



The Fisherman's Net

"Catch the Spirit"

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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OCTOBER 2011

Pastor's Pen *Fr. David Couper*

Little St Peter's is moving out! Evangelistically, that is. During this month's diocesan convention in Racine we are going to staff a table in the exhibit hall to ask parishes to make a "sea change" with us. What do I mean by a sea change? The **S** stands for "strengthen marriages," the **E** stands for "eliminate personal debt," and the **A** stands for "activate men."

The way we propose to do these three needed actions for relevant ministry to a world in need is by offering "The Marriage Course," Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University," and the Lutheran Men in Mission's weekend retreat, "One Year to Live."

No matter how small or large our parish is, it needs to reach out to minister to an ailing world. And how do we ail? Many marriages/primary relationships are in trouble, many families just don't know what to do with a growing debt, and active, engaged spiritual men are just about absent from church today. To me, these are the three of the major problems which challenge our church today. Once relationships are stable, debt is eliminated, and both men and women fully engage in ministry, we can be better disciples and followers of Jesus.

Is this presumptuous? Yes, it is. But it is also bold for us to step forward and offer leadership to other parish communities. We will have a sign-up sheet with three important dates for 2012: Financial Peace University beginning January 8, The One Year to Live Men's Retreat on April 13 and The Marriage Course on April 22. We will ask our fellow Episcopalians to come and attend and then bring the course back to their church.

In the Book of Acts we are told that after the disciples prayed, "the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly" (4:31). That's our marching orders! Let's go -- go prayerfully and go boldly!

Stewardship Reflection Series

The Office of Stewardship of the Episcopal Church is offering a Stewardship Reflection Series.

Feasting on Gratitude is a six-week reflection series based on the Gospel readings of Matthew, inviting readers to reflect and discuss stewardship principles and practices. Each of the six contributing writers explores stewardship, giving, gratitude and generosity in connection with the Gospel reading for each Sunday from October 2 through November 6, All Saints Sunday. The first Sunday's offering is printed here. Each subsequent part of the series will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. Don't miss this

opportunity to read and reflect on Stewardship.

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard...

Recently I was in the Napa Valley of California, arguably THE wine area of this country. I am always intrigued by the intricacy of the work that goes into all the preparation and growth that leads to grapes and then, finally, wine. While there, I was told a story about some of the vines that were imported to this country. To make sure there were no unwanted introductions to our ecosystem, these particular vines had to be quarantined for three years! So, the one waiting to plant, and begin the harvest, had to wait three years to even get the vines in the ground. At countless points in the process toward grapes, the key word seems to be patience, and also, a whole lot of care. The bottom line is this: it takes good stewards of the land, the vine, the natural resources, all of it, in order to actually get the fruit, and ultimately the wine. Some vines in this region are nearly 100 years old. Many who planted them are long gone from this earth, but the vines still bear fruit. The vines stand as living legacies.

This parable always reminds me of a story about a farmer who told the preacher he was tired of hearing that we didn't own anything, and that it all belonged to God. The farmer invited the preacher over for dinner, and after dinner took him out to look over his land. He had him stand and look in all directions, and he said to the preacher, "As far as the eye can see, this is all mine. Now can you really stand there and say I don't own it?" The preacher just smiled at him and said, "Ask me that in a hundred years." The shorter versions of this same idea are these: there are no luggage racks on a hearse, and at the end of the game the king and the pawn go in the same box.

All we have been given in this life is on loan, at best. It is not ours, we will never truly own it. We have it, for whatever reason, in order to care for it as best we can. This is true of everything we, or the bank, says we own, and it is just as true for every relationship we have. We are stewards of all of it, called by God to leave the land, our material possessions, our money, and our relationships better than we found them, or they found us. All we now see, hold, and know is God's vineyard, and we are called to tend it, for the One who truly owns it all.

Proper 22A - Matthew 21: 33-46

The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel, Bishop
The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
Sunday, October 2, 2011
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Reflection Questions

1. How can you live into the claim that we are not "owners" of anything, we are simply called to steward what has been entrusted to us?
2. How do you embrace a practice of gratitude for all that has been given?
3. How does the practice of giving bear fruit in your life and in your community?

