

St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
4250 N Glebe Road  
Arlington VA 22207

Non-profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 1397  
Arlington VA

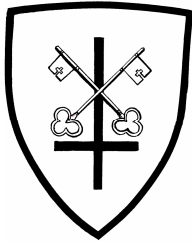
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# JULY PARISH MEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

**July is Usher Team 2:** Pete L., Chris A., Don C., Jeff C., Collins E., Blair F.,  
Tim H., Jim L., Tom M., James R., Larry S.

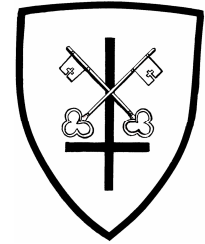
	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
<b><u>Acolytes</u></b>				
<b>8:00</b>	Austen A.	Jacqueline M.	Neil G.	Need Volunteer
<b>10:00</b>	John R. Alison B. Kirsten K.	Faith C. Sarah C. Emily L.	Alex G. Micaela G. Erin G.	Grace R. Caroline M. Sarah L.
<b><u>Chalicians</u></b>				
<b>8:00</b>	Mike L.	Bill M.	Tootie K.	Ed W.
<b>10:00</b>	Kathi A. Jim L.	Laura D. Andy O.	Sue B. Paul S.	Georgetanne J. Larry S.
<b><u>Lay Readers</u></b>				
<b>8:00</b>	Chris A.	Bill S.	Sharon S.	Suzy W. Rob W.
<b>10:00</b>	Audrey V. Thad K.	Jim L. Paddy L.	Larry S. Gail H.	Rob G. Steve C.
<b><u>Altar Guild</u></b> <b>Weekly Team</b>	Pam P. Kathryn H. Diane C.	Katie E. Legare H. Fernanda F.	Jessie N. Catharine G. Nene H.	TBA
<b><u>Greeters</u></b>				
<b>10:00</b>	Jim and Bettie J.	Bill and Judy W.	Peter and Karen M.	Jim R.

# ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## THE KEY

JULY 2009



*"Called together in Christ, Transformed by God's grace, Sent out to serve."*

### FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

I recently facilitated an Adult Forum at our church on summertime spirituality, and I want to share with you some of the ideas and resources that were mentioned.

In the summer we all are "on vacation" and, yet, very busy. We're traveling and visiting relatives, the kids are in summer camp and involved in projects, and we try to cram all the fun we can into the precious summer weeks of beautiful weather. As a result, church attendance drops drastically—and that includes the clergy! After all, this is summer for us as well and is the time when we work at camp or take a course or even go on vacation.

So what are some things we can do to keep our faith fresh in these summer months when we might not darken the doors of the church quite so frequently? Here are some ideas:

#### Reflection:

The first is as easy as being intentional about looking for God in the world around you. Traveling helps us to break our routines and habits. In our "daily lives" and regular activity, it's very easy to get into a mode of being in which we seem to operate on autopilot much of the time. However, when we are traveling or on vacation, that mode is broken. We're "zoned out," so to speak. So why not try practicing a little theological reflection while you're out enjoying some of God's creation? And encourage your kids to do the same.

For example, while at the beach you can reflect on the importance of water to our

faith. Ask the question, "What does this water remind us of in our Christian journey?" Or "Where do we see Jesus on the beach or in the water in the New Testament?" If you're in the mountains, how about breathing deeply of that sweet and crisp mountain air, then asking, "What of the breath of God?" or "What is the importance of the mountain top?" God is all around us and summer is a great time to stop and try to recognize that.

Maybe try a new practice of some family devotion time. The Book of Common Prayer offers a great format for doing this, which can take as little as five minutes but can help your family get in the habit of worshipping God together. On pages 136–140, you'll find Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families. These include a Psalm or Cantic, a Reading, a time for prayer or singing if you choose, the Lord's Prayer, and a closing Collect. This is a "plug-and-play" devotional service that anyone can lead.

