



# The Fisherman's Net "Catch the Spirit"

St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
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## AUGUST 2010

**Pastor's Pen** *Fr. David Couper*

### **The End of Church as We Know It?**

Back in the late 1990's, I came across Mike Regele's, *The Death of the Church*. Regele described the fundamental societal restructuring that was going on -- a major societal transformation not unlike two earlier major restructurings of society: the Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the Industrial Revolution of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. But reading about the future, of course, is a lot different than living it. Today, we are living it!

What we are going through is a major change in our national story. For most of our history, America's story was one told by white, northern Europeans who came here to find religious and political freedom and economic opportunity. But today, we no longer have one story, but many stories. There are Hispanic, Asian, and Middle Eastern stories and others along with our white, European story. No longer does one, singular story dominates, or gives meaning to, the American experience.

This is a change that will be greater than anything white, European Americans have ever known or experienced. Along with a change in our national story, we are also experience a change in our church story. Since 1965, every major Christian denomination in America has significantly declined in membership and those who still choose to remain are much different than the general population today -- they are much older and much whiter. It is now estimated that over 50 percent of Americans have no organized faith involvement -- no church story (or if they have one, it no longer has meaning to them). Americans are not growing less religious, nor are they giving up on God, it is just that they no longer choose to participate in a traditional Christian denomination. (I happen to think Americans just got sick and tired of the "mean-spiritedness" of many places where Christians congregate and the discrepancy between what Christians say and what they do).

What do we need to do; those of us who choose to "do" church? Three things come to mind. Think about them:

1. The Christian church will have to start effectively communicating and living

the central message of Jesus; namely to totally love God and totally love our “neighbor” (the next person you meet – no exceptions!).

2. The church will have to do this within a multicultural world in which it now exists. This should not dilute the Message, but rather to make it *believable, understandable,* and *relevant.* Remember, it's not what the church says, but what it *does.*

3. The church must meet the spiritual needs of people that go beyond culture and personality. People will continue to seek three important things from organized religion: meaning in life, forgiveness, and healing. If the church doesn't or can't do that, then it ought to quit saying it is a church of Jesus!

Friends, what all this boils down to is this: tomorrow's Christian church will have to be a place where everyone is unconditionally welcomed and loved, a place where the worship is joyful, spiritual gifts are present and practiced, the teaching is true, justice is pursued, and a life with meaning is found.

Are you up for this? Will you help make this happen at St Peter's? Be the church Jesus died for?

## St. Peter's New Phone Number

St. Peter's has gone back to having a phone in the undercroft. Due to the change from Vonnage back to AT & T, we were unable to get back our old phone number. So, write this new number down: **262-966-7213.** The new number will be activated on July 27. The phone has an answering machine attached to it. We will also have an outgoing message as soon as the number is activated. Remember the new phone number: **262-966-7213**

## Remember This: God won't ask —

- \*the square footage of your house, but how many people you welcomed into your home.
- \*how many friends you had, but how many people to whom you were a friend.
- \*what you did to protect your rights, but what you did to protect the rights of others.
- \*in what neighborhood you lived, but how you treated your neighbors.
- \*how many times your deeds matched your words, but how many times they didn't.
- \*how many material possessions you had, but if they dictated your life.

## Calendar & Times

		<u>Scheduled Reader</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
August 1, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Mary Buerosse	Medd
August 8, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Kathy Marks	Medd
August 15, Sunday	8:00 AM <b>Vestry Meeting</b>		
	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Helen Ackley	Dyrod
August 22, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Pete Buerosse	Ackley
	11:30 AM <b>St. Peter's Annual Picnic</b>		
August 29, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Charlie Brumder	Ackley

## Lessons for August

<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Aug. 1 Hosea 11:1-11	107:1-9, 43	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
Aug. 8 Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	50:1-8, 23-24	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
Aug. 15 Isaiah 5:1-7	80:1-2, 8-18	Hebrews 11:29—12:2	Luke 12:49-56
Aug. 22 Jeremiah 1:4-10	71:1-6	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
Aug. 29 Jeremiah 2:4-13	81:1, 10-16	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14

## Remember in Your Prayers

*“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” (1John 5:14-15)*

- \*Pray for the people of Milwaukee and surrounding areas who are struggling with flooding after the recent heavy rains.
- \*Pray for the people in the Gulf Coast regions, especially Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida, who are suffering from the massive oil spill.
- \*Pray for peace in the world, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran. Pray for our soldiers. Remember especially Umi and Costin.
- \*Pray for the hungry, the jobless, the homeless and those who see no hope in their lives.
- \*Pray that our leaders, both national and local, make good decisions for our country and cities.
- \*Pray for the Millennium Goals, especially to eradicate hunger and poverty.
- \*Pray for St. Peter’s and its family, for the present and the future, that we may grow in Christ and be his light to the world.

