



# The Fisherman's Net

## "Catch the Spirit"

**Peter's Episcopal Church**  
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**Happy New Year !      JANUARY 2011      Epiphany**

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

Sabine has been reading the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" book on dogs. She has shared some of the stories with me and has got me thinking about dogs -- and particularly our dog, Mocha (or should I be a bit more formal with her full name, Mocha Latte?). So now you know we are also coffee lovers! Now you may wonder how I am going to bring this around to something spiritually helpful for the New Year and the great season of the Epiphany? Please stay with me.

What I am thinking about is that funny (but true to life) dog owner's prayer -- "Lord, please make me into the kind of person my dog thinks I am!" Now that brings me to the dogs themselves. And it seems to me that dogs do a pretty good job of reflecting the kind of living creatures that might be good models of Jesus. (Now you see why I am writing this in a newsletter and not preaching it on Sunday!) I say this because it seems to me that dogs are the most forgiving creatures I have ever met. I mean this summer we put Mocha in a kennel for two weeks when our kids and grandkids visited us. When I went to pick her up, she was ecstatic to see me. (If I had left Sabine in a kennel for two weeks she might have some questions for me!) Now I am not saying the Sabine doesn't love me unconditionally, but simply that if I have my crabby days or not being my wonderful self, she will have some questions for me -- but not Mocha!

Then there is the thing about rescue dogs. I mean these dogs have been abandoned, beaten, starved and suffer all kinds of human misdeeds, and when a person comes to the animal shelter and picks one of them, they simply fall over themselves being loveable and turn out to be wonderful companions in spite of the torture and maltreatment they have suffered from other humans. Dogs forgive and they unconditionally love us.

So here we are in the year 2011. Life at St. Peter's has been a wonderful blessing for the two of us. We have had our family trials and yet we can say that the past year, while it was filled with tragedy, was also a year of miracles. And that's what God promises us through Christ -- miracles among life's tragedies. I can take that. And so I will conclude with the dog lover's prayer: Lord, make me into the kind of person Mocha thinks I am (and that goes for Sabine, too!, that I become the kind of person I see reflected back to me in her loving eyes). We are so excited about being back at St Peter's and we look forward to another year with all of you. Happy Epiphany (the New Year began for me on 1 Advent.!) Blessings!

# Celtic New Year Prayer

## *Blessing for the New Year*

May the new year bring  
 The warmth of home and hearth to you,  
 The cheer and goodwill of friends to you,  
 The hope of a childlike heart to you.  
 The joy of a thousand angels to you,  
 The love of the Son and God's peace to you.

# Ten Little Christians

Ten little Christians standing in a line. One disliked the pastor, and then there were nine.  
 Nine little Christians stayed up very late. One slept too late on Sunday, then there were eight.  
 Eight little Christians on their way to Heaven. One took the low road, then there were seven.  
 Seven little Christians chirping like some chicks. One dislike the music, then there were six.  
 Six little Christians seemed very much alive. One lost his interest, then there were five.  
 Five little Christians pulling for Heaven's shore. One stopped to rest, then there were four.  
 Four little Christians each busy as a bee. One got her feelings hurt, then there were three.  
 Three little Christians knew not what to do. One joined the sporting crowd, then there were two.  
 Two little Christians our rhyme nearly done, differed with each other, then there was one.  
 One little Christians can't do much 'tis true, brought his friend to Bible study, then there were two.

Two earnest Christians each won one more. That doubled the number, then there were four.  
 Four sincere Christians worked early and late. Each won another, then there were eight.  
 Eight splendid Christians if they doubled before, in just a few short weeks, we'd have 1,024.

