



# The Fisherman's Net

## "Catch the Spirit"

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

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

Website: [StPetesNorthLake.org](http://StPetesNorthLake.org)  
Phone: (262) 966-7312

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

## FEBRUARY 2012

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

#### Who Are You a Fool For?

If you asked St. Paul that question you know how he would answer. He would most likely shout out, "I am a fool for Christ!" just like he did in his letter to those new Christians at Corinth:

*"If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a 'fool' so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight"*  
(1Corinthians 3:18-19).

We certainly can claim to be "wise by the standards of this age." And few of us probably would want to be considered a fool in a public setting; especially if it had to do with our faith. I remember hearing about a time in South Africa, during an ecumenical prayer rally, when the leaders of the various churches, black and white, suddenly started dancing on stage. What fools they appeared to be. But what a witness to the power of God at that powerful ecumenical moment. Leaders willing to become fools. At least under the world's standards. I don't think God thought them to be foolish.

When we shirk away from saying or doing the right thing, fail to speak out for what is right, when we cannot muster the courage to tell people about our faith because we might appear "foolish," we become a fool for the world. When we stand up for God by speaking out and doing the right thing, moved by the Spirit, we become God's fool.

God wants us to have fun, and when the world in all its uptightness and reserved behavior sees that those who follow Jesus can have fun, maybe they will come to see that you can love God and still have fun. C.S. Lewis often had to remind us that pleasure was God's idea, not the Devil's.

There was a man who spent many years in a public park in California wearing a sign that said, "I am a fool for Christ! Who are you a fool for?" Of course, we all know the answer. We even know and probably can name the gods whom we are fools for. This is not new as St. Paul wrote in his second letter to those Corinthians:

*"You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise! In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face"* (2 Corinthians 11:16-20).

Maybe now is the time in our lives not to put up with those who enslave, exploit, take advantage of us, or slap us in the face. Maybe now it is time to quit being a fool of the world and become a fool for Christ.

The practice of Christianity is a life-long journey. It begins with some small steps—like deciding for whom or what you are willing to be a fool.

## Lenten Bible Study

The Lenten Bible Study will start on Wednesday, February 29 at 6:00 PM with simple soup and bread dinner. We will be reading the book *Reading Jesus, A Writers Encounter with the Gospels* by Mary Gordon. “Gordon reaffirms the notion that faith and reason are not mutually exclusive” - *The Miami Herald* “*Reading Jesus* should appeal to anyone in that multitude of thoughtful or lapsed Christians who feels the Scriptures growing stale and ossified, anyone who wants to wrestle with uncomfortable problems and irreconcilable paradoxes of the New Testament.” -*The Washington Post* “A remarkable record of a mind grappling with a constantly changing relationship with religion.” “*The Columbus Dispatch* “Gordon makes the gospels and their characters real in ways that are immensely refreshing.” - *U.S. Catholic* Join us Wednesday evenings for this journey into Mary Gordon’s *Reading Jesus*. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex in the next coming weeks. If possible, please get your own copy of this book. Amazon.com is a good source! If you are unable to, please advise Fr. David.

## The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple February 2—Feast of Candlemas

This feast commemorates the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the presentation of Christ in the Temple which took place, according to Luke 2:22-39, forty days after His birth, as the Jewish Law required (Leviticus 12:1-4). It was kept locally at Jerusalem from 350 AD on February 14 and later on February 2. In 542 the Emperor Justinian ordered its observance at Constantinople as a thanksgiving for the cessation of plague, and it spread throughout the East where it was called “The Meeting”, of Christ with Simeon. Somewhat later it began to be widely kept in the West. The blessing of candles is now the distinctive rite on this day in the West. Beeswax candles, which are blessed, distributed, and lit while the Nunc Dimittis is sung, are carried in a procession commemorating the entrance of Christ, the “True Light” into the Temple. (Luke 2:22-39) “When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord... Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward of the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah”

