



The Fisherman's Net

"Catch the Spirit"

Peter's Episcopal Church
Highway 83
North Lake, WI 53064

Andy Marks, Sr. Warden
Steve Marks, Jr. Warden

Website: StPetesNorthLake.org
Phone: (262) 966-7288

Newsletter Editor: Mary Buerosse (262) 691-3549 E-Mail: Mbread@att.net

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Pastor's Pen *Fr. David Couper*

What's so Holy about the Eucharist?

Joseph Campbell (*The Power of Myth*) once said a sign points to a meaning and a symbol to a greater meaning. In this context, a sacrament goes beyond a greater meaning in that it is the mystery of God working among and upon us.

We call the Eucharist a "mystery" because it cannot be fully known, understood, or explained -- no matter how hard we try. It becomes for me a Holy Mystery. It, like other mysteries, arouses our curiosity and leads us into suspense -- takes us to the "edge" of our reality. Mysteries are obscure and conceal things later revealed. Theologian Karl Rahner called the Eucharist "God's incomprehensibility as God!"

Therefore, in the process of praising and worshipping God, we encounter both known and unknown and things. How is it God is fully present in this bread and wine? How is God's grace imparted through it? We simply do not know. We simply are called to experience it. However, we do know what Jesus told us on that night so long ago, "this is my Body, and this is my Blood." Because he said it, we can believe it to be true.

We also know from church history that the Eucharist is what Christians have done since the very earliest days of the church. They did what Jesus asked them to do when they came together to praise God and give thanks for the gift of salvation. It is not unreasonable for me to believe that through this act of breaking, blessing and sharing bread and wine that we experience his Real Presence among us.

And when we do this, the entire Christian mystery is present, celebrated, renewed, and revealed to us. As we gather and "do this," we become Christ's Body in the world. We gather as "one Body and one Spirit," knowing there is "one hope in God's call to us; one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). We gather in the unity a community of faithful people and experience this mysterious encounter with the Risen Christ.

Thomas Aquinas called the Holy Eucharist a paschal banquet in which Christ is consumed by us and we, in turn, receive a pledge of the future glory of eternal life. Therefore, the Eucharist is not only mysterious, but powerful as we become renewed, forgiven, healed, fortified, and given a foretaste of the heavenly banquet which awaits each one of us.

But there is even more. More is going on, and that is why the Eucharist is a symbol of the greatest meaning. It is a window that permits us a peek into heaven.

I love this description of the Eucharist by the writer Annie Dilliard. She warns us that this kind of worship brings us so close to the God of the Universe that we should wear crash helmets and strap ourselves into our pews every Sunday! Coming into the presence of the Almighty and Transcendent Creator God is no small matter. Safety equipment should be required! Nevertheless, we know we can approach God because we know God is a loving and personal God; a God, who once became one of us, lived among us, gave himself for us, and returns to bless us in so many ways.

That's what's so Holy about the Eucharist for me. It is an encounter, in community, with God Almighty, and that is why it is our primary act of worship. See you on Sunday, helmet and seat belts are optional!

Five Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember.
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger, and in fact, our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night.
5. And lastly comes our little finger, the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible say, "the least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinky should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively. - Author Unknown

Prayer Circle

"Here's the deal in the end: Whatever the benefits may be, it seems that we are wired for prayer and meditation. And it doesn't matter what culture we're raised in—whether we flip the switch or not, this inclination is there, waiting for us. At least that's the word from the newish field known as neurotheology, which looks at the biological basis of religion and spirituality."

- *Ladies' Home Journal*, July 10, 2010, **Life: Prayer is the opposite of Multitasking**, p. 34

If you would like to be a member of St. Peter's Prayer Circle, please contact Mary Buerosse by email: Mbread@att.net or phone 262-691-3549.

Calendar & Times

			<u>Scheduled Reader</u>
July 4, Sunday	9:30 am	Holy Eucharist	Katie Luedke
July 11, Sunday	9:30 am	Holy Eucharist	Susan Medd
July 18, Sunday	9:30 am	Holy Eucharist	Rick Luedke
July 25, Sunday	9:30 am	Holy Eucharist	Steve Marks

No Vestry Meeting is scheduled for July.

Lessons for June

	<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
July 4	2 Kings 5:1-14 30	Galatians 6:7-16		Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 11	Amos 7:7-17 82	Colossians 1:1-14		Luke 10:25-37
July 18	Amos 8:1-12 52	Colossians 1:15-28		Luke 10:38-42
July 25	Hosea 1:2-10 85	Colossians 2:6-15		Luke 11:1-13

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 in the Gulf Coast regions, especially Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida, who are suffering from the massive oil spill.
- *Pray for the victims of the recent tornadoes that hit our local communities.
- *Pray for peace in the world, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran. Pray for our soldiers. Remember especially Umi and Costin.
- *Remember the Prayer Circle members as they continue to pray for your special petitions.
- *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

July 3 Helen Ackley
July 5 John Claude
July 10 Rusty Olson
July 11 Gail Abbott
July 14 Lindsey Naze
July 26 Steve Marks
July 26 Katie Luedke

Happy Anniversary

July 6 Dan & Stephanie Naze
July 7 Ellis & Elizabeth Herbon

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!

