

The Epistle

January 2011

St. Peter's Church, Milford, CT

email: stpetersmilford@sbcglobal.net web: www.stpetersmilford.org
the Rev. Andrew G. Osmun, Rector

The Rector's View for January 2011

As I approach 2011, my focus is centered on two essential pieces of what happens here that have to work in order for us to follow God's call. The first is that the Purpose Statement has to become the actual purpose of the parish. This is an extraordinary challenge. It reminds me of the work we did on the building of St. Luke's Church in Chester before I was called to be Rector here at St. Peter's. The building had developed 'terminal' sag, which was obvious from the joints in the wooden tracery around the beams becoming cracks and then gaps which had developed in some cases to the point of allowing you to see right through them. The slate roof, replacing the cedar shingles, could no longer be supported by the structure which had been under-built (a common problem in cash starved congregations) to start with. The entire church was jacked up into the air, the foundation repaired, and the walls were drawn together over a period of 6 months so that the new footprint of the foundation matched the building above.



In our case, the new foundation has a whole new footprint. Our purpose no longer is simply to be Anglicans as it was for our founders, nor to build a building to make a statement to the community and beyond as it was for our Rector James Dixon Carder, whose purpose resulted in the finding of the plans for the church building erected in 1851 in which we now live. Indeed, the glory years for this parish under the Rev. Edward R. Taft, at which time a man's man became chaplain to the whole city of Milford and filled the church to the top, represented a very different purpose than the one which we have just articulated.

In this day and age of diversity and individualism, the Branding that went with Denominations is of less and less importance. What is of importance is to know God's purpose and to be intentional in working toward fulfilling it.

The second essential is the Vestry, the elected leaders of this parish. In my 11 year tenure in this parish there have been active and passive Vestries, there have been times of conflict and times of peace. What doesn't change is the absolute need in a congregation for strong, committed, active lay leadership. These leaders need to partner with the Rector and recognize that each member is essential to the functioning of the whole. What role does the Rector have? To use the football metaphor, the Rector is more like the coach than the quarterback, more like the center than the running back. (Yet too often I feel as if I am not only hiking the ball, but running it, throwing it, and trying to catch it downfield while blocking opposing players at the same time.)

In terms of Purpose, this is the year in which we need to move from statement to standard of action. In terms of the Vestry, this is the year when we need to raise up leaders, train them and equip them to move forward.

Have a thought – please let us know. Have a sense of call as a leader – please let us know. Know how to pray? Please ask God for help in these two areas.

A very happy New Year to each of you!

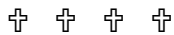
-- Andrew Osmun

Sunday Services

8 am Holy Eucharist *no music*
10 am Holy Eucharist *with music*

10 am Christian Formation
Coffee & Fellowship follows

Wednesday — Noon Eucharist
Thursday — Morning Prayer
8 am
Both held in the Chapel



February Epistle

Please email submissions you have for the next Epistle by January 17, 2011 to:
Stpetersmilford@sbcglobal.net

St. Peter's Purpose

Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Prepare Disciples

Care for the Community

Staff & Vestry Officers

Rector: Andrew Osmun
Assisting Priest: Angela Rowley
Sr. Warden: Mary Beth Saltzman
Jr. Warden: Richard Durazzo
Treasurer: Sharon MacKenzie
Christian Formation Director:
Karen Vital
Church Musician: Nathan Bontrager
Clerk pro tem: Diane Gendreau
Yale Divinity School Intern:
Matthew Schneider



January Birthdays

01/01 Brian Maslar
 01/08 Helen Pasenelli
 01/09 Tim Kringstad
 01/09 Marcy Mangels
 01/10 George Harrold
 01/10 Edward Pasenelli
 01/12 Gladys Wilson
 01/14 Tyler Lascola
 01/14 Fred Worsnop
 01/18 William Ritz
 01/19 Don Warren Jr.
 01/22 Jillian Pegnataro
 01/24 Jacque Anglin-Dixon
 01/28 Jared Gallbronner
 01/28 Lisa Jovanelly
 01/29 Erica Durazzo
 01/29 Nancy Lang
 01/30 Christopher Soracco

January Anniversaries

01/15 Kim & David Hulme
 01/31 Melissa & Ben
 Charlesworth

Condolences

Condolences to Barbara Wolfe and family for the loss of her brother,
 Kenneth S. Hall who died
 November 8th

New address:

Stanley would love to hear from you
 His new address is:
 Stanley Carman
 Ken Hawkins Apts. for
 Independent Living
 65 B Masonic Avenue,
 Wallingford, CT 06492

Report from the Treasurer –November 30, 2010 OPERATING ACCOUNT

Income	\$235,732.23
Expenses	<u>(226,123.22)</u>
Net Change	9,609.01

Our income has remained stable through the year. The Property Expenses have been less than budget. This is not to say that we don't have maintenance issues, but rather we haven't had any unexpected repair problems. The colder months will bring added expenses including snow removal. The Vestry reviews more detailed financial reports at their meetings. Copies of those reports are available upon request.

Sharon MacKenzie, Treasurer
stpetetreas@sbcglobal.net

E-Giving – is here. A way to pay your pledge and make other contributions to St. Peter's via our Website.