## Calendar & Times

		<u>Scheduled Reader</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
Feb. 5, Sunday	8:00 AM Vestry Meeting		
	9:30 AM Praise Service	Kathy Marks	
Feb. 12, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Helen Ackley	Abbott
Feb. 19, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Charlie Brumder	Abbott
	10:30 AM <b>Annual Meeting</b>		
Feb. 23, Wednesday	7:00 PM <b>Ash Wednesday</b>		
Feb. 26, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Pete Buerosse	<b>Lent 1</b> No flowers
Feb. 29, Wednesday	6:00 PM Simple Supper & Bible Study		
Mar. 4, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Andy Marks	<b>Lent 2</b> No flowers

## Lessons for February

	<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Feb. 5	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-12, 21	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
Feb. 12	2 Kings 5:1-14	30	1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Mark 1:40-45
Feb. 19	2 Kings 2:1-12	50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
Feb. 26	Genesis 9:8-17	25:1-9	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
Mar. 4	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	2	2:22-30	Romans 4:13-25
				Mark 8:31-38

## 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)*

- \*Remember those in Alabama who experienced devastating tornadoes.
- \*Pray for the city of San Antonio, TX which is experiencing floods.
- \*Pray for Sabine who is undergoing chemotherapy again. Numbers are getting better!
- \*Pray for peace and justice in **all the world**.
- \*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

February 5 Eily Brumder  
February 5 Katie Brumder  
February 6 Diane Olson  
February 26 Darcy Chester  
February 27 Cheryl Claude  
March 1 Molly McKay  
March 3 Stephanie Naze

### Happy Anniversary

March 3 John & Sheila Campbell

## The Spirit at Work!

- \*The **Vestry** is meet on Sunday, February 5 at 8:00 AM.
- \*Mark your calendars for **St. Peter’s Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 19**. Brunch will be served. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Bring your concerns and ideas for St. Peter’s future to the meeting!
- \***Ash Wednesday service, February 22, begins at 7:00 PM.**
- \*Lenten Bible Study, “**Reading Jesus**” begins Wednesday, February 29 at 6:00 pm.
- \*Thanks to all for remembering our winter parking rules: to park your 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 do not have flowers on the altar during Lent, but the FLOWER CHART is empty after Easter. Take a look now and sign-up for flowers after Easter!
- \*Prayer Request cards are available in the Narthex on the table with the Service Bulletins. If you have a request, it may be placed in the Offering. Your prayer request will be given to the individuals on the Prayer Circle.
- \*A new-updated pictorial Directory is available. If you have not received yours, please contact David Abbott.
- \*The Marriage Course at St. Peter’s has been cancelled. Information about another Marriage Course will be communicated at a later time.

## Just Before Lent Begins

During the early centuries the observance of fasting during Lent was very strict. Only one meal a day, taken towards evening, was allowed. Flesh-meat and fish, and in most places also eggs and milk, cheese or butter, made from milk, were forbidden. The Monday before the beginning of Lent was in some parts of England known as Collop Monday because it was the last day of eating flesh before the fast. People

would cut up their fresh meat into collops or steaks for salting or hanging up until Lent was over; and they often had a last meal of eggs and collops or slices of bacon on that day. The next day, Shrove Day, was so named from the shriving (confession and absolution) of the people in the churches on that day. It was also a holiday in preparation for the Lenten fast-days ahead and the day when housewives used their butter and eggs to conserve the perishable food in their larders before the fast. The “pancake bell” was rung in the morning to show that the holiday had begun and again towards sunset to show that it was over. In France the week before the beginning of Lent has traditionally been celebrated by a carnival (which means literally ‘to put away flesh’), reaching its climax in Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), and this observance was taken by French settlers across the Atlantic to Louisiana, where New Orleans is famous for its pre-Lenten street processions, glittering floats, military bands and flickering flares, which reach their climax in the parades and balls of Mardi Gras, all coming to an end at midnight when Lent begins.