#### Reading:

Everyone does some form of "summer reading" in these warm months. For many people that takes the form of Dean Koontz, Stephenie Meyer, or Michael Crichton novels. It's also a wonderful time to read a reflection on faith by someone else. I'm not talking about tackling Walter Brueggemann's *An Introduction to the Old Testament* or Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Ethics*, though those are great reads. There are some wonderful titles out there that are "lighter" in that they are a bit less academic but still feed the soul. And

### DATES TO NOTE:

- 1,8,15,22,29 - Handbell Choir Practice
- 2 - SOME
- 2,9,16,23,30 - Thursday Ears
- 3 - Office Closed
- 7 - 1st Tuesday Meetings
- 10, 31 - Meals on Wheels
- 13 - Finance Committee Meeting
- 13, 27 - Prayer Group
- 14 - 2nd Tuesday Meetings
- 21 - Vestry Meeting
- 25 - Men's Breakfast

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PARISH NEWS	4
ADULT FORUM	6
OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST	8

many authors organize their works into short essays that can be read in under 15 minutes. Check out Henri Nouwen, Anne Lamott, Barbara Brown Taylor, Rob Bell, and Frederick Buechner, just to name a few.

Still another recommendation is to read about the saints. These are figures in our church history who have set for us examples of how to be Christ in the world, and who lead incredible and inspiring lives. There are many anthologies out there that can suit your preferences, whether you love biographies and wish to read about one saint or you like to read short essays about a variety of people. One such anthology is *All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses of Our Time* by Robert Ellsberg. This was given to me by my former bishop and I have really enjoyed it as a resource and for inspiration.

If it's novels you want, there are plenty out there. Just ask around. Two titles that come to mind are *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Friend* by Christopher Moore or *The Shack* by William P. Young. I must warn you that *Lamb* is slightly irreverent and very funny, not for those literalists out there or people who find no humor in their faith. *The Shack* is a book that several parishioners have asked me about and I must admit that I am only halfway through it. Should you choose to read it, please keep an eye on the church calendar because many have asked about having a discussion of the book, and I hope to plan a gathering for late summer or early fall.

Of course, I would be remiss if I did not recommend to you the actual Bible as a source for summer reading. I do not recommend you decide to take on reading the whole thing from cover to cover. If you are like most with this lofty aspiration, you'll get maybe as far as Leviticus and call it quits. Instead, why not choose one book from this wonderful library? After all, you wouldn't walk into the county library and pick up the first book, then work your way up and down the stacks, so why would you do that with the Bible? Instead, choose a book that interests you. What is one that speaks to you? Or maybe one with which you are unfamiliar? Start there. I highly recommend the narratives, such as Ruth, Esther, or Jonah. They are great stories and more accessible. Then there is the Psalter, which is always a source of inspiration and comfort. And it comes ready-made for short spurts of attention!

Finally, another reading suggestion from our parishioners is poetry. Poets have a way to speak truths more directly and deeply than prose. Some wonderful poets out there who speak to faith and God include George Herbert, John

Donne, Mary Oliver, Matthew Arnold, John Milton, Robert Browning, and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

Radio:

Maybe you're in the car or prefer to plug in to your iPod while at the beach instead of reading. Several radio programs can feed your faith. WGTS (91.9 FM, or you can find them at [www.WGTS.org](http://www.WGTS.org)) is a station recommended by one of our parishioners, who says that the music is good and they sometimes do dramatic readings of Bible stories for children. Two programs more for adults are *Speaking of Faith* and *Interfaith Voices*; both can be found on our local NPR station. Their topics cover all faith traditions as well as science and religion. You can listen on-line or download podcasts through their Web sites: [speakingoffaith.publicradio.org](http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org) and [www.interfaithradio.org](http://www.interfaithradio.org)

Another resource on-line, if you love poetry but prefer to hear it rather than read it, is *The Writer's Almanac* with Garrison Keillor. You can read poems on the site ([writersalmanac.publicradio.org](http://writersalmanac.publicradio.org)) or have the daily broadcast e-mailed directly to you.