2011 Contribution Envelopes

If you have signed up for contribution envelopes for next year, they will be available in the church starting on November 28. Please be sure to pick yours up.

Food Bank Donations

St. Peter's continues its weekly collection for the Milford Food Bank at the Milford Senior Center. There is always a need for staples such as cereals, pasta, and peanut butter and jelly. Those items would be especially welcomed. *Please place all food donations in the basket located in the Narthex of the church.*

Altar Flowers

Flowers may be given as memorials, in thanksgiving, or to commemorate other celebrations such as birthdays or anniversaries. We ask for a donation of \$25 to cover the cost of the flowers. **January 16, 23 & 30 are available.** *If you are interested, please contact the Church Office.*

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is a ministry by and for those who attend worship on Sunday morning, after the 10:00 service. Coffee hour is only possible through volunteers and donations. St. Peter's supplies the coffee. You may choose to host on your own, or as a group. It is a great way to meet new parishioners and share in fellowship. Ask someone who has not hosted before to join you! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

January 2– *Available*
 January 9– *Available*
 January 16– *Available*
 January 23– *Available*
 January 30 – *Available*

Caring for the Community

You are invited to join one of the many Worship groups below. The contact person for each is listed.

Acolytes



An acolyte is also known as an altar server. Acolytes assist the clergy and laity of a congregation in the liturgies of the community gathered together to worship God. Any child age 11 or older and adults can serve. Acolytes assist the clergy in preparing the Eucharist as well as helping with the cleaning up process after communion. They are responsible for lighting the candles, leading the procession and recession by carrying the Cross and/or torches and lead the procession of the Gospel Book for the weekly Gospel reading and assist with bringing the offering to the altar after it has been collected. If you are interested in becoming an Acolyte, please contact the church office or Diane Gendreau at 203-874-8456 or by email at dgendre1@optonline.net

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild prepares all the things necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist. Members are also responsible for seeing that the altar is prepared for all weddings, funerals and baptisms. Teams of two people are scheduled each week. Members are on the schedule once every 4-5 weeks. For further information, please contact Sharon MacKenzie at smacknze@optonline.net

Greeters

Greeters are an essential part of our church. They are the first people to welcome guests and parishioners. Greeters also help parishioners find their name tags and provide visitors with name tags, increasing their comfort level and sense of welcome. They also help familiarize guests with our worship service, facility, child-care and church school. For further information, contact Debbi Smith at doras628@gmail.com



The Lay Ministers of St. Peter's

The lay ministers are trained laypersons -- men or women -- licensed by the Diocese of Connecticut to assist clergy in celebrating the various liturgical services of the church. Seventeen parishioners are currently licensed as lay ministers. On a typical Sunday at St. Peter's, a lay minister will announce and read the portion of the Psalter appointed for that day. He or she may hold the Gospel Book for the priest during the reading of the Gospel and he or she may assist acolytes by carrying the offering plates and the elements (bread and wine). One of the lay ministers usually leads the Prayers of the People and, most important, lay ministers licensed as chalice bearers distribute the wine (blood of Christ) during the Holy Eucharist. Occasionally lay ministers may be called upon to lead the service of Morning Prayer and to deliver homilies. Lay ministers who are licensed as Lay Eucharistic Ministers can make visits to the sick and shut-ins at their homes, convalescent facilities and hospitals, usually bringing the consecrated sacrament of Holy Communion from one of the Sunday services. With a few exceptions, this outreach has been dormant in recent years. If you are interested in joining the lay ministry, you should talk with Rector Andrew Osmun or Steve Winters, who heads the lay ministers. We would be pleased to have you join our ranks. For further information, contact Steve Winters at winters@wshu.org

Lectors

Lectors read an Old Testament and/or New Testament reading to the congregation during the service. Lectors are scheduled in advance and can expect to read about once a month. Lectors are expected to prepare by reading and reflecting on the meaning of the lesson during the week prior to their scheduled service. This is a very rewarding opportunity to actively participate in the worship service, and to make God's word come alive for your fellow believers. For further information, contact Paul Mangels at CTEngraver@aol.com

Ushers



Ushers do a lot more than pass out bulletins before the service starts. They are responsible for making sure the doors are unlocked, the lights are on and the temperature in the church is comfortable. They need to keep an eye on the seating and, if the church is getting full, assist in finding seats for worshippers. They take an accurate count of the congregation, worship participants and Christian Formation attendees. They collect the offertory, control the flow of communion, and tidy up the church after the service. They are also responsible for directing folks to different areas of the church they may not know how to get to (restrooms, child care areas etc.). If you are interested in becoming an Usher, please contact the church office or Diane Gendreau at 203-874-8456 or by email at dgendre1@optonline.net

Choir

Music plays an integral role at St. Peter's both as a tool for worship on Sunday mornings, a place for fellowship at weekly rehearsals, and as an extension of hospitality to the larger community. As Music Director, it is my hope that everyone in the parish can have some involvement with music despite perceived musical ability. If you play an instrument of any sort (really, anything at all) please let me know; there's nothing too big, small, or strange that can not be incorporated and used to enrich our worship. The choir is always open to new members. We work hard each week to prepare music and manage to have a great time together doing so. Your attendance and support at public concerts is a great way to extend the St. Peter's community to those we may not see on a Sunday morning. And finally, but of foremost importance, use the voice God has given you to sing strong every Sunday morning! Please email Nathan at bontrager.nathan@gmail.com

You are invited to join one of the Committees below.

