restock depleted pantry shelves and make this ministry self-sustaining. Your continued support of this ministry is needed and appreciated by many.

*Victor Bonventre*

## **CHURCH/SCHOOL OUTREACH**

The Church and Day School combined efforts in 2009 for the following outreach projects: 'Souper' Bowl Sunday, Lenten Food Drive, 'Socks for Saints', the Thanksgiving Food Drive and the Christmas Toy Drive. Added this year was the 'Food of the Month' program to help support the increased demand placed on the Food Pantry. These projects provided comfort to those who needed it most and were made possible by the many generous donations of God's people here at St. Peter's Church and Day School. Thank you all for your continued support of these important community outreach projects.

*Linda Bonventre*

## **NEXT STEP TOWARD ORDINATION: BP. PROVENZANO MAKES JOY WRIGHT A POSTULANT**

As you know, ordination is a process that takes some time! We have been in this process together for over three years. In December, Bp. Provenzano moved us a step closer, by making me a Postulant. Postulancy means I am finished with the Discernment Process and now start the Ordination Process, towards the intentional Diaconate. After further discernment and academic and practical education, the next step is to be named a Candidate for Holy Orders. The final step is Ordination to the order of Deacon.

As reported to you at 2008's Annual Meeting, Bishop Walker assigned me in February 2007 to St. Patrick's, Deer Park. This year besides, assisting with worship services and occasionally preaching there, I led a women's Bible study and helped with parish outreach projects. I also often led Sunday services at St. Lawrence of Canterbury, Dix Hills, who are currently without regular clergy help. Bp. Provenzano has asked me to continue this work.

The discernment process also continued as I took classes each semester at The Mercer School, our diocesan seminary in Garden City. 2009 included courses in American Church History, New Testament, Historical Theology, Global Christianity and Old Testament.

My outreach work in the wider community involved participating in Long Island C.A.N. and its broad-based community organizing efforts on community issues in both Nassau and Suffolk counties. This spring LICAN completed a successful year devoted to organizing a Nassau County summer jobs-for-youth program which included county, New York State and United Way funding. This combined effort more than doubled this year's jobs-for-youth program. These are the reasons why you haven't seen much of me in the past few years, especially on Sundays!

Thank you for walking with me since the beginning of this discernment process. Please continue your prayers and support in this next step. I thank you for sponsoring me and pledging your support and prayers as we continue to discern God's will and our way in this process.

*Joy Wright*

*Lord Jesus Christ  
Most Merciful Redeemer,  
Friend and Brother,  
Help us this day and everyday  
to see Thee more clearly,  
to follow Thee more nearly,  
to love Thee more dearly,  
For Thy Names Sake,  
Amen.*

*St. Richard's Prayer*