## Let’s Celebrate!

### Happy Birthday

August 12, David Claude  
August 13, Jerry Hayes  
August 17, Rev. Jim Kaestner  
August 19, Judy Kaestner

### Happy Anniversary

August 2, Rusty & Diane Olson  
August 14, Jerry & Tricia Hayes  
August 25, Eric & Dorina Dyrud

If we have missed you birthday or anniversary or listed it incorrectly, **please let us know so we may celebrate with you!** Submissions or corrections may be sent to the editor.

## The Spirit at Work!

- \*The **Vestry Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, August 15 at 8:00 AM. All parishioners are welcome to attend any Vestry Meeting. Speak to a Vestry member if you would like them to consider or discuss a topic of concern or interest. Vestry Members: Helen Ackley, David Abbott, Kathy Marks, Stephanie Naze, David Claude, Andy Marks, Sr. Warden, Steve Marks, Jr. Warden, Mary Buerosse, Treasurer.
- \*St. Peter’s Annual Picnic is Sunday, August 22! Plan to attend and have some fun!
- \*Members of St. Peter’s were pictured in the Tuesday, June 15th edition of the Lake Country Reporter presenting Charlie Brumder a check for Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Foundation for the proceeds of the May Rummage Sale to benefit the Playroom of Hope. It is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- \*Eric and John Dyrud are pictured in Nashotah House’s *The Missioner*. John is a member of the Nashotah House Foundation and steward of its beautiful campus. John and Eric have done a lot to improve the campus, ranging from rebuilding old steps, repainting buildings, repaving road ways, waterproofing basements and many others. The full article may be read on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- \*Are you interested in reading the lessons on Sunday mornings at St. Peter’s? If so, please speak with Andy Marks, Fr. David or Mary Buerosse. You would read approximately 5 times a year!
- \*Don’t forget to put your food items in the basket in the Narthex for the North Lake Food Pantry, housed next door at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.
- \*North Lake will be celebrating its 150th anniversary during Harvest Fest, the weekend of September 18th. Mark your calendar to join in this celebration!

\*The 32nd Women's Mini-Week, an Episcopal women's retreat, is scheduled for August 19-22 at Camp Lakotah, Wautoma. All women, ages 18-108 are welcome to come to enjoy a week end retreat offering refuge, friendship, relaxation, and fun! For more information, see the bulletin board in the Narthex or the website: [www.womensminiweek.com](http://www.womensminiweek.com) or contact them at [womensminiweek@gmail.com](mailto:womensminiweek@gmail.com)

\*Did you find something of interest for St. Peter's Parish? If so, please give it to Mary Buerosse so it may be considered for the newsletter. Deadline date for publication is the second to last Sunday of each Month.

## St. Peter's Annual Picnic

St. Peter's Annual Picnic is Sunday, August 22 at the Luedke's home, 6178 Highway 83 (about 1 mile south of the church. Look for the American flag on the mailbox). The fun begins after our Sunday Service. Please bring a dish to pass. Meat for the barbeque and refreshments will be provided. ALL ARE WELCOME! Bring your swimsuit and expect to have a great time! Perhaps we will again be able to enjoy some synchronized swimming! Look forward to seeing you at the picnic!!

\*An Episcopalian who decided to read the Bible was surprised to find how often it quoted the Prayer Book. —*Very Rev. Nathan D. Baxter, Dean, Washington Cathedral*

\*Nowadays, when someone asks me, "Are you still an Episcopalian?" I have a ready answer: "Yes, very still." —*columnist William Murchison*

## Great Hunger Book Sale

The Great Hunger Book Sale at All Saints' Cathedral, Milwaukee will be held from August 5 through August 10. Those wishing for a first chance at reviewing and purchasing books, CDs and DVDs may come Thursday, August 5 from 6 to 9 PM for a donation of \$5.00. Friday, August 6 through Tuesday, August 10 the hours are 11 AM to 6 PM. The Great Hunger Book Sale has raised over \$400,000 in its 28 year history. All proceeds go to benefit local and world hunger relief.