Fellowship

The Fellowship Group of St. Peter's seeks to provide fellowship activities for the parishioners of St. Peter's. We also do activities that help to make our presence known in the community while fostering a sense of community and cooperation by the whole congregation. Volunteers are needed to help develop new ideas and to help with existing activities. Please email Dee at deegreen@optonline.net

Communications

The mission of the Communications Group is to effectively communicate the mission and ministry of St. Peter's with our Members (internal) and our Market (external) via the Website, Epistle, Bulletins, Brochures & Directories, Bulletin Boards, etc. Our goal is to keep information up to date and accessible. Ideas welcome. Please E-mail Mary Beth at miacozza@bswlaw.com

You are invited to join one of the many Outreach groups below.

Mission Opportunities

Volunteers are needed for our monthly dinners to serve a great meal to the homeless or anyone in need. With four teams you will be doing it three times a year. A great way to "Care for the Community" and enjoy fellowship. Call Brenda Thomason 203-878-9890.

There are many more opportunities over the year to help, such as Relay for Life, Salvation Army backpacks for Milford school children, a walk for the Homeless, helping with the many breakfasts to benefit Beth-El, Heifer, Juarez, Relay for Life, etc...

Pray for our missionaries Heidi and Russ Smith in Chile, Ian and Polly Montgomery in Peru, Jessie Osmun in South Africa and Gateway mission training center in El Paso. Pray for our mission trip to build a house in Mexico.

Financial support for all our endeavors is always needed. Mission funds do NOT come from your weekly offering. To support Mission use the envelopes at the back of church or write on your envelope- "Mission" or to be more specific "Heifer" or "Juarez".

We are always looking for new members for the Mission Committee with ideas and enthusiasm. Contact Deb Smith, Jean Shelton or Brenda Thomason

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Did you know that the St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry does more than knit prayer shawls? We also knit baby blankets for children baptized at St. Peter's. This year we have been knitting hats and scarves for Christmas-at-Sea, which is an outreach program of the Seaman's Church in New York City. Seaman's Church is a ministry of the national Episcopal Church. We meet on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Library. Come join us to learn how to knit, crochet or just to visit! For more information, please contact Linda Roti at 203 878-8910.

Preparing Disciples

You are invited to join a Bible Study group. Contact person is listed

Bible Study

Wednesdays 7p.m.-8:30p.m. in the Library at church. We are currently working our way through the Old Testament. All are welcome. Call Brenda Thomason 203-878-9890.

Fridays 1:30p.m.-3 to 4ish. Women's Bible study at various homes. We have great fellowship, so we never know exactly when we end. Call Brenda Thomason for info.

Tuesday Mornings 7 a.m., Bible Study Meets in the Rector's office and is focused on Books of the Bible - read through a chapter per week. We cover both New Testament books and Old Testament books. Each study closes with a short sharing round the circle and a prayer. Coffee is served! For more information contact Andrew Osmun or Paul Mangels.

Christian Formation

We offer Sunday morning classes to children in grades pre-K to seven, in classes broken down by grade. There are currently three classes, and we may be moving toward using four classes soon, based on our need.

We use a Curriculum called "Buzz" which is very hands-on and interactive for the kids. It offers a Bible lesson, craft, games, and music. About once a month, we keep all the children together for a group lesson. This is a great opportunity for the older children to step up and help the little ones, and these lessons are some of our most successful!

We have our steady teachers each Sunday to maintain consistency, but we are in need of volunteers each Sunday to assist in the classrooms. If you would like to help out, please contact Karen Vital, Director of Christian Formation, at karenvital@optimum.net.

Youth Group

We offer a youth program for grades 8 – 12. Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of every month, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Please contact Karen Vital, Director of Christian Formation.



St. Peter's Nativity (Outdoors)

Congratulations!

To the Vital family on the additions to their family!



**Karen, Fred, Macy, Kaya,
Lucas and Delia**



Safe Travel Angela

Day to Day Stewardship

Thank you to all those who posted their thoughts and ideas to the Day to Day Stewardship board in the parish hall. The board hosted six themes – Community, Talents, Gratitude, Caring, Participating and Conversation. Our hope was to express the many ways one can express giving.

Report on the 2011 Mission and Ministry Support Campaign

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

The 2011 Mission and Ministry Campaign has successfully concluded. Thank you for your commitment to St. Peter's. Your financial support will allow us to fund next year's budget at approximately the same level as last year, not an easy task given the state of economy.

Here is the tally of returned support forms and the associated gifts.

- Total number mailed = 134.
- Total responses to campaign = 102
- 2011 - Received 96 pledges = \$202,271.00
- 2010 - Received 94 pledges = \$204,782.00
- 44 pledges remained the same
- 28 pledges increased (15% increase from current year)
- 13 new pledges
- 11 pledges decreased
- 4 parishioners that pledged for 2010 have not responded to date.

In spite of a poor economy, many of us were able to maintain our pledges from last year while others were able to share more. Sincere thanks to the folks who joined us by pledging for the first time. Thanks for the continued support of those who give regularly. Together we will continue God's work in our community. Praise God for the success of this year's campaign! Please pray that God may bless the community of St. Peter's in the coming year as we seek to do His will.