Calendar & Times

		<u>Scheduled Reader</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
Oct. 2, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Susan Medd	S Burton-Naze
Oct. 9, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Debbie Marks	K. Marks
Oct. 16, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Katy Luedke	K. Marks
Oct. 23, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Rick Luedke	M. Buerosse
Oct. 30, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Steve Marks	K. Luedke
Nov. 6, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Mary Buerosse	

Dungaree Sunday—Fall Clean-up

Lessons for OCTOBER

<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Oct. 2 Isaiah 5:1-7	80:7-14	Philippians 3:4-14	Matthew 21:33-46
Oct. 9 Isaiah 25:1-9	23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
Oct. 16 Isaiah 45:1-7	96:1-13	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
Oct. 23 Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18	1	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46
Oct. 30 Micah 3:5-12	43	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12

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 harvest this fall, for food enough to help those in need.
- *Pray for peace and justice in the world, especially in Libya.
- *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.
- *Remember the members of the Prayer Circle in your prayers.

Let’s Celebrate!

Happy Anniversary

- Oct. 2 Randy & Susan Medd
- Oct. 20 Steve & Debbie Stone-Marks

Banns of Marriage

The Banns of Marriage between Joshua Marks and Darcie (Neeka) Stanford are hereby published. If any of you know just cause why they may not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are bidden to declare it. This is first time of asking. - Rev. David Couper

The Spirit at Work!

- *Congratulations to Penny Lynn McKay, daughter of Jamie and Beth and sister of Molly and Callum, who was baptized on September 25 and marked as one of Christ’s own for ever!
- *A NEW FLOWER CHART is posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board ! Pick your special Sunday to give thanks to God for a special celebration, memorial, or general thanksgiving.
- *A NEW BREAKFAST CHART is also posted. It’s easy to do.... Ask a friend to help.
- ***Fall Fest** at St. Mary’s, Dousman is October 9 from noon to 4:00 PM. There will be food, beverages, bake sale, kids games, silent auction, farmer’s market, hayrides, music and raffles (large flat screen TV—bring 4 non-perishable food items for a free chance at the raffle). Look for the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- *Mark your calendars now for **the fall clean-up at St. Peter’s**. It’s a Dungaree Sunday (wear jeans) on **Sunday, November 6** after service. Lunch will be provided.
- *The next Vestry meeting is also Sunday, November 6 at 8:00 am.
- *Thank you to all who contributed to Our Next Generation school supplies. And many thanks to Rick Luedke for delivering our donations.

Dylan's Walk

Speaking as one of the hundreds of families affected by Autism here in Wisconsin, we are so humbled and grateful for the growing and continued success of the Dylan's Run. Dylan's Run 2011 was no exception. To witness the droves of people running and walking with the goal of raising funds and awareness about Autism is a spectacular sight. As members of the St. Peter's Parish, we have the opportunity to thank some of the greatest supporters. We thank you for your time, your sweat, and your donations. As we continue to navigate the challenges of the unpredictable disorder, we find your support and understanding a true blessing. During the pre-race rally, Dylan's Run organizers were mindful to honor the solemn anniversary with a moment of silence for the heroes and victims of 9/11. After a balloon launch, we were ready to march. At the finish line, Team Tyler's Striders assembled for a photo and a moment of our special brand of fellowship. We enjoyed beautiful weather again this year. The temps were comfortable, the sun was shining, and the music was sweet. I look forward to another great day in 2012 because we CAN (Cure Autism Now). Blessings to you! Tyler's Family

Sympathies to the Naze Family

Our sympathy to Dan Naze and his family. Dan's paternal grandmother, Josie Naze, died September 21 in Green Bay. She was 102 years old. Josie enjoyed spending time with her family, working her garden, canning, playing cards, making hand-stitched quilts with her friends, sewing and crocheting. She will be missed by her family and friends.

North Lake Food Pantry Donations

St. Peter's donation to the North Lake Food Pantry last month was \$244.68, coming mainly from contributions at the Milwaukee Polo Club's last match. We would like to thank the Milwaukee Polo Club for allowing us to "pass the hat" for benefit of the food pantry.