The Internet and Video:

Finally, for the technologically savvy and Internet-friendly, there are plenty of Web sites out there to help you deepen your spiritual journey. If you would like to keep up with the lectionary readings (the readings we use every Sunday in our services) then check out the Lectionary Page ([www.io.com/~kellywp/index.html](http://www.io.com/~kellywp/index.html)). We're following the Revised Common Lectionary, so click on the "RCL" link for whichever day's readings you wish to see.

If you'd like to try the discipline of praying morning and/or evening prayer, you need not juggle books and look up the readings yourself (which can be immensely frustrating for someone starting out). Instead, visit the Daily Office Web site of the Mission of St. Clare ([www.missionstclare.com/english](http://www.missionstclare.com/english)). There you will find a link to today's prayer services that includes all the readings, and a reflection on the saint whose feast day it is. The entire service is laid out; all you need to do is read and pray.

For the more visual learners out there, *Father Matthew Presents* is a great series of short Web videos touching on a wide range of topics. The Rev. Matthew Moretz (his YouTube channel is [www.youtube.com/user/FatherMatthew](http://www.youtube.com/user/FatherMatthew)) is an Episcopal priest in New York who produces these videos, which can be great for you as an individual or to share with your family and kids.

Finally, if you're hungry for some good sermons, many churches offer podcasts or Webcasts of their sermons. Churches like Washington National Cathedral ([www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org)) and Trinity Wall Street ([www.trinitywallstreet.org](http://www.trinitywallstreet.org)) have postings as well as links to other locations that you might find helpful.

The best suggestion I can offer is to get on-line and do some searching. Episcopalians are on-line and love to share links and resources, so check out what your fellow churchgoers are offering.

You can see from the length of this article that the resources to help you deepen your relationship with Christ this summer (even while away from church!) are plentiful. And if you have something to offer, please let me know! The more we share, the more we come to know God, and the greater and richer our lives become.

Peace and Happy Summer!



The Rev. Mary Demmler

---

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN —

---

July and August are relatively quiet months at St. Peter's. Most of us, even those not bound by the school or Congressional calendar, manage to take a vacation or change our routine a bit during these months.

A change of pace, a change of scene, and change of perspective—I find any of these changes can be refreshing. One of the changes I enjoy on summer vacation is a change of church (temporary, of course!). I look forward to visiting and worshipping at another church wherever our family is on vacation. It is, of course, a powerful reminder of what it feels like to be a new-comer; sometimes it takes all the courage we can muster to walk into a “strange” church.

Here at St. Peter's some of our programs, like Sunday School and Godly Play, do not take place in July and August, while others, like Meals on Wheels, the food collection for the Arlington Food Assistance Center, and S.O.M.E. carry on. Our Sunday worship re-groups into two services instead of three during the summer months. The two-service schedule reduces the number of greeters, ushers, readers, acolytes, coffee servers, etc., needed, allowing a change of pace for some of those volunteers. The summer schedule also puts some new faces next to us in church by combining the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. congregations.

This summer we have not a new face, but a returning face in church with the conclusion of Father Craig's sabbatical. His experiences over the past few months in Europe and Africa have provided him with changes of scene and pace. We welcome him back as he resumes his ministry among us and discovers how his time away has changed his perspective and refreshed him.

Meanwhile an intrepid few St. Peter's parishioners will be spending some of their summer on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. While their change of pace may be exhausting in some ways (they will be doing construction in the mornings and teaching Vacation Bible School in the afternoons), it will doubtless be refreshing in other ways and will provide them with many opportunities for change of perspective. We will light our “mission” candle on the altar, wish them all the best, and hold them in our prayers while they are gone.