-- The 2011 Mission and Ministry Committee

Heifer Int'l "Float the Ark" update:

Thank you to the "Brunch Bunch" and to everyone who came and enjoyed the good food and fellowship at the annual Thanksgiving Sunday brunch. Our net proceeds, including sale of baskets, minus our expenses, was \$566.36. To date we have brought our total donations to Heifer to \$5,480, exceeding our goal of \$5,000 and launching our 10th ARK!! Congratulations St. Peter's!

We are helping to develop programs that alleviate hunger and poverty around the world. For more information go to www.heifer.org.

Christian Formation

The Christmas Pageant was wonderful and the kids did a great job!



There will be **NO CLASSES** on January 2nd. See you all on January 9th!

Youth Group

The Youth Group ended the year with a Christmas Party and gift exchange. We will meet again on January 4th and 18th, 6-8pm.



Manos de Dios #4 News

The Juarez Mission team will be offering travel mugs with a stainless steel interior and acrylic outer shell for a minimum of a \$10.00 donation. The mugs are blue with white text and graphic. The front says St Peter's Church Milford, CT with the fish symbol and the back has the new purpose statement. They will be available at coffee hour starting 12/19/10.

The Juarez Mission Team will be offering T-shirts for a minimum donation of \$10.00 for shirts sized Youth Small to Adult Large and \$12.00 for shirts sized Adult XL- XXL. The shirts will be offered in three different designs on heather grey T-Shirts. Orders will be taken starting December 19th. Samples will be available of all of the designs during coffee hour.

Thanks,

The Green Family



Diane Gisela and her three children

Alan, Angelica & Cesar

Juarez Dinner – January 22

A delicious Italian dinner and silent auction is planned for January 22nd from 5-8 p.m. to raise funds for our fourth Mission trip to Anapra, Mexico. We will be building a 450 square foot house for a very deserving single mom and her three children. Please bring your friends, neighbors and their families. Tickets will be on sale from the Juarez team as a donation of \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. All donations are appreciated!

Year End Donations and Tax Reporting Notice

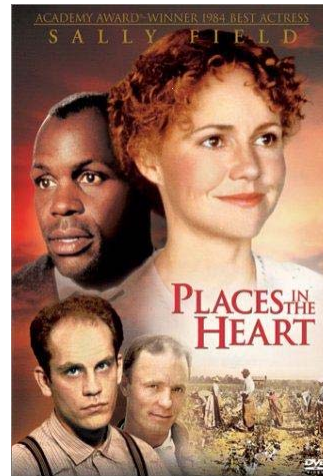
Those making Contributions and Pledge payments must *deliver* checks on or by December 31st or, *if mailing, the envelope containing the check must be postmarked* no later than December 31st in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2010. Checks that are placed in the church offering on the first or subsequent Sundays in 2011 *will not qualify for a charitable contribution for 2010*, even if the check is predated to 2010 or actually written in 2010.

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2010 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

-- Sharon MacKenzie, Treasurer

St. Peter's at the Movies: Places in the Heart

Sat., Jan. 15 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall



Join our seminarian, Matthew Schneider, for another night at the movies. This is the third in a four-part monthly movie series that Matthew is hosting on the theme of "forgiveness" with a brief discussion following the film. For our next movie, we will watch *Places in the Heart*, starring Sally Field, Danny Glover, John Malkovich, and Ed Harris—Field won her

second Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance. This story, which takes place in Depression era rural Texas, centers around a recently widowed woman and her family who attempt to run a cotton farm with the unlikely help of a blind man and an African-American man amidst racial and economic tensions. Therefore, for this installment, we will be discussing "forgiveness and community." The film is rated PG, so children with parents are welcome to attend this movie night; however, childcare will be available. Refreshments will be provided thanks to the Fellowship Committee.

Holiday Concert: A Huge Success

Close to 200 people packed St. Peter's Church sanctuary on Dec. 12 despite a heavy rainstorm for the special Christmas concert featuring the renowned Boys Choir from Trinity Church on the Green in New Haven and the Harpeggios, Connecticut's premier student harp ensemble.

The student groups lived up to their billing — and beyond — as they offered a “Sing, Choirs of Angels” concert that featured liturgical and popular music of the Christmas season. The groups performed together on several of the musical selections and offered individual performances of others. The audience had the opportunity to participate in three carols on the program.

A free will offering taken at the concert yielded \$483, which will be divided between the church's annual drive to float a Heifer International “Ark” and the upcoming fourth mission trip to Juarez, Mexico to construct a house for a family in need.

R. Walden Moore, director of music at Trinity, directed the Trinity Boys Choir, while Rebecca Squires, a Milford resident, directed the Harpeggios. Our own Thomas Scott, son of Lydia and Tom Scott, is a member of the Trinity Church Boys Choir.

A two-minute video includes clips of the concert as well as brief interviews with Mr. Moore and St. Peter's Rector Andrew Osmun on the Milford Patch Web site at:

<http://milford.patch.com/articles/trinity-boys-choir-and-harpists-thrill-st-peters-church#video-3897221>

St. Peter's hosted a reception for the concertgoers in the Parish Hall following the concert.