North Lake Harvest Fest

Thanks to all who baked and brought cookies for the North Lake Harvest Fest. And thanks to Saint Cookie Monster (Sabine) for walking in the parade to encourage people to come to the church for cookies, lemonade and tours. Due to the parade route being changed without our knowledge, we didn't have any visitors for tours and cookies. But God did make sure that St. Peter's doors were open when needed. A woman on her way to Green Bay stopped with her therapy dog, a pug, who was having a seizure. He needed a dark, quiet space while the seizure was happening. They entered St. Peter's and sat for half an hour in the church, in the dark, until the seizure was over. The woman was so thankful! She couldn't believe that she was in the right place at the right time. Never doubt that God provides for all our needs.

A Card of Thanks

In reference to the above article, this card was received:

"To the Ladies of St. Peter's Open House

My little pug dog, Alexander, and I sincerely thank you for the care, concern and shelter which was provided to us when Alexander began seizing. We continued on our journey and are having a fine time competing. -Carole Moser and Alexander, Wales, WI"

A Mystery in the Cemetery

Is there an unmarked grave in St. Peter's Cemetery? In Jeanne Ann Frederickson's article in *The Old Rail Fence* section of the Lake Country Reporter, Sept. 27, titled **Obituaries then and now**, she describes what an obituary might read today and what it said back in 1909. The actual obituary published in a local paper on Sept. 3, 1909 said that a Christian L. Hoffman fell dead at his home north east of Monches on Tuesday afternoon. He was about 56 years old and Dr.

Donnelly pronounced his death due to apoplexy. He was born in Denmark and was survived by his wife, Mary (nee Holck) and three children, a daughter 15 and two sons, the youngest was 10. "The funeral takes place today the services being held at the Episcopal Church at North Lake." The article goes on to say that four generations have attempted to locate the grave site at St. Peter's unsuccessfully. Some think that the grave marker sank into the ground and may have been covered when the parking area was black-topped. You may read the entire article on the bulletin board in the narthex or in the Lake Country Reporter.

NOTE: On page 228 of St. Peter's Records book is written:

Friday, Sept. 3, 1909 Christian Hoffman, 55 yrs, Monches, Date of death August 31, accidental Clergyman: Roberts

While all other notations under Place of Burial show "quotation marks", perhaps the person entering information was in a hurry as the marks are more straight lines than the small "dots". Could Christian Hoffman be buried somewhere else? His wife's family plot, Holck (6), is noted on page 12 of the History. Mrs. Marie Holck (no dates given) and Mr. William Holck (died April 14, 1900) are listed as being buried in the cemetery. The mystery continues.....

Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks

The Game of Life with a wild card

As a child growing up in the 1960's Christmas gifts often times included board games such as Monopoly, Risk, Sorry, Parcheesi, Chutes and Ladders, and Clue, to name a few. One game I remember enjoying playing with my brothers and sister was called "The Game of Life" by the Milton Bradley Co. The original game, called "The Checkered Game of Life", was produced in 1860 and sold over 45,000 copies in its first year. To start the game, each player had to select a colored car as their playing piece. The first turn for each player involved a choice of one of two routes to follow, to go to college or to immediately start a career. Landing on different colored spaces helped to determine one's fate. Landing on a green space was pay day. A blue space was a decision space in which you had the option of ignoring or acting upon. Landing on a red space was considered a major life-changing event such as getting married, graduating from college, buying a home, or retiring. . The goal of the game was to accumulate the most money and be the first to reach "happy old age".

Recently, Kathy and I watched a powerful movie entitled "Of Gods and Men". The movie, which was an official selection at the Cannes Film Festival, was inspired by a true story. An order of Trappist monks living in the hills outside of Algiers is threatened by the forces led by Muslim extremists vying for power in a bloody civil war. The monastery is an oasis of calm and peace in the region, and the monks have worked hard to foster understanding between themselves and their mostly Muslim neighbors of which they supply medical and charitable assistance. They have become an integral part of the community and as the conflict begins to escalate, they are forced to make a life or possibly death decision. Should they stay or should they go back to France. Ultimately they decide that this should be an individual choice not a collective one. Each monk has to make his own decision. As they debate the issue, one monk says he didn't join the order to have his throat slit. Another asks whether martyrdom will truly serve a higher purpose. But Brother Christian, the abbot of the monastery, is adamant that the village needs them and says that, "The good shepherd doesn't abandon his flock for the wolves." One monk who can not sleep at night anguishes over his decision wondering what God is calling him to do. In the end, they all decide to stay and put their faith to practice. And, yes, the terrorists come.