In this little jingle there is a lesson true, You either belong to the building project... or the wrecking crew!!! - *The 'Net'work*, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ft. Atkinson

\*At Sunday school they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

# Calendar & Times

		<u>Scheduled Reader</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
Jan. 2, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Mary Buerosse	Poinsettias
Jan. 9, Sunday	8:00 AM Vestry Meeting		
	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Kathy Marks	_____
Jan. 16, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Helen Ackley	Sabine Lobitz
Jan. 23, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Charlie Brumder	Kathy Marks
Jan. 30, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Pete Buerosse	Luedke
<b>Feb. 20, Sunday</b>	St. Peter's Annual Meeting		

# Lessons for January

	<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Jan. 2	Jeremiah 31:7-14	84	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19	Matt 2:13-15, 19-23
Jan. 9	Isaiah 42:1-9	29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Jan. 16	Isaiah 49:1-7	40:1-12	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Jan. 23	Isaiah 9:1-4	27:1, 5-13	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
Jan. 30	Micah 6:1-8	15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12

## 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 areas of our nation where there has been unseasonable weather, especially in California where there is flooding and the northeast where there is destructive snow storms.
- \*Pray for peace in the world, for North and South Korea. Pray for peace in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran where many American soldiers are serving.
- \*Pray especially for Yumi’s safety in Afghanistan and Costin who is also in the service.
- \*Pray for the hungry, the jobless, the homeless and those who see no hope in their lives.
- \*Pray for our leaders, both national and local, to make good decisions.
- \*Pray for the Millennium Goals, especially to eradicate hunger and poverty by 2015.
- \*Pray for St. Peter’s and its families, for the present and the future, that we may grow in Christ and be his light to the world.

## Let’s Celebrate!

### Happy Birthday

January 1 Denise Mikulak  
January 2 Lexi Brumder  
January 10 Dorina Dyrud  
January 30 Rick Luedke

### Happy Anniversary

January 26 Andy & Kathy Marks

If we have missed your 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: [Mbread@att.net](mailto:Mbread@att.net)

## The Spirit at Work!

- \*Congratulations are in order for Josh Marks. Steve and Deb Marks, his parents, announced on Sunday, December 26, that Josh is engaged to Darcy (aka Neeka) Stanford from Chippewa Falls! They are planning an October wedding in Chippewa Falls.
- \*Congratulations to Helen Ackley who was named Pewaukee’s Citizen of the Year!
- \*Thank you all for remembering our winter parking rules: to park your car several feet away from St. Peter’s side-yard to allow individuals to walk in front of vehicles so they won’t have to walk in water, slush or on ice.
- \*We begin to adorn the altar with flowers, starting on January 9. Please check the bulletin board in the Narthex or the “Calendar & Times” section in the newsletter for your designated Sunday. Consider filling in the vacant spaces too! The first three Sundays in February are available. Many thanks for your Flower Ministry at St. Peter’s.
- \*Speaking of ministries, would you like to help with St. Peter’s Breakfast? The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Do breakfast with a friend! It’s easy:
  - \*Make a pot of decaf coffee and a pot of regular coffee
  - \*Provide a snack such as bagels, coffeecake, cheese, crackers, fruit. Keep it simple!
  - \*Clean up coffee pots and please unplug them. Clean up kitchen work area.
- \*Thanks to everyone who provided soup for our Advent Bible Study “Embracing an Adult Faith” and to Mary Buerosse for baking fresh bread! It was a great series and we especially thank Fr. David for facilitating the discussions.
- \*Thanks to Mary Buerosse for cantering during Advent and Christmas Eve.

## Stewardship Sunday

Thank you to Dave Abbott, Peg Leitgabel and Andy Marks for their reflections on what it meant to them to belong to St. Peter’s and the strength, caring, comfort, and joy they have received. If you would like to

make a pledge or estimate of giving to St. Peter's for this year, 2011, please contact Andy Marks, Sr. Warden or Mary Buerosse, Treasurer.

## **Vestry Meeting & Annual Meeting Schedule**

\*The next Vestry Meeting is Sunday, January 9 at 8:00 AM. The main focus of this

Vestry meeting is the proposed budget and other items for discussion at the Annual Meeting.

\*The Annual Meeting will be held after service on Sunday, February 20, 2011. Please mark your calendar now and plan to stay for this important meeting to discuss St. Peter's future.