St. Peter's Purpose Statement

Our next Purpose Statement meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 4, at 7:00 p.m. St. Peter's Purpose Statement:

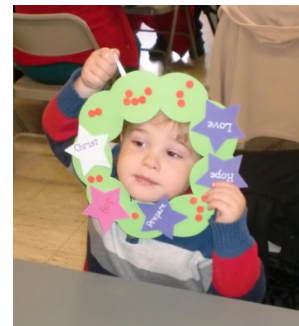
Sharing the Gospel
Preparing Disciples
Caring for the Community



Our Visit from St. Nicholas!

St. Nicholas surprised us this year by visiting on his saint day! He shared his history with the Christian Formation classes, and with the entire congregation, during the children's sermon. He gave each child a gold (chocolate) coin and asked that they

give it to a special adult. St. Nicholas assisted many young people in his day by giving them gold for dowries and other needs. Our St. Nicholas came to our potluck brunch after the service and once again gave out gold coins to the children to share with their families and friends. Many thanks to St. Nicholas for his visit! We look forward to seeing him again next year.



Fellowship

The Fellowship Group's next meeting will be January 3rd in the Parish Hall Library at 7:00 p.m. anyone interested in planning events for 2011 or finding out what we are all about is welcome to join us! This past year, the Fellowship Group held a Bunko Girl's Night Out, Parish Picnic, Movie Night and Arts & Crafts Fair. The group also helped coordinate the Annual Giving Tree. Thank you to all who made these events possible by volunteering their time, their baking skills and donations of water, and baskets. If you have any suggestions for events you would like to see in the future, please contact Gayanne Bristol, Carol Haponick, Dee Green, Brenda Thomason, Barbara Totten, or Jean Shelton.

MONTGOMERY NEWS - ADVENT 2010

....Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...
(Mk 3:3)

Shimmer, candles and tiny lights decorate our balcony as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. What else would He have us do to prepare a way for Him? What does that preparation look like here in Peru?

During September Ian and I settled into a well-situated apartment here in Lima and began our work. In October, we returned to the States for Katherine's wedding to Sam Sweet in Los Angeles—a glorious time! We flew back to Lima knowing my mother's health was failing, and within a week we flew to Ohio for her funeral. God was faithful and we all felt buoyed up by his love for us during this intense time. Now, we are back in downtown Lima where our ministry continues to evolve.

Ian has taken on new responsibilities with the Diocese of Peru. Along with Padre Jorge Aguilar, he has become a *Vicario Episcopal*— what we would call a Canon to the Ordinary. Both Ian and Jorge will give added oversight to the diocese and assist Bishop Godfrey in leadership of the diocese. This new responsibility will involve a fair bit of traveling in Peru and beyond. When possible, I will join him, paying my own way. Ian will also continue his work in the area of clergy formation and teaching at the seminary.

As for me, I continue to provide hospitality and learn the culture—from Spanish phrases to locating vacuum cleaner bags! Because my Spanish has improved, I find it easier (and more fun!) coming alongside Peruvian women to listen, laugh and pray. I am still hoping to bring Godly Play and Awana to Peru, but the doors have yet to open.

We want to thank you for your support of prayer, hospitality and finances. We felt covered in prayer during the stressful time of November. The last minute travel back to the States for the funeral was expensive—\$5000— so we need to replace that amount in our SAMS emergency fund. Ian's new position will also require more travel. Because of these matters, we are asking for more support for the new year ahead. Please pray about whether God would have you contribute to these needs.

We would love to see you here in Peru. We have a comfortable guest room ready for you!



Society of Anglican Missionaries and Scholars

We know that God is faithful and we trust in him completely. May you be blessed during the coming Christmas season as you help prepare the way for Him.

With love, *Polly and Ian*



Polly awarding Sunday School prizes



Polly escorted down the hill



Ian preaching in Spanish



Ian sharing banjo ministry

From Jesse Osmun's blog – Serving in the Peace Corp in South Africa

Jesse's address:
Jesse Osmun, PCV
C/O Umvoti Aids Centre
P.O. Box 716
Greytown, South Africa 33250

Write "Par Avion" and "Air Mail" on envelopes and boxes.
Check out Jesse's blog:
<http://jessesa.wordpress.com>



Giving

December 5, 2010

As the Xmas season closes in and my coworkers prepare to return to their families for the holidays, I have started to think more about the idea of things given-things that are presented to us or within us that didn't come from us. This is ironic because it seems that the society I am currently living in is about keeping and taking things, not giving them. The spirit of Ubuntu, the idea that one of us is the same as all of us, has been largely neglected in favor of sheer survival, greed, corruption, and violence. It is survivalism and individualism at their worst. Why should the average person living in South Africa consider giving when so much has been taken from them?

Still, I feel like I have been giver and receiver of things given here in South Africa, even when those things are immaterial. I gave myself and my ideas while uncertain about my role and my work, and received love and hope. I gave my time, my energy, and my values to people and projects I was wary of dealing with and I received peace, a new perspective, confidence, and joy. I gave respect, patience, and a space to listen to those around me, and I received their trust, their humility, and their friendship. When I gave, I received! What a great system! Right? Then why do so few people actually give?

A Gallup Survey that may surprise you:

Giving amongst those who identified as Religious

Generosity Worldwide, by Religious Attendance

Have you attended a place of worship or religious service within the last seven days?