Catharine G.,  
Senior Warden

---

## PARISH NEWS —

---

### **JULY THIRD TUESDAY LUNCHEON: THURSDAY, JULY 23**

Because of scheduling conflicts, our usual luncheon for our 65+ crowd will be on a Thursday this month instead of a Tuesday. July's luncheon will be hosted by our Senior High youth. They will provide the lunch and entertainment. Lunch is served at noon. Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, July 20, either by contacting the Rev. Mary Demmler (703-536-6606 or [mdeimler@saint-peters.org](mailto:mdeimler@saint-peters.org)) or by adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

### **RISING NINTH TO GRADUATED TWELFTH GRADERS: HELP US HOST**

We are hosting the Third Tuesday Luncheon this month on July 23—which is actually a Thursday. We need a team to be here starting at 10 a.m. to prepare lunch and the seating area. We will serve lunch at noon, eat with our guests, then clean up. We should be done by 3 p.m. or so. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex. This is a great opportunity to serve our church community. Sign up by Sunday, July 20, to help.

## PARISH NEWS —

### LET'S COOL DOWN IN THE SUMMER SUN!

It's time for our second annual Families with Young Children Water Games! Join us Sunday, July 26, by the patio for tons of cool fun. There will be plenty of games for the kids so be sure they wear their swim suits and bring a towel. Also, we recommend they wear some kind of water-safe footwear because the grass can get slippery and muddy. Bring a snack or drink to share as the parents will be enjoying some fellowship time on the patio while the kids play. Bring chairs for your family and if you have a tent, please bring it to help provide some shade. Festivities begin at 4 p.m. and conclude by 6 p.m.

### BE HOSPITABLE!

Hospitality hosts and/or hostesses needed—no experience necessary. We are in need of additional parishioners to assist with our Sunday coffee hours. We currently have monthly hospitality crews in place, but we'd really like to have more folks help each month. We especially need people in November and December, but we'd love to have you in any month that works for you. Ideally, if we can get eight people or families signed up for every month, each would be responsible for one shift per year. When you consider how much we all enjoy our social time with a little something to eat and drink, this isn't asking a lot. My month's group likes to divide our schedule with one family doing the early morning shift—picking up the doughnuts and starting a pot of coffee prior to the 8 a.m. service, then having coffee and doughnuts available after the 9 a.m. service. The later shift takes care of the coffee hour following the 11 a.m. service. Each month's group is also asked to assist Fellowship Commission members when there is a reception planned, either for our concert series or other occasions. Please speak with Lisa Lettau if you would like to help with this ministry.

### GODLY PLAY

We just completed the second year of Godly Play. We had 20–30 children age 3 through first grade participate in the program each Sunday, and expanded the program to three classes. This required the support of five adults every Sunday. We want to thank all who helped make Godly Play a success: Tommy A., Kathi A., Melanie B., Elizabeth B., Doug B., Laura D., Mary E., Katie E., Cindy F., Jeanne L., Nancy M., Karen M., the Rev. Ann M., Peter M., Scott R., Katie R., Rich S., Megan S., Jonathan S., Matt S., and Roger V. We also thank Tim H., Gary C., and Rusty H., who helped construct cabinets for the Godly Play materials.

We are excited about beginning year three of Godly Play in September, and have scheduled a one-day training with a national trainer for new and returning Godly Play helpers on Saturday, October 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to help, please mark your calendars and join us!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS —

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!

We need Sunday School teachers for next year for the following classes: Grade 1, Grade 2, Grades 3 and 4 (combined), and Grades 5 and 6 (combined). You'll be part of a team of teachers who rotate duties. This gives you a Sunday off on occasion and you also do not lead the class every week. Come join the fun and "happening" place to be on Sunday mornings! If you'd like to help, please speak to either Margaret C. or the Rev. Ann Martens.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Thank you for a great year in Sunday School. We truly are living the mustard seed parable—nurture the smallest seed and you will see it grow. We experienced new families and children joining us this year and it was wonderful.

During the year, I saw the children interacting with lessons via craft projects, stories and songs. Thank you to Emily K. and choir members for providing visits during the year.