## **New Music coming in January**

This may not be a new song (hymn) to you, but it will be the first time it is sung at St. Peter's. We will learn "Come, now is the time to worship" by Brian Doerksen. It is a simple song. Julie will begin playing it before service begins in the next few weeks to help familiarize us with the melody. The words will be printed in the service bulletin. Perhaps you will recognize them:

"Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God. One day every knee will bow. Still, the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose You now. Come."

## **Is God in your Church?**

One Sunday morning an old cowboy entered a church just before services were to begin. The old man and his clothes were spotlessly clean: jeans, a denim shirt and boots that were very worn and ragged. In his hand he carried a worn out old hat and an equally worn out old bible.

The church he entered was in a very upscale, exclusive part of the city. It was the largest, most beautiful church the old cowboy had ever seen. It had high cathedral ceilings, ornate statues, beautiful murals and stained glass windows, plush carpet, and velvet-like cushioned pews. The building must have cost many millions of dollars to build and maintain. The men, women and children of the congregation were all dressed in their finest, and most expensive suits, dresses, shoes, and jewelry the old cowboy had ever witnessed.

As the poorly dressed cowboy took a seat, the others moved away from him. No one greeted him. No one welcomed him. No one offered a handshake. No one spoke to him. They were all appalled at his appearance and did not attempt to hide the fact. There were many glances in his direction as the others frowned and commented among themselves about his shabby attire. The preacher gave a long sermon about Hellfire and brimstone and a stern lecture on how much money the church needed to do God's work. When the offering plate was passed thousands of dollars came pouring forth. As soon as the service was over the congregation hurried out.

Once again no one spoke or even nodded to the stranger in the ragged clothes and boots. As the old cowboy was leaving the church the preacher approached him. Instead of welcoming him, the preacher asked the cowboy to do him a favor. "Before you come back in here again, have a talk with God and ask him what He thinks would be appropriate attire for worshipping in this church," the preacher said. The old cowboy assured the preacher he would do that and left.

The very next Sunday morning the old cowboy showed up for the services wearing the same ragged jeans, shirt, boots, and hat. Once again the congregation was appalled at his appearance. He was completely shunned and ignored again. The preacher noticed the man still wearing his ragged clothes and boots, and instead of beginning his sermon, stepped down from the pulpit and walked over to where the man sat alone.

"I thought I asked you to speak to God before you came back to our church," the preacher said.

"I did," replied the old cowboy.

"If you spoke to God, what did he tell you the proper attire should be for worshipping in here?" asked the preacher.

“Well sir”, said the old cowboy, “God told me that He wouldn't have the slightest idea what was appropriate attire for worshipping in your church. He says He's never even been in here before.”

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\*Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited-until you try to sit in their pews.

\*I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

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## Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks

### *Followers of the Way*

Christmas mass at St. Peters was once again a beautiful climax for the Advent season. In preparation for the event, several parishioners, along with Fr. David, met each Wednesday night in the undercroft of the church for a book study on Marcus Borg's, *Embracing and Adult Faith*. Each week a different member of the group would lead the discussion for the chapter we were studying. Fr. David led the discussion on the first chapter. Delicious homemade soup and bread nourished our bodies while we watched a short video to begin our study session. The discussion that followed was thought provoking and very insightful. In the end, we had a great time and a chance to explore our own thoughts and hear others regarding faith and spiritual growth.

One of the thoughts that I took away from the study was how semantics can sometimes have an adverse effect on our intentions. For example, in the beginning of our study, we talked about the meaning of the word *God*. Many different religions and faiths have their own word for *God*. But no matter what word is chosen, it always falls short. Words conjure up ideas and thoughts. But what word can be used to describe that which is incomprehensible? In my own life, I can think of many times when my words fall short, and sometimes get misinterpreted from what I'm trying to say. Sometimes I won't say anything at all in fear of being misunderstood or even worse unintentionally hurtful.