Have you done any of the following in the past month?

Donated money to a charity? Volunteered your time to an organization?

Helped a stranger or someone you didn't know who needed help?

■ No, did not attend ■ Yes, attended



2005-2009

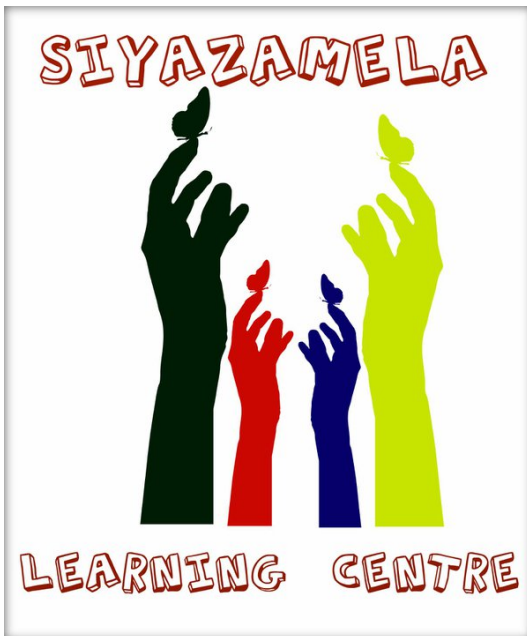
GALLUP POLL

Notice that these otherwise normal religious people (who only reported slightly more charitable interaction than non-religious people) put a great deal of effort into helping a stranger, but very little on volunteer service.. Why?

When thinking about this system, I started thinking about what "Service" means after reading a great blog post by Angie, a fellow PCV. Angie's post brings up so many good points about Service, mainly that it is not an act of doing for someone, but rather in its best form, a mutual relationship that leaves both parties changed. In this case, receiving is just as important as giving. If your service is all about giving, but you cannot or will not open up to receive from those you serve, your service will be less inspired, mundane, and routine. When you serve, you should be ready to receive from your community, even if what you receive isn't always easy to accept or not what you expected to receive. There is no door prize for being a Peace Corps volunteer. Our motivation as a giver should go beyond the physical project or the outcome. Sure we all want a positive outcome, that's key to development work everywhere, but we can't neglect the forming of relationships between giver and

receiver in the process. Both can learn from each other, and when there is mutual understanding, you move beyond the power structures of powerful and powerless, charitable and needy, and start to form a bond of mutual goal setting and teamwork. The other problem with simply being a Giver is that we can become ungrateful. After all I do, I may not get support, clarity, or even a "Thank You" for the long hours I put in to my work. "How dare they!" you probably thought to yourself, "Don't they understand all that *I* do for *them*?" I often don't hear "Thank You" on a regular basis, but I've gotten used to that. It's not that my work doesn't deserve it, or that those I help are rude, but rather that in this culture it is assumed that I know the value of my work by what it produces. I should know by my interactions that what I am doing is appreciated. I may give, give, give and not see immediate results. I must give that up. It's not about the recognition, or the Thank You, or the reward of a job well done. I am giving because I don't know how to *not* give! I am giving because my soul needs to, and my heart wants to, and my mind intends to! I am giving because I cannot support a way of life where what I have, my STUFF, and my Ego, take precedence over God, my community, and my family. I cannot, no, I WILL NOT be co-opted into a slow death of selfishness and greed, and one off "feel-good" experiences of pseudo-service at the expense of others because it makes me feel better about myself as a man.

The Siyazamela – An Initiative of Jesse's



The Siyazamela ("We Are Striving") Learning Centre is a Peace Corps Partnership initiative of Jesse Osmun, a committed Christian PCV serving in rural KwaZulu Natal South Africa, the heartland of the AIDS Epidemic in the country

"Bringing Hope By Opening Minds"

Children in the rural town of Greytown, KwaZulu Natal, have almost no opportunities for after-school enrichment, and many end up resorting to unhealthy behaviors such as drinking and drug use, unprotected sex, petty crime, and vandalism to deal with boredom and the lack of structured activities.

Compounding this issue is the limited academic support given to struggling learners in schools. Many of these students do not get the one-on-one support they need to succeed in their studies and fully reap the benefits of an education. Without access to a safe, nurturing, and fun place to be after school ends, many opportunities to inspire and empower the young minds that call this rural area home are being wasted. The community wants to address this problem by giving local youth a viable alternative.

The Siyazamela Learning Centre is an ambitious youth development project focused on creating a fully equipped learning centre for over 45 children to learn, explore, and create on a weekly basis. The present building that the Learning Centre will be housed in is self-contained room attached to a factory with windows and ample room for at least 50 learners. The room currently contains some tables and chairs for students as well as a bookshelf. We are in the process of cleaning, spackling, and painting the walls to make the space more inviting. We would like to have 2-3 computers for students to use, a blackboard, storage for arts and crafts materials, educational toys and games, a DVD player and Screen.

Please visit the link below to donate:

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?she...>



Meet Helen and Ed Pasenelli

Some of the more familiar faces at St. Peter's over the past 40 years are those of Helen and Ed Pasenelli. After relocating in Milford in 1968, the Pasenelli's have been active participants in the congregation and have witnessed the growth and evolution of our community.