Teachers had creativity in their lessons—and excelled at it. The Grades 5 and 6 class finished off the year with their second annual Bible Bowl—complete with cash prizes (that they donated to the church).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS (CONT.)—

Classes were full of energy, nurturing friendships and great Christian learning. Many thanks to our wonderful 2008–2009 teachers and the Snack Team for their time and talents! We were blessed with a dedicated team!

- PreK—Amy H., Mary E., Eleanor T., Karen H., Carrie P. and Jodie S.
- 5-year-olds—John S., John B., Elizabeth P., Elizabeth B.
- Grades 1/2—Jen B., Peter M., Suzannah C., Bill C., Luke K.
- Grades 3/4—Angela S., Molly M., Lynette O. and Mary Jane S.
- Grades 5/6—Debbie L., Sarah M., Bill M. and Rich S.
- Grades 7/8—Sue B., Paddy L., Kathy A.
- Snack Team—Nancy S., Ayesha D., Lynne O., DeAnne Z. and Ted Z.

Many thanks to the Reverend Ann Martens for your leadership, mentoring and guidance in supporting this important area of the church.

Truly Yours,  
Margaret

## VESTRY NEWS —

### Vestry Highlights—June 16, 2009

**At its June meeting, the St. Peter's Vestry:**

**Heard that new choir robes should be in-house by July.**

**Heard that the space planning team has had great response** to its five presentations and one workshop so far. The team has been visiting area churches that have built recently, and plans a July 18 field trip to the best examples. Junior Warden Gretchen G. said the team feels that it has laid a good foundation and that St. Peter's is ready for next steps.

**Heard that St. Peter's has recognized its Sunday School teachers and Godly Play leaders.** Next year the Sunday School will add another class, Assistant Rector the Rev. Ann Martens said.

**Received with thanks directed donations** from parishioners Jeff C. and Glenna W.

**Agreed to make space available on Thursdays or Fridays** for yoga classes under an arrangement similar to that for T'ai Chi classes on Tuesdays.

## MISSION NEWS —

In June, Mission Commission continued planning and fundraising for the mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Parishioners were once again extremely generous in donating at the Karaoke Night on June 12 and the car wash on June 21. Many thanks go out to the families and friends who took the time to plan these fundraisers and to participate. Our missionaries, led by the very capable Libby Collins, will be leaving on the morning of July 12 and will return on the evening of July 20. St. Peter's will commission and bless the missionaries—Libby C., Leo D. H., Glenn M. and Joy L., Chrissy ., Hailey J., Stephanie H. and Katie R.—on July 5. Please keep the missionaries in your prayers.

The Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) Men's Toiletries and Food Drive was well underway as of mid-June. Many of the homeless men on the streets in and around the District will be directly helped by the people of St. Peter's.

In August, as St. Peter's contribution to an effort to move a homeless family into permanent housing, we will begin a drive for housewares. The Transitional Housing Coalition was spun off from SMGW as a separate entity in charge of meeting the needs of individuals and families ready to leave homeless shelters (or the streets) and live in an apartment or house. In the past, St. Peter's has participated by meeting all of the needs of a family—finding and moving furniture in addition to supplying housewares.

## MISSION NEWS (CONT.) —

Given the lack of space to store furniture, as well as other considerations, this year St. Peter's will participate by providing housewares. Lists of recommended items will be available in the Narthex starting in August.

An exploratory team—the Fernau family—is visiting South Africa this month. Anna Fernau will make her family's trip to South Africa a fact-finding tour to explore ways in which St. Peter's Families with Young Children can work together on helping the children of that country. Anna will be meeting with people and visiting organizations involved in various aspects of caring for children there, especially orphans. The Fernau family will bring back ideas for further work.

The Diocese of Virginia has begun coordinating work by its churches to assist Native Americans in Virginia, especially those living on reservations. In particular, churches have begun work restoring a school on the Pamunkey Indian Reservation in King William County. Prior to the arrival of English colonists in the 17th century, land ownership rights were not defined in the area now known as Virginia, at least not in the way the English defined them. Certain rights were set in accordance with English law in treaties between Native American groups in the area and the king of England, through the governor of Virginia. One treaty established the Native American land base now known as the Pamunkey Indian Reservation, located north of I-64 between Richmond and Williamsburg. If you are interested in more information about working with the Pamunkey people, contact Suzanne Brannan.