## Bike Ride for MS

Fr. Jim Kaestner had a bad bicycle accident in back in April which required surgery, a cast and prayers for healing. Fr. Jim has now been released by his doctor and is once again planning on riding in the MS Bike-a-thon for MS. He presently is biking about 40 miles a day! The MS Bike-a-thon is Saturday to Sunday, August 7 & 8. This will be Fr. Jim's 18th year riding for MS.

"Dear Friends,

Now that my elbow is pretty well healed, I will be biking for Multiple Sclerosis on the weekend of August 7-8. I expect to make the entire 150 miles over two days. I am committed to this because Wisconsin has the highest incidence of MS in our nation! This is not a record we like and many of us are doing whatever we can to: 1) See this change; 2) Play a part in funding both research and family care (No one is ever sick alone); and 3) Let Wisconsin be known throughout the nation as a place where people care for those with MS. Not surprisingly Wisconsin is one of the major research centers striving to find treatment and study on behalf of people with MS. A few of the doctors who treat MS and those doing the research ride themselves. If you care about this and would like to support my ride on behalf of MS, please send a check made out to MS Society of Wisconsin to my address: N52 W30711 Washington St., Oconomowoc, WI 53066. Thank you."

## Dylan's Run—Sunday, September 12, 2010

Dylan's Run/Walk for Autism benefits the Autism Research in Southeastern Wisconsin. The Naze family again will be participating as Tyler's Striders! . While the Tyler's Striders logo is fantastic, many of us already have two or more shirts. The cost of Team (\$25/\$17) vs. Individual registration (\$20/\$13)

accounts for the special screen printing on the shirt. So this year Stephanie has suggested that each of us register for the run individually. Registration to run/walk fees are \$20 for adults and \$13 for children (18 & under). Make checks payable to ASSEW (Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin). Registration forms may be found in the Narthex. Stephanie will collect all registration forms on August 22, the day of St. Peter's picnic. And you can always ask your friends and relatives to give you a pledge as well. St. Peter's parishioners have always been great supporters of this activity! If you have any questions, please direct them to Stephanie Naze, Stephanie.BurtonNaze@qg.com or 262-628-0478. If you have a previous Tyler's Striders T-shirt, plan to wear it the day of the walk, or you may wear a St. Peter's T-shirt!

## Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks

### Does It Pass The *LMN* Test?

Have you ever been told, "*I know how you feel*"? Or has someone ever said to you "*I understand*", and then they quickly added "*but I think...*"? Or how about this one, "*What were you thinking?*" The truth of the matter is that it is nearly impossible to truly understand the way other people think or how they feel. Sometimes we don't even understand how we feel ourselves or why we do the things we do. What's worse is when we really *think* we understand others. We believe we know what they're all about. We never learn how far from the truth we really are. Perception is 75% at best. So why even try?

In listening to discussions about the war in Afghanistan, global warming, the oil spill, the sputtering economy, greed in professional sports, gay issues in the church and in the military, civil rights, illegal immigrants, etc, I find there is generally no shortage of opinions. Emotions can run quite high in these conversations; voices get loud, blood pressure rises, and often times, feelings get hurt as schisms develop. There is definitely no shortage of topics that can stir up these powerful emotions. Often the question for me is, should I stand up for what I believe or just sit back knowing if I jump into the conversation, I'm probably just going to get upset.

In today's world it's rare to find an objective non-emotional participant. That's what's usually missing. What if Jesus was allowed to be that missing person? Jesus said "When two or more are gathered in my name I am with you." Wouldn't it be nice if we could make a place for Him in these sometimes heated discussions? Perhaps we all could become more objective and try to understand the other side of the issues we're so strongly set on? Maybe we could actually attempt to put our feet in the shoes of those who would be adversely affected if we were the ones able to cast the deciding votes. And in doing so, pose the ultimate question, "Does this pass the *Love My Neighbor (LMN)* test?"