Helen and Ed met while studying French Language and Literature at the University of Bridgeport. Their love of language blossomed into their own love and they were married in 1953. Helen wanted to be a high school French teacher. However, in 1952, "there were few job openings in high schools due to the fact that many military personnel returned home after the war" she explains. Therefore, she began her career in education when she accepted a position as a fifth grade teacher in New Canaan, Connecticut. Although Ed was fluent in Russian, French and Spanish his dreams of becoming a translator at the United Nations were dashed by the fact that they would not hire anyone to translate, who was not a native of the country he worked for. Ed decided to enter the credit field.

After a brief move to New Jersey, they returned to Bridgeport in 1962. In 1968, they found their dream home on Gulf Street in Milford where they live now and have raised their three sons, Mike, Bobby and Bill. Their home has a story of its own. Built by Captain Ford, an oyster boat captain, sometime in the mid 19th century, it has all the charm and character of that time. Although the current records are somewhat sketchy, Helen proudly provides the history of the home and all the additions and revisions it has undergone over the past 150 years.

In Milford, Helen returned to teaching grades 6 and 7 at Calf Pen Meadow School, where she stayed for 25 years, until she retired in 1993. Ed worked for Buckley Fuel and Seymour Oil as a credit manager. He retired in 1996 for one year. He was called back to work and remained on the job until 2006.

Helen and Ed are enjoying their retirement years, taking time to travel and see the world. Over the years, they have satisfied their travel bug with frequent bus trips throughout the United States and Canada. However, more recently, they prefer cruises to faraway places that include Alaska (twice), Hawaii, Morocco, Italy, Spain Portugal, England, Scotland, Bermuda, and various Caribbean Islands. Helen sings with the Senior Center Gospel Choir and cultivates her creative side with German and Polish paper cutting. Many of her beautiful creations adorn the walls of their lovely home. She also enjoys playing Scrabble on the computer. Ed enjoys spending his time reading history novels, exercising, working on the computer, and playing chess with his grandchildren. They both enjoy spending time with their family.

The couple enjoys being part of the St. Peter's community and is enthusiastic about what Andrew has done since his arrival in November of 1999. Ed associates his participation in The Alpha Course and Bible study classes to a renewed commitment to the Church. "I was a sporadic church-goer for many years, he confesses, but the Alpha Course changed all of that". Helen helps out at St. Peter's by contributing to the monthly Epistle while Ed took on his new role as an usher at Sunday Mass. Together they still enjoy the Bible study classes that take place weekly. "We have seen many positive changes at St. Peter's over the years and really enjoy being part of the friendly community that has evolved over time," Helen states with a satisfied smile. The St. Peter's community is smiling too, because of fine folks like Helen and Ed that make the church a great place to meet friends and practice our faith.

Joe Meade

Living a Life of Generosity

by Rick Warren

"Give freely and spontaneously. Don't have a stingy heart. The way you handle matters like this triggers God's blessing in everything you do, in all your work and ventures." Deuteronomy 15:10 (MSG)

God is a generous God. Everything you have in life is because God gave it to you. It's a gift. It's God's generosity.

"But I don't give to get a blessing. I give to be a blessing. Do you see the difference there?"

God wants us to follow his example. He wants us to create a spiritual legacy of generosity. We do this by learning to be a giver, not a taker. Our culture is all about being self-serving. It encourages us to take, take, take. It's all about

acquiring money and things, like that bumper sticker that says, "He who dies with the most toys, wins."

But God says that's not the way it is. I love how *The Message* paraphrases our verse today, *"Give freely and spontaneously. Don't have a stingy heart. The way you handle matters like this triggers God's blessing in everything you do, in all your work and ventures."*

As a pastor, I care about you and I want God's blessing on all your work. I want God's blessing on all your ventures. I want God's blessing to be triggered in your life. The Bible says the only way that happens is by learning to be generous.

Now, this is important. I don't give to *get* a blessing. I give to *be* a blessing. Do you see the difference there?

To give in order to get is the wrong motivation. I give to be a blessing, not to get a blessing. But when I continue to give more and more away, God makes sure he out gives me.

The Bible is full of promises about generosity. God says that if you trust him and give generously, he will bless your wealth, your health, you family, your career, your time, your past, your present and your future.

What a way to create a lasting spiritual legacy!