## ADULT FORUM —

Adult Forum sessions on Sundays at 9 a.m. during July and August are designed to serve our community by stimulating our thinking and actions in the Christian faith, exploring timely issues in our church and the world, and as an occasion for feedback from the ongoing activities in missions, worship, education and stewardship at St. Peter's. Topics range from books of the Bible and figures in Christian history to ethical dilemmas and contemporary issues of interest to our community. Discussion leaders come from within our parish community or sometimes are specially invited outside guest speakers, and we try to have two forums to choose from each Sunday. The Adult Forums are open to anyone who would like to share. Please contact Jonathan Sullivan with ideas or feedback or to volunteer.

### Upcoming Adult Forums:

#### July 5

**Option I: TBA**

**Option II: TBA**

#### July 12

### **Option I: What Is the New Music Lesson of the 21st Century?—Led by Jeff Levin, President and Founder, Bach to Rock**

Are you trying to figure out how to motivate your kids (or yourself) to practice an instrument, or even take one up? Jeff Levin, president and founder of Bach to Rock music school, will join us to share his unique philosophy on what motivates modern music students. Topics will include:

- How playing music in groups is related to participating in team sports
- How playing the music of our time motivates students to practice harder and acquire a higher standard of musical proficiency
- How music teachers can use technology to create tomorrow's composers
- Bach to Rock teachers will demonstrate some of the teaching techniques currently in use at their schools.

## ADULT FORUM (CONT.) —

### Option II: Science and Faith, Part II—Led by Doug Marshall and Jeff Cooper

Back in April, we presented the history of cosmology and telescopic exploration from Ptolemy to the Hubble Space Telescope—including the special contributions of Nicolas Copernicus, a cathedral canon and part-time astronomer who tread very carefully around the ecclesiastical dogma of his time, and Galileo Galilei who, in contrast, followed the strategy that the best defense is a good offense. Since the days of those two great scientific investigators, our understanding of the physics of space, planetary movement, the birth and death of stars, colliding galaxies, dark matter, and the lifespan of our own sun has advanced at a mind-boggling pace. Pope John Paul II declared at the beginning of his papacy that there are no irreconcilable differences between science and faith, and renounced the Galileo affair by acknowledging that the Roman Catholic Church erred when it condemned the astronomer. What do you think about science and faith? Are they two completely distinct and incompatible processes? Do we reach for faith to grasp what science cannot explain? What is the potential for the existence of life—whether it be humanoid or microbial—elsewhere in the galaxy or beyond the Milky Way? Do you see any conflicts between a modern scientific outlook and the familiar biblical stories? Is the work of God apparent in the universe? We hope that you will join us for Part II in an open discussion of these and other questions.

July 19

Option I: TBA

Option II: TBA

July 26

### Option I: Recap of the 2009 General Convention—A Panel Discussion

The 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church of the United States will be held from July 8 to 17 in Anaheim, California. One need look no farther than Falls Church to see some of the issues facing our church today, and no farther than the greater Washington community to see some of the issues of social justice and human suffering that face our society. What is the General Convention? What role does it play in addressing these issues? What happened at this convention that we as practicing Episcopalians need to know about? We'll have a panel discussion to answer your questions and share informed perspectives from this year's convention.

### Option II: Recap of Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic—Led by the Mission Team

#### Looking Ahead: Forum Topics under Development

- Tragedy of the Commons: Individualism and Community—What Is the Christian Response?
- Parent-child Relationships
- American civil rights lawyer and lay theologian (Episcopal) William Stringfellow
- Ian Markham, Dean of Virginia Theological Seminary, on Christian Theology
- Answering the Call: Panel Discussion on Discernment with Laura Doud and others to be identified
- Estate Planning
- The Church in China

## MUSIC AT ST. PETER'S —

*All Creatures of Our God and King*  
1225

*I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out. (Luke 19:40)*

So many stories have arisen around St. Francis of Assisi that it's difficult to separate truth from fiction. We know that he was born in 1182 in central Italy, son of a rich merchant. After a scanty education, Francis joined the army and was captured in war. He came to Christ shortly after his release, renounced his wealth, and began traveling about the countryside—preaching the gospel, living simply, seeking to make Christ real to everyone he met.