For us as Christians, Jesus must be part of these conversations. We have to try to understand the consequences on all sides of these polarizing issues and find common ground; ground that puts these issues in a more Christian context. We need to look deeply at each situation and try to understand as much as we can and then look even deeper. Our greatest gift as human beings is compassion. Some brush this aside as a weakness and become callous, while others nurture it and let it grow. With compassion, we are able to see things more clearly, and become aware of God's presence and guidance. Without compassion we tend to selfishly ignore the *Love Your Neighbor* command and shut out the Spirit of God.

### For Today and Everyday

May today there be peace within YOU. May you trust your highest power that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, and to bask in the sun. It is there for each and everyone of you. -Author Unknown

## What We Sing: #693 “Just as I am, without one plea”

This popular Evangelical hymn was the work of a remarkable woman who spent fifty years of her life as a confirmed invalid. Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871) was the daughter of an Evangelical clergyman, Henry Venn Elliott. As the age of thirty-two Charlotte was stricken by an illness which continued to afflict her for the rest of her life. Although largely confined to bed, she lived to the grand old age of 82 and wrote several hundred hymns. “Just as I am” was written in 1834 at a time when Charlotte’s brother Harry was raising money to build a college in Brighton to educate the daughters of poor clergymen. The whole Elliott household was engaged in organizing a bazaar to raise money for the proposed school. Charlotte, sitting in her sickroom, felt useless and helpless. As she sat alone a sense of peace and contentment came over her and in that spirit she wrote the verses which have brought comfort and strength to so many. She drew on words which had been addressed to her twelve years earlier by a visiting Swiss evangelist, Dr. César Malan. In response to a protestation of her unworthiness to come to Christ, he had told her to come to the Saviour “just as you are.” “Just as I am” first appeared in a leaflet form in 1835 and was published in 1836 in *The Invalids’ Hymn Book*, headed with the text “Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out.” (John 6:37). One of the first to derive spiritual benefit from the hymn was William Wordsworth’s daughter Dora, who asked for it to be read to her every morning as she lay dying. Only one verse originally written is not used in our hymnal:

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

## Murder in the Cathedral

Summer Stage will present *Murder in the Cathedral*, A Play by T. S. Eliot, on Friday and Saturday nights, October 1-2, 8-9, 15-16 at 7:30 pm or Sundays, October 3, 10, 17 at 2 PM. Cost is \$15/person, \$13/seniors. The play portrays the assassination of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. The play deals with an individual's opposition to authority, and can be taken as a protest to the Nazi regime's subversion of the ideals of the Christian Church. Summer Stage usually performs at Lapham Peak State Park in Delafield. ***These performances will be held in St. John’s Chrystostom Episcopal Church in Delafield, WI.*** If you would like more information on Summer Stage’s performance calendar, check their website:  
[www.Summer-Stage.org](http://www.Summer-Stage.org) This may make another Parish Outing! Let’s talk about it!

## Bishop Miller to visit St. Peter’s

Please mark your calendars now for Bishop Steven Miller’s visit St. Peter’s on Sunday, October 31. Bishop Miller is now on a two-year visitation cycle so that no congregation has to receive a visit in July, August, or on a holiday weekend. It also allows him to have make-up days in the event of weather or pastoral emergencies and makes it possible for him to participate fully in the House of Bishops.

## How to Stop Church Gossip

Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church’s morals, kept sticking her nose into other people’s business. Several members did not approve of her extra-curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused Frank, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town’s only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Frank (and several others) that every one seeing it there would know what he was doing! Frank, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked

away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing....

Later that evening, Frank quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house ... walked home ... and left it there all night. (You gotta love Frank!)

## **Your Typical Friday Fish Fry?**

Lost on a rainy night, a nun stumbled across a monastery and requested shelter there. Fortunately, she was just in time for dinner and was treated to the best fish and chips she had ever tasted. After dinner, she went into the kitchen to thank the chefs. She was met by two of the brothers. The first one said, "Hello, I am Brother Michael, and this is Brother Charles." "I'm very pleased to meet you," replied the nun. "I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever had. Out of curiosity, who cooked what?" Brother Charles replied, "Well, I'm the fish friar." She turned to the other Brother and said, "Then you must be...?" "Yes, I'm afraid so—I am the chip monk."