JANUARY 2011 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DATE	SERVICE TIME	ACOLYTE	LAY MINISTER	LECTOR	READINGS	USHER	GREETER	CHILD CARE
January 2, 2011	8:00 AM	L. Gustafson	G. Bristol	S. Callahan	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	B. Kuhar L. MacKenzie	B. Neilson	
2nd Sunday after Christmas	10:00 AM	D. Bibens P. Bell	D. Pinsince P. Smith	B. VanBrederode B. Watkins	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	R. Eldridge J. Carter	D. Smith M. Bibens Jr.	W. Bibens A. Smith
January 9, 2011	8:00 AM	H. Kropitis	F. Callahan	G. Bristol	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43	C. Bristol E. Pasenelli	M. Schneider	
Sunday after Epiphany Baptism of Christ	10:00 AM	M. Bibens K. Carriero	S. Winters J. Pinsince	D. Bryson C. Franz	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43	M. Ritz K. Pegnataro	M. Schneider G. Burrows	C. Ritz M. Gendreau
January 16, 2011	8:00 AM	D. Gendreau	S. Callahan	K. Gammage	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9	P. Austin B. Broughton	A. Fredericks	
2nd Sunday after Epiphany	10:00AM	W. Bibens M. Gendreau	B. Lewis D. Green	R. Eldridge J. Geoghegan	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9	F. Hopkins P. Smith	L. Wonneberger S. Peck	P. Bell E. Durazzo
January 23, 2011	8:00 AM	C. Cunningham	D. Warren M. Schneider	B. Neilson	Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	G. Bristol A. Fredericks	S. Giambra	
3rd Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 AM	E. Durazzo R. Fraleigh	M. Schneider D. Smith	L. Wonneberger P. Watson	Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	B. McDonald D. Bryson	M. Bucciarelli J. Bryson	S. Kringstadt W. Bibens
January 30, 2011	8:00AM	L. Gustafson	G. Bristol	S. MacKenzie	Micah 6:1-8 1 Corinthians 1:18-31	L. MacKenzie B. Kuhar	E. Luysterborghs	
4th Sunday after Epiphany	10:00AM	D. Bibens K. Carriero	D. Pinsince P. Smith	R. Fohrenbach J. Bryson	Micah 6:1-8 1 Corinthians 1:18-31	R. Fohrenbach R. Eldridge	M. Ritz D. Pinsince	P. Bell C. Ritz

FEBRUARY 2011 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DATE	SERVICE TIME	ACOLYTE	LAY MINISTER	LECTOR	READINGS	USHER	GREETER	CHILD CARE
February 6, 2011	8:00 AM	M. Schneider H. Kropitis	F. Callahan	S. Callahan	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	E. Pasenelli P. Austin	J. Piscitelli	
5th Sunday after								A. Smith M. Gendreau
Epiphany	10:00 AM	M. Bibens E. Durazzo	S. Winters J. Pinsince	D. Smith L. Wonneberger	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	M. Ritz P. Smith	M. Saltzman D. Smith	
February 13, 2011	8:00 AM	D. Gendreau	S. Callahan	K. Gammage	Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20 1 Corinthians 3:1-9	B. Broughton B. Kuhar	B. Neilson	
6th Sunday after								E. Durazzo
Epiphany	10:00 AM	M. Gendreau R. Fraleigh	P. Smith D. Green	R. Fohrenbach P. Watson	Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20 1 Corinthians 3:1-9	K. Pegnataro F. Hopkins	L. Wonneberger G. Burrows	W. Bibens
February 20, 2011	8:00 AM	C. Cunningham	M. Schneider	B. Neilson	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23	A. Fredericks L. MacKenzie	A. Swanepoel	
2nd Sunday after								S. Kringstadt
Epiphany	10:00AM	K. Carriero P. Bell	M. Schneider D. Pinsince	J. Bryson B. VanBrederode	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23	D. Bryson J. Carter	M. Bibens S. Peck	A. Smith
February 27, 2011	8:00 AM	L. Gustafson	F. Callahan	S. MacKenzie	Isaiah 49:8-16a 1 Corinthians 4:1-5	E. Pasenelli P. Austin	A. Fredericks	
3rd Sunday after								C. Ritz
Epiphany	10:00 AM	D. Bibens W. Bibens	D. Smith B. Lewis	B. Watkins C. Franz	Isaiah 49:8-16a 1 Corinthians 4:1-5	R. Fohrenbach B. Eldridge	M. Bucciarelli M. Ritz	P. Bell





St. Peter's Church

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January, 2011



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 <i>A BLESSED NEW YEAR</i>
2 Christmas 2 Holy Eucharist 8 a.m. NO Christian Form Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.	3 Fellowship Group 7:00 p.m.	4 Youth Group 6—8 p.m. Purpose Statement Meeting 7:00 p.m.	5 Holy Eucharist noon	6 Morning Prayer 8 a.m. Adult Choir 7:00-8:30 p.m.	7	8
9 Epiphany 1 Holy Eucharist 8 a.m. Christian Form 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10 a.m. Liturgy Meeting noon	10	11	12 Holy Eucharist noon	13 Morning Prayer 8 a.m. Adult Choir 7:00-8:30 p.m. Outreach Dinner 5-7 p.m.	14	15 Movie Night with Matt Schneider 6:30 p.m. Parish Hall
16 Epiphany 2 Holy Eucharist 8 a.m. Christian Form 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.	17  February Epistle Deadline	18 Youth Group 6—8 p.m. Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.	19 NO HOLY EUCARIST ANDREW AWAY SAM-S	20 Morning Prayer 8 a.m. Adult Choir 7:00-8:30 p.m. ANDREW AWAY	21 ANDREW AWAY	22  Juarez Pasta Dinner 5-8 p.m.
23 Epiphany 3 Holy Eucharist 8 a.m. Christian Form 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.	24	25 Prayer Shawl 7-9 p.m. ANDREW AWAY	26 NO HOLY EUCARIST ANDREW AWAY	27 Morning Prayer 8 a.m. Adult Choir 7:00-8:30 p.m. ANDREW AWAY	28 ANDREW AWAY	29 ANDREW AWAY
30 Epiphany 4 Holy Eucharist 8 a.m. Christian Form 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10 a.m. ANDREW AWAY	31 ANDREW AWAY					