## MUSIC AT ST. PETER'S (CONT.) —

Francis loved nature, and many stories spotlight his interaction with animals. Once, as he hiked through Italy's Spoleto Valley, he came upon a flock of birds. When they didn't fly away, he decided to preach them a little sermon: "My brother and sister birds," he reportedly said, "you should praise your Creator and always love Him. He gave you feathers for clothes, wings to fly, and all the other things you need. It is God who made your home in thin, pure air. Without sowing and reaping, you receive God's guidance and protection." The flock, it is said, then flew off rejoicing.

That perspective is reflected in a hymn Francis composed just before his death in 1225, called *Cantico di fratre sole* ("Song of Brother Sun"). It exhorts all creation to worship God: the sun and moon, all the birds, all the clouds, wind and fire, all men of tender hearts—all creatures of our God and King.

Though the hymn was written in 1225, an English version didn't appear until 1919, when the Rev. William H. Draper decided to use it for a children's worship festival in Leeds, England.

But is it sound theology to exhort birds and billowing clouds to lift their voices in praise? Yes! *All Creatures of Our God and King* simply restates an older hymn—Psalm 148—which says:

*Praise Him, sun and moon/Praise Him, all you stars of light/  
You great sea creatures and all the depths/Fire and hail, snow and clouds/  
Stormy wind, fulfilling His word/Mountains and all hills/  
Fruitful trees and all cedars/Beasts and all cattle/  
Creeping things and flying fowl/Let them praise the name of the Lord/For His name alone is exalted/Praise the Lord!*

Excerpted from *Then Sings My Soul* (Robert J. Morgan, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2003, pg. 11)

## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST —

### THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES

The 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church of the United States will be held July 8–17 in Anaheim, California, under the theme of "ubuntu." The Zulu word ubuntu is said to mean "a person is a person through other persons." It represents a spirit of interconnectedness that convention planners hope will permeate the event, which brings together nearly 10,000 members of the Episcopal Church in a governing body of bishops, clergy and lay persons. We recently spoke with Cindi Bartol, who is a deputy from the Diocese of Virginia to the General Convention, to get her thoughts on how we as practicing Episcopalians can get engaged with the work of the convention from afar. She had these suggestions:

1. The official Web site for the 76th General Convention is [www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009). Here you can find several useful resources including:

- A listing of all the resolutions coming before the convention
- The Bishop and Deputy Handbook, with lots of overview information
- "The Blue Book" that has reports from all the interim committees, commissions, agencies and boards of the church that meet during the three years between General Conventions

2. *Episcopal Life Online* ([www.episcopal-life.org](http://www.episcopal-life.org)) has coverage of the election as well as a weekly series of six articles about the General Convention written by Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's Canon to the Ordinary. The series started on May 24 telling about the meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Jamaica and continues with discussion of the General Convention.

3. *Center Aisle* ([www.centeraisle.net](http://www.centeraisle.net)) is the opinion journal of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, offered by the Diocese as a gift to the General Convention. The Diocese of Virginia will publish *Center Aisle* on-site at General Convention, but the *Center Aisle* Web site helps those who are not able to attend the convention to keep in touch with the news, opinions and analyses coming out of Anaheim.

4. Pray for our Bishops and Deputies each day. The names of the Deputies are the Reverends Bob Prichard, Lynne Washington, Sue Eaves, Susan Goff, and laity Russ Palmore, Cindi Bartol, Russ Randle and JP Causey.