- *Welcome Home, Peg Leitgabel! Peg is now at Shorehaven in Oconomowoc. Read Andy Marks’ Senior Warden’s Reflection for more information.
- *Our dear friend, Darcy Chester, has sold her home in Pewaukee and has made the move to New York to be close to her daughters and family. Andy Marks’ Reflections has more info.
- *Thanks to Gail Abbott for the “beautification” of the flower containers at the front of the church. They are certainly welcoming to all who walk through our doors!
- *Is the Salsa dance coming to St. Peter’s? That’s the word in the pew from Kathy Marks! The date has not been set yet. And this is truly a biblical occurrence as 2 Samuel 6:14 will attest: “And David danced before the Lord with all his might.”
- *Because of the Sunday 4th of July celebrations, the regularly scheduled **Vestry Meeting** has been postponed. It will be held in August.
- *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.
- *Mark your calendar now for **St. Peter’s Annual Picnic, Sunday, August 22!**
- *North Lake will be celebrating its 150th anniversary during Harvest Fest, the weekend of September 18th. Mark your calendar to join in this celebration!

“ ‘Til Death Do Us Part”

Mark your calendars! We have another event in the making: Theatre trip to the Hartford Schauer Center on Friday, September 24 at 7:30 pm to see “Sister’s Lake Nite Catechism 3—”Til Death Do Us Part.” Sister will be offering up hilarious lessons on the Sacraments of Marriage and Last Rites, and her own version of *The Newlywed Game*. Tickets are \$34/adult. Sheila Campbell will accept your ticket money made out to her thru Sunday, July 11 and will order tickets at that time. As time gets closer, we will also see how many people would like to meet for a Fish Fry prior to the show (cost of dinner is not included in the show ticket). As always, friends, relatives, and neighbors are welcome to join us. Any questions, please contact Sheila at (email) jscampbell@tds.net or 262-691-4857. Looks like a fun evening!!!

Samson Occom—Feast Day, July 14

The Rev. Samson Occom (1723-1792) was a native American Presbyterian clergyman and a member of the Mohegan nation near New London, Connecticut. He has the distinction of being the first Native American person to ever publish documents and pamphlets in English. He is believed to be a direct descendant of the famous Mohegan chief, Uncas. At the age of sixteen he was exposed to the teachings of Christian evangelical preachers in the Great Awakening. He served as a missionary to Native American people in New England. He was ordained a minister in 1759 by the presbytery of Suffolk. In 1786 with some New England and Long Island Indians, he moved to Oneida territory in what is known today as New York. He then helped to found Brothertown, and lived among the Brothertown Indians. In the first half of the 1800’s many Brothertown Indians people moved to what is now known as the Town of Brothertown in Calumet County, Wisconsin. For more information, check out *Wikipedia* on the internet.

Letter from Children’s Hospital and Health System

To St. Peters Episcopal Church

Dear Friends,

Thank you for caring so much about Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Philanthropic support to the Playroom of Hope at any level is vital for our work and deeply appreciated. Gifts at every level help to transform the lives of sick children and their families..

The Playroom of Hope is so important because a hospitalized child affects the whole family, and the lives of the siblings are also turned upside down. This playroom will offer toddlers through school-age siblings a staffed space for entertainment and solace. Not only will there be games and toys for the children, but arts and crafts and special events. The siblings of hospitalized children are sometimes the forgotten soldiers, and we’re excited to provide a special place for them.

A space for the siblings could help tremendously to alleviate the stress on parents to know their other kids are receiving quality care and attention while they are supporting their sick child. And it provides an enjoyable break for the siblings of a sick child, also reducing the stress they feel.

Thank you for helping us to pursue this opportunity. We are grateful for your support. If you would like to learn more about our mission, our programs and our bold vision for the future, please contact me at (414) 266-6197 or Mschueth@chw.org.

Best, Matthias Schüth, Development Director

God’s Authority

From *Proceedings*, the magazine of the Naval Institute, Stephen Covey captured a great truth about authority:

While on maneuvers, a battleship lookout noted a light in the dark, foggy night. After noting the light’s coordinates, the captain recognized his ship was on a collision course with the other vessel. The captain instructed, “Signal the ship: We are on a collision course, advise you change course 20 degrees.”

The return signal countered, “Advisable for you to change course 20 degrees.”

The captain signaled, “I’m a captain, change course 20 degrees.”

The response was, “I’m a seaman second class, you’d better change course 20 degrees.”

By this time the captain was furious. His signal curtly ordered, "I'm a battleship. Change course 20 degrees."

The reply: "I'm a lighthouse. You make the call."

God's authority is never changing, it's always constant. Whenever a change of course is required we must make the correction from our end.