## **From the New Zealand Prayer Book**

God our healer, keep us aware of your presence, support us with your power, comfort us with your protection, give us strength and establish us in your peace. Amen

### **A Lending Library at St. Peter’s?**

We are all reading good books. We share our thoughts on those books with others. And many of us, on those recommendations, purchase those books, borrow them from libraries if possible or lend them to others. What would it look like if we offered those books to St. Peter’s and begin a “lending library” of those marvelous books we have all enjoyed? What do you do with books that you’ve read? Do they end up on your bookshelf, in a rummage sale, going to a local library for their book sale or perhaps to “Half Price Books”? This is just a thought. If you think it might work, let me know. I’ll follow through!!! I’ve got a few I could give to St. Peter’s “Lending Library.” - Mary Buerosse

### **Treasure in your trash?**

At one of our recent church events, our conversation morphed into a discussion about the goodies in our trash. In particular, our local schools collect items for funding special programs or the purchase of school supplies. I was musing by the time I’m done sorting through our trash each week, pulling all box tops and can tabs, there’s hardly anything left for Waste Management to collect! Rick suggested I list those special items for our newsletter so that other families can share in the fun tearing through their trash - for good causes. The items Richfield collects are:

- General Mills Box Tops for Education (Cereals, Kleenex Tissues, etc.)
- Campbell Soup labels (also found on Pepperidge Farms products, V-8 items, etc)
- Milk Caps from Golden Guernsey, Kemps, and others
- Coke Rewards Points
- Aluminum can tabs (For Ronald McDonald’s House)

If you’re not already collecting for someone else, but wouldn’t mind collecting for the school children of St. Pete’s Parish, they’d thank you kindly. - Stephanie Naze

### **Ten Promises from God**

1. “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. This is not as the world gives, but as I give. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27
2. “The things which seem impossible to men are possible with God.” Luke 18:27
3. “Renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10
4. “I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” John 10:10
5. “Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28
6. “Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find; knock and the door shall be opened unto you.” Matthew 7:7
7. “As many as received Him; to them He gave them power.” John 1:12

8. "If anyone be in Christ, they become a new creature, the old things are passed away, behold all things become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17
9. "They that trust the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31
10. "What things whatsoever you desire; when you pray believe that you shall receive them, and you shall have them." Mark 11:24

## Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks

### *Angry.....Angier....Angrier.....*

Do you think it can stop? Do you think we can talk? Can we be honest with each other without getting angry? There is a real schism occurring in our country and it is growing. The ongoing polarization that separates family members, friends, colleagues, and neighbors, is, to say the least, sad. What have we become and where are we headed, and does it have to be this way? The ads are flying and the spin is rapidly taking over the airways as we enter a new political season. Is this where we really want to be? Yes I have my views and they go all the way to core of who I am and what I believe, but that doesn't mean I think I have all the answers. It doesn't mean I'm not willing to listen; to try to understand. I believe the truth usually lies somewhere in the middle. But where is the middle in today's world? Perhaps the first question that has to be addressed is why we are so angry. And what's fueling the fire? I used to listen to conservative radio some years ago when I considered myself somewhat conservative. I enjoyed the humor, the rhetoric, and the sarcasm of the conservative host. Now, after nearly 39 years in education, I have developed a different perspective, and I no longer find these programs enlightening or humorous. But the other extreme isn't any better. This past summer, while driving late at night, I happened to tune into a liberal radio station that was the flip side of the conservative ones I used to listen to. At first I found the liberal jabs to be entertaining and feeding some of my inner emotions. After a few minutes, however, I got tired of it all, and turned off the radio. Left to my inner thoughts I realized the purpose of most of these talk show hosts is to make their listeners angry and fill them with righteousness. It kind of reminded me of some of the old westerns I used to watch when the town would be stirred up by someone to such frenzy that they would form a posse and take the law into their own hands. I think we can do better.