Look for an Adult Forum on July 26 recapping the events of the General Convention with a panel discussion and Q&A.

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

4250 N Glebe Road  
Arlington VA 22207  
703-536-6606  
Fax: 703-536-6608

Office Hours:  
Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
E-mail: [info@saint-peters.org](mailto:info@saint-peters.org)  
Web Site: [www.saint-peters.org](http://www.saint-peters.org)

---

**Staff:**

The Reverend Craig A. Phillips, Ph.D., <i>Rector</i>	<a href="mailto:cphillips@saint-peters.org">cphillips@saint-peters.org</a>
The Reverend Mary Demmler, <i>Assistant Rector</i>	<a href="mailto:mdemmler@saint-peters.org">mdemmler@saint-peters.org</a>
The Reverend Ann Martens, <i>Assistant Rector</i>	<a href="mailto:amartens@saint-peters.org">amartens@saint-peters.org</a>
Don Witman, <i>Director of Music</i>	<a href="mailto:stpetersmusic@verizon.net">stpetersmusic@verizon.net</a>
Emily Koons, <i>Youth and Junior Choir Director, Organist</i>	<a href="mailto:organistfriend@yahoo.net">organistfriend@yahoo.net</a>
Nikol Destatte, <i>Communications Director</i>	<a href="mailto:ndestatte@saint-peters.org">ndestatte@saint-peters.org</a>
Christopher Neumann, <i>Sexton</i>	<a href="mailto:cneumann@saint-peters.org">cneumann@saint-peters.org</a>
Thomas Gillis, <i>Sexton Emeritus</i>	

---

**Vestry:**

Chair: The Reverend Craig A. Phillips, Ph.D.  
Senior Warden: Catharine G. (2010)  
Junior Warden: Gretchen G. (2009)  
Register: Paul S. (2010)  
Kathi A. (2009)  
Sue B. (2011)  
Suzanne B. (2010)  
Jim B. (2009)  
Margaret C. (2011)  
Gary G. (2011)  
Barret H. (2011)  
Ward L. (2009)  
Jack S. (2010)

**Volunteers:**

Treasurer: Mira Brown  
Key Editor: Rob Gibson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>JULY 2009</h1>			<b>1</b> 5:30pm - Handbell Choir Practice	<b>2</b> 6:00am - SOME 10:00am - Thursday Ears	<b>3</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8am - HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II 10am - Adult Forum 11am - HE Rite II	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:15 p.m. - 1st Tuesday Meetings	<b>8</b> 5:30pm - Handbell Choir Practice	<b>9</b> 10:00am - Thursday Ears	<b>10</b> 11:00am- Meals on Wheels	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <i>Mission Trip</i> 8am - HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II. 10am - Adult Forum 11am - HE Rite II	<b>13</b> <i>Mission Trip</i> 7:30pm - Finance Committee Meeting 7:30pm - Prayer Group	<b>14</b> <i>Mission Trip</i> 7:15 p.m. - 2nd Tuesday Meetings	<b>15</b> <i>Mission Trip</i> 5:30pm - Handbell Choir Practice	<b>16</b> <i>Mission Trip</i> 10:00am - Thursday Ears	<b>17</b> <i>Mission Trip</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Mission Trip</i>
<b>19</b> <i>Mission Trip</i> 8am - HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II 10am - Adult Forum 11am - HE Rite II	<b>20</b> <i>Mission Trip</i>	<b>21</b> 7:00pm - Vestry	<b>22</b> 5:30pm - Handbell Choir Practice	<b>23</b> 10:00am - Thursday Ears 12:00am - Third Tuesday Lunch	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:00am - Men's Breakfast
<b>26</b> 8am - HE Rite I 9am - HE Rite II 10am - Adult Forum 11am - HE Rite II 4pm - Families with Young Chil- dren: Water Games	<b>27</b> 7:30pm - Prayer Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5:30pm - Handbell Choir Practice	<b>30</b> 10:00am - Thursday Ears	<b>31</b> 11:00am- Meals on Wheels	