One of the points that struck me during our study involved the word *Christian*. In the video, Marcus Borg tells us this word is seldom referenced in the New Testament. Marcus Borg says: “*The earliest post-Easter name for the followers of Jesus according to the book of Acts (9:1-2), was Followers of the Way. To think of Christianity as a way or a path is very helpful, in part because many Christians think of being Christian as being primarily about a set of beliefs, but originally it was a way or a path to follow. Practices are the practical means by which we embark upon that path of transformation that is following Jesus.*”

In Fr. David's Christmas service homily, he talked about how having a child born into your life changes everything. As he stated, “anyone who has had children would know how the baby changes everything.” He used this analogy in reference to the birth of Jesus. Each Christmas, Jesus is born again in our hearts and we are, if we choose, changed. If so, one question remains. Are we simply Christians, or are we Christians who have become Followers of the Way?

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A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, “Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!” While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, “Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!”

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\*The character of our children tomorrow is shaped by what they learn from us today!

\*The best thing parents can spend on their children is time—not money.

## What We Sing: # 119 “Take my life and let it be”

This hymn has long been found in the section of the hymn books entitled “Consecration and Discipleship”. It is often sung at confirmation or other services where a commitment, or re-dedication, is being made to the Christian life. The author, Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79), was born in Astley, Worcestershire, where her father was rector. She showed an early aptitude for writing hymns, her first one done when she was just seven. She was a devout Evangelical Christian. She led a classic Victorian spinster’s life of good works and pious thoughts. Her health was delicate, and according to a friend, she expressed the hope that “the angels would have orders to let her alone a bit when she first got to heaven.” Frances wrote this hymn on February 4, 1874 after returning from a five-day visit to friends at Arley House, Worcestershire. She later described the circumstances that led to its composition:

“There were ten persons in the house, some unconverted and long prayed for, some converted but not rejoicing Christians. He gave me the prayers, “Lord, give me all in this house.” And he just did. Before I left the house everyone one had got a blessing. The last night of my visit after I had retired, a governess asked me to go to the two daughters. They were crying; then and there both of them trusted and rejoiced; it was nearly midnight. I was too happy to sleep, and spent most of the night in praise and renewal of my own consecration. These little couplets formed themselves and chimed in my heart one after another till they finished with ‘every, only, all for thee.’”

Here is the hymn in its entirety:

Take my life, and let it be  
 Consecrated, Lord to thee;  
 Take my moments and my days,  
 Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
 At the impulse of thy love,  
 Take my feet, and let them be \*  
 Swift and beautiful for thee. \*

Take my voice, and let me sing  
 Always, only, for my King;  
 Take my lips, and let them be \*  
 Filled with messages from thee. \*

Take my silver and my gold; \*  
 Not a mite would I withhold. \*  
 Take my intellect, and use  
 Every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine:  
 It shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart; it is thine own:  
 It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour \*  
 At thy feet its treasure-store. \*  
 Take myself, and I will be  
 Ever, only, all for thee.

\*denotes not in our hymnal

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

## DIRECTIONS TO OUR FATHER'S HOUSE.

Make a Right onto Believeth Blvd. Keep straight and go through the Green Light, which is Jesus Christ. There, you must turn onto the Bridge of Faith, which is over troubled water. When you get off the bridge, make a Right turn and Keep Straight. You are on the King's Highway - Heaven-bound. Keep going for three miles: One for the Father, One for the Son, and One for the Holy Ghost. Then exit off onto Grace Blvd. From there, make a Right turn on Gospel Lane. Keep Straight and then make another Right on Prayer Road.

As you go on your way, Yield Not to the traffic on Temptation Ave. Also, avoid SIN STREET because it is a DEAD END. Pass up Envy Drive, and Hate Avenue. Also, pass Hypocrisy Street,

Gossiping Lane, and Backbiting Blvd. However, you have to go down Long-suffering Lane, Persecution Blvd. and Trials and Tribulations Ave. But that's all right, because VICTORY Street is straight ahead!  
AMEN!!!!

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\*Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."