Picture a man in a robe with a small band of friends traveling from city to city with one intention, to teach us how to love one another, a unique kind of talk show host. He is the One that millions will tune into on Sunday morning and tune out Monday afternoon. What's making us so angry? I don't think we have to look too far, but we do have a choice.

## Ever Wonder About the Abbreviation A.S.A.P.?

Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;  
You've got no time to spare,  
But as you hurry and scurry-  
A.S.A.P.—ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

It may seem like your worries  
Are more than you can bear.  
Slow down and take a breather-  
A.S.A.P.—ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

In the midst of family chaos,  
"Quality time" is rare.  
Do your best; let God do the rest-  
A.S.A.P.—ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

God knows how stressful life is;  
He wants to ease our cares,  
And he'll respond to all your needs  
A.S.A.P.—ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

## What We Sing: # 671 “Amazing Grace

In the early 1970’s it was almost impossible to listen to the radio for any length of time without hearing the words or melody of this hymn by John Newton (1725-1807). It was recorded by the pipes and drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards as a filler on their long-playing record. The tune was “Top of the Pops” for nine weeks and remained in the charts for some months. Several vocalists made records of the hymn, which also sold well. Yet, surprisingly, “Amazing Grace” appears in very few major modern British hymn books. That’s quite different from the United States where it has long been popular and is to be found in the main Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, and Lutheran hymnals.

John Newton was one of the most remarkable figures in the Evangelical Revival that swept through Britain in the eighteenth century. His father was a sailor and his mother died when he was seven. After only two years of schooling, he was sent to sea at the age of eleven. His early life was godless and dissolute. He was flogged for deserting the navy. Yet at the age of 22 he became captain of a ship engaged in the slave trade between Britain, West Africa and the West Indies. His dramatic conversion to Christianity came just three years later, noted to have come while he was reading Thomas á Kempis’s book *The Imitation of Christ* during a violent voyage across the Atlantic. He found himself crying aloud to God for protection. Forsaking the slave trade, he became friendly with John Wesley and George Whitfield, two leading figures in the Evangelical Revival. He spent nine years training for the Anglican ministry and in 1764 he was ordained and became curate at Olney in Buckinghamshire. After sixteen years he left and went to London as rector of St. Mary Woolnoth where he stayed until his death. “Amazing grace” first appeared in Olney Hymns, published in 1779. It reflects Newton’s own intense conversion experience and his profound sense that it was only the overwhelming grace of God which had saved one as wretched as himself from eternal damnation. Some versions of the hymn contain an additional verse written by John Reese (1828-1900):

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
Than when we first begun.

## I’ve learned....

- \*I’ve learned... that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- \*I’ve learned... that just one person saying to me, “You’ve made my day!” makes my day.
- \*I’ve learned... that being kind is more important than being right.
- \*I’ve learned... That I can always pray for someone when I don’t have the strength to help him  
in some other way.
- \*I’ve learned... that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.
- \*I’ve learned... that opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.
- \*I’ve learned... that love, not time, heals all wounds.
- \*I’ve learned... that the Lord didn’t do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?
- \*I’ve learned... that we should be glad God doesn’t give us everything we ask for.

## Where is God?

A couple had two little boys, age 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town, their two young sons were involved. The parents were at their wits’ end. Then the mother heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past. She asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with him. The husband said, “We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper.” The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys. He asked to

see them individually. The 8-year-old went to meet him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?" The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?" Again the boy made no attempt to answer, so the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, "WHERE IS GOD?" With that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming his door and hiding himself in his closet. His older brother followed him into the closet saying, "What happened?" The younger brother replied, "We're in **BIG** trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it!"

A woman taught the tiny tots in her Sunday school class to sing her favorite hymn, "Oh the Consecrated Cross I bear." Then came the Sunday morning when a concerned mother questioned the teacher about the songs she was teaching the children. Her child had told her she'd learned to sing, "Oh the constipated, cross-eyed bear."