The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Stephen R. Covey, 1989, p. 32-33
Captain: level 6 officer— every rank above that is an Admiral of some form

**Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.
-Abraham Lincoln*

Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks

Another Eventful Day at St. Peters

Last August, Peg was diagnosed with lymphoma and had to leave her home and live with her daughter in Illinois. A decision had to be made regarding treatment. At the time Peg was very weak and there was some question as to whether she could handle the chemo treatment. For Peg there was no option. She is reported to have told the doctor that she plans to live to a hundred and then she would reevaluate the situation. Under the loving support and care of her daughter and son-in-law and a strong will, Peg came through the treatment with "flying colors". Last Sunday, June 20th, we celebrated her return to St. Peter's. It was an eventful day. Peg is currently living in Oconomowoc at Shorehaven. She has adjusted well to her new surroundings and is very optimistic about her future. We are very excited to have her back with us!

If you would like to visit Peg or contact her, you can call 567-8341 extension 5409. If you would like to visit her, please call ahead. The best time to visit her is from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. You may also send mail to her at: Peg Leitgabel, Shorehaven Towers, Room 409
1305 W. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc, WI. 53066

Goodbye, but not really

As we welcome Peg back to St. Peters, we say goodbye to another long time member. Darcy has recently sold her house and has moved to New York. Darcy has family in New York and is excited about the move. She has been on the Vestry for many years and has been a very active member of the Church. We will miss her, but she will also always be a part of the St. Peter's family. We wish you the best of luck, and may God go with you! For those wishing to send Darcy a card, her new address is 369 Dry Brook Rd., Owego, New York, 13827.

Nudges or just Weird Coincidences?

On May 22nd, 23rd, and 24th I attended the One Year to Live Retreat at Poynette, Wisconsin. The program, in which Fr. David has become very active, was very Spirit-filled and moving. The concern that I had and I would guess most of the participants had as well, was how to continue with the direction and purpose that became so clear during the retreat. The following Monday, when I went back to teach at St. Joe's, something kind-of strange happened. I went up to my room on the second floor, turned on the window air conditioner and went to the back of the room to work on my computer. I generally go to school very early and I am usually the first teacher to arrive. This is my quiet time when I can pray, reflect, and prepare for the day. Sitting in my room that morning, I began updating my students' grades on the computer. My desk is pushed up against the side wall which I have filled with posters, and pictures with philosophical captions. The quotes are inspirational for me, and hopefully for my students as well. In the silence interrupted only by the hum of the air conditioner, I looked up from my computer and notice that one of the captioned pictures stapled to the wall had come loose on the bottom and was rhythmically floating back-and-forth from the wall. I became mesmerized by the picture, and finally got

up to check it out. The picture was of a mountain climber hanging from the edge of a cliff. The caption under the photo was from the Danish philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard, and read “*To dare is to lose one’s footing momentarily. To not dare is to lose oneself.*” At the time, this statement had a profound impact on my state of mind. I was blown away by the coincidence of this happening. Still trying to sort out all that had transpired at the retreat, the question heavy on my mind that morning was, “Can I be the kind of person that I feel I’m called to be?” I believe most of us have these experiences, what some might refer to as weird coincidences. The question I have is “Are they?” Perhaps they are more than that. What if they were nudges; encouragements that lead you to fulfillment. I don’t know the answer, but I do believe that if you feel in your heart this is the direction you should go, you should follow it no matter how difficult.

We can’t become what we need to be by remaining what we are. -Oprah Winfrey

**Don’t let the best you have ever done be the standard for the rest of your life.*

What We Sing: # 488 “Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart”

It is only in recent times that some of the religious lyrics from the wealth of poetry and folk music in Celtic Britain have been translated and fashioned into hymns. Perhaps the most popular hymn derived from a Celtic original, “I bind unto myself today”, is less than a hundred years old, while “Be thou my vision” first appeared in the early years of the last century. It comes from an eighth-century Irish poem, ‘*Rob tu mo bhiola, a Comdi cride*’, which was translated from the original Gaelic into English in 1905 by Mary Byrne (1880-1931), an expert on the Irish language. Dr. Eleanor Hull (1860-1935), author of a number of books on the subject of Celtic folklore, versified it in 1912. These verses were published in her *Poem Book of the Gael* and first appeared as a hymn in the *Irish Church Hymnal* in 1919. It’s only recently that most British hymn books have included it. While we only sing three verses (1, 2, 5) of this hymn, there are five original verses, some with significant variations, particularly in the last verse. The *New English Hymnal* has this verse: High King of heaven, thou heaven’s bright Sun

O grant me its joys after vict’ry is won,
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and night
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light

Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight
Be thou my armour, and be thou my might,
Thou my souls shelter, and thou my high tower,
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise
Thou mine inheritance through all my days;
Thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

High King of heaven when battle is done,
Grant heaven’s joy to me O bright heaven’s sun,
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Using the Bible to Support your argument

A teenage boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, “I’ll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get you hair cut and we’ll talk about it.”

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss the use of the car.

They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair."

To which his father replied, "Yes, and they WALKED everywhere!"

*The surest way to make it hard for your children is to make it soft for them.

*There are two ways we can meet difficulty: either we can alter the difficulty or we can alter ourselves to meet it.