Reflecting about my own life after watching the movie, I was reminded of the "Game of Life" that I played as a child. How simple life seemed to be, the goal, happiness through wealth and success. Perhaps the adult version of the game should have a wild card or space where one has to put it all on the line. There should be a space where a decision has to be made. A choice that exposes the soul and goes

much deeper than the superficial stuff found on the board. In the gospel of Mathew, shortly before Jesus is arrested, he tells his apostles to watch and pray that they not be put to the test. Unfortunately, in the real game of life we are often put to the test. The question is “Do we stay or do we go?”

What We Sing: # 437 “Tell out my soul”

“Tell out my soul” was written by Timothy Dudley-Smith, born in 1926 and brought up in Derbyshire where his father was a schoolmaster. He was educated at Tonbridge School and Pembroke College, Cambridge. He first felt the call to the ordained ministry as a boy of eleven. He was ordained deacon in 1950 and priest in 1951. He served as a curate in Erith, ran the Cambridge University Mission in the East End and edited the *Crusade*, a monthly evangelical magazine established as part of the follow-up to the Billy Graham Crusade of 1955. He spent thirteen years with the Church Pastoral Aid Society. He served as Archdeacon of Norwich from 1973-1981 and Bishop of Thetford from 1981-1991. Dudley-Smith wrote the hymn in May 1961. While reading a review copy of the New English Bible New Testament, he was struck by its rendering of the opening phrase of the Magnificat. He intended his verses to be a poem, but it was included in the 1965 *Anglican Hymn Book*. It was the beginning of a prolific career as a hymn-writer. The first line of this hymn follows exactly the New English Bible’s translation of Luke 1:46. The rest is a much freer paraphrase of the Magnificat. Another of our favorite hymns also follows the direct quotations from the Bible, namely #711 “Seek ye first the kingdom of God” which comes from Matthew 6:33 and Matthew 7:7 by Karen Lafferty.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord;
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word:
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might;
Powers and dominions lay their glory by,
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight.
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name;
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word;
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure,
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children’s children and for evermore.

Menards Wisdom

My husband grabs the Menards ad first thing Sunday morning. I’m sure he is looking to make a purchase, but he assures me that he is also getting some wisdom. I checked it out. On the bottom of every page (small print) there is a saying. Here are a few:

*The dream was always running ahead of me. To catch up, to live for a moment in unison with it, that was the miracle. *If it is not the right thing to do, never do it; if it is not the truth, never say it. Keep your impulses in hand. *Be yourself. No one can ever tell you you’re doing it wrong. *Sandwich every bit of criticism between two layers of praise. *You can suffocate a thought by expressing it in too many words. *In reading and writing you can not lay down rules until you’ve learned to obey them. Much more so in life. *If nothing ever changed there’d be no butterflies. *Unless a tree has born blossoms in spring, you will vainly look for fruit on it in autumn. *The greatest barrier to success is the fear of failure. *Even with the best of maps and instruments, we can never fully chart our journeys. *Be where you are; otherwise you will miss your life. *It is better to look ahead and prepare than to look back and regret. *Never confuse movement with action. *What you want and what you get are two different things. *You will face many defeats in your life, but never let yourself be defeated. *You can stop to rest but don’t ever quit. *With each forward step we take we leave some phantom of ourselves behind. *There is no shame in not knowing... the shame lies in not finding out. Check out the ad!

A priest dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him is a guy who's dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans.

Saint Peter addresses this cool guy, “Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to

admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven ?”

The guy replies, “I’m Jack, retired airline pilot from Houston.”

Saint Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the pilot, “Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom.” The pilot goes into Heaven with his robe and staff.

Next, it’s the priest’s turn. He stands erect and booms out, “I am Father Bob, pastor of Saint Mary’s for the last 43 years.”

Saint Peter consults his list. He says to the priest, “Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom.”

“Just a minute,” says the good father. “That man was a pilot and he gets a silken robe and golden staff and I get only cotton and wood. How can this be?”

“Up here - we go by results,” says Saint Peter. “When you preached - people slept. When he flew, people prayed.”

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn’t find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: “I have circled the block 10 times. If I don’t park here, I’ll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses.” When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note “I’ve circled this block for 10 years. If I don’t give you a ticket I’ll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation.”